

Message from the Executive Director It's Hard to Say Good-bye



As June 30, 2021 looms, my thoughts and memories become ever more vivid. Images explode as if in a movie trailer. Sadly, it looks like I won't be able to thank you all in person, so I wanted to make sure that I could, at least thank you in writing.

Thanks for the Memories

I think of the first golf tournament when the naysayers were abundant, and their concerns were vexing. But we dove in, ploughed through and made it work. Thank you, Frank Roberto, John Pusic and Linda Jensen, for having faith in our vision. You were there from the very beginning and came back for the next 16 years to help make each tournament a success.

Then came the first gala – small and intimate, it was held in Envision Financial's foyer and board room. Alison McVeigh, Rod Ross, Susan Byrom and Eleanore Robinson were right beside me, rolling up their sleeves and making the gala an amazing success. And they too came back almost every year as it evolved from a wine & cheese after work get-together into a Sunday afternoon soiree held during an International Equestrian Jumping Competition at Thunderbird Show Park. (Not to drop names, but attendees included Bill and Melinda Gates albeit in happier times). Thank you, Jane Tidball and all your staff, for the incredible memories at Thunderbird Show Park!

And over the years the volunteers kept coming. Thank you, Rosemary Wallace, Mary Krische, Ngaire Leaf, Sam Muraca, Lanny Gregory, John Mazzarolo, Clare Pereira, Alice Boyd, Wendy Robson, Amber Illes, Grace Stewart, Donna Mason, Cathy Gracie, Lisa Farquharson, Lara Petrie, Shirley Van Noort, Sue Mercer, Kari Hall, and many others who volunteered at not only the golf tournament and gala, but film festivals, art shows, Santa Heroes, gift wrapping and shopping night events. And special thanks to the spouses who somehow found themselves embroiled in a flurry of activity – Ray Brown, Keith Wallace, Gord Stewart, Bob Jensen, Sandra Roberto and Jodie Pusic. You are indeed rock stars and I will never forget you.

Another shout-out to the PA-MOJA crew who I worked with and travelled to Kenya in 2015, 2017 and 2019. Silvia Knittel (I miss you so much), Alison, Njoki, Amber, 2 Andrews, Vickie, Michelle, Kari, Donna, Dawne, Chris, Troy, Gord, Grace, Lindsay, Neil, Gillian, Sue, Werner and others throughout the years.

And huge raising of hands to the Aboriginal department whom I worked with over so many years – Donna Robins, Gail Stromquist, Janet Stromquist and Cecelia Reekie.

I would also like to thank all the teachers, administrators and staff who helped organize the Art Show (Kevan Reeves), Film Festival (Jon Bonnor, Sue Boucher, Kevin Statham, Robert French, Dawn Driver), Breakfast Clubs (Alan Joo, Mike Palichuk, Jeremy Lyndon, Marcello Moino, John Hantke, Brad Hendy, Michael Carlyle, Jonathan Harris, Kevan Reeves, Dean Pacheco, John Pusic, Chris Wejr), the scholarship counsellors (Darlene Kifiak, Amber Blount, Carl Hofbauer, David Lewis, Elizabeth Hadley, Inder Kaulder, Mark Ferguson, Megan Dowedoff, Anita Hopton, Marci Statham, Mindy Janzen, Sue Docherty, Nadine Luteijin, Tera Springenatic), George Kozlovic as the Foundation liaison and valued advisor, Mike Morgan, Mike Pue, Iha Hayer, all the clerical staff, including Colleen, Brigitte, Deborah and Christine, the geniuses in the tech, accounting and finance departments (Paula, Sharon & Shind) and Sandra Kidder who came through to help me every single time.

Also, a shout-out to Jared Kope and Jennifer Brown from Pacific Sport. We worked so hard to bring Physical Literacy to the school district and thanks to both of you, and MacKenzie Coyle, George Kozlovic and Brian Hunter, it is now here and working well. Kudos to everyone.

I want to send out my appreciation to the Langley Advance Times, our partners in producing Student Success (thank you Lisa Farquharson and Shaulene Burkett) and to Roxanne Hooper, Doug Ferguson, Matt Claxton, Heather Colpitts and Ryan Uytdewilligen who reported on all our events, initiatives and activities.

And huge gratitude to my community partners – Rotary Clubs, Brian Croft from West Fine Art Show, United Churches of Langley, Sam Ingham from Breakfast Club of Canada, Michelle Roebuck from Vancouver Sun, Silverman Family, Doug Ramsay, Dougal Shewan, Super Save and so many others who are listed below.

And a very special thanks goes out to Joanna Dorland and Deb McKeown. They both emerged as essential members of the Foundation enterprise. The organization could not operate without their skills, dedication and expertise.

And, now to thank all those donors who I approached with such trepidation 16 years ago and again and again over the years. Thank you for your gracious interest and your ongoing support. All of you have become the anchors and linchpins that hold us together. The list is long, and their generosity is huge.

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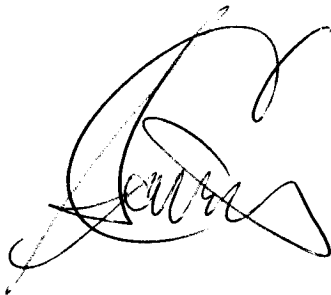
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The West Fine Art Show
Thank you for the Music Society

Thanks everyone. It's hard to say good-bye, but I feel confident that the Foundation is in good hands with Alicia Rempel at the helm as the new Executive Director along with Joanna Dorland and Deb McKeown who will continue to make learning UNFORGETTABLE for every Langley student.

And, before I sign off I want to give special recognition and acknowledgement to a group of volunteers who have agreed to donate their time and energy to serve as Directors on the Langley School District Foundation Board. Their backgrounds and expertise run the gamut from educators to lawyers; and from accountants to entrepreneurs. Thank you to Alison McVeigh, Peter Luongo, Linda Jensen, Grace Stewart, Lisa Farquharson, Lauren Kano-McGregor, Duncan Magnus, Michael Pratt, Frank Roberto and Rosemary Wallace. You have been there for the Foundation and I have always appreciated your steady support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alicia Rempel', written in a cursive style.

