**Goward House Society 2020 AGM: President’s Report**

**March 19, 2020: *respectfully submitted by Barry Mah Ming***

What a wonderful Board of Directors! You worked so hard to make Goward House a great “home away from home.” Last March I said to Elaine that I would put my name forward for President only if she stayed on as our Administrator. Then, to my dismay, she decided to retire. However, her replacement, Heidi, has been a godsend. My thanks to David Eyles, for facilitating the smooth transition of staff changes. I also want to give special thanks to David, who took my place in the Fall while I took some time off for family issues.

My thanks to Mary Homer for her contributions throughout her 13 years of service to Goward House. Best wishes in her retirement, and welcome back as an honorary Life Member. We welcomed Marlene Abney in the Fall, as the newest member of our administrative team, and Mary’s replacement. She is fitting right in.

We have had a very successful year financially, so much so that if we matched it this year we would have to start charging tax on our services. There is a silver lining in every cloud though, as this virus not only will ensure that we come under the threshold but also has allowed our bathroom renovations to go very smoothly. Regardless, I would like to thank Mary Collins for her expertise in spearheading our response to the COVID-19 situation.

Our kitchen and tea room continue to be fundamental in our House – new items on our menu have proved very popular, so we will continue to innovate once we open again. You will notice a new fridge in the kitchen; my thanks to André Berthiaume for facilitating this purchase.

Along with the bathroom renos and the new fridge, Goward House has a new front desk and chair, as well as a new telephone system. My thanks to Lois Akam for facilitating the desk and chair and to André again for the telephones.

Saanich has upgraded parts of the House as well. My thanks to Saanich for their quick response and care with maintenance issues.

Following some concerns in the summer, Saanich Police did a thorough Security Report of our facility, which highlighted some things we could do to improve security. We upgraded our security system in the late Fall.

Kudos to Everett and Merle Peterson for their daily Stewardship of our 6 acre woodlands.

Our garden is undergoing a design plan and multi-year initiative, under the direction of Alan Davies. My thanks to Alan for this, along with his lead on the bathroom renos, kitchen, facility, grounds, garden and parking – he truly is a Renaissance Man.

I am grateful to Lois Akam and her financial acumen for her excellent work on our Budget, as well as the monthly financial reports at our Board meetings. I want to thank Gayle Millbank for her never-ending work on our Policies & Procedures. Thank you also to Gail Flitton, our Secretary, who produces board meeting Minutes almost as soon as the meetings are finished! My thanks to Lee Frank for her work on our Programming and Volunteer portfolios. To our two Past Presidents, Gail Branton and Gayle Millbank, I thank you for your mentorship and wise contributions, as well as co-chairing our Elections Committee.

At the end of 2019, our membership was over 530, and growing.

Finally, my thanks to Heidi, Lyle and Suzanne for coming to work under these trying circumstances. We’ll meet again, someday soon, someday when, on a Sunny Day, hopefully before June.

Take good care All.

Barry