

## CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

### **MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND COMPACT LUNCHEON, HELD 19 OCTOBER 2013 AT THE TORONTO CRICKET AND SKATING CLUB.**

Meet-and-greet got the day's activities off to a good start. Governor Joyce Cutler welcomed guests and members to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Compact Luncheon.

On a motion by Cyndee Case seconded by Connie Bryce, the Minutes of our last meeting which were published in our newsletter (volume 32 Number 1) were approved unanimously with one correction. There was a typo in the heading. It should read the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants.

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT was read by George McNeillie.

**ANCESTRAL ROLL CALL** - read by Debbie Clarke.

The descendants of Billington, Alden, and Mullins were tied in first place with six members present.

**NECROLOGY** - Bob White

Bob asked for a moment of silence to consider the following members who have passed away: Bradley J. Baker died 5 Nov 2010; Alma D. Paul died 25 Mar 1012; Alfred Perry died 27 April 2013; former Governor Keith Bain, who remained an active member in our Society after his term of office, died 9 Oct 2013.

## **REPORTS**

### **Governor's Report - JOYCE CUTLER**

I would like to welcome Bill Curry, as our new Regent for the Nova Scotia Colony. Bill has sent an email extending an invitation for the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants to hold our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Compact Luncheon in Nova Scotia, to help them celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2014. I have put a couple of sheets on your tables with this invitation. If you recall, we are having our Governor General, Bruce MacGunnigle for a Spring Meeting on May 3, 2014. We would like your feedback on this suggestion, so if you would let George or any other board member know what you think about this idea we would greatly appreciate it.

The General Society 2020 Committee is holding a competition to create a logo to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, the landing in Plymouth and the establishing of Plymouth Colony. The deadline for this contest is April 15, 2014. There are sheets on the tables with more information, plus there will be more information in the December Quarterly.

**TREASURERS REPORT** Lynne Webb was unable to be here. Copies of her report can be found on your table.

## **RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT - Debbie Clarke**

The following are the actions of the Board of Assistants, which were approved as new policies at the meeting held August 24, 2013 at the North York Central branch of the Toronto Public Library.

March 2013

Policy #4 Insignia is the property of the Canadian Society and must be returned once an officer retires from his or her office.

August 2013

Policy #5 All officers Reports by Board members must be emailed to the Recording Secretary before each Board Meeting

August 2013

Policy #7 The Secretary must notify the Elder and the Editor of deaths of members so the Elder can send a sympathy Card to the family and the Editor can publish the information in our newsletter.

August 2013

Policy #8 The Librarian must up-date the website when new material is added to our Library.

August 2013

Policy #9

Starting in January 2014, the CSMD will use email exclusively wherever possible to communicate with its membership, applicants and prospective applicants, including distributing the Canadian Pilgrim newsletter. By December 2014, regular mail will be used only for those members who do not use email or by request and will not be as an add on to what is sent by email.

August 2013

Policy #10 The Treasurer will set up a CSMD PayPal account as an option for members, and applicants to pay dues, fees and annual meeting and compact luncheon and other costs securely online, rather than by cheque and that a PayPal link be added to the CSMD website to facilitate such payments.

August 2013

Policy #11 In addition to the fall newsletter announcement, current members with email will be reminded annually on November 1<sup>st</sup> of the deadline to renew their CSMD membership for the following year and that regular mail is used to remind those members who do not use email.

August 2013

Policy #12 the web address of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants must be included in all business correspondence sent by the Board of Assistants to create greater awareness of our organization.

Debbie reminded members to send their changes of address to her in order to continue to receive their quarterlies and the Canadian Pilgrim.

### **PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON REPORT** George McNeillie III

We are working on three projects:

- An application to the Canadian heraldic Authority for a grant of arms and badge;
- development of a Facebook page; and
- the launch of a Twitter site

I have submitted an application on behalf of the Society to the Canadian Heraldic Authority and hope to have more to report by our spring meeting.

Our very talented digital administrator, Margaret Dougherty has kindly offered to assist in developing our social media sites and has already launched our Twitter site @CanMayflower and this will be followed by the launch of our Facebook site next week. Many thanks are due to her for her outstanding initiative!

In terms of publicity, I am currently working on an article for the Globe and Mail on how I got involved in the search for my Mayflower ancestors and hope to have it published in time for American Thanksgiving. It is my hope that it will spur further interest in the Society and generate new members.

We hope to use the occasion of the visit of the Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants next May to generate some publicity and we will be striking a committee to develop a strategy.

### **DIGITAL ADMINISTRATOR – MARGARET DOUGHERTY**

Our new CSMD website, csmd.org went live in August. We hope that everyone here has had a chance to visit the site and that you find the information there helpful and informative. S Recent content additions on the website are the names of the members of the Executives of the Alberta and Nova Scotia Colonies. Click the colonies link on the website to find that information.

Still to come on the website is a members' only portal that will house current issues of the Canadian Pilgrim newsletter and have other members only news and information. You will access this portal using your CSMD membership number. More news about that is to come.

Our membership database tells us that the CSMD has 252 current members and of those, we have email addresses for 138 members.

Those of you whose email address we have will have noted that we're using email more now to reach out to you. This includes distributing electronic copies of the Canadian Pilgrim in advance of the print edition. We hope that using email as much as possible will help enhance communication between the Board of Assistants and you.

If you haven't yet given me your email address, please see me before you leave today so that we can make sure you get all of our electronic member communications.

In other digital news, the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants now has a Twitter account. If you're on Twitter, follow us at @CanMayflower. Coming very soon is a Facebook page. These additional communication tools we hope will help to create greater awareness of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants and in turn lead to new members joining us.

## **LIBRARY – BRENT RUTHERFORD**

There are 300 books and journals in our library. We also have a complete collection of the Silver books as well as the Mayflower families in Progress books. The Library can be found at the North York Central Library. An index of our books is available upon request. Brent is hoping in time to add the information on our collection to the Toronto library search database so that it will be more easily available. Our historian Susan Roser is working on the Silver Books project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE Gary W. Bennett (Chairperson) Brent Rutherford Debbie Clarke**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce these nominees for the following positions on the Board of Assistants of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants:

**Governor** – George McNeillie

**Deputy Governor** – Margaret Dougherty

**Historian** - Susan E. Roser

**Co-Historian** – Donna Denison

**Corresponding Secretary** – Gary Bennett

**Treasurer - Maureen McGee**

**The position of Member at Large has not been filled.**

If anyone is interested or knows of someone's interest, please notify us as soon as possible.

The above officers were elected on a motion by William Goss, seconded by Debbie Clarke.

## **PASSING OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

### **ARTICLE II Section 1.**

**From:** The Board of Assistants (Corporate Board of Directors), hereinafter referred to as the *Board*, shall consist of the Officers of the Society and ~~up to six~~ others who shall be known as Assistants or Members-at-Large, not to exceed ~~sixteen~~ in total.

**To:** The Board of Assistants (Corporate Board of Directors), hereinafter referred to as the *Board*, shall consist of the Officers of the Society and others who shall be known as Assistants or Members-at-Large, not to exceed twenty in total.

## **ARTICLE II Section 2.**

**From:** The Officers of the Society shall be Governor, Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, Surgeon, Counsellor, ~~Deputy Governors General, and Assistant Generals~~. Former Governors who are members in good standing of this Society ~~may be~~ ex-officio members of the Board.

**To:** The Officers of the Society shall be: Governor, Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Co-Historians, Elder, Captain, Surgeon and Counsellor. Former Governors who are members in good standing of this Society are ex-officio members of the Board.

Member Murray Gregory inquired if the bylaws as they presently stand allow for the use of Skype at our Board meetings. Margaret explained that a draft of revised bylaws, which allow for the use of Skype was approved at our last board meeting and that it will be voted on by our members as soon as possible. Eleven members sent in their ballots expressing their approval of these amendments to our bylaws.

On a motion by Margaret Dougherty seconded by Murray Gregory the bylaws were passed. The 15 members present approved. None disagreed. Total 26.

### **Presentation of Insignia**

Joyce turned over the Governor's medallion to George McNeillie III  
She called Debbie Clarke up and presented her with the Recording Secretary insignia.  
Margaret Dougherty was also presented with the insignia for Deputy Governor.

The business part of the meeting now concluded, Joyce asked Bob White to lead us in saying Grace.

Joyce then asked George McNeillie to start off our luncheon with a toast to the Queen.

We enjoyed an excellent meal. At the conclusion of our meal we held a raffle.

Joyce Cutler introduced our guest speaker Richard Collins, president at the Mississauga South Historical Society who has been very involved in preserving celebrating and revitalizing the history of the Community of Mississauga. In addition to walking tours, education, programs and slide show presentations, Richard likes to bring history alive at community events by taking on the role of various personalities of the past. As well, he has also been involved in a number of volunteer activities and leadership projects in the area. Richard Collins will speak to us today about Lighthouses around the Great Lakes.

### **Lighthouses around the Great Lakes**

About 5-6 years ago the Canadian Government decided to close all the lighthouses in Canada. Richard Collins presented 38 reasons why the lighthouses of the Great Lakes are worth saving. He began with a brief history of the Lighthouse. Lighthouses were constructed to either mark the entry of the harbor or to warn ships of shoals and islands. Richard said two lighthouses were known to be included in the seven Wonders of the Ancient World. One was the Lighthouse or Pharos of Alexandria built between 280 and 247 BC. It was between 120 and 140 meters tall and at its time was one of the tallest manmade structures of the Ancient world. The other was the perhaps mythical Colossus of Rhodes created by Chares of Lindos in 280 BC. This statue of the Greek god of Apollo stood astride the harbour of the Island of Rhodes. Over 30 meters high, it was one of the tallest statues of the Ancient world. It is said ships sailed between its legs. From there Richard went to the lighthouse at Genoa, built in 1139. A version of it still exists. It is no longer a navigational lighthouse as the city has built up around it but rather a tourist attraction. The father of Christopher Columbus was lighthouse keeper from 1450 to 1470.

From there Richard moved on to lighthouses in North America. Boston Light situated on Little Brewster Island dates back to 1716 and was the first lighthouse to be built in the United States. The current lighthouse on that site dates from 1783 making it the second oldest lighthouse in the US. Fully automated now, it is the only lighthouse to be still staffed by the American Coast Guard who act as tourist guides. The oldest lighthouse in North America is the Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey, built in 1764.

Richard now took us through a photographic tour of the lighthouse on the Great Lakes. The first lighthouse built on the great lakes was at the mouth of the Niagara River where it flows into Lake Ontario. Erected atop the Castle at Fort Niagara around 1781, it was built in response to the increase in military and commercial traffic precipitated by the Revolutionary War. There are lighthouses at Port Darlington, Oshawa, Whitby, Frenchman's Bay, Port Credit, Oakville, Mississauga, and others. Many of them have been decommissioned and are now situated inland. Some are open for tourists; others are still operational. One is even on private property. There is even a haunted lighthouse. Gibraltar Point on Toronto Island is one of the oldest lighthouses on the Great lakes. It started operating in 1808. In January 1815, it is said a band of thirsty soldiers set off from the Fort York Garrison heading for Toronto Island where they called on J. P. Radan Muller the Gibraltar Point lighthouse keeper. He was a bootlegger of American whiskey. When the soldiers asked for seconds from his keg, Muller refused and a violent fight erupted. According to the story, they killed him and disposed of his body on the Island. Whatever happened Muller was never seen alive again. Many people claim to see his ghost wandering around the island.

It is ironic that the Government has chosen this time to get rid of lighthouses. Admittedly in the past lighthouses were not always that effective in spite of the efforts made over the course of time to improve the quality and reliability of the light. Realizing foggy weather tended to dissipate the light from the lighthouses, keepers started using foghorns to warn the ships. It wasn't a perfect solution in that in real stormy weather the noise of the foghorn could be lost and a ship and its crew couldn't always be certain as to the precise direction of the foghorn but it was better than nothing.

Back in the old days, the keepers used wood to fuel the light. There is an obvious problem here. Burning wood produces smoke which obscures light? In the 1550s lighthouses were switched to a new fuel, coal. Once again, it was not a perfect solution in that they found coal also produced smoke. In 1782, a switch was made to burning fish oil. Suddenly there was less smoke. From there they went to kerosene and in the early 1900s to petroleum products. It has been a constant move forward. For example, the invention of the Fresnel lens, by Augustine-Jean Fresnel (1788-1827) revolutionized the lighthouse. For the first time in its history, a lighthouse could produce a directed beam of light. The first Fresnel lens was used in 1823 in the Cordouan Lighthouse at the mouth of Gironde Estuary. Its light could be seen for more than 20 miles out.

However with the switch to halogen bulbs in 1960 are the lighthouse has finally come into its own. For the first time in its history the lighthouse is both cheap and effective to run. So why get rid of them now?

According to the Government, the GPS system should replace the lighthouses. However, not every ship or boat is equipped with GPS and even if they are is, very few people want follow a GPS Signal blindly. As humans, we have a natural preference to use our eyes rather than to follow blindly the instructions of a disembodied voice. A lighthouse is less complicated and less liable to fail at a critical point in time. The good news is that since 2008 Parliament has been heeding the calls of citizens to save the lighthouses and has slowed down its efforts to close them all.

For those interested in being a part of the effort to save our lighthouses Richard referred them to the Save lighthouse Canada website.

George McNeillie thanked Richard for his most interesting speech.

George paid tribute to Joyce saying she has been the heart and soul of our society for the past ten years. He then led us in a round of applause to honour Joyce for her years of service to our society. Joyce said thanked us all for coming and said how much she had enjoyed her time as Governor of our society.

Joyce then led us in the Mayflower Song. The meeting was closed.