

# 100 MILE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019/2020

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year the world stood still. Many countries went into lockdown for several months and it is unknown how long the COVID-19 virus will continue to spread before a vaccine is created.

The year started as usual in September, and we welcomed Kathryn Barrick to our committee. Unfortunately, we lost Kathy Coleopy and Frances Higginson who moved away to Kamloops. We placed an ad in the 100 Mile Free Press to attract new members, without success. We held a successful recital on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the United Church. We contracted Adjudicators: Robin Norman for Speech and Vocal, Dennis Nordland for Piano and Rob Goddard for Instrumental. Registration was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, with 268 registrations received. We made changes to our award system: awards will now consist of a cash prize of \$10, a certificate and a medal. Changes were made Provincially, with PABC withdrawing from the Nationals and offering cash prizes for the provincial category winners of \$2,000 and \$5,000 for the grand prize winner.

Then on March 19<sup>th</sup> a COVID-19 pandemic was officially declared and the Provincial Health Officer issued guidelines for personal social distancing and banned gatherings and crowds to control the virus. This meant that our Festival had to be cancelled and shortly thereafter, the Provincial Festival was also cancelled. Adjudicators were cancelled, registration fees were refunded and patrons were contacted to see if they wanted their donations back. Thankfully, most patrons wanted their donations kept and applied toward the next year and several people also refused their refund of registration fees.

We were able to go ahead with our scholarships and after reviewing 6 applications through emails, the winners were Maya Geerts and Baylee Shields.

I would like to thank our treasurer, Brian Porritt and our secretary Kathy Wolczuk for their hard work in contacting the patrons and handling the registrations refunds. Also, thank you to Kathy Wolczuk and Kathryn Barrick for contacting the award sponsors to advise that Festival was cancelled.

We look forward to the year 2020/2021 in the hope that a vaccine is approved and life can return to normal again.

Elaine Saunders, President, 2019/2020