

Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada



Palingenesis™

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

Caring for Our Own™

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4

Winter 2011

MONTREAL MAY BE NEXT

A number of individuals in Montreal have expressed some interest in establishing a PAL presence in that city. **Patty Gail Peaker** and **Jane Heyman** are lending a hand in creating a first letter of information for distribution. It will contain basic ideas on methods of forming a PAL chapter.

The contacts are in initial stages and baby steps must be taken before any commitment is forthcoming, but it is encouraging to hear talk that such a development may finally lead to the inclusion of Quebec in our circle, leaving only Saskatchewan missing in linking our organization, East to West, through every province.

NEW SEASONAL OFFERING AT PAL VAN

RAProductions—PAL Vancouver residents **Camilla Ross** and **Sean Allen**—decided to mount a new Christmas show this year. It is Charlotte Moore's (Irish Repertory Company) adaptation of Dylan Thomas' iconic *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, under a CAEA Co-op Agreement.



L-R, Doug Cameron, Dave Clothier, Rosy Frier Dryden, Sean Allan, Michael Fera and Deanne Henry in front. -photo by Ellie O'Day

Five actors play some of the original eccentric characters, reminiscing about childhoods singing all the favourite Christmas carols. Director is **Michael Fera** with PAL Vancouver residents, actors **Rosy Frier Dryden**, **Sean Allan**, actor/musician, **Dave Clothier**, and PAL Trustee actors **Doug Cameron** and **Deanne Henry**. Proceeds will go to PAL Vancouver.

PAL NOT IMMUNE FROM NATION'S FINANCIAL WOES

Everywhere one turns these days the topic of financial difficulties is being discussed, and seriously discussed, with furrowed brows and dire predictions of matters imminently devolving into, if not collapse, then at least a period of severe belt-tightening and realignment of priorities.

PAL lives in the real world. We are not immune from the necessity of considering and preparing for financial constraints, particularly at a time when all charities are feeling the pinch as donations dwindle from expected sources which find they are not able, because of the economic situation, to participate as generously as before. All charitable donations are down considerably from last year. In addition, donors express concern that the situation may remain on the downturn for some time to come. This is a reality we must address and live with. It is a reality with which Boards of Directors of PAL, at all levels, have been grappling lately.

It kept popping up at the November meeting of the National Board, held via conference on November 28th. Many of our Chapters are coping with more serious financial problems than ever. It is disheartening for many who have volunteered their time and expertise for so long to see the road ahead now with more potholes, or blocked altogether.

WORKING TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY

This position is sometimes frustrating. We have created an extraordinarily successful organization, spawning a surprisingly adept group of individuals who work in many areas -and we hesitate to brag about them. Yes, we mean *Supporting Cast* services, of course, but we also mean the hundreds, perhaps thousands of daily, silent, private occasions when a PAL member helps a colleague by performing the simple and necessary tasks. From time to time we learn of something someone has done for someone else. We hear about it usually *by-the-by*, as it were, passed along almost by mistake during discussion of another topic altogether.

There are those special souls who simply seem incapable of behaving otherwise, giving of themselves because “it’s what one does”, and whose typical Canadian shyness comes to the fore if they should be singled out for special mention. “Tut-tut”, they suggest, “anyone would do the same.”

We’re not Pollyannaish about this and, indeed, there are occasions when just the opposite seems to be happening but such aberrations are few and far between, usually arising out of misunderstandings or incomplete knowledge of PAL’s *raison d’être* or mandate; which is, in simple terms, to provide unfettered service to a colleague. There’s something majestic in that!

This publication is meant to inform and to encourage your greater participation in the work of PAL, to assist in its progress and advise in its decisions. Don’t be shy about doing so, either in these pages (by letter, fuller written contact e.g. article or via e-mail) or by communication with your elected representatives. You will accomplish many things in doing so, not the least being the provision of further written ‘grist for the mill’ necessary for each issue of your *Palingenesis*. That ought to assuage our frustration a bit.

LETTERS

We hear every now and then about someone’s reaction to reading copies of *Palingenesis* online or in hardcopy. Usually, we’re pleased to say, reaction is positive. However, whether positive or otherwise, your opinion is useful for us to hear and we would like to receive it (hardcopy or via e-mail) in order to be able to pass the comments on to other readers.

Don’t hesitate to help us expand this space! --Ed.

Palingenesis™

published quarterly for PAL Canada
Foundation Inc. by
Castle Publishing

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Castle Publishing 2011



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

PAL Canada is proud of our fund raising efforts recently, particularly during these times of financial restraints and concerns plaguing our world in every direction.

The recent acquisition of financial assistance has come from our faithful friends at the *Actra Fraternal Benefit Society* (Actra Fraternal) with special thanks to **Robert Underwood**, and from the *International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees* (IATSE) with special thanks to **John Lewis**. We are extremely grateful and extend our thanks to these gentlemen for those generous donations.

We are making great headway on the development of evolving a new "look" for our website. We expect that in the near future when you visit the website you will be pleased to see more colour and graphics. Stay tuned.



BMO PRESENTS:

LOVE AFFAIR: A Valentine Soirée for PAL Canada & Theatre 20

Monday, Feb. 13, 2012

Bank of Montreal, First Canadian Place
68th Floor, 100 King Street West

Join us as we celebrate Canadian artists!

Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful food and entertainment in support of two outstanding Canadian arts organizations.

Cocktails, three-course dinner and performances by Theatre 20 Founding Artists begin at 6 p.m.

Tickets for **LOVE AFFAIR: A Valentine Soirée for PAL Canada & Theatre 20** are \$125 each, a portion of which is tax-deductible.

ON SALE NOW at theatre20.com, soon for sale at PALCanada.org
(Secure online payment through PayPal - VISA, AmEx, MC, debit)
OR, by mailing a cheque to Theatre 20,
998 Bloor St. W., P.O. Box 10624, Toronto, ON M6H 1L0

PLEASE CIRCULATE FAR AND WIDE AND INVITE THOSE YOU THINK WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS!

Thank you for your support of Canadian artists!



PAL Canada
Caring for our own.



EX-TREASURER GOES TO HAÏTI

Our former National Treasurer returned from a steaming hot Haïti last month after a volunteer stint with *Habitat for Humanity* in that devastated country. **Peggy Mahon**, who served the members of PAL for several terms as National Treasurer -she was also a member of the original, *Founding Board* of PAL- volunteered off her own bat to donate her time and efforts to contribute in some small way to the rebuilding of Haïti, following the horrendous earthquake and disasterous loss of life and property there.

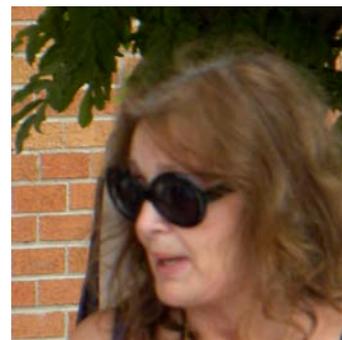
Asked "How was Haïti?" her quick response was "HOT!" saying many volunteers and staff were passing out from the unrelenting sun. "Many were hooked up to IVs!" However, former U.S. President, **Jimmy Carter**, worked across the street and was inspirational: "87 years old, two knee replacements this year, and he was on site at 7:30 am every day, ate the same awful food, and each evening he gave us pep talks to boot!"

Ms. Mahon noted the extreme poverty with the population having to exist in rusty, tin-roofed shacks yet, "miraculously, each morning the cleanest, most beautiful children emerged, with crisp ribbons in their hair, and spotless white shirts!"

Haïti's unemployment rate is 60-80 % and the re-building is slow because most of the money that was pledged by the countries who attended the "pledging meeting" (on 31 March 2010!) has not been forthcoming. The Haïtian gov't can't pay anyone to work or repair the completely destroyed buildings without that money nor employ anyone to clean up the garbage and debris. Money that was donated to NGOs is being used by those NGOs, but that covers mostly emergency relief only.

Where temporary shelters have been erected (the stage between the tent/shack slums and the 'Habitat houses' being built) the difference is startling and the people are motivated to have pride in keeping their neighborhood clean.

She suggests "an amazing read" about the Haïtian situation is **Paul Farmer's** book *Haïti, After the Earthquake*. Some volunteers seem unable to turn it off. Peggy Mahon is one of those.





PAL Halifax hosted its third *Scrabble® With the Stars* fundraiser on

Monday, October 24th. It was an energetic and entertaining evening which raised \$8500. We thank the 25 Star players who represented different disciplines – dance, film, stage, visual art, music, writing, as well as some Nova Scotian politicians and business owners who are strong supporters of the arts in this province.

Special thanks to the *Craig Foundation, AFBS, Canadian Actors' Equity Association, ACTRA Maritimes* and *IATSE 849* for their extraordinary financial assistance. The event featured performances by local singer / songwriter **Ian Sherwood** and the festivities were emceed by **Charlie Rhindress**, Artistic Producer of *Eastern Front Theatre*. The grand prize winner of 2011 *Scrabble with the Stars* was the talented actor, **Martha Irving**.

-Nancy Morgan



As the holiday season rolls in, PAL Toronto's elves are in high gear planning & preparing our annual holiday events, fund-raisers &

celebrations !

In November, PAL Toronto's "Celebrity Club" hosted a "Toys for Kids" event in our Green Room & raised \$220.00 in cash donations & a Santa's bounty of wonderful toys for children-in-need this holiday season. Attendees were treated to an evening of music and dancing which was so infectious that even some residents who are unsteady on their feet dispensed with canes and scooters to get up & join in on the dance floor !

Saturday December 17th PAL Toronto hosts *Board of Directors Holiday Brunch*. Our Board of Directors is ready to replace pencils, pens & paper with aprons, oven mitts & champagne flutes to ensure every guest enjoys the day with friends & neighbours & all leave with a belly full of holiday spirit .

And if that wasn't enough eating for you, on Christmas Day the residents of PAL Toronto will be



taking part in a special Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon. All of our residents are invited to bring their favourite holiday dish & share in a meal to mark this special day, andall of us will be on a diet by January !

Pssst! Check out our special *Scrabble* gift on Page 8.

- Kate Barris & Corey Henry



PAL Stratford has had its share of disappointments recently, mainly centered around its attempts to finalize its real estate deal for an affordable housing project. The Chapter had already invested considerable sums in feasibility studies, architects plans, rezoning, etc., as well as time and effort in clearing a hazardous materials inspection and receiving favourable comments from the City regarding their proposal for affordable housing units.

Formal approval for that application for affordable housing units will probably not be forthcoming until April of next year, and monies cannot flow to the project until the property has been purchased and a building permit has been obtained. In the meantime, PAL Stratford continues to travel hopefully.

-Sarah Drake and John Banks



PAL OTTAWA
Steering Committee



PERFORMING ARTS LODGE WINNIPEG



PAL Calgary has been struggling of late. Board members have been very disappointed about the lack of progress regarding any meaningful

movement towards some affordable accommodation. The current PAL Calgary Board has need of discussions on initiatives to move forward by seeking out new board members.

Talk is going around that PAL Calgary will be going into a dormancy state. The gist of the thinking is that someone or something needs to reignite the vision.

At the recent AGM it was decided that at this time the remaining board members will continue the work of rebuilding our website and actively seeking out new influential board members with experience and business acumen.

On a positive note, **Alberta Theatre Projects** dedicated the opening night of the *Wizard of Oz* to PAL Calgary under the theme of "there's no place like home." Awareness & \$398 was raised for the cause.

- David LeReaney



artists urban village

PAL EDMONTON has selected and contracted the architect and prime consulting team for our next project - a \$27 million 60-unit facility

in the *Quarters Downtown*.

An update was presented to City Council outlining our anticipated request for capital funding. It was very positively received.

We held our first public information session on Nov. 21, articulating our vision to the community. It was standing room only! The architect discussed the design process and representatives of the City spoke to our contribution to the area's redevelopment. The response was extremely positive. ↗

The search for new board members continues. We are at a difficult place for new board members to join, but we need new energy to keep up the momentum.

PAL Edmonton will identify a group of interested residents to work on the *Feasibility Study*, while the architect and engineers continue with the initial design phase. The Chapter also hopes to have another spurt in launching their membership drive.

-Linda Huffman



On the weekend of October 15 & 16 PAL hosted the annual Fromson Juried Art Show and Exhibit in our Studio Theatre. PAL supporter Shanna Fromson has been sponsoring this event. Winners were Frank

Talbot for "Bringing Home the Turf" (Fine Art), Bonnie Ackland for "Asian Farmer/ Fishman" (Found Art), and two paintings: Richard Cook "Landscape/Rhythmic Dance" and Jarmila Kostliiva "Earth Odyssey". There were also two People's Choice awards, for Judy Ginn Walchuk "High Tea" (Found Art) and Lorna Schwenk "Zoltan" (sketch).

As a fundraiser, art cards and envelopes from the 2010 Fromson awards are for sale.

Self Promo -One of the beauties of this annual event is empowering residents to stage their own showings. Recently Lorna Schwenk did her own show called *Argentine Tango*, which she sketched while watching dancers when a problem hip prevented her from dancing in classes.

SUCCESSFUL PAL TORONTO BAZAAR



The Annual Pal Toronto Bazaar was held December 3rd. By all accounts their high expectations were met. We hope to have more about this in a later Issue. Meanwhile, here is a **Norman Hart** photo showing the display of *PAL Greeting Cards* at the Bazaar. Business is reported to have been brisk. Some cards sold out and are now on re-order.

Favourites proved to be a **Gordon Pinsent** (*Some Clowns I've Known*) and the newest addition, *Superior Coast*, by **Jayne Eastwood**.

CULTURE FRIENDLY RESORT BURNED TO GROUND

White Point Beach Resort, a treasured, historic and much loved landmark on Nova Scotia's South Shore, suffered a major blow mid-November when a fire completely destroyed its main lodge. The resort holds treasured memories for many Maritimers, and many "fromaways" also, over its more than 80 year history. **PAL Halifax** has been enjoying a special relationship with the establishment and its generous General Manager, **Danny Morton**.

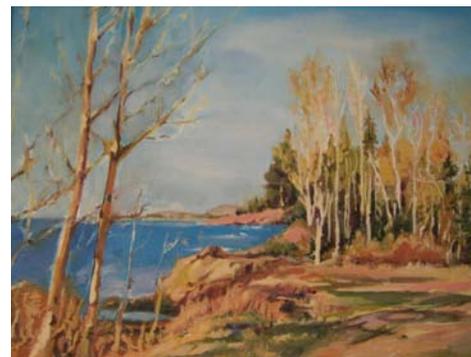
Morton, is a strong advocate for the cultural industry and is a continuing, enthusiastic supporter of PAL Halifax. He recently joined in the *Scrabble® With the Stars* fundraiser donating a major prize, a glittering stay at that fabled White Point Beach Resort. Mr. Morton is also known to have provided his establishment to artists for workshoping new scripts.

A planned \$1.4-million upgrade, which included a major facelift to both the aesthetics and infrastructure of the 82-year-old main lodge was to start in the new year. None of that money had been spent and Morton said although the timing of the blaze – in the midst of one of its busiest Novembers on record – is poor, there are positives in everything. Owners have stated the resort will be rebuilt but, due to the fire, with the exception of 13 vacation homes and cottages, White Point will be closed for rebuild and renovations until Fall 2012.

PAL Halifax's thoughts and sympathies are with the management and 100-member staff of the lodge.

GREETING CARDS ADDED

More cards continue to be added to the catalogue of greeting cards in support of PAL. The most recent addition is a stunningly beautiful painting by one of our best loved actors, **Jayne Eastwood**. Shown below, it is a Fall view along the shores of Lake Superior.



"Sometimes only a written note will do." Check the website: tioramarts.ca

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS DEDICATES SPECIAL PAL CALGARY SHOW

The Opening Night of the *Wizard of Oz* was dedicated to **PAL Calgary** by resident theatre company *Alberta Theatre Projects* (ATP). Using the theme "There's no place like home", about \$400 was raised. PAL Calgary President, **David LeReaney** commented, "Our PAL profile was also raised!"

UNSUNG HEROES

-Supporting Cast Stories

A major bragging point in our list of real accomplishments within PAL is the invaluable work done by those amazing volunteers on Supporting Cast organizations throughout the nation. Called PAL's Angels in Vancouver, these members continue to perform amazingly selfless actions in aid of their fellow artists. The work, for privacy considerations, must usually go unrecognized except by those closely involved, but it is vital to fulfilling the founding ideals of PAL.

☆☆☆

This space will be maintained to publish meaningful stories from the files of *Supporting Cast* operations throughout PAL. Each Issue will not necessarily carry a personal story. There are questions of privacy and other considerations which must be addressed and clearance is not always to be obtained from the individuals involved immediately upon the request of *Palingenesis*. We will say, however, that permissions have readily been granted so far and we do not anticipate any problems in continuing this column though, as was our original intention, insertions need not be on a regular basis. We intend to have another individual's story in this space in our *Spring Issue*.

CAREGIVING - DON'T DEPEND ON IT

You may want to check out our PAL website for an interesting article by **Misty Harris** of the *Montreal Gazette*. It is quoted extensively on www.palcanada.org. The question is one of numbers, where there are a growing number of older individuals requiring more caregiving and fewer people available to provide it. We in PAL know a great deal about this rising service problem but the rest of the world seems just now to be waking up to the difficult times ahead.

Whether one intends to have family members providing care as they age or assume that they will be able to purchase such care, the problem is that there may simply not be enough individuals available, able and willing to provide such services in the not too distant future.

The number of elderly Canadians requiring assistance is expected to double in the next 30 years and the need for an increased number of caregivers will rise accordingly, yet policymakers are only beginning to address an accompanying shortage of available providers of this service. Researchers say a shortage of adult children and health-care workers could mean baby boomers unfortunately will not get the care they need.

It is called "a major cause of concern," by the *Institute for Research on Public Policy* (IRPP), stating that policy-makers must reconsider their approach to voluntary, for-profit and public homecare. "Caregivers are essential. Without them, we, as a society, will go bankrupt," says Janice Keefe, author of the IRPP report.

Keefe, Canada Research Chair in family studies and gerontology, describes a caregiver as a member of the family, a friend or neighbour, providing support and assistance without pay. We in PAL call them our colleagues who work through our *Supporting Cast* networks to provide this and many other kinds of assistance.

At present, as much as 80 per cent of care given to older adults is provided by such individuals. Keefe suggests we must establish better support to help these people do what needs to be done. We say, "Amen!" to that. Read the full article online, www.palcanada.org.

PAL STRATFORD CHAPTER MOUNTS ANOTHER WINNING PERFORMANCE

Stratford's major annual fundraising event, *Expect the Extraordinary*, was held on 3 October. Entitled *Bombs Over Broadway, Favourite songs from Failed Musicals* the event went off with incendiary excitement created by contributions from the cast and crew of the *Stratford Shakespeare Festival*. The net income from the evening, including a silent auctions, was less than previous years but a worthy success nevertheless. PAL Stratford was also invited to participate in another fundraising concert, *A Place to Sing*, in the Festival City's *St James Church* on Aug 26th. This show featured the many international opera stars living in the church's neighbourhood. The PAL Chapter shared in the evening's satisfying profits.

WEBSITE CONTINUES BEING TWEAKED

PAL Webmaster, **Chris Hutcheson**, and **Rosie Shaw**, a publicist who is extremely familiar with the social media world, have met with Executive Director, **Paul Shaw**, to investigate ways of including more visuals on our website.

The addition of photographs and U-Tube clips of PAL chapter individuals, testimonials and activities will provide a more colourful and engaging "look" to the website, moving it away from a sometimes-heavy amount of text. Chapters will be asked to provide various items of content.

HOW HAVE YOU HELPED PAL TODAY?

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN?

CONTACT PAL CANADA OR YOUR CHAPTER

info@palcanada.org

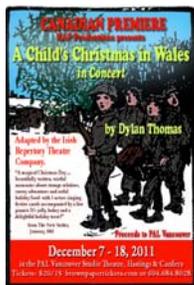
IN MEMORIAM

Eve Davidson

Louis Negin John Neville

EVENTS

What's Coming Up in PAL Chapters



CANADIAN PREMIERE AT PAL VAN RAP PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

A Child's Christmas in Wales

by Dylan Thomas

Playing 7 - 18 December
Pal Vancouver Studio Theatre

PERFECT HOLIDAY FOR SCRABBLE® PALS

Know someone who loves SCRABBLE®

Give them tickets to **Scrabble® with the Stars (2012)**.

Scrabble with the Stars May 7th 2012

Tickets are \$150 each.

Offer available during the Holiday Season only

To order: call 416-603-0625

or email holiday@scrabblewiththestars.ca

As a special holiday offer, we'll be packaging your tickets with a box of Laura Secord Scrabble® Chocolates, for the price of the tickets alone!

PAL TORONTO Coming Events

17 December - Board of Directors Holiday Brunch for residents & invited guests.

FORMER NAT PREZ ON HALIFAX BOARD



A former National PAL President recently joined the Board of PAL Halifax. **Dan MacDonald** (Left in facial disguise) took up permanent residence in his native province this year, was asked to join the Board and had his appointment confirmed by the Halifax membership at their Annual General Meeting this summer. During his Presidency, PAL expanded from its Toronto beginnings into various parts of the Country and the Chapter system was created.

He has been the *Editor of Palingenesis* for the past few years and continues in that position, putting the communications vehicle together from his seaside home about a half-hour south of Halifax.

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