



## BRITISH COLUMBIA BED & BREAKFAST INNKEEPERS GUILD

Harrison Hot Springs is all but a wonderful memory for those Guild members who attended the Annual Conference and AGM. But what a good memory!

The day was a bounty of information about Marketing your bed and breakfast.

I attended the Northwest PAII conference this last March which also had many presentations on Marketing but somehow I got more useful notes from our speakers than I did in March...hmmm, some of them were the same presenters or from the same company - I don't know why it seemed so much better.

Perhaps it was the less intimidating environment - we were among Guild friends. Many of us knew one another and there were not too many people that there wasn't a couple of opportunities to meet and have a friendly chat.

Special thanks should go to Jeff Logan of Avelient for his two part presentation on Social Media, also the presentation from Ethan Shelley from Trip Advisor was very informative and for some, the TripAdvisor people and platform seem less formidable, much more user friendly than many of us previously thought.

Those who went on the B&B tour were greeted by friendly and welcoming hosts from Clayburn Village B&B - Leslie and Ramsey Oren, Betty Anne Faulkner from Rowena's B&B put out a lovely spread to welcome Guild members and gave us a history lesson about her parent's home, now B&B and cottages, Golf Course and restaurant. Blackberry B&B is a sheep farm where some of our members bought Marlene Wouda's homemade pies. Imagine having that in your gift shop! Tall Timbers hosts, Hartmut and Edith Berger have been in the B&B business for over 23 years having just relocated to Agassiz from Sumas in the last 2 years and opened their B&B for the fishers, mostly from Europe who come to the Fraser for their catch of the day. And Tricia from Eagle Tree Lodge also in Agassiz opened her thoughtfully planned out B&B which is a mix of rustic wood and refined amenities for today's traveler. All 5 gave their own unique slant on the B&B from the Fraser Valley. (This tour was organized by Sonya from Harrison Heritage House - unfortunately she was away on vacation and so we missed seeing her B&B.)

Some of the B&Bs on the tour were not members but were interested in finding out more about our Guild and naturally we were happy to talk about it!

Graham Laxton and Bev shared their connecting living room for our first evening's social. At this point I have to thank Graham and his team including Liz Jessiman-Phair from ThistleDown, former member Chris Drysdale from Cloudside Inn in Nelson, Sonja Reyerse from Harrison Heritage House and cottage and Erika Durlacher of Durlacher Hof in Whistler. A committee that pulled off an amazing conference without ever meeting in person!

And our appreciation to the Harrison Hotel and Spa for their catering including breakfasts, lunch and our dinner dance in the Copper Room Restaurant. I would like to thank all the women - and a couple of men - who put their names down on my dance card. I think I danced with all our female Guild members but I'm sorry, Guys - I'll get you next time!

Our Annual General Meeting was a surprise to me. With huge help from Rex Davidson from ThistleDown House, I managed to make my way through the rather formal meeting in about 25 minutes. It seemed longer but at the end of it we had retired 3 board of directors and elected 5 new ones.

Our new board is: Evan Penner (West End Guest House, Vancouver) - President

Judy Bostrom (Bostrom's B&B on Little Beach Bay, Ucluelet) - Vice President

Susanne Condon-Monroe (O'Canada House, Vancouver) - Treasurer

Denis Cyr (Apples ~n~ Wine, Summerland) - At Large

Michaela O'Doherty (A Scented Garden, Chemainus) - At Large

Linda Donohue (Chemainus Tudor Inn, Chemainus) - At Large

Margit de Haan (Greenwood Country Inn, Pemberton) - At Large

Ingrid Vermegen (Cobble House, Cobble Hill) - Past President

Louise Griffin (Lakeshore, Kelowna) - At Large

Clare Sucloy (A Touch of English, Kelowna) - At Large.

Please read our next TableTalk, it will include the various portfolios for all our board members. The position of Secretary will also be assigned to one of our At Large members.

EVAN PENNER, PRESIDENT