

President's Report AGM October 3, 2019

Ahem... The President's Report, by David Tickner!

Thanks to the outgoing Executive and everyone who has worked to make this another good year for FVWS.

As I've said before, shows and demos and WoWs **don't happen by magic**, they happen because of your efforts and your creativity... as I've also said before, we expect everyone to help out as they can with various tasks... especially getting ready for shows. When everyone helps it **just seems like** the shows happen by magic!

In particular, with the Kariton show now under way, several have helped with set up and publicity, more of us will be sitting the show or being 'artist in residence' for a time.

- Speaking of shows, a good spring show: **thanks to Judi** for coordinating and to all who helped with publicity, reception, hanging, window display at the Library, and so on.
- This time last year we were getting ready for **another Kariton show, thanks to Cori** for coordinating.
- **2020 calendar project** Thanks to Mary, Jo, and David B... pick up a copy if you haven't already.
- Thanks to **Wanda** for keeping the website alive and up to date. Please add new images to the website from time to time. We also have **photos** of FVWS events on the website (thanks to Marlyn to being photographer).
- Thanks to **Shirley** for sending out cards and kind words to FVWS members when a card and some kind words are needed.
- Thanks to **Wendy** for handling Publicity last year as well as coordinating this year's show at Kariton.

A reminder of our mission statement to support and encourage each other, and to advocate and support the arts in the community. **One of our priorities for the coming year** is to provide opportunities for you **to learn more** about art—whether it's a 10-minute WoW, facilitating one of our painting evenings (like setting up the still life displays last week), doing a demo, or participating in various workshops.

So, we're putting together **an AT Committee** this year to ensure that you are **invited** to contribute in some way. **What's an AT Committee by the way?** Arm-twisting!

We all have different levels of ability, different styles, different views – let's work together to learn from each other.

Our upcoming exhibition at **The Reach** this fall is intended to provide another venue for FVWS member **to show our art** as well as a way for the FVWS **to show our support for arts and culture** in Abbotsford—to work at making ourselves known in the committee.

When The Reach was in the planning and development process members of FVWS **advocated strongly local art in such a gallery** and museum in Abbotsford, notably Gwen Gregorig (our 100-year old member). The Reach was intended to be a venue not only for professional art from around Canada and the world, but for local art as well.

There were some 'ups and downs' regarding this in the early years; however, The Reach has created the **Community Art Space** and created a **Curator of Learning and Community Engagement** position in support of local art. In response we have taken advantage of this venue, not only to show our art, but to show our support for the arts in the community.

As well, as part of our exhibition at The Reach, we have taken on an 'outreach' project... conducting art classes with the "Adult and Teen Challenge" community – some of their art may be part of our exhibition at The Reach in November. **Thanks to Yvonne** for bringing this to our attention and **to Deb** for working with the participants.

To close, it has occurred to me as I've visited various art galleries that a lot of contemporary art exhibitions are as much about **ideas and theories** of art as they are about the art itself. It is art that seems to be about the **head**. **In contrast** I would like to suggest that our exhibitions seem to be more about art that is about the heart—about our interest and desire to do art. We like painting. And we dare to put our **heart** and our art on display.

Isn't it interesting that the word '**art**' fits so nicely **inside** the word '**heart**'!

Again, thanks everyone for your efforts in making the FVWS **such a great group to be a part of!**

It's now time for the election of officers for the next year... I will now turn over the floor to Mary who will take us through the process.