

# Résumé



## AGM 2011 - London, May 27 & 28th

London Branch extended their hospitality to everyone for our AGM weekend. All events were held at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, starting with *The President's Reception* followed by a dinner. The series of meeting started the next morning, Saturday, May 28th.

As is usual the first meeting was of the **Outgoing Board** marking the formal end to their year's work. This was followed by the **AGM** which included an open discussion on the *Future of ESU Canada*. The most pressing problem is one of leadership as we are having difficulty filling officer positions at both Branch and National level. Ottawa Branch has been unable to find a successor to their outgoing President. London Branch is also without a President. ESU Canada has not yet found a successor to **Jim Allan** who has completed his allowed terms (3 terms of 2 years) as Secretary. Next year will see the completion of **Martin Wickham's** terms as Treasurer and in 2013 we will need a new President.

Another issue discussed was the name. There has been concern for some time that *English-Speaking Union* has two counts against it in the Canadian context. First, there are active 'English Rights' groups so our name may be perceived as anti-French. Second, the term 'Union' is almost exclusively used by Trades Unions. The net result is that the name works against us, not for us. Suggestions included changing the name while retaining the initials as a logo. The President asked each branch to nominate someone to work with him as a small committee to continue the discussion.

The formal business of the meeting included the Treasurer's and President's reports and election of the new Board. The Treasurer reported declining balances in both the General Fund and the Educational Trust Fund. The President's report is posted on the web site.

The **Incoming Board** re-elected **John Wright** as President, **Stella Woodhouse** as Vice-president for London and **Garry Toffoli** as Vice-president for Toronto.

The final meeting was the **Educational Trust Trustees**. Their main decision was to continue to support the Debating and Public Speaking programs while recognizing the need for more funds in the near future.

## Launch of ESU Iceland

Over 50 delegates from 14 countries celebrated the launch of the newest ESU - **ESU Iceland**. As well as **Joyce and John Wright**, there was a strong Canadian connection as **Eliza Reid**, Chairman of the Steering Committee and now Chairman of ESU Iceland is from Ashton, a few kilometres west of Ottawa, and the official photographer and tour guide, **Kent Bjornsson**, is from Gimli, Manitoba.



The event started with a reception by the **President of the Republic, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**. The official launch was on June 10th at Nordic House, part of the University of Iceland. **Dame Mary Richardson**, newly elected Chairman of the ESU of the Commonwealth, signed the official documents with Eliza.

After the signing ceremony and an address by H.E. Ian Whitting, the British Ambassador, we were treated to several talks, including, *Living with Elves: Icelandic Folk Beliefs Today*, by **Prof. Terry Gunnell**. It seems that in modern Iceland the idea of elves hiding in the rocks is not lightly dismissed. The session finished with **Sigriour Maria Egilsdottir**, Iceland's entry in the International Public Speaking Competition (held in London, in May), reprising her IPSC speech.

The official events concluded with a reception at the Canadian Ambassador's residence hosted jointly by the British and Indian Ambassadors. *(continued overleaf)*

Unfortunately, our Ambassador was called to Ottawa to meet with the new Foreign Minister, John Baird.



*H.E. Ian Whitting, the British Ambassador chatting with Eliza Reid (left) and Dame Mary Richardson at the Canadian Ambassador's residence*

ESU Iceland had arranged a day of sightseeing for the visitors which included geysers, a geo-thermal electric plant, an extinct volcano and a very dramatic waterfall.

(More on the web site under *Launches & Meetings*)

## Josefina Pinochet

Josefina won the ESU Chile English Writing competition and her prize was a trip to Canada. She spent a few days as houseguest of the Wrights, then finished her visit in Toronto and Niagara Falls.



*Josefina with Counc. Peter Hume, Mayor Jim Watson and Joyce and John Wright at Ottawa City Hall.*

Josefina was given a tour of the city and visited the National Art Gallery and the Museum of Civilization. She explored the Byward Market and the Rideau Centre, took in a show at Jazzfest and joined the Wrights at a performance by Cirque d Soleil.

## HSBC International Public Speaking Competition

Our entries were **Erin Singer** (Branksome Hall) and **Dan Ton That** (Selwyn House), winner and runner-up, respectively, in the ESU/HSBC National Competition.

Erin made it through to the semi-finals, a first for Canada. Dan, though he did not fare as well, found it "one of the best trips and moments of my life." This is what he wrote.

"Being a 16 year old at this competition, and, I believe, the youngest competitor there, I wasn't sure whether or not I would fit in. Truth be told, I didn't think I would make everlasting friendships and create inseparable bonds. Boy was I wrong! The people I met, 82 competitors from 49 countries, were the nicest, most inviting and compassionate people I have ever met.



*Dan (right) with one of his new friends*

The level of competition was fantastic and the organizers were helpful, informative, and very knowledgeable. We got to explore London and, most importantly, we got to know each other. Regardless of the continent, age or gender, everyone was kind and considerate, which made it extremely easy to get to know each other. That's what makes the ESU such a unique competition. I've been to other public speaking contests and the vibe and atmosphere just isn't the same. Sure you still meet new people, but the IPSC brings something else to the table: the truly finest young adults you can find around the world. This week has been less about competing and more about bonding which has contributed to one of the best trips and moments of my life. Thanks very much to the English Speaking Union (Canada) for making this experience possible!"

**Dan Ton That**

## Jonathan Estabrooks

Jonathan is well known to Ottawa Branch. Jim Brough introduced Jonathan to us at the Christmas Lunch in 2001. The members were so impressed by this young baritone that they had no hesitation in contributing to his costs of attending a Summer School in 2003. Later, while at Julliard, the Branch provided some 'pocket money' to both Jonathan and Bryan Wagorn - another Jim Brough protégé.



*Jonathan in a duet with tenor Graham Thomson  
Photograph by Sam Garcia, used with permission*

The most recent opportunity to hear Jonathan was at the Opera Lyra Annual Garden Party, held at the residence of the Italian Ambassador. This year the newly appointed **Ambassador H. E. Andrea Meloni & Mma. Meloni** hosted the event. Several ESU members are also Opera Lyra members and thoroughly enjoyed listening to Jonathan, Graham Thomson, Inga Williams (soprano) and Armine Kassabian (mezzo-soprano) in a wide range of operatic roles.

The weather was not the best but when the M.C. suggested shortening the program, the audience made it quite clear that they were prepared to brave the showers.

A beautiful setting, champagne, hors d'oeuvres and opera - what more could one wish for? (No rain!)

## ESU Clothing

This men's polo has a solid pique body in a poly/cotton blend. Sizes S to 5X. A lady's shirt has shorter sleeves and a *Johnny Collar* neckline. Sizes XS to 3X.

Cost, \$30. Available in white or navy.



See [www.esu.ca/clothing.cfm](http://www.esu.ca/clothing.cfm)

## President's Notes



Thank you for re-electing me as President for a further two years and for this expression of your confidence in me. As noted in the report on the AGM, this is the last term for which I am eligible so it is essential that someone comes forward to take over.

I took a look at the previous issue to remind myself where to start, and re-read **Foster Isherwood's** poem, which starts, *Where does the wind blow ...* I now know the answer - Iceland. Joyce and I enjoyed the week we spent there, as we have enjoyed all the other five launches that we have attended. Next April should see the launch of **ESU Spain** in Madrid and we hope to be there - with as many Canadians as possible. These launches really are a great introduction to a country and we thoroughly recommend anyone to attend.

**Chris George** continues our involvement with Public Speaking and Debating. This year the PS competition moves to Toronto and will be at Branksome Hall on November 25th. I hope that Toronto members will be able to attend and, if possible, act as judges.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to **Jim Allan** for his work as Secretary. He was first elected in 2005, coinciding with **Michael Greig's** last term as President. From 2007 he has worked with me. He has been an important member of our 'Management Team' and his trusty tape recorder has ensured the accuracy of his minutes. Thanks, Jim.

*John Wright*

## International Council

The ESU of the USA have invited the International Council to meet in Philadelphia on October 5th & 6th, and to join in some of the activities of the ESU/US AGM culminating in a gala dinner on the Saturday evening, October 8th.

## Recent Additions to the Web Site

Additions to the web site ([www.esu.ca](http://www.esu.ca)) include:

- Launch of ESU Iceland
- Reports on Public Speaking and Debating
- Newsletters from the Branches and this edition of *Résumé*.

The web site gives access to the Dartmouth House site as well as links to several sites run by ESU's around the world.

If you were unable to access the web site during the July heatwave, you were not alone. The heat was too much for our host company's computers.

## World Members' Conference Istanbul, September 18-22, 2012



ESU Turkey invites members and friends of the ESU to a week-long program of seminars, cultural visits and networking.

This will be the first time a World Members' Conference has been held in a non-native English speaking country.

Details will be posted at [www.esu.org/worldmembers](http://www.esu.org/worldmembers) as they become available.

## AGM 2012

Ottawa Branch will host the 2012 AGM. The original thought was that it might be possible to hold it in Kingston and include a show at Fort Henry but there is now an alternative.

**Ottawa Branch of the Monarchist League** are proposing to hold a dinner to celebrate the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** in May. They have invited the ESU, the Royal Commonwealth Society and several other groups to join with them. We await details, but we expect that there will be one or more notable speakers and that it will be a fine event.

## Mailing Address

ESU Canada may be contacted by e-mail at [inform@esu.ca](mailto:inform@esu.ca) or by mail to:

Box 23079  
Ottawa ON K2A 4E2

Please delete the old mailing address from your files. We kept the old box for several months but the overlap period has ended and mail to the old address may be returned to the sender - or not.

## Poetry Corner

Iceland has a wealth of history and tradition in its sagas. This is an excerpt from Egil's Saga which is mainly prose with some verse. Egil and his friend, Aulvir, a bailiff, go to a farm to collect a debt. The farmer's overseer, Bard, decides to poison them rather than pay.

"The ale-maid carried the poisoned horn to Egil, and bade him drink. Egil then drew his knife and pricked the palm of his hand. He took the horn, scratched runes thereon, and smeared blood in them. He sang:

'Write we runes around the horn,  
Redden all the spell with blood;  
Wise words choose I for the cup  
Wrought from branching horn of beast.  
Drink we then, as drink we will,  
Draught that cheerful bearer brings,  
Learn that health abides in ale,  
Holy ale that Bard hath bless'd.'

The horn burst asunder in the midst, and the drink was spilt on the straw below. Egil shifted his cloak to his left side, and under the mantle held his sword. Bard bade them drink a farewell cup. Egil stood in the door. He took the horn and drank it off; then recited a stave:

'Ale is borne to me, for ale  
Aulvir now maketh pale.  
From ox-horn I let pour  
'Twixt my lips the shower.  
But blind they fate to see  
Blows thou bring'st on thee:  
Full soon from Odin's thane  
Feel'st thou deadly rain.'

With that Egil threw down the horn, but gripped his sword and drew; it was dark in the room. He thrust Bard right through the middle with the sword, so that the point went out at the back."

This excerpt is from Chapter 44 (of 92). The whole saga can be read at [www.sagadb.org](http://www.sagadb.org) along with the sagas of Gísla, Hrafnkels, Njáls, Laxdaela and Grettis.

## Charitable Donations

The Educational Trust of ESU Canada is a registered charity. Without the Education Fund there is little purpose to a National organization.

Please consider ESU Canada when making donations or revising your will.

Bequests of securities are exempt from capital gains tax on the donor and recipient.

The charitable registration number is 119231546RR0001.