



THE
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
SOCIETY OF CALGARY



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

April 2020

From the president

Annual memorial dinner postponed to May 2021

I hope you are doing as well as can be expected given the tumultuous time. There is much to update you on but I will start with obvious and most pressing: The annual memorial dinner, which would have been the Society's 54th, is now postponed one year until May 2021. The decision was made by the board and after consultation with our fellow Churchill Societies Canada-wide who were partners in the plan to bring Mr. Allan Packwood from London. The cancellation is our first in the history of the Society but we felt it was the prudent measure.

The good news: The year in review

More positively, the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary has had another busy, productive and beneficial year for the community and members.

The May 2019 dinner with Andrew Roberts

The 53rd annual memorial dinner held on May 24th 2019 sold out early and for good reason: Historian Andrew Roberts entertained Churchill Society members and guests with unique new insight into the life and career of Sir Winston Churchill, this based on access to the royal family's archives and personal letters, and which are found in his new book, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*. Mr. Roberts wanted to see where Churchill visited in 1929 and thus our guest and I took a quick tour to Banff and Lake Louise. As with others who have never seen the Canadian Rockies before, Mr. Roberts was thrilled by the views and majesty of the mountains. Thank you to Ms. Angela Koliass in particular for her work on making the annual dinner a success.

The United Kingdom and France tour May/June 2019

This past year, 23 Churchill Society members and guests travelled to the United Kingdom and France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The tour included Great Britain's most historic Sir Winston Churchill and Second World War sites as well as side tours to Paris and Normandy to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Thank you to all who booked the time for the excursion and to Gordon Lang in particular for his assistance leading up to the trip. Gordon reported back that the Hotel du Golf Barriere in Normandy "was a highlight of the trip with large rooms overlooking beautiful views" along with excellent meals with complimentary wine for dinner. Participants raved over this hotel." As this Society-sponsored tour was a fundraising effort for the Society, I am pleased to report that net proceeds to the Society amounted to approximately \$6,000.



This picture of a Second World War recruitment poster came of the Churchill Society members and guests who travelled to the United Kingdom and France for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

The Winter 2020 Social with Dr. Barry Cooper

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary was host to a "wine and snack" winter social on February 26, 2020, at the Ranchmen's Club. Dr. Barry Cooper, from the University of Calgary's Political Science department spoke on war, game theory, and why the two world wars were unique and how Churchill knew that, or as Dr. Cooper put it, "Why Winston Churchill was even smarter than you think."

Attendance was superb with 30 people packed into the library at the Ranchmen's Club. Our Churchill socials are an inexpensive way to meet fellow members and enjoy an insightful talk, a glass of wine and fine Ranchmen's cuisine. Thank you to Mr. David Holmes for organizing the social, You may sign up for notices of such events at www.churchillcalgary.ca/newsletters.html.



Dr. Barry Cooper and vice-president James Maxim, presenting our Society's cufflinks to our guest at our February 2020 winter social

An update on the Churchill Society's Calgary statue project: Now the Churchill Leadership Initiative

Sir Winston Churchill was simply the most courageous, consequential world leader in the 20th century. In addition to his wartime leadership—often a voice in the wilderness before becoming prime minister—his earlier political efforts led to important social reforms at home. The Society wishes to honour the memory of Churchill for both reasons, but also to introduce Churchill to a newer generation and to commemorate his 1929 visit to Alberta.

As announced at our June 2018 dinner and worked on since, the Society moved forward in 2020 with fundraising, and planning to erect a statue of Sir Winston Churchill at a yet-to-be determined location in Calgary. In addition, the Churchill statue project has been renamed *The Churchill Leadership Initiative* and which includes the previously announced Churchill statue project but also now includes a potential speakers' series (in addition to the annual dinner).

The update in detail:

- Given the Coronavirus and worsening economy, *public* fundraising will be on hold at present. However, if you wish to help the statue part of the initiative move forward, contact details are at the end of this update.
- The Society's initial goal was to raise approximately \$300,000 for the creation, base, placement and maintenance fund for the statue. We had hoped to raise additional funds for the speaker series but will prioritize completion of the statue project and return in the future to the speaker's series.
- Due to the help of Mr. Jason Kenney, a long-time Churchill Society member and supporter, his November keynote speech to the Society fundraiser for the statue project helped raise an additional \$100,000.
- Thus, so far, the Society has raised approximately \$170,000 to date for creation and placement of a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Calgary. While that leaves an additional \$130,000 to raise, the board will seek in-kind donations (for the statue base for example) to help lessen the total funds needed to proceed. We believe even in this difficult period, the prospect of educating a new generation of Canadians to learn about and recall the leadership of Sir Winston Churchill—Churchill faced the daunting 1930s and first half the 1940s with courage—is worth our supreme effort.
- Mr. Bill Bewick Sr. has worked at the direction of the board and sent out a call to sculptors. The response was very positive as six sculptors submitted a portfolio of their work. The board chose two sculptors to each create a maquette.

The board will review the submitted maquettes in early summer and award the commission at that time.

- We were advised that our initial timeline (erection in later 2020 or even spring 2021) was ambitious. Thus, given the above selection process and the time it will take to create the statue, deliver it, and mount it, we expect to erect it in late summer 2021 unveiling—August 24th 2021—the anniversary of Churchill's 1929 visit to Calgary.
- The location is yet to be determined. However, we will approach the city this year with an official proposal. There are several sites under consideration.
- The board of the Society will revisit the finances and timeline in early summer. In the indomitable spirit of Sir Winston Churchill, we do hope to proceed.



Mr. Jason Kenney, at the November 2019 fundraising banquet for the Churchill Leadership Initiative. We raised approximately \$100,000.

How you can help: A personal donation and a recommendation

The statue and accompanying speakers' series are a non-profit and voluntarily funded effort and for which no city dollars are sought. The Society is seeking additional support, from those who see the importance in promoting Sir Winston and Lady Clementine Churchill's values of strong leadership, democracy and freedom of speech in these uncertain times—key principles now tested again around the world.

To donate please contact any one of the following board members about supporting the initiative. We would also welcome your help in contacting those who you think may also share the mission of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary.

- The chair of the Churchill Leadership Initiative, Ms. Heather Coleman Coleman@albertarealtor.ca
- Mr. Gerald Chipeur, responsible for Society fundraising (general and assistance with the statue project): gchipeur@millerthomson.com
- Mr. James Maxim, Vice-President, jmaxim@telus.net
- Dr. Mark Milke, President, Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary, mark@markmilke.com
- Mr. Gordon Lang, board member, gordon.lang@gblinc.ca

You may also donate directly at www.churchillcalgary.ca/donate.html.

A new Churchill Society competition for students

As another new tribute to Sir Winston Churchill's leadership, impact and legacy, the Society created a unique, new competition in 2020 - a new video contest for students: *Defeating tyranny and remembering Sir Winston Churchill: A video competition in honour of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.*



Given the coronavirus, we have postponed the actual submission dates and will work on more publicity for the new student awards later this year. However, the details are as follows.

- Students will be invited to bring alive the words of Sir Winston Churchill with video with awards as follows: 1st prize: \$1,000; 2nd prize: \$500; 3rd prize: \$250.
- Winning videos will be posted on our website and winners will be honoured by the Society at our socials and/or annual dinners in future years.

Ms. Natasha Halikowski is organizing this initiative. Stay tuned for what we hope will be progress on this later in 2020.

In closing, my sincere thank you to all board members and members of the Society for your service and continued support in honour of the legacy and leadership of Sir Winston Churchill. Lastly, let me leave you with a quotation from Winston Churchill that was forwarded to me by the International Churchill Society:

Writing in A History of the English-speaking Peoples about the pandemic that engulfed the world in the fourteenth century, Churchill concluded: "At length the plague abated its force.... Recoveries became more frequent; the resistant faculties of life revived. The will to live triumphed."

Kind regards to all and best wishes to you all during these trying days.

Mark Milke
President
Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary

Annual Churchill Society High School Debate Results

By: Elisa Frank

The Society sponsored the annual fall debate held at Sir Winston Churchill High School on November 23, 2019.

The topic for debate was "This house believes that cyber-warfare is a necessary evil." Since cyber-warfare is a form of sabotage, it was related to the debaters to Churchill's instructions to "set Europe ablaze" during WWII and the creation of the Special Operations Executive.

Four members of the Churchill Society were able to attend and three judged debate rounds during the day including final rounds. Bill Bewick brought greetings on behalf of the Society at the opening ceremony. The Society members that attended reported seeing very different approaches to the topics in the different rounds of debate, and were impressed by the knowledge, research, and ability of the students at varying levels.

The winners for this year's tournament are as follows:

For open

Top Speakers

1. Badra Abbas – Churchill
2. Haoyun Dong – Webber
3. Henry Yang – Churchill

Winning Teams:

1. Badra Abbas and Vaishu Koduri – Churchill
2. Henry Yang and Lisa Qian – Churchill
3. Daniel Yang and Seniru Ruwanpura – Churchill

For Beginner

Top Speakers

1. Michael Xu – Webber
2. Josh Hart – Central Memorial
3. Lachlan Bon Egmond – Westmount

Winning Teams

1. Lachlan Von Egmond and Pahul Singh – Westmount
2. Andrei Bractari and Aiden Ballard – Wisewood
3. Sarah Chen and Cynthia Li – Western

We would like to thank all who participated and helped the event run smoothly including Darren Kiziak, debate coach at Sir Winston Churchill High School and his team of teachers and other volunteers including dozens of high school students who acted as moderators and time keepers and statisticians.

Note: The spring 2020 high school debates were cancelled. We anticipate continuing out expanded sponsorships of Calgary students who are selected to try-out for the Canadian world championship high school debate team. We will be providing applications to students who qualify for this year's selection tournament when and if it takes place.

Mount Royal University Moot Court Report

By: Lori Williams

Mount Royal University's Moot Court Exercise focuses on the intersection of law, politics, and the judicial process through examination of historical Supreme Court of Canada decisions. Students research the legal, constitutional, and socio-political context of cases that test the meaning and implications of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While focusing on the legal and political issues involved in a particular case, students research precedents and scholarly analyses to develop questions and arguments on the reasonable limitations to rights in a democratic society. Closely following Supreme Court procedure, teams of student lawyers argue their case to a panel of student justices led by volunteer Chief Justices (sitting justices from the Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench or Provincial Court) and a decision is rendered. Students also have the opportunity to collaborate with/be coached by experienced lawyers as they prepare for the moot hearing, which is held at the Calgary Courts Centre.

The Moot Court hearing is an appeal of a recent Charter of Rights and Freedoms decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to a fictional higher court. The moot exercise is part of a political science course taken by students in policy studies, justice studies and a variety of other majors. MRU students act as justices, lawyers and journalists, presenting arguments and asking questions during the moot hearing, and deciding whether or not to allow the appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada.

Each year we hold three or four moot court exercises, two in the fall semester, and one or two in the winter semester. This academic year, we will hold four moot court exercises due to high student demand. At our annual banquet last May the Churchill Society awarded four Moot Court Scholarships to the top moot students in each of the 2018-19 moot exercises; Yasmin Halanle, Abhi Mittu, Alyson Plouffe and Ryan Silchmueller.

Fall 2019:

R. v. Saeed

Our November 28, 2019 moots appealed the Supreme Court's ruling on whether a warrant is required to collect victims' DNA via a genital swab of a sexual assault suspect, whether such searches can be conducted incident to arrest, and what to do if such evidence is obtained in violation of the s. 8 right against unreasonable search and seizure. The questions in this case centered around whether the search violated Mr. Saeed's s. 8 right against unreasonable search and seizure, and if so whether the evidence should be admitted or excluded under s. 24(2). The SCC majority found the search in this case did not infringe the s. 8 right, two justices did find a Charter breach, and one would have excluded the evidence using s. 24(2). Our student justices were split on the questions of whether there was a Charter breach and whether the evidence should be excluded.

Board of Directors

A new board was elected at the Annual General Meeting in September 2019 and a new executive elected at the subsequent board meeting. 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 Kolias
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

www.churchillcalgary.ca

WinstonChurchillAB@gmail.com