



Caring for our own

Palingenesis

*Under the distinguished patronage of her Excellency the
Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada*

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MARCH 2008

EDMONTON UP AND RUNNING

An important event in Edmonton in mid-November saw over 30 people attend a meeting called to investigate the feasibility of creating a PAL presence in the Alberta Capital. With probing questions and much hope and enthusiasm, the meeting agreed to proceed with a plan to bring PAL services to the area. The strength of commitment is demonstrated by all those attending signing on to help.

The Steering Committee, meeting monthly, is receiving growing support amongst colleagues and encouraging signs even from municipal politicians. Plans are underway to engage all arts organizations in

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Steering Committee at their favourite meeting spot (L to R) Pat Darbasie, Linda Huffman, Robert Clinton, Sonia Donaldson, Brenda O'Donnell and Marie Gynane-Willis. (Private Photo)

SANTA BABY WOWS VANCOUVER

Friday, 15 December, 2007. Vancouver's new PAL Theatre is filled to capacity. The cast of SANTA BABY waits in the wings, hearts beating in nervous excitement. An hour-and-a-half later, with a standing ovation ringing in their ears from a packed house, the jubilant cast admits being somewhat in shock at the wildly positive response to their show.

David Y.H.Lui conceived SANTA BABY as a Christmas fundraising Cabaret for resident subsidies and the PAL Theatre back in July. He knew of many performers at PAL so called a meeting, announced plans and solicited acts. By September, the production had developed into a musical play and a creative group volunteered to write the script.

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THE LIMELIGHTERS SHINE AT PAL TORONTO



From Limelighters, here's costume cutter, Webster Catherwood. (Photo courtesy David Hansen)

The recent television 4-partner on PAL, The Limelighters, received great feedback and surprisingly high ratings when broadcast on the Global TV Network in January, according to industry sources. Kudos are still arriving from

colleagues in the biz, friends, families and the public who all saw PAL Toronto in a new light.

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Contributors this Issue:

John Banks, Gail Benn, Linda Huffman, David LeReaney, Peggy Mahon, Chris Marston, Vivienne Muhling, , Nigel Napier-Andrews, Ellie O'Day, Camilla Ross, Pam Todd,

PROFILE PEEK

Why do people become involved in PAL?

What causes them to recognize a need, and acknowledge a responsibility to try to meet it? Why volunteer many hours to make things better for others? The more one talks to diverse personalities willing to sacrifice their time, the more one is impressed. One finds, everywhere, that the triggers are surprisingly – though, perhaps not so surprisingly - similar. A need is recognized; something is triggered; action ensues. A good example is our Profile Peek subject, Linda Huffman.

Linda had been aware of PAL from the beginning, but it seemed remote from her in Alberta. Then, working with a colleague a few years ago, she started “thinking of a need here in Edmonton.” Her friend hurt her back. She lived alone. She needed help. Several gave it. Linda wondered, though, what would the future hold as we age, the jobs get fewer and the need greater. As it happens, PAL Canada was then looking for an Edmonton representative. Linda was suggested by her husband and happily volunteered, although with little knowledge, and some trepidation of what she might be getting into.



Similarly, PAL originated because several colleagues recognized the need to assist a friend who became ill. The problem was finding ways to provide assistance, friendship and support where none existed,

especially for those involved in the arts. How to provide that service evolved into the formation of a Supporting Cast Committee and eventually the founding of our first performing arts lodge. Linda’s experience follows that of our founders and so many others who strive to improve things for others.

While trying “to figure out what PAL was and how we might begin in Edmonton,” Linda was invited to join Chapter Liaison Committee discussions. They were “incredibly informative.” Blown away by the trajectory of PAL Vancouver’s flight, she was inspired and in awe of the breadth of commitment, dedication, even bravery possessed by those creating PAL services throughout Canada. Of Vancouver, for example, she says their accomplishments are “humbling and inspiring at the same time.”

She met with ACTRA, Equity, IATSE and Theatre Alberta, to make them aware of PAL, held meetings with over 20 individuals to assess interest, eventually approaching several key people to organize an information session hosted by the Edmonton Arts Council. Over 30 people attended –many others unable to attend still offered support- and, on November 19, a Steering Committee was established.

Obviously, her meeting was very successful. Attendees were eager to learn details about PAL, about our housing facilities, how Edmonton would fit into things, etc. With a committed arts community –“Every person who attended that (information) meeting signed up to help”- and a Mayor and Council aware of the importance of artists to the City, Linda feels strongly that “now is the time” for PAL in Edmonton, and is very positive about municipal as well as artists’ support being readily available.

IN MEMORIAM

Members Who Have Died Since Our Last Issue

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Robert Benson | David Cargill |
| Victor Celeste | Vernon Chapman |
| Don Chevrier | William Gilles |
| Ann Hart | Charmion King |
| Elizabeth Mawson | Colin Miller |
| Gordon “Red” Mitchell | Barry Morse |
| Barney O’Sullivan | Harry Rasky |
| John T. Ross | Joseph Shaw |
| Lister Sinclair | Robert Spearin |

NEW COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



Communications Committee Meeting: L-R: Gail Benn, Hazel Walker, Chris Marston, Dominic Clarke (Chsir), and Andrew Scorer. Missing is Brian Gromoff. (Staff Photo)

PEGGY MAHON'S BALANCING ACT

Budgeting is always a balancing act. To spend or not to spend (to save), that is the question! During the past year PAL Canada's expenses actually slightly exceeded its income. However, PAL had been anticipating additional expenses for the creation of its new web site, and had set aside "reserves" for this purpose. So the savings (reserves) from prior years were finally spent in 2007 on the web site. We hope you like it!

As PAL continues to use the "reserves" that have been set aside, the flow-through to the next year's income line will also continue to decline. Although PAL's annual revenue has proved to be fairly stable over the past few years, we do not yet have charitable status so it is also very small, making it risky to undertake any new expenses. The PAL Board must make every effort to keep expenses stable as well. Otherwise we may throw our delicate "Balance Sheet" out of balance!

(Peggy Mahon is PAL Canada's Treasurer – Ed.)

BOARD NOTES FROM CHRIS MARSTON

Upon assuming the Presidency, I suggested the Board's main focus this year would be on tightening up various organizational strings. And so it has been.

We have redefined the relationship between PAL Canada and PAL Chapters to better reflect the realities of what that relationship is, a process I hope will be pretty much complete by the time you read this. We have also made provision for greater Chapter representation at the Board level.

The continuing lack of charitable status for PAL Canada has been a real millstone around our collective neck. We made it an absolute priority to get this problem wrestled to the ground and I'm happy to say that it looks as though we'll be successful. We'll have to fine-tune some Constitutional provisions, but that's now in process and will be presented to the membership at this year's AGM. If the members approve, I expect us to be 'in business' (finally!) as a fully-fledged charity by the Fall.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The By-laws of PAL Canada Foundation make provisions for 7 Members-at-Large to be elected to the Board of Directors by the membership for a two-year term.

We anticipate the need for 3 new Members-at-Large. They will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board meets four times/year for 2-3 hours. Members-at-Large are also asked to serve on the Foundation's committees, in particular, the Development Committee, concerned with developing the responsibilities of the Foundation, and the Chapter Liaison Committee, which facilitates communication between the Chapters and the national organization.

If you are a PAL Canada member and are interested in serving as a Member-at-Large, please indicate this by writing to: The Secretary, PAL Canada Foundation, 110 The Esplanade, Suite 333, Toronto, ON, M5E 1X9 or by e-mail to: palcanadafoundation@bellnet.ca

C H A P T E R N O T E S

CALGARY

Charitable Registration Process

After nervously awaiting word from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for the past few weeks, we can excitedly announce we have been granted registered charitable status, retroactive to January 1, 2007!!

New, Hopeful Approach to City

Calgary is in the middle of applying for funds (6.5 million dollars) through the Calgary Arts Development Association's Arts Spaces Investment Process - a new process for groups wishing to secure city land or funding for capital projects that create new arts spaces. We have submitted our written application, securing letters of support from MLAs, city councilors, and arts leaders of Calgary and completed the verbal presentation portion of the application, on February 6. We were backed by a dynamic PowerPoint display designed by DCM entertainment of Vancouver. A strong current of support for the concept of a PAL lodge is apparent from all sectors of the Calgary community.

In one of those "small world isn't it" incidents, the architect in attendance at the committee was Jeremy Sturgess, nephew of the recently deceased PAL Canada pioneer, Barry Morse.

Web and Logo Updates

Pal Calgary hired a web design firm to upgrade our website and revamp our logo and identity branding. The work is complete and we have some brilliant design ideas. We look forward to sharing those with the other chapters across Canada very soon.

HALIFAX

Site Possibility Tantalizingly Close

PAL Halifax held its breath in December when it appeared the perfect downtown property had become available. However, several site visits and prolonged contractor consultations led, in the end, to the reluctant decision that the property couldn't meet

all of PAL's specific needs. Back to the drawing board - literally and figuratively. Our property search continues.

Board Accelerates Campaign Strategies

Meanwhile, the Board is in the process of writing its formal business plan for the capital campaign. This document, expected to be completed in May, will become the cornerstone of the Chapter's capital, member and fundraising campaigns.

Communications Strengthened

Our Halifax chapter continues to beef up the lines of communications with members and potential members. A roster of quarterly newsletters for members is in the works and new members and volunteers will be sought through a new Facebook group - Performing Arts Lodge (PAL) Halifax. The chapter will also promote its presence on CanadaHelps.org, a web-based fundraising portal for not-for-profit charities.

EDMONTON

Committee Expands.....

As reported elsewhere in this issue - PAL Edmonton is well on its way. The steering committee has grown to 10 members. We're working on the creation of Bylaws and composing our Needs Assessment Survey. By the end of March we will have registered with the provincial government and will begin the process of applying for charitable status. We have set the goal of officially launching PAL Edmonton on October 1, 2008.

Generous Performer and Friends...

An actress in Edmonton contacted a member of the steering committee to ask if we could accept a donation. She had a dinner party last week and introduced the plans for PAL Edmonton to her guests. They were so intrigued and taken with the idea that immediately forty dollars was put on the table as a donation. We gratefully accept their

C H A P T E R N O T E S

support. We don't have a bank account yet, let alone the ability to provide a charitable receipt but, when we can, we'll acknowledge them as the 'first supporters' of PAL Edmonton. So, the need to get this organization up and running is apparent, the community is obviously ready to take it to heart!

STRATFORD

Fundraiser Fosters Building Hopes

As previously reported, our fall fundraiser, Expect the Extraordinary, was a wonderful success, adding over \$15,000 to our coffers. Enhancing both our community presence and the importance of our goals, its success has renewed our incentive to secure a building site in Stratford.

Three possibilities have been identified, all appearing to meet key criteria such as location, accessibility to services, public transportation, expansion potential and, of course, proximity to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Further assessment is on going, and it is hoped significant decisions can be taken soon.

Executive Contemplates Campaign, Tightens Administration

As we move much closer to realizing our own building, attention is being directed towards developing a substantial fund-raising strategy. In discussions with professional fundraisers, PAL Stratford is laying the groundwork to launch a campaign in the next six to eight months.

A Statement of Responsibilities for Board Members (adapted from an origin PAL Vancouver document) and a Policy on Abuse, which we feel are critical to the accountable execution of PAL's Mission Statement, were recently adopted, and PAL Stratford promises dramatic announcements to come.

TORONTO

See Toronto stories elsewhere.

VANCOUVER

Theatre Up and Running

Last fall PAL Vancouver got the occupancy permit for its theatre, and welcomed a production by Pi Theatre, followed by PAL Vancouver's own Santa Baby.

Board Retreat

No snoozing for PAL Vancouver's Board at year's end, as once again we welcomed Ron Robinson from ABARIS Consulting to Vancouver to facilitate us through a Board Retreat. We began on a Friday evening by listing what we'd accomplished since our late 2006 session. It was encouraging! On Sunday we met through the day, focusing on the role of the Board and others in fund development. We approved a plan last year, but where to begin? Ron as always nudged us through until we came up with specific goals, leaving us with a Task List, including who was responsible and by when. It worked last year.

Establishing Priorities

In our first Board meeting of the New Year, we focused on fundraising. Just days later, PAL Vancouver announced the hiring of William (Bill) Harvey as our new Director of Development.

WINNIPEG

Thanks to Tracey Goncalves, Government Photographer, for the use of this photo of Golden Boy, an instantly recognizable Winnipeg symbol.

Golden Boy was recently refurbished (including a new layer of gold) and reinstalled on Manitoba's Legislative Building. We haven't heard whether any PAL members were involved in the project (other than as taxpayers) but we expect to have news from our Winnipeg Chapter to include in our next issue. We know from personal experience that Winnipeg has a lot happening. We hope PAL Winnipeggers will let the country in on what is happening.

MORE EXPERTISE PIPED ABOARD IN HALIFAX

PAL Halifax has acquired considerable communications and marketing know-how in the person of Pam Todd, who joined the Board in December. Currently Marketing & Communications Manager for the Atlantic Film Festival Association, Pam has over fifteen years marketing experience in Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton, Vancouver and London, England. She also has worked with a number of other professional service firms, including Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Invited to join the Board by fellow member, Susan Crowe, and intrigued “by the unique marketing challenge” presented by PAL, Pam is currently drafting a Marketing & Communications Strategy for the Halifax Chapter, and looking forward to employing her skills in this additional creative environment.

ACTIVIST-THEATRICAL PIONEER VERNON CHAPMAN

PAL Toronto member, Vernon Chapman, died at his home in Toronto on 12 February, following a brief illness. He was 85.

A well respected colleague, as actor, director, teacher and, in recent years, published author and theatre historian, Vern served the Canadian Theatre valiantly and was a major progressive force while undertaking important elected positions in ACTRA and Canadian Actors’ Equity. He was an early and staunch supporter of PAL, and the recipient of numerous honours for his volunteer services over many years. An account of his wide experience, in all aspects of the arts, was contained in his book, *Who's in the Goose Tonight*, published by ECW Press in 2001. It detailed much of what he got up to after entering the professional Theatre in 1946. Most recently, he had completed a commissioned history of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association.

Vernon Chapman will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his family, and by his many friends and admirers. A memorial 'Celebration of Vernon's Life' will take place at Toronto's Performing Arts Lodge on Sunday, 22 June, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Donations to 'PAL Toronto' at 110 The Esplanade, Toronto, ON M5E 1X9 will be greatly appreciated.

4TH ANNUAL SCRABBLE® WITH THE STARS

Vivienne Muhling, Event Chair, has announced Monday, 7 April, as the date for PAL Toronto’s Fourth Annual Scrabble® With the Stars. What began as “a little fundraiser in the Green Room” now takes place in one of Toronto's most elegant and distinguished locations, The Suites at One King West.

Hosts are Colin Mochrie and Deb McGrath with World Scrabble® Champions on hand as advisors. Approximately 35 Canadian celebrities, such as Jeanne Becker, Graham Greene, Gordon Pinsent, Jackie Richardson, Sharon, Lois & Bram, among others, will gather with sponsors and guests to chat, dine, and play Scrabble®.



(Photo: Roger Cullman)

Proceeds from this unique, fun-filled event help pay for health care services for residents who require special assistance to continue living in their PAL apartments.



Sharon Hampson, of Sharon, Lois & Bram, readies her tiles. (Photo: Roger Cullman)”

In the Toronto area on April 7th? You’re invited. Details are available at www.scrabblewiththestars.ca.

Sponsorships and a small number of Patron’s Tables are still available (and tax receipts) as were, at press time, 20 single seats. Not only have a satisfying evening out, but also know you are helping PAL Toronto live up to PAL’s mandate of caring for our own.

BARRY MORSE DIES IN LONDON

PAL Pioneer, Barry Morse, died in London, England, on 9 February. He had begun experiencing blackouts at his London home only three days earlier, said his son, Hayward. Barry was 89. PAL, in which Morse took an early and continuing interest, has lost another pioneer, and the Canadian Theatre has lost an early fighter for performers rights, one who was instrumental in the early development of our stage, TV and film industries.

Tributes have been pouring in and deservedly so. Barry contributed mightily in over 3,000 roles in an international career that spanned several decades. His family - wife Sydney Sturgess and children, Melanie and Hayward - all appeared with him at various times as well as having successful careers of their own. Sydney Sturgess died of Parkinson's disease in 1999, and their daughter, Melanie, also a strong, active supporter of PAL, died in 2005.

His body has been donated to science but Hayward Morse indicated a memorial celebration will be held in Toronto in mid-June. Meanwhile, many "Barry stories" will be retold by PAL colleagues in the coming months.

LIGHTS OUT IN T.O.

On a September day last year, things ground to a halt in a major Toronto area. Computers went down, banks were forced to close their doors, ABMs were out and restaurants were unable to serve customers during the usual busy noon hour because their appliances weren't working. A massive power outage had cut electricity throughout Toronto's Downtown Core.

It took the city over two hours to restore power...but not at PAL Toronto! PAL's back-up system kicked in in just three minutes! Leslie Wall, Building Manager for PAL Toronto, explained that in the event of a power failure, "...a generator...run by diesel...takes over ... for both elevators, the emergency lighting, the whole Green Room, and even the kitchen in the Green Room." Stressing the importance of the generator, Leslie noted that most buildings may be able to maintain only one elevator in an emergency (some none), but PAL residents are able to move about in the building and even find hot beverages in the Green

Room or, in the heat of summer, "...if you need to cool off...(you) can come sit in the Green Room."

With respect to response time compared to other downtown buildings, Leslie suggested, "our system is probably one of the better ones, since the building is only going on fifteen years—it's certainly new compared to a lot of downtown Toronto buildings." She says the systems in place for PAL Toronto are much better than most buildings.

LIMELIGHTERS (continued from page 1)

From pilot footage shot at PAL Place a couple of years ago –events in the Celebrity Club, a couple of interviews- award-winning documentarian David Hansen cobbled together a presentation reel proposing



Norman Hart (Photo Courtesy David Hansen)

a larger project. The PAL Board, led by V.P. Dan Lyon, negotiated a good contract with the producer, providing fiscal benefits to the charity in return for reasonable access to

PAL's willing residents. Hansen's proposal was quickly approved.

In the Fall of 2006, director/cameraman Rob Pytlyk, cameraman Terryl Loffler and PA Dara Moats descended on PAL – staying almost six months. Jocelyn Reneuve, PAL's charity Co-ordinator, played a key liaison role, ensuring privacy and controlling contacts.

While some were perhaps disappointed that their lives were left on the cutting-room floor (others might be relieved!) a handful of stories surfaced as 'keepers'. "For those ... used to being in front of or behind the cameras, it was an interesting experience", says Nigel Napier-Andrews, Past Chair of PAL Toronto and one of the series' participants, adding that everyone wanted to participate, warmly welcoming the film crew into their homes and lives.

Hats off to the post-production team for creating four wonderful evenings of entertainment.

EDMONTON UP (continued from page 1)

furthering the formal establishment of PAL Edmonton and determining the services required though a needs survey as quickly as possible.

Along with creating a Supporting Cast element, the Steering Committee will deal with the nuts and bolts of organizing, moving quickly with a charitable status application and the feasibility of establishing affordable accommodations.

SANTA BABY (continued from page 1)

Following the first draft, Vancouver actor/writer David Petersen took it up. Also, by this time, widely experienced dancer/choreographer Sharon Bell had gathered dancers and begun the immensely rigorous task of choreographing movements possible for every body. Well-known non-residents, choral director Larry Nickel and accompanist Larry Enns, generously gave their time to rehearse the choir twice weekly, arranging soloists and providing them practice time as well. Internationally successful singer, Judy Walchuk, coordinated necessary materials such as, music, discs, DVDs etc. Long-time publicist and administrator Camilla Ross became Producer with David Y.H. Lui as Executive Producer.

Knowing that full costumes for 35 cast members would soon eat up profits, the decision was made to suggest some basics, for continuity, encouraging performers to add bits and pieces suiting their characters... with stunning results! Retired CBC designer Joseph Pothier created an amazing set out of Christmas-paper covered boxes piled up with lights to form the proscenium arch, with a lit stained-glass effect as backdrop.

Rehearsals were held outside of the theatre from September and, only ten days before the opening, distinguished actor/director Terry Kelly arrived to stitch it all together, with the superb assistance of stage manager, Sarah King. Old pro Norman Young and University of British Columbia's Don Griffiths designed technical elements.

Everyone worked so well together, professionals standing beside individuals who had never performed in their lives, providing such memorable highlights as opera singer Lia Clark's

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the

PAL Canada Foundation

will be held in the

Green Room of PAL Place,

110 The Esplanade, Toronto,

on Thursday, 12th June, 2008.

This is an opportunity for you to hear Reports from the Chapters and working committees of PAL Canada and to elect the new Board of Directors.

Come meet friends and colleagues

moving rendition of "Somewhere" and Judy Walchuk and Anne Warn-Pegg belting out Ethel Merman songs in a duel.

Space doesn't permit mentioning everyone, each deserving warm congratulations for a great success..... to be repeated in some form next year?!!!