**Message from the Chair for the 2017 AGM held March 12th, 2018**

2017 was a successful year for ARCAC, it was also a special year with Canada celebrating its 150th year since confederation. ARCAC continued to collaborate with both local businesses and other non-profit organizations during this 150th year, among these partners are the Kings Theatre, the Annapolis Heritage Society, Round Hill Studio Gallery, The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, the Kings Theatre Film Society and many others, including our Municipalities.

We have been fortunate to have a variety of board members who come from many walks of life and talents. Some are artists, others are not, and they continue to be a valuable resource to this organisation and are dedicated to furthering ARCAC as a community-minded organisation. Our objective is to enhance the quality of life in the community by reaching out to all age groups with the many programs and art exhibits offered. We cannot ignore the dedication of our membership volunteers who offer their services to maintain the operation of our organization. Without their enthusiasm and effort we would not have had achieved all that was done during this special year. Human resources continue to be a major focus of our Strategic Plan, and the recruitment of new members and board membership will remain to be an important objective for this new year.

During 2017 a decision was made to close the library section of the gallery to make way for more exhibit/project space on the main floor. This decision was based on the declining usage of the library facility. It was clear that this premium space could be better utilized for other programs and exhibits. Our Facilities Committee continues to seek funding for improvements to our building. Our objective is for improved and equal access for those with special abilities and the elderly. Our plan is to install exterior outward swinging doors that will conform to fire regulation and allow for larger functions with up to 150 persons. We are currently exploring potential Grant funding for an exterior elevator that would greatly improve access to our second floor.

The Programs Committee continues to develop and implement public programs that both address the interests of the community and consider global perspectives on the arts and culture. And, in 2017 Niki Clark and Ian Curry launched the Annapolis Region Maritime Culture project. The project emphasized the art of wood ship building and Maritime culture in our area. This project was an immense undertaking requiring countless hours of hard work and dedication. Thank you, Niki and Ian for enriching our lives by providing us with an historical glimpse of those who still live and those who through time may have been forgotten but yet were so important in their contribution/enrichment to the Arts and the culture of our area.

In our Artists Run Centre artist Jennifer Angus displayed her work incorporating Insects into beautiful art installations and was a major feature for 2017. Jennifer occupied a one month residency and collaborated with other community organisations during her tenure. Besides showing in our main gallery she held satellite exhibitions of her work in the community. Our galleries continue to facilitate membership shows and exhibitions providing local artists in our community the opportunity to display and promote the viewing and sale of their work.

Fund raising efforts continue to be a priority. The board decided that the annual art and

crafts auction held every Spring had run its course and that another fund raiser should be considered. Board Membership took the initiative to organize a Casino Night called Casino Annapolis Royal. Unfortunately, the project did not appeal to many of the general public and had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales. A fund raiser besides Paint the Town was needed to bridge the gap to secure operations funding for the year. We were however fortunate to receive a generous gift of securities from an ARCAC member that enabled us to bridge this gap for 2017. We continue to remain challenged to develop and employ another fund raiser for 2018.

ARCAC continued to be prudent and sensible in its financial planning during 2017. Scotiabank takes special interest ARCAC. The bank has aided the organization this year in diversifying its convertible investments and establishing an account that now enables ARCAC to accept donations of stocks and bonds. I can confidently say to you that ARCAC’s financial status is currently sound.

Paint the Town continues to be our premier fund raiser for the year. Paint the Town continues to grow in popularity and has evolved as a true community event. Our fund- raising objectives were met this year despite heavy rain on the first day. The community, both private residences and businesses reacted to the inclement weather by opening their doors to artists offering them dry shelter to work in. This was a great example how the community comes together in times of need, I thank those who offered their space that Saturday in order to keep this event on track.

As chair of ARCAC board I thank all of those volunteers for their time and effort in order to make ARCAC a successful organisation, a place we can be proud of and an asset to our community.

Respectfully,

Brian Muszkie