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### **Important Notice:**

**There is an annual charge of \$10.00 to receive a paper copy of *The Society Times* by mail.**

**Our mission is to preserve, promote, and enhance Government House as a public heritage site.**

## President's Message

I can hardly believe that I am now putting 2020 on everything that requires a date. It seems like only yesterday that we ushered in the new century and here we are in the second decade already.

It has been my pleasure to meet with Brie Hnetka the new Director of Government House and Edwardian Gardens. She has agreed to speak at our annual general meeting on March 30th. I am looking forward to introducing her to those of

you who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting her. She has presented several new ideas for collaborative events with GHHS and Government House which will be presented and discussed at the first meeting of the new Board in April.

We can look back with satisfaction at a successful 2019 and forward with anticipation to some new ventures in 2020. It is our hope that we can engage the imaginations of enough volunteers to make our murder mystery event a reality in 2020. This event has many moving parts designed to work together to produce a unique and memorable event but it cannot happen without volunteer support. Give some thought to becoming involved with a new and exciting initiative.

Those of you who are frequent visitors to our website will have noticed that the various committees now have their own `drop down` pages. This feature will allow more information about the committee and its activities to be available to our membership and the public who visit the site. Thank you to the committees for this excellent suggestion and to Rebecca who turned the requests into reality.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Peggy Leach. Peggy and her husband Tom were long time members of GHHS. Peggy was a Board member and also served as President. Our condolences to daughter Celia.

I certainly hope that the succession of gray days which we have been experiencing are not what a future of climate change holds for us. Though no one really appreciate minus 40, we all appreciate the sunshine. Let us hope this is a brief aberration.

Keep yourselves warm and well rested. Our events begin in April and we need you, the volunteers who make the magic happen, both ready and rested! Have a wonderful and warm winter and remember that springs always shows up!

*Sheila Carson, President – GHHS*



**Sheila Carson (middle) chatting with Nadine Johnson (Left, GHHS Board member) and Shea Poncsak (Right, GHHS volunteer) during the unveiling of the museum railing**

## Message from Government House



**Brie Hnetka at the January 1, 2020 Celebration**

Happy New Year! January is a time to reflect and celebrate the past year. 2019 was a year of many successes for Government House due to the important and hard work of the partner organizations, volunteers, and staff that make Government House a highlight in our community. Government House is impressive throughout all seasons, but there is something very special about Christmas in the House. Thank you to the volunteers that helped decorate and transform the house into a festive and magical Victorian Christmas!

On November 22, Government House hosted the annual *Old-Fashioned Victorian Christmas* event. This year over 1,700 people attended in 3 hours! The evening went smoothly, thanks to all the GHHS and Jocko's Club volunteers. The horse-drawn wagon rides were back and were, no doubt, the big crowd pleaser! Our Christmas school programming was also fully subscribed this year. We altered programming times slightly and were able to accommodate more classes, increasing the number of students through the doors this Christmas season to over 2400 students, 400 more than last year! We also increased our marketing efforts and social media presence this year to promote *Christmas Splendour at Government House*. This seems to have paid off, as we saw an increase in the general visitor numbers over the Christmas season, particularly during the school

break where our visitor numbers doubled!!

The successes this year are truly due to the dedication and hard work of the Government House Historical Society members and volunteers, staff of Government House, and staff of the Lieutenant Governor's office. Thank you to all! As partners, we share in the mandate to preserve and promote this National Historic Property. I look forward to collaborating with the Society in the new year ahead. It is truly a pleasure to be able to work with such a passionate and dedicated group of people. I wish you, your family and friends, health and happiness in 2020!

*Brie Hnetka, Manager, Government House and Edwardian Gardens*

## Art Exhibit: 2nd Floor Corridor, Government House



## **GHHS VOLUNTEERS: The Society's Invaluable Asset!**

I want to wish all GHHS volunteers and members a Happy New Year. It's unbelievable that we are in 2020, but we are, and now is our time as volunteers to recuperate in order to be ready for upcoming events in 2020. Thank you for your continued commitment that makes the events successful.

I plan to attend preparatory committee meetings. I will appreciate it if the committee chairs will inform me of the dates for such meetings. Attending your committee meetings better prepares me to meet the volunteer needs of each committee.

The first Victorian Tea is not until April this year, which gives us an extra month to prepare. However, the Annual Volunteer Workshop is on Tuesday, **March 10, from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm**. As in the past, you will receive information about upcoming activities in 2020 to prepare you for your volunteer options. Government House staff will also be at the workshop to present to us their activities for the year as well. Last year, our discussion was about succession planning and the need to attract new volunteers. As we continue to encourage succession plan, we also need to focus on recruiting more volunteers. Some of you have recommended GHHS to your family members or friends; I appreciate it if you would continue to do so. Many of the volunteers who joined the GHHS volunteer team through your recommendations turned out to be very committed and ready to work as soon as they arrived. I will also be contacting organizations and Human Resources departments as a means to get information about volunteering with GHHS out to people planning to retire soon.

### **GHHS Website and Facebook**

How often do you visit the GHHS website? Do you know that you could renew your membership or that of Jocko's Friends from the site? We also have the web version of *The Society Times* on there as well.

I want to encourage you to visit the site [www.govhousesociety.ca](http://www.govhousesociety.ca) periodically. It is also a great way to get your family and friends quick information about the Society and have them register to become volunteers or members.

Committees can now have their own page as a drop down menu under the tab "GET INVOLVED" which makes it easier for you to describe to visitors to our site where to find the information they need faster. Once a committee chair sends me an update, it will be posted on the committee's page.

The same arrangement also applies to the posting of your committee events on Facebook. Thank you!

I have received many records of your volunteer hours worked at home and outside of the House. Thank you all for getting this information to me on time. Please email me the remaining hours as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for all you do. Take care out there and keep warm.

*Rebecca Otitoju*, GHHS Volunteer Coordinator

### **Volunteer Recognition Committee (VRC)**

2019 was a busy year for the committee as we included Jocko's Friends awards in our recognition event. Now that we have these awards in place, it is vital that we create avenues for Jocko's Friends to volunteer as much as they can. Some of them were at different events up to the last one of the year, the Dickens Yuletide Concerts. I am looking forward to meeting more of Jocko's Friends at the appreciation tea this summer.

**New changes.** Please note the following changes:

**1. Awards:** Some volunteers win multiple awards, which has meant that they at times ended up with two complimentary memberships. Effective as of the 2020 Appreciation Tea, volunteers in that category will receive only one-year complimentary membership, and a \$15 tea gift certificate for the second award.

**2. Committee members:** Becoming a member of this committee is quite different because of the mandate. Volunteers interested in serving on this committee need to have been GHHS volunteers for some time and have some knowledge about the Society.

Many volunteers are at the due date to re-signing the volunteer policy. Volunteers are expected to read and sign the policy every three years. The forms will be available during our annual workshop in March or through the committee chairs.

Even though the Volunteer Appreciation Tea is not happening till the summer, I would like to use this opportunity to remind all the committees of the importance of looking out for that volunteer in your committee that you could nominate for the Volunteer Recognition Award. This award is to recognize volunteers who work behind the scenes. Please take advantage of it because we want to ensure that everyone is recognized and thanked for a great job in advancing the mission of the Society.

*Rebecca Otitoju*, Chair, VRC

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless* – Sherry Anderson

## Victorian Tea Room

### The Tea Room, Saskatchewan Tastes, and Recipe Sharing

*A truly Saskatchewan story*



**Bonnie Racz plating the Dicken's treats during the 2019 Dicken's concert**

actually called Rhubarb Almond Pastry but we omit the almonds in the kitchen here. I once made the full recipe at a family gathering and was asked for the recipe, which I shared. The requester made it as an entry into the pastry competition of the *Abernathy Agricultural Fair* and has won successively for the four years since. (If you want the recipe call me and I will email it to you).

We are a sharing bunch, we Saskatchewan people, and we love our rhubarb. All of this brought to you by our wonderful volunteers of the Government House Historical Society. Thank you for your contributions and Happy 2020!

*Bonnie Racz, Victorian Tea Coordinator*

The Victorian Tea room has been going 28 years and we are entering our 29<sup>th</sup> in 2020. We have always been a traditional group—what we serve and how it is served goes back to our beginnings. We have strived to use as much of local ingredients as possible and have been successful with locally grown apples, fresh dill and fresh mint, and of course rhubarb from the Edwardian Garden. Ah rhubarb. Has there ever been a more Saskatchewan flavour (excluding Saskatoon berries).

We have served a rhubarb dessert as the featured dessert in rhubarb season as long as I have worked in the kitchen. The first that I had experience with was Rhubarb Pastry, a recipe that Carmelle M. found in *The Country Register*. Apparently said recipe had been submitted to the *Country Register* some years earlier by our own Kathy W., a former Board Member and now a member of the Policy Committee. Kathy tells me she found it in some farming publication years before that. It is



**Right: His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, to his right, Her Honour Donna Mirasty and family at the 2019 Christmas tea**

## Dickens

On December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> this year we held the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dickens Yuletide Singers Concerts at Government House. The 12 singers, directed by Dianne Burrows, dressed in their traditional Victorian costumes, gave four performances of their wonderful concert. Almost four hundred guests took in the shows and had a chance to visit the beautifully decorated House as well. Refreshments were served in the Sir Richard Lake Hall after each performance. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the event possible and to the Singers for joining us to fill the Christmas season with music!

*Lorna Bingaman, Chair*



Dickens Yuletide



**Lorna Bingaman at the 2019 Dickens concert**

## Collectibles Sales

The silver gleamed, the crystal sparkled, the jewelry glowed as customers gleefully picked their finds from the Christmas Collectibles Sale. Having the entire Richard Lake Hall allowed us to display most of the items we have available, all washed, polished and priced, along with a good selection of Christmas items—all donated of course.

Happy customers lined up to pay for newfound treasures; some as gifts for family and friends, others as gifts for themselves. Some people even returned for a second visit, confessing that they just “couldn’t get that [item] out of my mind”. And for those who couldn’t find their heart’s desire, a box (or two) of GHHS Victoria Tea Blend was often tucked away in pockets or purses for future savouring.

The Christmas sale capped a very successful year. This year we concentrated on organizing the donated items so that they could be rotated through the sales to provide newness to the selection of sale items and ensure bins of donations do not languish at the back of a shelf. This has kept the sales “fresh” and ensured that customers saw new items on repeated visits.

At the same time, we have worked to expand our promotion of the sales to emphasize that they are open to the public beyond those attending any given tea. The result of these efforts produced a significant increase in sales throughout the year and an amazing Christmas market.

It was a group of very happy volunteers who packed up at sales’ end to find newly empty bins and shelves ready for more donations in 2020. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers – it wouldn’t have been possible without their hard work at the sales and throughout the year.

*Susan Hogarth, Chair*

### Donors to Jocko’s Friends Sale during Christmas Tea

Committee members and junior/senior members of Jocko’s Friends extend a gratitude of thanks to Leona Howe and to Emily Proulx for their generous donation of beautifully homemade and decorated Gingerbread and sugar cookies to their sale during the Christmas Tea. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to Sheila Carson for her donation of many beautiful works of quilted fabric art. Thank You - Merci - Danke - Gracias!

## Membership

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I am writing again to remind volunteers we need your help. Please help us keep our records current by notifying us if you move, change your phone number or email address as well if you know of a fellow member that has moved or changed their status, drop us a line. Please look for my email for your reminder to renew. Please look in your spam or junk email as well in case I get sent there. My email is [kgplanter@sasktel.net](mailto:kgplanter@sasktel.net). Yes, I will be after you and I will want something, but only to keep you as a member of GHHS. I do not sell anything else – only memberships.

Thanks for your help in keeping our records current.

*Kevin Gooding*



**Gayle White, Joyce Wells and Susan Hogarth at Joyce’s farewell party. Joyce was a GHHS member and volunteer for many years.**



**Lizhi (Lisa) Wang at a Collectible sales**

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

**The Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Government House Historical Society  
will be held at  
Government House  
On  
Monday, March 30, 2020, at 7:00 pm.  
All GHHS members are invited to attend**

### **Volunteers needed to transcribe**

Are you a transcriber or could transcribe? Please contact Rebecca to discuss how you could help in transcribing an important project. The project is two and a half hours of video recording.

### **Family Day Event**

Government House will open on Monday, February 17th from 9:00 am to 4:00pm especially for Family Day! Stop by and we will take you back to a time when family time was away from screens. We are offering board games and puppet shows plus juice and cookies for the little ones.

Escape the cold into the magical world of board games and puppet shows! Open to all ages.

**Admission is free/no charge for any of the activities.**

**All GHHS Volunteers are**

**Invited to the:**

**Annual General Volunteer Workshop**

**Venue: Sir Richard Lake Hall**

**Date: Tuesday March 10, 2020**

**Time: 1:30pm to 4:00pm**

**Please RSVP to Rebecca by February 18th**

**Email: [rebecca@govhousesociety.ca](mailto:rebecca@govhousesociety.ca)**

**Phone 306-787-5363 or Text: 306-501-0744**

**Note to new GHHS Volunteers: attending this workshop serves as the required information session for all new volunteers**



### **Government House Historical Society**

**Save the Date  
Thursday October 15, 2020**

### **BLACK TIE AUCTION**

Enjoy the special atmosphere of Government House while sampling great food and wine as you bid on unique live and silent auction items from bygone years and current times.

**Further information for this exciting gala will be provided in the upcoming months. Hope to see you there.**

# Monkey Business

News from Jocko's Friends, GHHS Junior members

January 2020 edition



**Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre and Robin Tuer, at the 2019 Dickens Concert**

Jocko's Friends event, *From Behind Closed Doors*, was held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with nine members and a few parents in attendance. The session began with Marlee Yule, the Programming Assistant at Government House, who explained her work in preparing and organizing artifacts for displays. She gave an excellent talk on ways to evaluate artifacts and effective ways of recording pertinent information using the General History Catalogue Sheet. The junior members wore those special white gloves and had the chance to examine very closely a number of artifacts. Following this activity, a scavenger hunt was held in the museum. The vault in the dining room was opened and everyone had a chance to see the contents – a very special privilege, indeed!

The afternoon continued with a craft led by Mary Ann Pennett and Robin Tuer. Everyone had the chance to make a bookmark using a variety of materials. A snack consisting of pumpkin cuties, pumpkin cookies and Saskatoon berry cider was enjoyed by everyone.

Many thanks to the committee members, Terry Bedard, Carolyn Thompson, Robin Tuer, Mallory Coates who assisted in various ways to make this event so enjoyable. A note of thanks is extended to Abigail S. for assisting in so many ways. Special thanks to Marlee Yule from Government House and to Mary Ann Pennett for their engaging contributions to the afternoon.

A very big thank you is extended to Liam K. who volunteered at the *Bump in the Night* event on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Special thanks to Suji A, Addy T., Everett T., Emily B. and Danika W. who volunteered at the *Old-fashioned Victorian Christmas* held on Friday, November 22, 2019. Many thanks to Emily H., Suji A., Emily B. and Danika W. who volunteered with the *Vintage and Collectibles Sale* held during the Christmas Tea weekend on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A note of thanks is extended to Emily H., Suji A., Danika W. and Aislyn W. who volunteered at the *Dickens Yuletide Singers Concert* on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Your gifts of time are very much appreciated by all.

Mallory Coates resigned from the Jocko's Friends Committee in December 2019. Heaps of thanks, Mallory, for all the excellent and creative invitations you designed for Jocko's Friends over the past years. May you enjoy your new volunteer experience to the fullest and keep well and happy.

*Robin Tuer and Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre, Co-chairs*

**Volunteer Opportunities** ~ The committee of Jocko's Friends would gladly welcome new members to join their committee. Parents of Jocko's Friends and members of GHHS who enjoy working with young children/youth are encouraged to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Otitoju, to make their wishes known. Volunteers can simply choose to be event volunteers who give their gift of time at the events (3 or 4 events/year). Thank you for considering a volunteer opportunity with Jocko's Friends.

**Save the date for  
Jocko's Friends Summer Event**

**Saturday, June 13, 2020**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Government House**

**More information will be sent out later.**

**Did you know.....**

Artifacts carry an array of stories from who used it, who made it, what it was used for and even how it came to the museum. A museum's collection holds artifacts with countless compelling stories about people, places and things from all over the world

## Contact us

### GHHS

4607 Dewdney Ave.  
Regina, SK S4T 1B7

### We're on the Web!

[www.govhousesociety.ca](http://www.govhousesociety.ca)

Like us on



### PHONE:

306-787-5363

### FAX:

306-787-5714

### E-MAIL:

[rebecca@govhousesociety.ca](mailto:rebecca@govhousesociety.ca)

### Newsletter Committee and Editorial Team:

Rebecca Otitoju  
Jennifer Thompson  
Gayle White

### Information Update:

Have you moved to a different  
address or changed your email?

### Please call:

306-787-5363 or email  
[rebecca@govhousesociety.ca](mailto:rebecca@govhousesociety.ca)  
with your new information

### Photo credits and resources:

Shirley Gerlock  
Ann Grahame  
Elizabeth Hill  
Robert Thompson  
Gayle White  
Toshiba Business Solutions (Copier)

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*Alone we can do so little;  
Together we can do so much  
- Helen Keller*

## Pictures from the 2020 New Year's Day Celebration



For more pictures on 2020 New Year celebration and other events,  
please visit: <http://ltgov.sk.ca/news-and-events/photo-gallery>



## Newsletter Committee

Saskatchewan has always had extremes of temperatures, and that is truer now with climate change! But being tough Canadians, we manage to survive. One just prays that the furnace doesn't quit or the car battery doesn't die!

Some of us are having a break right now, as the Teas and the Sales don't start until April. But others, such as THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE, are hard at work getting this edition out for you to enjoy.

In the meantime, some other committees are busy planning and preparing. As you read the articles in this newsletter, please take note of the upcoming events, and bring yourself there with a big smile and renewed energy.

*Gayle White, Co-Editor*



**Deadline for submission  
to *The Society Times*  
April 3, 2020**