

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 2

JUNE 2011

LODGE REPORT: READY, STEADY, AND GO !



As **PAL Edmonton** celebrated the opening of its Artists' Urban Village project, PAL Lodge #3, **PAL Halifax** announced a letter of intent had been signed to participate in a housing development in that city's North End. Hard upon these announcements came the rumour that **Stratford** was closer than ever to being able to echo those actions there. These successes point to the enthusiasm and dedication displayed by a number of PAL members in these areas. They also provide encouragement to other Chapters working towards the provision of affordable accommodation for our colleagues. Housing is not the whole thrust of the PAL idea but it is an important, and perhaps the most

visible, part of our mandate. The PAL Edmonton building, shown here, boasts many amenities including a park directly across the street.

(Read more on these developments, See Lodge Report Page 6)

SIFTING POSITIVE AGM NOTES

The 20 June AGM heard extensive reports from **Pres Chris Marston** and **Exec Dir Paul Shaw** outlining Board and organization activities and identifying major initiatives for the immediate future.

Treasurer Bernie Desroches detailed 2010's finances along with presenting info on this year's budget and the meeting approved By-law changes and the Rules and Regulations of the Board, the most significant of which provide for a complete revision of the procedure for Board elections. Details of the changes will appear next issue. The meeting approved the Election Report which stated that one of the five candidates withdrew and the four remaining were declared elected. One seat remains vacant. The By-laws permit the Board to fill the vacancy by appointment which then has to be confirmed by the next AGM.

(See Sifting AGM Notes Page 7)

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

Kicked off by a 2-day PAL Canada Board conference of brainstorming and strategic planning in November of 2009, PAL now has tonnes of irons in the proverbial fire. With the organization growing in leaps and bounds, it's been a busy and exciting year-and-a-half with a priority being to ensure that all Chapters are properly represented and individual needs are being addressed.

One of the major elements of our *Strategic Plan* is the development of a large scale fundraising capacity for which "the Plan" lays out a step by step process. Fundamental to that process is the creation of a sophisticated *Case For Support* (adopted by the Board in March) which can be adapted and honed to fit a variety of fundraising approaches.

(See Case for Support Page 7)

SHARING OUR SUCCESSES

Gary Vermeir spoke about various progressive steps taken in a number of our Chapters during the PAL Halifax AGM at the end of May. It was obvious to this observer that Gary was proud of what PAL Canada was doing, and he was joined in his enthusiasm by the vocal participation of many voices in attendance. It should not seem remarkable that these members should be happy about the good fortune of others (this is the Maritimes after all) but it unexpectedly struck us as “admirable” in these days and in times of questioning and perhaps confused loyalties. Such positive attitudes should not be surprising within PAL, indeed should be celebrated, though we sometimes live so close to our own condition we might miss the accomplishments in *all* our parts throughout the months and years we’ve been together.

In this issue we celebrate another successful year as Annual General Meetings are held throughout the country and note, in our Front Page story, the substantial progress made in the provision of affordable accommodation by our *Edmonton* and *Halifax* Chapters. Edmonton’s project is well-and-truly launched and it looks like there is a desire for more; Halifax also has a firm agreement to have suitable accommodation available in a new housing project in that city, though it may be some time before bylaws and other municipal regulations are satisfied and the physical building is open to our members. There are special bonds that exist amongst members of this rather special organization who came together specifically to look after our colleagues here or “from away”, known or unknown, and in any artistic area. We proudly boast of *Taking Care of our Own* and that pride increases when we hear unsolicited praise for the accomplishments of those in other branches of our far-flung family.

LETTERS

May I add a note about the greeting cards being produced as a PAL Canada fundraiser by Castle Publishing? Chapters should be encouraged to include these cards at fundraising events. We position them at or near the membership table, and find they are a wonderful draw. People come to have a look at the cards, which gives us the opportunity to pitch memberships/donations!
-Brenda Martin, Stratford.

Ed.: Brenda has long been a PAL Stratford stalwart, and helps with the promotion of monthly community events in the Chapter.

Palingenesis™

published quarterly for PAL Canada
Foundation Inc. by
Castle Publishing

Editor
Dan MacDonald

Copy Editor
N. J. Fry

Layout Design/Execution
Dan MacDonald



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Contributors
Dominic Clarke,
Linda Huffman, Rachael McCaig, Rea
Kavanagh, David LeReaney, Brenda
Martin, Chris Marston, Ellie O’Day,
Gail Packwood,
Patty Gail Peaker



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Letters Articles, Notices:
palingenesis@eastlink.ca

Or, mail correspondence to:
PAL Canada
110 The Esplanade
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1X9
416-203-3051

PAL Charitable Number:
89788 0902 RR0001



Castle Publishing 2011



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As you'll read elsewhere, we've just had our Annual General Meeting. There's nothing like AGMs to concentrate the mind and really think about what got done and what didn't get done over the year. I was in the happy position of being able to report that we had made significant progress on the path which we set for ourselves with our Strategic Plan which we put in place 18 months ago. I was pleased, listening to our Executive Director, Paul Shaw, at the additional capacity he is bringing to what we do and the potential he sees for our future. But what really revved me up was presenting the Chapter Reports. The level of activity bubbling away now in all of our communities is truly impressive and an enormous credit to everyone involved. That PAL vision is definitely taking root across the country more firmly, year by year. These are tough times – but we spring from the performing arts. We're used to tough times and we eventually find a way.

On a personal level, while I have a further year to serve in my term on the Board, I won't be standing again for President when the new Board meets to elect its officers. It has truly been a great privilege for me to have been able to remain associated with the community of artists among whom I spent a significant part of my working life and I'm grateful for having had that opportunity.

AS WE GO TO PRESS we hear shouts from PAL Stratford that their conditional offer on an existing property has been accepted. President John Banks says, "We are now working to fulfill and remove the five conditions." **FULL STORY IN FALL ISSUE!!!**

SPRING CLEAN NETS DONATIONS



This Norman Hart photo shows Rosanne Figueira, Patty Gail's assistant as Health Service Coordinator/Supporting Cast at PAL Toronto surrounded by

many bags of donations after she arranged a clothing drive in benefit of the Canadian Diabetes Association and Toronto's The Good Shepherd men's shelter. Rosanne is shown amongst only some of the donations received in the heartening response from PAL. Several large containers were needed for all the items collected. Much thanks to all who participated in the big Spring Clean.

LATE ARRIVING THOUGHTS

A recent article in Toronto's *Globe & Mail* arrived at the surprising conclusion (to the U.S. composers of the survey) that career satisfaction does not depend on the amount of money earned. A study of worker satisfaction found that meaningful work topped the factors in judging a satisfying career, followed by career control and co-worker relations. Money ranked fourth. The report went on to list a number of "happy" work situations but -not unusual in Arts matters- failed to mention the Arts.

In Canada, recent studies have confirmed the high degree of satisfaction for arts workers, even for those of us still not working as often as we'd like. Not only do artists derive pleasure from their work but, according to a *Hill Strategies Report*, they continue finding it in artistic pursuits long after most other workers have retired.



Things are just bubbling along on the East Coast. Our recent AGM was one of the largest and

liveliest ever with members attending in unexpected numbers despite it being a perfect evening for the first BBQ of the season. Co-chairs **Eric Stotts** and **Jeremy Webb** kept things moving as we learned of some pretty neat works accomplished since 2010. Among them, very real movement towards offering affordable accommodation to members in a new development in the city's revitalizing North End. An even "bigger" deal was our Administrator, **Ann Pocket**, obviously expecting her twins any day. Board Member **Nancy Morgan** will act as Interim Administrator, in her absence.

(Ed.: More in-depth coverage of housing developments in Halifax and Edmonton is available on the Front Page & Page 6)



In our continuing efforts to raise community awareness of PAL Stratford, we have been holding monthly community events. Here are some of the recent highlights:

On March 26, we held our annual **Rummage Sale**, which was a phenomenal success. People were lined up to get in half an hour before the doors opened. We had a wonderful array of items for sale, donated by our members, the community and the **Stratford Festival Warehouse**. We raised approximately \$2400.00.

We were pleased to be able to sell "PAL cards" at this event, and they were VERY popular, allowing us to forward a cheque to **Castle Publishing** for \$124.40 for the cards.

PAL member, **Marion Adler** has developed a class in improvisation designed to include all ages. We were fortunate enough to have Marion hold these workshops for us over three weekends, May 7, 14 and 21st. An enjoyable and therapeutic activity.

-Brenda Martin



Supporting Cast Health Services Coordinator **Rosanne Figueira** is providing regular seminars and workshops on

varied topics of health and physical well being. Our Outreach program (*Supporting Cast*) successfully helped move former resident **Roger Periard** to a New Brunswick Nursing home where he is near his friends and relatives and is quite happy.

Residents' Association -We have held two "Town Hall" meetings with *PAL Place Residents' Association* both proving beneficial for future planning and considerations. Ken Gass and the Toronto Board made major inroads by providing such a forum for complaints or constructive criticism, suggestions, inquiries and, generally, an opportunity just to be heard. This kind of communication is suggested to all PAL Chapters.

PAL Toronto Celebrity Club -has an ever increasing membership and fan club. PAL membership provides access to the Celebrity Club as well as the national *Palingenesis*, and of course access to other PAL chapters across the country. The club maintains itself and provides a special kind of sustenance and support to residents and outside members alike.

-Patty Gail Peaker



PAL OTTAWA Steering Committee

Things are moving along in the Nation's Capital area . A tested and adjusted *Needs Assessment Survey* is being distributed to members of **ACTRA, Equity, CMA, IATSE**, a visual artists'

group and others working in the Arts. A meeting in the Board Room of the *Council for the Arts* where **Victoria Steele** and **Peter Honeywell**, Director of the Council, joined us. As the City is in the process of extending *Arts' Court*, a downtown municipal arts project, Peter's presence was a fortunate addition. The City is considering the building of a highrise on the adjacent parking lot, in which hope we might find some space.

Mitzi Hauser is handling the needs assessment survey, **Gary Morton** is leading on *Supporting Cast* initiatives while Victoria and Peter explore partnerships with existing service organizations.

-Jim Bradford



Transition Year - it has been that long since we lost **Wayne Nicklas**. **Rea Kavanagh** stepped in as Chair and PAL Winnipeg's Board of Directors has evolved (**Donovan Fontaine** is our new Treasurer and **Cindy Marie Small** the new CAEA Ex-officio). Individuals with

particular skills are being sought for new additions.

Discussions Held -We've been engaged in discussions with *Acorn Development*, a company experienced in working with non-profits and charities, and ACORN recently presented a proposal to act as our development consultants. Talks are ongoing. Our Board is cautious about committing too early but feel ACORN may well be able to help move us forward. We also held discussions with the *U of W*, the *Gas Station Theatre* submitted a letter-of-interest in partnering with PAL and there have been inquiries re other site locations such as the *Portage Place* tower. Reaching further into the community, we've met municipal groups and officials, with positive results.

-Rea Kavanagh

(gallery, small theatre, artist studios) and offices.

Timeframe -Construction to begin in 2-3 years.

-Linda Huffman



Happy 5th Birthday - Residents began moving into PAL Vancouver on May 28th, 2006.

Happy 85th Birthday -In mid-

May, a lovely High Tea was held

in honour of resident and co-founder **Joy Coghill**.

The following shows the blue-crowned 85-year-old receiving greetings from **Melanie Ray**.



AGM -**Paul Plater** becomes the new President of PAL Vancouver and **Keith Martin Gordey** becomes Past-President. **Ellie O'Day** is Secretary and **Mindy Abramowitz** is Treasurer.

Walk in France -One of PAL's earliest, and certainly most imaginative supporters, **Chris Tyrell**, raised pledges of \$18,000 for a Paris to Montpellier. Despite Chris being unable to finish the walk, most pledges are being honoured. Pledgers were in touch via his blog and felt part of his journey.

2nd Annual -The *PAL Studio Theatre* is preparing to host its July 1st Celebrations with neighbouring residents and businesses. PAL Van will be fluttering in bright red and white flags and decorations from windows and balconies, as well as our rooftop garden. The day kicks off with a pancake breakfast in our roof garden, including treats made by our lively 2nd floor neighbours, the kids of the *Bayshore Gardens Children's Centre*. Our Coal Harbour neighbours, dignitaries, friends in the performing arts, and a very special guest will be joining us.

PAL Choir -This event will present the premiere of this choir, made possible through a grant from the federal *New Horizons for Seniors* programme. In the evening the PAL Studio Theatre presents *Canadiana Cabaret, Divos, Eh?* featuring 14 talented men. Singers and musicians will deliver a highly entertaining show capturing the true spirit of Canada through humour and song.

-Ellie O'Day



CALGARY has a few things percolating but nothing to discuss yet publicly.

Board member **Jock Osler** suddenly needed immediate quadruple bypass surgery and

a new aorta-- something known as the "Bentall Procedure"- while visiting in California recently. Deemed medically unfit to fly home, the long and complicated procedure had to be performed in Los Angeles.

Jock reports he is "feeling good" and is looking towards being 100 per cent soon, following the surgeon's pronouncement that "things were as perfect as they could be."

-David LeReaney



artists urban village

Lodge Opening -The Grand Opening, in partnership with Arts Habitat Association, is taking place on June 30.

NEXT! -We completed the

Business Plan for our next project, to be located in the *Quarters Development* within two blocks of the *Citadel Theatre*, *Winspear Concert Hall* and the *Art Gallery of Alberta*. The City is providing \$50,000 in development funds and have committed to providing the land at no cost. We are also applying to CMHC for Pre-development funding.

We envision a facility with up to 60 residential units above three floors of arts-related commercial enterprises

PAL'S AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION DREAMS ~ SOME REALIZATIONS

EDMONTON – Artists Urban Village, a chapter of PAL Canada Foundation in partnership with *Arts Habitat Association*, announced the completion of Edmonton’s first affordable housing co-op for artists in mid-April. The third lodge in PAL’s family, this 16-unit project promotes one of the main objectives behind Pal’s mandate to serve older colleagues in the Arts Community. The new building is opened and functioning since May.

President of Artists Urban Village, **Shirley Serviss**, sees the project as “the first of several” to provide affordable housing to aging artists, enabling them to remain engaged in and connected to their community. As with other arts related projects, PAL’s latest addition will greatly contribute to the revitalization of the neighbourhood which, in Edmonton’s case, is on Alberta Avenue above the *Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts* in an area being palpably transformed into the newest arts district.

Suites are between 728-802 ft² in a mix of 1-bedroom and den units with onsite parking, ready public transit, across from a park and with great shopping.

HALIFAX -

SURE, AN EMPTY HOLE NOW, BUT.....

Overlooking historic buildings and landmarks down towards the harbour, this is the future view from the new PAL-related building under



way in the city’s storied North End. PAL Halifax has signed to cooperate with Nova Scotia Housing Trust in assisting their major building project to reach fruition in return for a commitment to “set-aside” 20 apartments for the use of PAL residents in the final structure. The details are still to be worked out but the “set-asides” will be available to PAL people at affordable rates in what is fast

becoming a lively, revitalized arts area. PAL will shoulder little or no costs for upkeep since the building will operate on a commercial basis for other tenants, and house arts-related businesses on the ground floor -an independent theatre already exists next door to the new project and hopes are that an art gallery and artists’ café will be commercial tenants- so PAL Halifax will be able to concentrate efforts on providing amenities and other services -Supporting Cast services for example- to colleagues in the housing units and the areas in Halifax and beyond where help is needed and able to be provided. Much remains to be worked out with Nova Scotia Housing Trust but hopes are high that facilities will be available before too long.

ANNUAL PAL HOOTENANY HOWLING SUCCESS



PAL Toronto’s 8th annual Hootenanny in aid of *Supporting Cast* operations took place at the beginning of June. The *Crest Theatre Green Room*

was packed with enthusiastically participating audience members warmly applauding the very impressive line up of talent including guitarist **Brent Titcomb, Sue & Dwight, Kent Bowman, Herman Rombouts, Sid Dolgay** and more..

The Norman Hart photo (above) captures a moment in a great evening of entertainment, complete with much audience participation, due in large part to the on-going work and drive of *Pal Place* resident, Sid Dolgay.

FILLING LISA'S SHOES IS.....



Gail Packwood (Left) has been engaged to sub for Internet specialist Lisa Sansom for the next few months researching materials for posting to our website www.palcanada.org.

Lisa is organizing her return to Canada. An experienced writer and theatre administrator, Gail is currently Executive Director of the Artists' Health Centre Foundation in Toronto, having recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she was a 2010 Arts Management Fellow at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. She has worked in production and management with Mirvish Productions, as well as Harbourfront Centre and Young Peoples' Theatre and is President of the Board of Directors for the Theatre Centre, all in the Toronto area. With theatre degrees from University of Toronto and York University. She is a great addition to our family. Welcome home, Gail!

Case for Support (Cont'd from Front Page)

The specific role of PAL Canada is to encourage and support *creative community responses* to issues of affordable housing, isolation, disability and ageing among performing artists and allied professionals throughout Canada.

With fund development, enhancement of our national profile and supporting all aspects of national PAL community, we look forward to reaping the benefits generated by the efforts of our dynamic and passionate Board.

IN MEMORIAM

Christine Blake Cayle Chernin
Wayne Robson Diane Rosenthal John Ryan

Sifting AGM Notes Cont'd)

Chapter Reports, including one from *Ottawa* (just now moving towards Chapter status) provided detailed information about a thriving PAL community across the country. The Meeting also passed two unanimous Motions: Congratulations and Best Wishes to *PAL Edmonton (Artist's Urban Village)* on the occasion of the official opening of their lodge; and a *Motion of Thanks* to the Governor General for agreeing to continue the tradition of his predecessors in serving as our patron.

A first meeting of the new Board of Directors will take place shortly at which new Board members will take their seats and the Board will then elect a new slate of Officers, an Executive Committee and establish the Chairs of the standing committees.

Full details will be provided in the next issue. Until that time, those Officers still on the Board, remain in their positions.

Board members elected and re-elected:

Allan MacMillan

Dominic Clarke

Kelly Handerek

Ron Zammit

One seat remains vacant.

BIGGER, BETTER SWTS EVENT

What started as a small event crammed into PAL Toronto's *Crest Theatre Green Room* has blossomed in 7 years into a significant fundraising event in one of Toronto's most elegant sites. Most encouraging for the originator of *Scrabble® With the Stars*, **Vivienne Muhling**, is the faithful support of the noted celebrities who come back enthusiastically year after year to help PAL raise much needed funds - 43 of them this time! The event raised close to \$54,000.00, funds which will help PAL Toronto move closer to fulfilling its dream of providing full extended care within a PAL building.

EVENTS

What's Coming Up in PAL Chapters

STRATFORD NOTICE

Scrabble® With The Stars is postponed.

It is planned for later in the year.

☆☆☆

PEGGY COFFEY FOR STRATFORD

An original one-woman show by PAL member, **Peggy Coffey**, delighted an appreciative audience at Greenwood Court this Spring. A special event for the benefit of PAL Stratford, the work, entitled *I Was Born*, was presented on 9th April and elicited much audience praise and comment. One member remarked, "The reminder of those 'lye soap/copper boiler times' made me feel connected to the past again. Thank You!"

PAL PLACE ANNIVERSARY

PAL's first lodge, *Pal Place* in Toronto, will be celebrating its 18th birthday in September. Opened in 1993, the residence has been a godsend for older artists and associates and a model for other such structures. As the building ages its operators are challenged to provide the upgrades and renovations required to maintain the good reputation Pal Place continues to enjoy. PAL Toronto is proud that its lodge retains its reputation as a "sterling" building.

PAL TORONTO'S RENEUE MOVES ON



Jocelyn Reneue cuts into the cake at her good-bye party. After six years as Administrator for PAL Toronto, some of those on a part-time basis, Jocelyn has opted to pursue other challenges. (*Norman Hart Photo*)

PAL CANADA FOUNDATION

110 The Esplanade, Suite 333, Toronto, ON M5E 1X9

Phone: 416-203-3051 Fax: 416-203-2299*

Email: info@palcanada.org

URL: www.palcanada.org

Executive Committee

President: Chris Marston marstonchris@ca.inter.net

V-President: Jane Heyman

jane_heyman@telus.net

Treasurer: Bernie Desroches

bernard.desroches@rogers.com

Secretary: Allan Macmillan

macmillan22@gmail.com

Without Portfolio: Dominic Clarke

dclarke@blaney.com

Without Portfolio: Christina Smith

christina.smith@dhhs.ca

Without Portfolio: Keith Martin Gordey

keith@macroscope.ca

Past President: John Banks

banks@cyg.net



CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

PAL Halifax c/o Loc 849, I.A.T.S.E.,

15 McQuade Cres., Halifax, NS B3S 1C4

phone: 902-425-2739

busagent@iatse849.com www.palhalifax.org

PAL Toronto 110 The Esplanade, #328, Toronto, ON M5E

1X9 phone: 416-777-9674 admin@paltoronto.org

www.paltoronto.org

PAL Stratford P.O. Box 21045, Stratford, ON N5A 7V4

banks@cyg.net

PAL Winnipeg Rea Kavanagh (Acting Chair)

www.palwinnipeg.org

PAL Calgary #201 - 208 57th Ave SW,

Calgary, Alberta T2H 2P6 phone: 403-252-9255

lereaney@telus.net

PAL Edmonton phone: 780-431-1353

artistsurbanvillage@gmail.com

PAL Vancouver 300 - 581 Cardero Street, Vancouver, BC

V6G 3L3 phone: 604-255-4312 info@palvancouver.org

www.palvancouver.org

PAL Ottawa (Steering Committee)

palottawa@gmail.com