

September Secretary's Report

Two things to report this month.

First, we had to cancel our August 30th picnic. The weather forecast was for possible showers, and as we neared the time of the picnic, that possibility developed into probability. Sure enough, at more or less the exact time we had agreed to meet, the heavens opened and down came the rain.

One of our newer members, however, had the brilliant idea of changing the planned event into a virtual picnic, and this we did. No photos to share with you, unfortunately, but it was good to meet (in a virtual sense) various members and to start the process of getting to know them slightly. So thank you Daniel for that suggestion.

Secondly, your board has met (also virtually) and with great reluctance, has decided to cancel the delayed 2021 Boat Race Dinner. Few, if any of you, will be surprised by this decision. At one stage, during the early summer, it really did look as if we might be able to hold this event in the autumn. Alas, the Delta variant and the various Provincial Health advisories meant that even if we were able to hold the event, it would have been nothing like previous dinners. No mingling, no table hopping, and guests masked if they weren't seated and eating. In my August report, I asked for your views on holding the dinner, and many thanks to those who replied. No one thought it a good idea to hold the dinner in these current conditions.

So, for the first time in its long and storied history, VOCS has not been able to hold its annual Boat Race Dinner for two consecutive years.

Fortunately, this state of affairs will not continue indefinitely. At some stage, and I have no idea when this may be, we will be able to meet up face to face once more. And when this becomes possible, we have it in mind to throw a celebration. This is intended not to be an alternative to holding the Dinner, but as an addition.

So, my fellow VOCSians, here is a question (I almost typed challenge) for you. What sort of Opening Up Celebration are you interested in attending? Obviously, food and wine will be involved, but what else? Formal or informal? With or without families? Midday or evening? Outdoors or inside? How should the event be catered? If we do Bring Your Own, it will need to be managed so we don't end up with two dozen starters and no mains. If we decide to cater, then we will need to levy a charge to cover the cost. These and many other aspects require the keen collective intellect of our membership.

As I sit here typing this report, the rain is teeming down. It's a bit difficult to think of planning an Opening Up Party in these circumstances. But plan we must do, and your board is relying on you to come up with suggestions. Even impractical ones will be considered.

As always, you can contact me at vanoxbridge@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from a very large number of you!

Simon Taylor