



the CHURCHILLIAN

VOL. 13 ISSUE 1

www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com

FEBRUARY 2021

Published by The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society, established 1964.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We want to share what we have learnt and discovered from him, with you.

CHURCHILL SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT 2020

The Churchill Speech and Debate 2020 Competitions were held December 5. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic this event was run for the first time via a meeting software, which brought a large field of competitors. A record 55 teams from 21 High Schools entered the debate tournament. Only one school sent speech competitors, apparently because competitive speech had largely fallen victim to pandemic restrictions in the other schools that usually supply contestants.

Our Director of Competitions Ms. Navya Baradi and organizers from the University of Alberta Debate Society planned well and kept the day on course. UADS partners with us in staging this tournament as an outreach to high school students. The tournament and finals took place in one day. UADS provided volunteer judges for the debates, and the Churchill Society provided volunteer judges for speech.

The tournament debate topic was:

“In times of conflict, this house believes that leaders should prioritize keeping the peace over keeping the public informed.”

The prescribed speech tournament topic was:

“How do you think social media, as it exists today, might have influenced the outcome of World War II? Consider the implications of modern social media on strategies used by WWII leader like Winston Churchill.”

The topic for the impromptu speech round was:

“Following the end of major crises such as WWII there were tremendous celebrations at the end of the crisis; what will you do in celebration once the COVID-19 pandemic is over?”

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Winners of the debate tournament were:

1. William Li and Griffin Wong
from Western Canada High School, Calgary
2. Jolie Gan and Joseph Liang
from Winston Churchill High School, Calgary
3. Saransh Chaudhry and Achyutha Surukanti
from Old Scona Academic, Edmonton

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Winners of the Speech tournament, all students from Old Scona Academic, Edmonton, were:

1. Ethan Ling
2. Emperor Pham
3. Manav Joshi

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All winners will receive cash scholarships and medallions. We hope these medalists can be recognized in person in 2021, ideally at our Memorial Banquet, if one is held.

Sincere thanks go to Navya Baradi for her excellent work in organizing the 2020 Churchill Speech and Debate Tournament, and to our friends at UADS for their partnership and expertise, in this valuable outreach to high school students. Thanks are also due to the volunteer judges from UADS and the Sir Winston Churchill Society, who gave a Saturday to make this tournament a success.

WALTER (WALLY) ROSS

Long time Churchill Society member and former president Walter (Wally) Hugh Ross passed away Sunday, January 24, 2021, days before his 97th birthday. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Eileen Ross, 8 children, 23 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and a sister. In addition to the Sir Winston Churchill Society, Wally volunteered time with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the University of Alberta Senate.



of participating in and supporting charitable organizations and associations such as the Red Cross, the United Appeal (today's United Way), the Salvation Army, Volunteer Regiments, and the Chamber of Commerce to name a few. Typically, you did not just engage in one, but many at the same time. And of course, social clubs: the Royal Glenora, the Edmonton Club, the Petroleum Club, etc. Wally

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, #306, 10430 61 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6H 2J3. To send condolences, please visit www.fostermcgarvey.com.

was an exemplary member and supporter of many such organizations. He also chaired the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games in 1978.

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Honourary Patron and former president Robert Dunn provided the following remembrance of Wally and his service to our society:

“I first met Wally and his wife Eileen at the AGM of the society in the fall of 1997. My introduction came through Keith Wakefield who I had the pleasure of working with for a number of years. Previously I attended a number of Churchill Memorial Banquets, my first being in 1989 when Lady Soames was the guest speaker on the singular occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Churchill in Churchill Square. Our memorial banquets were deliberately fashioned after a formal mess dinner by the founders. All of the society's founders were veterans and the society deliberately established ongoing relations with regular force and volunteer regiments based in Edmonton.

Not the least of his contributions to our community was his participation in our own Rt. Hon. Sir Winston S. Churchill Society. Wally served in virtually all offices of the society, being at various times president, banquet chair, treasurer, and lastly secretary until his retirement in 2005. He worked tirelessly on many projects for the society. To his credit and our benefit, he was able to physically maintain the archives of the society, for a long time keeping all the bits and pieces of the society's remarkable history (speaker portraits, speaker recording, books, and mementos) in his own storage space where his insurance office was located downtown. At every banquet he devoted himself to assembling materials, portraits, and memorabilia for display. Most notably, Wally was the inspiration for the project resulting in the publication of the society's two volumes of the Heroic Memory to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the society. He came up with both the idea and the title and put an enormous amount of time and energy into its distribution to school and public libraries across Alberta. Wally also assisted in the realization of the society's ambition to erect a statue of Churchill in Churchill Square under the auspices of the Churchill Statue and Oxford Scholarship Foundation. He organized and managed many casinos, ultimately serving as the chair of the foundation until his passing. He will be missed.”

Going forward to 1997, I was invited to the society's AGM by Keith Wakefield and in the course of the evening was persuaded to take on the role of President. Although my vision of the society going forward was 'slightly' at odds with Wally's, to his irritation, - over the next twenty odd years he and I became very good friends.

During Wally's professional career it was expected that businessmen in the community be engaged in worthy causes. Before the internet, in-person social networking was an absolute necessity and largely took the form

The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society recognizes and cherishes Wally's long and excellent service. He is remembered with affection and respect. We offer heartfelt condolences to Wally's family.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1900** Churchill begins his first lecture tour of North America in December. He spends Christmas in Ottawa.
- 1905** Churchill is appointed Under-Secretary of State at the Colonial Office.
- 1923** Having lost his Dundee seat a year earlier, Churchill fails to get elected in West Leicester in the December general election.
- 1929** On a speaking tour of North America, Churchill is in New York for the stock market crash on October 29.
- 1930** Winston publishes “My Early Life”, an account of his life up to 1902. The 1972 film “Young Winston” was based on this book.



NEW HONOURARY PATRON



President Elisebeth Checkel and the Churchill Society Board of Directors are most pleased to announce that Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE BSc., 19th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has accepted our invitation to stand as Honourary Patron of our society during her tenure.

Her Honour was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda. She was educated at the Agha Khan School in Kampala, and entered post-secondary studies at the University of Manchester. While a student in the UK, she was rendered stateless when Idi Amin announced the expulsion of Uganda's Asian minority population. Her family in Uganda lost everything and could not support her education. The British government covered her tuition, allowing her to complete her Honours degree in Clinical Biology. She had met fellow exile and student Zahir Lakhai, who was able to complete his degree in Medicine at the University of Leeds. They married in Leeds in 1977.

Zaheer was accepted for post graduate studies at the University of Alberta, and the Lakhani family came to Canada. Salma operated a business involved in early childhood education. Dr. Zaheer Lakhani established a career in Cardiology. They have both been active in the Edmonton and Alberta community. Her Honour has served in and directed an impressive list of community and education-oriented charities and programs. The Sir Winston Churchill Society is well known to Their Honours: Dr. Zaheer Lakhani served on our board of directors in the early 2000s.

Our Board of Directors and officers are honoured and grateful for this vice-regal recognition. From our hearts, on behalf of our membership, we enthusiastically welcome Their Honours to our society and look forward to fruitful collaboration with them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

Along with the Board of Directors I send greetings and sincere wishes for your good health and happiness. Although all of us have been forced to make changes in our daily lives, and although we have faced continual disruption and profound loss, we have made it through a whole year of this historic pandemic. With the introduction of new vaccines, the end is in sight and we are hopeful for brighter days ahead.

At our AGM on Sir Winston's birthday in November, members in attendance (by ZOOM this year) re-elected the current Board. Additionally, we welcomed a new Board member, Rick Dumas, MMM, CD, AdeC (Ret'd). As a decorated veteran and publicly honoured volunteer, he brings an impressive work ethic, and a wealth of experience and knowledge that serve us well.

As you read this, our Essay Competition will be well underway. The topic this year is: "The year is 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic has been fully resolved, and you are the Prime Minister. What are your first three orders of business? Justify your responses." Following our largest-ever debate competition in November, with 55 teams, we anticipate a large number of essays. We are thankful to our Director of Competitions, Ms. Navya Baradi for leading this crucial work.

Saving the most important news for last, I am honoured, humbled and excited to tell you that Her Honour, The Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, B.Sc., Lieutenant Governor of Alberta has accepted our invitation to become an Honourary Patron of our society. We believe that her patronage will lend our society added prestige and help us to achieve our goal of providing significant opportunities for young people to become great leaders. Our purpose is to encourage and help develop in today's youth the same inspiring leadership that Churchill demonstrated in the most challenging of times. We promote the importance of education, citizenship, leadership, and the power of communicating with clarity and civility. We are here to empower leaders who will rise to tomorrow's challenges. We thank Her Honour for embarking on this journey with us and we thank you for your continued support.

Elisebeth Checkel

President, The Rt.Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society



OUR VISION

The leaders we inspire today
will rise to meet tomorrow's
challenges.

OUR MISSION

The Sir Winston Churchill
Society promotes
leadership, citizenship, and
strengthened communities
through civil discourse,
connecting to history,
and encouraging critical
thinking.

56TH MEMORIAL BANQUET POSTPONED

Last year the Covid-19 virus forced us to interrupt a 55-year run of annual memorial Churchill banquets. A postponement to May 12, 2021 was announced.

Our planned guest speaker Mr. Allen Packwood is the Director of the Churchill Archives Centre and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge. He is the author of “How Churchill Waged War: The Most Challenging Decisions of the Second World War.”

The pandemic continues, and this May will be too soon to stage a memorial banquet. Mr. Packwood’s tour is again delayed, until the spring of 2022.

The International Churchill Society of Canada kindly distributed a video presentation produced by Mr. Packwood for the Churchill Societies that were forced to cancel his

appearance last year. The link is below, for readers of our digital version. If you have a paper copy of this *Churchillian*, you can find the video on our website.



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[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=mLkvlRwdukQ&authuser=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLkvlRwdukQ&authuser=0)

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/>

BOOK LINKS

These excellent works are available for purchase on-line from **Audreys Books**. Click on the book icons to select the sales links.

***How Churchill Waged War:
The Most Challenging
Decisions of the Second
World War***
Allen Packwood

The Heroic Memory Vol 1 and 2
Ronald I. Cohen, editor

The first fifty years of keynote addresses to the annual Memorial Banquets of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society.

Churchill: Walking with Destiny
Andrew Roberts








‘By drawing on many previously untapped sources, Mr Roberts has produced a more complete picture of his subject than any previous biography.’

The Economist

We are indebted to the Edmonton Society for reproducing these addresses, which should have a place in all Churchill libraries. Both books are strongly recommended.’

Terry Reardon, *Finest Hour*

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY 2021 STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

-  Open to students enrolled in grade 10, 11, or 12
-  Maximum word count 750 words
-  To submit, send an email to **churchillcompetitions@gmail.com** with two pdf documents: the essay, and a separate cover page
-  Cover page must include full name, grade, school, and word count
-  Essay should not include any personal details (name, age, school, etc.)
-  Email must include full contact details (email and telephone number)
-  Plagiarism is prohibited and will result in disqualification

Judging Criteria

Originality

Students show creative thinking through the argumentation. It is clear that the student conducted research and developed insightful remarks about the topic.

Persuasiveness

The paper is identifiable as a persuasive essay and the stance taken is clearly understood. Students present astute evidence to convince the reader of the assertion. There must be a coherent argument made in the paper.

Polish

Students present a high level of work with no spelling or grammatical errors. The language is to be formal without any loss of ease of reading. The paper has no formatting errors and is presented in an effective way.

Scholarship Prizes

First Place - \$300

Second Place - \$200

Third Place - \$100

Top 3 contestants will also be honoured at the annual banquet if circumstances allow.

Content

Be creative and have fun with your topic! You are welcome to use Sir Winston Churchill as support for your arguments, but it is not required to win.

If you have any questions feel free to send an email to churchillcompetitions@gmail.com

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Our slate of directors is not full, and those in harness can always use help. This will be especially true if we are able to plan any events in the coming year. If you would like to help our society carry out our Mission in pursuit of our Vision, we should talk. Directors are appointed to terms of three years. See the contact information for our Executive Secretary elsewhere in this newsletter.

Current Board of Directors

Elisebeth Checkel	<i>President, Membership</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
Dianne Sweet	<i>Treasurer</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Executive Secretary, Archives, the Churchillian</i>
Navya Baradi	<i>Competitions</i>
Will Randall II	<i>Director</i>
Norman Leach	<i>Director</i>
Richard Dumas	<i>Director</i>



CONTACT US


If you would like to comment on anything in our newsletter, or if you have suggestions for future articles or features, we would like to hear from you!

If you are interested in serving as a Director, or working on the 56th Annual Memorial Banquet committee, please contact us!

Alternatively, we invite you to make your purchases on-line at
www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop

For membership application, enclose a cheque payable to “The Sir Winston Churchill Society” and send to:

Robert Chaffee, Executive Secretary
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