



The Sir Winston Churchill Society isn't all about the things Winston Churchill did in the past (however profound they may be.) It's about his convictions, his wit, his power to inspire and how those qualities are necessary in the world today. We want to incorporate his values and spread his ways. We want to share what we have learnt and discovered from him, with you.

This issue is initially being distributed in digital form only

ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET

Our 55th annual Memorial Banquet was held at the University of Alberta Faculty Club May 25. Approximately 90 people were in attendance in the Winspear Room.

Her Honour, the Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, and her husband, the Honourable Douglas Mitchell, were in attendance. The other head table guests were: CWO Wayne Bantock, Group Sergeant-Major of 3rd Service Battalion, Col. Scott McKenzie, CO of 3rd Service Battalion, Master of Ceremonies Brian Hodgson and his spouse Bonnie Hodgson, Churchill Society President Mrs. Elisebeth Checkel, Churchill Statue and Oxford Scholarship Foundation Secretary Dr. David Checkel, and guest speaker Andrew Roberts.

A student awards ceremony in the Papaschase Room preceded the banquet programme. Her Honour assisted in awarding scholarships to the gold, silver, and bronze winners of our speech competition held in the Fall (see the *Churchillian* Vol 11, Issue 1 – April 2019 – for a report on that competition). Each finalist received a cash scholarship, medallion, and a copy of *The Heroic Memory* Vol 1 and 2. The 2019 Cambridge Scholar, Scott Elgersma, was also presented with *The Heroic Memory*.

To lead off the banquet programme, Her Honour spoke of Churchill's considerable skill in public speaking, which rallied the defenders of democracy in the face of rising fascism and military catastrophe. She underlined how public oratory remains a pillar of Western democracy. Sarah Fong, our director of competitions, spoke of the



Seated Left to Right: Harveen Brar, Gurgot Hotthi, Sryia Gadde. Standing: Her Honour and Andrew Roberts. Photo by Macri Photography

speech competition held last November.

The Gold, Silver, and Bronze medallists were in attendance with parents. Sarah introduced them to the room, and thanked the coaches, parents, and volunteer judges for their time and effort.

David Checkel, Executive Secretary of the Churchill Statue and Oxford Scholarship Foundation spoke about the Cambridge Engineering Scholarship and the Oxford Scholarship. He introduced to the room the 2019 Cambridge Scholar Scott Elgersma, also in attendance (see the *Churchillian*, Vol 11, Issue 1).

Our guest speaker, historian Andrew Roberts, delivered an engaging talk about Winston Churchill the person. He spoke of Churchill's parents and upbringing, his physical

ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET (CONT'D)

courage, and the education and life experiences that Churchill believed had destined and prepared him for the events of 1940. From this half-hour sketch, Sir Winston emerged as a living and imperfect person, and much less the sum of the myths that surround him.

Bellstar Hotels and Resorts, and its president and CEO Ed Romanowski, donated a door prize of a two-night stay for two at Solara Resort and Spa in Canmore. Nearctic Holdings Ltd, through its President and our honorary patron David Kent, donated the cash scholarships awarded to the speech winners. We are grateful to these friends and sponsors for their continued support.

Many favourable comments have been received, complimenting the appearance of the room, table settings, food, service, programme, and guest speaker. The Faculty Club provided invaluable advice and guidance in planning the evening, and helped produce a programme that ran smoothly and on time.

Our memorial banquets have changed from the early years. They were originally staged as strictly



*CWO Wayne Bantock and Col. Scott McKenzie.
Photo by Macri Photography*



*Her Honour, the Honourable Lois Mitchell speaks to our Memorial Banquet.
Photo by Macri Photography*

formal military mess dinners, with the support and participation of local regular forces units. Formal evening gowns and long white gloves were typically worn by the ladies. The gentlemen attended in black tie or mess kit as most do now, but some were also in tails.

Our guest speakers are no longer brought from the airport in military staff cars with police escorts. In those early years, the speakers were Churchill's colleagues, friends, and adversaries, and were themselves important statesmen and historical figures. Our guest roll includes many accomplished historians, and some of Sir Winston's descendants, including his great-grandson Randolph, who is Patron of our Society. Still, our ties with today's Canadian Forces in Alberta remain strong, and among our members and supporters are numerous serving and retired officers and NCOs.

By far the largest difference between the first banquet in 1965 and the 55th in 2019 is the presence of women. The Society was originally formed in 1964 for men only, which did not then attract the kind of adverse attention it would receive today. Women 'attended' the

ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET (CONT'D)



*Historian Andrew Roberts speaks of Winston Churchill; the real person.
Photo by Macri Photography*

banquets by dining in a separate room and listening to the proceedings by remote audio. This changed in the mid-1980s when membership in the society with its associated privileges was opened to women. The segregation of the ladies at the banquet was ended. They could enjoy the event first-hand, including the after-dinner cigar smoke (some things changed more slowly). Since then, several women have served on the board of directors and as officers. We now have our first female president, and three other women serve as directors or officers.

We are grateful for the hard work of our members who planned, arranged, and advertised this year's banquet. Thanks go to Navya Baradi for her assistance, and to Pouria Torabi and Cathie Ji, at the reception table.

Musical support was provided by piper Nicholas Silver, harpist Galen Noland, and vocalist Adaline Dewar. Rocco Macri photographed the evening, and George Deslauriers recorded Roberts' keynote address. Our sincere thanks go to these contractors who brought their professional expertise to the support of our event. A representative from Audreys Books set up a book display and kiosk outside of the Winspear room. He sold all the copies he had of *Churchill, Walking With Destiny*, most of which were autographed on the spot by

the author (our guest speaker, Andrew Roberts).

Most of all, thanks are due to our faithful members and friends who bought tickets and made the event possible. We hope you all enjoyed your evening with us, with each other, and with the very charming Andrew Roberts. We hope also that you will bring more friends and family to join us next year. If you missed this year, we sincerely hope to see you at our 56th annual Memorial Banquet.



*Piper Nicholas Silver leads the head table guests into the Winspear Room.
Photo by Macri Photography*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer greetings to all,

Our 55th Annual Memorial Banquet has come and gone. We were privileged to welcome the Lt. Governor of Alberta, Her Honour Lois Mitchell who was accompanied by His Honour Douglas Mitchell. Guests were treated to an outstanding presentation by our guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Roberts. He expanded on the theme that all of Sir Winston Churchill's life prepared him for, and made him uniquely qualified to lead the free world in the life and death struggle against Nazi oppression. If you were unable to attend the banquet, you may still wish to read Mr. Roberts' book *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*. It has won many awards and I highly recommend it.



*Churchill Society President Elisebeth Checkel.
Photo by Macri Photography*

We were very pleased to welcome guests who have attended the Annual Memorial Banquet for dozens of years. In fact, some guests attend with friends and adult children and even grandchildren, thereby sharing the legacy of our founders to keep alive the memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

We were delighted to meet new banquet attendees as well. It is our hope that you found something of value in the evening, that you will consider attending next year, and that you will contemplate becoming a member of The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston S. Churchill Society. You may purchase a membership on-line at

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop>

I would like to thank the members of our board who organized the event. Everyone worked tirelessly and dealt with the inevitable 'surprises' with efficiency and grace. What a pleasure it is to work with them. I would also like to thank board members from other Churchill Societies across the country, especially Vancouver and Calgary. This collegial cooperation made it possible for us to bring such a prominent guest speaker to Edmonton.

Finally, along with my thanks I would like to invite you to share your thoughts about the banquet with me or with any board member. Tell us what you liked, what you didn't like, and what you would like to see in the future. It is our goal to restore the Annual Memorial Banquet to be one of the most sought-after tickets in the social calendar of Edmonton. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Elisebeth Checkel

President,

The Rt.Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society

OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Current Board of Directors

Elisebeth Checkel	<i>President, Membership</i>
Jill Wright	<i>Vice President</i>
Robert Chaffee	<i>Executive Secretary, the Churchillian, Archives</i>
Dianne Sweet	<i>Treasurer</i>
Sarah Fong	<i>Student Competitions</i>
Jason Olfert	<i>Website</i>

Our slate of directors is not full. Members who are willing to help our society fulfill its objectives in these changing times are encouraged to come forward. Interested parties are welcome to approach any officer or director to discuss board membership.

Anyone interested in helping with planning and arranging our 56th Memorial Banquet is likewise encouraged to contact us.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To honor the life of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill by:

- Educating students on his life and achievements, and their continued relevance, by organizing debates and public speaking/essay competitions;
- Educating the public on his life, philosophy, achievements and literary heritage by organizing lectures, speeches, seminars and the publication of these lectures and speeches;
- To advance education by providing scholarships and research bursaries to Alberta students to continue their education at universities throughout the world.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1898** Churchill, age 23, works his contacts (including the Prime Minister) to get himself assigned to the 21st Lancers for the Kitchener campaign into the Sudan.
- 1911** Winston co-founds "The Other Club" dining club. The inaugural dinner is held May 18. The club dines in the Pinafore Room of the Savoy on alternate Thursdays, when Parliament is in session.
- 1921** Churchill's mother, Lady Randolph Churchill, (nee Jennie Spencer) dies June 29.
- 1954** At age 79, Winston visits Canada for the last time in June, after a visit to Washington DC.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

‘Roberts tells this story with great authority and not a little panache. He writes elegantly, with enjoyable flashes of tartness, and is in complete command both of his sources and the vast historiography. For a book of a thousand pages, there are surprisingly no longueurs. Roberts is admiring of Churchill, but not uncritically so. Often he lays out the various debates before the reader so that we can draw different conclusions to his own. Essentially a conservative realist, he sees political and military controversies through the lens of the art of the possible.’

Richard Aldous, New York Times

You can find this review on-line [here](#) or at:

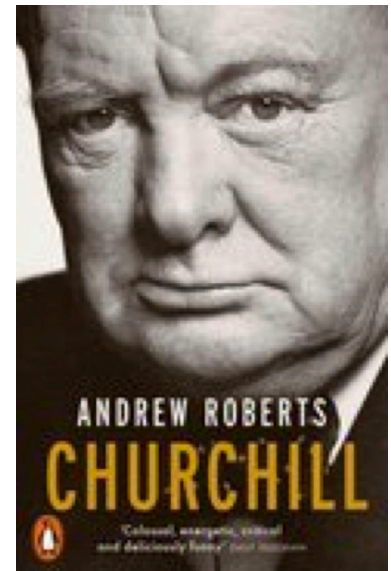
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/13/books/review/andrew-roberts-churchill-winston-biography.html>

“*Churchill, Walking with Destiny*” can be found online [here](#) from Audrey’s Books, or at:

https://www.audreys.ca/?searchtype=keyword&q=andrew+roberts&qsb=keyword&q=file=h.tvviewer&using_sb=status&qsb=keyword



Andrew Roberts



“*The Heroic Memory*” can be found online at:

The Heroic Memory Vol 1 and 2 (Audreys Books)

Click here to order The Heroic Memory Volumes 1 and 2 online



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

An objective view of historical figures must be informed by the social realities and context of their own times. People and leaders in the past accepted as self-evident some ideas which are less widely held today. People and leaders in the past also served high ideals and demonstrated many virtues of timeless value. Winston Churchill's career was no exception to this. We in this Society celebrate his practice of virtues which remain as important today as they were in 1940: courage, integrity, justice, determination, and a commitment to democracy. He was a product of his times, and a shaper of ours.

The Churchill Society promotes his important ideals by helping young people develop research, critical thinking, citizenship, effective speaking, and leadership skills.

New members are always welcome. While you renew your own membership, please consider inviting your friends and family members to join the Society. Your membership fees of \$60.00 (\$25.00 for students) support the highest ideals reflected in Churchill's life and work.

Purchase your membership today by visiting our website and following the instructions:

<https://www.churchillsocietyofedmonton.com/shop>

If you provide an e-mail address in your application we can send you future digital editions of this newsletter, which will help us reduce the cost of distribution.

If you are unable to apply through our website, contact us via email at info@churchillsocietyofedmonton.com for assistance.

2019 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Salutation: _____ Name: _____
First Middle Last

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Street City Prov Postal Code

Type of Membership: ☐ Regular \$60 ☐ Student \$25


Privacy and Consent: By including your E-mail address, you agree to receive future notifications regarding Society activities. Please note, all E-mail messages sent to the membership are sent under the use of the Blind carbon copy (Bcc) tool which means that individual recipients do not see the entire list of addressees. There is no fear of being added to additional mailing lists, etc.

CONTACT US

For membership application, enclose a cheque payable to "The Sir Winston Churchill Society" and send to:



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