



the CHURCHILLIAN

VOL. 17 ISSUE 1

www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com

MARCH 2025

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND RECEPTION

Approximately sixty members and friends attended our Annual General Meeting on November 30. We were honoured to hold this event in Government House in Edmonton, surely one of this city's "crown jewels."

The business meeting was held in the Alberta Room, a capacious, domed-ceiling, senatorial board room on the third floor. The meeting was brief and routine, as AGMs usually are, except for the nomination from the floor and appointment of Mr. Roger Thomson CPA to our board of directors as Treasurer. Mr. Thomson brings considerable accounting experience to our board of directors.

Many will recognize November 30 as Winston S. Churchill's 150th birthday. A reception and birthday party followed the AGM, on the main floor of that beautiful and stately building. To our great delight we were privileged to be joined for the reception and party by The Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and His Honour, Dr. Zair Lakhani. Our member Heidi Kuhse provided lovely seasonally atmospheric piano stylings during the party and before the AGM.

There was a brief programme to begin the party. President Randall thanked all who attended and introduced Her Honour. Her Honour spoke of Winston Churchill's leadership and the power of his words in a time of great peril. She reminded us that our world is no less in need of his moral clarity and leadership now than it was in 1940.

Mr. George Kuhse produced an artillery officer's sword with which President Will Randall ceremonially cut the birthday cake. The assembled guests enjoyed beverage refreshments, delicious birthday cake, and equally delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by



Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani Lt. Governor of Alberta is seated. Standing, from the left; His Honour Dr. Zair Lakhani, Director Michael Gibson, Treasurer Roger Thomson, Vice-President Jill Wright, Director David Checkel, President Will Randall, Director Robert Chaffee, and Director Stan Guszczewski.

A Capella Catering. Their Honours graciously mingled with those in attendance; it was a very special occasion.

Many thanks to Their Honours for supporting this event and our society, and for making this splendid venue available to us. Thanks and congratulations to our past president Elisebeth Checkel and her planning committee for their solid work; thanks also to Heidi and George Kuhse for their excellent support of the evening.

Photos by David Hopkins



President Randall Cuts the Cake



Government House, Edmonton

CHURCHILL STUDENT SPEECH AND DEBATE COMPETITIONS 2025

Our annual high school competitions were held on Saturday, January 11 at the Education Centre on the University of Alberta campus. The tournament was designed and run by members of the University of Alberta Debate Society (UADS) as an outreach to interested high school students. UADS also provided the venue and judges for debate. The Sir Winston Churchill Society sponsored the event, providing judges for speech as well as cash scholarships for the medallists. Topics for the first rounds were assigned in advance. Topics for later rounds were impromptu, assigned with limited time for preparation.

DEBATE

Thirteen teams entered the debate competition, which ran in three rounds:

Round 1 and 2: Prepared topic

Information:

The judicialization of politics refers to the phenomena of reliance on courts and other judicial institutions to address core moral predicaments, public policy questions, and other contentious issues of political nature and significance.

Motion

This house regrets the ubiquity of judicialization in politics.

Round 3: Impromptu

Information

“Compromise politics” or “politics of compromise” refer to the political culture whereby bipartisanship or ‘crossing of aisles’ is seen as a main goal. In achieving that goal, politicians will tend to be willing to compromise on stances, policies and/or principles, for the benefit of cooperation.

Motion

This house regrets the glorification of compromise politics in western liberal democracies

Final Round: Impromptu

Information

“Academization” refers to the increasingly significant presence of academics and academic terminology, processes, and structures in many parts of the world



This house opposes the academization of social justice movements

Debate medalists were:

Iris Wang and Sabrina Liu, *of Old Scona Academic* **Gold**

Michelle Han and Henglin Xu, *of Old Scona Academic* **Silver**

Bella Jiao and Wesley Deng, *of Old Scona Academic* **Bronze**

SPEECH

There were seven contestants in speech, which also ran in three rounds.

Round 1 and 2: Prepared topic

“What lessons from the 20th century are most relevant to today’s global challenges, and should we continue studying this era?”

Round 3: Impromptu

“To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour.” - Sir Winston Churchill

Final Round 3: Impromptu

“Discuss the value of sacrifice in promoting individual growth and achievement.”

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CHURCHILL STUDENT SPEECH AND DEBATE COMPETITIONS 2025

Speech medalists were:

- Katherine Cai, *of Old Scona Academic* **Gold**
Nicole Chu, *of Old Scona Academic* **Silver**
Eric Yuan, *of Edvic Speech and Debate Club* **Bronze**

Congratulations to all medalists. We look forward to meeting you at our student awards and annual banquet.

Thanks, and compliments to all contestants. The willingness to put yourself 'out there' and before stern judges must itself be a leadership trait.

Our thanks and admiration go to coaches: James Kosowan and Michael Peters of Old Scona Academic; Anna Janzen, Brian Pendlebury, and John Nelson of Strathcona High School; Jaana Pipke of J. Percy Page; Rachel Luo and Maggie Sun of Edvic. Your efforts are helping tomorrow's leaders learn vital skills.

We are grateful for the crucial involvement of UADS in designing the competition, securing the venue, and providing judges for debate. Finally, thanks go to our members who helped plan the event and those who judged the speech competition.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

1952 Churchill meets with President Truman January 5 to argue for a meeting of the major powers to discuss Korea.



George VI

King George VI dies February 6 of coronary thrombosis.

1953 Churchill meets with President-elect Dwight Eisenhower January 7 ahead of Eisenhower's inauguration. He is unable to convince Eisenhower to meet with Stalin.



Winston and Ike

1957 Anthony Eden resigns on January 7. Harold Macmillan becomes Prime Minister.



Harold Macmillan

1965 Winston Churchill dies on January 24 at age 90 of complications caused by a stroke. He is buried at St. Martin's, Bladon, near Blenheim Palace where he was born.

2024 ESSAY COMPETITION

The essay below by Max Dong won second place honours and a cash scholarship in our 2024 essay competition. Max was a student at Old Scona Academic.

Viability of Neutrality in 21st Century Geopolitics

“Legally, I believe they are ‘At war, but skulking.’” Winston Churchill said this when he was furious that Ireland declared neutrality during World War II. Like in 21st-century geopolitics, declaring neutrality is just running away and hiding from the problem. If Germany had succeeded in invading Britain, did they think Germany would spare Ireland? In fact, countries can be susceptible to aggression because they are neutral. A great example is the invasion of Ukraine, which is also a major reason why many countries like Sweden joined NATO. From looking at how Ukraine’s neutrality ultimately led to their suffering, the importance of Sweden’s joining NATO, and Sweden’s contribution to NATO, it is clear that a state of neutrality is not viable in 21st-century geopolitics.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has been a sovereign state and has declared neutrality to show its dedication to denuclearization by not joining military blocs. In 2014, Russian aggression led to the Crimean Crisis. Eventually, Ukraine was on a path to joining NATO and the EU. However, before Ukraine was fully integrated into this system, Russia invaded and escalated the situation between the two countries in 2022. Without NATO troops within Ukraine, it is extremely easy to understand how vulnerable Ukraine was. As a neutral state, Ukraine was a massive target for Putin, as they did not have that support from NATO and the security benefits. Even though Ukraine was incredibly close with NATO and was planning on joining them, they were not an official member, thus meaning that they did not have that extra defense. If Ukraine is a part of NATO, it does not matter how much Russia is against NATO, as they are less likely to escalate situations. As a result of these recent events, it naturally scares a lot of European countries like Sweden. Being neutral, having good relations with NATO, and being in close proximity with Russia puts a huge target on Sweden’s back. The aggression and assertion by Russia in the Nordic-Baltic region highlights concerns of

future invasions by Russia. Believing it is a necessary precaution, Sweden joined NATO. Neutrality just creates such a huge vulnerability and is not viable in 21st-century geopolitics. Ukraine’s situation and vulnerabilities make it clear why Sweden joined NATO.



Max Dong, Old Scona Academic

Not only is Sweden joining NATO quite impactful, but so is Finland. Not only does this change the balance of power in the Nordic-Baltic region, but it also affects the security dynamics in that area. After the new additions, the nations in this region that have joined NATO include Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and many more Nordic-Baltic nations. The recent additions of Sweden and Finland heavily impacts Russia, as you can see that NATO has complete dominance over that area. Vladimir Putin has said, “When we look across the border now, we see a Finn on the other side. If Finland joins NATO, we will see an enemy.” This means that if Finland joins NATO, Russia threatens to take military action. We can conclude that this change in relationships will also happen to Sweden when they join NATO because they share similar geographic importance. However, even though they are now enemies, Russia still likely will not make major moves against those countries unless drastic changes in the current state of geopolitics occur. Because NATO backs them up with upgraded security, Russia will not engage in any major military aggression. Naturally, the addition of Finland and Sweden has irritated Russia, as it directly threatens Russia’s control

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2024 ESSAY COMPETITION

over this area by reducing its influence. Many threats have been made to prevent this, such as deploying strike weapons and creating an army corps near the border, but they have proven futile since NATO knows that Russia will not take military action and invade Finland and Sweden. Sweden joining NATO affects how many other countries take action.

The addition of Sweden not only provides a strategic advantage for NATO from its geographic location, but it also brings numerous other benefits to the table. Although Sweden may not be a standout nation like Britain or France, it still holds out pretty strongly as an advanced nation in Europe. Sweden cannot be underestimated in terms of their air forces. They are among the top nations in Europe with the largest air forces. The resources provided by Sweden are astounding. With great industries for defense and technology, Sweden significantly benefits NATO. They have one of the largest defense industries in Europe and various technological partnerships with public universities, the Swedish Defense Forces, and private companies. Noting the many benefits and contributions Sweden brings to NATO, it is obvious that Sweden's accession to NATO will greatly boost NATO's powers and capabilities.

Even though the impacts of Sweden's addition to NATO seem set in stone, there are many other issues that may arise. Turkey and Hungary's relationships with Russia, their disagreements with Sweden, and the USA's eventual 2024 election will all prove to be potential problems in the near future. If Trump is elected into office, it's probable

that the USA will pull out of NATO. This leaves NATO in a severely vulnerable position that may leave weaknesses for Russia to exploit, which may endanger countries like Finland and Sweden who may not have fully integrated into this system and also do not have the protection of the USA. Although this might not happen, it is important to note that if it does, it will surely shift 21st-century geopolitics in a new direction. However, in the case of the viability of neutrality within 21st-century geopolitics, we can look at the consequences and impacts of a neutral Ukraine, why Sweden's addition to NATO should be emphasized, and how NATO can benefit from Sweden joining. We can see that neutrality is no longer viable in 21st-century geopolitics. The correct decision is to ally yourself with a military bloc for security and support.

Citations:

Dandolov, P. (2024, February 23). *A neutral Ukraine is not the answer. Geopolitical Monitor*. <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/a-neutral-ukraine-is-not-the-answer/>

Doyle, A. (2024, April 10). *No more neutrality: Swedish accession to NATO - Berkeley Political Review*. *Berkeley Political Review - UC Berkeley's only nonpartisan political magazine*.

<https://bpr.studentorg.berkeley.edu/2024/04/10/no-more-neutrality-swedish-accession-to-nato/>

Kimball, W. F. (2021, May 11). *Churchill Proceedings - That Neutral Island*. *International 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.



University Club Winspear Room

Our Guest Speaker: Mr. Allen Packwood, OBE, FRHistS:

Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, author of *How Churchill Waged War*, *Out of the Cold: The Cold War and its Legacy*, and *Churchill's D-Day*.

Admission:

\$199 for members, **\$230** for tickets bought for non-members*, **\$80** for students

Purchase your tickets at <https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/>

Formal dress is preferred:

Black tie, mess kit, business suit, evening wear; with miniatures or medals

Allen Packwood is a qualified archivist and has worked at the Churchill Archives Centre since September 1995. He was appointed Director in 2002. He has since organised many events and lectures, including the successful conference on *The Cold War and its Legacy*, staged



Alan Packwood

over two days at Churchill College in November 2009.

Allen is the author of several articles. He edited the recent guide to the Churchill Archives Centre and has lectured extensively

on Churchill in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Churchill Archives Centre is in the grounds of Churchill College, and is home to the papers of Sir Winston Churchill, Baroness Thatcher and almost six hundred of their contemporaries: politicians, diplomats, civil servants, military leaders and scientists of the Churchill era and beyond. It is still collecting.

Allen now combines his leadership of the Archives Centre with his role as Executive Director of The Churchill Centre in the United Kingdom.

<https://archives.chu.cam.ac.uk/>

**Tax receipts will be issued for that portion of the ticket price which can be considered a donation. Amount to be determined*

<https://www.nostoneleftalone.ca/>



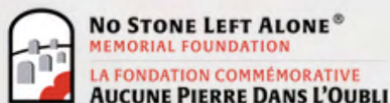
In support of No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation

HONOURING THE PAST. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025
TIME: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
LOCATION: BRIGADIER JAMES CURRY
JEFFERSON ARMOURY
(11630 109 ST NW, EDMONTON)

As we mark 15 years of No Stone Left Alone, we celebrate the thousands we have honoured while recognizing the need for support to continue this mission. We invite you to join us for a meaningful luncheon and powerful conversations about remembrance, coming together in reflection, connection, and commitment to honouring those who served.

For inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, and to RSVP for this invite-only luncheon, please contact: Jkrissa@nostoneleftalone.ca



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NORTHERN ALBERTA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME GALA



JA Northern Alberta
**BUSINESS
HALL of FAME**

Be Inspired. Invest in the Future.

PURCHASE NOW!
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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POWERED BY
ATB

The Sir Winston Churchill Society is a proud supporter of Junior Achievement. The link below is to a poster and ticket sales for a June 11 gala honouring this year's inductees to the Junior Achievement Northern Alberta Business Hall of Fame. Our Honourary Patron David Kent is among the inductees. Congratulations, David.

<https://janorthalberta.org/business-hall-of-fame/>

BOOKS

Here are a couple of suggestions for your reading pleasure by Allen Packwood, our scheduled 2025 Guest Speaker.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We now have 110 persons on our membership roll, as reported to our Board of Directors in late January. This is a remarkable milestone, the welcome result of ambitious recruitment. It also coincides with times of uncertainty for our nation. Whether or not we have anything to fear, we are finding a heightened common patriotism and the willingness to tell and hear our stories, celebrate our heroes, and honour our nation and its achievements.

We celebrate our ties with Great Britain and the Crown, and we honour those who have served and those who have sacrificed. We listen to our stories. We honour the memory of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, his long career of service to his country, his Olympian command of the English language, his cutting debate, and his leadership through extreme peril.

In this spirit, as a service to the future, we sponsor and carry out competitions in speech, debate and essay writing for high school students. The assigned topics for these often ask the student to bring historical understanding to current or recent events. We stage these contests to encourage the leadership skills of confident, clear, and cogent communication and civil debate and discourse. Tomorrow's leaders learn their habits, good or ill, today.

Your membership in this society supports these ideas and the great cause of Democracy and rule of law. We also offer our members reduced admission prices for our events. Please consider renewing your membership and inviting family and friends to join.

We offer two 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

2025 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 \$30 Student \$10

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.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Thomson was nominated to our board as Treasurer at our November AGM. Roger is a seasoned CPA with proven experience focusing on owner-managed businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Prior to starting his own practice, Roger worked in public accounting for 10 years (KPMG), including 2 years in England, and was CFO of a successful local business.

Roger currently sits on the board of Theatre Network Society, where he is the Treasurer and a member of the Finance and Risk Committee. He also is a board member and Treasurer of Sustainable Food Edmonton.

Previously Roger has served on the boards for Canterbury

Foundation, Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (E4C), The Canadian Club of Edmonton, Alberta Motor Association, Westmount Community League, and others. He continues to serve as Treasurer of the Alberta Churchill Scholarships Foundation.

In his spare time Roger is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys hiking, biking, snowshoeing and gardening. He also enjoys traveling to many different destinations, particularly those involving baseball and art galleries. He has undertaken various volunteer activities over the years including being a Scout leader and a Church volunteer.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Roger is happily married with one daughter.

We welcome Roger to our board and team.

Maybe you might like to help but do not want to join a board: we can still use your help. Please contact us if you are interested in helping us with our annual dinner, or with judging high school speech or essay competitions.

Churchill Society Board and Executives

Will Randall II	<i>President</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
Roger Thomson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Stan Guzczewski	<i>Director Membership</i>
Michael Gibson	<i>Director Student Competitions</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Director Executive Secretary Archives The Churchillian</i>
David Checkel	<i>Director</i>

CONTACT US

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 780.660.6766 or email to edmontonchurchillsociety@gmail.com.

Contact our Executive Secretary at the same email address, or any member or our board If you are interested in serving as a Director or helping out with events.

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www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop

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