

**Canadian Association of
Aquarium Clubs**



Annual Reports 2018 - 2019

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President's Message - Nancy Egelton

It's been an exciting year for CAOAC, with lots of new ideas and happenings.

We were faced with learning a whole new set of rules with our new legislation regarding pet medications. It was a bit rough at first but we are all learning to change our mindset.

We teamed up again with the Toronto Pet Expo and had a couple of successful exhibitions at the International Centre in Mississauga.

CAOAC was on the road for a few executive meetings this past year and I received several favorable comments.

CAOAC also has changed the fish rescue programme. It is now up to the local clubs to deal with rescue fish as they see fit. So far this has been very successful and made us more visible to the public.

CAOAC is well on its way to a strong future and I have enjoyed my first year as CAOAC President.

Nancy Egelton

President

CAOAC

Archivist - Unofficial Chair Ann Stevens

No updates to last year's report. The one item that needs to be remembered for future chair is that since CAOAC is incorporated, it is a legal requirement to keep all minutes of all meetings. This means that past minutes that were on ledger paper in binders and all newsletters that are not available electronically, need to be saved.

Aquatic Horticulturalist Directory - Chair Ann Marie Towell

The CAOAC plant listings need more input please. Clubs , please submit your club records to be included

-Keep in mind, CAOAC offers "First In" for plant propagation as well. With so many new plants , why not be the first in Canada to be recognised for growing some of the latest additions? Please get in touch with me and get your award(s).

-Don't forget to submit for your HAP awards to the awards chair. Deadline is the February meeting.

-If you have ideas on how to get more participation in the HAP program, please let any of the CAOAC executive know.

Tanks for a great year and keep planting!!

Ann Marie

amtowell@shaw.ca

Awards - Chair Peter Melady

I would like to congratulate those receiving CAOAC Awards this year. There is one Achievement Award (AHAP) and one Recognition Award (Newsletter). It is too bad that clubs do not avail themselves of the Achievement Awards that CAOAC has to offer.

We are suspending the Newsletter Award due to a lack of participation. There were only three clubs that submitted their newsletters for judging

I encourage all members to check out the Awards programs available on our CAOAC website and, if you feel that you are eligible, submit an application. Rules, requirements and forms are available on the website for download. As I have stated in the past; we can only process what we receive.

Peter Melady, Awards Chair

Breeders Directory - Chair Lisa Boorman

CAOAC has a total of 21 member clubs. Of these 21 clubs, 6 of those are actively involved. We encourage all members of CAOAC affiliated clubs to participate in the program. This needs the involvement of each club's BAP chairperson. Please send me your BAP information so your members can be properly acknowledged and awarded (if they meet the 'First In' requirements).

Clubs with input and/or updates for '18/'19:

Aquarium Society of Winnipeg
Chatham-Kent Aquarium Society
Hamilton & District Aquarium Society
Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society
Sarnia Aquarium Society
St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Any club wishing to participate in this program just need to email me their monthly BAP records.

This year we had several 'First in CAOAC' awards. Congratulations are in order to those excellent fish breeders on their achievements! Please note that some of the First In Awards are retroactive due to species being described.

Congratulations to:

ASW - Chris Biggs Chortiheros wesseli Jan2019
ASW - Chris Biggs Dawkinsia assimilis Jan2019
ASW - Chris Biggs Elassoma okefenokee Jan2019
ASW - John Wylie Danio erythromicron Jan2019
ASW - Mike Bomhoff Vieja breidohri Jan2019
ASW – Rod Olalia Garra rufa Feb 2019
HDAS – Charles Drew Hyphessobrycon elachys Nov 2018
HDAS – Charles Drew Hyphessobrycon margitae Nov 2018
SCAAS – Michael Daniels Liosomadoras oncinus Apr 2019
SCAAS – Andrew Fruck Herichthys tepehua Apr2019
SAS - Peter Melady Fundulopanchax spoorenbergi Jan2019

The Directory was and is intended as a service to the member clubs of CAOAC. It provides information and encouragement in the area of fish breeding. It also celebrates the collective achievements of our hobbyists.

Lisa Boorman. May 2019

Binder - Chair Ann Stevens

The only updates were to the new recipients of awards.

Fish Rescue - Various Clubs/Ann Marie Towell

The following emails were received at the generic CAOAC email:

It has been a busier year for fish rescue. First off, tanks to Nancy Egelton for sponsoring a contest to name the “fish rescue” program. This has helped to publicise the fish rescue which seems to be getting busier. I have received offers to “home” fish from across the country which has been awesome. Thanks to social media, we have been able to find fish from Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia good homes. This has helped CAOAC become a resource for this sort of program which is sorely needed. If you would like to know more, please contact me.

Ann Marie

amtowell@shaw.ca

Emails received at the CAOAC general email address rescued through the GTA club.

- Large pleco referred to Ann Marie for Alberta
- Koi pond fish in Burlington, referred to GTA, but later found a home
- 3 Koi in Scarborough, referred to GTA club and rehomed
- 1 fish tank with fish, referred to GTA club and rehomed

Ann Stevens

Futures - Chair Jeff Mountjoy

Introduction

The purpose of CAOAC is as relevant today as it was in 1959. However, some concepts and former ways of doing things are now out-dated. New methods are required to bring CAOAC forward into the 21st century. The most important area that CAOAC needs to work on is communication. People associate differently today. Now more than ever, aquarium hobbyists have lots of options to connect and learn about what is happening in the hobby. Great things happen when aquarists connect at a club meeting, at an auction or convention, through a Facebook group chat, watching a shared Youtube video, viewing an Instagram post or digital newsletter or through an interactive livestream. A conduit for all these types of modern communication

methods that serves all clubs, its members and interested newcomers to the hobby would result in a more effective Association of Canadian Aquarium Clubs for people.

Benefits

- Club memberships will grow, new clubs will start and have a chance of surviving and all clubs will thrive as part of an Association that is better connected.
- The public will become more aware of our great hobby and have more accessible and better resources to help them achieve success with their aquariums.
- Technologically savvy younger generations (especially 25-35-year-olds) who are just settling into life, looking for things to fill their time and who have spare cash to spend will embrace the hobby if it is better supported by their preferred communication methods.
- Existing hobbyists in more remote regions or those with limited financial means will be more interested in joining aquarium clubs if they can access specific club programs online, follow a group on Facebook or a join a centralized forum where they can ask questions, get help with a problem or make contributions themselves.
- A stronger and more vibrant aquatics pet industry will result from renewed interest in the hobby. Independent aquarium stores and online businesses will have a better chance of competing with the larger retail chains with more potential customers active in the hobby.

To achieve its objectives, CAOAC will need to enable solutions that are more technological in nature and can be implemented by individuals who have some expertise in modern communications, especially social media. One person cannot do this. There needs to be 2 or 3 individuals who are qualified in different aspects and if they happen to be passionate about the hobby than that would be a bonus. Such individuals however do not necessarily need to come from within our aquarium-keepers community. Outside help may be an option to explore.

Some proposed methods for achieving identified objectives for CAOAC from a 2009 Futures Committee meeting (shown below in italics) are still relevant today:

Communications

- *Virtual meetings for CAOAC allow clubs across the country to actively participate.*
- *Develop a single forum for all member clubs (accessible through each member club website), this will increase traffic to individual sites, reduce*

the workload for individual clubs and improves the forum. Also, there will be the possibility of getting good advertising revenue (shared).

- *Create linkages with other organizations, pet related clubs, conservation/eco groups, manufacturers, universities, colleges, schools and retailers.*
- *Set up a formal group (of the above) to discuss topics of mutual interest (a working group). This connects CAOAC to the broader community, the country and the world.*
- *Create a combined digital newsletter for all members of every club as many clubs' struggle putting one together.*
- *Develop and share auction software program(s) that can be easily used by any CAOAC member club.*
- *Encourage and facilitate the participation of member clubs at CAOAC executive and general meetings by utilizing up to date modern communication equipment and/or software.*

Marketing /Public Relations

- *Promote joint events with all of the above (cross marketing in all areas).*
- *Provide and/or facilitate speakers, aquarium equipment and support to schools.*
- *Offer free 6-month club memberships (all CAOAC clubs) through retailers and or manufacturers for tank kits thereby increasing the success rate of new hobbyists and possibly adding more new permanent club members. The visibility of clubs, the hobby and CAOAC will be improved.*
- *Create and promote events specifically geared towards 9 to 18-year-olds. This could be part of an overall event such as what was done at some previous CAOAC conventions. This is being done in Europe.*
- *Increase family and non-fish related events at CAOAC conventions (Give attendees more options). This will increase participation rates. "Let's Think Outside the Tank!"*
- *Leverage "Fish Rescue" initiatives and develop strategic partnerships. Co-operation by all clubs in all regions is required here to be most effective. With real pressures today on our hobby to be more responsible in regards to animal welfare and the environment, earning positive social license with the public is critical and will benefit the sustainability of our clubs and the hobby long term.*

Recommended Action Items

- **The CAOAC Executive to consider, review and prioritize some of the methods mentioned above by the Futures Committee both past and current.**
- **CAOAC should reach out to its membership to identify individuals or particular clubs who demonstrate strong talents in certain areas (i.e. communications, marketing/public relations, newsletter production, forum**

management, auction and dinner-speaker events experience etc.) to see if they would be interested in “carrying the torch” in some of these areas for the benefit of all CAOAC clubs.

- A standard format pull-up banner should be produced by each CAOAC member club and supplied to CAOAC for use at public events such as Pet Expo, Conventions and other related events. For smaller clubs with limited funds, perhaps CAOAC could assist these clubs in the purchase of a banner.
- Update the CAOAC speakers list. Encourage club members who have done presentations to their local club to share their talks with other clubs.
- Review the current CAOAC website, Facebook page and other communication methods and compare them to other associations to identify strengths, weaknesses and necessary improvements.

Closing Comments

Moving forward with a more up to date communications strategy and improved public relations and marketing initiative for CAOAC will not come without challenges, however with an organized approach, smart use of limited resources and leverage of available talent within our aquarium club community, positive change can happen resulting in a revitalisation of our hobby.

Submitted by: Jeff Mountjoy on behalf of the Futures Committee with input and contributions from Udo Rohmann, Tom Mason, Hadyn Pounder, Peter DeSouza, Al Ridley, Ann Marie Towell, Ron Bishop, Ann Stevens and Mike Majer.

Membership - Chair Ed Bosker

Some of the following changes this year:

- Brant Aquarium Club folded
- Marine Aquarium Society of Toronto did not renew

	Club	# Votes
	Insured	
CAOAC	Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs	
ACE	Aquarium Club of Edmonton	1
ASW	Aquarium Society of Winnipeg	2
BRASS	Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe	1
CAS	Calgary Aquarium Society	2
CKAS	Chatham-Kent Aquarium Society	1
DRAS	Durham Region Aquarium Society	2
GVAS	Greater Victoria Aquaria Society	1
HDAS	Hamilton & District Aquarium Society	2
KWAS	Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society	1
LAS	London Aquaria Society	1
OVAS	Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society	2
RAS	Regina Aquarium Society	1
SAS	Sarnia Aquarium Society	1
SAS	Saskatoon Aquarium Society	2
SCAAS	St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society	1
WAS	Windsor Aquarium Society	1
	No Insurance	
BBC	Betta Breeders of Canada	1
GTA	Greater Toronto Aquarium Club	1
PRAC	Peel Regional Aquarium Club	1
SAM	Société d'Aquariophilie de Montréal (SAM)	2
TBAS	Thunder Bay Aquarium Society	1
TCGG	Trans Canada Guppy Group	2
	Not Renewed	
BAS	Brant Aquarium Society	
MAST	The Marine Aquarium Club of Toronto	

Newsletter - Chair Ann Stevens

I continue to try to keep the newsletter as a source of information, not just club related. I have included the following:

- any club event flyers, when sent to me
- recent hobby related news
- updates to any CAOAC changes
- general CAOAC information for committee chairs and executive positions
- proposal for changes to CAOAC Sanctioned Shows
- pictures and stories, when available, from club events

There was a suggestion to have a club highlighted each month in the newsletter, to enable to get to know each club a bit better. A form will be created and sent to clubs to start highlighting in September.

If there is something you'd like to see included, send me your ideas or articles.

Open Show - Chair Barb Draper

The fish show season for 2018 was represented by 4 fish shows. The Kwas OKTOBERFISH show had the most entries with 187 being the largest show. Last year's CAOAC Convention had the most participants in the shows with 25 people participating from 10 different clubs. Overall, the shows were represented by 49 participants from 12 different fish clubs as well as a few without any club representation. Of the participants, only 3 were entered in all 4 fish shows - one of them being a junior hobbyist. Kwas had the highest number of participating members overall in the shows however The Club challenge award for most points earned at all the shows was achieved by HAMILTON DISTRICT AQUARIUM SOCIETY. The high aggregate award for most points earned throughout the fish show season was achieved by Bob Wright - LAS.

The award for most points earned in the Betta categories was Catherine Salmon

We had lots of new hobbyist showing in the junior categories for a total of 8 participants. Although Shawn O'Halloran Jr. scored awards in all 4 shows, the high aggregate junior award for most points was achieved by Sabrina Winger.

Best of luck to everyone at this year's upcoming fish shows.

Social Media - Chair Cindy Golden

I was asked during a meeting in January of 2019 on advancing the hobby. I suggested Instagram as it is a very visual. Hobby. Instagram focuses on picture sharing. With that being said, what is shared is CAOAC sanctioned events across Canada. Whether it is an auction or

speakers at different events. There are now over 280 followers with 25 posts and the account is following 965 other Instagram accounts. My goal is to create more awareness of CAOAC and its member clubs and expand the aquarium hobby itself. I look forward to 2019...2020 year.
Cindy

Speakers Directory - Chairs Peter DeSouza/Al Ridley

It was decided the online Speaker's Directory needed further updates. Peter DeSouza had started working on it and then was contacted by Al Ridley who indicated he had an extensive list already created. Requests have been made for the updated list, but as of this printing, none have been received.

Steering - Chair Peter DeSouza

The following Executive positions were confirmed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting in Watertown, Ontario

President: Standing - No nominations for this position were received therefore the current incumbent, Nancy Egelton, was acclaimed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting

1st Vice President: Standing-No nominations for this position were received therefore the current incumbent, Peter DeSouza, was acclaimed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting

2nd Vice President: Standing-No nominations for this position were received therefore the current incumbent, Ann Marie Towell, was acclaimed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting.

Treasurer: Current Treasurer, Ed Bosker, decided to step down and there was one nomination. Initially, two nominations were received for this position Brian Glazier and Albert van Montfort. Brian subsequently decided to withdraw his nomination. Albert van Montfort accepted the nomination to this position. Albert was acclaimed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting.

Recording Secretary(RS): Current RS, Ann Stevens is stepping down and there is one nomination Murray Brown. Murray was acclaimed at the April 14, 2019 General Meeting.

Corresponding Secretary(CS): Current CS, Murray Brown is stepping down to run for the RS position. At the April 14, 2019 General Meeting Cindy Golden was nominated for the CS position and was acclaimed.

Peter DeSouza

VP CAOAC

Steering Committee

Ways & Means - Chair Cindy Golden

The only major expense was for a new kettle, other than that, the only expenses were for treats, coffee and cream for the meetings.

Month	Balance	Spent	Rec'd	50/50	Raffle
Bal. Fwd.			20.00		
June	20.00		15.00		
Sept.	35.00	- 12.05	5.05	45.00	
Oct.	73.00	- 7.00	5.00		
Nov.	71.00	- 7.65	4.00	11.00	
Dec.	78.35	- 11.54	12.74	12.50	30.00
Jan.	122.05	- 30.00	5.00	15.00	
Feb.	112.05	- 12.00	5.05	22.50	30.00
Mar.	157.60	- 7.00	5.00	22.50	30.00
Apr.	208.10	- 7.00	13.00	10.00	4.00
May	228.10				

Webmaster - Chair Ann Stevens

The following items were updated throughout the year.

- 2018-2019 Award recipients were added
- Continuous updates in regards to the 2019 convention
- Updated membership form
- Updated executive and membership chairs
- Updated the Contact Us page
- Added club events as sent to me throughout the year
- Removed the Club Needs form, as was not updated in over 10 years and no one seemed to use it.
- Added some new links to the Links page

Motions - Recording Secretary Ann Stevens

There was only one motion made this year and it is being voted on at convention:

Peter DeSouza made a motion to reduce the number required for a quorum for the executive to 3. Seconded by Peter Melady. This will now be voted on at the convention.

Treasurer's Report - Ed Bosker

The following are transactions that transpired over the last 9 months, as of May 12, 2019

Opening Balance as of last Annual Report \$9,879.51

May			9,879.51
Chq#235-Nancy Egelton-embroidery	150.00		
Chq#236-Lisa Boorman-program printing	281.57		
Chq#237-Holiday Inn-deposit for 2019	500.00		
Chq#238-Ann Stevens-convention	10,550.58		
Chq#239-Jody McManus-auction	57.50		
Chq#240-David Stronghill-auction	138.70		
Chq#242- Zena Campbell-auction	152.00		
Cash withdrawal-float	500.00		
PayPal-Mike Helwig	686.15		
PayPal-Ken Boorman-Jeff Carwell gas (PayPal 261.27-266.29)	5.02		
Bank Fees	12.74		
Deposit			
PayPal balance		3,792.94	
Cash ticket sales		575.00	
auction, briefcases, raffle, Float, vendors, sponsorship		4,116.75	
Ending Bank Balance-May 31	13,034.26	8,484.69	5,329.94
PayPal			
1 Tickets (\$100-3.20)		96.8	
1 Speaker ticket (\$50-1.75)		48.25	
2 Banquet only ticket (\$120-3.78)		116.22	
Transfer from bank to cover expenses		5.02	
Ken Boorman-Jeff Cardwell (\$200US)	266.29		
Total	266.29	266.29	0
June - August			
Chq#241-Karen Young -auction	90.40		
Chq#243-Ann Stevens (Internet, Computer, convention)	423.00		
Chq#244-TCGG-auction	91.80		
Bank Fees	3.90		
Deposit		606.00	
Ending Bank Balance-August 31	609.10	606.00	5,326.84
September - October			

Bank Fees	3.90		
Ending Bank Balance-October 31	3.90	0.00	5,322.94
November			
Chq #245 - convention postcards	107.35		
Chq#246 - Internet, Computer Maint.	191.48		
Bank Fees			
Deposit:			
HDAS		330.00	
LAS		300.00	
Sarnia AS		280.00	
Saskatoon AS		330.00	
Thunder Bay		78.00	
TCGG		90.00	
Windsor AS		280.00	
Winnipeg AS		310.00	
BRASS		280.00	
CKAS		280.00	
Donation from CDN Aquatic for Pet Expo		100.00	
Pet Expo - sale of fish		205.00	
Ending Bank Balance-December 5	298.83	2,863.00	7,887.11
December			
Chq #247 - Waterdown Optimist-rent	200.00		
Chq#248 - Around KW-web hosting	62.15		
Chq#249- PIJAC-renewal membership	203.40		
Bank Fees			
Deposit:			
Pet Expo - remaining sales		30.00	
Durham Region AS		310.00	
St. Catharines & Area AS		280.00	
Aquarium Club of Edmonton		280.00	
Kitchener-Waterloo AS		240.00	
Regina AS		280.00	
Ending Bank Balance-December 5	465.55	1,420.00	8,841.56
January			
CHQ#250-Intact Insurance	3,207.60		
Bank Fees			

Deposit:			
Money transferred from PayPal			
Greater Victoria		271.58	
SAM		87.09	
Ottawa Valley		300.71	
Betta Breeders Canada		57.96	
Ending Bank Balance-January 19, 2019	3,207.60	717.34	6,351.30
February			
Bank Fees			
Deposit:			
Calgary membership cheque		310.00	
GTA membership - cash		60.00	
Ending Bank Balance-February 8	0.00	370.00	6,721.30
March			
Chq #251-Peter DeSouza-Andrea's airfare	1,125.85		
Bank Fees			
Deposit:			
Ticket Sale- Ann Stevens (EFT)		85.00	
Ending Bank Balance-April 8	1,125.85	85.00	5,680.45
May			
Returned chq	60.00		
Bank Fees	1.25		
NSF fee	5.00		
Deposit:			
Ticket Sale-Murray Brown (EFT)		85.00	
Ticket Sale-Ed Bosker (EFT)		85.00	
Convention			
Sponsorship-London AS		500.00	
Sponsorship-Sarnia AS		300.00	
Sponsorship - Hamilton DAS		500.00	
Ticket Sales - Full Convention (x7)		595.00	
Ticket Sales - Banquet Only (x2)		120.00	
Ticket Sales - Speakers Only (1)		50.00	
Show Sponsorship - (x4)		140.00	

Vendor Tables		100.00	
Club Membership - KWAS		60.00	
Show Sponsorship - EFT		70.00	
Transferred from PayPal			
Full Convention (39*\$85)		3,315.00	
Full Convention (1*\$100)		100.00	
Banquet Only (4*\$60)		240.00	
Speaker Only (6x50)		300.00	
Show Sponsorship (4*\$35)		140.00	
Memberships (2*\$60)		120.00	
Ticket Refund		(0.30)	
PayPal		(135.20)	
Ending Bank Balance-May 12	66.25	6,684.50	12,298.70
Reserved Funds - Terry Little			(362.82)
Forest City Pond Club Donation			(648.00)
Working Balance			11,287.88

Also note, of this balance, there will be expenses relating to the convention, estimating at \$10,000.