



***The Canadian Addison Society
La Société Canadienne d'Addison***

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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday, September 28, 2019
Woodstock, Ontario**

The Canadian Addison Society Annual General Meeting was held Saturday, September 28, 2019 at College Avenue Church, 22 Wilson Street, Woodstock Ontario. Approximately 40 members were in attendance.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time by Rick Burpee, Secretary-Treasurer. The meeting was attended in person by 36 members, and one Director (Elizabeth Hill) via WebEx.

Adoption of Minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were published in the Fall 2018 Newsletter and are posted on the website.

The motion to accept the minutes was duly nominated, seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 had been included in the Notice of Meeting. Rick Burpee, Secretary-Treasurer, updated the numbers to September 25, 2019.

Net income for 2018 was \$19,868, an increase of \$14,000 over 2017 mainly as a result of two in memoriam donations, one of \$10,000, the other of 133 shares of Brookfield Asset Management (with a market value at the time of \$7000).

Year to date in 2019, net income is -\$4,160, resulting in cash on hand of \$69,000. Since the last AGM, 42 new memberships have been issued bringing the total number of members to 292.

We will see increased costs this year as we have engaged a bilingual answering service with 24/7 coverage at a cost of roughly \$1500 per year depending on

usage. Our three highest costs are newsletter (printing and mailing), telephone (including the answering service), and insurance.

Total assets are just under \$91,000. The market value of the Brookfield shares has increased by over \$2000.

All filings with the CRA are complete, and the bylaw amendments approved last year have also been filed with the Charities Directorate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members, Directors and Officers, guest attendees and our special Guest Speaker:

As I stated in the most recent issue of the Canadian Addison Society Newsletter, this is a bittersweet moment for me, as my time as Director and President comes to an end. My retirement from the Board of Directors and the position of President is but moments away.

It has been a very rewarding experience over the last many years, first as member. I believe I joined in 2006, then as Regional Representative starting in 2007, as a Director starting in 2008, and finally as President starting in 2013.

Continuing to look back, I am sure you will be interested to learn of the article that appeared in the very first Society Newsletter in March 1995 which you can easily find on our website.

The Birth of the Association

This is the first edition of the Canadian Addison Association Newsletter. This is your newsletter and we welcome your Input and your questions.

On September 24, 1994, eight Addisonians got together to share their story and answer each other's questions. We also founded the Association and decided to form a group to support present and future members.

Greeta Fraser

If you are quick with math you may have already calculated that the Society is now 25 years old. A landmark to be celebrated, thanks to co-founders Greeta Fraser and Sybil Harrison.

The Society has made many important advancements during these 25 years. There are many dedicated volunteers across Canada that made significant contributions of time and talent over those 25 years to make it all possible and to bring us to this moment. The President can guide the process, but it is all totally dependent on volunteer support and assistance. Regardless of the role played, the Society would not function, let alone prosper, without volunteers.

We have tackled many important initiatives over recent years and our priority has been to first tackle those things that have a direct impact on member survival and then their ongoing safety.

A few examples we might recall are, the rework of the brochure that now features the emergency injection kit, information often used to convince those doctors that continue to deny the need for such a life- saving kit.

Then of course there was the introduction of Emergency Injection Training Clinics at every Support Group Meeting across Canada. The practical knowledge gained by this repetitive practice can be life-saving. Giving an injection during a crisis is not simple. It is not a calm environment. You need to be able to give the injection almost as second nature. It is not a time to be reading “how-to” instructions and only practice will get you to that experienced point. Practice, practice and more practice. I encourage you to never begrudge the agenda time spent practicing injections.

Backing up these injection training clinics is the recent revamp of the Emergency Injection Training instructions into a new foldable version to fit into your Emergency Kit. Volunteer effort made this happen. This is available to you on the website, for download and printing.

It has been a long-time coming but thanks to the hard work of Jeff Wilson, our talented webmaster, the French translation service added to the website in 2015 has now been expanded to allow all docs to be translated and now also allows the printing of all of those translated documents. This year we added a bilingual telephone service and have a bilingual member able to receive these calls, through the service, all of which is helping our French Speaking communities in need of support. These French communities are of course located right across the country.

We cannot forget the current initiative of working to achieve Canada-wide Paramedic Medical Directives allowing Paramedics to administer the necessary hydrocortisone injection (Solu-Cortef) required urgently for suspected adrenal crisis. Again, member survival and safety has been priority one, everything else comes second, doesn't it?

This brings me to our volunteer National Researcher/Educator, Gino Innamorato. Gino has earned our special recognition and thanks because of the hundreds if not thousands of personal hours he has devoted over several years, working with all Ministries of Health in all Provinces and Territories, as well as Federal Ministries, in an effort to achieve Paramedic Medical Directives coast to coast to coast, allowing Paramedics to inject hydrocortisone (Solu-Cortef) in the case of suspected adrenal crisis. For BC, Gino has provided documentation to Director Gerry Ott who has been the contact with the BC Ministry of Health. Gerry's efforts in BC are also deserving of special mention. While all Provinces and Territories are not yet on board with an actual injection Directive, tremendous progress has and is being made. If a full program is not in place, a Special Patient Program may be in place or the topic is being evaluated. Those jurisdictions not yet participating in some manner are now the minority. What an accomplishment by Gino on behalf of all of us. All done without fanfare or seeking any acknowledgement whatever.

While I dearly wish I could recognize every individual that has in the past or currently does volunteer work, Gino represents a rather unique effort. Therefore, I qualify Gino as our “Volunteer Extraordinaire” for his exceptional contribution of time and talent to the Society. Gino, while I know the job is not yet complete, still, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all members, from Coast to Coast to Coast, THANK YOU!

One little known fact I will share about Gino is that he was part of the group before the Society was formed and part of those early discussions 25 years ago. Few of our current membership can make that claim.

To wrap up, there is no shortage of important initiatives on the Future Objectives priority list. I am confident the new Administration will be up to the challenge.

I do want to also offer sincere thanks to all Board members past and present as well as our Secretary-Treasurer, Rick Burpee, for support of the initiatives we have tackled and achieved over the last many years. Rick has been a great support and it has been greatly appreciated.

Dr. Killinger, our volunteer Medical Advisor continues to provide invaluable medical advice and guidance as he has for so many years and is a tremendous support in the Society's initiatives. He is truly a kingpin in the function and success of the Society. An unsung hero.

We have with us today, another Medical Doctor who has also been a great friend to the Society for many years and we will hear from him shortly. Of course, I am referring to Dr. Stan Van Uum. Thank you so much Stan for your ongoing support. It means a great deal to many.

Finally, I want to thank my wife Susan, for her support through all these years. Many here will be unaware that she took care of the snack table and kitchen duties, for this our home support group, for many years and just within the last two years passed on those responsibilities.

I am so sorry I could not mention everyone who has volunteered across Canada by name. While you may not always hear direct thanks, many are thankful.

I would be remiss if I didn't say that we were saddened to receive member Heather Raczynski's resignation from the Board of Directors. This has become necessary due to a very serious personal medical challenge she is currently battling. Heather has made a great contribution to the Society with her ongoing participation as a member and Director for several years. I am sure you will join me in sending her our thoughts and prayers.

You will shortly renew the term of 3 steadfast Directors as well as elect 2 new Directors to the incoming administration, one of the new Directors will become the next President and the other a critical role in this Support Group. I wish the best for each of them in their guidance of the Society going forward.

The future looks good!

Thank You
Harold Smith, President

Election of Directors and Officers

The Notice of Meeting indicated five Director positions were up for election. The proposed slate consisted of three Directors eligible for term renewal:

Gerry Ott (2 years)
Roger Steinmann (2 years)
Derek Burpee (3 years)

and two new nominees to fill currently vacant positions (vacancies as a result of the retirement of Harold Smith and resignation of Heather Raczynski):

Carolynn Yeates (3 years)
Sheri Thiffault (3 years)

A motion to approve the slate as proposed by the Board of Directors was duly proposed, seconded, and approved by a show of hands.

The Board had passed a resolution prior to the meeting electing Carolynn Yeates as President (subject to approval of her Director election).

Officers: President – Carolynn Yeates (3 years)
 Vice – President – Derek Burpee (3 years)

Directors: Carolynn Yeates (3 years)
 Derek Burpee (3 years)
 Derek Clarke (1 year)
 Gerry Ott (2 years)
 Elizabeth Hill (1 year)
 Shari Thiffault (3 years)
 Roger Steinmann (2 year)
 Holly McLean (1 years)
 Nancy Bingeman (1 years)

Rick Burpee remains as Secretary-Treasurer to complete the suite of Officers.

Following the election, a plaque commemorating Harold's time as a volunteer, Director and President was presented to Harold, along with a gift as well as flowers for Harold's wife Susan.

New Business

Carolynn Yeates, the new President of the Canadian Addison Society was introduced, and she spoke a few words of introduction of herself and her desire to continue to help move the Society forward with the support of the members.

Meeting Termination

The meeting was terminated at 2:00 EDT.
