

(From Paul Scrimger, President, PLDCA)

October 14, 2009

PLDCA Presidents AGM Report 2009

In preparing my annual report I am struck by two things, first a sense of wonder at how much we have been able to achieve by working together over the last 12 months and second, how much work we still need to do to get to where we want to be as a sustainable community association.

In looking back it is amazing to me that only one year ago we were naively drafting up plans for our new renovation in concert with our newly selected architect Mr. Andy Lee. Our Hall had no functioning bathrooms and we had a dark and sinister hole where our commercial kitchen now sits. We had money in the bank that we thought would be plenty to see us through given that we had had estimates of \$70,000 for the whole job.

The next few months were nightmarish. After the initial rush of volunteer support from the community, and we were all collectively stopped dead in our tracks by building code regulations we had been blissfully unaware of up to then.

Your building committee, led by Mr. Barry Moores, Mr. Dave Wallace, Mr. Fred Haynes and myself, worked tirelessly in concert with the executive to work through the administrative quagmire we were stuck in and turn our community vision into a buildable reality. We identified, hired and worked with three different professional engineers to perfect our design and get it to the point where it was complete, drawn, and finally accepted by Saanich and the building permit was issued in mid-March 2009, just in the nick of time to protect our Gaming funding from being lost.

During the fall/winter period, in addition to permitting issues, we also had to deal with preparing the application for year 2 of our 3 year BC Gaming Commission Capital project grant. Our community came through in spades once again and we were able to raise \$37,500 through donations, fundraisers and personal loans from a few special members. It worked, by late spring 2009 we had work well underway for phase 1 and the next tranche of \$75,000 in the bank for phase 2. This money enabled us to continue work but it was not until your executive, led by the efforts and persistence of Fred Haynes, was able to convince Saanich to trust us with an \$85,000 interest-free loan that we were able to come close to completing this massive undertaking.

On the social and community side we had some tremendous successes and some ideas that were not so

successful. The 1st annual Prospect Lake Golf Tournament led by Ken Van Gylswyk, Shawn Steele, Fred Haynes, Susan Irvine, Ken Miller and many, many others was great fun and raised thousands of dollars for the Association. The car rally and fishing derby ... were good ideas but put on hold for now.

The Summer BBQ was a huge hit with bigger numbers than ever before, great food, great fun and again raised thousands of dollars in support of our renovation project.

We launched some new programs as well, a pilot yoga program was tried and met with mixed success. On the plus side, the program had a base of enthusiastic support but unfortunately proved unable to cover its operational costs. Similarly we launched new initiatives for a Guided Autobiography – or GAB – initiative together with outside participants. This pilot project is now underway and we are looking forward to assessing how it went once the initial set of classes are concluded in the next few weeks.

As we look ahead into 2009/2010 our experiences of the past year help us to outline where our expected challenges will be. It is clear that now that the Hall is once again a beautiful and attractive gem in the Saanich community, that it is being highly sought by a broad variety of interested parties. The uses range from recreational use such as Aikido, yoga and badminton, through social programs such

as crafting and GAB, through practical use as a venue for private rentals for weddings, receptions, reunions, birthdays etc. Managing this assault of new and often conflicting usage demands that we develop new policies that will allow us to raise the funds we need to remain sustainable and repay our considerable financial obligations while at the same time being mindful of our own community needs. Who pays? How much? Who gets a free use? What are the liabilities? What are the required licenses? Who does all the work?

This is going to be an area of enormous challenge for us as we move ahead into the coming year and we will need to exercise patience, consideration and diplomacy in trying to come up with a clear set of working guidelines that will allow us to remain sustainable while also being considerate of our community goals. I know we are up to the challenge and I welcome the opportunity to tackle it.

On a final note, it is important to recognize that we have lost one of our past members this year. Mr. Ken Bridge, a past-president of the PLDCA passed away on April 7th. He and his wife Luanne were long time members of the Association and they will be fondly remembered.

Paul Scrimger

President,
PLDCA