



**House and Grounds Director
Annual Report 2020
By: ALAN GALLEY**

It was a lean year for house and Grounds due to the Covid restrictions placed on volunteers working on the clubhouse and surrounding grounds. The annual spring cleanup was cancelled and the BYC gardening committee was delayed until June from beautifying the grounds. Despite this, the gardening committee made up for lost time by putting the heart and souls into ensuring that when limited operations began the grounds were looking fantastic, with both potted plants and flower beds looking the best they had in years. Inside the clubhouse the second floor accessible washroom was completed by Jordan Morrow under plans set out by Guy Grimard and Paul Moore resulting in a very elegant addition to our banquet facilities.

Springtime was an opportunity to clean up the grounds in front of the new seawall, with the club manager and staff seeing that lawn sod was placed between the bridge and clubhouse, thus allowing the sail boarders access to an ideal place to rig their boards. This was coupled with easier access to the water from Guy Grimard's modification of the ramp system in front of the clubhouse. The new lawn is now also bordered by the first of a number of wrought iron fences that are being placed in order to upgrade BYC security, this one stretching across the end of Cassell St. from the clubhouse across to the edge of the Fuller property.

The one major project that took place regarding continued clubhouse restoration was the partial demolition and rebuilding of the North Staircase. Under the superlative guidance of Guy Grimard the staircase from the upper landing to the pavement was modified to make the stairs wider and safer, the inner surfaces and stair banister were recast, and LED lights installed, and eaves troughing placed above the structure. By the middle of November rubber mats will be secured onto the step surfaces to minimize hazards from slipping, and a railing will be added to the upper landing. Next spring we hope to complete the renovation by finishing the outside of the staircase structure to match the East Wall finish. This was a huge and complex task completed with the help of dedicated volunteers and the harbour staff under Guy's patient guidance.

Although we were very restricted on further renovations due to both the Covid regulations and the difficulty in acquiring outside contractors House and Grounds and the General Manager have gone ahead with prioritizing further flood control initiatives in and around the clubhouse. This will include developing a permanent pumping system under the furnace room that will be linked to a sump tank and gravity feed through 8 inch piped to the harbour. This should negate

any future need to close down the Lower Lounge at any time during the spring flood season. We also have to track down the continued problem of water leakage into the women's locker room washroom before replacing the damaged drywall.