     ANNUAL REPORT

Of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2012

The Board met on two occasions to deal with the business of the Association once in June and again in January.

Each activity of the Board is reported below in separate sections for ease of presentation and comprehension:

1. Memorandum of Association and By-Laws (MOA and By-Laws) – The Memorandum of Association and By-Laws are the rules and regulations of the Association. They were developed when the Association was formed in 1981 and were up dated in 2011. Our Secretary, Mike Chisholm administers our Association submission to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.  The MoA and By-Laws are on our website.
2. Preferred Suppliers and Discounts – A complete list of preferred suppliers who offer discounts or other services to the AWA and its members is maintained by Lew Hatt and is easy to get to on the AWA web site. Discounts vary with different supplier, but normally range from a 5 to 10 percent discount. Over the period of a year, the discounts can readily show the value of AWA membership.
3. Membership Records – Dick Jamer, Registrar, works closely with our Treasurer, Ken Miller to collect dues and keep an accurate list of members. This activity normally occurs during Monthly meetings. Dick also collects members’ contact information for inclusion on the Membership section of the web site.  Membership in the Association remained relatively steady with approximately 40 members. 5 new members join the Association during the year.
4. Library – Our Library is housed in the Kent (Dartmouth, Mic Mac) training room where the Association holds monthly meetings.  Ted Monk and Dave Schlosberg, our Librarians look for new additions for the library that may be of interest to the members. The library is supported by funding authorized by the executive, and the librarians actively keep the materials including subscriptions current.
5. Finances – Our Treasurer, Ken Miller, continued this year to manage our finances and accounts which included accepting dues payments and depositing funds collected from auctions, and raffles.  He has prepared the annual financial report for 2011.   Appointed auditors, Phil Carter and Doug Macintosh, completed a review of the accounts and indicate that accounts and records of the Association are in good order.  The annual financial report, with the auditor findings, is presented at the annual General Meeting.
6. Presentations, Special Events and Tours – Sheila Eddy and Gene Nurse organized and arranged presentation for our monthly meetings this past year.  These presentations were key events at our meetings complementing our knowledge and discussions.  Presenters included Dave Wilkins on wet wood turning, Jay Perry on the use of wood planes, Bob Earle on the making of a wood stool, Bill Luther on use of the scroll saw, and Kevin Hurst demonstrating Festool products.  Some monthly meetings were hosted by familiar establishments and included visits to Halifax Speciality Hardwoods at their new location on Bluewater Rd., Busy Bee Tools in Dartmouth, and Lee Valley Tools in Halifax.  At the January 2012 meeting, the events coordinator, Sheila Eddy challenged the membership to make a kitchen utensil using a piece of hardwood and to present it at the February meeting.  On a Saturday in October, the AWA carried out a Tool Exchange for the membership. The event, arranged and coordinated by Gene Nurse, was held at the Salvation Army Church, on pleasant St in Dartmouth.
7. Wood Challenge –The Wood Challenge, a first time event, which had been initiated at the February 2011 meeting, wrapped up with the presentation of completed woodworking pieces at the June meeting.  The Challenge began with provision of a 4-foot piece of 1x8 pine to each member with instructions to make items that would be presented in a show-and-tell at the June meeting.  A draw for three prizes for those who participated in the challenge by producing a woodworking piece took place, and the woodworking pieces were donated for fundraising for the IWK through sale of the items at the hospital gift shop.  The Wood Challenge was initiated again this year in February with the issue of a 4 foot piece of pine with similar instructions and pieces to be presented at the May meeting.
8. Projects
   * A project initiated early in 2011 to partner with Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth on a program they call O2, options and opportunities continued into the year. Their goal is to expose grade 10 students to programs in addition to academic ones, including woodworking. The school is in the process of creating a production lab that will be fully equipped with woodworking equipment.   David Smith has been co-ordinating AWA participation in the project which has included assisting the School in preparing set pieces for theatre plays. Construction of a model car was completed in April and doorways and stairs were completed in October.  David is also a member of the PAHS school advisory committee.
   * The Association also continued with more work in a project undertaken the previous year. In late spring the association constructed a further 16 bunk beds at Bayside Baptist Camp. This was a very beneficial project contributing voluntary work to a newly developed camp facility for the benefit of less fortunate children.
   * The association also undertook as a project the renovation of the ladies washroom at the Salvation Army food bank in Dartmouth.
9. Christmas Toy Drive – Once again, this past year, members produced a variety of wooden toys intended for distribution to children by the Salvation Army and presented them at the December meeting.  The event, held annually and hosted by Lee Valley Tools, was coordinated by Stan Salsman who also collected an additional cash donation for the Salvation Army from members who were unable to make a toy. This year, two representatives from the Salvation Army joined us at the event.
10. Newsletter – This year again the Newsletter proved to be a valuable communications tool for the Association.   Stan Salsman took over as editor this year. In addition to writing many of the articles, the editor lays out the newsletters and sends them to the members through email or regular mail.   Other members and the executive members routinely provide articles, announcements, and commentary. The newsletter arrives regularly early each month in preview to the monthly meetings.
11. Website – Our recently improved website emerged this year to be an impressive Association asset.  The members’ section, accessed with a password, contains a wealth of well laid out, thorough content.  It is quite interactive with a popular forum.  The section titled Projects has grown considerably with content given that members can now readily upload photos and commentary directly to the site. A visit to the site provides the membership with completely up to date information and notices.  Accessibility to information on the site is suitably balanced with privacy protection for members.  Glenn McCarron, our webmaster, is to be congratulated on his fine work developing and managing our website.
12. Gifts to AWA – During the past year, a number of donations were made to the AWA. Graham McCulloch, at a number of meetings, donated tools for auction and raffle with proceeds to the Association.  He also donated books to the library and product samples and other supplies to the membership.   Gene Nurse also delivered product samples to the membership.
13. Meeting Place – The Kent Store in Dartmouth at Mic Mac is our current monthly meeting place and it houses the association library.   The Kent location is in many ways ideal, and we are welcomed users of the facility. However, there is an ongoing concern that, due to the need to mount several stairs to get to our meeting room, it is difficult for some members to attend meetings.  The executive is continuing to solicit to find a permanent meeting place as favourable our current meeting location less the lack of accessibility

In general, the Association has had a good year with a good measure and variety of productive activity.  Attendance at meetings has been consistently good and the membership is actively participating in events and challenges. The Board of Directors has a large membership of experienced skilled members that continue to readily oversee Association Affairs.  Association achievements resulted from the many individual and collective efforts of members of the Association.

Don Shubaly, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors