

Chair's Report to the AGM – May 29, 2021

Since I last reported to you on September 19, 2020, we like everyone else continue to be challenged by the COVID pandemic. I concluded my report last year by saying “we will weather this storm” and we have. Our sincerest thanks to those wonderful volunteers that keep the gift shop running so smoothly and effectively. I hope you have all had the opportunity to see the beautiful Camellia tree and plaque that was dedicated to Val and Richard Graham for their tireless dedication, support, and love of the gift shop over so many years. We are indebted to them for their service. I am happy to report Val is still continually active in the gift shop utilizing her amazing pricing skills. Despite the gift shop closure due to COVID for several months the gift shop was a total success in 2020. Welcome to Anne Marie Bowen and Mo McKindrick who have taken over the helm of the gift shop. Their Christmas promotion “Shop Where Santa Shops” was a great success and hopefully we can use that promotion this coming Christmas season. More to come in the gift shop report.

The cutting garden folks also posted amazing revenue last year and worked their magic in preparing beautiful bouquets. Their Christmas wreath program was also phenomenally successful. Again, more to come in their report.

We have continued our volunteer coffee sessions via zoom – its so nice to see our volunteers faces and to hear their stories. We are going to try for a live outdoor session when we can.

The Filberg Legacy tree program was finalized thanks to the amazing work completed by Sue Wood and was set for launch on Earth Day, April 22, 2021.

As you know we made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Festival once again and we are investigating our options as we look forward to a COVID free world and a return to live events.

Thanks always to our ED, Eden who has become a formidable grant writer and was successful in obtaining a federal grant as well as payroll subsidies throughout the year that has helped with our financial situation. Thanks also to our facility manager, Joe who continues our mandate of maintenance and preservation of our beautiful buildings. You will see more of this in Tom's report.

Our summer kitchen task force sent out a Request for Proposals and happy to report we secured Dubois Foods for the summer of 2021.

Although we have faced some significant challenges over the year my sincerest thanks to our board, who with their own divergent opinions and skill sets have worked together as a cohesive team to address these issues. I am happy to report that the 3 up for their final 3-year term have agreed to stay on they are Peter Crawford, Norma Dean and myself. Our thanks also to our Town of Comox Rep Counsellor Maureen Swift who does an excellent job keeping the communication lines clear with the Town.

To conclude, my thanks again to all of you for attending today and your continued support of our amazing organization. I believe there is light ahead and we are nearly out of the storm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Craig, Chair

Filberg Heritage Lodge & Park Association