



# *the* CHURCHILLIAN

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[www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com](http://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com)

JULY 2020

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.*

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## 56<sup>TH</sup> CHURCHILL MEMORIAL BANQUET

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*Tentatively Postponed to May 12, 2021*

The Covid-19 virus which has caused such hardship around the world has forced us to interrupt a 55-year run of Annual Memorial Churchill Banquets, the longest-running in the world.

Our guest speaker, Mr. Allen Packwood OBE, is tentatively booked and tickets will once again go on sale in September or whenever we can finalize arrangements, including airline travel. Mr. 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."

Please continue to watch our website and future issues of the Churchillian for updates.

The International Churchill Society of Canada has kindly distributed a video presentation produced by Mr. Packwood for the Churchill Societies that were forced to cancel his appearance this year. The link is below, for readers of our digital version. If you have a hard copy of this *Churchillian*, you will find the video on our website at [www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com](http://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com).

**Click here** to view the Allan Packwood video.



*Allen Packwood*



*University Club from Saskatchewan Drive*

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# NORTHERN ALBERTA ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

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Our revived essay competition was held early this year, with entries accepted until February 29.

The essay topic was: "Justify why or why not the destruction of cultural sites should be considered a war crime." Students were asked to use historical and contemporary examples to support their stance. Sir Winston Churchill's speeches, writing and career could be used to support their arguments, but were not required ingredients. Many thanks are due to the students who submitted essays and made the contest a success. The overall quality of entries was excellent. Our panel of volunteer judges did not have an easy job.

First place and gold medallion went to Sarjana Alam, a Grade 10 student at Old Scona Academic, for her essay "Culture - An Extension of Life."

Second place and silver medallion were awarded to Irshad Sayed, a Grade 11 student at Tempo School.

In third place for a bronze medallion was Nimra Hooda, a Grade 11 student at Old Scona Academic. Nimra was also a medalist in our speech competition, held in December of last year.

In addition to medallions and our congratulations, each winner will receive a cash scholarship. We hope to be able soon to plan an event wherein we can honour these students, as well as our debate and speech winners, in person. This will depend on how public health issues evolve in the coming months. In the interim, we intend to publish all three of these outstanding essays in a special October issue of the *Churchillian*.



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## FORMER SPEAKERS

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We have been advised that two guest speakers from past Memorial Banquets have passed away in recent months.

Sir Michael Howard was here in 1993. He spoke of Churchill's activism in warning about Nazi intentions, of his partnership with Neville Chamberlain, and his wartime leadership. He died on Churchill's birthday, November 30, 2019.

In 1994 Robert Temple Armstrong, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, spoke hopefully and presciently about post-Soviet Europe and the end of the cold war. He died April 3, 2020.

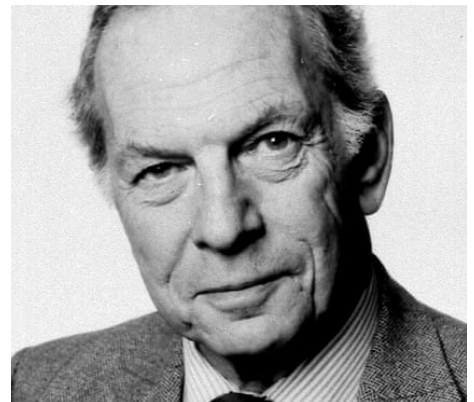
Follow the links below to read their full obituaries.

### Sir Michael Howard

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/dec/01/sir-michael-howard-obituary>

### Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/05/lord-armstrong-of-ilminster-obituary>



*Sir Michael Howard*



*Lord Armstrong of Ilminster*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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### *Greetings to all,*

Along with the board of directors of the Sir Winston S. Churchill Society, I send strongest wishes for your good health and happiness. These are certainly challenging and uncertain times, but we can take inspiration from those who have gone before us and won far more difficult battles than we face, even now. It is also our duty to inspire our young people who are embarking on new lives, studies, and careers in this unstable period, for they are the leaders of tomorrow.



To our great disappointment, our Annual Memorial Banquet was postponed to 2021. Our guest speaker, Mr. Allen Packwood, Director of the Churchill Archives at Churchill College in Cambridge, was unable to travel to us, but he sends a message to us and to other Churchill Societies across the country. You will find the link to his message in this edition of the Churchillian. We look forward to hosting him and you at a wonderful banquet next spring.

This spring and early summer, your board of directors has been working with Patton Communications to develop a way to connect the lessons of the past to a modern audience to enhance our relevance as a society – and indeed, the relevance of Churchill himself. Our goal is to create future leaders in an increasingly challenging world of shifting values. If someone asked you “Why are you involved with the Churchill Society,” what would you say? In the next weeks and months, you will see more cohesive and directed messaging.

As a society we value civil discourse. In this era of slogans, noise, and animosity, we are prepared to listen, and yet remind the public of the value – though it may be imperfect – of our rule of law and of our democratic civic institutions. Our society has a long and noble history of upholding the legacy of Winston Churchill. We have provided funding to educate more than 100 students at the high school and university levels. Many of them have gone on to become leaders in science, technology, the law, business, and government. We are proud to be Canadian and we are proud to be Churchillians.

Many of you have been dismayed, as I was, to hear of the vandalism to London's Churchill Statue, created by the same sculptor who made our Churchill statue in Edmonton's Churchill Square. You may have been heartened to hear that after the vandalism, hundreds of Londoners rallied to form a human shield around the statue. Meanwhile our sister society in Calgary is in the final push to raise funds for a Churchill statue of their own. They are still accepting donations for their statue and hope to have it unveiled in August 2021. The President of Calgary's society, Mr. Mark Milke, has written an excellent article that appeared in Maclean's magazine several months ago. It makes the case that most statues should remain, however imperfect their subjects. Here is the link: [click here](#), or search [markmilke.com/blog](#). For more about the Calgary statue project [click here](#), or search [churchillcalgary.ca/statue](#).

In addition, it is wise for all to remember that were it not for the leadership of Winston Churchill, and if Hitler had prevailed, there would be no protests by black, indigenous, or any people of colour. Jewish people, intellectuals, gay people, the physically handicapped, developmentally delayed, or Romani may well have been wiped from the face of the earth. None of us is perfect, but we are right to celebrate the courage, compassion, and steadfast determination to oppose evil and to uphold our common democratic values, as embodied by Sir Winston Churchill.

**Elisebeth Checkel**

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



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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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There are vacancies on our board of directors. Members interested in serving as directors, or in working on projects such as Memorial Banquet and AGM planning are welcome to contact any member of the board and executive. We can put you to work...

### 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>
Gabrielle Caouette	<i>Director</i>
Will Randall II	<i>Director</i>
Norman Leach	<i>Director</i>

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## A NOTE TO OUR READERS

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Thank you for taking the time to read about our Society and its works. This is our first all-digital issue. We will not be printing and mailing copies to all addresses on our contacts list. We will send paper copies only to those who have requested them. This will save a significant sum of money that will instead be available to fund our core projects. It will also significantly reduce our consumption of paper products. If you wish to continue to receive paper copies, please advise us via the contact information in this issue.

Thanks very much,  
Editor

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## HISTORICAL EVENTS

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**1882** In November, seven-year-old Winston Churchill began boarding at St. George's Preparatory School at Ascot, Berkshire. His independent nature was rewarded there with repeated beatings until his parents withdrew him before his ninth birthday.

**1897** On July 26, while on leave from his regiment, Winston made his first political speech to members of the Primrose League at Claverton Down near Bath.



23 year-old Winston

**1898** On September 2, Winston participated in the charge of the 21st Lancers during the Battle of Omdurman. The Lancers charged into a fierce fight with a much larger Dervish force. Three of his comrades were awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions that day.

**1916** In May, Winston returned to England and his seat in the House of Commons after 6 months at the front.

**1919** On January 10, Churchill was appointed Secretary of State for War and Air in Lloyd George's cabinet.

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## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

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### RAF Benevolent Fund Handbell

Among our small collection of artifacts is an aluminum handbell, cast probably in 1946 for the RAF Benevolent Fund. The number of these bells produced is not known. A few were auctioned off at fundraising events, and many were sold for £1 each. The example in our collection is 13 cm high and 12 cm in diameter at its lip. A large “V” is embossed on each side of the handle. Profiles of Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin are embossed around its waist. Around the top of the lip is embossed: “CAST WITH METAL FROM GERMAN AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN OVER BRITAIN 1939-45 RAF BENEVOLENT FUND.” This claim about the source of metal is contested by some antiquarians. The bell, being cast in aluminum alloy, produces a rather poor bell tone but was nonetheless used to call our 2019 Annual General Meeting to order.

The RAF Benevolent Fund was established by Hugh Trenchard in 1919, a year after the founding of the RAF. Trenchard, the first commander of the RAF, was an early advocate of strategic bombing and an independent British air force. He has been called “the father of the RAF.”

Aircraft shot down or forced down in England were collected and salvaged by RAF Maintenance Command. Aluminum from these aircraft was smelted into ingots. The story goes that businessman and engineering consultant Conrad A. Parlanti noticed some of these stockpiled ingots and inquired about their origin. He then conceived and designed the bells (there was more



*University Club; the Winspear Room*

than one design) and cast them - according to one account - at his Buckingham Die-Casting Company.

The actual provenance of our example is a mystery, unless any of our members happen to know how it came into our possession. If you know anything about this particular bell, our Executive Secretary would be grateful to hear from you.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

*To honor the life of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill by:*

- Educating students on his life and achievements, and their continued relevance, by organizing debates and public speaking/essay competitions;
- Educating the public on his life, philosophy, achievements and literary heritage by organizing lectures, speeches, seminars and the publication of these lectures and speeches;
- To advance education by providing scholarships and research bursaries to Alberta students to continue their education at universities throughout the world.

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## SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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Commentators have been speaking and writing about leadership during this time of pandemic. Winston Churchill's wartime leadership is frequently mentioned by way of comparison with today's leaders. He was a tough act to follow. His crisis leadership is not the only useful example he provided for our times.

His essay "Painting as a Pastime", first published in 1921-22 in Strand Magazine, is a brilliant and personal examination of the practical and spiritual joy he found in painting when he needed it most, at the nadir of his career. To read it is to meet a Winston Churchill most people do not know: Churchill the artist. He clearly understood the immense value of creative endeavour.

There is much in this for all of us, who have spent much of the past several months and maybe more to come, at home,

away from normal contacts and tasks, and in many cases out of work. Pastimes have become important: mask-making became a cottage industry, seemingly with every Singer and surge in the country fashioning plague masks from scrap fabric and elastic raided from skivvy drawers. Many people are pursuing "old" pastimes such as cooking, reading, cycling, and gardening with renewed vigour. This really has been a time of widespread creative effort.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. If you have copies of *The Heroic Memory*, or *Churchill, Walking with Destiny*, being marooned at home is a good time to enjoy them. It is also a good time to purchase Churchill Society memberships: for yourself, family members, or friends. Stand up to be counted among those who understand that history is neither "a set of lies agreed upon", nor the woeful chronicles of irrelevant deeds of men long dead – rather, - it is our collective memory. Join us and contemplate with us the meaning of leadership and the cost of democracy. Stay safe, and stay well!

Purchase your membership today, by visiting our website and following the instructions there:

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

or send the form below, with payment, to our Executive Secretary.

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### 2020-21 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Salutation: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street City Prov Postal Code

Type of Membership: ☐ Regular \$60 ☐ Student \$25

**Privacy and Consent:** By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

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## BOOK LINKS

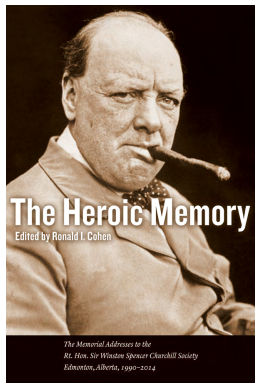
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These excellent works are available for purchase on-line from **Audreys Books**. Click on the book icons to select the sales links.

### ***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.



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***



### ***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*

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

Allen Packwood

"In his role at the Churchill Archives Centre, Allen has long specialized in helping others. Now in his own gripping account, he recreates the energy, drive and perspective of Churchill during some of the key moments in recent history. It makes for a compelling narrative."

*Randolph Churchill*



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## CONTACT US

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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 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Banquet committee, please contact us!

*Alternatively, we invite you to make your purchases on-line at*  
**[www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop](http://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop)**

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

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Sir Winston Churchill Society  
4712 – 55 Avenue  
Beaumont, Alberta T4X 1J7

780.929.6766

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