P A L C A N A D A F O U N D A T I O N I N C .

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Palingenesis™

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

Caring for Our Own™

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2 Summer 2013

NEWEST PAL LODGE OPENED

Christopher Plummer snips the ribbon-cutting scissors and *Pal Place* is officially opened. In the photo are: (Upper group L to R) Randy Pettipiece, Gary Schellenberger, John David Sterne, Richard Fitzpatrick, John Banks. (Front) Antoni Cimolino (hidden), Anita Gaffney, Christopher Plummer, Des McAnuff and John Wilkinson (behind). (*Photo: SNAP Perth*)

With suitable pomp and celebration, and assisted by plenty of star power, **PAL Stratford** opened its new residence in the centre of the city May 25th. Attendees heard remarks from ***Past President John Banks***, ***President John David Sterne***, Stratford ***City Councillor Kerry McManus*** (standing in for the Mayor who was travelling), local MPP, ***Randy Pettipiece***, ***Gary Schellenberger***, ***MP***, ***Anita Gaffney***, Stratford Festival Exec Director, and ***Glen Dias***, an early Pal Place tenant. Dias concluded his comments with a powerful rendition of *Bring Him Home*, from *Les Miserables*, a show in which he has appeared over 400 times.

A number of invited guests then enjoyed an excellent lunch at *Rundles Restaurant* followed by an outstanding performance of *Tommy*, directed by ***Des McAnuff***, former Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival. Along with ***Christopher Plummer*** and former Liberal MP ***John Wilkinson***, McAnuff is part of the triumvirate handling "Places, Please", a campaign aimed at retiring the debt on the new lodge. A reception for guests and cast took place at the Lodge and concluded an excellent day.

(***More inside and on PAL Stratford website: palstratford.org***.)

ORIGINAL TORONTO RESIDENT IS 90

A Pal original in many meanings of the word, ***Sid Dolgay*** celebrated the start of his tenth decade recently.

Sid huffs 'n' puffs... and extinguishes all ninety candles

Family and friends gathered in the *Crest Theatre Green Room* in **PAL Toronto's** *Pal Place* to honour Sid on his 90th Birthday. Ever eager to donate his many talents and wide musical knowledge and connections to PAL causes he has, with Ida, been a source of joy and sharing in the PAL community.

Photo: Norman Hart

PAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PAL Canada's AGM was held 24 June in the *Crest Theatre Green Room* at *Pal Place*, Toronto, Chaired by President Jeff Braunstein. PAL AGMs are usually quiet gatherings with necessary business being conducted with efficiency and cooperation.

Apart from the usual reports from various areas of our activity, special mention was made of the work of two long-serving members of the Board who retired this year, ***Jane Heyman*** and ***Dominic Clarke***. Both have held several senior posts in the organization over the years. They were thanked for their contribution to the work of PAL in Canada.

A number of new faces were introduced at the AGM and will be welcomed during a followup meeting on July 8th. At this time, new Executive Officers will be elected and Chairs of Committees will be appointed.

Coverage of this, and full information on our new Board, will appear in our next Palingenesis.

ADVERSITY IS NOT NEWS TO ARTISTS

The moving finger writes.....

These are strange times. Not only are states around the world in chaos, but our own peaceable country seems to be in "a constant state of chasis" these days, as the Irish say. With political heads being programmed to butt against each other even within provinces, *peace, order and good government* seems to have been tossed aside as easily as yesterdays newspaper.

Against this backdrop, PAL moves inevitably forward in its continuing quest to enable older artists to live out their days in security and hope within a supportive community of their peers. This is no mean feat, as those who are close to the every day workings of this organization will attest.

We are reminded of this in the surprising amount of good news that constantly crosses our desk. Despite our ups and downs accomplishments of a surprising nature often appear, as if by magic.

The celebration of the years-long work of many people in PAL Stratford is an obvious example in this issue of Palingenesis but there are others, many more than make it into print, and the quality of their accomplishments need not relate to size or spectacle of a project.

Look at PAL Edmonton's members and the way they will not be distracted in their march towards the creation of a second lodge in that city; or, PAL Vancouver and the amazing things being done to mark their territory as a special, vibrant, performing hub of artistic action -and all that in a very expensive environment. We live in the real world after all. We could cite other demonstrations of strength and determination too, such as in PAL Winnipeg which, despite some difficult setbacks, simply says, "Okay, we can't move in that direction, we'll go in that one instead."

PAL people refuse to admit more can't be done to improve the lives of our older colleagues. Our creativity allows us to view problems from surprisingly different perspectives and to devise atypical solutions, approaches which might be abandoned by those without the experience of constantly practicing the unexpected in our careers. ***And having writ moves on.....***

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Thank you so very much for emailing *Palingenesis*. It is a fantastic publication. Congratulations on this issue.

Do you mind if I forward it to our National Executive. Those who do not receive the publication already way wish to be added to your mailing list.

Carol Taverner, Public Relations Officer
ACTRA National

Ed.: We're delighted you want to spread Palingenesis around. Back copies are available too, on our website: palcanada.org. Thanks for the kind words.

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Editor
Dan MacDonald

Copy Editor
N. J. Fry

Layout Design/Execution
Dan MacDonald

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Contributors
Kate Barris, Jim Bradford, Jeff Braunstein, Dominic Clarke, Corey Henry, Linda Huffman, Chris Marston, Ellie O'Day, Jeremy Webb

❖

Photo Credits
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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:
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VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

President Jeff Braunstein

Our June 24th AGM had us saying hello to new Board members and goodbye to others. PAL Canada and its Chapters wish to extend thanks to all our departing board members, especially Jane Heyman and Dominic Clarke who have worked tirelessly and with passion, care and wisdom. They will be missed.

We continue our search for a new Executive Director -and are still open for applications- and expect to have someone in place by the Fall.

Congratulations are in order for PAL Stratford. Their official opening of their residence, *Pal Place Stratford*, was a tremendous success. A huge round of applause to all who made this a reality.

The work of the PAL Canada Board and those of all Chapters continues as we strive to make housing affordable and services available to our senior artists.

SCRABBLE® WITH THE STARS JUST CONTINUES ON TO GREATER SUCCESS

PAL Toronto reached another plateau with its annual *Scrabble® With The Stars* fundraiser this year, topping out at a satisfying $52,000 raised for PAL purposes.

Again held at the *Arcadian Loft*, this year's event was hosted by ***Colin Mochrie*** and ***Deb McGrath***, who kept the nearly 200 guests happily entertained all evening, with on-stage help from other celebs ***Naomi Snieckus, Matt Baram, Rick Miller, Barry Flatman*** and ***Ron James.***

PAL veteran **Kenny Wickes** (shown R in *Ingrid Goh photo, SNAP Downtown Toronto*) spoke on behalf of PAL, and not surprisingly charmed the crowd into a standing ovation.

As usual, there was fabulous celebrity art, and a raft of other wonderful items that were donated to the 'silent auction', plus a great prize table and lots of Scrabble fun to be had.

Michael Murphy & Kenny Wickes have a giggle.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE ARTS IS FORCED TO SHUT DOWN

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), the national alliance of the cultural sector, announced at the end of October, 2012, that it was winding down its operations. Founded in 1945 by a group of eminent artists, the CCA promoted the interests of artists and of the cultural sector at large at the federal level, providing a national forum where issues of common interest could be discussed.

A year and a half ago, the CCA became aware of the Harper government's intention to put an end to 47 years of funding. The CCA said it embraced the challenge but would require a minimum of two years of transitional funding to implement a new business model. However, the Government later told CCA its assistance was limited to only six months, an enormous hurdle to overcome. Despite considerable efforts and early positive results, the Board of Governors voted to cease operations.

LIBRARY ADDS ADDITION SHELVING

PAL Toronto's new librarian, ***James Loxley*** (Left) places bio of Pierre Trudeau on a beautiful new shelving unit just installed by longtime Pal Place resident, ***Bob Peaker***.

-Photo: Norman Hart

PAL HALIFAX

Summer Greetings from all at PAL-ifax!

We are beavering away, getting our ducks in a row and mixing our metaphors. Over the past two months Pal Halifax chair Jeremy Webb has made some in-roads (spurred on by ample assistance from his board) with two more potential PAL building ideas. We are not in a position to tell too much, as yet. It's very early stages of talks with two existing organizations, one already with a well-established foot-hold in the affordable housing area in Halifax.

These are exciting times. In an effort to grow our board, Pal Halifax is creating a new strategic plan, mining the wealth of information already gathered in the Maritimes by our predecessors. This document will become the basis for board recruitment, member gathering and support and sponsor relations.

Having received such generous donations over the past year from ACTRA Maritimes and IATSE, the board will be exploring ways to pull in more such gifts.

Pal Halifax will be hosting yet another Scrabble With The Stars in Fall 2013.

We hope to have more 'concrete' information by the next Palingenesis.

-Jeremy Webb

PAL TORONTO

PAL Toronto was the big winner at SWTS, with proceeds over $52,000.

Many thanks to our SWTS Committee volunteers, as well as all others who helped out, and to the 45 celebrities whose enthusiasm for this event is one of the big reasons for its success.

PAL Toronto launched a new website in the Spring with a highly visual focus on our talented memberships many diverse shows, events & fundraisers. With our Facebook presence & the newest edition of a Twitter account, PAL Toronto is utilizing social media in ways we have not ever done before, and it's allowing us to reach out to new audiences, supporters & our community.

Our "Supporting Cast" continues to provide invaluable support, recently necessitating a move to a larger in-house space to accommodate on-going team meetings, George Brown College student worker placements and the overall growth of the services we provide. Commencing on June 13 PAL Toronto is now offering on-site monthly Audiology clinics. These will offer free hearing tests for anyone over 18 and all associated fees will be covered under OHIP.

(PAL Toronto Continued)

Our *Celebrity Club* and *Crest Theatre Green Room* continue to provide us with engaging & top-notch entertainment. The Green Room recently hosted *Happy Birthday Cole Porter!* (See P.7 story) and The Celebrity Club -some say the best Friday spot on the Esplanade- hosted a capacity-night of live music & dancing featuring *The Orvilles & Special Guest Fiddler Kathleen*.

-Corey Henry & Kate Barris

PAL STRATFORD

There is much happening in Stratford. This Palingenesis has a number of photos regarding the opening of our new Pal Place but you should check out more on the website (palstratford.org) and be aware, very very aware, of the ongoing drive, *Places, Please*, to raise funds to offset debt costs.

But, PAL Stratford is about even more than Pal Place! Keep in touch.

PAL OTTAWA

We were grateful beneficiaries of a beautiful *Canterbury Trebles* concert, a choir of graduates from the music programme at the Canterbury High School for the Performing Arts (See P. 7). For us, $2300 plus, but for the media, especially CBC, a heyday, thanks above all to Laurence Wall.

Since then, we have held our Annual Meeting, at which Mitzi Hauser and Florence Moore stood gracefully down, and Barbara Laskin and Sheila Spruyt were elected. Barbara needs no introduction; Sheila, who has taken on the role of Volunteer Coordinator, has fulfilled that position for many years with Girl Guides Canada. Our Executive now consists of Jim Bradford (Chair), Lynn McGuigan (Vice-Chair), Victoria Steele (Treasurer) and Alison Atkins (Secretary).

Upcoming are a huge presence in the Ottawa Pride Parade in August. Come march with us.

Meanwhile, we have a acquired $10,000 towards our Feasibility Study (which we have been advised to call a Business Plan for now) from the *Community Foundation of Ottawa*, dependent on our making up to a budgeted $50,000. We have applied for matching grants from *Trillium* and *CMHC*, and are hoping to close the gap with fundraising.If you plan to be in Ottawa in late August, march with us in the Pride Parade

-Jim Bradford

PERFORMING ARTS LODGE WINNIPEG

Our community continues to rally around PAL Winnipeg –we were blessed by another industry-directed benefit in November.

The occasion was a celebration of 25 years of *Manitoba Film & Music*, hosted by *Onscreen MB, MB Music, 100NONS & MB Film & Music*. The event itself was beautiful and featured a myriad of projectors running Manitoba-made films throughout the hall, a live band and all the cultural dignitaries you could hope for!

Proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to PAL Winnipeg and we were also presented a generous donation from *IATSE 856*. To mark the milestone, OnScreen MB commissioned a pendant necklace from ***Hilary Druxman***, one of Winnipeg's best loved jewelry designers. All proceeds from the sale of the necklace will also benefit PAL Winnipeg.

To date the event has generated $1700 in donations! It also gave us a great forum to address our community as well as several of the bureaucrats and politicians we need as allies.

-Rea Kavanagh

PAL CALGARY

PAL CALGARY

Things are continuing to be talked about around the table in Calgary as meetings are held to reassess and reinvigorate the Chapter.

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artists urban village

PAL EDMONTON
(Artists Urban Village)

We continue to gain momentum; our fourth information session for artists interested in living in the Artists Quarters was held just June 14th.

It's wonderful to see artists get excited about the possibilities of creating community and imagining themselves living and working in the Artists Quarters.

We continue to build the vision and try to hold onto our initial passion as we get more involved in the nuts and bolts of putting this building together.

Next we move into the Design Development Phase, and we will be working with our architect to see if our grand plans can work in a budget that we're confident we'll meet.

- Linda Huffman

Performing Arts Lodges Vancouver

PAL VANCOUVER

It may be worth noting again that a unique aspect of PAL Vancouver is the daycare in the building, residing on half of our 2nd floor, with a large play yard out back, below our windows. As part of PAL's vision, we look for ways that children and seniors can interact – from baking cookies to inviting the children to hold mini-concerts in our theatre for residents on holidays.

PAL Theatre has hadtwo showcases for senior talents. PAL's Chorus presented their spring concert on June 9th , including matinee and evening performances.

Western Gold Theatre's popular staged reading series followed with *Habeas Corpus* by Alan Bennett, directed by Anna Hagan, for three performances -net proceeds to PALVancouver.

PAL Theatre is holding a fundraiser in June with young talent, violinist Jonathan Chan, with a matinee Garden Gala and Concert, and an evening concert.

The Gardening Committee celebrated receiving a City of Vancouver Grant to fund upgrades to our greenhouse. As the days stretch longer into the evening, PAL Vancouver's rooftop garden is in all its glory. The last of the irises are showing off, with summer blooms soon to take their place.

-Ellie O'Day

NOW THIS IS AN IRIS !

Thanks to Ellie O'Day for the photo

LONG SERVING PAL PREZ RETIRES

-John Banks Determined to Build a Pal Place

With the completion and opening of *Pal Place* in Stratford, ***John Banks*** has retired after many years of service to his Chapter and to PAL Canada. Serving as President of the Stratford Chapter since 1999 (by dint of the time difference, **PAL Stratford** just edged **PAL Vancouver** to become the first PAL Chapter organized outside Toronto), John also held the office of PAL Canada President for two terms.

A proud John Banks addresses lodge opening (Photo: SNAP Perth)

With dogged determination, John galvanized his members to undertake the work involved in the successful establishment of affordable PAL accommodation in Stratford.

His legacy is impressive, visible and lasting.

ORIGINAL TENANT IS HEARD FROM

Glen Dias, an early *Pal Place* resident spoke of what PAL Stratford's new Pal Place means to him and how fortunate he feels to be an original tenant. Dias told why he decided on residency in the new lodge and concluded his comments with a powerful rendition of *Bring Him Home*, from *Les Miserables*, a show in which he has appeared over 400 times. He is pictured here in full voice during the opening ceremonies. Glen's performance, to very enthusiastic applause, can be found on video on the PAL Stratford website: palstratford.org

Photo: SNAP Perth

TEENAGERS GIVE AND TAKE ADVICE AT PAL VAN

PAL Vancouver was recently approached to work with local independent theatre company *Boca del Lupo* on a workshop of their show *Ask a Teenager*, one of a series of projects coming from Toronto's *Mammalian Diving Reflex* - called *Social Acupuncture*. The teens came to *PAL Theatre* for the workshop, for practice and feedback.

Teens and PAL residents mix in this Ellie O'Day photo

Most often on the receiving end of advice, in Ask a Teenager it's their turn to give it. Their remarkably generous, considered comments and suggestions were a great experience for the attending residents. The teens received honest critiques and further questions from the group, making important adjustments to their production before opening.

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

The Festival's "fanfare musicians" created a flashy opening of Pal Place Stratford with the traditional Louis Applebaum Fanfare.
They are shown on the front steps of the new PAL lodge at 101 Brunswick St. (Photo: SNAP Perth)

PAL TORONTO NO LONGER TEENAGER

PAL Toronto marks its 20th Anniversary this year and is getting ready to celebrate in style. The beautiful rooftop garden, *Kuchar Terrace*, will play host to a summertime BBQ & party with friends & special guests brought together to support a cause all have worked so very long & hard to achieve.

There will be time to look back at where PAL came from, the successes and challenges along the way and to imagine what PAL Toronto is hoping to accomplish next with, and for, its residents and members.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED

Several new members have been elected to the PAL Board of Directors. ***Christina Smith*** who has been serving as an interim member since arriving from PAL Calgary some weeks ago, has agreed to continue for a full 2-year term. She, along with ***Alison Atkins***, Ottawa, Saskatooner, ***Sharon Bakker*** and former Stratfordite, ***Aggie Elliott***, will be at the first Board meeting on July 8th, when committees will be organized and a new slate of Executive Officers elected.

Our next Issue will have full coverage of our new Officers and Board of Directors members.

OTTAWA BUSY SINCE FALL LAUNCH

An all-day planning session in December followed hard on the official launch of **PAL Ottawa** in November, with *The Canterbury Trebles* concert in May and the first *PAL Solstice Suppers* for this month (June 21-23) continuing to intrigue people in the Capital City.

Chair Jim Bradford speaks at November Launch.

The Canterbury Trebles, a choir of graduates from the Canterbury High School for the Performing Arts, who filled the Glebe United St. Andrew's Church on Mothers' Day, presented a "stunningly beautiful concert" as we are informed. They also raised a considerable amount of money for PAL work in the city.

Lovely setting, gorgeous singing and a successful fundraiser for PAL Ottawa.

RETIRING STALWARTS HONOURED

Two of PAL Canada's longest-serving members of the Board of Directors retired at the recent AGM. ***Dominic Clarke*** and ***Jane Heyman*** have given so unstintingly to PAL over the years and their sage advice, unceasing care and concern for our colleagues has been remarkable. Their accomplishments in a number of elected offices and contributions to the growing success of our organization was noted in tributes paid at the meeting.

While Dominic and Jane have stepped down from PAL duties we know they will not be far away from PAL affairs and always eager to help.

IN MEMORIAM

James Holley
Dorothy Gordon Jones
Aina Kaneps
Louis Lazlo
Barbara Wheeldon

EARLY SUMMER DELIGHT IN TORONTO

Patrons were greeted with some great hits from the genius of Cole Porter in the second week of June as the very talented group shown in this photo presented *Happy Birthday Cole* with ***Alan Cohen*** at the piano and, standing (L to R), ***Beth Anne Cole***, ***Robert Godin*** and ***Pam Hyatt.*** Direction was by ***Paul Ibey***.

Photo: Norman Hart

PAL TORONTO HAS NEW LOGO

PAL's first lodge, *Pal Place* in Toronto, will celebrate its 20th Birthday this September.

The Chapter has just released a new logo design, shown here.

-EVENTS-

PAL TORONTO HIT PERFORMANCE

Here is the cast of *Feathers*, a play written by PAL Toronto resident Bill Zaget and performed in May in the Crest Theatre Green Room.

The cast included (L-to-R), standing: ***George Merner, Zag Dorison*** and, seated, ***Mignon Elkins, Samantha Finklestein, Barbara Barnes Hopkins*** and ***Billy Merasty***.

ACTIVITY AND ACTIVISTS IN OTTAWA

Some photo evidence showing activities of our PAL Ottawa in the short time it has been an official chapter. Unfortunately photo credits were unavailable to us at press time.

This trio seems happy to be part of the action at PAL Ottawa.

All smiles for the camera.

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OR

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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: Jeff Braunstein asterix@sympatico.ca
Vice-Pres: TBA*
Sect'y: Allan Macmillan macmillan22@gmail.com
Treasurer: Ron Zammit rzammit@actrafrat.com
Past-Pres: Chris Marston cjamblu@gmail.com

Exec. Director: TBA*

Without Portfolio:
Christina Smith christina.smith@wellspring.ca
Patty Gail Peaker pattygailp@gmail.com
Jeremy Webb Jeremy@offtheleash.ca
1 Member TBA*

Positions and Chairs will be determined at 8 July meeting

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

PAL Halifax
c/o ACTRA Maritimes 1660 Hollis Street, Suite 103, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1V7 phone: 902-441-4791
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
info@palstratford.org

PAL Winnipeg Rea Kavanagh - President
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
palottawa@gmail.com