

Under the distinguished patronage of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean Governor General of Canada



Palingenesis™

n. regeneration (lit. & fig.); revival; (from Gk)

Caring for Our Own™

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2010

PAL MOVES FORWARD ON 3-YEAR PLAN

Work proceeds apace on the four-pronged thrust of PAL Canada's *Strategic Plan* briefly outlined in our last issue. Some actions might already have been either on the brink of launch or perhaps recently initiated. However, there is now a cohesive, detailed Plan in place listing objectives, personnel involved and targeted completion dates. In the area of National Profile, for example, significant steps had already been taken by our Communications Committee (*ComCom*), particularly with regard to the refurbished website *-palcanada.org*.

The website is proving a winner with more material available to members and greater ease of navigation. Like all websites, constant updating must be maintained so it remains fresh and inviting for web surfers but especially to enable PAL members to quickly find the areas they want to browse and find pertinent and informative material when they get there.

You're presently reading another *ComCom* initiative, an evolving and constantly improving *Palingenesis*. Some moves are incremental, such as this issue's minor design changes, others may be more arresting. The main purpose is always to give you a newsletter with interesting and informative content. Much of our success depends on you; you are who must find it satisfactory, and your input is sought and always welcomed.

PAL CANADA STRATEGIST

With funding from various sources, PAL has engaged the services of a marketing strategist, **Laurie Dillon-Schalk**, to exploit renewed resolve within the organization to tackle aspects of our new Strategic Plan, particularly in the area of web and other electronic mechanisms. As Chief Marketing Strategist at *Social Wisdom*, Laurie comes well qualified.



She took up her PAL duties this month (May) and will be immediately involved in updating and further upgrading the PAL Canada website.

MEANWHILE DOWN EAST

Developments rising out of Halifax in the past few months include the acquisition of a part-time administrator for the Chapter. **Ann Pocket**, a graduate of the *Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD)* in *Jewellery Design & Metalsmithing*, complements a rich artistic background with previous work as an administrator at The Martha Hicks School of Ballet in Toronto.



Her talents will be shared with *Imagine Bloomfield*, a community-based project in North End Halifax.

Let's Talk Amongst Ourselves

The moving finger writes...

Questions regarding raising PAL's profile, both publicly and within the PAL community itself, led to some interesting discussions recently. With the success of the PAL idea and the progress evident throughout the country in the past decade, one would expect heightened recognition by now. We have surprisingly little, as it turns out.

There *is* awareness within the Arts community, sometimes with a fairly good understanding of what PAL is about, but there are surprising misunderstandings afloat too. Even the stale suggestion that PAL "is that old folks home for actors" lingers, and you all know how incorrect that assessment is! In speaking with a couple of older members recently, we were shocked they didn't know that ALL members of Chapters are automatically members of the national organization, for example; and the amount of ignorance sometimes heard regarding PAL's breadth and influence in Canada is quite astounding. Such lack of knowledge may be out of benign neglect but it can so easily become destructively malignant. Your *Palingenesis* will be doing what it can to extend PAL's profile but it is something we all should undertake. Help spread the healthy truths about your national organization... wherever you live!

And having writ moves on...



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Another interesting and good-looking edition of *Palingenesis*. Our copies keep disappearing.

Robert Underwood, CEO, Actra Fraternal Benefit Society

Ed.- Continuing support from "Fraternal" contributes to that success.

Editor:

Just read the *Palingenesis*. Great job. I agree - prefer articles to photos. It looks great and has lots of info to offer.

Diane Gordon, Actor-writer

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES



President Marston has just returned from an extended journey to England. We will hear much from him in our following issue of *Palingenesis*.

SPECIAL VAS KUCHAR DEDICATION

With Kuchar family members in attendance, longtime friend and Founding President of PAL, Roy Wordsworth, will officiate at a ceremony honouring the architectural genius behind our initial PAL building, *Pal Place* in Toronto in mid-June.

Among Vas Kuchar's many innovations in his design for the trend-setting structure was the then-rare concept of providing entertaining, outdoor space on the roof. This space will be officially designated the *Vas Kuchar Roof Terrace* along with a bench in memory of the man whose genius continues to inspire admiration and appreciation from PAL members throughout Canada.

PAL PLAYERS ENTERTAIN TORONTO



The *Pal Players* (Toronto) presents a reading of Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Readers (L to R) are: Nonnie Elkins, Kenneth Wickes, Christine Edmonds and Gerry Pearson.

(Photo: Bob Van Dyke)

SWTS BOOSTS EXTENDED CARE

PAL Toronto, sponsor of *Scrabble® With the Stars* has announced that proceeds from this very successful



fundraiser will underwrite further extended care services for members.

The above *Norman Hart Photo* shows Jeanne Beker, acclaimed international fashion maven who co-hosted, with Barry Flatman, another successful event this year, in conversation with the programme's founder and ceaseless promoter, Vivienne Muhling. With the addition of a *Celebrity Art Auction*, the 2010 version raised more than \$50,000.

BREAKING NEWS

At Press time we learned attempts are being made to establish a PAL presence in OTTAWA !!! CAEA members there recently "responded enthusiastically" to the idea. Similar approaches to ACTRA, AFofM, U d'A, and IATSE are planned, as well as to other groups in Ottawa's artistic community.

More in our Fall Issue

IN MEMORIAM

Peter McConnell Rob McConnell
Arnold Spohr

CHAPTER NOTESNEWS FROM PAL CHAPTERS.....



Art is where we live. Help us build a home.

With the sudden, very sad, loss of *Bill Forbes*, PAL

Halifax has been struggling to re-group focusing on expanding our Board.

New Board Members -In February, we held a membership gathering and recruited new board member *Eric Stotts* (an architect) and shortly after, *Nancy Morgan* (General Manager of Eastern Front Theatre), we are delighted to have them join us and hope to add more individuals to our dynamic group soon. If anyone knows of someone, please send them our way!

Political Caller- PAL Halifax was delighted to be approached by *Megan Leslie, MP*, for a meeting. We very much enjoyed meeting the NDP Member for Halifax and hope her acquaintance will help provide us with new, helpful insight and direction.

Arts Games -We participated in a *Fusion ArtsScene BoardLink* event (speed dating for potential arts board members) and had positive responses.

Bits'n'Pieces- In April we had our AGM and hope to establish a more formal relationship with *Imagine Bloomfield*. Our administrator, Ann, will attend a highly acclaimed workshop on Fundraising and we will begin the exciting task of hosting our second *Scrabble® with the Stars* this coming fall. Although this has been a slower time for PAL Halifax, we have lots in the works and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead!

thriving. On Friday nights entertainment is usually jazz or classic pop music, often featuring the talents of PAL residents. A



wide variety of events are now offered on Sunday afternoon: films, poetry readings, classical or folk music.

This Norman Hart Photo shows customer *Eileen Boyd* being served by *Sandie De Freitas* at the new & improved *Celebrity Club*. The Pal Place facility operates Monday, Friday & Sundays.



FOUNDER'S HONOUR -

Elsewhere you will find an announcement of a special celebration honouring the man who was responsible for establishing the Stratford Festival, Tom Patterson. It is

being held on the anniversary of the very first Opening Night of the Stratford Festival in 1953.

AGM HELD LAST MONTH -You just missed our AGM on April 29. We'll let you know more about it in the next *Palingenesis*.



Performing Arts Lodges Toronto

PAL TORONTO

Thanks to a hardworking committee the PAL *Celebrity Club* is



PAL WINNIPEG

Word on the street in Winnipeg suggests there is more to attend to than is readily seen. However, we still don't have Notes again this issue.

FROM THROUGHOUT CANADACHAPTER NOTES



Calgary Hibernates - Calgary admits to taking a breather the past few months, but promises much is bubbling under the surface. Next issue should contain news of a reinvigoration and we look forward to some announcements too.



PAL EDMONTON
An early Spring ebbs and flows, ACTRA elections begin, and PAL Edmonton continues foundation work

with *Communitas*. We're cheered by news from other Chapters — the Dream can become a reality — and we continue to discover our strengths and gain a better understanding of the journey into the city's bureaucracy.

New Board Chair -Author/Poet *Shirley Serviss* has stepped in as Board Chair. The transition has been seamless, and she is an able public speaker and leader.

Networking - We're meeting people and groups, exploring their neighbourhoods, finding many hard working and caring souls with common goals. We find we're not alone in wanting to build community. And we spontaneously generate friends.

Fundraising by Theatre Yes- Under the able direction of Heather Ingles, *Theatre Yes* mounted its Stripped Down2 play reading series April 16 – 18 with all proceeds donated to PAL Edmonton. As well as Heather, featured directors were Kevin Sutley and Amy DeFelice. Local actors (and many PAL supporters) shone in works by Mark Ravenhill, Catherine Banks, and Peter Nachtrieb, delighting audiences in

emotional, thought-provoking plays. Best wishes to you all for a happy Summer.



Vancouver 2010 - We were quite overwhelmed by the recent Big O being ever so uncomfortably close to PAL.

We're right across the drive from what became "Fort" Westin once the IOC moved in for a month. On the other hand, a number of residents picked up temp jobs with VANOC.

Board at Warp Speed -Newer board members Maninder Dhaliwal and Catherine Lough Haggquist brought (most of) the rest of the Board into the 21st century by breathing life into our online presence through a Facebook page, Twitter, ticket offers and news. Yes, Have Facebook - Can Share!

Soup's On! -As residents cocooned their way through the Big Party outside, resident Moira



Talbot, with the help of her husband Frank and some other resident cooks and organizers, got a weekly Monday Soup Social started in our *Pat*

Armstrong Green Room. Miraculously, with some excellent donated bread accompanying contributed pots of soup and chili, soon the Green Room was at capacity every Monday at 6pm. Bring your own bowl and spoon. Alas, Moira and Frank (in Ellie O'Day Photo above) are embarking on holidays for a month, so we hope others step in to maintain this lovely communal supper.

TRIBUTE FOR JOYCE GORDON



An afternoon of honouring the memory of Joyce Gordon, one of PAL's most dedicated workers, was fittingly held in the *Crest Theatre Green Room* (a name proposed for the venue by Joyce herself) of *Pal Place*, Toronto, February 28th. Family members in attendance were recognized, particularly her husband, Moishe Simon, for supporting Joyce's dedicated efforts.

The tribute, jointly organized by PAL Canada and PAL Toronto, buzzed with old friends getting reacquainted and sharing memories of this amazing woman whose passionate brief on behalf of her colleagues remains a shining example of the PAL philosophy in practise.

Longtime acquaintances shared various stages of their friendships with the overflowing crowd. Dan Lyon, Vice-president of Pal Toronto, spoke of his lifelong family connection with Joyce, while acclaimed playwright, Colleen Murphy, movingly told of their adult friendship while a double-act of Barbara Caplan and Mary Jolliffe spoke of their joy at having known Joyce during her later years as a result of their collaboration on the PAL Canada Board.

The afternoon concluded with Moishe Simon unveiling a commemorative plaque now on display in a prominent spot in the *Crest Theatre Green Room*. It reads: "Determined, Dedicated and Devoted to PAL, her Vision Lives on to Inspire and Sustain us".

MOIRA STIRS THE POT

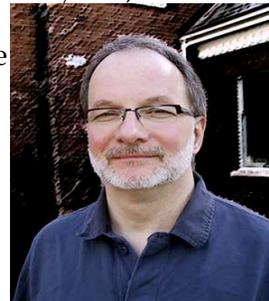
Organizer of the successful, and continuing communal *Monday Soup Social*, Moira Talbot, is



shown in PAL Van's *Pat Armstrong Green Room* busily preparing tonight's soup menu. (O'Day Photo)

PROFILE PEEK

Chris Hutcheson has been quietly but effectively involved with PAL for a number of years, where he has done *Palingenesis* layout and most recently executed the PAL Canada Communication Committee's major website redesign.



For fiscal reasons, PAL is cutting back on Chris' *Palingenesis* services (and we gratefully acknowledge he always provided his talents at special PAL rates) but he will continue to provide his technical knowhow to us in various ways.

Wearing many hats, Chris has over 24 years of experience in the field of adult education and facilitation in his own private practise as well as with the University of Toronto's *Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)*, where he facilitates part of the Certificate of Adult Education programme and is also a *practicum* supervisor. His experience in financial and other business sectors has helped him link the development of human resources to operational performance. He has designed a wide range of technical and soft skills programmes, as well as developed resources in areas such as job sharing, flextime, and part-time work.

His wide experience has seen him involved in the training and execution of problem-solving techniques in the fields of academe and commerce as well as individual, hands-on assistance in a variety of private, public, and not for profit sector situations.

You will have seen the results of his work in past issues of *Palingenesis* of course, and you may already have had a chance to appreciate our more accessible, improved website thanks to his facility with a mouse.

Chris is also a published author and Fine Art photographer whose work is held in private and corporate collections. This jack-of-all-trades is actually master-of-many. and we have been fortunate to have his expertise. His continuing commitment to PAL is genuine.

NEW VIEW, FACILITATOR, RESULTS

A refreshingly different PAL Van Board retreat was held in January. Jeffrey Wilcox, who has been leading a course for Board members through *Volunteer Vancouver*, facilitated. The Board had been seeking to articulate a mission that included those in the community not living in PAL. Wilcox recognized that we were driven by our shared values. Here's the new view:

OUR MISSION -No person in the professional performing arts community will live in isolation, want or fear.

OUR VALUES -PAL Van is guided by these core values:

Connection

The performing arts are collaborative—to be successful we depend on a whole community of professionals. We reach out to the community at large in the same spirit.

Creativity

We honour, respect and support the creative contributions of all members of the professional performing arts community—our pioneers, our current professionals and our emerging ones. We promote creative growth and development through strong intergenerational relationships.

Compassion

We provide compassionate, respectful support for older, isolated and/or disabled professionals to remain self-sufficient, contributing members of the performing arts community and society.

PAL CANADA PROGENITOR LOST

Many PAL originators exist, unsung, in our midst, and it is when we lose one of them that we realize how much we owe to those who were there at the beginning of our noble idea. One such person is Peter McConnell who was there even before the 1986 birth of PAL. Peter died in Coburg, Ontario, in February. He was 71.



Peter was a co-founder of *The Smile Company*, a group originally established to bring cheer to older people in retirement homes in the Toronto area. It was during the Company's visits to such facilities that the oft-discussed problem of affordable accommodation for older artists was brought to the fore. Many times older performers would be

discovered in these buildings, without stimulation or understanding companionship and, sometimes, in uncomfortable surroundings. But that was all they could afford. Something would have to be done to provide greater support to these colleagues. That "something" culminated in a meeting called by then-Smile Company Board President, Patty Gail, which led to the establishment of Performing Arts Lodges of Canada. The rest, as you know, is proud history.

A man -a gentleman of great integrity, talent and compassion, Peter leaves a legacy of good works and accomplishments, as well as many colleagues grateful for the honour of knowing him.

He is survived by Marvis Solimano, son Kinch, daughter Amy, foster daughter Nismeh Abdalkarim and much-loved grandson Caleb. Peter also leaves behind siblings Michael, Pat and Priscilla.

The Ontario Heritage Trust, the Perth County Historical Foundation, the City of Stratford and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival are unveiling a provincial plaque commemorating

Tom Patterson, 1920–2005

Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Festival Theatre, 55 Queen Street, Stratford

It is the 57th anniversary of the first Opening Night of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

EVENTS

**PAL CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010
*The Crest Theatre Green Room of
Pal Place, Toronto*
110 The Esplanade
2 PM

**STRATFORD HONOURS
TOM PATTERSON**
13 July at 10.30 AM
Shakespeare Festival Theatre

**PAL HALIFAX 'S
SCRABBLE® WITH THE STARS**
Fundraiser for further PAL Halifax Services Proposed
for Fall 2010

**COMING SOON
DAVID CALDERISI'S**
Omar Khayyam the Story & the Poem
Crest Theatre Green Room
Pal Place, Toronto
All Proceeds to Support PAL Canada

PAL VANCOUVER AGM
Sunday, June 6, at 4pm
PAL Vancouver Theatre

PAL TORONTO
(All in Crest Theatre Green Room)
**PWYC at door -Proceeds Go to Support
PAL Toronto Services**
→→ May 8 -8PM - PALS FOR PAL
Jun 5 - 8PM - FUSION 2010
(for International Dance Day)
Jun 25 - 8PM -Syd Dolgay's
ANNUAL HOOTENANY

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