



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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A startled Pam Hyatt studies her info packet at AGM

National AGM An Upbeat Affair

Members participated in lively discussions of several issues at PAL Canada's June 12th Annual General Meeting. Of prime interest was the progress reported towards meeting Canada Revenue Agency's increasingly more stringent requirements in order to finally qualify for registration as a Charitable organization. With the meeting's approval of several necessary Constitutional changes, this organization now looks forward to a resolution of the "charitable status conundrum" early this Fall. PAL Canada will then be in a position to directly accept charitable donations and to issue proper receipts for them. President **Chris Marston** remarked on his frustration at having had to

"spin our wheels while our status remained unclear", but expressed gratitude for the many hours of work committed by the Board to meet the financial, philosophical and administrative objectives of PAL. The chock-full-of-activity, Chapter Reports reflected the huge amount of effective work being done by PAL members throughout Canada...and how it's paying off.

Members will already be aware, through Palingenesis and elsewhere, of a number of positive moves to which all parts of PAL have contributed, things like the new website, redevelopment of the National's relationship with the Chapters, extension of alliances with kindred groups, discussions regarding co-operative fundraising, even a growing sense of awareness and enthusiasm being demonstrated by governments.



Members approved appointment of Jim Biros to Bd of Directors as Member-at-Large



PAL Calgary receives a donation from IATSE Local 212. Left to right: PAL board member and IATSE VP Gail Kennedy, IATSE Treasurer Vince Bevans, PAL Calgary President David LeReaney

PAL CALGARY'S IATSE PUSH

A year or so ago, PAL Calgary President, **David LeReaney**, was talking to **Damina Petti**, president of IATSE 212. He was well into his "rousing rah-rah PAL song-and-dance" before realising that Damian was already onside.

Continued on page 7)



Here is Dancap Productions Vice President Paul Shaw, a major sponsor of the event, with their table celebrity Sarah Polley.

SWTS A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

PAL Toronto's Fourth Annual Scrabble With The Stars® will be a hard act to follow. The highly successful evening raised \$40,000, including an additional matching-funds donation from Host Sponsor, Scotiabank Group. It's success enables the continued funding of a professional health care worker at PAL Place.

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palingenesis

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EDITORIAL***The moving finger writes...***

Our 'new and improved' website gives PAL an additional organ of communication. Though while the majority opted to receive it via e-mail, Palingenesis continues in hardcopy.

We'd planned to talk about 'hopes and ideas' for your newsletter, but "the best laid schemes...gang aft aglay." What pushed ours 'aglay' today is In Memoriam, a feature added last issue.

Acknowledging recently deceased PAL members is a no-brainer; and appreciated by colleagues country-wide. But, the quality and unstinting devotion to PAL of most of those good souls is now lost. The reality is: the ranks of our supporters and leaders are constantly being diminished. We recognize the impact their loss has on loved ones but, selfishly, we are also reminded of the loss PAL itself suffers with their demise.

One of the purposes of our new feature, Profile Peek, is, quite frankly, to try to interest more members - particularly younger members- in serving their colleagues in a more 'hands on' manner. We hope to encourage this by illustrating how effective our profilers have been, and how easy it is to become part of PAL's governing bodies... and how necessary that such a notion be considered. Accepting the torch from the failing hands of those listed in In Memoriam is something to be encouraged.

And having writ moves on...

WAY PAVED FOR CHARITABLE STATUS

With Member acceptance of the Constitutional changes necessary to ensure compliance with Canada Revenue Agency regulations, PAL Canada is now set to be re-registered as a charity later this year. PAL's original charitable number was transferred to PAL Toronto upon its creation as an entity separate from the national organization several years ago.

A number of straight-forward steps to comply with the Canada Corporations Act will be immediately undertaken allowing quick completion of the process, possibly as early as September.

LETTERS***Why does equity support pal?***

Why? Because Equity's purpose, to protect and assist artists in their crazy vocation, is so closely allied to PAL's, which is to assist older Equity members and others in the areas of health, well-being and affordable accommodation. The two organizations have similar goals. The economic rewards of a career in the professional performing arts are elusive. Maintaining self-esteem and morale is a challenge even with the occasional raving success, yet intuition, curiosity, childlikeness, and belief (and, sometimes, self-indulgence and egotism), compel us to continue despite this life-long insecurity

Canada would be diminished in soul, purpose, identity and politically without the performing arts. Equity understands both this and the predicament of its members, and so to support Performing Arts Lodges of Canada is a natural and obvious stance for Equity.

Andrew Scorer, Equity Representative on PAL Board

(Ed: CAEA, PAL Founding Member, supports PAL Canada in many ways including financially)

Edmonton Appreciation

Just wanted to let you know how much we in Edmonton enjoyed our progress being highlighted in Palingenesis. It is going to be a great tool for us to use as we continue to introduce PAL to the community. It was a terrific issue! Thanks for all your work.

Linda Huffman

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

UBC graduate and native Vancouverite **William (Bill) Harvey** is PAL Vancouver's Director of Development. With a degree in Commerce (Marketing), Bill followed a successful career in the materials handling business with membership on the Board of the Vancouver Crisis Centre in 1992, becoming its first Director of Development one year later.

Bill has been very active in the Mentorship Program for the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He has also been active for many years at the national level for the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP), chairing their 2008 national conference, held in Vancouver in April.

Also a Director of the West Vancouver Community Foundation, in 2001, he was appointed Personal Gifts Manager for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon, where he was employed until this past December. He took up his new PAL Vancouver position in January.

PAL TORONTO'S PASSOVER SEDER



(Photo: Lindo Litwack)

Residents enthusiastically welcomed the return of **Vivienne Muhling** as organizer of Toronto's annual PAL Passover Seder. A scant two weeks after chairing another successful Scrabble With the Stars® fundraiser

(see story p1), Vivienne took the helm for what has become an annual event at PAL Toronto. About forty PALS of various faiths shared in the Seder's celebration of deliverance from slavery.

Murray Kash led the service while everyone took turns reading from the Hagadah and joined in singing the traditional songs. Herman Rombout sang the apt spiritual Go Down Moses, now his customary PAL Passover solo.

Following a delicious 4-course feast prepared by several residents, participants eagerly searched for the missing "afikomen". **Patty Gail** found the hidden matzoh garnering a CD as an award. Lastly, all pitched in cleaning up. Eager hands not only made much light work of the clean-up, but generated many more happy PAL memories... and earned Vivienne congratulations from the Kaffee Klatch Duty Server for the spotless state of the kitchen the following morning.

MAKE ROOM FOR YOU

You can't please everyone, and it can be debilitating trying. Here are a few quick ways to ease the stress.

WRITE IT DOWN. Being desperate to remember everything can create a sense of feeling overwhelmed and distracted. As a result, you can miss the joyful moments and opportunities that come along. Save overtaxed brain cells by writing out a list of what needs to be done.

LEARN TO SAY NO. Are you addicted to yes? Realize that, with so many demands and requests, you cannot say yes to everything. Ease up. Say yes when you really want to or must. Guard against over-committing yourself.

PROCRASTINATE POSITIVELY. Rather than squeezing everything into certain periods, save some for duller times. It'll help avoid burnout. And, wouldn't it be good to have something to get you through those "blah days"?

JOYCE GORDON ILL

PAL's AGM ended on a sad note with the announcement of the serious illness of **Joyce Gordon**, long a strong voice for PAL on Boards and in public. The meeting unanimously agreed that PAL send the former multi-tasking, multi-officeholder a special note on behalf of Members.

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



Diane Dickert is New Manager

Former executive director of EMMEDIA and a visual artist in her own right, **Diane Dickert**, has been appointed operations manager at PAL Calgary.

Diane has been on the job since late April and has already completed her first grant application.

Fundraising Speeches

We continue to conduct curtain-speech fundraisers. Loose Moose Theatre graciously provided one for the run of **Rebecca Northan's** BLIND DATE. We also had a curtain speech during their **Blake Brooker/David Rhymer** remount of ILSA, QUEEN OF THE NAZI LOVE CAMP at One Yellow Rabbit.

Over \$12,000 was raised during the run of Half Life at Alberta Theatre Projects in May!

We Delay Continuing Assessment

The good news about the Calgary Arts Development is that we have been “identified as an opportunity in their phase one process”. However, because we are at an early stage in our development – we do not have drawings or property yet- we will not, at this time, proceed to the next phase (technical assessment). But, yes, we remain in the mix for future consideration.

Hopes Rise for Residential Plans

Halifax is a small intimate city, and PAL shares goals and challenges with other, similar arts-related endeavors. Recently, internationally known planners and architects MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple (MLS) met with our Executive to discuss PAL's long-term plans. MLS has been hired by the municipal government to produce a 'preferred plan' for the 4-acre Bloomfield Centre site. It comprises 3 decommissioned school buildings recently housing an artist's co-op and a variety of small community groups. Housing, performance space and "creative hubs" have regularly been mentioned at public consultations about the site, and MLS contacted PAL Halifax to hear whether we could fit into their 'preferred plan'. The consultants' report is due to be presented to city council in June, when we'll know how good the fit is.

Edmonton Committee Expands.....



Edmonton does not have its own logo yet. This photo of the Alberta Legislative Building is used courtesy of Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture.

Ed.: We did not receive any further updates regarding Edmonton's progress before our deadline for this issue. Stay tuned. PAL Edmonton is up and on its way and we expect to share more info with you next time.



AGM Held

On 9 June the Halifax Chapter held its AGM at local hip salon/ café/ gallery, FRED.

Agenda items included

election of officers, financial report and a warm welcome to new and returning members.

Experts Help With Business Plan

With the considerable experience of **Leah Hamilton** (Genesis Consulting) and **Andrea Arbic** (Andrea Arbic Consulting), the Chapter continues developing a business plan for a Halifax property. An audit of other PAL properties by these consultants has raised several interesting ideas and options for Board consideration. A capital campaign will be launched, following completion of that plan this summer, looking towards a Fall start date.



PAL Stratford has Exciting Last Couple of Months

We continue to move forward with our search for a PAL residence location and are actively discussing options with several property owners and development partners. In tandem with these discussions, the Board approved our moving ahead with a preliminary study on a capital fundraising campaign. This study will carefully examine the “climate” for a fundraising drive as well as lay out a plan for proceeding. The Stratford Shakespeare Festival’s launch of its 2008 season provides an opportune time to do such a study. We have great hopes. We are receiving responses to our “Residential Survey” of members and PAL supporters. As we assess the results, we will be able to alter our priorities to effectively represent the needs of our members and prospective residents.

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

All this comes at a time when economic stresses are becoming more worrisome, and it is a testament to the continued commitment of our members that there has been no flagging in the determination to ensure that Stratford has a PAL residence as soon as possible.

AGM Underlines Stability

PAL Stratford had its AGM on April 24 and reported on the past year's events and activities. We continue to have an enthusiastic Supporting Cast group providing a variety of support for our members, including our Wednesday coffee gatherings and assisted taxi service. The past year saw both a successful Fall Expect the Extraordinary gala and some significant governance issues addressed and resolved. The Chapter also ended the year in good financial position. **John Banks** continues as our President, and Vice-President **Gordon Sherwin** and Board member **Susan Moffat** are the PAL Stratford representatives to PAL Canada.



PAL WINNIPEG doesn't yet have its own logo, but everyone knows this lad topping the Manitoba Legislature Building. Thanks to **Tracey Goncalves**, Government Photographer, for the use of this photo of Golden Boy, an instantly recognizable Winnipeg symbol.

Lots of Winnipeg Action

On May 8 PAL Winnipeg held a fundraiser in the form of a screening of the film *Stone Angel*. This screening was generously donated by local producer **Liz Jarvis** of Buffalo Gal Productions and Alliance films, and the venue was donated by Empire Theatres. The event was a sell-out success, generating over \$3000 in ticket sales.

Founding Members Also Step Up

At the same time PAL Winnipeg's founding organizations ACTRA Manitoba, IATSE 865, DGC, and CAEA pledged a total of \$3650 in seed money. President **Wayne Nicklas** and the Winnipeg Board are delighted with their fundraising's "unqualified success", suggesting that other chapters might want to consider similar actions.



Board Hard at Work

As PAL Vancouver has settled into our building, preparing to celebrate our second anniversary, the Board of Directors have put emphasis on

policies for ongoing consistency, a succession policy for leadership, and a sustaining fundraising campaign led by our new Director of Development, **Bill Harvey**.

AGM 15 June

Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 15th, and the nominating committee had been hard at work finding some new blood and talents to join the PAL Vancouver Board.

Bits & Bites

Our PAL Theatre has also been busy with productions, from within the building and from outside renters. It will soon be announcing its own Board of Directors. Watch, too, for a renewed PAL Vancouver web site this summer.



Toronto's summer is shaping up to be another busy one at PAL Place. We mention one happening in the EVENTS column.

Hootenanny!

Every little once in a while, PAL Resident **Sid Dolgoy** of The Travellers, persuades some of his outstanding folksong friends to hoot it up in PAL Toronto's Crest Theatre Green Room. The recent one was outstanding. Look at the line up: **Sharon & Bram** (of Sharon Lois & Bram), **Brent Titcombe**, **Kent Bowman** and several more internationally noted performers. It took place in the Green Room last weekend.

Annual Courtyard Sale

If you are anywhere near the Toronto area Saturday, 5 July, come to PAL Toronto's famous Annual Courtyard Sale. A not-to-be-missed event with all manner of goodies going for a song...well, plus a dollar or two. There'll be books from our Colin Miller Library, household items, clothing, paintings, greeting cards, all kinds of magnificent paraphernalia. Come by any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and join the fun.

PROFILE PEEK - DAVID LEREANEY

For many PAL activists, community service seems ‘bred in the bone’. **David LeReaney** credits his late father with instilling in him a strong sense of social responsibility.

“Dad was extremely generous with his time and energy”, and it seems his son inherited that need to “be doing something” for those around him. Also, witnessing the struggles of older actors “fuels a passion to build a refuge for fellow artistes” in Calgary, a project he’s determined to see happen.

However, just to kill time, he toured PAL Toronto’s residence some years ago.* David was “so moved and inspired by what I saw” that he returned home determined to establish PAL there. That happened through “sheer force of will”, and “committed troopers like **Pat Pearson** our irreplaceable Treasurer”. Calgary has developed into a successful Chapter with a charitable number, a new website, and now a bank account sufficient to hire an administrator!

“It’s been slow going at times”, says David, but there were many highs including acquiring the pro-bono services of a prominent legal firm, and the eventual granting of charitable status. But, there have been lows too, including frustration with the pace of progress and the maddening task of corralling a board of volunteers, all with busy careers and full lives. But, walk away from PAL? “I could never do that”, he says, “for the very reason I stuck it out as an actor for 30 years; I love the work and I’m stubborn!” And, he experiences enough rewards to keep chugging along. David firmly believes a Calgary PAL Lodge is in sight. “I wanna be there when they cut the ribbon!” We expect he will. We expect it will be sooner than people think.

(Ed.: Interestingly, their tour guide was this writer, Dan MacDonald, then pushing for PAL’s expansion nation-wide as PAL President)

A LOOK BACK AT PAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEONS



PAL Stratford and Supporting Cast held the annual Christmas Luncheon on at the Elizabethan Restaurant where Supporting Cast

meets weekly for coffee and camaraderie. The event provides an opportunity for supporting cast retirees to meet with PAL members who are currently active in their professions. The 35 attendees had a great time catching up with each other. Guests included

composers **Alan Laing** and **Bert Carriere**, as well as two of the (then) Artistic Directors of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, **Marti Maraden** and **Don Shipley**. The festive, cheerful and noisy event was drawn to a close by **Edward (Teddy) Atienza**, in fine voice, leading the group in the Supporting Cast song, Always (**Randi Patterson** Photo shows Ted with **Erna McLintock**).

Also, here are members of PAL Toronto attending their Christmas event, one carried on annually since the building opened. The PAL Place Green Room is gaily decorated by the residents - a giggly adventure in



its own right – with various members of the Board performing servers’ duties. While all who wish to do so are accommodated, so popular is this Christmas gathering that several sittings are arranged and residents indicate their preferences



beforehand. Photo p. 6 shows **Al Weinberg, Jeanette Heller, Sharon Dyer and Les Nirenberg**; This photo: **Roger Periard, Halina Shaller, Vera Semec**

and **Alice Weihs**. (Norman Hart Photos)

(Ed.: This item had to be deleted from our last issue because of lack of space. We know it’s out-of-season but thought you might enjoy a reminder of cooler days during the heat of summer)

(IATSE - continued from Page 1)

LeReaney “twisted his arm” regarding serving on the Board and, while cautioning that he was too busy to commit to the degree required, Petti agreed to join the Board. Good move for Calgary. “He has been a godsend!” says LeReaney.

Along with IATSE VP, and PAL Board member (also Emmy award-winning make-up artist), **Gail Kennedy**, the two IATSE officers have added considerably to Calgary’s success, offering facilities and resources including board room, computer, office space and considerable financial support.

Apparently their union members are also onside. When a generous donation to PAL was proposed at IATSE’s AGM, the members present protested...that it wasn't enough!

Damian presently serves on the Search Committee and Gail has been point-person on the New Website Committee, bringing her artistic talents as well as experience to the fore.

(SWTS - continued from Page 1)

Forty generous celebrities, including **Jeanne Beker, Michael Burgess, Gordon and Leah Pinsent, Sarah Polley, Dione Taylor, R.H. Thomson**, three



Co hosts Colin Mochrie and Deb McGrath (centre) look on as Scrabble Master John Chew gives Global TV’s Ryan Cripps the top score prize certificate at Scrabble® With The Stars. He won a skippered tour for four donated by Joe and Ruth Simpson plus a lavish on-board picnic lunch by Jamie Kennedy Wine bar.

members of the **Mirvish**

Productions' Great Expectations cast

and many more, enjoyed dinner and a fun game of Scrabble with sponsors, patrons, and guests.

Coffers were enriched by the generous cooperation of World Scrabble® Champions who allowed their expert advice to be auctioned to the highest bidders by amazing and amusing co-hosts **Colin Mochrie** and **Deb McGrath**.

Though SWTS quickly outgrew PAL Toronto’s Crest Theatre Greenroom, the fund raiser’s warm, friendly spirit still radiated throughout the impressive surroundings of the beautiful Grand Banking Hall of Toronto’s historic 1 King West. The 2007 event funded the initial care-worker services. Hopefully, 2009’s will raise enough to add days of these services that help PAL Place residents stay in their own apartments among fellow show biz pros.

IN MEMORIAM

- Thom Bell
- John Davies
- Jack Duffy
- Vaclav Kuchar
- Edwin (Ed) Stephenson
- Eric Stine

PAL'S TRAILBLAZING ARCHITECT DIES

VACLAV WILLIAM KUCHAR, the man whose design for Toronto's PAL Place continues to inspire PAL Chapters throughout Canada, has, for the first time, lost a battle. He died of cancer on 19 April, at the age of 69.

Following the 1968 Russian invasion, the Czech architect came to Canada with his wife, Eva, and two small children. After receiving a Masters Degree in Montreal, he accepted a post with Ontario's Ministry of Housing, later forming his own development company, V.W. Kuchar & Associates.

Roy Wordsworth, PAL's founding President, met "Vac" in 1985. They talked about building a performing arts residence and, on Vac's advice, PAL was soon incorporated and a needs and feasibility study initiated. At his first meeting with the PAL Board Vac offered to work without compensation until we were built, famously adding, "No building – no fee... but I haven't lost one yet!"

Five years later, having found the 110 The Esplanade site, Vac helped us arrange Ministry of Housing allocations, designed the building to PAL's specifications, led us through Toronto's City Planning process and, in February 1993, gave us the keys to the lodge. It could not have been done without him, and his understanding and tenacious vision continues to inspire dreams of PAL residences elsewhere.

Ed.: The above was substantially contributed to by Roy Wordsworth, who remained a close friend of Vac Kuchar to the end.



PAL Toronto - drawing K. Chew

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EVENTS

At PAL Toronto

ANNUAL COURTYARD SALE

Saturday, 5 July

PAL Toronto Courtyard

9 to 4 p.m.

Books, household items, clothing, paintings, greeting cards,
all kinds of magnificent paraphernalia.

Come by and join the fun!