



**The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada
La Société royale héraldique du Canada
Annual General Meeting
Royal Canadian Military Institute and via Zoom, Toronto, ON
Saturday, 8th June, 2024**

Minutes

Captain Jason Burgoin, President of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada in the Chair.

- 1) **Call to Order:** Jason Burgoin called the meeting to order at 9:35 am EDT.
The mace is brought to the Head Table by the Mace Bearer of the Society.
- 2) **Declaration of Quorum:** The President asked the Secretary to declare the Quorum for the meeting. The Secretary, Steve Murray, declared that there was a quorum and that 63 Members were attending the meeting in person and via Zoom.

The Secretary, Steve Murray declared that there were 5 proxies submitted.

2 were held by Jason Burgoin

3 were held by Steve Murray

- 3) **Announcements and Correspondence:** The Chair stated that part of the meeting is being held via Zoom. He asked that all members be patient; those participating online are to keep their microphones off, unless speaking. If they wish to speak they should raise their hands or use the virtual hand on the Zoom screen. The Chair also asks members to be brief in their comments due to time constraints.

The Secretary informed members present that there will be a book sale today and that the funds raised will go to the Beddoe's Book Fund.

The Secretary state that there is no correspondence to be read at this time.

- 4) **Moment of Silence:** The President asks the Members to observe a moment of silence for those members who have passed away since the last annual meeting.

Sylvia McPhee

Toronto, ON

Joined 1989

R. Gordon Macpherson

Burlington, ON

Joined 1966

Niagara Herald Extraordinary
Founding Member

Sunil Saigal

Copenhagen, Denmark

Joined 2004

- 5) **Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting:** The Chair asked if there were any additions to the Meeting Agenda? None being proposed, Steve Murray moves, Ted McNabb seconds: that Agenda for the meeting be approved. **Adopted**
- 6) **Adoption of the Minutes for the 2023 Annual Meeting:** The Secretary informed the meeting that the minutes for the 2023 Annual Meeting were posted on the Society's website for review. Steve Murray moves, Oliver Jaakola seconds: the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting be adopted. **Adopted**
- 7) **President's Report:** The President, Jason Burgoin, read his report. Vicken Koundakjian moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds: the receipt of the President's Report. **Adopted**
- 8) **Treasurer's Report: Part A:** Ferguson Mobbs reports the Society is solvent and all bills are paid and up to date. He recommends that all dues be received by December 31st. He reports that with proper receipts the Society receives a substantial GST refund.

Revenue's are steady and the Society can fund future projects. The Society's investment account stands at \$487,000.00. A good portion of the portfolio is in preferred shares. There are restricted funds. The Beddoe's Book Fund, the Education Fund. These funds are dedicated to specific items and at the Board's discretion.

A question was asked about the Society obtaining a corporate credit card. The Treasurer was happy to announce that this was done and that payment facilities for the members will be easier with the new website.

Ferguson Mobbs moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds the receipt of the Treasurer's report. **Adopted**

Part B: Appointment of Auditors: Ferguson Mobbs moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds that Williams and Partners be appointed Auditors of the Society. **Adotped**

The Treasurer explained that the costs of using an accounting firm is almost \$10,000 and due to this he will propose the formation of internal committee to carry out the annual audit functions.

Part C: Appointment of Investment Advisor: Ferguson Mobbs moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds that Andre Kent be appoint Investment Advisor of the Society. **Adopted**

- 9) **Membership Report:** The Secretary reports that the Membership as of 31st December, 2023 was 436. The highest it has been since 1992. Current paid up membership is 319, with 95 not renewing so far this year. Membership goal for 2024 is 403. In line with the annual 3% growth target.

The Membership package is coming together and the design work is being waited upon.

Steve Murray moves, David Cvet seconds, the receipt of the Membership Report.

Adopted

- 10) **Old Business:** The Secretary reports there is no old business.

- 11) **Volunteer Officer's and Committee Reports:**

a) Periodicals

- i) **Heraldry in Canada:** John Neill, Editor, Heraldry in Canada reports the latest issue has gone to the printers. He is working on the next issue. The Editor emphasized the need for articles and asks all those present to contribute.
 - ii) **Gonfanon:** Jeff King, Editor, Gonfanon, reports that there have been 4 Bi-Monthly issues produced. A PDF copy has been produced for the Archives.
 - iii) **Alta Studia Heraldica (ASH):** Dr. D'Arcy Boulton, Editor, ASH, reports that the latest issue is ready. A question was asked if the members of the ASH Committee can write articles? The Editor said he would approach the Committee.
- b) **Education Committee:** David Bowyer, Chief Examiner and Registrar, reports that there has been activity and there is a steady stream of people signing up for the programme. He once again appealed for people to handle the thesis projects.
- c) **Technology Report:** David Cvet, Chief Tech Officer reports that there has been much activity on the website and that he and the Secretary make modifications when needed.

The President reiterated that no major changes should be made on the current site as the web developer is working on the new site.

- d) **Honours and Awards:** Robert Watt, Chair, reports that there has been activity on the committee and that recommendations have been made to the Board.

e) **Branch Reports:**

- i) **Laurentian Branch:** Terrence Shaw on behalf of Eric Saumure
- ii) **Ottawa Valley Branch:** Charles Maier
- iii) **Toronto Branch:** Jason Burgoin on behalf of Matthew Levault
- iv) **Prairie Branch:** Steve Murray on behalf of David Hongisto
- v) **Vancouver Branch:** No report received
- vi) **BC & Yukon Branch:** Gary Mitchell on behalf of Steve Cowan

All Branch reports are to be inserted in the Annual Report.

f) All Committee and Volunteer Reports: All Committee and Volunteer reports received were posted on the Society's website. The Secretary asked if there were any questions? None being asked. Steve Murray moves, Vicken Koundakjian seconds, the receipt of all these reports. **Adopted**

- 12) **Approval of the Acts of the Executive and the Board of Directors for the previous year:** Steve Murray moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds: that the Acts of the Executive and the Board of Directors for the previous year be approved. **Adopted**

13) **Nomination Committee Report:**

Jason Burgoin leaves the Chair. Vicken Koundakjian, Chair, Nominations Committee assumes the Chair of the meeting at 11:07 am EDT

Vicken Koundakjian reports on the Nominations Committee.

Directors at Large

Vicken Koundakjian reports that;

Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave
Dagmar Teubner
Captain Richard McWatt

Have been nominated for a 3 year term on the Board. He asks the meeting 3 times if there were any further nominations from the floor. None being given the 3 persons listed are elected.

Executive Committee

2nd Vice President

Vicken Koundakjian reports that Charles Maier has been nominated to serve as 2nd Vice President. Vicken Koundakjian asked 3 times if there were any further nominations from

the floor. None being given, the motion was put to a vote. **Adopted**
1st Vice President

Vicken Koundakjian reports that Capt. Ian Steingaszner has been nominated to serve as 1st Vice President. Vicken Koundakjian asked 3 times if there were any further nominations from the floor. None being given, the motion was put to a vote. **Adopted**

President

Vicken Koundakjian reports that Capt. Jason Burgoin has been nominated to serve as President. Vicken Koundakjian asked 3 times if there were any further nominations from the floor. None being given, the motion was put to a vote. **Adopted**

Vicken Koundakjian moves, Edward McNabb seconds, the receipt of the report. **Adopted**

Vicken Koundakjian leaves the Chair and Jason Burgoin resumes chairing the meeting.
11:21 am EDT

14) The Election of a Member to the Following Committees for a one-year term:

a) Nominations Committee: Steve Murray moves, Terry Byrd seconds: that Mr. Allan Bird be elected to the Nominations Committee. **Adopted**

b) Honours and Awards Committee: Steve Murray moves, Jason Burgoin seconds: that Edward McNabb be elected to the Honours and Awards Committee. **Adopted**

c) Finance Committee: Ian Steingaszner moves, Edward Badovic seconds: that Ted McNabb be elected to the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer requested that this be deferred pending a review of the functions of the committee and the need for an Audit function. President said this would be brought back to a meeting of the Board.

15) Annual Conferences:

a) 2024: Jason Burgoin reports on the arrangements for the conference. There will be a lunch right after this meeting and then a tour of the Royal Ontario Museum. The formal dinner and Wilkes Lecture will be held this evening and tomorrow there will be a meeting of the new Board of Directors.

b) 2025: Gary Mitchell reports on behalf of Steve Cowan that no date has been set yet. Weekend before or after the Victoria Day Holiday weekend. The conference will be in Victoria.

c) **2026:** Jason Burgoin reports that the 60th Anniversary Annual Conference will be in Ottawa in 2026. He will recommend the striking of a committee for that conference.

16) Other Business

The Secretary reports that there is no other business to be done.

17) Closing remarks: Jason Burgoin stated that he appreciates the support and looks forward to the year ahead.

There will be a review of the Committee structure with the goal in mind of streamlining duties.

Plans are underway for the Boston International Heraldry Conference in September. We have booked a table and it would be great to have Society representation.

The development of the new website is underway and it should be ready in about 60 days.

The Society needs articles for its journals and the President urges all members to contribute.

18) Termination of the Meeting: Steve Murray moves, Ian Steingaszner seconds, that the meeting be terminated. **Adopted**

The mace is exited from the room by the Mace Bearer of the Society

11:26 am EDT

President

Secretary

Witness the Seal of the Society

