



Edmonton & District
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

ANNUAL

GENERAL

MEETING

APRIL 27, 2021



EDMONTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

April 27, 2021

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2020
4. Annual reports
 - 4.1 President's report
 - 4.2 Committee reports
5. Treasurer's report
 - 5.1 Audited Financial Statements
 - 5.2 Appointment of Auditor
 - 5.3 Information: Budget
6. New Business
7. Elections
8. Adjournment

EDMONTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2020

PRESENT (in person): Tim O’Grady (Chair), Christine Prokop, Cadence Bergman, John Dolphin, Sean Moir, Stephen Yakimets, Marla Daniels, Brent McFarlane; (via video chat): Joe Hartfeil, Matt Ostapchuk, Lee Smith, Linda Collier, Elizabeth Alke, Elisabeth Hill, Kelsey Kendrick, Owais Siddiqi, Phyllis Arnold, Christina Hardie, Tom Long, Marilyn Patton, Edward Smith, Ivy Trumpour, Dean Wood, Marlena Wyman.

1. Call to order: 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

Marla Daniels moved and Matt Ostapchuk seconded approval of the agenda. CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2019, as amended.

Christine Prokop moved and Sean Moir seconded approval of the April 23, 2019 minutes.
CARRIED

4. Annual Reports: presented by Tim O’Grady.

After Tim provided highlights from his President’s report, member Dean Wood congratulated EDHS on the increase in membership numbers this past year, and on a robust EDHS presence on social media.

Marilyn Patton moved, and Kelsey Kendrick seconded a motion to accept the annual reports.
CARRIED

5. Treasurer’s Report: presented by Cadence Bergman.

a) Joe Hartfeil moved, and Lee Smith seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report.
CARRIED

b) Marla Daniels moved, and Sean Moir seconded a motion to use SVS Group as auditors of the financial statement. CARRIED

6. New Business:

Owais Siddiqui expressed his view about the membership process, specifically the lack of an online membership payment option, as an impediment to membership growth. Tim O’Grady agreed, and noted that joining EDHS requires a new member to join the Historical Society of Alberta (HSA), and HSA has so far declined to offer online payment. Tim advised he planned to revisit the subject at the next HSA meeting.

Tim O'Grady advised all in attendance of the EDHS Strategic Plan meeting tentatively scheduled for August 2020 and extended an invitation to all EDHS members to attend.

7. Elections: presented by Tim O'Grady.

Tim called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

- a) Motion to acclaim election of Cadence Bergman as Treasurer for a two-year term ending at the annual general meeting in April 2022: Moved by Tim O'Grady, seconded by Sean Moir. CARRIED
- b) Motion to acclaim election of Matt Ostapchuk as a Director for a one-year term ending at the annual general meeting in April 2021: Moved by Tim O'Grady, seconded by John Dolphin. CARRIED
- c) Motion to acclaim election of John Dolphin, Kelsey Kendrick and Elizabeth Alke as Directors for two-year terms ending at the annual general meeting in April 2022: Moved by Tim O'Grady, seconded by Tom Long. CARRIED

8. Adjournment:

Prior to adjournment, Tim O'Grady expressed the Society's appreciation to Linda Collier, who is stepping down as a board member after 28 years. Linda will continue her involvement with EDHS as a member and volunteer.

- a. Motion to adjourn Linda Collier
- b. AGM adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Report from the President

2020 was undoubtedly an historic year. Starting in March, Covid changed all of our lives in a myriad of ways. Significantly for EDHS, we could no longer get together with friends and family. As such, our programs had to move online, with speakers and even the festival being offered remotely. We've all had to embrace new technologies to stay connected - Skype, Zoom, and Google Meets - and the Board used these to continue the business of the Society in a safe and distanced way.

In addition to our regular Board and Committee meetings, we conducted some special meetings over the summer to create a new three year strategic plan. The plan defines our mission, mandate, vision, and audience. The plan's goals revolve around branding, engagement, publishing, communications, board development, financial planning, and membership development, and strategies are laid out for each.

As we move into 2021, we're hopeful that our world will start to return to normal. We look forward to the day that Society members can once again get together for speakers and the festival, and for special events like the Christmas Party and John Rowand Night. Until we can safely do so however, we are so very grateful for the continued support of our membership.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tim O'Grady
President

Education Committee

This summer, after 13 years working as an educator on behalf of EDHS, Jim Higgs retired. Jim was the lead on the History in the Classroom initiative, visiting schools and teaching children about fur trade, Metis, and NWMP history. Over the years he spoke to thousands of kids, instilling in them a love of the past. He, and his work, will be missed.

With Jim's departure, EDHS had to reevaluate how to do educational programming for children in a post-Covid world. The Education Committee held many meetings, and worked with a contractor to create an environmental scan and survey of what resources teachers were looking for. Ultimately, it was decided that reinventing History in the Classroom was going to take more resources than the committee was currently able to provide, and the initiative was shelved for the time being. In the future, it may be revisited.

Other Education initiatives continued in 2020, including our support for the Fort Heritage Precinct at Fort Saskatchewan, and the Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair. The History in the Community program also continued, with numerous free presentations given to community groups by local historians. Our long-time presenter Shirley Lowe has been joined by new presenter Tom Long, and between them they have eight excellent talks. We look forward to continuing this valuable program in the future.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tim O'Grady
President

Festival Report

Planning for this year's festival began in January 2020, but by March, with the emergence of Covid-19, EDHS had a big decision to make: do we cancel, do we continue planning and hope for the best, or do we transition to an online event - something that we'd never done before. Ultimately we decided to move online. We thought it would be a good way to continue supporting our partners, to allow us to continue fulfilling our mandate of providing meaningful opportunities for people to engage with the past, and it would help us maintain a connection to our stakeholders.

This year we had 24 partners - half of last year's number. Not all our regular partners were able to participate in an online medium. Some didn't have the resources (either technical capacity, or just lowered capacity due to the pressures of the pandemic), while a few didn't foresee a significant return on investment in creating online content.

There were 38 separate pages of offerings on the website (though some of those pages contained multiple links). Of these, 24 pages featured unique content created specifically for the festival. Mostly tours, these offerings were done in a variety of ways. Many were interpreters speaking on video, interspersed with shots of contemporary scenes and archival images. Some partners made tours using the Google Street View app; 360 degree photographs linked together and augmented by interpretive text, sound, and additional images. There were also a few slide shows: some had interpretive voiceover, but a couple were of a local cathedral and only had organ music playing in the background. Only two of the offerings were live events: one through Facebook Live, the other through Zoom.

The other 14 pages contained content that was recycled from previous initiatives, such as online exhibitions, inventories of historic places, or interpretive videos that had been done in the past. These were generally larger projects and therefore had a considerable amount more time and money put into them.

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, moving to an online format was a success. With 3,683 people participating in the online festival, EDHS fulfilled its mandate of providing an opportunity for people to explore this area's history. With 24 partners, we supported our colleagues in the local heritage ecosystem by providing an opportunity to continue connecting with the public in a difficult time. And with a surprising number of people interested in our organization, as evidenced by the page hits to unrelated parts of our website, we've managed to stay engaged with our stakeholders - and hopefully found some new ones along the way.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tim O'Grady
President

Sue Lacombe
Festival Coordinator

Marketing Committee

This last year, with the emergence of COVID-19, introduced a number of challenges and opportunities. It highlighted the importance of communication to ensure that our membership feels connected with EDHS and the history of Edmonton and district. It also tested our communication channels and their ability to provide our members with timely information about event changes and virtual events happening across the district. While our website acted as a hub for information about the society, our newsletter served as a familiar means to share important news and historical content. Our social media provided platforms for questions, discussion, historical content, and information and rapid notifications about upcoming events.

The pandemic forced us to learn new skills and adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. Carrie Myers, EDHS's Promotion and Design Consultant, proved to be remarkably agile when transitioning our in-person events and activities into virtual formats. She worked hard to bring our annual Historic Festival to our website for virtual participation. If a member asked a question on Facebook or Twitter, Carrie found an answer. Thank you, Carrie.

Last year also reinforced the importance of our online presence. Our social media "followers" saw the largest increases since we started reporting on the metric in 2016. Facebook saw a 27.2% increase in followers, while Twitter saw a 10.7% increase. Close to 10,000 unique users visited our website in 2020, an increase of 6% from the previous year.

Thank you to the committee members – John Dolphin, Lee Smith, and Tim O'Grady – for your hard work in 2020, and to rest of the EDHS board for your support of committee initiatives. Most of all, thank you to EDHS's membership. Without your interest and engagement, our efforts would be all for naught.

Respectfully submitted by:

Matt Ostapchuk
Director

Newsletter Committee

The 2021 AGM concludes my second and final year of service on the EDHS Board of Directors, allowing me to concentrate on other commitments. Throughout this term, I've felt welcomed by this community, including the hard-working and committed directors, committee members, newsletter contributors and the Society's knowledgeable membership.

In the past year, we've taken steps towards offering the newsletter in electronic form as well as the longstanding print version. This will allow EDHS to reallocate significant sums to other areas while simultaneously increasing accessibility. We have also begun to undertake an archival project allowing members and visitors to the website in the future to access back issues of the newsletter and brief summaries of the contents within. Through this process, we will also better track what we have covered in the past, identifying gaps in content and representation to address. I am working on this with excellent new committee member Owais Siddiqui as well as our intrepid editor, Liz Hill. This work is enjoyable and rewarding, and I look forward to continuing to serve as a volunteer on this committee and an active EDHS member even after my tenure on the Board.

Thanks again to Liz for continuing to seek out interesting and varied content for the newsletter. We've had so much satisfying material lined up lately that we've had no choice but to expand each quarterly issue to 12 pages, where the newsletter used to run 8 pages in length. Carrie Myers has continued her fine work as designer, and Minuteman Press has continued to print the newsletters efficiently and professionally at a fair price. Former long-time Board member Linda Collier has served EDHS for many years as a volunteer in a number of areas, including frequently helping out with newsletter mailout chores as recently as the last issue. We have a strong committee and will handle the distribution without impressing upon Linda's generosity going forward. Although it has been a hard decision to leave the Board of Directors, I am glad to have the opportunity to continue working with this committee.

Respectfully submitted by

Joe Hartfeil
Director

Advocacy Report

At the end of 2019 the EDHS Advocacy Committee was suspended as our Society decided it was best to support other organizations better situated (financially, administratively and with full time professional staff) to impact Edmonton's built heritage, such as the Edmonton Historical Board, the Edmonton Heritage Council, the City of Edmonton Heritage Planners and the Historic Management Branch of the Government of Alberta.

With this new role, the EDHS provided letters of support for the following in 2020:

Proposed compromise of the **Highlands Neighborhood Renewal plan** – The City intends to put a 3 meter walk way on Ada boulevard, add in a fence on the south side, remove the parking on Ada boulevard and square off the existing rounded corners on Ada boulevard. The Community does not want to lose the signature wide rounded corners, wants the walk way reduced and wants to keep the parking on Ada. The Community wants to retain the historical character and identify of the neighbourhood as it was originally designed, while ensuring the design meets the City and Community's goals of being safe, accessible and inclusive. The Community feels the changes are going to take away the historic charm and feel of their neighbourhood.

Support the designation of the **North Saskatchewan River** as a Canadian Heritage River

Recommend that the **Archibald Block** (on the corner of Whyte Avenue and 105 Street) remain with the current Historic Commercial DC1 zoning and the Strathcona ARP should be upheld.

Preservation of **Hangar 11** at the former Edmonton Municipal Airport. Built in 1942, Hangar 11 is one of only two remaining Second World War-era hangars built through partnership with the US Air Force at the former Blatchford Field (later Municipal Airport) near downtown Edmonton. It is part of the Northwest Staging Route, which was a series of airports developed to assist the Lend-Lease program during World War II. The Edmonton airfield helped move thousands of American bombers, fighters and transport planes through Edmonton to Alaska and finally to Russia, in what become a crucial program in the Allied war effort. Edmonton City Council has approved the redevelopment of the overall Blatchford Field site to accommodate 30,000 people and create a model "sustainable" Community. The City Centre Airport was formally closed in 2014 and the adjoining hangars expropriated, paving the way for the redevelopment. The retention of Hangar 11 is not being contemplated. Hangar 8 was torn down in 2016. A similar fate awaits Hangar 11. The Edmonton Historic Board, the Edmonton Heritage Council and the EDHS have expressed their concerns and the desire for the reuse of Hangar 11.

Most recent topic for 2021 the University of Alberta **Ring Houses**:

The February announcement of the pending demolition of the University of Alberta's four historic Ring houses drew broad public outcry, with a petition calling on the university to save the houses quickly gathering thousands of signatures. Built between 1911 and 1914, the four Ring Houses are some of the U of A's oldest buildings and have strong contextual, historical and social significance for generations of university students and staff and Edmonton Residents. The

Ring Houses served as residences for some of the first faculty members of the University, including the first President, Dr. Marshall Tory and they represent some of the most historically significant properties on campus. The Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Historical Board, Edmonton & District Historical Society and HeritageForward join the National Trust for Canada in expressing our shared concern for the proposed demolition of the historic Ring Houses.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Prokop

Director

Grant Writing Report

A summary of past funding sources was submitted in January 2020, so this report contains a record of existing and pending grants. It also lists achievements that essentially capture information critical to the grant writing role and serve as a foundation for future activities.

Achievements

COVID-19 restrictions limited the function of new and existing programs. Subsequently, few targets for funding, other than operation costs, were available. Other contextual factors affecting grant writing activities include incomplete knowledge of EDHS and the fact that activities begun in 2020 were completed in 2021.

- Captured a range of grants appropriate to EDHS projects in a January 2021 report
- Explored the feasibility of bibliography project
- Created a document listing speaker series topics that could be included in an orientation package
- Identified the protocol for the deferred CIP festival grant award
- Wrote and assembled the Heritage Preservation Partnership Grant
- Followed up on board inquiries
- A document describing how EDHS educational activities function and interrelate. These activities include Education Committee, Speaker Series, History in the Classroom and History in the Community.
- A draft organization chart that could be useful for orientation of new board members and grant applications.
- Identified new grant opportunities such as Canada History Grants
- Began research into e-publishing practices

CIP Grant- Going forward, EDHS Board members should be aware that CIP grant of \$26,000 can be carried forward for the history festival is carried over and useable in 2021. We only need to notify CIP if we reschedule or cancel. If it goes ahead, we submit the usual report and apply for funding in September 2021.

Heritage Preservation Partnership (HPP) Grant- When the HSA grant for Death Stalked the Trails was refused, an application for the HPP grant was prepared and submitted by the March 1st deadline. We await a response in April 2021. Considerable work went into recruiting editors to do a copy edit and index. As part of the project, the manuscript was reviewed and a suitable black and white map was located to supplement the description of four routes to Dawson Creek that was difficult to visualize.

Take Home messages from this application process and the Grant Writing 101 Webinar include:

- The need to assemble bios for board members as a normal practice.
- The principle of developing relevant, timely projects that meet community needs then exploring grant opportunities that match targeted community outcomes

- The need to assemble conduct environmental scans and evaluations that point to a valid community need that the EDHS wants to address
- The need for strategic “friend raising” (I have toolkit for this). This includes achieving positive experiences for board members that roll out into conversations in the larger community.

Edmonton Heritage Council’s Community Project Grant- Much of the content for the HPP grant above was captured in this grant. The application for this EHC grant to support editing and printing costs for the Death Stalked the Trails was unsuccessful.

Historical Society of Alberta- At the February 2021 Board Meeting, Cadence reported the transfer of funds from our parent organization will not be as drastically reduced as expected.

Phyllis Arnold Fund— In the past several years EDHS has been the beneficiary of the Phyllis Arnold Learning Fund (PALF). This money was generously provided by retired publisher and educator Phyllis Arnold, and received through the Edmonton Community Foundation. This money allowed the EDHS to run several important programs over the years including History in the Classroom, History in the Community, Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair and student programming at the Fort Heritage Precinct in Fort Saskatchewan. Due to Covid and a lack of the resources this funding was suspended with a view to possible future projects that are objective based and compatible with EDHS mission, goals and resources.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Alke
Director

Speaker Series

The 2020– 2021 speaker series kicked off in September with the book launch of the Hudson's Bay Company Edmonton House journals including the Piegan Post 1826 - 1834, edited by Ted Binneman and Gerhard Ens. Gerhard read excerpts from the book and commented on the general state of affairs in Fort Edmonton and area as they relate to the excerpts. A most interesting question and answer period followed, along with a book signing. The Edmonton House journals is published by the Historic Society of Alberta.

October featured a long-delayed presentation by board member Christine Prokop on a Mystery from Norway. Christine took up the challenge when two photos were emailed from Norway with questions about the who, what, where and when. Christine led us on her journey of discovery into the people in the photo, where they settled in Alberta, and their roots in both Alberta and Norway. This was our first combined presentation, with attendees in person at the Old Timers Cabin and online via Zoom.

Our annual Christmas dinner in November went 100% online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our keynote speaker was Tom Long, well known local historian. Tom covered the very serious (and hairy) topic: Edmonton's Moustache Gallery: The History of Lip-Tackle in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Tom talked about the city fathers, the fashions of the time, and then the decline of the moustache as the years went on and styles changed. It was a lighthearted presentation complemented by a history trivia quiz. While it was a change to be online as opposed to in-person, it was certainly the next best thing. In a way, the Edmonton and District Historical Society had a first in our history as an organization by having our presentation broadcast on the internet.

For 2021 we started in January with a presentation by Dr. Sarah Carter, highlighting the key individuals and their organizations who worked for Alberta's 1916 Equal Suffrage Bill, the information drawn from Dr. Carter's new book: Ours By Every Law of Right and Justice: Women and the Vote in the Prairie Provinces. The most surprising aspect was the diversity of opinions from the women involved while they worked towards the goal of Suffrage. In the end equality was not equal for all individuals.

In February Dr. Juliette Champagne introduced us to Father Hippolyte Beillevaire, who established a parish in the Metis settlement of Laboucanne in the Duhamel area in the 1880s. Through his letters home to France we learn of the changes to the local area, the starvation of the indigenous peoples and the role of the Indian agent; the Metis uprising in 1885, the coming on the railway and the onset of settlement.

Amber Paquette, Edmonton's sixth Historian Laureate is onboard for March with her talk on Indigenous Lenses: Reimagining History. Amber will introduce the audience to Indigenous pre-contact trade systems and explain how those systems evolved into the Fur Trade post-contact. The presentation heavily focuses on how the Fur Trade was very much an Indigenous run economy and how Indigenous women actually played the most critical of roles in that system.

For our John Rowand night in April, we welcome Darren Dalglish, President and CEO of Fort Edmonton Management Company. Darren will speak on sustainable cultural heritage and tourism. He will discuss the strategy at Fort Edmonton Park, and how it will ensure sustainability of FEP, and where the vision is taking FEP. To end his presentation Darren will give an overview of the redevelopment of Fort Edmonton Park, providing a sneak preview on what to expect this summer. The EDHS Annual General Meeting will follow the presentation.

One very positive observation is that Covid did not deter our audience from attending. In fact we have seen our speaker series numbers increase dramatically as people are looking for interesting presentations to attend to keep their minds stimulated.

Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. I aim to have a variety of topics including indigenous history, fur trade, early settlement, and branching out to more recent history. Our recent history needs to be captured before it is lost in our new digital age.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen Yakimets,
Director

Publications Committee

After a pandemic delay in 2020, the Publications Committee continued working on publishing the next volume in our series of occasional papers.

As previously announced, the next paper will be *Death Stalked the Trails: The Klondike Gold Rush Through Edmonton 1897-98*. The author is Dr. R. Gordon Moyles, a professor emeritus at the University of Alberta, with a distinguished career in English and Canadian Literature.

Death Stalked the Trails tells stories of men and women who embarked on the overland journey to the Klondike gold fields with Edmonton as their starting point. Moyles draws his complex story together through a diversity of sources, from contemporary newspaper coverage of the gold rush to works of current historians. He reveals the everyday details of unimaginably difficult journeys, the frequently harrowing obstacles and setbacks (natural, and occasionally human); the single-minded determination to get rich that drove so many from an unknown point-A to an equally mysterious point-B, and the disaster that all too often resulted.

Our goal is to see *Death Stalked the Trails: The Klondike Gold Rush Through Edmonton 1897-98* in the hands of the public in the fall of 2021. Hopefully, conditions will be favourable for a live book launch event.

Death Stalked the Trails follows our previous occasional paper, *Rivers and Rails: Central Alberta's Transcontinental Railways*, by Alan Vanterpool, published in 2014. *Rivers and Rails* is available to borrow at the Edmonton Public Library and for sale at Audreys Books.

Respectfully Submitted by:

John Dolphin

Director

Annual Report of Membership

Membership numbers provided by the HSA

2020 -192 members

2019 – 210 members

Decrease: 8.5 %

Facebook followers

2020 – 1909 followers

2019 – 1501 followers

Increase: 27.2%

Twitter followers

2020 – 2126 followers

2019 – 1920 followers

Increase: 10.7%

Respectfully submitted by

Christine Prokop and Matt Ostapchuk

Directors

EDMONTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nominations for the 2021/2022 Board

Nominations from the floor:

Officers (Executive):

President

Christine Prokop

Vice President

Kelsey Kendrick

Continuing positions, ending at the AGM, April 2022:

Treasurer

Cadence Bergman

Elect – For 1 year term, ending at the AGM, April 2022:

Secretary

Lee Smith

Directors:

Continuing positions, ending at the AGM, April 2022:

Kelsey Kendrick

Elizabeth Alke

John Dolphin

Elect – for one year term, ending at the AGM, April 2022:

Christine Prokop

Elect – for two year terms, ending at the AGM, April 2023:

Owais Siddiqui

Myriam Gerber

Maggie Bodnar

James Klassen

Brett Lamoureux

Past President

Vacant