

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 3

FALL 2010

## OTTAWA MOVES TO CAPITALIZE ON CITY INITIATIVE



A representative from AFM Local 180 joined the ACTRA/Equity core to plan the next moves towards establishing PAL in our Nation's Capital.

Instigated by **Jim Bradford**

(above with Patty Gail), the Ottawa group meets again 12 Oct. to plan Nov.'s "open space" exercise. **Alison Atkins**, proposed the concept to get many people working on multiple topics.

The City is pushing forward with a revitalization plan which our fledgling committee is investigating.

The group will expand. "We will ask the leaders of unrepresented groups...to send (a rep)", says Bradford, "we want every section behind us before shouting for attention."

## AMAZING PEGGY MAHON STEP DOWN

The woman who many credit with setting PAL's financial house in order has tendered her resignation. Peggy Mahon stepped away from the time-consuming and onerous responsibility of guiding this organization through tricky waters, a task she has brilliantly handled for several years, leading PAL to a state of relative stability and financial health. Bernie Desroches assumed the position from the end of September.



Peggy has been a rock of support, constantly ready to donate precious time from her busy professional singing and teaching careers to undertake the organizing of various occasions of celebration and remembrance for her colleagues, especially at *Pal Place* in Toronto.

She leaves large shoes to fill, and a very grateful membership. Happily her guidance will remain with us on the Board.

## PAL WINNIPEG FOUNDER DIES

He established **PAL Winnipeg**, serving as its only President to date, and long represented his area as ACTRA National Councillor while engaged in an active and successful career. **Wayne Nicklas** died in Duncan, B.C. while on a trip to support fellow Winnipeggers appearing in a theatre production on Vancouver Island.

A fierce advocate for Winnipeg actors and the acting community at large, Wayne was a towering presence in more ways than one (standing over 6'5" tall). He fought fiercely and eloquently on behalf of others but is remembered as a teddy bear by colleagues. Friend **Stan Lesk** described Wayne as "the kindest, gentlest, greatest guy there was."

With his wife **Judy Cook** and their friend actor-playwright **David King**, Wayne made the trip to B.C. in defiance of his long battle with esophageal cancer. A tribute was organized in June (See story page 8) Expressions of sympathy to Judy and the family and of admiration for Wayne Nicklas' contributions are many, varied and heartfelt. He will be missed.



## Our Envable Fall Season

*The moving finger writes...*

Fall is a time for enacting plans, launching new initiatives, ensuring necessary contacts, etc. In this country we start hunkering down for another period of cooler weather, getting our real and psychological firewood securely stacked up, checking our living quarters and personal lives to ensure we've looked after all those little things that need tending to in order to forestall nasty surprises in the dead of winter. Similarly with PAL. Resulting from our AGM in June, decisions and commitments made will be acted upon and planned projects launched. Already, a new Board has met and been reconfigured (see info board p.8) and our new Treasurer, Bernie Desroches, installed.

You'll note much Board continuity, an advantage in ramping up initiatives actions since many actually served during the creation of the Strategic Plan. A separate project is a fundraising initiative to create special, PAL-related greeting cards depicting the artwork of some talented members. Starting with works by two respected members, **Norman Hart** and **Gordon Pinsent**, the cards will be produced by Castle Publishing, which already does our *Palingenesis*. They come complete with envelopes, and are usable for any number of occasions. Prices will be very reasonable for these quality cards and, most importantly, *any profits generated will go to PAL Canada*.

In time for the Holiday Season are: a photocard showing a night view from the top of *Pal Place*, by **Norman Hart**, and a painting depicting a Newfoundland holiday scene, by **Gordon Pinsent**. The variety of cards will be continually increased during the coming months. Help raise PAL's profile and contribute to your organization's ability to do a little bit more for your colleagues throughout Canada. It's *win-win* and *feel good* at the same time.

*And having writ moves on...*

### NOT TO BE MISSED !

“Among the grandest natural features of the country, one or other of which should certainly be visited..., are Niagara Falls, the Canadian Pacific Railway from Banff to Vancouver, and the Saguenay.”

*- from Baedeker's (Tourist guide of) Canada 1907*

## Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I caught (*Palingenesis*) in the PAL office as it was being copied for distribution to members who don't have email. Bravo! *Palingenesis* just gets more and more interesting.

All the best,

Jane Heyman, Co-founder and Past President PAL Vancouver.

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**PRESIDENT’S NOTES**



The first meetings of our new Executive and Board took place 13 & 27 September dealing with the usual business issues and receiving reports from committees and Chapters. Additionally, a ‘volunteer recruitment paper’ was adopted and will be posted to our website as a guide, following some further fine tuning from the Chapter Liaison Committee.

Our major concern at this point is maintaining momentum in achieving the objectives set out in the 3-year Strategic Plan adopted in January. With much of the initial work completed we’re now into the heavy lifting. The Board has decided to engage a senior person on a part-time contractual basis to help PAL move forward on a number of specified objectives. We’re into final planning stages on this, so further details must wait until our next issue. Lastly, and with very profound regrets, we sadly accepted the resignation of our long-time Treasurer Peggy Mahon. She will, happily, remain on the Board.

**VAS KUCHAR ROOF TERRACE**

As reported in our previous issue, the innovative design feature of our first residence, *Pal Place* in Toronto, was dedicated to that building’s brilliant designer, **Vas Kuchar**, in a June ceremony. The roof garden will now be known as the *Vas Kuchar Roof Terrace*. In addition, a bench, bearing a small plaque, has been placed in a prominent position.



MC’d by Pal Founder, **Roy Wordsworth** (above photo) who welcomed several members of the Kuchar Family including his widow, **Eva**, daughter **Klara**, son **Michael** (Shown below) and several grandchildren, the event



was attended by a group of invited guests and sponsored by PAL Canada and Pal Toronto. The redoubtable **Peggy Mahon** worked her usual magic in the organizing department supplying not only delicious nibbles but a classical string trio by which to enjoy them during the dedication activities.

**New Consultant Gets Down To Work**

A new addition to the PAL roster, **Lisa Sansom** (shown photo) of LVS Consulting, has assumed the task of assisting PAL Canada with researching and updating material for our bubbling new website. Described as “knowledgeable, bright, optimistic and a delight to work with”, Ms. Sansom holds Masters degrees from the Rotman School of Management and the University of Pennsylvania along with specialist certificates in a number of disciplines, with much background in Organizational Development. Sounds like a comfortable fit. Welcome Lisa!



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Jackie Burroughs    Babz Cruz**  
**Maureen Forrester**  
**Larry Gaynor    Rachel McAfee**  
**Wayne Nicklas    Billie Mae Richards**

CHAPTER NOTES .....NEWS FROM PAL CHAPTERS.....



**Excitement, Growth and Renewed Vigour-** A well attended late April AGM made a strong commitment to

increase Chapter membership. Seen as a priority for PAL Halifax, the Chapter is also undertaking the creation of a marketing/image/branding strategy.

**On Tenterhooks Re Building Site-** Support was confirmed regarding *Imagine Bloomfield* (with which PAL Halifax shares an administrator) being designated "the most probable site for our PAL".

The *Halifax Regional Municipality* is involved and is moving to the next phase of the 'Bloomfield Project'. Developments are being watched closely, as is another North End proposal, an assisted housing development on Gottingen Street. Contact has been made with that developer as well.

**Co-chairs Appointed-** At a recent Board meeting, Eric Stotts and Jeremy Webb were appointed Chapter Co-chairs and expressed thanks to Gary Vermier, who stepped into the breach last year. Gary remains on PAL Halifax and National Boards.

**Scrabble With the Stars East Set-** Reserve 23 October to have loads of fun at a Maritime version of Scrabble With the Stars.



**Continued SWTS Improvement-** The AGM heard that the gala fundraiser, *Scrabble® With The*

*Stars*, netted about \$45,000 this year. Corporate sponsors included *Scotiabank Cineplex*, *CBC* and *ACTRA Fraternal*.

**Active Amenities in Pal Place-** The library is back in circulation (☺) and the reopened *Celebrity Club* is already self-supporting and continues to provide delightful diversion.

**Bettering Board/Membership Communications-** Two well-received town hall meetings were influential in the Board adding a PPRA (residents' association) member, rewording and clarifying by-laws, a revised handbook and reducing membership fees.

**Same Fight A Decade Later-** Big *Goliath* (*Woodcliffe Corporation*) wants to build over *David's* (Pal Place) easement. You'll get reports as the battle progresses.  
**Roof Space Renamed-** (See Story p.3)

**Seed Funding -** Funding to assist in preparing a Business Plan has been granted by CMHC

(upwards of \$10,000) and Tim Welch Consulting Inc. will work on the Plan with our Building Committee, chaired by Gordon Sherwin.



**Membership & Profile -** A successful membership campaign is launched along with several profile-raising events.

**Fundraising Success Continues-** The Chapter received a Tyrone Guthrie Award, the Festival sold a **Desmond Heeley** card for the Chapter and **Mimi Vivona** and friends organized a *Tempest in a Tea Pot*. But, *Expect the Extraordinary* remains the major fundraising event. This year's offering generated \$34,000. *Stratford Miscast*, took place 13 September. (See story page 6.)

**PAL Manitoba** is still reeling from the death of Wayne Ncklas (see Front Page story). **Winnipeg Soldiers On-** Since its founding meeting PAL Winnipeg has struggled to become more solidly



established Charitable Status was achieved and various contacts made with all governments regarding a seniors' building, with various sites having been investigated. **Approach to CMHC-** Plans are to apply to CMHC for a feasibility grant and the idea of partnering in a building project is being actively discussed.

**Memorial Fundraiser-** A performance-based fundraiser in memory of Wayne Nicklas was organized in late June. (See *Tribute* p.8)

## FROM THROUGHOUT CANADA ..CHAPTER NOTES



**Plans in the Works-** The PAL Calgary Board accepted a proposal from *Paradox Inc* to conduct a feasibility study and develop a strategic plan for the Chapter. They are currently re-assessing Calgary's role and mandate

and researching opportunities for community partnership.

**Annual Auction-** As happened last year, a silent auction benefitting PAL Calgary was organized at *Jon Lord's Annual Stampede BBQ*, raising \$2700. CMHC Grant -A \$10,000 non-repayable grant was just approved. More next issue.



## PAL EDMONTON

(Artists Urban Village)

**Edmonton Forges Ahead-** A successful Needs Assessment Survey was completed, with

funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing, earlier this year. Four hundred completed surveys were received and of those 131 expressed interest in an affordable cooperative housing facility. The need and interest within the arts community has been amply demonstrated.

**Partnerships-** In November PAL Edmonton partnered with *Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton* for the creation of our first project - an affordable artists housing cooperative. A brand new building is to be purchased from *Edmonton Inner City Housing*. Strong - in some cases resounding- support has been received from the local *Business Association*, *Community League* and the *Neighbourhood Improvement Association*, as well as all the local arts organizations. We hope to announce confirmation of this project in the coming months, stay tuned!

**The Future?** The immediate future will involve working with tenants on the creation of their new cooperative, including governance and management policy, and applying for charitable status for PAL Edmonton with Revenue Canada. Also on the list of priorities is the creation of a Supporting Cast element and establishing a website.

**Business Plan Not Forgotten-** In preparation for on-going and ensuing projects the creation and finalization of the Chapter's Business Plan will continue.



## Assessing PAL Van's Character-

President Keith Martin Gordey emphasized the positive in his report to the PAL Canada AGM in

June. Reflecting on the "great strength of the organization's character... its ability to reevaluate and reinvent itself", Gordey reviewed a number of changes and ongoing challenges in his Chapter's evolutionary process from "capital fundraising" to fundraising through an Annual Campaign.

**Transitions-** In paying tribute to the many volunteers who have served PAL Vancouver, several were inducted into the esteemed *Order of the Red Nose*. (See Story p.7)

**Gratitude to the Departed, High Expectations for Newcomers-** Christine McDermott, outgoing Vice-President, and Secretary Rory Grewar did not stand for re-election and their devoted services were applauded and will be missed. At the same time, there are high expectations for recent additions to an excellent and hard-working Board (see last issue), confidently able to rely on the work of Executive Director Gary Glacken and an exemplary staff. More operational functions have been efficiently shifted from the Board to management and staff.

**Navigating Rough Waters-** Times are tough. Sustained contributions are essential for the continuation of PAL work and while budgeting targets were not quite reached in 2009 more funds were raised than the year before. Even through the recession, the community came through for PAL Vancouver as the Chapter looks beyond the building to offering services to the greater community.

**Well Attended AGM in June-** As recorded in our *Summer Palingenesis* a new Board is now in place and hard at work, following the AGM at the beginning of June and bolstered by a successful three-hour *Board Orientation Session* June 15th. Vancouver appears well on its way to successfully meet any new challenges.

## MAUREEN FORRESTER

An early resident of Pal Place and lively supporter of the PAL idea, one of the greatest singers this country has produced, Maureen Forrester, died in Toronto in mid-June from Alzheimer's disease. She was passionate about promoting Canadian arts and culture serving as Chair of the Canada Council and on the Executive Committee of Actors' Equity, as well as seeking out and being constantly supportive of young singers and composers. She premiered and championed major vocal pieces by a wide range of Canadian composers. She has been described as "an authentic celebrity", one who "touched the Canadian nerve as no other singer of her time had done", and was the recipient of many honours, including almost three dozen honorary degrees from Canadian universities.



After thrilling the world with her glorious voice, musicianship and shining personality for decades Maureen retired to Pal Place but was forced to leave her friends there as her illness took hold. She leaves four daughters, Paula, Gina, Linda and Susie, a son Daniel, and 15 grandchildren.

## THOR ARNGRIM ESTABLISHED ONE OF OUR FIRST PROFESSIONAL THEATRES

A West Coast theatre pioneer who, with the late *Stuart Baker*, established one of the earliest, full-time professional theatres in Canada, **Thor Arngrim** died in Vancouver in December as a result of complications from Parkinson's disease. Thor was 81 and an original resident of the *PAL Vancouver* lodge.



Though his remarkable story began in Regina he moved to Campbell River, B.C. with his adopted family at 14, soon leaving school and haunting every theatre performance he could find hoping for employment as a performer. In 1951, a stage veteran at 22, he co-founded Vancouver's famed *Totem Theatre* as an outdoor summer stock company in West Vancouver, later moving to a permanent venue in a downtown Vancouver union hall where they produced plays ranging from *Charley's Aunt* to *No Exit*. As the newfangled medium of television cut into their audience base, "the boys" moved the company to Victoria, reviving the beautiful but then-derelict *MacPherson Playhouse*. However, *Totem* foundered and its creators went their separate ways. *Stuart Baker* died in Calgary some years ago.

Having married that lovely actress, *Norma Macmillan*, the newlyweds set out for Toronto. In 1956, Thor found himself on Broadway in *Tyrone Guthrie's* production of *Tamburlaine the Great* and later alongside *Albert Finney* in *Luther*, as well as producing theatre at New Jersey's *Grist Mill Playhouse*. In 1993, returning to Vancouver, Norma continued to act and Thor to produce, especially a play about Alzheimer's disease, *Strangers Among Us*, winning two *Jessie Richardson Awards*. Norma pre-deceased Thor and he is survived by son Stefan and daughter Alison, both of whom continued in "the family business" Stefan working extensively in film and television in Vancouver and Alison as an actress and comedian in Los Angeles.



AGGIE & JESSICA MAN MEMBERSHIP BOOTH

## STRATFORD FUNDING SUCCESS

On Monday, September 13, the Avon Theatre was alive with laughter, talent and sentiment as PAL Stratford presented its fifth annual *Expect the Extraordinary* fundraising event. Entitled *Stratford Miscast*, the show was a musical cabaret featuring extremely talented performers in very unexpected roles. This year saw a record amount raised, some \$34,000, which will help PAL Stratford move closer to its goal of providing affordable

**PAL PHOTOG SHOOTS QUEEN**

**Norman Hart** has contributed many photos to this publication. He continues with more this issue, two with a special twist. He was designated an official member of the Media Pool during the July Queen’s visit and captured several delightful pics of **Her Majesty the Queen of Canada** and **HRH Prince**



**Philip Duke of Edinburgh.** Two of them are reproduced here. The top photo shows Her Majesty arriving at St. James’ Cathedral for Sunday Service (St. James is just around the corner from Toronto’s *Pal Place*) and the second was taken during her visit to the large, new

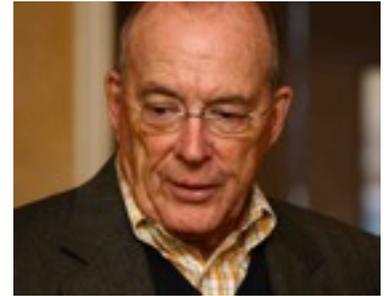


**Pinewood Film Studio** in Toronto. Congratulations Norman and thank you for your ready help.

**PROFILE PEEK**

Within a roster of highly qualified members of the PAL Calgary Board of Directors we find **Jock Osler**, a man of awesome experience in everything from press, politics and political advisor, to Arts boards, theatres and committees including a term as a Governor of the *National Theatre School*. His past board memberships alone have included the *Alberta Performing Arts Stabilization Fund*, the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, *YMCA Calgary*, *Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts*, the *Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the US* (Fulbright Scholarship programme), the *Canadian Organization for Development through Education*, *Vertigo Mystery Theatre* and the *Calgary Stampede Grandstand Committee*. He continues as an honorary board member of *Alberta Theatre Projects*, a Member of the *Chancellor’s Club*, University of Alberta, and as a Founding Member of *Together for Canada Committee*, a member of advisory committees at the U. of Calgary, on various arts committees and boards, serving in various capacities for a number of community organizations including the *Bettys Awards* events and at the Calgary Stampede evening Grandstand show, where he has been announcer for the past 14 years. He is an Advisor to Calgary’s *Shakespeare in the Park* and to the *Magnetic North Theatre Festival*. Additionally, of course, this multi-honoured communications expert is a valued Member of the

**...at Jock Osler**



**Order of the Red Nose Tickles Funnybone at Vancouver Annual General Meeting**

A tradition going back to the first “pass-the-hat” fundraisers, *Order of the Red Nose* (Members **Joy Coghill** and **Dal Richards** shown in Photo) pays tribute to PAL Vancouver volunteers while demonstrating that the PAL Board has something different from ‘corporate style’, believing in entertaining and thanking people. Several inductees were recognized at the AGM in June.

Former President, **Tony DuMoulin**, got to do the honours for **Jane Heyman**. Co-Founder (with Joy Coghill) of PAL Vancouver, President, contributor, tireless worker, repository of the organization’s history to date, and Past President, Jane is still contributing as Vice President of PAL Canada. Joy Coghill bestowed the Red Nose on Treasurer **David Abramowitz** who, as Chair of the Finance Committee, has kept PAL Vancouver’s financial house in order. “Both these people have been so integral to PAL that it is challenging to imagine the organization without them,” said **President Keith Martin Gordey**, “but they have also been so inspirational that one is invigorated to take up the challenge and keep the ship sailing.” **Donna Wong Juliani**, former Vice President, was inducted into the Order in absentia, for her years of dedication to PAL Vancouver.



## WINNIPEG HONOURS WAYNE

On the evening of 27 June, members of Canada's creative community congregated at *Prairie Theatre Exchange* for a *Celebration of the Life and Accomplishments of Wayne Nicklas*, the tribute organized as a fund-raiser for PAL Winnipeg by long-time friend **David King** with Wayne's wife, **Judy Cook**.

Enlisting a group of very talented friends and colleagues, the evening proved as entertaining as it was touching. Attendees cried and laughed as over a dozen terrific entertainers sang, acted, provided musical accompaniment and performed monologues in a production of the highest quality and variety.

Over 200 audience members appreciated **Sam Broverman, Rick Burt, Judy Cook, Nancy Drake, David Gilles, Ti Hallas, Ron Halldorson, David King, Harry Nelken, Fred Penner, Wayne Posnick, Jeff Skinner, Brian Richardson, Al Simmons, Tusia Toubib, Lorne Wheeler** and **Ilena Zaramba**, with **Dan Donahue** an ever-ready onstage audio technician. The enthusiastically applauding house contributed about \$8,000 to Pal Winnipeg.



(Photo L-R: Lorne Wheeler, Judy Cook, Rea Kavanagh, Jeff Skinner, Nancy Drake.)

## NOW USE SPECIAL GREETING CARDS

A series of fundraising greeting cards is being created by Castle Publishing. Suitable for various occasions, each card reflects the artwork of a very talented PAL member who has generously allowed us to use the artwork for fundraising.

### ANY & ALL PROFITS DONATED TO PAL CANADA

N. Hart & G. Pinsent Cards available now;

E. Sawchuk & D. Scott available by year-end

For More Information or Orders:

E-mail: [palingenesis@bell.net](mailto:palingenesis@bell.net)

Or write: Castle Publishing, PAL Canada (Address this page)

AVAILABLE NOW

Norman Hart



Gordon Pinsent



AVAILABLE BY JANUARY

Elsie Sawchuk



Desmond Scott



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