

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

September 26, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Gerry Savard at 3 PM.

Minutes of the September 29, 2007 annual meeting were read by Muriel Normand, Recording Secretary. Motion to accept as read was made by Julie Smith, and seconded by Anne Gleason. Motion carried unanimously.

President Savard highlighted the accomplishments for FY 08

- ACGS received the Conservation of cultural Resource award at the historic Preservations Award Dinner hosted by the Manchester Historic Association. The award recognized our efforts in fostering the study and research of our American-Canadian ancestral origins. The award was accepted by co founders Roger Lawrence and Lucille Caron Lagace.
- We were the recipients of a \$10,000 grant from the Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation to help fund our capital improvement projects. Thanks to Jim Gaudet for writing the grant. Utilization of the grant monies will be explained under Building and Grounds.
- Along with these prestigious awards, we were fortunate to receive two substantial gifts. One from the estate of Elsie Duclos and the other from active researcher Paul Bourassa. These gifts amounted to over \$25,000.

Building and Grounds

- Two major projects were taken on and completed this year; the painting of the interior of the library and the replacement of all the windows in the building with energy efficient, double pane windows. The cost of the latter alone was \$26,354, of which \$10,000 were Bean funds.
- Over the last two years, we have been challenged with water runoff from melting snow and particularly heavy rainstorms. We have had flooding on the first floor several times and Herb Boyce has mounted a valiant effort to hold back the tide, having sump pumps installed, but at times it is a losing battle. Our goal over the next year is to hopefully find a more permanent and dependable solution to our water problems.

Drouin Database

- The loan for the database has been retired. Since part of the funds for the purchase came out of operating expenses, we will continue to charge for the use of the collection until we have reimbursed ourselves.

Volunteers

- Library staff is now going smoothly with Mary Anna Paquette handling the scheduling. We continue to need volunteers for Saturdays. At times we are able to double staff with one person at the desk and the other dedicated to assisting clients with their research.

Research

- The research department is very active. The type of research has shifted from simple family lineage to more challenging projects, mostly brick walls. We still have to correct some of the online information that people have sent us, much of which is unsourced and based on faulty data.

Membership

- Basically stable but still a small downward trend

Publications

- We hit our all time high this year with the publication of 10 repertoires. Thanks to Pauline Cote, David Bonitatibus and their volunteers who copy, transcribe and proofread some pretty challenging records.
- CD's of our older reps and selling well, over \$2100 worth to date
- We continue to use Bridgeport National Bindery for our initial hard bound order with excellent results. We reprint on demand to keep inventory levels reasonable and these are spiral bound.

Website

- Number of visitors has been consistently increasing over the last four years. The message board is very active with over 600 registered users and 1400 messages having been posted.
- Our goal is to use the website to provide timely information on our activities as well as other events of interest. It is a great avenue for our holdings and publications as well.

Library

- Mary Anna Paquette continues to head up our library staff and assures the smooth day-to-day operation of the library

Acquisitions

- Larry Autotte has acquired many new repertoires from Vermont, New York and Quebec. Our goal remains providing researchers with material not available on line.

Computer

- No acquisitions this year .. The committee has done a great job of maintaining our makeshift network and dealing with the gremlins that strike from time to time.

Publicity

- John Cooke has contacted the state library association which will publish ACGS activities throughout the state libraries

NERGC

- Expect 7 to 800 people to be in attendance at the Center of New Hampshire in April.
- We will offering pre conference seminars in both the morning and the afternoon
- Researchers will be available for our extended hours and one to one consults will be set up to assist other genealogists in solving their "brick walls".
- Wonderful opportunity for publicity for our society.

Treasurer's Report

- Net income this year was \$9200 versus \$17000 last year
- Paid off the Drouin loan in less than 5 years; of the \$80,000, \$50400 was from donations.
- Total Income was \$133,000 versus \$101,000 last year. \$48,000 of this is from membership.
- Noted a call to membership regarding placing the genealogist on CD versus the magazine form resulted in a response of only 10 in agreement.
- Discussed the role of the Genealogist as a link to our distant members.

Nominating Committee

- The following slate was compiled by chair Julie Smith and Gerry Lalonde and presented by Jim Gaudet
- **Officers**
President: Gerard Savard —
Vice President: Muriel Normand *Pauline Cusson Treasurer*
Recording Secretary: Jeanne Boisvert —
Corresponding Secretary: Lorette Leafe —
- **Directors**
Jackie Watson —
Julie Smith —
Constance Hebert —
Dan Champagne —
- Anne Gleason will fill the remainder of Paul Lambert's term —
- Nominations from the floor
- Secretary Cast the ballot

Board 2YR
James
Cook
Joyal
Bernadette Meunier

*Jeen
Motion make me
slate in case of office
Vote Second Dave*

FY 08-09 goals

- National Grid to do a complete assessment and computer modeling of our heating system and potential savings
- Electrical upgrades & lighting if finances allow.
- Obtaining more exposure by increasing outside presentations
- Potentially reducing the issues of the Genealogist to 3 per year. Would contain the same amount of data as 4 issues but would save on both printing and mailing costs.

Gerry thanked the conference committee for the excellent speakers and also board members whose terms lapsed this year for their participation.

Julie Smith moved to adjourn at 3: 45, second Anne Gleason

Respectfully submitted

Muriel Normand

Recording Secretary



Accomplishments FY09:

ACGS was an active participant in the New England Regional Consortium which held their 2009 conference at the Radisson in Manchester. Not only did I and Pauline Cusson serve as officers of the consortium, Pauline was one of the tri-chairs who spent many hours putting the conference together. The 700+ attendees are proof of the wonderful job that Pauline and her co-chairs did.

Of course, with success comes the danger of having to do it again! Pauline has volunteered to co-chair the 2011 conference to be held in Springfield, MA.

For the conference, ACGS provided a well known speaker, Sylvie Tremblay to educate the masses on French-Canadian genealogy. We also staffed a booth that featured our publications and our holdings.

Spending wise, this has been a relatively quiet year at ACGS. As the economy took a serious dive, we limited our spending to the necessities. Through the efforts of a great board of directors, we managed the affairs of our society in a fiscally responsible manner. We put top priority in keeping a comfortable amount of money in our accounts to be able to handle any emergency spending that might arise.



Building and Maintenance:

My thanks to Herb Boyce for his devotion to keeping our building sound and safe.

The new windows have made the library more comfortable during both the heating and cooling seasons not to mention eliminating a lot of the street noise.


After consulting with National Grid, we have decided not to install a drop ceiling in the library. The expected energy savings did not justify the capital outlay.

Herb is still in the process of getting quotes to install a larger dry well to control flooding. With the pumps that we presently have, we've been able to handle the heavy rains that we've had this summer, but it's a delicate balance. A larger dry well would give us a substantial buffer against serious flooding.

Volunteers:

My thanks to Mary Anna Paquette and her staff for doing such a great job of keeping the library running smoothly. I'm sure that it's not a trivial task to manage the staffing for all of the hours that we're open. I'd also like to thank Denis Joyal who's provided extra library hours by personally staffing the library on the first and third Sundays of the month. Denis lives in Belmont, so it's not exactly a short trip for him.

Research:



My thanks to Constance Hebert and her group of volunteers who comprise our research department. Even with all of the information now available on the internet, our research department has seen

consistent increases in requests for Drouin images, family research and translations. Many times our researchers meet the challenge by heading off to the Maine archives or the Vermont or New York to help someone out with their research..

Publications:

Pauline Cote and David Bonitatibus must be approaching some Guinness record by now with over three quarters of a million records copied, transcribed, proofread and put to print. RP125 has just come back from the printers with many more in the works.

We've entered into somewhat of a partnership with NEGS. We have provided NEHGS with a database of our repertoire records that includes name, type of act (baptism, marriage or burial) and location. Members of NEHGS can access this database online and request the full record either through NEHGS or through us. We anticipate that this will produce revenue in providing this information and through increased sales of our repertoires.

Sales of publications have been very strong this year. My thanks to Muriel Normand who sent out a small number of targeted mailings to libraries that had not purchased our repertoires for a substantial period of time. Her small investment for copying and postage, less than \$50, resulted in thousands of dollars in sales. Talk about a return on investment!

CD sales have also been consistent, with over \$5000 in sales since we began selling them. The cost to produce and mail the CDs is less than \$5.00, so our profit margin on these is substantial.

Shipping:

My thanks to Jim Gaudet for his efforts in this area. Jim not only does the actual shipping, but he also manages the reprinting of out of stock repertoires (he's become well known at the local Kinkos), helps out in research and coaches and umpires softball.

Computer Committee:

My thanks to Bob Paquette and his committee for maintaining our computers as they reach their 'golden years' (the computers, not the committee). We now offer wireless access to our patrons through a small investment in a wireless router. Six new flat panel monitors were purchased to replace the large, energy gobbling monitors that we had. Additional memory was also purchased for many of the computers to improve their performance. All told, we spent less than \$1000 dollars on equipment that extends the life and usability of our computers.

Genealogist:

My thanks to Pauline Cusson for her untiring devotion to this publication. I'm surprised that she doesn't go stark raving mad chasing me for my 'President's Letter'! It amazes me how she can produce a consistently great journal four times a year.

One of the decisions that the board has made to manage our mailing costs for the Genealogist is to no longer mail out additional copies to members that have missed theirs because of an address change. When this occurs, we will now email an electronic copy as a replacement.

Membership:

My thanks to Jeanne Boisvert for managing the membership activities. This year we increased our membership dues from \$30 to \$35. This became necessary because of the increases in our expenses and was the first increase in over 7 years. Our members overall understood the need for the increase and there was very little negative reaction to it.