

Secretary's annual Report – 2011

This year has been a steep learning curve for me. Not only was I a new SARP Board member, I have also never functioned as the secretary for an organization.

Fortunately for SARP and myself, Mary Brickley left a very organized system and good minutes. I was able to use her minutes as a pattern for recording and was able to find the other information easily. The only problem was that I often had no context for what I was looking for or what the files contained. Thank you to Sharon Thurston who took responsibility for the registrations in the mall - this had been part of the Secretary's job.

Through the meetings I began to learn more about the organization, to look for things. Eventually I began to get a handle on the organization and my role in it.

Too late I found the very well documented Dragon Boat Festival binders – thank you to those who kept those records so well over the years. Thank You to Susan Hind who tolerated the confusion that made her role as registrar for the Dragon Boat Festival frustrating. Thank you to Gord Henderson who volunteered to be Race Director and did an excellent job! Thank you to Tom Makay who did so much of the leg work and kept us together.

Can you imagine what it was like to have only 3 continuing Board members and an experienced Past President for the 2011 year? My appreciation to Tom Makay, Carole Green, Doris Mills and Cary Lentz, for your patience and on-going work on behalf of SARP. As a result of my experience over the year I accumulated information that seemed to form the basis of SARP and compiled it into a Board Manual. This at least is a starting point for Board Members in 2012.

I have been impressed by the way the Board has focused on what is best for SARP, while representing and working for the divisions. In the coming year, I would like to see a Board Development workshop and a focus on programming and membership.

As we go into 2012, those who continue on the Board will take some background and knowledge, will have had a chance to begin to vision and will continue to do their best to serve SARP. We look

forward to new Board members in 2012, as this is essential to the long term well being of SARP, and ongoing new energy and vision.