



October 28, 2020

Dear SWESA Member:

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a profound effect on everyone but thanks to the resilience of our members, we are making the best of it. We are staying active, engaged and most importantly, healthy!

SWESA successfully reopened programming at our Blue Quill location in August. Due to space restrictions, our Yellowbird and Terwillegar Recreation Centre sites remain closed. The lease agreements at Blue Quill and Yellowbird expire December 31, and the Board is currently in negotiations with both organizations.

We are sad to announce that Jennifer Hanrahan, our program coordinator, has tendered her resignation effective October 30. In the wake of her departure, all steps have been undertaken to ensure a smooth transition. Winter programming is in place and Melissa, our office administrator, is on hand to manage administrative functions. The position has been advertised, and interviews will commence the first week of November. We wish Jennifer all the best in her new position at the Stollery. She will be sorely missed.

SWESA's first Annual Fundraising Appeal was launched October 1. Thanks to the generosity of our members and the community, \$38,000 in donations has been received to date. Special thanks to Michael Bull who is spearheading this campaign and to the anonymous donor who "sweetened the pot" with a matching gift of \$15,000. We are optimistic that we will reach our campaign goal of \$50,000 by year end.

Although SWESA is not operating at full capacity, there is an enormous amount of work being done behind the scenes. Thanks to Jennifer and Melissa for all their efforts in communicating with members and arranging programs and assisting the committees. Thanks also to the numerous volunteers who have come forward to help on various committees. We are especially thankful to Kathy Trepanier for chairing the Communication and Marketing Committee, Barry Headrick who works tirelessly to keep our website current and interesting, and to Tony Juyatunge for overseeing the development of SWESA's policy and procedures.

Our AGM was held via Zoom on October 19. Jennifer and Melissa did a great job setting up and managing the meeting. It was well attended, and the feedback was positive. A slate was presented, and eight directors were elected. Their bios are posted on our website. SWESA is grateful to these individuals for donating their time and talent to ensuring that we continue to be a vibrant and welcoming organization. Going forward, the challenge is to encourage others to do the same.

SWESA is recruiting for four board positions. As part of a leadership team, you will be a key player in maintaining and growing a community gathering place for our friends and neighbours. If you have secretarial skills, accounting, finance management, knowledge in real estate/property development, marketing and fundraising, we need you now!

Click [here](#) for more information about joining SWESA's board.

The board meets once a month. Each board member is asked to serve on at least one committee. SWESA has a working board and therefore some work outside of monthly board meetings is required. All interested candidates are asked to complete and submit a Board Application available on the SWESA website or at our Blue Quill location. For the benefit of SWESA and the community, please apply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Josie Richardson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Josie Richardson

President