



the CHURCHILLIAN

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www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com

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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.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET

Our 55th annual Memorial Banquet was held May 25 at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. Approximately 90 people were in attendance in the Winspear Room. Her Honour, the Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, and her husband, the Honourable Douglas Mitchell, were in attendance.

A student awards ceremony in the Papaschase Room preceded the banquet programme. Her Honour assisted in awarding scholarships to the gold, silver, and bronze winners of our speech competition held in the Fall (see the *Churchillian* Vol 11, Issue 1 – April 2019 – for a report on that competition). Each finalist received a cash scholarship, medallion, and a copy of *The Heroic Memory* Vol 1 and 2. The 2019 Cambridge Scholar, Scott Elgersma, was also presented with *The Heroic Memory*.

Our guest speaker, historian Andrew Roberts, delivered an engaging talk about Winston Churchill the person. From this half-hour sketch, Sir Winston emerged as a living and imperfect person, and not the sum of the myths that surround him.

Many favourable comments have been received, complimenting the appearance of the room, table settings, food, service, programme, and guest speaker.

We are grateful to many for their support and participation. Bellstar Hotels and Resorts and Nearctic Holdings sponsored a door prize and scholarships. Musical support was provided by piper Nicholas Silver, harpist Galen Noland, and vocalist Adaline Dewar. Rocco Macri photographed the evening (including the images with this article), and George Deslauriers recorded Roberts' keynote address, which is available on our website www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com.

A representative from Audreys Books set up a kiosk
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*Andrew Roberts, Her Honour, and Elisebeth Checkel.
Photo by Macri Photography*



Head table guests CWO Wayne Bantock and Col. Scott McKenzie, from Edmonton Garrison. Photo by Macri Photography

ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET (CONT'D)

outside of the Winspear room. He sold all the copies he had of *Churchill, Walking With Destiny*, most of which were autographed on the spot by the author (our guest speaker, Andrew Roberts).

Most of all, thanks are due to our faithful members and friends who bought tickets and made the event possible.

Save the Date!

Save This Date: **May 11, 2020**, for our 56th Annual Memorial Banquet! Our guest speaker will be Allen Packwood OBE, FRHistS; Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge. We hope you can join us! Look for more information in the next issue of the *Churchillian*, and on our website.



Master of Ceremonies LCol (Ret) Brian Hodgson.
Photo by Macri Photography



Valerie Cload presents the Arthur O. Cload Trophy to Sriya Gadde, 2019 gold medalist in Speech. Photo by Macri Photography



Alberta's first Legislature Chamber, in the historic McKay Avenue School.

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

In partnership with the University of Alberta Debate and Speech Society, we will stage a debate and speech tournament on Winston Churchill's birthday, November 30, 2019 at the University of Alberta. Venue and times are not yet finalized. The finals are planned for December 11, at the historic McKay Avenue School. Volunteer judges for the speech rounds are needed on both dates. Judging experience is an asset, but not mandatory: information about criteria and rules will be provided. If you are available and willing to help, please contact our executive secretary or any director, or email us at info@churchillsocietyofedmonton.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all. I hope this message finds you in good health and good spirits.

Our 55th Annual Memorial Banquet has come and gone, and we look forward to an action-packed autumn and winter. Our time with Andrew Roberts was brief, but in his presentation on “Churchill: Walking with Destiny” we were entertained and learned about facets of his life that were unknown before the publication of this book. Perhaps just as important, we were inspired by the illustration of what can be accomplished with a strong and unflagging sense of purpose.



(His book can be purchased online from Audreys Books by following [this link](#), or searching in Audreys website by book title, or by visiting your favourite bookseller.)

Despite ups and downs and fashions of the day, our society has maintained and even renewed our sense of purpose. Namely, we honour the past, as evidenced in the life of Sir Winston Churchill and by the lives and accomplishments of the Churchillians who have gone before us. We do this so that we may go forth with understanding and vigour to contribute to the development of the future. We have engaged a Board Development professional from the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations to help us articulate our values and goals for the 21st century, but as the Great Man himself, says, “Behaviour never lies.” Some of the behaviours in which our society is engaged are detailed elsewhere in this edition of “The Churchillian.”

We invite you to participate in any of these activities. Here is a short list of upcoming events:

- Remembrance Day Ceremony at City Hall
- High School Speech and Debates Competition
- Province-wide essay competition
- Speech and Debate Tournament and Finals (the tournament takes place on Sir Winston Churchill’s birthday, and I think he could not be more pleased!)
- AGM at the Alberta Aviation Museum
- Annual Memorial Banquet

If you would like more information about any activities or if you would be interested in participating, please talk to any board member or drop a line to our executive secretary, Mr. Bob Chaffee. You will find contact information in this publication.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to renew or purchase a membership to the society. If you are a member, you might wish to learn more about interesting opportunities on the board. If fate has been kind to you, you might wish to donate or become a sponsor of one of the many scholarships that the Churchill Society awards. It’s an exciting time to be a member of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston S. Churchill Society. I invite you to join us! Thank you for your support.

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

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Our Board of Directors. Seated: Elisebeth Checkel, Sarah Fong. Standing: Jill Wright, Robert Chaffee, Diane Sweet. Photo by Macri Photography

We thought our readers might like to know a little about the team who currently manage the business of our society. The following was provided by each director and is related here as much as possible in their own words.

Elisebeth Checkel, President

“As a young woman from rural Alberta, I had the life-changing opportunity to live at Churchill College and to work in Cambridge. Since those formative days, I have been inspired by the struggles and accomplishments of Sir Winston Churchill. I find it remarkable that his words, so carefully crafted for specific audiences and tasks, have universal meaning that helps to make sense of my own puny challenges and my view of life in Canada today. I am honoured to work with our members and Board of Directors as President of the Churchill Society, as we strive to make Churchill’s wisdom, accomplishments and leadership obvious to a new generation.”

Jill Wright, Vice-President

Having worked all her career as a municipal and provincial public servant, her penchant for policy and politics is well served on the Churchill Society of Edmonton Board. Now semi-retired, Jill spends her time teaching piano and working with the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market. Jill is excited to see what the future of the board holds while honouring the past.

Diane Sweet, Treasurer

Diane has served at Canadian Western Bank with increasing responsibilities since 2004. She is currently an Analyst in Operations, Corporate Office. Prior to moving to Edmonton, she was with CIBC for 23 years in various financial roles.

Diane enjoys golf, curling, gardening and travel. She has served on the board of a golf and curling club, the MS Society, and chaired a charitable festival for the Northern BC Hospital Foundation.

Sarah Fong, Director of Competitions

Sarah first watched the Churchill debate finals at the McKay Avenue school in Fall 2012, back when the competitions were advertised in the Edmonton Journal. This drew her to public speaking and speech and debate competitions in high school. She joined our board of directors in Fall 2016 and helped organize the 2016 and 2017 debate tournament. In 2017 she revamped the society’s youth outreach by starting social media accounts and updating our website. In 2018 she organized the speech-only competition at the McKay avenue school with Navya Baradi’s support, and introduced an impromptu round.

Sarah is a student at the University of Alberta pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, with a Business Leadership Certificate (a two year program

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where selected students are exposed to leadership in a variety of industries). Sarah also volunteers as an ambassador for the Alberta School of Business, is a project manager for a social enterprise group under a youth nonprofit called Enactus, and has joined the University of Alberta's Sustainability Council as a Public Education volunteer.

Robert Chaffee, Executive Secretary

Robert Chaffee, 65, is retired from a 36-year career in Air Traffic Services, where he worked as a Flight Service Specialist. He began reading history early in high school and studied History and Economics at the University of Alberta. He has long admired Winston Churchill's career and legacy. He enjoys cycling, and golf as much as he enjoys reading history.

Bob's longtime friend, our past president John Warnke brought Bob into the society as Archivist in 2016. Since then, Bob has also taken on editorship of our revived Churchillian newsletter. When Executive Secretary Ken Munro resigned at the end of 2018, Bob accepted that challenge also.



Navya Baradi, prospective director

Navya is completing her Bachelor of Commerce degree in Business Economics and Business Law at the University of Alberta. She is passionate

about the importance Churchill gave to the oral and written tradition and wants to encourage high school students to hone these skills through speech, debate, and essay writing.

She was introduced to the Churchill Society by participating in high school debate and speech competitions. She won the Arthur O. Cload trophy

for speech in 2017-2018. Since then, she has been working with Sarah Fong in organizing student competitions.

Navya wants to work in the sphere of law, politics, and international affairs.

Her interests include classical Indian dance, learning languages and musical theatre.

Jason Olfert has left the board of directors, with regrets. During his time on the board, and in addition to routine tasks, he worked on our website, corresponded with Churchill College, served on the Cambridge Scholar selection committee and arranged media publicity for this year's guest speaker. Thank you, Jason, for your excellent service. We hope to see you at future events.

Our by-laws provide for a board of five to nine directors, plus executive officers. We do not have a full slate. More pairs of hands and eyes are needed; in planning and preparing our annual Memorial Banquet, to keep our present projects on track, and to pursue new initiatives and opportunities.

If you would like to have a hand in steering our society as a director or by serving on the banquet committee once it is struck, please contact us.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Consider joining us at Edmonton City Hall on Remembrance Day. Members of the Board of Directors will attend the service there and lay a wreath on behalf of our Society. The start time of the service was not yet available when we produced this issue.



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.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1896** Winston Churchill arrives in India with his regiment, the 4th Hussars. He is stationed at quiet Bagalore, where he has time to study history and politics, and play polo.
- 1897** Churchill gets himself attached to the Malakand Field Force as a correspondent. In September, his “courage and resolution” in combat are mentioned in dispatches.



- 1906** Churchill is elected to the House of Commons as a Liberal for Northwest Manchester. He had crossed the floor from the Unionist Conservative seats in 1904.
- 1922** Recovering from an appendectomy, Churchill runs as a Coalitionist Conservative and loses his Dundee seat in the November 15 parliamentary election. He later writes of that time: “In the twinkling of an eye I found myself without an office, without a seat, without a party, and without an appendix.”
- 1939** Germany invades Poland on August 31. The British government issues an ultimatum to Germany on September 3. The ultimatum is ignored, and Britain is once again at war with Germany.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

If you heard Andrew Roberts speak at our 55th Memorial Banquet, or if you have read his new biography of Winston Churchill, you will have been presented with a three-dimensional, virtuous, flawed, and believable character. Guest speakers at some earlier Memorial Banquets presented similarly frank observations. Churchill was a soldier, journalist, author, politician, statesman, and artist. He got some things wrong, as Roberts told us, but he worked over a long career to get other things right; to help shape, and then to save, the modern western world.

The Churchill Society celebrates his virtues of courage and leadership, and promotes his democratic ideals by helping young people develop the citizenship, critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills vital to democracy.

New members are always welcome. While you renew your



own membership, please consider inviting your friends and family members to join the Society. Your membership fees of \$60.00 (\$25.00 for students) support the highest ideals reflected in Churchill's life and work.

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

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

If you are reading a print version of this newsletter, you can apply online by visiting our website. Search for "Sir Winston

Churchill Society of Edmonton", select "More", then "Membership" and proceed with your application. If you provide an email address in your application we can send you future digital editions of this newsletter, which will help us reduce the cost of distribution. You can, of course, use the form below to purchase through the regular mail.

2019-20 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society will be held November 27 at the Alberta Aviation Museum at 11410 Kingsway Avenue NW, Edmonton. Reception begins at 5:30 PM with light snacks and a beer and wine cash bar. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 PM.

The meeting is open to Winston Churchill Society members and their guests. Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15.00 for students) and include museum access, appetizers from *Upper Crust*, and one beverage.

Additional beer and wine will be available at a cost of \$5.00 per glass.

The executive and directors with portfolios will be reporting on their activities of the past year. Our president will speak of the changes in strategic direction underway, as our Society explores how to use the strengths and skills of Sir Winston Churchill to contribute to future development in our community.



Winston at the controls of Boeing 314a Clipper RMA Berwick.



Alberta Aviation Museum.

For tickets or reservations, use the contact information at the end of this issue. Our website is being updated, and we hope to have ticket sales online in time for the meeting.

Membership renewals and fees will be accepted at the meeting. Fees may be paid with cash or cheque.

Please plan to join us, enjoy the museum, indulge in pleasant conversation and meet our Board of Directors. We look forward to your participation!

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!

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

Robert Chaffee, Executive Secretary
Sir Winston Churchill Society
4712 – 55 Avenue
Beaumont, Alberta T4X 1J7

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 /churchillsocietyofedmonton

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