

AWA CHAIRMAN's ANNUAL REPORT
April 2015 – March 2016

The AWA Board of Directors met twice last year in the spring and the fall to deal with the business of the Association. Activities of the Board and members through the year are reported below.

1. Following the Annual General meeting in spring 2015, the membership within the Board of Directors remained unchanged.
2. **Meetings** – The AWA meetings are held at the Baptist Church on Hastings Dr. in Dartmouth for the same nominal fee (\$50) per meeting. This has proven to be a good venue with great lighting and acoustics. The December meeting was held at Lee Valley.
3. **Membership**- Through our Registrar, Debra Hickey, registration activity peaks in the fall as current members renew by paying annual fees in the period from October until March. New members join at any time in the year normally while in *attendance at a monthly meeting as a guest*. Membership or renewal by end March is required to retain access to the members' section of the website and to be on the newsletter mailing list. Membership in the Association remained relatively steady with 40 paid members.
4. **Library** – The library is supported by funding authorized by the Executive, and generous donations by Graham McCulloch. Our librarian, Neil Cronk actively kept the materials, including subscriptions, current.
5. **Finances** – Our Treasurer, Ken Miller, retired from this position after many years of great service to the Association. Phil Carter assumed the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer. The duties of the Treasurer are to administer our finances and accounts which includes accepting dues, payments and depositing funds collected from auctions and raffles. He also prepares an annual financial report for the year ending 31 December for presentation at the AGM. Appointed auditors, Don Shubaly and Doug Macintosh, complete a review of the accounts for the year and indicate that accounts and records of the Association are in good order.
6. **Presentations and Tours** – John Woods and his team, Bob Baird and Mary Elizabeth O'Toole organized and arranged presentations for our monthly meetings this past year. Presenters included:
 - Jeff Amos of Amos Wood
 - Kevin Power of Power Air Cleaning
 - Mark Childerhouse on photography

The Association toured three of the member's shops, Ted Monk, Bob Baird and Gary Dumas. Interesting to see various styles of woodshops. The Association will tour more shops in the coming year. We also had the opportunity to visit a post and beam boat house in Mahone Bay, as well as a tour of the Blue Rocks Post and Beam Workshop. We also toured Tony Chaplik's furniture company in Lunenburg. To finish our day, we retreated to a barbecue and tour at Phil Carter's restored farmhouse in LaHave.

7. **Mini-Challenge** – John Woods and Company throughout the year, from meeting to meeting, challenged members with individual projects to make such as Shou sugi ban, bookcase, small

table, joints, jigs and kitchen utensils, to mention a few.

8. **Wood Challenge** – This year’s wood challenge asked members to use one construction grade 2x4 stud to create whatever their imagination could produce. We were treated to a guitar, a beer carrier, a mirror, a garden soil screen and a scale model of a shed, to mention but a few.
9. **Projects** – In the past year, the AWA did not take on any projects.
10. **Newsletter** – The newsletter once again proved to a valuable communication tool for the Association. San Salsman, our editor, writes and collects articles and notices, lays out the newsletter and sends them to the members through email or regular mail. The newsletter arrives regularly early each month prior to the monthly meeting.
11. **Website** - our website is being maintained by Don Shubalay and an ongoing review and update of the website is carried out by Stephen Parsons and Mary Elizabeth O’Toole. A visit to the site provides membership with up-to-date information and notices as well as some good links regarding woodworking, tools, materials, discounts and information on our library listings.
12. **Public Awareness** – The AWA did not undertake any extra public awareness campaigns, other than word of mouth and promotion of our website.
13. **Christmas Toy Drive** – This annual event was hosted by Lee Valley Tools. In the last year, members produced a variety of wood toys to be donated to children by the Salvation Army, which included trucks, beds, cribs, flapper ducks, ride-on horse and 250 little cars. The toys were presented in a show-and-tell at the December meeting to representatives of the Salvation Army. The AWA provided three \$25 gift certificates for Lee Valley and Lee Valley provided us with gifts to use in our raffle to raise funds for the Salvation Army’s Christmas Drive. In addition to the toys, over \$500 from the enthusiastic sale of tickets was raised for the Salvation Army. Thank you to all those who participated.

In general, the Association has had another successful year with a good measure and variety of productive activity. Attendance at the meetings has been consistent and the members regularly participate in events and challenges. The Board of Directors has a large membership of experienced, skilled members that continue to ably oversee Association affairs.

Presented by Gary Dumas, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Directors
April 12, 2016