Founders Tribute 2019

In view of the major construction plans for Garth Homer Society and thus potential impact on our meeting space, now is an opportune time to reflect on past moves of our Guild. Traditionally January is our Founders Tribute month, but our new executive wasn’t quite up to speed last month on this item.

Meetings were first held in a members Flower Shop called POSY in 1949. By 1955 the meetings had moved to Victoria City Hall, then to Spencer Mansion at Victoria Art Gallery, to THE INN on Cook St, to St Christopher’s Church Hall. Church’s being a popular and functional venue, the meetings then moved to St. Aiden’s in the 1980’s to Norway House in 1987 and to Metropolitan United Church in 1990 Garth Homer has been our home for 24 years. Since 1995 in fact. That is 9 moves in 70 years!

Should we be leaving Garth Homer in the next few years, we have a history of surviving quite nicely, thanks to the dedication of previous members who made the transition possible.

Our years as a floral group has evolved. 1949 was the year that a Judging and Arranging Group within the Victoria Horticultural Society began. 1952/53 there was a separation of the Judging Group and Flower Arranging group, but still under the Society. In 1969 the Flower Arranging Group separated from the Victoria Horticultural Society and became an independent group, naming themselves Victoria Flower Arrangers’ Guild. If we are to judge that as our official beginnings, then ***2019 would be our 50th year.*** If we reflect on the very early beginnings, we would be **celebrating our 70th year. Either way, a celebration would be something to consider!** A name change from Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild **to** **Victoria** Floral Artists Guild in 2015 was to reflect the artistic trend of other international floral groups.

From 1955, Mrs. Theo Wiggan held the position of president for 10 years during the Victoria Art Gallery era. She continues to be one person fondly remembered after all these passing years; she was fittingly installed as an Honorary member for life in 1974 (at the 25th anniversary of the 1949 founding year).

This information with thanks, has been gleaned by the assistance of our archivist, Susan Currie who will have a display of some of ‘our roots’ at the February meeting and from Bella Mullholland, a long-standing member.

Submitted as our *2019 FOUNDERS TRIBUTE* by Joel Fair, Vice President. VFAG