

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –  
Goward House Society 2021 Annual General Meeting, September 16<sup>th</sup>

*Respectfully submitted by **Barry Mah Ming***

What a Year! March 17, 2020 was a day of infamy, as we had to close our beloved "home away from home" due to the COVID-19 virus. However, we vowed to rise from the ashes like the Phoenix -- and we have.

Your Board and Staff have been magnificent in working between monthly meetings, dreaming up new ways to keep us afloat, and improving our House with repairs and renovations, all detailed in my monthly reports in the Gazette.

Unfortunately, our membership has dipped below 300, when we were over 500 prior to the pandemic. We need your help to get expired members to renew and get new people to join.

We were able to resume activities last July, expanding and contracting what we could safely offer each month up until this August. Sadly, with the new Delta variant we could not move to "Step 4" of our Provincial Restart Plan as hoped. However, with the new vaccine card we think we can keep you safe and have more activities in the House.

Fundraising is one of our biggest challenges -- please donate generously to my President's Appeal, if you can. I'm in Pepper's Grocery every week, asking even nonmembers to buy gift cards before making their purchases, and advising the clerk to give the donated portion to Goward House. Similarly, if you have a charge account you can ask to give the donation portion to Goward House. Returnable empties are still being collected by me (email or call me, 250-381-3647 or 236-508-1999) for pick up or drop off. Footcare Specialist, Graeme Bryant, donates a portion of his fee to Goward House, so if you need a pedicure please call him (250-580-3668). If anyone has ideas for fundraising, please contact our Budget Committee through Heidi.

In closing, I want to thank my Board, my small but mighty staff led by indispensable Heidi, our volunteers (front desk, library, garden, woodlands and kitchen), our lovely members and all who come to experience our "home away from home".