

JAMES MCGILL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. GOALS

The James McGill Society, founded in 1975, is McGill University's local history society. It encourages and publicizes the historical study of McGill University, including people, events, and activities related to the University's development; it defends and advocates on behalf of McGill University's history and heritage; and it is concerned with McGill University's current activities - history in the making.

2. ACTIVITIES

The Society fulfills its goals in a number of ways, such as a public lecture series, and advising on historical and heritage projects. Other activities may be determined by Society's Executive, Council, and Annual General Meeting.

3. MEMBERSHIP

There are three classes of members:

- a) Regular Members, who have paid up their annual membership fees
- b) Honorary Life Members, designated by the Society's Council
- c) Honorary Officers, designated by the Society's Council

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Meeting is held in conjunction with the Society's first public lecture of the academic year. The Annual General Meeting elects members of the Executive Committee and Council, except for ex officio members; is solicited for nominees to these positions; approves changes to the constitution; receives reports from the Executive, Council, and committees; and approves policy and the annual budget (including membership fees). Council may also call Special General Meetings, as deemed necessary.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive is composed of

- a) President - terms of office two years, renewable – elected by Annual General Meeting
- b) Past President – term of office normally for two years, or until the sitting president becomes past president
- c) Treasurer/Membership Chair - term of office two years, renewable – elected by Annual General Meeting
- d) Executive Secretary – normally Director of the History of McGill Project – otherwise elected by the Annual General Meeting for a two year term, renewable.
- e) Director of the History of McGill Project, should the incumbent not serve as

Executive Secretary.

[Honorary Officers are not normally members of the Executive Committee, but may be invited to attend meetings]

6. COUNCIL

Council will meet once or more annually to assist in: planning the program for the coming year; evaluating the previous year's program; advising the Executive on policy and activities of the Society; serving as the Society's Nominating Committee; and proposing the annual budget (including membership fees).

7. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- a) Members of the Executive Committee.
- b) Past presidents of the Society, able and willing to serve as members.
- c) Five to ten members elected by the Annual General Meeting, nominated either by Council or from the floor. Terms for elected members are two years, renewable.
- d) Council may invite individuals to attend meetings and provide advice.

8. FINANCES

As a constituent and voluntary body within McGill University, the James McGill Society operates within the financial parameters of the University, which holds the Society's funds in separate accounts. The James McGill Society has two funds: 1) an Operating Fund, and 2) an Endowment Fund. Council will designate a specific individual(s) as signing officer(s) for the Society. All financial dealings –including authorization of expenditures - require the agreement of the Executive Committee.

9. SUPPORT.

Executive and Council may explain opportunities for supporting the Society to potential benefactors.

10. OFFICE.

The Office of the James McGill Society located in the History of McGill Project Office.

11. LECTURE SERIES

The Society will normally hold four public presentations annually, which will be widely publicized to attract a general attendance. The Society may designate these or other presentations as named lectures. As of 2014, the James McGill Society has two named lectures: the Maysie MacSporran Annual Lecture and the Stanley Frost Annual Lecture.

12. CONSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS.

Approval of this constitution, and future amendments, occurs as follows: circulation of the text of the proposed Constitution or amendment to all paid members of the Society, at least two weeks prior to a General Meeting whose quorum will be 25% of the membership. A simple majority of those present is required for approval.

P F McNally - Revised - Wednesday March 12, 2014; Tuesday June 10, 2014