



# the CHURCHILLIAN

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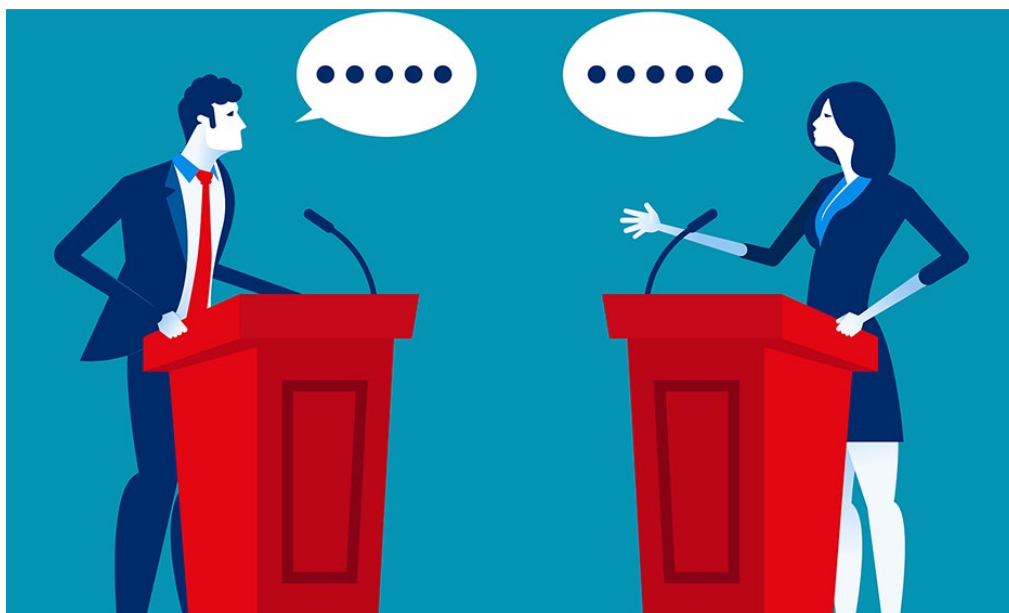
*The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We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

## STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Normally our High School speech and debate tournament and finals are held in early December. Because of scheduling snags with the University of Alberta, the competitions were held on January 9, in the Education Centre at the University of Alberta. The University of Alberta Debate Society provided adjudicators for debate, and volunteers from among our society's members and friends judged speech.

The speech research topic was: "Be it resolved that the Government of Canada will abolish the Monarchy." The same topic was phrased as a resolution for debate: "This house believes, as the Government of Canada it would abolish the Monarchy."

The secret topic, also for speech and debate was: "Be it resolved that beauty pageants should be banned in Canada."



Thanks are due to coaches Rachel Luo, James Kosowan, and Michael Peters, for their volunteer support of these winning students. Thanks also to our Director of Competitions, Lucas Robertson, and the University of Alberta Debate Society, who worked to prepare and stage the tournament and finals.

Our students will be honoured in an awards ceremony immediately prior to our 2023 Annual Memorial Banquet on June 7 of this year.

### Speech medallists were:

Julianna Huang	Gold	<i>Old Scona Academic, Edmonton</i>
Henglin Xu	Silver	<i>Old Scona Academic, Edmonton</i>
David Qaio	Bronze	<i>Old Scona Academic, Edmonton</i>

### Debate results were:

Michelle Han & Catherine Cai	Gold	<i>Old Scona Academic, Edmonton</i>
Tony Chen & Jackson Xu	Silver	<i>Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary</i>

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# ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET

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We are excited to announce that the 57th Annual Memorial Banquet of the Sir Winston Churchill Society will be held on June 7th at the University Club, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive.

Our Guest Speaker is Mr. Anthony Tucker-Jones, author of several books, including “Churchill: Master and Commander,” “Hitler’s Winter”, the “Battle for the Mediterranean”, and many others. A former member of the British Intelligence Service, he has over 500 published articles and is a regular presenter on radio, podcasts, and television. For more information, here is a link to his website: [atuckerjones.com](http://atuckerjones.com)

Though prices of everything have risen over the years, the Churchill Society offers you a gala event with a beautiful venue, excellent food, drink, speakers, music, and companions. Accordingly it has been necessary to increase ticket prices to \$175 for members (\$225 for non-members) and \$85 for students. Our prices were last increased in 2014.

We sold out a few weeks before the banquet last year. Please get your tickets now to avoid disappointment. Purchase online at [www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com](http://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com).



Mr. Anthony Tucker-Jones



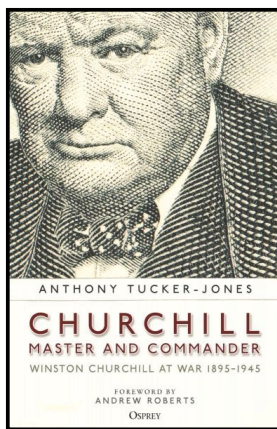
University Club

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## BOOK LINKS

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**Churchill, Master and Commander: Winston Churchill at War 1895-1945**  
Anthony Tucker-Jones



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



‘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*

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# SIR WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

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By Dr. David Checkel  
*darve.checkel@ualberta.ca*

This is a VERY brief history of the origin and activities of the Churchill Society of Edmonton. It leaves out virtually all the names and activities that have contributed to the honorable and colourful history of this Society. For that, I apologize.

The Society was established in 1964 by six Edmonton men with a vision to keep alive the heroic memory of Churchill and his achievements. The nascent group wrote to Churchill about forming a society in his name and were honoured to receive his personal approval. The plan at the time was to organize an annual gala dinner with a Memorial Address by a distinguished speaker who worked with Churchill. The event was fashioned after a military mess dinner with a military band, full dress uniforms and civilians in tuxedos. Given the spirit of the times, the Society and its Memorial Banquet were originally limited to men. That ended in the 1980s and the Society now has a healthy mix of men and women as members and leaders.

The Memorial Banquet and Memorial Address has run annually for 57 years (1965-2022), only breaking in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions. Early speakers at the Memorial Banquet included famous WWII leaders like Earl Louis Mountbatten and General Mark Clark, as well as political leaders like British Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home. With more than a half century of Memorial Banquets, the number of people who knew or worked directly with Sir Winston has dwindled and the list of speakers has shifted towards historians and modern leaders with a sense of history. The Society has published two hardcover books covering the first half century of Memorial Address speeches, (ISBN 1-55195-115-0 and ISBN 978-1-77136-412-6). For those wanting to hear a Memorial Address, a number of audio files are available on the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Edmonton web site: (see *churchillsocietyofedmonton.com* under the heading "More / Audio Archives").

The Society has also focused on keeping the memory of Churchill alive through educational activities for young people. A scholarship in History was established at the University of Alberta and the Society supports competitions

for high school students in areas where Churchill excelled including debate, speech, and essay.

Churchill College in Cambridge University was founded at a similar time to the Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Edmonton. After a visit to Cambridge, Dr. Harvey Hebb, then President of the Churchill Society, was inspired to create a Churchill scholarship enabling Alberta students to study at Churchill College. He worked to raise funds and used matching funds from the province to set up a dedicated endowment at the University of Alberta. The resulting Edmonton Churchill Scholarship supports a student pursuing a Ph.D. degree in engineering at Churchill College. I was the first Edmonton Churchill Scholar starting in 1978 and the 27th Scholar has been selected and will attend Churchill College in October 2023.

It should be noted that Churchill College was formed to create a concentration of science and engineering students at Cambridge. During WWII, Winston Churchill was impressed by how MIT in the US could turn ideas into hardware, and he wanted to see a similar capability in Britain. Thus, it was natural that our Edmonton Churchill Scholarship sent engineers to Churchill College. But Churchill himself was a man of letters, a master of the spoken word, a politician, and a painter. The Society felt that a parallel scholarship in the Arts would be appropriate. In 1988, a Foundation was formed to do two things:

- to raise a statue of Sir Winston in Edmonton's Churchill Square
- to create a doctoral scholarship for Alberta students in the Arts at Oxford

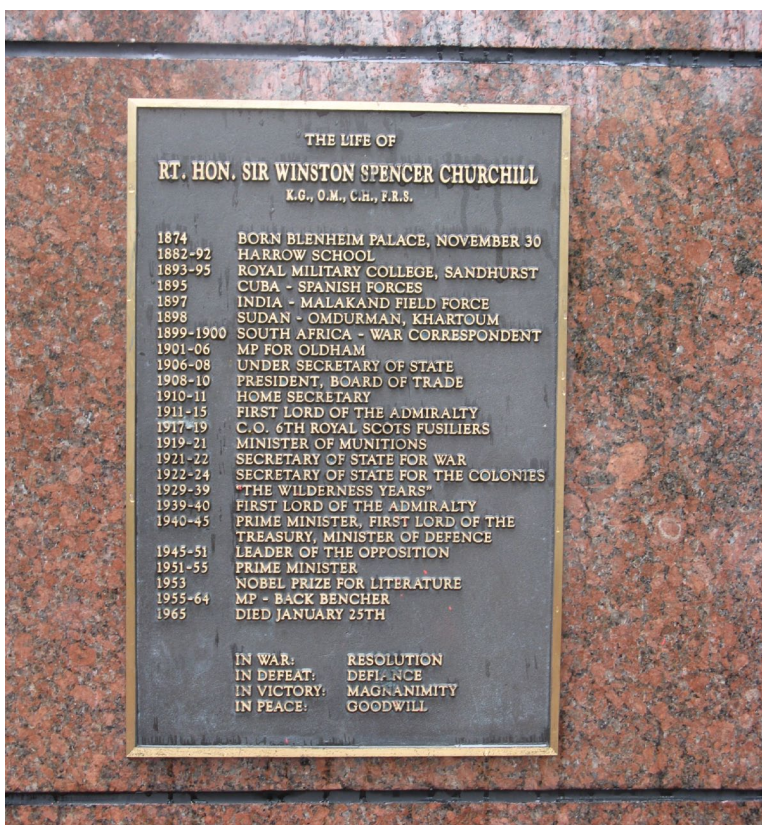
The Society established an independent body, the Churchill Statue and Oxford Scholarship Foundation, to achieve these objectives. The statue in Churchill Square was raised in 1989 and the Foundation moved on to raise funds for another dedicated endowment at the University of Alberta. This endowment supports research travel grants for Arts graduate students as well as a Ph.D. scholarship in Arts topics at Oxford. To date, the fund has supported six graduate research travel grants and five Ph.D. scholars at Oxford University.

# SIR WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

The Churchill Scholarships can be judged highly successful. Former scholars are working as professors and lead researchers across a range of universities and industries. They contribute to diverse fields such as alternate energy, transportation, communications, atmospheric physics, microelectronics, nanoparticles, noise, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and modern history. They have risen to leadership positions as vice-presidents, presidents, and chancellors of respected organizations and institutions.

With the Churchill statue long in place and both Ph.D. scholarships operating (though still under-funded), the Foundation updated its name, objectives, and bylaws in 2021. It is now The Churchill Scholarships Foundation of Alberta with a mandate to develop and support a range of Churchill scholarships. We continue to raise funds for these valuable endeavors through a combination of donations and charitable casinos. The Foundation Board, with an increasing fraction of scholarship alumni, is proud to participate in the legacy of the original founders.

*Dr. Checkel is the present Executive Secretary of the Churchill Scholarships Foundation of Alberta*



## HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1880** Winston's younger brother John Strange Spencer Churchill – to be known as Jack – is born February 4 in Dublin, Ireland, where the boys' father served as private secretary to his father, then Viceroy and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
- 1886** In March, eleven-year-old Winston is taken seriously ill with pneumonia. This prompts a rare visit from his parents.
- 1899** Days after dislocating his right shoulder in a stairway fall, Churchill plays polo in an inter-regimental tournament. He leads his team to victory, scoring three goals with his right arm strapped.



- 1945** Winston Churchill crosses the Rhine March 25.
- 1952** In January, Winston Churchill addresses a joint session of the Parliament of Canada.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Society Members and Friends:

I hope this message finds you well and that you have had a good winter. With spring in full swing, it's time to start looking forward to some exciting upcoming events.

## **Coronation, May 6**

I invite you all to join us at the Sherlock Holmes Pub from 11 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, to honour the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. There is a reservation under the name 'CHURCHILL', and the pub is at 10012 101A Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta. It promises to be a great day of celebration and camaraderie, and I hope to see many of you there.

## **Annual Memorial Banquet June 7**

Following this, I am pleased to announce that our 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Banquet will take place on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM at the University Club, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive NW, Edmonton, Alberta. We have secured the services of Anthony Tucker-Jones as our guest speaker. As a British former defence intelligence officer and widely published military expert on regional conflicts, counterterrorism, and armoured and aerial warfare, he will undoubtedly provide us with a fascinating and informative talk. Mr. Tucker-Jones recently authored 'Churchill, Master



and Commander: Winston Churchill at War 1895–1945', and Andrew Roberts, Baron Roberts of Belgravia, our 2019 speaker, wrote the forward to that book.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at these upcoming events and continuing our celebration of the life and legacy of Sir Winston.

Best Regards,

Will S. Randall II  
(780) 996-6169

## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

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



*Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque*

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# FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY: HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

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By *Elisebeth Checkel*

The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society is a registered charity that has sponsored and donated to numerous individuals and organizations that promote the development of youth leadership in our community.

For decades our Society has sponsored high school debate, speech, and essay competitions involving thousands of students over many years. Our trophies grace the display cases of city schools and bear the names of city mayors, MLAs, MPs, academics, noted journalists, and leaders of major businesses. The competitions involve Society members as volunteer judges. Each year significant funds, currently \$2100, are dispensed among the deserving winners.

Why do we do it? We do it because we want to encourage our next generation of leaders. They must be eloquent, must be able to see both sides of an argument, must undertake intelligent research from historical sources, and must have a certain degree of courage to stand in public and lead an audience to their point of view. Incidentally, these are the qualities that made Sir Winston Churchill such an exceptional leader and why our Society continues to this day.

Last year's first place winners of the Debates competition were Ms. Sunny Li and Ms. Mira Zheng. Mira went on to win the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award. I talked with 16-year-old Mira to learn what makes a young leader tick.

Mira lives with her parents, an older sister, and a beloved cat. She is enrolled in the full IB program at Old Scona Academic. She travels the long distance to school with her neighbor and her best friend, Sunny Li, also a Churchill Award winner. For fun, Mira skis, plays badminton, and



*Mira with Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor*

enjoys pop/K-pop, and Mando-pop music. She likes reading and just finished George Orwell's "1984." She became a student member of the Churchill Society because she appreciates the opportunities our Society provides for young people to push themselves beyond their boundaries.

During the pandemic, while other students were goofing off, she and Sunny created Educamp, which hosts online camps and classes for students from grades 5-11. Their goal was to establish a place for students to learn about various topics, such as how to debate, how to study, careers, current events, economics, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

Time to socialize and have fun is also built into these week-long online programs. To date they have reached over 400 participants with a special guest appearance at one session from the Alberta Minister of Education.

But that's not all! Last year, Mira won a prize from Junior Achievement as President of the company "Switch and Socket", which sold customizable outlet covers to decorate any room. She coaches younger students in debate with the Edvic Speech and Debate Club. She teaches kids aged 5-11 at Snow Valley Ski School.

Mira mentioned that "Community" is one of her guiding values. Not only does she contribute her time and ability, her courage, eloquence, and intelligence to make our community better, she helps to build new communities and connections thorough leadership in innovative projects that have already had an impact on hundreds of young people in our city. This young leader is someone to watch.

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# SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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Historian and Stalin biographer Stephen Kotkin made some pointed observations about history in a recent wide-ranging interview.\* His host quoted Henry Kissinger in his book *Leadership*: “Reading a complex book carefully has become a counter-cultural act” and “...lacking a moral and strategic vision, the present is unmoored.” Kotkin’s response to this pessimistic view was that we who care about it need to recognize that we alone are able to remedy the lack of objective historical perspective and inquiry being taught in our schools. This vacuum is being filled in the larger society and in policy circles by what he called “junk history”; ...” bunk, or inapplicable interpretation or analogy to today’s circumstances ... just as dangerous as no history.” We, the teachers, and older generation, are responsible for finding ways to make the factual past more attractive than ‘junk’.

The Sir Winston Churchill Society works to combat junk history, even though we didn’t coin that term, by encouraging

the thoughtful research, and clear civil discourse of historical topics. Tomorrow’s leaders need accurate perspective on how we got here, the ability to communicate it, and the humility to recognize that change is inevitable and uncertain.

We celebrate Winston Churchill’s lifetime of public service, leadership, and literary and artistic achievement by our increasing community support for education, communication skills, and the arts. Membership is inexpensive, and our members enjoy reduced ticket prices for our annual formal dinner and other events. Please consider purchasing or renewing your membership and purchasing gift memberships for family and friends.

\* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wv4ofe0v70> a Hoover Institution sponsored series. Interviewer was Peter Robinson, author and former Presidential speech writer.

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We offer three tiers of membership. You can purchase your membership 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. Memberships are valid for one year from date of purchase.

**Regular membership:** Annual fee \$30  
*Confers voting privileges at members’ meetings and reduced ticket prices for Churchill Society events*

**Student membership:** Annual fee \$10  
*Regular members’ privileges for registered students*

**Global membership:** Annual fee \$90  
*Regular members’ privileges plus 1 year’s membership in the International Churchill Society with 4 issues of their excellent magazine “Finest Hour”*

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## 2023 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 \$30       Student \$10       Global \$90

**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.

*This is the final installment of Mr. Reed's look at recent treatment of historical legacies and monuments. He reminds us that Sir Winston's virtues and long career in practicing them outweigh his flaws by far. The same cannot be said of some of his contemporaries. Ed.*

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## WINSTON CHURCHILL'S SCORECARD — PART 3

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By David Reed

Winston Churchill had some beliefs that were typical of his time. Some of these beliefs would now be labelled as racist. His views about India especially were those of a diehard imperialist not willing to concede independence to the people of India. He was Prime Minister during the Bengal famine where up to 3 million people died. Historians such as Andrew Roberts have linked the famine to Japan's presence in India, in addition to other structural issues in India's economy. However, Churchill was leading Britain during this time and must take a share of the responsibility. His involvement in the Gallipoli disaster in World War One was controversial and troubling. Even after being appointed Prime Minister, he was viewed by many members of the British establishment as rash, unpredictable, and possessed of questionable judgement.

I could add up the negative points on Winston Churchill's scorecard, call him a racist, and call for his statue to be taken down and his legacy to be dragged through the mud. If, however, I deal with this issue using a balanced and objective approach, I can quickly add up as many positive points. Churchill loved his country and served the people of England in the House of Commons, as a member of governments in office, and as a member of the opposition for over 60 years. In his early career, he was a champion for social progress and a determined reformer. He was a champion of Jewish rights and citizenship. Churchill's early life was full of adventure; he showed remarkable courage when faced with danger in numerous zones of war. He was a loving husband to his wife Clementine, with whom he enjoyed a marriage of nearly 60 years. He loved his children, even if he found them somewhat difficult. Churchill regularly dealt with depression, which he called the 'Black Dog'; he was often emotional and was not averse to weeping in public. He was a connoisseur of the British language, a brilliant speaker, witty conversationalist, and prolific author. He enjoyed deep and abiding friendships, even if he did not always choose those friends wisely. He was a colourful, mercurial, deeply intelligent man of many talents. While a ruthless practitioner of war, he had a noble heart that felt things deeply, and a beautiful soul.

So, what happens when we add all these positive points (in addition to his credit for saving the world in 1940) and place them in opposition to the negative points on the scoreboard? I believe Churchill has many more positive traits and actions in his favour than negative. But at the very least, he has enough positive characteristics and actions to merit not being tossed aside with the dismissive jibe of 'racist.'

The world is a better place because of Winston Churchill. I believe that with most people, if we take a balanced and nuanced perspective, we will find things we can both admire and disapprove. No one can be summarized with one sentence, and no one deserves to have their entire life and legacy dismissed by vocal consumers of misinformed analyses. There are exceptions to this rule. I am not advocating we look for the good in men like Hitler and Stalin (though we should certainly try to understand them, to prevent similar occurrences). Giving into impassioned impulses and allowing imperfect but decent human beings to be condemned without a fair hearing does not reflect the kind of society I want to live in. It certainly isn't the society that Winston Churchill and countless others believed they were fighting to protect.

Winston Churchill, despite his foibles and follies, believed in democracy and political freedom. His efforts to defend those freedoms surely entitles his legacy and memorials to be shielded from the transient social trends that refuse to assess him with reason and fair judgement.

Winston Churchill was human. Will we today condemn him because he was flawed? Those who seek to throw him down are perhaps unwilling to face their own humanity. The people who decry the heroes of the past are perhaps weeping in fear of these uncertain times. They are searching for someone to believe in, someone who will lead them through to the other side of climate change, environmental degradation and pandemic disease, and war. They want a saviour, and they realize that saviours are not perfect and if saviours are not perfect then they themselves might be called on to lead the charge.



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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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David Reed has left the board of directors. We thank him for his notable contributions to our society and wish him well.

There is a vacancy on our board. If you would like to help our society carry out our mission in pursuit of our vision, please contact us. Directors are appointed to terms of three years.

See the contact information for our Executive Secretary elsewhere in this newsletter.



*Churchill's Secret Cabinet Room*

## Churchill Society Board and Executives

Will Randall II	<i>President</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
Craig Lukaniuk	<i>Treasurer</i>
Elisebeth Checkel	<i>Executive Secretary</i> <i>Membership</i>
Lucas Robertson	<i>Competitions</i>
Richard Dumas	<i>Director</i> <i>Protocol Officer</i>
Stan Guzczewski	<i>Director</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Archives</i> <i>The Churchillian</i>

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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 submissions or suggestions for future articles, we would like to hear from you! Contact our editor, Robert Chaffee at 780.929.6766 or email to [edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com). If you are interested in serving as a Director, or helping out with events, please contact our Executive Secretary.

*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:

Elisebeth Checkel, Executive Secretary  
Sir Winston Churchill Society  
127 Twin Brooks Cove NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6T1

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