



Culinary Historians of Canada
Minutes, Annual General Meeting (draft for approval)
October 5, 2025, Lambton House, Toronto

EXECUTIVE

President: Vacant
Interim Vice-President: Jane Black
Treasurer: Trudy Bloem
Secretary: Vacant
Past-President: Sarah Hood
Board Member Emeritus: Fiona Lucas

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications: Sarah Harrison
Education and Outreach: Ryan Whibbs
Membership: Sylvia Lovegren
Programming: Judy Chow

CO-ORDINATORS

Public Relations: Vacant
Refreshments: Vacant
Volunteers: Jennifer Meyer

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jan Main, Kim Mouldsdale, Marcarie Riel

Present

- In person: Marie Truitt-Alper, Jane Black, Louise Breau, Laura Carlson, Judy Chow, Pat Crocker, Caroline Dufour, Sarah Harrison, Sarah Hood, Kaji Hora-Nolan, Fiona Lucas, Jan Main, Kim Mouldsdale, Sherry Murphy, Sylvia Lovegren, John Ota, Marcarie Riel, Mya Sangster, Amy Scott
- Virtual via Zoom: Julia Armstrong, Trudy Bloem, Lynn Butler, Pat Currie, Margaret De Cosle, Liz Driver, Diane O'Shea, Joyce Sirski-Howell, Chantal Véchambre, Ryan Whibbs.

Welcome & Introductions (Jane Black)

Land Acknowledgement (Judy Chow)

Approval of Agenda

Poll taken: No changes - Sarah Hood and seconded by Amy Scott, APPROVED

Minutes of the Previous AGM, October 15, 2024

Poll taken: No changes. Minutes from AGM 2024 approved by Fiona Lucas and seconded by Sarah Harrison.

Election of Officers, Part A

Sarah Hood explained the positions of President, Vice-president and Secretary, which are open for

election. Jane Black put forth her candidacy for Vice President. Treasurer Trudy Bloem stood for re-election. Sarah Harrison continues as Communications Lead. Jamie-Lynn Butler came forward for the position of Secretary. The above members were acclaimed and thanked.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report with the financial statement was emailed to all members along with the other following reports. Highlights:
Grants to CHC have been depleted.
- Programs have generated funds but have cost a lot.
- Membership is static.
- In-depth Revenue Statement, Expense Statement, Statement of Financial Position were presented.
- Total Liabilities: \$2,430.03 & Equity \$14,913.66 = \$17,343.69

Sarah Hood approved Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Sherry Murphy.

President's Report (presented by Sarah Hood)

CHC reached 30 years in 2024. CHC has branched out to become a truly national organizational organization. It continues to be hampered by modest paid membership, reduced Board of Directors, financial needs. Need to find ways to attract new members and nurture leadership within the organization. Not able to formalize decisions due to lack of executive Board. Three Strategic Priorities: Memberships, Increase Capacity, Reaching Capacity.

Education and Outreach (Ryan Whibbs)

This year Education and Outreach presented a poster and interactive exhibit at Canadian Association for Food Studies at George Brown College in Toronto, This exhibit represented CHC 30 years of Public Food History and promoted awareness of Canada's rich culinary history. The experience offered exposure to a new community of potential members. Sarah Hood hosted a popular interactive exhibit exploring Canada's food history.

Membership (Sylvia Lovegren)

- 1,000 people receive the CHC newsletter, 5,000 people on Facebook.
- Membership has its perks: each member receives a Membership Directory, newsletters and free/reduced-rate events.
- Membership reminders were sent out to lapsed members. Lapsed and new members have joined/rejoined. Membership rates have been adjusted, adding student rates.
- The following ideas have been considered: reaching out to culinary schools, reaching and engaging new members, outreach to other organizations.
- CHC archives have been transferred to Guelph University.

Programming (Judy Chow)

Events took place every month since November 2024 In-person or on Zoom, including but not limited such events as a Walking Tour of St. Lawrence Market, Victorian Cake Decorating, Mother' Day Tea with the Silver Society, Maize Masterclass with The Depanneur, Hogman-EH with the Scottish Society of Ottawa (outreach).

At the 2025 AGM, Judy arranged to have Dr. Andrea McKenzie present an outstanding presentation on Lucy Maude Montgomery and Baking with L.M Montgomery: "The Delights of Cake"..

Communications (Sarah Harrison)

Sarah took over Communications after being CHC Secretary for two years. Restarting the digital newsletter, over 1000 subscribers, updating Website. Have over 1,000 subscribers, 5,000 on Facebook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Confirmation of Appointed Committee Chairs (Trudy Bloem – Treasurer, Jamie-Lynn Butler – Secretary, Judy Chow – Programming, Sylvia Lovegren – Membership) and Members-at-Large (Jan Main, Kim Mouldsdale, Marcarie Riel)
- Fiona Lucas - Board Member Emeritus, Fiona Lucas, one of CHC's co-founders, who will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as she has since the beginning, 31 years ago.

HONORARY MEMBER (presented by Sarah Hood)

The CHC Constitution provides for the awarding of honorary memberships to deserving people. It states that occasional awards can "be granted in recognition of exemplary service to the Culinary Historians of Canada" and/or "for excellence in the field of culinary history." last year, our long-serving CHC board member Sherry Murphy presented an honorary membership to Jan Main, Today, we are delighted to award a membership to Sherry herself.

For the past two decades, Sherry Murphy has been one of the most dedicated and generous volunteers for the Culinary Historians of Canada, and other organizations as well. She has extensive knowledge of open-hearth and wood-oven cooking techniques, and her cakes and cookies, baked from historic recipes, have enriched numerous events, especially our annual Baking for the Victorian Christmas Table, which she leads. She has served for many years as a volunteer historic cook at Montgomery's Inn and Fort York National Historic Site. She contributes a column on historic cooking to the Bluffs Monitor newspaper in Scarborough, Ontario. In particular, she has become an expert in WWI-era cooking, and has made many presentations on the topic, including a notable presentation to thousands of students visiting France for the centenary of Vimy Ridge.

In addition, she studied nursing and worked many years in the medical field. She has volunteered with the Women's Auxiliary at SickKids Hospital for the past 15 years, helping in the Family Centre and Cancer wards and teaching calligraphy.

Her talents extend also to craft work, from calligraphy to textile arts, and many people here today have been the lucky recipients of personalized aprons and other thoughtful gifts that are the work of Sherry's hands. Congratulations, Sherry!

New Business

N/A

Date of 2026 AGM

Sunday, October 3, 2026

Concluding Remarks by Vice-President Jane Black

Thank you all for attending the AGM and thank you to our guest speaker today - it was exciting to hear from Dr. McKenzie and learn more about Lucy Maud Montgomery and all those cakes and sweets in her books. I had no idea! Go out and read a Montgomery novel that you haven't read before now! Thank you, Andrea! It is always a privilege to meet around our common interest in food and culinary history., especially Canadian culinary history. Should you wish to continue meeting with us more regularly, we are always welcoming new volunteers and board members! If you wish to volunteer or join us on the board or even just attend a meeting or if you have ideas for programs, please feel free to email

Adjournment