

MINUTES of the BOARD
MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

École de théologie évangélique de Montréal
4824 Côte-des-Neiges
Suite 301
Montréal, QC H3V 1G4
Ph: 514-331-0878

23 January 2009
7 :30-9 :00 PM

Present:

Sam Steiner, President, MHSC, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Royden Loewen, Vice-President, MHSC, Chair of Mennonite Studies,
University of Winnipeg

Lucille Marr, Secretary MHSC, La Société Mennonite Historique du Québec
Richard Thiessen, Treasurer MHSC, Mennonite Historical Society of British
Columbia

Alf Redekopp, Member at Large, MHSC, Mennonite Church Canada

Victor G. Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Bert Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Richard Lougheed, La Société Mennonite Historique du Québec

Robert Goertzen, Evangelical Mennonite Conference

Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Maurice Martin, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

Conrad Stoesz, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Colin Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

1. Welcome

Sam Steiner welcomed board members of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada to its 2009 annual meeting.

2. Minutes of the 19 January 2008 meeting

Motion: That the minutes be accepted. M/S/C Lucille Marr/ Richard Thiessen.

3. Business arising from the minutes

Board members made a few corrections, mostly of spelling of last names. It was also suggested that last names be added in the 2008 minutes. **Carried**

4. Approval of Agenda for Board and annual Meeting

5. President's report:

Sam Steiner read Henry Paetkau's letter responding to the MHSC Board's enquiry whether the Frank H. Epp fund would still make funds available for research. Dr. Paetkau indicated that Conrad Grebel University College has decided to use the funds solely for the college's new Centre for Religion and Peace.

6. MHSC Award of Excellence

Sam Steiner reported that although there were two submissions, the executive decided to bestow the award posthumously on David Schellenberg of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference. Rev. Schellenberg had been part of the society in years past and the MHSC Award of Excellence will affirm his part in keeping the story alive. Sam encouraged members of the provincial societies to bring forward nominees for the award for next year.

Motion: That the late David K. Schellenberg be confirmed as the recipient of the MHSC Award of Excellence for 2009. M/S/C Sam Steiner/Richard Thiessen

Roy Loewen, Alf Redekopp and Conrad Stoesz will present it to the family.

7. MHSC Incorporation Update

Richard Thiessen explained why the society should become unincorporated. Because the MHSC no longer needs incorporation to publish books, the lawyer that he consulted indicated that there is little risk of liability. The MHSC's charitable status can be retained through the Charities Directorate. The society simply needs to allow its incorporated status to lapse. This will, however, require changes in the society's by-laws. Colin Neufeldt suggested that the MHSC may want to register its name.

8. GAMEO update:

8.1. Budget Request: GAMEO is asking for \$1,000.00 from the MHSC.

8.2 Procedure for appointments to Canadian Editorial Committee: Sam Steiner raised the question as to whether the role of this committee needs to be re-examined because of the movement towards regional editorial committees. The board proposed bringing for discussion to the GAMEO meeting the following questions: Given that GAMEO is no longer solely a Canadian project, what is the role of the national Canadian Editorial Committee? Richard Thiessen would like to discuss how that committee is composed. What direction does the encyclopedia take now?

9. Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites (DVCM)

Roy Loewen reported on the publication and launch of Marlene Epp's *Mennonite Women in Canada*, and the Mennonites and Money Conference, both in October 2008. He also reported on the next DVCM conference. Mennonites and Mental Health is scheduled for October 2010.

10. Mennonites in Canada report

Richard Thiessen proposed that the society reduce its stock of *Mennonites in Canada*, Vol III by writing off 1000 copies of the book, and donating books to the approximately 700 Mennonite congregations in Canada

Recommendation: That the society investigate with Friesen's Publishing the cost of sending *Mennonites in Canada III* to each Canadian congregation postage paid and that it invite congregations to also order Vol. II and it will be sent as well, with the congregation paying postal cost.

11. Mennonite Committee for Human Rights report:

No discussion

12. MCC Canada History Project

Alf Redekopp reported on the meeting called by Ken Reddig to begin steps towards launching the project. Ken continues to be in conversation with MCC on the topic. Although the MHSC has received no formal report on the meeting, MCC still seems to be interested and Esther Epp-Tiessen is still open to writing the history. The society is waiting for Ken to call the next meeting, at the same time recognizing that it may not be a priority during these financial times. Sam Steiner will indicate to MCC Canada our ongoing interest in the project.

13. Genealogy Committee proposal

No discussion

14. Finance Report

15. Budget 2008/2009

16. Nominations Committee report:

Maurice Martin reported for the nominations committee, and indicated their recommendation was that the current executive continue.

17. Other items to be brought before the board?

Recommendation: That Alf Redekopp present a motion supporting Ted Regehr in writing a one-volume history of Mennonites in Canada, with no more than 250-300 pages.

18. Adjournment: Conrad Stoesz/ affirmed