



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2016



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## **Mission Statement**

*Alberta Family Histories Society is a non-profit organization supporting worldwide family history research through education and preservation of information.*

### **Objectives**

To promote the study of family history and worldwide genealogical research.

To encourage and instruct members in accurate and thorough family history research.

To assemble, preserve, print and publish information relevant to family history study.

To raise funds for any of the foregoing objectives and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests.

To use any profits or other accretions to the Society in promoting its objectives without material gain for its members.

## **Privacy Policy**

Alberta Family Histories Society's Privacy Policy defines and states exactly how privacy concerns will be addressed.

AFHS has a stated Privacy Policy for the usage and the safeguarding of personal information that members provide.

The whole of the Privacy Policy document can be viewed on the AFHS website and a paper copy obtained from the Privacy Officer, the Membership Secretary, or at the AFHS Office/Library.

**Kay Clarke**  
**Privacy Officer**

### **Grants**

Thanks to Alliance Pipeline for a \$500 grant in support of the volunteer efforts of Warren Peterson through their "Alliance Volunteer Empowerment Grant" program.

Thanks to Enbridge for a \$500 grant in support of the volunteer efforts of Brenda McArthur through their "Our Community Partners" program.

# Annual General Meeting

*River Park Church*

*3818 - 14A Street S.W., Calgary*

*April 3, 2017*

## **Agenda** | *Call to order: 7:00 p.m.*

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of the last AGM of April 4, 2016
3. Annual Report
4. Approval of the Auditor's Report for 2016
5. Bylaws
6. Election of Officers
7. President's Remarks
8. Moment of Silence
9. Business From the Floor

Adjournment

## **In Memory**



*Marilyn (Lynn) Taylor January 2, 2016*  
*Donald Allen Smith July 24, 2016*  
*Dell E Finerty September 29, 2016*

# Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting

*Alberta Family Histories Society  
River Park Church  
Calgary, Alberta  
April 4, 2016*

*The President, Bob Eccleston, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.  
It was determined there was a quorum present.*

## 1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by Heather Williams, seconded by Lorna Laughton that the agenda for the meeting be approved. CARRIED.

## 2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the LAST AGM of April 6, 2015**

MOTION by Kay Clarke, seconded by Helen Backhouse, that the minutes of the AGM held April 6, 2015 be approved. CARRIED.

## 3. **ANNUAL REPORT**

Bob presented the Annual and Financial Reports.

## 4. **APPROVAL OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT for 2015**

The Auditor's Report as of December 31, 2015 as set out in the Financial Report, was approved by the Board on March 21, 2016.

MOTION by Bev Swan, seconded by Michele Buhler, that the Auditor's Report as presented be approved. CARRIED.

The Board now has the responsibility to appoint an Auditor.

## 5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Helen Backhouse, Chair of the Nominations Committee, made a MOTION that the Board approve the slate of nominees, proposed by the Nominations Committee, for elected offices for the year beginning April 4, 2016 as follows:

Director at Large for a 1 year term (Apr/16-Mar/17) - Peter McKenzie

Director at Large for a 2 year term (Apr/16-Mar18) - Stephanie Thiele

Director at Large for a 2 year term (Apr/16-Mar/18) - Carole O'Flaherty

Director at Large for a 2 year term (Apr/16-Mar18) - Michael Prosser.

Helen declared that all the nominated positions were elected.

Treasurer for a 2 year term - Lorrie Whiteway. Ratified.

## 6. **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Please read The President's Message in the Annual Report for more details on the past year.

Highlights of my goals are to:

a) Produce a workable plan to achieve success, including a 2-year Strategic Plan.  
b) Continue viability and sustainability of the AFHS in all aspects. We've increased membership - thank you Jacquie for your efforts, and developed a Communications Strategy. We also need to look after volunteers with a way to balance their time, so they're not over worked.

How can you help?

Talk about AFHS to your friends, let us know you are getting good value for your membership, bring a guest to meetings, tell us what you think by filling out our Survey, and most importantly give a couple hours of your time as a volunteer.

We have new Directors at Large to oversee the Board, but we still need some positions filled. Please join in.

## 7. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed for the members who have passed away during the year.

## 8. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no business from the floor.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Lorrie Whiteway to adjourn the AGM.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**Brenda McArthur, Recording Secretary**

# Message from the President

## Hello Everyone ...

As I come to an end of my two-year term as your President, I feel it's important to reflect on your Board's accomplishments, as well as speak to current projects and future priorities.

Firstly, I want to thank our Members for your engagement, your participation, and your meeting attendance. I hope you're pleased with our direction, and the initiatives we've undertaken toward a stronger, more sustainable society.

Secondly, I want to thank our Board and Committees for your support, your participation and your input. I thank you all for 'coming along for the ride'. As you know, I believe in consensus, openness and teamwork, and everyone has been great in all these respects. It's been a wonderful experience.

And a big thank you to all of our Volunteers. Although your numbers are small when compared to our total membership, you are the foundation of our society.

Our 2015/2016 Strategic Planning exercise was a reasonable success, and contributed a lot to the focus we've been able to maintain over my term. The spirit of teamwork was and is terrific. Thank you to everyone who participated. The Objectives identified in this process addressed important and diverse topics such as Financial Sustainability, Communications Strategy, Our Volunteers, and Membership Growth and Engagement.

Other AFHS activities and accomplishments in 2016 included:

*Continued Financial Sustainability:* In accordance with our new Strategic Plan, in 2016 AFHS established (from cash flow), a new Financial Reserve / Sustainability Fund, currently set at \$100,000. This fund/account will require a majority decision by the AFHS Board to be accessed and used, and represents about one and one half years of anticipated operating expenses. Thank you Brian, Lorrie and Michael for making this happen.

*The Chinook and The Breeze:* Both of our regular publications have undergone a change in "look and feel" in the last few months, part of our AFHS "rebranding" effort. Thank you to our 2016 Intern/Student Piper Goodfellow and our Vice President Sheila Bjerreskov for driving this effort. We are underway with a project to update and replace our AFHS website at [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca), and expect to launch our new site by Summer 2017.

Our *Chinook* Editor Michele continues to host “Write Your Life/Family History” courses at our Library, typically every Tuesday afternoon Winter and Fall. For me, this program was a catalyst to really get me going on my own life story. Thank you Michele ...

*Society Membership:* Thank you Jacquie for your energy and your commitment to our Membership Chair position. Jacquie has developed a wonderful relationship with our Members as she seeks to maintain and grow our membership base.

Our *Program Committee* continues to bring in wonderful speakers for our Monday evening General Meetings. Thank you Christine and your terrific committee.

We’ve created *Job Descriptions* for four new volunteer positions: Social Media Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, and Public Relations Coordinator, and we’re in the process of filling them. And we really need a Communications Chair.

We have been increasing our use of *The Windsock*. You are now receiving a *Windsock* a week or so prior to each Monthly Meeting.

And finally, a special thank you to Board and Committee Members who have completed their commitment to AFHS and are moving on to new challenges, have resigned, or have chosen not to run for re-election in 2017. Thank you Dawn Turner, Brian Martin, Peter McKenzie, Brenda McArthur and Heather Williams. With our President-elect Sheila Bjerreskov, I look forward to meeting with our new Board and Committee Chairs at our next AFHS Board Meeting on May 8th.

Please give your wholehearted support to Sheila as she brings her energy, passion and fresh ideas to AFHS.

Please also read the various Committee and Board Reports in this Annual Report document. Your ideas and comments are always welcome and encouraged. The best way to reach us is by email to [president@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:president@afhs.ab.ca).

And finally thank you Sheila, for your assistance and your unwavering support during my term.

**Bob Eccleston**  
**President, AFHS**

# Activity Reports

## Archives Committee Report

The objective of the Society Archivist is to collect and preserve the records of the Alberta Family Histories Society according to the Archives Policy. The collection of archival items is on-going.

The digital collection of AFHS photographs has now been uploaded to a OneDrive account. This allows key members, such as the editor of *Chinook*, access to the collection for the Society use.

If you have any materials or photographs which document the history of our organization, they would be appreciated.

**Marion Peterson**  
**Archivist**

## Casino Report

In 2016 we took several key steps towards our pending casino which was confirmed to be in the first quarter of 2017.

- The agreement with Cash Casino was formalized and subsequently the “Casino Facility and Service Agreement” was signed and delivered when the dates of January 3 & 4, 2017 were confirmed.
- The Casino Advisors contract was signed.
- A formal “License Application” was made to AGLC along with “Casino Volunteer Worker Application” forms for all 18 key positions.
- In total 36 volunteers were recruited and THANK YOU to all who came forward and made the job of recruiting almost easy.

Doing some math using our previous casino as an example: there 36 volunteer positions and we made \$ 72,000 which gives a \$ 2,000 contribution for each position filled. Thank you, your volunteer time is of great value to AFHS.

**Dennis Laughton**  
**Casino Chairperson**

## **Education Committee Report 2016**

This was my first full year as the Education committee chair. I took over from Kay Clarke in November 2015. Thank you to Kay for all your hard work and the assistance you have given me during the transition.

There were a number of Education initiatives throughout 2016:

### **Mentoring Program**

An action item from our Strategic Plan (Item 4g) was to develop a mentoring program for our new members. This would allow us to engage with new members on a one-on-one basis. We began this mentoring program in April 2016 and have had several new members take advantage of it. More development of this program will be in the works for 2017, including developing a list of potential mentor members (including areas of expertise) for ease of future use.

### **Life & Family History Writing Workshop**

Michele Buhler, our *Chinook* Editor and professional life story writer, conducted three Life and Family History Writing Workshops in 2016. There were two “beginners” sessions, and one “intermediate” session for the graduates from the first beginners group. The course was very well received and had excellent reviews from the attendees.

### **Historic Calgary Week**

The AFHS was approached to participate in Historic Calgary Week in the summer of 2016. Jim Benedict presented “Succession Proofing Your Family History” at the downtown Calgary Public Library branch. The event was a resounding success, as it was standing room only and we had to turn away attendees because there was no more room! AFHS plans to participate in Historic Calgary Week again in 2017.

### **Kelowna Genealogy Conference**

Jim Benedict attended the Kelowna Genealogy Conference in September 2016 and manned an AFHS table for us. The table had our new branding/advertising pieces – trifold, brochures – and was a big hit with the attendees. This has inspired us to do an AFHS genealogy conference in Fall 2017.

Thanks to everyone who participated in education events this year, and I look forward to a very active 2017!

**Sheila Bjerreskov**  
**Education Committee Chair**

## **Facilities Report**

The lease for the library space was renewed in 2016 and will expire May 31, 2018. An application was made and accepted by the City of Calgary to exempt AFHS from paying property taxes and business taxes as we are a registered charity. This will save approximately \$5,600 per year for our lease costs and business taxes of approximately \$600 per year. The lease for River Park Church was renewed and expires June 30, 2017.

No major work was required at the AFHS Library at 712 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW in the past year.

Marion and Warren Peterson continue to update and maintain AFHS' computers and electronic equipment and I am most grateful and thankful for the many, many hours they spend!

We have 6 desktop computers and 3 laptops (main laptop, Computer SIG laptop and the MacBook) plus an old XP computer (only for Projects Committee use) for use at the Library. A new monitor was purchased using the Alliance Volunteer Empowerment Grant and is set up with the newest computer. Thank you Alliance!

Two AFHS members, Tony Gee and Patricia Paterson, have come forward and are willing to be at the library one Saturday per month during open library hours to help people use the upright scanner. Thank you Tony and Patricia!

**Lorrie Whiteway**  
**Director of Facilities**

## **Library Committee Report**

The Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) Library is open to AFHS members and to the general public free of charge. During the past year, the library was open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays except for the summer months when we were open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Saturdays. Thanks to our 22 regular library volunteers and our 6 on call volunteers for their dedication and assistance to everyone who uses our library. A total of 2,081 people came into the library in 2016 to work a shift, use the library or attend a Special Interest Group, Committee or Board meeting. Our numbers were up about 25% over last year mainly due to the new groups meeting at the library including the CBE Retired Employees Genealogy Group, The Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners group and Life & Family History Writing Workshops led by Chinook editor Michele Buhler. We are pleased to have more groups using the library and being introduced to our genealogy collections.

We have about 12,000 items in our library including family histories, local histories, maps, CDs & DVDs, microfiche, periodicals and books. Our collection emphasizes Alberta, all other Canadian provinces and the United Kingdom. We also have materials from Australia, New Zealand, Eastern Europe and other areas to help with your family history research. Ancestry Library Edition is available on 6 desktop computers, 2 laptops and 1 MacBook.

The AFHS Library receives many journals and newsletters from different family history groups in Canada, the USA and overseas. Many of these journals are now received in an electronic format and are available to view on all library computers. The AFHS Library holds the collections of the HSA (Historical Society of Alberta), the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the Calgary branch of the UELAC (United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada). During the year our library has received a large number of donated books and journals from AFHS members, former members and the members of the public. Thank you to everyone who has donated materials this past year.

The downstairs of our facility is used for Committee and SIG meetings. We have storage and shelves for extra materials including the Henderson Directories and back issues of journals. As well, we have an area for library sale items and the kitchen area for preparation of refreshments.

Thanks to Marion and Warren Peterson for doing our computer maintenance on a regular basis and for updating all of our computers to Windows 10. They also held a Windows 10 training session on February 21, 2016 for the library shift volunteers which was well attended and very much appreciated by the volunteers.

My thanks for the dedicated help and support of the Library Committee: Helen Backhouse, Marion Firman, Lorna Laughton, Jacquie McGowan & Marion Peterson.

**Linda Murray**  
**Library Committee Chair**

## **Marketing & Summer Student Report**

An action item from our Strategic Plan (Item 2d) was to consider hiring a marketing summer student to help us formulate/revamp our marketing activities. With the approval of the board, I led this effort. After Bob Eccleston and I had conducted several interviews, we selected Piper Goodfellow – a third year Information Design and Marketing student at Mount Royal University – for the position.

Piper worked for the AFHS from the beginning of May to the end of August as a paid summer student, and also continued in her role on a volunteer basis through to the end of 2016.

Piper created a fresh new look for the AFHS, which included creating a new brochure, tri-fold display, retractable banner, and numerous templates and documents that the AFHS uses on a daily basis. She also began the process of a website redesign, which is currently ongoing on will be completed in 2017.

Social media was another item from our strategic plan (Items 2a & 2c), and Piper created How-To documents for our volunteers and during her time with us, led the effort on posting content. Our participation in social media as a society has increased and been more consistent, which has increased our “readership”.

The work that Piper did for the society was essential to completing items from our strategic plan. Although some activities are carrying over into this year (website redesign), we accomplished a great deal with Piper’s help. The change in the AFHS’s “style” has been well received by the membership and we look forward to continuing to develop new marketing strategies based on the solid foundation that Piper created for the AFHS.

I wish to express the sincere thanks of both myself and the board to Piper for her work, and wish her all the best as she completes her work abroad term and final year of school.

**Sheila Bjerreskov**  
**Vice President and Summer Student Mentor**

## **Membership Committee Report**

Memberships in the Society totals 280, consisting of 245 individual (including 3 life members), 30 family and 5 institutional.

Most renewals were paid in a more timely manner this year due to multiple reminder notices. There was a glitch with the AFHS PayPal account accepting credit card payments without the members having an account. This caused a number of members reverting to paying by cheque/cash. Renewals done through PayPal are no longer receiving a paper receipt as they receive a PayPal confirmation.

**Jacquie McGowan**  
**Membership Committee**

## **Nominations Committee Report**

The Nominations Committee presents the following members of the Alberta Family Histories Society who are willing to stand for election to the Board:

Vice President for a 2 year term (April 2017 - March 2019) - No Candidates  
Director - Finance for a 2 year term (April 2017 - March 2019) - Eva Bjerreskov  
Recording Secretary for a 2 year term (April 2017 - March 2019) - No Candidates  
Director at Large for a 1 year term (April 2017 - March 2018) - Peter McKenzie

Nominations Committee Members: Bev Swan (Chair), Jacquie McGowan, Heather Williams, Christine Hayes.

## **Periodicals Committee - The Breeze Report**

The Breeze was published in paper format and on the website ten times in 2016 (no publications in July and August). A fresh updated look developed by Piper Goodfellow was used beginning in September.

**Tara Shymanski**  
**Breeze Editor**

## **Program Committee Report**

The Programs Committee now has three members, Tara Shymanski, Bev Swan and Christine Hayes. This number works quite well. Society members have been very supportive in suggesting topics and speakers for our programs.

In response to members' concerns about speakers going over time, we have been using our amended checklist for program presenters which include a reminder of the time limits. This and the awareness on the part of the members presenting the business part of the program has resulted in much more punctual end times for the meetings.

We ended last season with the idea of having the various SIGs have a table at the meetings. The SIGs were very enthusiastic, and the members did learn about the various special interest groups, but sadly, we have neglected the practice with the new season. I must admit the fault for that is mine, as I simply did not have the time to coordinate this process. I will attempt to have a schedule in place for the SIG tables for the remainder of the season.

Once again we had to cancel a meeting due to weather. The notifications went out and we were able to rely on a AFHS member who lived nearby to put a sign on the church door. The Program Committee really couldn't function without the support of all of our members.

We continue to see steady attendance at our programs of around 60 to 80. This is a reasonable turnout, but we are still working towards increasing that number by offering a wider variety of programs and more programs aimed at the beginner. We have noticed a number of new faces in the crowd, people who may have been members for a long time but have not attended a meeting before.

We would not have been able to have any programs without the work of Marion Peterson who, with Tony Gee, transport the equipment and set it up, no matter what.

### **Programs April 2016- April 2017**

April 2016 Marion Jones – Researching in the US

May 2016 Warren Peterson – Oh no, where did it go? (Computer backups and other vital tech info)

June 2016 Robin Kirk - Metis Research

September 2016 AFHS Panel – Your Society

October 2016 Jim Benedict - Where will all the records go?

November 2016 Eric Schultz - DNA

December 2016 Christine Hayes - Cookbooks as genealogical sources

January 2017 – Cancelled due to weather

February 2017 Cancelled due to weather

March 2017 Janice Cushman - Irish Genealogy

April 2017 - not confirmed

May 2017 – not confirmed - (we are currently awaiting confirmation for a date switch – we will have Radomir Bilasch presenting on Ukrainian Genealogy and Sheila Johnston and Kay Clarke presenting on Researching in Calgary – months need to be confirmed)

June 2017 Volunteer appreciation and “Little Hints from your Genealogy Society Buddies”

**Christine Hayes**  
**Chair, Program Committee**

## **Projects Committee Report**

As per many previous years, this committee has been pursuing three main activities: Cemetery Recording, Newspaper Extractions and Queries.

### **Cemetery Recording:**

A team of volunteers ventured to some very rural and quaint cemeteries (such fun and so lovely) in communities of Gladys Ridge, St Thomas and St. Andrew in May 2016. We had a terrific day of recording and photographing, and adventuring in days of the past. This work has been completed and placed on the website. Updating of Queen’s Park Calgary is in the final stages, which like Eden Brook takes exhaustive volunteer hours in merging data and proofing. These works will be completed by mid 2017.

### **Newspaper Extractions:**

Thank you to our loyal volunteers who work on extracting births, marriages and death notices from the early Calgary Herald newspapers. This activity is quite addicting, but oh, so much fun. I know that many of our volunteers do not see the reward of their numerous hours of work, but the Queries team is ever so appreciative of these databases. Thank you to all you volunteers participating in this activity. A volunteer Nancy created a database of returning soldiers from WWI for the years 1918 to 1919 which is on our website. This database has 16,693 entries that include the soldier’s name, departure location and date, arrival port in Canada plus date, an interim destination and a final destination. A tremendous resource for those seeking military ancestors of this time period.

## **Queries:**

Mabel, Carol and Wendy have answered **one hundred fifty** plus queries during the last twelve months – from countries such as Canada, UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Holland, Norway, Sweden and South Africa. It is exciting to know that our Society of AFHS has been able to correspond with these researchers and answer many of their questions; to assist them in breaking down their brick walls and to generate genealogy fellowship.

In terms of financial input from these three activities above, we cannot boast any huge sums of profit, but we do cover our expenses and more. The Projects Committee has strived to promote our Alberta Family Histories Society in accurate and credible genealogy research.

As your outgoing Projects Chairperson, I would like to issue a challenge to all AFHS members, to come forth with more research and resource material activities that can enrich our Genealogical communities. Calgary and our surrounding communities are rich in historical memorabilia, while many of our former citizens contributed so much to what we know as modern Calgary – how can we capture this? Let's make some teams and pursue the next adventures.

Thank You ever so much for such a wonderful opportunity and experience; working and collaborating with such fantastic volunteers.

**Heather Williams**  
**Projects Chair**

# Special Interest Groups

## **Celtic SIG Report**

The Celtic SIG met seven times over the 2016 time period. Membership in the SIG has changed and grown. The monthly attendance ranged between six and fifteen people and meetings often covered topics for both Scotland and Ireland. Topics included were Chipping Away at Brick Walls, Looking Behind the Name, Finding Living Connections, Daily Lives of Our Ancestors, What's New for Ireland and Effective Searching. Members contributed with conference and travel reports as well as updates on their research.

**Susan Butler**  
**Chair, Celtic SIG**

## **Genealogy Computer Group**

The AFHS Genealogy Computing Group has held regular monthly meetings since September 2006. We have hosted our gatherings each second Saturday of the month, except for June, July and August. Starting with a basic question-and-answer session in the first half, that is followed by either a featured speaker or a workshop.

The GCG has been supporting a family tree website on behalf of all interested AFHS members, called Family Genes, at: [www.familygenes.ca](http://www.familygenes.ca). This project allows members to have their own family history website, featuring their own family members. Using a software application called TNG, members operate a website the same way they would use any family tree software. But there are benefits; the extended living family members can view and even add information from any internet location, and the AFHS society will ensure that the family study will be preserved and archived long after the member loses interest. We now have 32 TNG family trees on the project.

The group enjoys a crowd of six to twelve at each meeting, with enthusiastic participation in questions and suggestions on all topics of computer and web services.

The computer group continues to be self-funded. The Family Genes project will grow in features and services in the coming year.

**Jim Benedict**  
**Chair, AFHS Genealogy Computer Group**

## **DNA SIG**

The DNA SIG meets to collaborate and discuss our experiences in the rapidly growing area of genetic genealogy. Some of the topics covered during the year included: Adoption and DNA testing, Accuracy of Ethnicity results, Ancestry DNA testing, Autosomal matches, Changes at FTDNA, DNA blogs of interest, DNA books, Endogamy, Ethics in Genetic Genealogy and a review of DNA talks from the OGS 2016 conference in Toronto.

The DNA SIG held 8 meetings in 2016 most often on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We had an average of 15 people attending the SIG meetings and we currently have 70 people on our email distribution list. A monthly newsletter called the Thermometer is sent out prior to each meeting.

**Lorna Laughton & Linda Murray**  
**Co-chairs DNA SIG**

## **English/Welsh SIG**

The English/Welsh SIG provides information and support to those in the Calgary community researching ancestors in England and Wales.

In 2016 the SIG met on eight Saturday mornings at the AFHS library. The meetings were attended by 42 different individuals and had an average attendance of 15. Our topics were: (1) Website demonstrations and computer tricks (Presented by Stephanie Thiele), (2) A Round Table Discussion, (3) The Magnificent Seven Cemeteries of London (Presented by Mille Foster), (4) Occupations: Firemen & Policemen plus a Show & Tell by Margo Templeton who brought her Danish relatives to show us, (5) Ancestor Tales, (6) Genealogy Discoveries on my Summer Holidays (Presented by Bev Smith), (7) Family History Background from Books – Fiction and Non-fiction, and (8) Writing Family History (Presented by Michele Buhler).

**Ann Williams**  
**English/Welsh SIG, Chair**

## **Legacy Users Group Report**

In the fall of 2016, a group for those who use Legacy Family Tree software was organized. Two meetings were held with 14 people at the first meeting and 11 at the second. At these sessions, the basics of entering data were discussed and demonstrated. The group collected dues to purchase a deluxe version of the software for the AFHS laptop and *Legacy 9 Unlocked* for the AFHS Library. This user group plans to meet about four or five times each year.

**Marion Peterson**  
**Legacy User Group Coordinator**

## **Ontario SIG**

The Ontario SIG meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the AFHS Library. There are a number of members who do not attend the meetings but choose to belong as they are sent the handouts. These members either live at a distance or have health/family concerns. We meet from September to May with a break for December and the summer months.

Some of the topics we have had covered this year are the way our ancestors traveled in Ontario, how to use the scanners that are at the AFHS Library, and brick wall research.

As always, the success of this SIG lies with the great co-operation and volunteer efforts of each of its members.

**Helen Backhouse & Lynn Brown**  
**Co-chairs Ontario SIG**

## **AFHS Board of Directors**

*January to December 2016*

### Executive

President - Bob Eccleston  
Vice President - Sheila Bjerreskov  
Recording Secretary - Brenda McArthur  
Treasurer - Michael Prosser  
Director (Finance) - Brian Martin  
Director (Facilities) - Lorrie Whiteway  
Immediate Past President - Dawn Turner

Director (Genealogy Computer Group) - Jim Benedict  
Director-at-Large - Peter McKenzie  
Director-at-Large - Carole O'Flaherty  
Director-at-Large - Stephanie Thiele  
Membership Chair - Jacquie McGowan  
Communications Chair - Dawn Turner (January - September), Vacant  
Education Chair - Shelia Bjerreskov  
Events Chair - Vacant  
Library Chair - Linda Murray  
Nominations Chair - Vacant  
Periodicals Chair - Vacant  
Program Chair - Christine Hayes  
Projects Chair - Heather Williams  
Public Relations Chair - Dawn Turner (January - September), Vacant  
Social Media Chair - Dawn Turner (January - September), Vacant  
Celtic SIG - Susan Butler  
DNA SIG - Lorna Laughton, Linda Murray  
English/Welsh SIG - Ann Williams  
Ontario SIG - Helen Backhouse, Lynn Brown  
Family Genes User Group - Jim Benedict  
Legacy User Group - Marion Peterson

### Other Positions

Booking Coordinator - Lorna Laughton  
Casino Manager - Dennis Laughton  
Coaching at CPL - Linda Murray  
Editor - Chinook - Michelle Buhler  
Editor - The Breeze - Tara Shymanski  
Editor - Windsock - Dawn Turner (Jan-Sept), Piper Goodfellow (Jun-Dec), Sheila Bjerreskov  
FFHS Contact - Ann Williams  
PA and Computer Maintenance - Warren & Marion Peterson  
Privacy Officer - Kay Clarke  
Society Archivist - Marion Peterson  
Telephone Coordinator - Heather Williams  
Webmaster - Dawn Turner (January - September), Angie Stropp (September - December)