

TICA AGM May 7 2023

President's Report – Ann Dickie

2022 was our first full year of operations in the new hall. We were still contending with mandated health protocols for the first few months, but as spring finally arrived, those protocols had lessened to recommendations which allowed us to operate in our own way, while still taking into consideration the comfort of those attending, and the availability of the outdoors.

As the year moved forward different groups organized and activities grew. The Hall became the place for most island organizations to gather for meetings and events. Several new picnic tables made spending time outside with others much easier. The gardens were readied around the building. The kitchen put forth many, many meals, and proved itself to be an absolute time-saver and back-saver for volunteers. The Beverage Station became used often, by many. We are so incredibly pleased with how the community cares for it! The Library saw people checking out its offerings all through the week when other activities and meetings were held while continuing to have scheduled Friends of the Library. Church and Tai Chi, two of the Hall's mainstays, had their dedicated groups using the Assembly Hall regularly on Sundays and Mondays. With the New Horizon's Grant funding we were able to purchase these wonderful, padded chairs – making it easier to stay longer. We were able to refurbish the playground site, and add a bench, also from grant funding. We added acoustic panels, which helped with sound. There were several large events through 2022 – and we learned that the floorplan really does work well. Through 2022 the Care Station was used many times by a RMT, and as our First Aid station. It also became Thetis Island's Virtual Care Centre, with supported funding by the Community Fund.

The Executive is working hard on Debt Reduction (I know, you're all a bit tired of hearing it – you must be, because we are!) however, it is essential that we continue the work to pay off our debts. Taking the pledges through April 2024 into account, \$204,370 is still needed to be raised. The hall was built with a lot of heart, and we are hopeful that generosity will see it through. The Executive continues to “look under all rocks” for funding – grants take an exceedingly large amount of work; however, we review all that we are eligible for. If anyone wants to help us in our grant applications, we'd love to hear from you. Our best path has always been reaching out to Thetis Islanders, so you will continue to receive requests until the debt is paid. We continue to be humbled by this island's generosity and are understanding of any fundraising fatigue.

Operations are on solid footing, with the building's efficiency helping us considerably. We keep the Expansion and Operations separate in our bookkeeping; however, we have used operations' funding to complete the final Expansion details such as Generator Hook-up, Propane Tank, Audio System, and Rainwater Collection. Once we've had enough rain, we'll be

switching over to rainwater for irrigation and toilets. There are some final electrical connections to complete our Hall's emergency generator system.

We held several orientations last September, going over how to access, shut down and secure the facility. Although there have been a few oops moments, we are mostly very pleased with your conscientious use of Forbes Hall.

The Executive is committed to more frequent communication with the membership. We have provided three update bulletins and use the membership mail out service more frequently than in the past. The purpose is to bring the updates or information to you directly versus through e-spokes, the blog or on Facebook. What we don't want is dead air. A lot of decision making goes on at the Board and Committee levels and having you updated regularly helps to keep you aware of what is going on. Please know that if there's anything you don't understand, or don't feel that you have enough information about, you're welcome to talk to any member of the Board, and we will try to explain more thoroughly until you are satisfied.