

*Atlantic Woodworkers'
Association*



Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting

March 13, 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to provide this report on behalf of our fine board consisting of the following board members:

- Vice-Chair, Brad Holley
- Past Chair, Gary Dumas
- Secretary, Mary Elizabeth O'Toole
- Treasurer, Phil Carter
- Registrar, Walt Vandekieft
- Events Coordinator, Darrell Hamilton
- Web Master, Don Shubaly
- Members-at-large
- Doug MacIntosh
- Sheila Eddy
- Bob Baird
- Stan Salsman

This year, the board worked to develop an updated committee structure to cover key activities, functions, and strategies on behalf of the membership. Recognizing the relative size of our organization and its board, the objective is to keep the structure tight and focused. Three committees have been formed and will over the next year or so, address strategies to ensure that association services and activities well serve the membership. Those committees are the Finance and Compliance Committee, the Communications and Marketing Committee, and the Members Services and Operations Committee.

As co-chair of the Finance and Compliance Committee (along with treasurer, Phil C.), I can confirm that in terms of compliance we are working with the Secretary to ensure that all required filings stay up-to-date. In a board meeting last year, we facilitated a discussion on overall association objectives targeting such things as strong membership recruitment, value added events and activities and key partnerships within the community. The committee has also started to develop a policy and operations manual that is in draft and will be proposed to the board in an upcoming meeting. Our treasurer works within the auspices of the committee to maintain accurate bookkeeping and accounting records to enable appropriate financial reporting.

Our committee also brought a proposal for an amendment of bylaws to allow for special classes of membership including lifelong membership for special recognition. More on this in the highlights section of this report.

In terms of Member Services and Operations, we have made progress with membership with a slight increase in paid members this year, and some new members joining us. We have, sadly, lost a few members including one, our dear friend Mary who passed away during the year. As noted earlier, we have adopted a new membership dues schedule which better aligns to our annual meeting cycle and this was put into effect this winter. Our registrar, Walt V. has been very generous with his time and effort this year adding extra value to members for example, lamination of our membership cards and managing the currency of our official membership. One of our newer members, Trevor, also provided us with non-profit pricing to allow many of us to acquire engraved name tags.



The library has benefited this year from several new donations including those from our friend Norma, past librarian Ted, and honorary lifetime member Graham. The library was also dedicated this year to our first honorary member, Graham McCullough.

Unfortunately, due to conflicts with a very busy agenda, our librarian, Tom S. had to step back from his role on the Board and so library services have been divided up among several volunteers to date. The Association is hoping to recruit a new librarian to the Board this year.

We have had some very interesting events and challenges including additional tours of member shops and vendor locations. We have had some marvelous guest speakers both from within our

membership and through invited guests outside the association such as the person shown in this photo, Luthier and Paris-trained bow-maker, Simon Shaw.

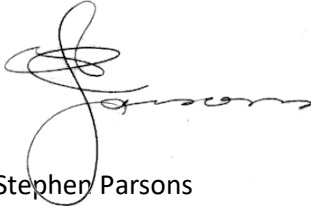
Communications and marketing have likewise made great progress with the gracious handover of newsletter functions from our long-time editor, Stan S. to our current editor and Board Secretary, Mary Elizabeth. The work in communications this year has included a new format of our newsletter through MailChimp, a new Facebook page, regular updates to our website, a new Google Group-based distribution list, new promotional materials, and promotion of the association through activities such as the Canada 150 initiative and our annual Christmas Drive.

There were many other highlights during the year, and I would like to point out a few important ones beginning with the stability of our first full year here at North Woodside Community Centre who have been very good to us in housing our member meetings and our library and supporting us on needs for meeting resources and so on.

Our road trips, including one to member Steve L.'s company, *Expressions of Wood*, and another – a fascinating visit to the Elmsdale Lumber company – provided great memories for those of us who were able to attend. This year, as noted previously, we dedicated our library to one of our founding members to make official the library's title as the *Graham McCullough Library of Woodworking*. We have seen some great talent at our meetings from special presenters and member panels to those who have shared tips, tricks, progress, and challenges during the monthly show-and-tell.

Ted and Debbie M. once again hosted our annual summer BBQ at their lovely home and we look forward to more such gatherings in the years to come. I'd be remiss not to mention the incredible generosity of our members at the annual Christmas event at Lee Valley, both in the production of over three hundred toys for distribution by the Salvation Army and in the raffle that raised over \$600 for the Salvation Army this Christmas. Overall, I believe this has been a great year in the life of this association and as Chair, I am proud of all the work done by the board and the membership to continue to promote our hobby, profession, artisanship, and passion for woodworking.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Parsons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Stephen Parsons
Chair,
Atlantic Woodworkers' Association