

Goward House AGM May 2026:
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Goward House Society has had a very successful year on a number of levels. Membership hovers around 430. New activities, special events and programs were introduced. Support for new programs, attendance at activities and special events has increased and community awareness of the Goward House Program has improved. House rentals exceeded 2025 projections and bookings look healthy in the early months of 2026. Financial contributions from the general membership, Saanich Municipality, the Gaming Commission and the Victoria Foundation allowed Goward House to once again become a vibrant, fully-funded program, following the financially devastating effects of the pandemic. As you will see from the AGM Financial Report, the Society was able to avoid a deficit and post a small surplus in 2025. We continue to move forward, knowing that stability can be tenuous, but Goward House members and staff have shown they are up to the task. We are all looking forward to enjoying this very special House with family and friends for many years to come.

In addition to their commitment to the 2025/26 Financial Action Plan, the Board continued to address the day-to-day business of the Society. The Board passed 8 motions in 2025, including those regarding:

- A contribution to the Goward House Endowment Fund matched by the Victoria Foundation.
- The purchase of a Point-of-Sale system for our Front Desk.
- Amendment to our Policy regarding entrance fees for non-members to our hosted Lectures.
- Approval to pay owed overtime and stat holiday pay to staff, following an analysis of payroll since 2020.
- Pay-grade cost of living adjustments for retaining staff.
- Moser Brothers gardening contract renewal.
- Approval of the Board of Directors 2025/26 Financial Action Plan.
- Sale of 20 Scotiabank Common Shares, with revenue to go into our Endowment Fund.

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 individuals play as trustees of the Society's governance. They understand their responsibilities and work hard to achieve successful outcomes. I am confident Goward House has been, and will continue to be, in good hands.

My term as Society President will end at the AGM on May 21, 2026. Following the confirmation of the Board executive at the AGM, Gail Branton will assume the role of President and Joy Olesky has accepted the role of Vice President. To ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities, I will remain on the Board of Directors as Past President for the coming year.

It has been a great privilege for me to have served as Society President over the last year. We have all witnessed the remarkable recovery of the Goward House Program from the impact of the COVID pandemic. The recovery can be attributed to the commitment, dedication and hard work of the Board, staff, volunteers and general membership. It has been my honour to have had a role in the success of this vibrant program and enjoy, along with so many others, the activities of Goward House and its beautiful setting.

*(Respectfully submitted by **Mary Collins**, Goward House Society President)*