

AWA CHAIRMAN's ANNUAL REPORT
April 2016 – March 2017

The AWA Board of Directors met 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 2016, the membership within the Board of Directors was amended to include Stephen Parsons as Vice-Chair, and Mary Elizabeth O'Toole as Secretary.
2. **Meetings** – The AWA meetings from April to November were held at the Baptist Church on Hastings Dr. December's meeting was held at Lee Valley. Starting in January 2017, the new venue for our meetings will be at the North Woodside Community Centre on Pleasant St. in Dartmouth.
3. **Membership**- Through our Registrar, Walt Vandekieft, we note that 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 35 paid members.
4. **Library** – The library is supported through funding authorized by the Executive and generous donations by Graham McCulloch. Our librarian, Stephen Parsons actively kept the materials, including subscriptions, current. Stephen went through great lengths to update and inventory our library and post it electronically on our website.
5. **Finances** –Phil Carter, as our Treasurer is responsible for administering our finances and accounts which include 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 completed 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** – Bob Baird and Mary Elizabeth O'Toole organized and arranged presentations for our monthly meetings this past year. Presenters included:
 - Don Shubaly on Scraper Sharpening
 - Guy Lanctot on Sharpening Handsaws
 - Trevor Edis on Laser Engraving
 - Dave Barry, the Arorist
 - Don Shubaly on finishing
 - Doug MacIntosh on Fuming Oak

The Association also toured three of the members' shops, Don Shubaly, Doug MacIntosh and the Tattoo Prop Department, thanks to Stan. Interesting to see various styles of woodshops. The Association will tour more shops in the coming year. We also had the opportunity to visit Dave Barry's property in Fall River, where he showed us his collection of hardwood and the process to turn it from tree trunk to planks.

In addition to the aforementioned tours, the first annual AWA BBQ was held at Ted Monk's home in August. It was a resounding success and included a display of Bravery Bead boxes, a Show & Tell, tool sale and of course, the Washer Toss Championship. A big thank you to Ted and his wife, Debbie.

7. **Mini-Challenge** – Bob Baird and Mary Elizabeth O'Toole challenged members with individual projects such as something with a drawer, mixed media, kitchen utensils, timepieces, furniture pieces and something with gears, 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 garden obelisk, a car carrier, a small bench, a

stool and a mini room divider. The 1st and 2nd place winners, as judged by their peers, each won a \$25 gift certificate from East Coast Specialty Hardwoods.

9. **Projects** – In the past year, the AWA took on the Bravery Bead Box Project for the IWK. This was a very successful endeavor, resulting in a presentation of 44 boxes to the hospital. A very special thank-you to all those involved.
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 once again produced a variety of wood toys to be donated to children by the Salvation Army. Some of the toys included doll furniture, 250 small cars and pull toys 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
March 14, 2017