

Chair's Report Feb 25, 2021:

Well the dawn of the new decade didn't exactly go as planned did it? 2020 certainly brought surprises, new ways of doing things, looking at things, and realising what is really important... hugs for one! So here is a virtual hug from your current Board, Laura O'Neill (Admin), Paddy Carson (Fac), Julie Brewer, Gisa Straith, Tristan Macdonald, newcomer Nadine Schumont (Fac) and yours truly. Denny Wong and Nadine Matishak are now Friends of the Society, their lives need them for this coming year, but they remain supportive. Very sadly, Carole Ford passed in 2020; we are sure she is helping us celestially!

Covid meant we had to get creative with our **fundraising**, and we rose to the challenge. We launched our first **Walk and Talk the DYS out of Dyslexia** event. Tristan and I created 3 series of podcasts; the first one explained dyslexia and what to do about it, the second one was from the prevention angle, and for the third one we found some *very* talented dyslexics who use their gift to the full, including Ed Roman, our multi-international-award winning musician, who continually supports us wholeheartedly, thank you Ed!

Laura continues to amaze as our **Administrator**... using Canada Helps she managed to get us equipped to receive funds from those walking, biking and running ... it was SO efficient. Our target was \$8,000 and we got there ! We were thrilled we got to \$7,172.00. A massive thank you to everyone who helped us get there! Laura never stops, she is constantly organising the website, adding a Resource page, making us more efficient, extending the social media, we now have our own YouTube channel; she is the reason we function! She has taken on the Treasurer's duties and reported that as of Dec 31,2020 we had \$14,301.96 in our General Account (\$8,805.84 for DLS & \$2,400.00 for the Family Summer Camp weekend) leaving \$3,096.12 for expenses. In the Bursary Account we have \$8,721.06 (\$2,700 restricted for BC students) \$1,500.00 earmarked for an applicant.

We are so blessed that Stacey Smith is now our very own **Davis Learning Strategies** Workshop presenter, and we got permission to offer this Workshop online, April 15/16 2021, which will make it way more accessible. The Board agreed to provide every Canadian attendee with \$150Can to ensure it is more affordable too.

Sadly, we couldn't go ahead with the **Family Summer Camp** weekend, but September 2021 is looking hopeful... we all need people, especially like-minded ones!

All in-person **Outreach** was curtailed, so I created several videos for the YouTube Channel, What is Dyslexia, the Correction program and how to Prevent it. In the Fall, I applied to speak at the TedxBearCreekPark event, 27 March 2021, and incredibly, I got accepted! As I write this I am in training, and it is *rigorous*. I could not be more grateful for the organisation, the coaching and the spectacular opportunity to have our information reach a much wider audience. Our podcasts were up to over 600 listens,

and Podbean has noticed our success, which means we might gain some podcast income one day.

So our **plans** for 2021? Part 2 of our AGM will focus on the year ahead including another **Walk and Talk the DYS out of Dyslexia**, plus a virtual **Auction** this time. We will continue to advocate for **DLS** in schools and create more **Podcasts**. Nadine Schumont has joined the Board as our 'Ontario chapter' and with her enthusiasm, we are broadening our horizons!

Thank you all for your energy, whether you contribute physically or just read our Newsletters, it all helps. We would love to hear from you, let us know what you need, and here's to yet another fabulous year!

Sue Hall, Founder and Chair