

Chair's Report to the 2020 AGM

2019 began as another exciting year for FHLPA.....

In April 2019 we had a successful Easter Event with lots of crafts and chocolates for the kids and of course a visit from the Easter Bunny – we realized \$800.00 from the event. We then moved on to our Open House on the lawn event to celebrate the start of the season and to serve as the launch to our summer Festival. Eden, Tom Blackburn, and I attended the 3-day Heritage BC conference in Nanaimo. It proved to be an excellent learning experience and a great forum to promote and market FHLPA. Once again, the Festival under the amazing leadership of Lewis and Sears was successful despite the torrential rain received on the first day. FHLPA made \$107,000 from this iconic event. The annual volunteer appreciation event was held the night before the Festival – always a great event and a way to celebrate our amazing volunteers! As Susan and Wendy had made the decision to retire, we hosted a heartfelt farewell and thank you tea at the lodge with over 30 festival volunteers in attendance. The Summer Kitchen had a good year selling all sorts of wonderful goodies. Eden and I attended the BC Historical Federation annual banquet held this year in Courtenay as FHLPA was one of the venues. We closed 2019 with our annual Christmas at the Lodge event which was successful earning us over \$11,000 with 31 vendors. Throughout 2019 we continued Volunteer coffee on the first Wednesday of each month. This event serves as a great way to keep everyone updated. Also throughout the year with the help of Peter Crawford and Tom Blackburn we did nine presentations to local Town Councils, Service Clubs and other Societies to provide an awareness of Filberg with the theme of “what services we could provide them and what could they do for us.” With Sue Wood added to the *Filberg Heritage Tree Program* task force, this exciting endeavour is off and running with a launch date of Earth Day 2021. We were the thankful recipients of an extremely generous grant from the Rotary Club of Courtenay in the amount of \$42,000.00 to replace our iconic arbour. The contractor was appointed, the materials ordered and then the world as we know it changed – construction is on hold for the time being. In addition, we have completed a temporary roof on the summer kitchen.

In addition to the activities above your board (along with some non board task force members) were busy with *Requests for Proposals* for the Filberg Festival Producer (4 1/2 month process) and for the Summer Kitchen (2 month process), renewal of a 5 year contract with the Town of Comox for the operation of the Park and continued review of our Governance structure. I am happy to welcome (since the last AGM) three new members to the board (CVs attached) who are bringing a valuable voice and additional strategic thinking to our group – John Mang, Cheryl Edmunson and Melanie Whittall.

Where would be without the support and dedication of our Gift shop and Cutting Garden volunteers? A huge thank you to these amazing people who give of their time out of a love for Filberg! More to come in their reports.

Our annual open house event during Heritage week in February 2020 was once again very well received and attended with a fun scavenger hunt, demonstration by local Lace Makers and conversations with some of our local historians about the Lodge and the Filberg Family. We were then gearing up for Easter, Earth Day, our AGM, and another Festival..... then COVID-19 became a reality.

We are all continuing to focus and commit to the well being of our Association and my thanks to our volunteers and board for their continued dedication and support. We will weather this storm!

Respectfully submitted

Audrey Craig, Chair

FHLPA