

2018/2019 FTFO Chair's Report: Jim Beattie



In 2018/2019 FTFO achieved much that we can celebrate, but that celebration must include a close examination of the initiatives we undertook to ensure that our future efforts offer the maximum support and encouragement our communities need to be actively engaged in the climate crisis discussion. It is hopeful that, finally, at this moment in Canada, addressing the affects of human generated climate change are squarely on the public's mind: it is a key issue in the upcoming Federal election; decisions of governments at every level are being examined for their efficacy in addressing climate disasters and in reducing carbon in our overheated world; across the country and the world, groups like ours are doing hard work to make sure action on climate happens; young people are banding together and raising their voices; and the media is producing more copy on this crisis. In support of these positive developments, FTFO must continue to be relevant and effective.

Reports submitted to this AGM, which will be posted on our webpage and FaceBook, clearly show that in the past year FTFO Board members, volunteers, regional businesses and guest speakers have successfully presented opportunities for the public to participate in many facets of the climate crisis discussion. And in all cases to positive support at the public, professional and political level. I am personally proud of all we have done, but three specific events stand out for me: the decision of the Penticton City Council to create a Climate Change Task Force following their unanimous endorsement of our presentation in Council Chambers in the Spring of 2019; the establishment of the "Cool-It" program in the local school district; and the senior student art project that culminated in a show at the Penticton Art Gallery. These are three of many that you will hear and read about in the Board Reports.

The Board of FTFO is a working board – we have no staff, no office, no regular funding – and the Board members that I have worked with in the

past year have put in more time and effort than anyone could reasonably expect. Hand in hand with volunteers, they crafted a year of discussion, debate, entertainment, cultural diversity, political action, education and friendship. In times of despair of the situation we face, a gathering with them to plan a next step invariably raised my spirits and highlighted why we must continue to be an active voice. My deepest thanks.

Respectfully submitted.

Jim Beattie