

From: Michael Maynard
To: AGN Board
Re: President's Report
Date: June 24, 2021

This month, as part of my commitment to the Board and its governance role, I've been sourcing relevant research material. I now have several documents to share, all highly recommended by my former VP-Academic at Seneca:

1. Consultant and author Catherine Raso has written two books on board governance for not-for-profit corporations, including roles of members, recommended board policies and procedures, and sample documents. If you're interested, they can be purchased via her website:
<http://www.cmraso.com/gb.htm>
2. And the town of Mount Vincent in Newfoundland/Labrador has developed several online documents outlining board governance:
 - a. <http://volunteermountpearl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Board-Handbook-for-Governance-w-hyperlinks-ONLINE-VERSION.pdf>
 - b. <http://communitysector.nl.ca/voluntary-sector-resources/board-development>

Mary, Astrid and I feel the Mount Pearl documents in particular are helpful and we will be using some of their text in our own governance document. With By-laws approved and our Handbook updated, completion of our governance document will ensure the integrity of Board operations, and allow us to concentrate now on new strategic initiatives.

At our monthly Executive meeting Olinda, Mary and Sarah reported on the most recent lease agreement meeting with Town Councillors. Apparently it went well, although once again the issue of AGN funding was raised. When I asked for input on priorities for the coming year a passionate discussion followed – with the top priority being AGN funding and year-over-year operational stability. So I suggested a follow-up ad hoc meeting to discuss strategies related to that issue. With the pandemic's latest lockdown restrictions loosening, Frank kindly offered his backyard patio and last week we continued the discussion face-to-face. One of several recommendations that came out of the meeting features a personal outreach to key AGN stakeholders, and Olinda and I will be following up over the summer.

In support of this initiative, Olinda and I will be working on a handout that provides an overview of the AGN including a brief history, programming and collection highlights, current data, and our renewed vision and mission statements.

The Volunteer meeting was another highlight this month. Local artist and President of the Spirit of the Hills arts association Susan Statham presented a talk on her work, most recently her portraits of 12 Canadian prime ministers. And the mini art galleries constructed by member David McTavish are now installed in several locations around the county and are being promoted on our website and our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.):

<https://www.artgalleryofnorthumberland.com/mini-art-gallery-project/>

And they're already receiving lots of media attention:

<https://www.gonorthumberland.ca/2021/06/11/art-gallery-of-northumberland-newest-creative-addition-to-northumberland-county-the-mini-art-gallery/>

<https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/local-northumberland/entertainment/2021/06/17/video-check-out-the-new-mini-art-galleries-in-northumberland.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/local-northumberland/entertainment/2021/06/17/video-check-out-the-new-mini-art-galleries-in-northumberland.html>

The draft of our new two-year Strategic Plan is complete. At our board meeting Olinda will be discussing priorities identified through the consultation process, and asking directors for a review of the document, and input.

With no formal meetings scheduled next month my next report will be in August. Please enjoy the well-deserved break and this glorious summer weather, and here's hoping the end of the pandemic is in sight so we can get together in person – in the Gallery! – when we return.

Cheers!

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