



President's Report 2022

At the first meeting of the Directors after the 2021 Annual Meeting, I accepted the position of President of HPHC. Having been on the Board for the preceding five years, I came into the role understanding the highly democratic and practical nature of HPHC's governance. Though each of the Directors has a portfolio (President, Vice President, Secretary, Webmaster etc.) all the Directors have the responsibility of fulfilling the mission of HPHC: To promote the Principles of Humanism through outreach and engaging social gatherings of Freethinkers in our Community. We take a team approach to all aspects of this mission and we are jointly responsible for all the outcomes. As such, I would like to begin my address by thanking my fellow Directors, Cameron, George, Jerry, Kelly and Kostas, for their dedication and contributions in 2022. Through five official meetings and any number of email and Signal threads, I have felt nothing but impressed and gratified by the engagement of the Board members and their commitment to fulfilling their obligation to HPHC. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We left the 2021 Annual Meeting, quietly confident that September would see us resuming in-person meetings. Sadly, our optimism was misplaced but finally, here we are with a hybrid meeting and members gathering in-person officially for the first time since Feb 11, 2020 when the members gathered at The Franklin House to hear Sherif Ibrahim speak about Evolution and Happiness. As George recounted in his President's Message last year, what we lost through gathering locally we tried to make up for by accessing globally – speakers and attendees, brought into our homes by the wonders of Zoom. In 2022, we continued this strategy with speakers Zooming in from their locations across the province and across the country.

Our speaker events included:

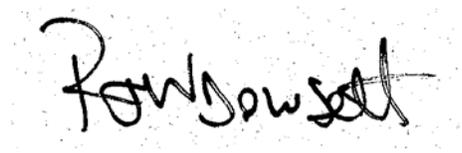
- biographer Ray Argyle talking about The Radical Life of George Jacob Holyoake, inventor of modern secularism
- two events from Dying with Dignity about Medical Assistance in Dying and Advanced Care Planning
- our old friend Dr. Chris di Carlo telling us how to be Really Good PITAs
- Zahra Nader educating us on the state of journalism in Talibani Afghanistan
- Indigenous artist Naomi Smith speaking on The Sixties Scoop
- Another Doctor, this time a Medical one, Dr. Chris Labos selling us hard on the overwhelming benefits of exercise
- And most recently, Avery Parkinson bringing us up-to-date on the progress of cellular agriculture and cultured meat

In December, Event Director Cameron Soltys gave us a fun way to gather and celebrate HumanLight with a variety show, continuing our Winter Solstice social tradition.

As previously noted, these events originated from a variety of sources, were coordinated by Cameron and executed by the Directors as a Team. Special Thanks to George for continuing to ensure all our events make it to the HPHC YouTube channel in a professional format and a timely manner.

The coming year promises more of the same with a continued dedication to bringing our members engaging speakers on Humanist topics, presented in a hybrid format to allow maximum access to members and guests. And now that the limits have been lifted, we look forward to resuming a full calendar of purely social events where members can enjoy the company of like-minded people and put the COMMUNITY back in the Halton Peel Humanist Community. I hope that each one of you will choose to be part of the Team by offering your attendance, your ideas and your opinions so we can make 2022/23 a year to remember.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Dowsett", with a light grey dotted background behind the text.

Richard Dowsett
President HPHC 2021-22

(Delivered at 2022 Annual Meeting, June 7, 2022)