

**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**May 19, 2022**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order** (2:00pm)  
**Verification of Quorum**

*We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the neighbourhood of Cadboro Bay lies, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

<b><u>President's Welcome:</u></b>	-----	Allan Davies
<b><u>Minutes of 2021 AGM:</u></b>	-----	Gail Flitton
<b><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></b>	-----	Andre Berthiaume
<b><u>Motion to Appoint Auditors for 2022:</u></b>	-----	Lois Akam

***Motion #1 – That the Goward House Society appoint McLean, Lizotte, Wheadon and Company as auditor for the Society for the 2022 fiscal year.***

<b><u>Presidents' Report:</u></b>	(as circulated) -----	Allan Davies
<b><u>Administrator's Report:</u></b>	(as circulated) -----	Heidi Hodgins

**Director's Reports:** (as circulated)

➤ Budget -----	Allan Davies
➤ Emergency Preparedness -----	Allan Davies
➤ Environs -----	Mary Collins
➤ Facility -----	André Berthiaume
➤ Front Desk and Membership -----	Gail Branton
➤ Grounds, Garden and Parking -----	Allan Davies
➤ Kitchen -----	Lee Frank
➤ Personnel -----	Allan Davies
➤ Policy and Procedures -----	Gayle Millbank
➤ Program -----	Mary Collins
➤ Publicity -----	Barry Mah Ming
➤ Special Events -----	Gail Flitton
➤ Volunteers -----	Lee Frank

**Committee and Club Reports:** (as circulated)

**Elections:**

➤ Election of new Board of Directors for 2022-2023----- Heidi Hodgins

The AGM will elect the new directors to make up the remainder of the Board, then the AGM will elect the directors from the Board who will form the Executive.

**Please note:**

Four Board members, having served one year of a two year term, will continue without needing to be re-elected. They are Gail Branton, Mary Collins, Allan Davies and Gail Flitton.

Barry Mah Ming remains a member of the Board in the position of Past President.

Two Board members have completed a two-year term and are standing for re-election. They are **André Berthiaume** and **Lee Frank**.

Additionally, the Board has endorsed the nomination of four members-in-good-standing, who have agreed to stand for election. They are **Wendy Denyes, John Martens, Myrna Rouse** and **Barbara Turner**.

Other members can be nominated from the floor.

➤ Election of Executive

The existing Board is proposing a slate of those they suggest to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If there are further nominations for any of these positions from the elected directors, there will be an election. If not, the AGM is asked to acclaim the proposed executive:

President –	Allan Davies
Vice President –	Mary Collins
Secretary –	Gail Flitton
Treasurer –	André Berthiaume

**New Business:**

**Closing Remarks:** ----- Allan Davies

**Motion for Adjournment**

**Open Microphone/Forum**

# **GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**September 16, 2021**

### **MINUTES**

**Call to order:** 2:00pm

**Quorum** 28 members in attendance

**President's Welcome -**

#### **Approval of minutes from 2020 AGM**

Moved Gail Flitton                      Second Janet Dunning                      Passed

#### **Treasurer's Report - attached**

Motion to approve Treasurer's report

Moved Merle Peterson                      Second Al Kuhn                      Passed

Motion to approve auditors report for 2021\*

Moved Lois                      Second Dennis Moffatt

Motion to appoint McLean, Lizotte, Wheadon and Company as auditor for the Goward House Society for the 2021 fiscal year.

Moved Maggie Easton                      Second Gail Branton                      Passed

**President's Report - attached**

**Administrators Report - attached**

#### **Directors' Reports - attached**

Emergency Preparedness	Allan Davies
Environs	Mary Collins
Facility	Andre Berthiaume
Front Desk & Membership	Gail Branton
Ground, Garden & Parking	Allan Davies
Kitchen	Allan Davies
Policy & Procedure	Gayle Millbank
Programs	Mary Collins
Publicity	Gayle Millbank
Special Events	Gail Flitton
Volunteers	Lee Frank

Judy Baldwin gave a brief presentation on the results of our membership survey

**Committee and Club Reports** - attached

## **Elections**

### **Election of a new Board of Directors for 2021-2022**

**Heidi Hodgins**

Five members have completed a two year term are standing for re-election. They are Gail Branton, Mary Collins Allan Davies, Gail Flitton and Gayle Millbank.

There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was declared **elected**.

Note: Four Board members, having served one year of a two year term, will continue without needing to be re-elected. They are Lois Akam, Judy Baldwin, Andre Berthiaume and Lee Frank.

### **Election of Executive**

The existing Board proposed a slate of those they suggest to fill the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The following are the proposed Executive:

President	Allan Davies
Vice President	Mary Collins
Secretary	Gail Flitton
Treasurer	Lois Akam

Hearing no nominations from the floor, the slate was declared elected.

### **New Business:**

An expression of thanks was extended to retiring Board Chair Barry Mah Ming, as well as to the Board and Staff. Barry remains on the Board as Past President. Ice cream treats were provided at close of meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved Dennis Moffatt  
Passed

Second Merle Peterson

**Adjournment:** : 2:26pm



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**May 19, 2022**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

For a second year, we have been challenged by the restrictions placed on our operations.

Once again your Budget Committee is forecasting another operational deficit. However I am pleased to report a more positive result for the year. This better than expected result was due to a number of factors:

- 1) a rental from the film industry
- 2) the federal wage subsidy
- 3) the annual grants ( never a certainty )
- 4) membership dues and participation
- 5) a dedicated Administration staff and active Board of Directors

Our financial position for the year ended December 2021 as audited \$191,737.

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Looking at 2022: Once more we are taking a very conservative approach, and forecasting an operational deficit, with a goal of reducing our monthly operational deficit by the end of the year.

Challenges for 2022: The long awaited roof replacement which will adversely affect our rental opportunities; and the loss of the \$12,000.00 Gaming Grant.

Opportunities for 2022: Increase in small space rentals (thanks to the space repurposing); an increase in participation and programs; and extending the tea room hours and items.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*André Berthiaume, Interim Treasurer*



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**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**

**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2021**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of Goward House Society

### *Report on the Financial Statements*

#### *Qualified Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Goward House Society (the Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

#### *Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations, membership and program fees, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended December 31, 2021, current assets and net assets as at December 31, 2021. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

#### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

(continues)





Independent Auditors' Report to the Directors of Goward House Society *(continued)*

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*(continues)*





Independent Auditors' Report to the Directors of Goward House Society *(continued)*

*Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting the financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Victoria, British Columbia  
March 28, 2022

*McLean, Lizotte, Wheadon and Company*  
**MCLEAN, LIZOTTE, WHEADON AND COMPANY**  
Chartered Professional Accountants



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2021**

	Operating Fund	Gaming Fund	Leasehold Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>CURRENT</b>					
Cash	\$ 97,245	\$ 100	\$ 94,392	\$ 191,737	\$ 177,165
Accounts receivable	880	-	3,792	4,672	-
Due from government agencies	7,009	-	-	7,009	8,283
Prepaid expenses	2,172	-	-	2,172	1,768
Investment in marketable securities (Note 2)	1,791	-	-	1,791	1,376
	<u>\$ 109,097</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 98,184</u>	<u>\$ 207,381</u>	<u>\$ 188,592</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>					
<b>CURRENT</b>					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,925	\$ 8,125
Deferred revenues (Note 3)	6,085	-	-	6,085	17,879
	<u>14,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,010</u>	<u>26,004</u>
Unrestricted funds (Note 2)	95,087	-	-	95,087	73,830
Externally restricted funds (Note 2)	-	100	-	100	100
Internally restricted funds (Note 2)	-	-	98,184	98,184	88,658
	<u>95,087</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>98,184</u>	<u>193,371</u>	<u>162,588</u>
	<u>\$ 109,097</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 98,184</u>	<u>\$ 207,381</u>	<u>\$ 188,592</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

  


The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	Operating Fund	Gaming Fund	Leasehold Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Programs	\$ 89,207	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,207	\$ 45,283
Other revenue	46,205	-	19	46,224	40,052
Donations	1,504	-	17,904	19,408	32,676
District of Saanich	20,000	-	3,792	23,792	20,000
Other grants	2,228	12,500	-	14,728	24,989
Government subsidies	58,868	-	-	58,868	65,588
	218,012	12,500	21,715	252,227	228,588
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Administration	27,100	-	14	27,114	21,181
Facility operating costs	19,018	-	-	19,018	33,449
Leasehold repairs and renovations	645	-	12,175	12,820	77,935
Payroll costs	126,037	12,500	-	138,537	131,434
Program expenses	23,955	-	-	23,955	20,224
	196,755	12,500	12,189	221,444	284,223
<b>NET EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	21,257	-	9,526	30,783	(55,635)
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	73,830	100	88,658	162,588	218,223
Interfund transfers	95,087	100	98,184	193,371	162,588
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 95,087	\$ 100	\$ 98,184	\$ 193,371	\$ 162,588

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Cash Flow**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 30,783</b>	<b>\$ (55,635)</b>
<b>Item not affecting cash:</b>		
Unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities	(415)	(348)
	<u>30,368</u>	<u>(55,983)</u>
<b>Changes in non-cash working capital:</b>		
Accounts receivable	(4,672)	-
Due from government agencies	1,274	(7,003)
Prepaid expenses	(404)	62
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(200)	2,212
Deferred revenues	(11,794)	(7,725)
	<u>(15,796)</u>	<u>(12,454)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>14,572</b>	<b>(68,437)</b>
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>177,165</u>	<u>245,602</u>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<u><b>\$ 191,737</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 177,165</b></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements





**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY**

Goward House Society is a not-for-profit organization, governed under the BC Societies Act, originally incorporated under the BC Society Act in 1988. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The purpose of the Society is to provide a vibrant activity centre combining fellowship with social, educational and special interest programs for Victoria residents aged 50 and over in the Saanich owned property known as Goward House.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of presentation**

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

**Fund accounting**

The Operating Fund reports the Society's administrative and program delivery activities. The funds are unrestricted.

The Gaming Fund reports grants received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Community Gaming Grants Branch, the use of which is restricted to purposes outlined in the application for such funds. These funds are externally restricted.

The Leasehold Fund reports funds set aside by the Society for energy efficiency retrofits, as well as funds collected by the Society for use in contributing to major capital asset purchases and improvements to its premises. These funds are internally restricted.

**Revenue recognition**

Goward House Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenues are recognized when received unless designated for a specific purpose or project, in which case the revenue is deferred and recognized in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Membership dues are recognized in the fiscal period received. Gifts and donations of other materials and services are recorded only where fair value can be reasonably estimated.

**Investment in marketable securities**

The Society received a donation of 20 Bank of Nova Scotia common shares in 2007, at an adjusted cost base of \$1,028. The shares are reported on the financial statements at fair market value at year end in accordance with reporting requirements for equity instruments that are quoted in an active market.

**Capital assets**

Capital assets are expensed in the year of acquisition. The Society's capital assets consist mainly of furniture, fixtures and equipment. Expenditures for the purchase of capital items totaling \$6,397 (2020 - \$10,348) were expensed in the current year.



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)**

**Contributed services**

The Society operates with the assistance of volunteers. The fair value of donated time and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

**Measurement uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**Comparative figures**

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

**3. DEFERRED REVENUES**

Deferred operating fund revenues consist of security and rental deposits, course fees paid in advance, and any grants received in the year in which the related expenditures have not yet been incurred.

**4. PREMISES AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The property known as Goward House is owned by the Municipality of Saanich.

The Society has entered into a Facility Use Agreement with the Municipality of Saanich for the period July 1 2017 to June 30, 2022. The agreement allows the Society to have use of the Goward House premises during the term of the agreement and on behalf of the municipality operate and manage the premises for the use of the community, primarily seniors.

The Society is economically dependent on the continued use of the facility and annual and special grants from the municipality.

**5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Financial instruments are comprised of financial assets, financial liabilities and equity instruments.

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, securities, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date.

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. As at December 31, 2021, it is management's opinion that the Society's financial instruments are not exposed to significant credit, liquidity, market, currency or interest rate risks.



**GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

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**6. REMUNERATION OF EMPLOYEES**

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, the Society had no employees whose salaries were greater than \$75,000.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Society, no remuneration was paid to any Directors of the Association during the year.

**7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus, Covid-19, a global pandemic. This contagious disease outbreak has adversely affected workforces, businesses, economies, and financial markets globally.

The Society is aware of changes in its operations as Covid-19 continues to disrupt normal day-to-day operations and program offerings.

Management is uncertain of the effects of these changes on its financial statements and believes that this outbreak will likely impact operations for sometime.

As a result, it is not possible for the Society to estimate the potential impact on operations as at the date of these financial statements.



## Goward House AGM May 2022 -- President's Report

If it seems like we just had our Annual General Meeting you are partially correct. COVID 19 necessitated the postponement of our meeting two years in a row. Our last meeting was on September 16, 2021 just eight months ago. Often forced change results in the development of better ways to do things. In this case the Board discovered it was better to have the AGM later in the year for a host of reasons. The Societies Act stipulates we must hold an AGM once each calendar year. As a result, the Board passed this motion in March 2022: *Moved: Beginning in May 2022, the Goward House Society Annual General Meeting be held once each calendar year on the third Thursday in May - unless unforeseen circumstances require a change.*

For a second year, our talented, hard-working staff continued to navigate the ever-changing COVID 19 provincial guidelines to keep our home away from home viable. Their goal was to provide as many activities, member events and rentals as the guidelines would allow. Members stepped up by renewing memberships like never before. The Society retained over 300 members throughout the year - a tribute to the perseverance and skill of the Goward House staff.

The business of the Board didn't stop for COVID 19. There is no question dwindling revenues have eroded our financial reserves. The Board had to be creative in its approach to maintaining staff, programs, the grounds and building and members while keeping the loss of reserves to a minimum.

The Board passed 15 motions during the last eight months dealing with matters such as:

- The wider use of zoom
- Recognition of our historical relationship with First Nations
- A more economical garden maintenance model
- A new garden contractor for 2022
- Board membership changes
- Administration staff changes
- Changes in policies and procedures including hiring practices, paygrades for staff, staff vaccination, a new date for the AGM, the use of Facebook and Instagram
- The audit of our financial records
- Procedures for projecting and monitoring revenue and expenses

The Goward House Society is indeed fortunate to have Board members who are well-qualified to carry out their duties as Directors. Professional backgrounds are well-suited to the role they play as trustees of the Society's governance. They understand their responsibilities and work hard to achieve successful outcomes. As three Directors leave us and four new Directors join us this year, I am confident Goward House has been, and will continue to be, in good hands.

In the coming year the Board is looking forward to welcoming many more new members, events and activities as we recover from COVID and enjoy this beautiful house.





**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT --**  
**Goward House Society 2022 Annual General Meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Respectfully submitted by Heidi Hodgins*

2021, or Year Two of the Pandemic, was a year of enormous fluctuation for Goward House. With the global crisis still enveloping every corner of the world, frequent reactive and proactive changes were required by members, Board and staff to safely allow as much participation in the House as possible. Our vibrant Society consistently “stepped up,” volunteering where feasible, participating virtually and in-person, donating and supporting fundraisers, purchasing food and crafts and art, and supporting each other through tough times. We had so many stops and starts last year, informed by Provincial mandates, that programming felt like a yo-yo on a string! The single consistency was the kindness and dedication to the House by our membership. I said it last year, and it bears repeating: pared down, the Goward House Society has exposed its core – that of a vibrant, caring and relevant community.

It is, perhaps, a catch-22 situation that Goward House is dependant on its volunteer base to operate – indeed, to survive – yet that volunteer base was so frequently denied access to the House in 2021. It is no surprise though, that our **volunteers** determinedly adjusted their tasks and access to fill as many House needs as possible. While we started 2021 with about 150 members (down from 500 in 2019), we had risen to about 350 members by the end of December. Of that membership, over 40 volunteers weathered safety protocols and capacity limits to support the House. Our volunteers recorded 2102 volunteer hours last year, which is the equivalent of a little more than 1 full-time employee – no mean feat in a year that saw the House shuttered more than open.

**Visits to the House** continued to shuffle downwards ever so slightly in 2021, with a total of around 7,400. Although this downward momentum was carried over from 2020, significant shifts were put in place towards the end of the year (including allowing rentals, opening the Kitchen, and welcoming back almost all activities), the very positive impact of which have continued into our current year. We saw 1330 rental visitors through the House, but those visits were restricted to only 48 rentals over 6 months. Although overall visits in 2021 were 61% lower than in pre-pandemic 2019, the loss was only 8% compared to 2020. This is encouraging, as the first half of 2021 seems to have encompassed the peak of impacts from shutting down the House, ending positively with gains in both revenue and usage. And to offset those initial closed months, we successfully hosted a film production company with a lucrative rental contract (\$32,500), taking advantage of our closed status. We hosted two smaller film company rentals in the winter, continuing to forge a good relationship with the industry which could prove fruitful in the future.

We continued to use Lavatera Landscaping as our gardening contractor in 2021. Your Board Garden Committee started the long overdue process of bed assessment, and producing a multi-year development and enhancement plan to bring the **gardens and lawn** up to their potential. The beauty of our lush garden is a key feature for both members and renters alike; we look forward to watching the garden both emerge and mature. I encourage all of you to walk through the property, enjoying both garden and woodlands – it's good for the soul.

Everett and Merle Peterson, who are themselves treasures at Goward House, continued to assume the roles of Stewards for the Goward House **Woodlands** in 2021. It is impossible to adequately define the impact these two long-time members have had, and continue to have, on our Woodlands and adjoining green spaces. The Petersons are daily fixtures in the Woodlands, and happy to share their significant knowledge with us through stewardship. They have a substantial relationship with Saanich, and facilitate donations of woodchips, mulch and native plants, which they personally incorporate into the forest. They draw attention to safety hazards in the woodlands, such as decaying or icy bridges, and facilitate any work the Municipality needs to do. We are ever grateful to these two gracious and generous people.

Another volunteer whose work is not readily visible in the House is Peter Bruce. We thank Peter for his support of Suzanne, and now Tamsin, with the maintenance of our website. He helps ensure the content is current, has been instrumental in problem solving formatting issues, and we are grateful!

We said goodbye during the summer of 2021 to our in-House Italian chef, Gianfranco Mosca. He and his wife, Daria, left Canada for warmer Portugal, to be closer to family -- but not before he fed us with a number of special takeout meals, every single one of which sold out. Conveniently, we managed to re-open our **Kitchen** around this time, for takeout beverages and snacks, initially only 3 short days a week, but building up to a full M-F opening about four months later. Our kitchen is the centre of the House – sometimes you don't know how much you missed something until it comes back. . .

Much like 2020, our **Special Events** calendar was streamlined in 2021. We managed to host 12 Events, including a home-delivered Easter Dinner, a Volunteer Appreciation event, an outdoor and distanced Strawberry Tea, 2 summer BBQ's, an again delayed AGM, and 6 educational presentations. Dying with Dignity was delivered by ZOOM in the Spring, and in-person in the Fall. Our Coffee & Conversations series, featuring a variety of guest presenters, moved easily between ZOOM and in-person, as was needed. Our new World Affairs series of presentations took advantage of the House being more open in the Fall, and met in-person *[as will our new Philosophy Café, Spring of 2022]*. Staff organized a Winter Clothes Drive for Our Place, and the generosity of our members filled an entire car to the brim! We managed a few of our traditional **fundraisers** (in addition to cookie sales at the Front Desk), notably including Purdy's Chocolates and our Peppers Foods and Fairways Markets gift card fundraisers. Many, many thanks to all who supported the House with their purchases or participation.

Our annual Christmas Craft Fair, usually our biggest fundraising Special Event each year, had to once again be put on hold for 2021. The enormous amount of planning and preparing, not to mention commitment by vendors and volunteers, was not feasible during this time of continuous change. Although any substitute pales in comparison, Marlene managed to source some local Christmas Gift Baskets featuring local artisans, which we sold in conjunction with Christmas cookies and chocolates.

Late in 2021, we re-opened our **Art Gallery**, after almost 2 years of no Art shows. Our Curator, Suzanne, had used the shutdown to hang some of our stored art, but it was invigorating to be able to install and display monthly shows again. After almost two years with no outlet to display their art, our own in-House groups were able to prolifically "take to the walls." Our Chinese Brush Painters led us out of 2021 into 2022, December to January, our Portrait Painters delighted the return of renters in March, and our Drop-In Art group grace the walls currently. In addition, the Office of the Seniors' Advocate

continues to use their lobby space as a Gallery, exhibiting art by our artists for an Honorarium to the Society, and helping Goward House net \$1850 in art revenue last year.

Our lending Library was consolidated from a number of rooms to one refurbished room: **The Library**. This room was renovated to include a new pocket door to the stairwell (increasing access and ventilation), as well as install a window and a windowed door to drastically increase the natural light in the space. We sold old furniture, and replaced it with new comfy chairs and board room tables. Saanich agreed to cost-share the renovation, as well as replace the carpet and paint the walls. Our two librarians at the time, Trish Brooke and Gail Flitton, supervised this transition, culled and sorted books, and set the tone for our lovely new space. Although this room will be more frequently used as an additional meeting room, we encourage members to visit the Library, grab a coffee, bring your laptop or read a book, and enjoy the space.

Our **fitness** classes were not exempt from the strictures of Provincial mandates – we entered 2021 only allowed to offer low-impact fitness, and in March even those classes were suspended due to a several months long “circuit breaker.” The pandemic has highlighted for many the need for physical exercise, for mental and physical health, and these 10 classes were declared essential during the first few waves. Our instructors embraced the required safety protocol, and worked with staff to keep our members active. Our yoga instructor, Andrea Baudic, offered a hybrid ZOOM and in-person class, pivoting to ZOOM only as restrictions dictated. Manda Ghag, our Strength & Balance instructor, added a new Easy Aerobics class to our schedule, and Gordon Muir, our Yang Style Tai Chi instructor, continued to offer both first and second sections of the long form. Our Line Dancing instructor, Betty Doherty, had to put her class on hiatus in 2021 (but we are very happy to see her return now, in 2022). Finally, our Walkie Talkies Group, led by Wendy Denyes for many years, has temporarily put itself on hold while we find a replacement for her.

**Programming** in 2021 was focussed on bringing as many groups as possible back to the House, safely. The Program Committee on your Board conducted a summer survey to highlight current member interest in programs, and look for new interest areas. “World Affairs” and “Philosophy Café” are two results from this survey, with workshops and the expansion of other activities to look forward to in the future. The “Coffee & Conversations” session continue to be popular, utilizing both ZOOM and in-person formats handily. I would like to again highlight and thank Jim Brackenbury for facilitating the movement of our Duplicate Bridge players to an on-line platform, and then smoothly transitioning players to in-person play when it was safe (albeit briefly), in the Fall. This group generously donated funds to Goward House in lieu of their House fees, to the tune of \$2500. Jim also donates all fees generated by his popular Bridge lessons directly to the operation of Goward House.

In the Spring of 2021, your Board decided to move to a 12-month rather than annual model for **membership fees**: memberships would encompass 12 months starting at any time of year, as opposed to January to December. Adjustments were made for existing memberships, and the new model encouraged lapsed members to return to the House. The response has been positive, and has helped even out membership figures through the year.

Our **revenue breakdown** for 2021 was as follows:

Rentals	22%
Programs	11%
Grants & Wage Subsidies	42%



Kitchen	3%
Dues	17%
Special Events	1%
Other (Art, Display Cabinet, Interest, GST)	4%

**Rental revenue** is normally one of the most significant sources of funding to cover our operating costs. Restrictions dictated that we could not host rentals for the first half of the year, but a single significant film company rental during this time helped mitigate the loss. Although our rental revenue was less than \$52,000 in 2021, this is five times the rental revenue we gained in 2020, primarily due to that single supportive film industry rental. Some of our small ongoing rental groups returned mid-year, in modified settings, graciously following safety protocol. We are currently experiencing a large interest in future bookings, which indicates the significantly lowered numbers of the last two years are temporary.

We applied for a number of **grants** in 2021, and successfully received a Saanich operational grant for \$20,000, and monthly Wage Subsidy grants that totalled over \$61,000. As well, we earned over \$3760 from our grocery card programs.

Our annual **President's Appeal** fundraiser, which raises funds for a significant capital project, targeted installing hearing assistance in the House, in addition to acoustic treatments in the Tea Room and Lower Hall. Members enthusiastically donated \$16,400! Keep your eyes on these spaces over the next few months. . .

Like every business and organization everywhere, **staff** have had to learn to "pivot" frequently and tirelessly. I can tell you that although uncertainly and prolonged transitions are never enjoyable, your staff have passed this trial by fire with flying colours! We are a small but hardy team, expanding our job descriptions in unpredictable and flexible ways, with one principal goal: to support members, and keep the House thriving. *[In 2022, we sadly said goodbye to Suzanne, one of our Assistant Administrators, as she explored new directions in her life. We welcome Tamsin, who has filled this job, and looks forward to getting to know the membership!]*

As always, solidly supporting the staff has been your **Board of Directors**. This incredibly busy and dedicated team has embraced staff leadership on all aspects of the pandemic, while focusing on keeping the House sustainable. Your Board is a highly engaged team that also works well together. Sensible and pragmatic, the Board has proved flexible, continuing to take advantage of lower House usage to update some long-overdue areas of the House, and streamline policy. The Board has a "can-do" attitude, and their support of staff is fundamental. On behalf of the staff and the membership, I offer my sincere thanks to each and every one of these hard-working volunteers.

Goward House has been serving seniors in the Cadboro Bay neighbourhood for the past 30 years. The founding members had the vision and foresight to establish a sustainable model for the future and for the growth of the centre. There has never been a sustained test of this vision quite like the one we're experiencing now, and I continue to say "the proof is in the pudding." Goward House is a very special and engaged community, a great place to work and play: a home away from home.

## **AGM 2022: Directors' Committee Reports**

### **BUDGET**

The Budget Committee monitors a revenue and expenditure model designed for tracking revenue and expenditure data over a calendar year. The committee establishes a twelve-month projection based on revenue and expenditure data from the previous year. This projection assumes the data will be the same for the following year. Throughout the year, data from each month is compared to projected data to establish trends. The Committee reviews the trends in order to establish if, and where, intervention is necessary. Recommendations are made to the Board to determine ways to save or generate revenue if there is a deficit. Budgeting recommendations are made should there be a surplus.

This year we were able to:

- Reduce costs in the upgrading and maintenance of the garden through generous private donations and the assistance of the Saanich Municipality.
- Restructure the delivery of the upgrading and maintenance work in the garden allowing more control over expenditures.
- Secure a \$12,500 grant from the Gaming Commission.
- Increase revenue by \$32,000 through renting the House to film companies such as Netflix.
- Cost share with Saanich to renovate the theatre thereby creating more revenue generating space for members and renters.
- Maintain over 300 membership renewals.
- Assist with the operating budget by generating \$30,000 through the President's Appeal.

Next year we hope to:

- Increase our membership to over 400 members.
- Continue with house and grounds updates to create an attractive, welcoming environment.
- Explore more rental possibilities.
- Explore the potential for more membership activities.
- Expand our food services program.
- Improve our website and other publicity options.
- Explore more revenue sources such as grants and charitable donations.

*(respectfully submitted by **Allan Davies**, Andre Berthiaume and Heidi Hodgins)*

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

We are continuing to update emergency preparedness equipment and procedures. Emergency Preparedness expenditures were a lower priority this year as COVID restrictions resulted in fewer activities and limited revenue.

Last year we were able to:

- Establish our role in the Community Emergency Preparedness Program.
- Update first aid and emergency preparedness kits and supplies.
- Research safe ways to evacuate the second floor in an emergency.

Next year we hope to:

- Purchase an earthquake preparedness kit for the House.
- Amend our earthquake preparedness policy and procedures manual.
- Establish hardware to assist with the evacuation of the second floor in the event of an emergency.
- Post emergency preparedness procedures in strategic locations around the house.
- Provide in-service on the Goward House emergency preparedness procedures for our staff and willing volunteers.

*(respectfully submitted by **Allan Davies** and **Andre Berthiaume**)*

### **ENVIRONS**

The wastewater attenuation tank construction on Arbutus Road is completed and the site is being landscaped.

Construction continues at the UVic site across from Goward House which will provide additional childcare spaces for UVic families

The Cadboro Bay local area plan is still under development with public meetings in progress and the Advisory Committee continuing to meet.

*(respectfully submitted by **Mary Collins**)*

### **FACILITY**

The Facility Committee is pleased to report that we were able to complete a couple renovations in order to improve the function and aesthetics of two areas that had been under utilized.

The lower level Theatre was repurposed to a Library and meeting room, and the upper Games Room (now the Maple Room) had the very under utilized billiards table removed to allow

better usage of the space. These two areas were repainted and carpeted by Saanich. The construction of the library was carried out by Strong Construction and the cost of \$6400.00 was split with Saanich. This endeavour was done in order to provide better availability to coordinate activities within the house for members, as well as provide more space for rentals.

Looking forward to 2022: the long awaited roof replacement is set to take place this year. Although this project is being expensed by Saanich, the challenge we are facing is in the timing of this project. Our President and Administrator are in consultations with the municipality in this regard.

*(respectfully submitted by **André Berthiaume**)*

### **FRONT DESK & MEMBERSHIP**

Goward House membership as of April 11, 2022 was 325. Despite the pandemic Goward House members were as loyal as one could expect and the House has managed its way through this difficult time. This is with the very hard work of all our Administration staff and the loyalty of our members. The Administration is planning some welcoming events for our New Members.

The Volunteers on the Front Desk had the responsibility for facilitating vaccine status checks, and for reminding everyone about masks. The Front desk volunteer is now responsible for selling the food tickets for the tea room and the blue and yellow tickets for activities and exercises. They also greet all who arrive in the House, offer information, give directions to the Art Shows and do small clerical jobs when necessary.

We are grateful to all of our members who offer so much to Goward House and make it possible for it to be a happy, productive place.

*(respectfully submitted by **Gail Branton**)*

### **GROUND, GARDEN & PARKING**

#### **Grounds and Garden**

The Saanich Municipality shares responsibility with the Goward House Society for the upgrading and maintenance of the grounds. The woodlands are overseen by society members and volunteers Everett and Merle Peterson. They work tirelessly with Saanich to maintain the woodlands. The garden beds around the house are overseen by the Board Garden Committee with regular maintenance carried out by Jason Erb of Oliphant Gardens.

This year we were able to:

- Restructure the delivery model for upgrading and maintenance work in the garden.
- Enlist the help of the Saanich Parks Department for the maintenance of the woodlands.
- Complete soil remediation in most garden beds.
- Purchase plants for two more garden beds.
- Shape existing plants to enhance their visibility and appearance.
- Establish two new garden beds on the west side of the house and lawn.
- Continue developing a three-year plan for the garden.
- Remediate the uneven path along the west side of the House.

Next year we hope to:

- Complete soil remediation in all garden beds.
- Further develop the garden beds on the west side of the house and lawn.
- Redevelop the garden beds closest to the house.
- Update the sprinkler system.

### **Parking**

As House access was limited due to COVID 19 protocols, there were very few issues associated with parking.

Next year we hope to:

- Discourage non-members from parking in our lot with the help of new signs.
- Enlist Saanich municipality to take over painting the parking stall markers and step tread edges.
- Enlist Saanich Municipality to assist with snow removal along Arbutus Road.
- Look at parking options in order to accommodate big events.
- Grade the parking lot to level and improve the surface.

*(respectfully submitted by **Allan Davies** and **Gail Branton**)*

### **WOODLANDS: a note from our Stewards**

*Thanks to Saanich Parks, a welcome addition in the past year was a new wooden bridge on the perimeter trail crossing of Haro Creek channel. This new and safer bridge crossing, plus Saanich's annual provision of fresh wood chips for footpath surfacing is much appreciated.*

*(respectfully submitted by **Everett & Merle Peterson** -- Stewards of Goward House Woodlands)*



## **KITCHEN**

The past year has seen the Tea Room move from total closure to a very restricted opening – 3 days a week only with reduced hours. This past month we were able to open five days a week with longer hours and in house seating. The staff has used this down time in the kitchen to completely revamp the menu as well as create a totally new method of purchasing food items. Volunteers in the kitchen will no longer handle any form of payment. Payment will occur at the front reception desk. Also, a punch card has been implemented allowing clients to purchase 9 of an item such as coffee or a sweet/soup and receive the 10<sup>th</sup> for free. Individual single item cards may be purchased.

A big challenge for the staff has been to find volunteers to work in the kitchen but thanks to the diligence of Marlene we have been able to extend our hours with full coverage. Also of note is that Marlene was able to complete the Food Safe Course this past winter.

Hopefully with the new menu, longer hours and more volunteers, the kitchen will once again become a vibrant part of Goward House.

*(respectfully submitted by **Lee Frank**)*

## **PERSONNEL**

The Personnel Committee develops policies and procedures that provide direction and support for the staff at Goward House. This committee is responsible for the supervision and evaluation of our Administrator and the oversight of personnel practices at the House.

This year we were able to amend Section 5 of Policy and Procedures to include:

- Writing and revising employee job descriptions.
- Establishing employee pay grades.
- On-going review of employee pay grades.
- Vaccination of employees against COVID 19.

This year we were also able to:

- Recommend the appointment of an interim Treasurer.
- Participate in the posting, selection and hiring of a new Assistant Administrator II.

Next year we hope to:

- Develop policy and regulations describing the decision-making hierarchy for staff and Board members.
- Provide information to members for better understanding of the hierarchy and how decisions are made at Goward House.

*(respectfully submitted by **Allan Davies and Gail Branton**)*

### **POLICY & PROCEDURES**

As we become aware of issues, such as the need for a vaccine passport, we discuss them at a Board meeting. Then, if the majority decides a policy is required a motion is made and seconded, discussed again, and voted on. All policies are available on request for members to read.

*(respectfully submitted by **Gayle Millbank**)*

### **PROGRAM**

As a result of feedback from the Members' Survey, a **World Affairs Discussion Group** was initiated in January 2022. Four sessions have been held to-date – a organizational one and ones covering topics of China, Russia/Ukraine and International Intelligence. A guest with expertise in the topic makes a short presentation and then there is the opportunity for questions and discussion with those attending. The sessions are held monthly with one more planned in June before a summer break. The group is looking for someone to take over the convening role for the fall.

Another program initiative which met with member interest in the Members' Survey was a **Philosophy Discussion Group**. Jan Hofmeyr, our first World Affairs Discussion Group speaker, has kindly agreed to return to share his considerable knowledge of Buddhism on June 5. At that time, there will be a discussion with participants to establish direction around potential topics and frequency for this group.

**Coffee and Conversations** returned last fall with a dynamic presentation by Jacques Lemay who shared highlights of his impressive career and involvement with arts and major athletic events. On May 5, Jacques' life partner, creative collaborator and fellow Order of Canada recipient Janis Dunning shared highlights of her equally interesting and accomplished career in television and the performing arts.

We are blessed with a wealth of talent and experience among our members. The Program Committee hopes that Goward House members will actively contribute to and participate in other stimulating presentations and discussions in the coming year.

*(respectfully submitted by **Mary Collins, Judy Baldwin, Gail Flitton**)*

### **PUBLICITY**

This year, we focussed publicity on both retaining and attracting members. To retain members we emailed reminders and the monthly Gazette, and our President personally phoned every member, several times. We also created the President's Forum, as a platform for members to interact directly with the Board. To attract new members we developed an agreement with the Cadboro Bay Residents' Association (CBRA) for them to display our poster in their bulletin board at Peppers, and the alert their members of our activities through their website blog and emails to their members.

Social Media & the Film Industry have also given us a higher profile.

As of May 9, we have 327 members -- down from the over 500 we used to have prior to Covid. To generate new members, we have given an incentive to current members: for the month of May, we are giving activity or fitness tickets to those who bring in new people as well as to the new members.

Thanks to everyone who has been helping us in this regard. We shall overcome the Pandemic & rise like a Phoenix from the ashes!

*(respectfully submitted by **Barry Mah Ming** & Gayle Millbank)*

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

This report will be short and sweet. The only special events held in the past year were fundraising sales of Valentine cookies, Purdy's Christmas and Easter chocolates, several Easter dinner deliveries, and the Christmas Gift Baskets. Modest amounts were raised, with thanks to all who donated and volunteered. We were back on track as of April with our Volunteer Appreciation Tea and a full calendar lies ahead with our Strawberry Tea in June, summer barbecues, and art shows. Covid protocols permitting.

*(respectfully submitted by **Gail Flitton**)*

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Since the beginning of the restrictions at Goward House due to Covid the demand for volunteers at the House has decreased substantially. The Front Desk has operated on reduced hours with a skeleton staff and the Tea Room has been closed. One of the biggest challenges to re-opening the Tea Room has been the shortage of volunteers to work it. Now that the restrictions are being lifted by the province, the staff, namely Marlene, are concentrating on

building up our volunteer base once again in order to allow Goward House to return to “normal” as quickly as possible. We are always looking for more helping hands.

*(respectfully submitted by **Lee Frank**)*

## 2022 AGM: Clubs & Activity Groups Reports

### ART

We have eight active members at present, though it's rare to have eight attend every session. One or two of us arrive downstairs every Wednesday morning at 8 sharp, eager to get started, others trickle in closer to 9 or 10, which is perfectly fine.

I note that the Goward House Bulletin invites anyone to "come, join us, and create a masterpiece." None of us regards our creations as masterpieces by any long stretch of the imagination! Some of us just come to this lovely, bright room to play... play with paint... to see what happens and where our dabbling takes us. So don't let that word put you off! Most of us gather upstairs for coffee and a chat at 10:30 before continuing with our work... err, play!

Now that Covid rules have changed, we are mounting a group show upstairs once again... April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>: do come and see what we've been up to! [*The Goward House Drop-In Art Group Show is open for viewing M-F, 9am-4pm.*]

*(respectfully submitted by Anne Swannell -- Drop-In Painters' Group Contact)*

### BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has chosen a book to read and discuss every month, except one, this past year. Everyone contributes to the discussions which become very interesting as members often speak of their own experiences or back stories, if you like, as they relate to the actions and/or relationships of characters in the book. We have a good core group, but would welcome new members because each new person's voice provides a new perspective for one to consider. We often use Book Club Sets from the library or choose books where there are several copies available at the library, so that everyone is able to access a copy. We have read a variety of authors whose stories range from international intrigue: The Alice Network by Kate Quinn and The Time In Between by Maria Duenas, to small towns and interesting relationships: A Town Called Solice by Mary Lawson and Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. We are now meeting in the library on the third Thursday of the month from 1 - 2:30. Hope to see you there.

*(respectfully submitted by Susan Gilberstad -- Book Club Group Leader)*

### CHINESE BRUSH PAINTERS

While the past year is generally considered to be one of the pandemic lost years our group was able to accomplish quite a bit.

The new morning time has worked well for us. Our stress levels are down knowing there will always be parking where and when we need it and we have the drop in art group as our neighbours in the next room.

The continuing relaxation of Covid rules has meant that Tea Room service is back complete with those fresh scones.

For us the most important event was the return of our annual winter art show. With tactful and efficient help from Suzanne Ball we were able to bring visitors to Goward House again and make sales to help contribute to the bottom line of the house. The opening was a perfect opportunity for Barbara Mekelburg to display her scroll of one hundred paintings for the "Year of the Ox".

We are so grateful to Heidi and her staff for our chance to continue to meet during all the Covid restrictions.

*(respectfully submitted by **Ann Gibbard** – Group Contact Studio of Harmonious Endeavours)*

## **CHOIR**

The Goward House Singers, like everyone else everywhere in the world, had a challenging 2021, but, maybe not as challenging as it was in 2020.

It was a long Winter over 2020 and it extended all the way to June of 2021. In the middle of the month we were able to get back to singing in the garden. After a couple of weeks we began sitting as a choir again - yes, it was permissible. We had hoped to be able to sing inside without masks by September but like so many "best laid plans" it was not to be.

Once the weather changed at the beginning of October we took another long Winter off. We had managed to have 24 practices during the year- which is about normal for us - but we were not able to do any concerts.

The choir would like to thank Heidi and Susanne and Lyle for all their help during those weeks we were together. The singing managed to keep all of us sane - at least I think so!

That was 2021 - sneak preview of 2022... we started back - inside and without masks - in the middle of February. We're beginning a series of concerts at various seniors' residences around town in May. We're also planning to continue through the summer this year rather than taking a break as we did back in the "before time." It will be a mix of practices and concerts.

*(respectfully submitted by **Phil Robbie** -- Director, Goward House Singers)*

### **CRAFTERS and PAPER QUILLERS**

The two groups are related as their purpose is the same: we enjoy working together to produce products that can be sold for revenue to support Goward House.

The Quillers (3 of us at the moment) enjoy creating gift cards for all occasions. We share a display rack in the main lounge near the Sun Room, with some of our artists.

The Crafters use our own materials and lots of donated fabric and yarn to make clothing, toys and dolls that can be purchased at the front desk.

It's been another difficult year with Covid restricting our activities, but we enjoy each other's company and carry on. We welcome new members anytime!

Monday mornings, 10-12 (Paper Quilling)

Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-3:30 (Crafters)

*(respectfully submitted by **Esther Pomeroy** (Quillers' & Crafters' Group Leader)*

### **BRIDGE – DUPLICATE**

The Goward House Duplicate Bridge Club enjoyed another strong year in 2021. We were restricted to online Team Match games for most of the year, averaging over forty participants per week.

We were able to resume face-to-face Duplicate Bridge at Goward House for November and December, averaging over forty-four participants per week. We were most appreciative of the ongoing support from the Goward House staff during these challenging times, and especially grateful for Lyle's care with sanitation and clean-up each week. We were pleased that the bridge community was able to provide generous donations to Goward House in 2021, and enjoyed a 100% renewal rate of our Goward House memberships for 2021.

*(respectfully submitted by **Jim Brackenbury** -- Duplicate Bridge Group Leader)*

### **BRIDGE – SOCIAL**

Unfortunately, as was the case for so many activities, the restrictions due to Covid for playing Thursday Social Bridge in 2021 were such that the majority of members were not interested in

continuing. In 2022, however, we are pleased to report that Thursday Social Bridge has reconvened: we have eight members on our list and hope to add more. Please contact administration if you are interested in joining.

*(respectfully submitted by **André Berthiaume** (Thursday Social Bridge Group Contact in 2021))*

### **FRENCH CONVERSATION (ADVANCED)**

Advanced French Conversation has been meeting at Goward House since 2007. We're a group of 16 which has weathered the ups and downs of Covid restrictions at the House and are all very happy to be "home" again.

Our format is simple. We start with *Quoi de neuf* or What's New around the table followed by a discussion chosen by that week's leader. It's never too serious - we are simply a group of friends, old and new, who enjoy each other's company and practicing our French. It's fun and we always welcome new members.

*(respectfully submitted by **Barbara Loan** -- Advanced French Conversation Group Leader)*

### **IPAD & IPHONE CLUB**

Attendance was understandably low in 2021 and we thank Goward House for accommodating the iPad Club throughout the pandemic. Many seniors have been using digital devices to help them stay in touch with family and friends, so our club welcomes any member with an iPad or iPhone to ask questions and share information. It's a friendly group and we've had a big increase in attendance as restrictions have eased in 2022.

*(respectfully submitted by **Leah Freedman** -- IPad & iPhone Club Instructor)*

### **MEDITATION**

In 2021 the Goward House Meditation Group continued with its weekly meetings on Monday afternoon, despite the Covid restrictions in place. All members observed the masking requirements and enjoyed the opportunity to go within and deepen our connection with the world around us. The group has become a steady core group of meditators ranging from four to six participants.

*(respectfully submitted by **Eric Elbers** -- Meditation Group Leader)*



### **PORTRAIT PAINTERS**

The early part of 2021 was a challenging time for us all, as all activities were suspended. When the House reopened in May, we were not ready to begin again. We reconvened in the fall of 2021, with a core group of painters, and happily were able to find volunteer models to sit for us quite consistently. We had a great fall and are looking forward to continuing with more painters in 2022, now that spacing restrictions are lifted. All of us in the group enjoy the challenges of painting from life, and are constantly improving our skills. We appreciate the great space available for us at Goward House.

*(respectfully submitted by **Vicki Postl** -- Portrait Painters Group Leader)*

### **SPANISH CONVERSATION (ADVANCED)**

The Spanish Conversation group persisted right through the epidemic. As soon as it was possible, we met in the basement of Goward House, where social distancing was possible. As soon as we could, we went back to our regular quarters in the Sequoia Room. Each week we had from average- to full attendance, with plenty of enthusiastic participation in our presentations and discussions. As several of our members previous to Covid were unable to continue to attend, we are seeking to round out our numbers. We are always looking for new members who have a working knowledge of the Preterite and the Imperfect, and have some notion of the use of the Subjunctive.

*(respectfully submitted by **Anton de Bakker** -- Advanced Spanish Conversation Group Leader)*

### **WALKING GROUP**

In 2021, because of Covid, the walks didn't restart until June. The first day back no one showed up! Then the heat dome arrived. June 28<sup>th</sup> was a memorable walk in that it climbed to 37C that day. A few of us decided to meet for our "away" walk earlier in the morning and we made it around Swan Lake without melting! Numbers had dwindled post-Covid but three newcomers, all women, joined us and by the end of the year it was a smaller, compact group of mostly newbies. We did our usual local routes during the month and the "away" walks at the end of the month. Three new destinations this year were Layritz Park/Quick's Bottom, the Feltham/San Juan trail (near Mt. Doug), and Summit Park/Peacock Hill. The "away" destinations are within the city limits so that no one has to drive an unreasonable distance. I made the decision to step down from my facilitator role starting January 2022 to try new things. Hopefully a new leader will come along and build up the group once again. Thank you Goward House for all your support.

*(respectfully submitted by **Wendy Denyes** -- Retired Walkie Talkies Leader)*

### **WORLD AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP**

As a result of feedback from the Members' Survey, a World Affairs Discussion Group was initiated in January 2022. Four sessions have been held to date – a organizational one and ones covering topics of China, Russia/Ukraine and International Intelligence. A guest with expertise in the topic makes a short presentation and then there is the opportunity for questions and discussion with those attending.

The sessions are held monthly with one more planned in June before a summer break. The group is looking for someone to take over the convening role for the fall.

*(respectfully submitted by **Mary Collins** -- World Affairs Discussion Group Facilitator)*