



THE
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
SOCIETY OF CALGARY



Founded 1966 Patron: Randolph Churchill III
President: Dr. Mark Milke

October 2020

From the president

I hope your early autumn is going well. I wanted to update you on various Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary endeavors and offer some very encouraging updates about the Churchill Leadership Initiative and Statue Project.

A new book on Winston Churchill from two physicians

There is a new book out on Sir Winston Churchill with a unique angle: [Winston Churchill's Illnesses, 1886-1965](#). The authors, physicians John Allister Vale and John Scadding, have written the definitive account of Churchill's illnesses. And it matters, as Allen Packwood (our next dinner speaker in May 2021) writes, given that "pneumonia threatened Churchill's life on several occasions and in his later decades he suffered multiple strokes; his ability to continue in high office during these illnesses was exceptional, aided by some of the most distinguished specialists of their time." You can order the book here. [Winston Churchill's Illnesses, 1886-1965](#).

The Churchill Society of Calgary needs a volunteer chartered accountant

One of our board members, Landis McEwen, is stepping down. (Greg Stebbe will continue as Treasurer.) Landis, our Executive Treasurer, has kindly prepared our financial statements for many years now. The **Executive Treasurer** will need to be available for about 20 hours per year. I can brief those interested on the potential duties. If you or someone you know is a practicing accountant and would like to volunteer his or her time for this board position, please email us at WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com.

May 14, 2021 annual dinner

Due to continuing concerns about the Coronavirus, the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary is still avoiding public events at present. However, for 2021, we have, tentatively,

booked the Ranchmen's Club for Friday May 14, 2021 for our annual memorial dinner. You will recall that we canceled our dinner this past spring due to the virus.

Our dinner speaker will be Allen Packwood, [Director of the Churchill Archives Centre](#) at Cambridge University. Do mark it on your calendar and hope for a vaccine and much else vis-à-vis Covid 19 by then.

The Churchill Leadership Initiative and Statue Project: An update

In our usual Churchillian approach, despite the pandemic, the Churchill Society is barreling ahead with the Churchill Leadership Initiative and Statue Project.

You will recall that the initiative includes a statue in Calgary of Sir Winston Churchill (location yet to be determined) and a public speakers' series named after the wartime prime minister. The budget is \$300,000 for the statue, base (unless donated in-kind) and ongoing maintenance, and \$200,000 for the speakers' series. (The interest accruing from the \$200,000 will pay for an annual speaker and this will be a public event, free and distinct from our annual memorial and fundraising dinner.)

Funds raised will go first to the statue project and then the leadership speakers' series.

To date, here is the progress:

- \$182,000 of the \$300,000 for the statue project has been raised.
- After a spring competition, Edmonton sculptor Danek Mozdzenksi was commissioned to create the sculpture.

Mr. Mozdzenksi brings a wealth of experience and accomplishment to this task. He has created sculptures of:

[Lois Hole](#) (Alberta Lieutenant Governor 2000 to 2005); jazz musician and blues singer, [Clarence Horatio Miller](#); and Alberta suffragist [Nellie McClung](#). Two other major works are Brock University's [\\$1.2 million monument](#) to Sir Isaac Brock, unveiled in 2015, and the [Lester B. Pearson](#) monument on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, unveiled in 1988. The Pearson monument is of the same scale as our intended 1.5 times life size striding image of Sir Winston Churchill.

The picture below is the initial bust created by Danek Mozdzenski and upon which the board decided to commission the statue to him.



- The statue and fundraising committee volunteers (led by Ms. Heather Coleman and Mr. Gerry Chipeur Q.C., respectively), has started to contacting members of the Churchill Society as well as those whom we think may like to support such a project.
- The [International Churchill Society](#) has offered to promote the Calgary Society's project worldwide and at its upcoming online conference (you can register here for the [October 23-24](#) conference). At present, the online conference already has 1,200 registrants. We shall soon send the ICS a short video outlining the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary's leadership and statue initiative.

How you can help support the leadership and legacy of Winston Churchill

- **Donate [directly online](#) or through the mail:** We have created a new brochure with a synopsis of the project. It is available online both as a [separate web page](#) and as a [downloadable PDF](#) with a mailable donation form. We welcome any donation, modest or generous. All of it will help preserve and promote the legacy of Sir Winston Churchill.
- **Meet with us in person or virtually:** Some Churchill Society volunteers may touch base with those of the membership and other whom they know. If you would

like us to call, meet, or meet up online through Zoom or Skype with someone you think may like to support the leadership and legacy of Winston Churchill, please email one of us listed on the website or send your email to WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com to [link us up with likeminded Churchill supporters from around the world](#).

- **Arrange for one of the Churchill Society board members to give a talk**, in-person where safe, or virtually, about the Churchill Leadership Initiative and Statue Project. Again, feel free to email WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com and one of us will [respond](#).

In the coming weeks, various board members will also be contacting supporters and members of the Churchill Society directly to ask for your support for this critical initiative.

As the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary is a charity, all donations in Canada and the U.S. will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Thoughts on the Churchill legacy

In an age where some think statues of historical figures should be taken down, a question naturally arises of how one should think about the leadership and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill.

The Society's board and members believe that a new generation needs to learn about and appreciate the legacy of Churchill, both as an early social reformer and as a wartime leader, and which we have outlined on our website and in the fundraising booklet.

To demand that the actions and views of historical figures perfectly align with our actions and views today is unrealistic. No one today agrees with another person 100 per cent of the time. *Instead, the key question to ask is:* Did they contribute to a freer and more flourishing world in their lifetime?

The answer on Sir Winston Churchill is most assuredly a "yes". Churchill advocated for the "left-out millions" early on; he favoured pensions and help for the most disadvantaged; he favoured legal equality for whites and blacks in South Africa and stood up for untouchables in India when few did; and for his entire life he fought anti-Semitism—most notably against Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany in the Second World War.

And in that war, where 44,900 Canadians, 382,700 Britons, 87,000 Indians, 416,800 Americans and many more from many allies died, Churchill brought a lifetime of leadership to defending, successfully, democracies and a free world.

We believe Sir Winston Churchill, his life and leadership and his visit to Calgary and to Canada in 1929, should be commemorated for the above reasons and many more.

Our plan is to unveil the statue in August 2021. Help us make that a reality by donating today. Help us introduce the 20th century's most consequential political leader to a new generation in the 21st century.

Kind regards,

Mark Milke, President, The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

P.S. For the latest details on the project, please see our page where you can always read our updates. You may [donate directly](#), or download a copy of the brochure with its donation page in the [PDF](#).

P.S.S.: A neighbourhood and a park named after Churchill

Did you know that Calgary has a neighbourhood and a park named after Winston Churchill, in the lower northeast? The former president of the [Winston Heights Mountview community association](#) was kind enough to brief me on the history of the neighbourhood. After the Second World War, [in 1947](#), veterans gave the new neighbourhood the name "Winston Heights" after Winston Churchill (later merged with another community to become Winston Heights-Mountview.) Winston Heights park is located at 27 Ave. & 4th St NE on the same grounds as the Winston Heights Community Centre. In the early 1950s, another park was dedicated nearby in memory of the war and those veterans who served, named Victory Park, at 2316-7th St NE. Below is a sign installed by the Winston Heights Mountview Community Association.

**Welcome to Victory Park
and the community of
Winston Heights - Mountview**

Victory Park is named to commemorate World War II veterans who founded the Winston Heights Community Association in 1947.

In 1908, Mountview was sparsely settled with just a few homes. That soon changed, after the community was annexed to The City of Calgary in 1910, and the Calgary Municipal Railway extended its streetcar line along Edmonton Trail in 1911. It wasn't long before Mountview became a popular and growing subdivision.

Bounded by Edmonton Trail, 16th Avenue N.E., 24th Avenue N.E. and the railway tracks, Mountview included the Regal Golf Club, now the Calgary Elks Lodge and Golf Club. Described as a "hilly course, rich in turf, with a creek running through it," membership in the Regal Golf Club cost \$15 per year in 1926.

In 1945, the federal government made an agreement with The City to set aside the land north of 24th Avenue and east of Edmonton Trail to provide housing for returning World War II veterans, under the Veterans' Land Act. The lots were one-acre parcels, which were later subdivided, and by 1952 the area boasted 115 homes.

In 1947, a group of residents got together and formed a community association, with a purpose "to work together to build a good community for ourselves and our children, and to make this one of the beauty spots of the city." After some deliberation, they chose a name for the association and wrote to City Council to request that the district be given the same name. As the majority of the residents wanted something associated with the war, the name Winston Heights was chosen to honour Winston Churchill.

In 1962, the two communities joined forces to become Winston Heights - Mountview.

Winston Churchill
Image: Earth, Library and Archives Canada,
Auth. ref. no. 8613-566, 4070751643

BACKGROUND PHOTO: "Returning World War II veterans"
The King's Own Calgary Regiment Museum and Archives, December 7, 1946

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 THE CITY OF
CALGARY
PARKS

The commemoration sign at Victory Park, at 2316-7th St NE

Board of Directors

The 2019-20 officers and board of directors are as follows:

President	Mark Milke
Vice President	James Maxim
Past President	Steven T. Robertson
Executive Treasurer	Landis McEwan
Treasurer	Greg Stebbe
Secretary	Kim Davies
Events-Socials	David Holmes
Events-Annual dinner	Angela Kalias
Communications	Devin Iversen
Mount Royal University Liaison	Lori Williams
High School Debate Liaison	Elisa Frank
Leadership Initiative	Heather Coleman
Fundraising chair	Gerald Chipeur
Directors at Large:	Sam Armstrong
	John Baycroft
	Bill Bewick Sr.
	Natashia Halikowski
	Gordon Lang

The Society's Mission Statement

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary exists to promote students' facility in the use of the spoken and written word emphasizing oratorical and communication skills as exemplified by the debates, speeches and writings of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill.

The Society also exists to preserve and promote the legacy of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, including his achievements in the face of tyranny and the preservation of freedom, and in so doing commemorate his leadership and achievements.

Our website and e-mail address:

Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

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WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com



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— Founded 1966 —

Patron: Randolph Churchill III