PAL CANADA FOUNDATION INC.

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 1 SPRING 2011

PALCANADA.ORG UPGRADES SPEED AHEAD

PATTY GAIL WINS AFBS AWARD

The force behind the development of the *Supporting Cast* idea, and its continuing mobilizing spirit throughout PAL, has been recognized for her amazing dedication.

Actra Fraternal Benefit Society (AFBS) has chosen **Patty Gail** to receive this year's *Leslie Yeo Volunteer of the Year Award*. The presentation takes place during Fraternal's AGM being held in Vancouver on the 16th of May. The event takes place in the *PAL Vancouver Theatre*.

The Award honours a person who has made "a compelling volunteer contribution to the community". All of PAL salutes Patty and appreciates Fraternal's decision to recognize so deserving a recipient.

OTTAWA REPORT:

- 24 FEBRUARY MEETING

- *One-pager **info script** finalized*
- ***Needs Assessment Survey** (Draft 5) - nearly ready for pilot testing*
- ***Constitution** drafted, **Bylaws** in process*
- ***Supporting Cast**: discussions ongoing on ways of reaching those in need in Arts Community.*

(Ed.: Ottawa is fast becoming a Chapter)

PAL Canada's website (*palcanada.org*) has been under major reconstruction over the past year. Improvements are many, varied and much appreciated. Two of the major players following the Communications Committee's instructions to make the site friendly, efficient and meaningful are pictured here, Webmaster Chris Hutcheson (left) and Consultant Lisa Sansom (below R).

Communications Committee Chair, Dominic Clarke, expressed his thanks to them for helping the Committee realize its objectives of an informative and accessible internet presence. and invited everyone to "visit the upgraded site, enjoy its new content and provide us with your feedback".

One focus of the activity has been on making palcanada.org a destination website, full of pertinent and interesting information. It also contains numerous links to other sites containing information important to members. In addition to upgrading the content of the website it has also been made easier to navigate around the site, particularly since updating frequency and content breadth have been increased. With new articles every week covering matters to do with housing, aging, cultural affairs and more, it made sense to reorganize the way the website worked.

When the *Articles* menu on the left side of the PAL home page is clicked, for example, one is then able to select from a variety of subject areas by clicking on the appropriate submenu choice. You can also catch up on the "new" news by checking the *Latest Articles* and *Chapter News* sections on the Right side of the home page.

(*See "Website Con't" page 6)*

Here We Go Again

The moving finger writes...

It can so easily become humdrum. Each year we publish our *Call for Nominations*. Each year we stress the importance of adding more expertise to the PAL Board. Each year we stress how critical is your participation. Well, this year is different!

Unless you're totally out of touch with what's happening in PAL you already know the importance of more bodies to shoulder the work of keeping PAL Canada moving and progressive. If you read any issue of this publication, if you follow the flowering of our increasingly more useful, available and surfable website (see p.1), you will know how quickly things change and how much attention is needed, not only to maintain the services PAL provides, but to expand them and ensure they get to those who need them most.

This is a plea that you seriously consider offering your assistance to your organization! The work doesn't get done by itself, and those who are carrying the burden today are overworked and growing overstressed. They need your help and they need it now, in whatever capacity you are able to offer. The dangers facing PAL are not only those of an underfunded organization amidst a sea of seemingly unaware politicos, struggling to keep our head above water in an increasingly impersonal, cyber-oriented maelstrom. There is the very real, insidious danger of standing by, watching, while this important and oh-so-necessary service organization is incrementally lost through your neglect. Never underestimate what you can contribute on behalf of our colleagues.

And having writ moves on...

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The By-laws of PAL Canada Foundation make provision for **7 Members-at-Large** to be elected to its Board of Directors by the membership. The term of office is for 2 years from the date of the **Annual General Meeting** which this year will be held on **June 20th.**

The terms of 5 current Directors who are Members-at-Large will expire at the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

While the incumbents may or may not decide to stand for a further term, the seats will become open, as will any whose incumbents decide to resign mid-term.

We encourage any member in good standing who would like to become a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors to contact us by writing to:
The Secretary, PAL Canada Foundation,
110 The Esplanade, Suite 333,
Toronto, ON, M5E 1X9.

*Please be advised that if you do wish to submit your candidacy, your letter must be received no later than **April 29th, 2011** and should be accompanied by a brief resume.*

Palingenesis™

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

One of the elements that go towards making an organization like ours effective and which is often overlooked, is the huge contribution made by the sub committees of the Board. In many ways it's these small groups rolling up their collective sleeves and getting down to the practical issues that need attention that keep us moving forward towards the objectives we have set for ourselves. We here at PAL Canada are heavily reliant on the commitment of our volunteers, Board members or not, in getting this kind of leg-work done.

However, committees, dedicated as the individuals may be, have to be organized and lead. Over the last while, we have been particularly fortunate in the really effective leadership demonstrated by the Chairs of our sub committees. You'll read elsewhere about some of the work we have been able to do to enhance our web communications ability under **Dominic Clarke's** guidance. **Christina Smith** of Calgary, who chairs the Development Committee, **Linda Huffman** of Edmonton and **Jane Heyman** of Vancouver, who co-chair the Chapter Liaison and Support Committee and Past President **John Banks** of Stratford who chairs the By-laws Committee have been assiduously maintaining the work plans of their groups and getting a great deal done.

You will see elsewhere the announcement of Board seats that will fall vacant in June and I'm joining our Editor in urging you to consider being a candidate. Although I have a further year to serve as a Board member, I shall not be serving as President after this coming June. Time for a change, I think. I hope you'll think of being a part of that change.

TEENS COULD ENTER FILM FESTIVAL

Pal Place resident, **Sandie De Freitas** and her charitable *COMMFFEST* Global Community Film Festival is working with local schools on a programme to encourage 12 & 13-year-olds to produce film work which could be screened at her film festival in September. Titled *2011 AND BEYOND*, the programme consists of free curriculum-related films & filmmaking workshops in several schools in the Pal Place neighbourhood in downtown Toronto.

Three schools are participating: Market Lane public school, St. Michael Catholic School and the Downtown Alternative school, and any acceptable films will be screened at *Commffest 2011* in September and could be eligible to win a prestigious *MADA* (Making A Difference Award) presented at the closing Gala Ceremony.

Check out their website: www.commffest.com to learn of ways of submitting other films, or to volunteer your help to this charitable group.

APOLOGIES

An unfortunate Internet glitch resulted in many of you receiving your *Winter Issue* of *Palingenesis* very late.... or not at all. Mailed hardcopies were unaffected but some e-mail addresses were tangled in the Ether(net).
The electronic version was distributed on 13th December with a number undeliverable until mid-January. Unfortunately, there was no "confirmation of receipt" protocol in place at the time.
We are truly sorry for the delay and have taken steps to ensure it does not happen again.
Thank you for your understanding and patience.

SEEKING CRITICISM & COMMENTS

The Communications Committee would like very much to get feedback and comments about both the technical nature of our website and the material on it. If you have an idea for an article or a topic that you would like to see featured on the PAL Canada website or if you have any other input please send your suggestions to info@palcanada.org.
If your ideas can wait please note that we also hope to conduct an online survey in the near future.
You can tell us then how we can serve you better.

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

PAL Halifax has just signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the *Housing Trust of Nova Scotia* hoping to secure affordable apartments in a project currently planned for the developing, arts-based Gottingen Street area. In exchange for a potential "set-aside" of units for our members, we are assisting the Housing Trust in programming the ground-floor space as a vibrant complement to the Gottingen Street community and to our member tenants as well.

Several members of the PAL Halifax board attended a meeting with the *Gottingen Street Merchants' Association*, in which Ross Cantwell, President of the Housing Trust, presented preliminary schemes for the building. Much valuable input was received from the assembled group. While work remains to be done on the part of the Housing Trust and their architect to bring the proposed facililty more in line with the scale and character of the community, PAL Halifax is incredibly excited about the prospects.

New board member **Angela Henderson**, who moved to Halifax recently from the interior of British Columbia, is leading the redesign of our PAL Halifax website.

Our dynamic **Ann Pocke**t has happily fallen pregnant with twins. Fantastic news, but it does mean we're now looking for an interim administrator.

-Eric Stotts/Jeremy Webb

PAL STRATFORD

In an attempt to raise community awareness of PAL Stratford, we have been holding monthly community events, starting 2011 with *Pigment & Parallax* a visual arts exhibition. Eight of our members displayed their work at Factory 163. Despite inclement weather, we had an excellent turn-out of over 50 people, and raised funds for ourselves and PAL Canada.

February's event was *Finding Your Voice* a singing workshop hosted by PAL member **Barbara Young**. Held at Greenwood Court, this event was well attended, and terrific fun!

Our next event, free to PAL members, is the PAL Rummage Sale on March 26th at the Army-Navy Hall on Lorne Avenue in Stratford. Members are donating theatrical memorabilia, chachka's, books, etc. If anyone would like to donate items, you can contact **Aggie Elliot** at 519-271-0344.

On April 9th, PAL member Peggy Coffey will perform her moving one-woman show "I Was Born" at Greenwood Court, 90 Greenwood Drive, Stratford. The show will run from 2 to 3 p.m. Free to PAL members.

The winter dealt its share of sorrow with the loss of two members: Domini Blythe (*see obit page 7*) and Wilfrid Gregory, former mayor of Stratford and early director and president of the Festival.

-Brenda Martin

PAL TORONTO

PAL WINNIPEG

FROM THROUGHOUT CANADA ...CHAPTER NOTES

PAL CALGARY

The final report from Paradox Inc., titled *PAL Calgary: Options for the Future*, was received. It's the summation of a reassessment of PAL Calgary's role and mandate and a feasibility review to determine what conditions are present for us to pursue affordable housing for artists. Essentially Paradox recommended PAL Calgary develop partnerships with credible existing social housing developers and identified 3 potential future partnerships.

PAL Calgary was subsequently contacted by a management company (not one of the three recommended by Paradox) for several affordable housing buildings for seniors in the downtown core. These buildings have around 40 empty bachelor suites and we are in discussions to work with them to help fill those suites (short term) and form a partnership on a more long term basis. Thus we are developing momentum as a proponent of affordable housing for artists in Calgary.

-David LeReaney

PAL EDMONTON

It's not just this impossible Winter that slows things down here, it's the careful work to envision and complete our Business Plan. That's our main job these days — still — but it'll be finished soon. In this we are ably assisted, and fortunately so.

We thank the happy coincidence that finds us living in the same city as the *Communitas Group* (please visit their website: http://www.communitas.ca/). **Lynne Hanley** has been working with us for over two years and, every step of the way, she has not only answered all our questions but also helped us ask the right questions. Communitas' years of experience developing housing has brought us knowledge value beyond calculation.

Best: Lynne and Communitas have given us solid ground to take our flights of "what if" wishes and then re-cast them in this world of what it takes to make them possible.

-Robert Clinton

PAL VANCOUVER

Soup Social Anniversary - In December of 2009, realizing that not everyone in the building was getting regular nourishing meals, **Moira** and **Frank Talbot** decided to organize a communal soup social. "We never ever thought for a moment that it would last this long," declared Moira. But it did. On 20 December, PAL Vancouver residents celebrated the 1st Anniversary of their weekly *Soup Socials*. As anyone who knows the old folk tale of Stone Soup is aware, nothing brings a community together like a kettle of soup.

Annual Christmas Carol Production - RAProductions presented the 3rd annual highly entertaining and very successful adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale in December. This timely version of *A Christmas Carol* featured the PAL resident *Ensemble* and ran from the 16th to the 19th at the *PAL Studio Theatre*.

Adapted for radio, with live sound effects on stage, and PAL residents on and behind the stage. Scooge was **Michael Dobbin**. Director was **Michael Fera**.

125 Years - In January the City of Vancouver launched it's yearlong celebration of its quasquicentennial, its 125th anniversary. The *PAL Vancouver Theatre Society* was successful in obtaining a grant from the City to produce a trio of cabarets through the year, acknowledging and celebrating our performing pioneers in all disciplines. Coincidentally, PAL Vancouver celebrates **"5+5"**, a pair of anniversaries this year. The first "5" refers to the five amazing years we've been residing in the building, the other by the "5" remarkably short years of planning, fundraising and building.

Retreat - In January we held our second annual retreat with the energizing and inspiring **Jeffrey Wilcox**. As the Board moves up the pyramid of board leadership, we work on our *Picture of Success*, and identify the steps to get us there.

-Ellie O'Day

GREETING CARDS ARE A SUCCESS

The series of greeting cards created by *Castle Publishing* as a PAL fundraiser has been proving successful. *Castle Publishing* is well on the way to recouping initial underwriting costs, and any profits realized from sales will be donated to *PAL Canada*.

The project is ongoing and cards are available through the PAL Canada Office (and *Norman Hart*, in Pal Place) and through *Castle Publishing* at castlep@eastlink.ca, through *tioramarts.ca* and by mail from the publishers at 1033 Hwy 329, RR2, Hubbards, N.S. B0J 1T0.

Castle Publishing would particularly like to hear suggestions about artists in other parts of the country who might wish to be included.

PAL VAN HAS NEW COORDINATOR

The new Theatre Coordinator for the *PAL Studio Theatre* in PAL Vancouver is a man of many talents and has, during his diverse career, accomplished many things as a producer, marketer, facilitator, fundraiser and special event coordinator. **Scott Ashton Swan** has worked with and for the *Arts Club Theatre Company, MusicFest Vancouver, Kokoro Dance, CARFAC BC, AIDS Vancouver, Capilano College* and several other organizations in various disciplines. When not working for PAL, Scott is the Artistic Producer of *APPLAUSE! Musicals Society.* He is resourceful and energetic, creative and organized.

Scott is a welcome addition to Vancouver's PAL Studio Theatre.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTS IS AGAIN CONFIRMED

What arts organizations have maintained for ages -that the Arts are a major contributor to the economic health of our country- is once again confirmed by a recent survey of Canadians' spending habits. *Hill Strategies Research* found that our average spending on live arts performances in 2008 amounted to $1.426 billion, or $108 per household. The survey did not include attendance at free arts events as total attendance numbers were not the purpose of the study. The impressive dollar figure thus represents only the amount of *spending* on live arts performances.

Given the many entertainment options available to Canadians, it is encouraging that so many chose to spend their entertainment dollars on live performances. It was even higher than movie theatre admissions ($1.216 billion), more than twice the amount spent on sporting events ($ $0.645 billion) and on museum and heritage-related activities ($0.519 billon).

The full report, drawn from *Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending*, contains more detail about arts spending based on education, sex, income, age, whether rural and urban households, etc., and may be found at www.hillstrategies.com.

(*Website Cont'd*)

Copies of *Palingenesis* and other useful information can also be found in the *Recently Added Free Downloads* page and you can also take advantage of the site's comprehensive *search* feature by typing a word or two in the search field at the upper right of the page. This will bring you to articles or documents that should be relevant to your interest. Also, for those wishing to donate to PAL there is now an online donations button.

Regarding new content, Lisa is on the lookout for current and useful articles. Her research has taken her to some very diverse places and, in brief, she looks for key words, following possible leads with a critical eye, essentially looking for two things: 1. Is this article from a valid source? 2. Is this article likely to be of interest to the PAL community?

While maintaining a bias towards Canadian sources, articles from all over the world are considered. Most come from government sites, reputable media sources and primary research journals. Topics include physical, mental and financial health, aging, affordable housing, municipal & cultural affairs, and PAL specific topics, such as how to form a new chapter and fundraising.

Articles that are posted elsewhere on the web are shared on the PAL Canada website, with a teaser intro copied directly from that other source, and with a link to the original posting. Articles that are written exclusively for PAL Canada are posted in their entirety.

There are more new developments in store. Aware that the site would benefit from more graphic content, the Committee is tackling that for the next round of updates. In addition, YouTube capability has been built in so that relevant video will now be available. New material will be posted soon.

ANOTHER ORIGINAL LEAVES US

One of the original residents of Toronto's Pal Place has died. Lula Franklin Anderson, who went under the stage name of Lula Franklin, came from a family of 8 children – all talented in music, song, dance, visual art and crafts, the nursing profession, teachers and sports.

From the age of 15 or so she was singing and dancing, often with one of her guitar playing brothers, on every amateur show she could find from New York to Montreal, winning many auditions.

She kept up her performing after marriage, maintaining a variety of 9-to-5 jobs to feed the family coffers, and over the years entertained in scores of *Canadian Legion* halls (hubby was a vet), *Children's Variety Clubs*, in community theatres and with private engagements, eventually steering her way into film and TV.

At 80 she auditioned for the Bette Midler film *That Old Feeling*. Director Carl Reiner quickly hired her, crediting her as *Granny Tapper* and, with the others, treated her to13 days of pampering and fun, schmoozing with the stars. They loved her!

Lula lived at *Pal Place* Toronto since its opening in January of 1993. When her health began to fail, at the age of 81, she was in the good hands of family living there, of *Supporting Cast, Personal Support Workers* from *Dixon Hall Supportive Housing*, the local pharmacist, the family Doctor and specialists at *St. Michael's Hospital*. With their support she made it to her 94th birthday. Lula had a great life, lived it well and is now dancing with the angels in Heaven!

Ed: Copy for this obit was submitted by Lula's only child, daughter Patty Gail, co-founder and coordinator of PAL's Supporting Cast operations.

IN MEMORIAM

Domini Blythe **Cayle Chernin**
Peter Donaldson **Lula Franklin**
Graham Harley **Al Koslik**
Crystal Kramer

PAL STRATFORD'S DOMINI BLYTH

Domini Blythe was a long-time member and strong supporter of PAL Stratford, continuing her keen interest even after taking up residence in Montreal some years ago. PAL Stratford President, John Banks, said her membership renewal letter always had a note "and generally a donation". As recently as last September she contributed a number of items to Stratford's Silent Auction (costume sketches, photos, unique Opening Night gifts) which raised some $800.

Domini died of lung cancer on 15 December, at 63. She played many leading roles at Stratford between 1976 and 2006 and was praised as an exceptional talent appearing in landmark productions at the Festival. "Domini was a magnificent actor and a luminescent beauty," Artistic Director Des McAnuff said in a statement.

Born into a theatrical family in England, Domini appeared there in productions with the *Royal Shakespeare Company* among others, on NBC's *Search for Tomorrow* in the U.S. and in the CTV series *Mount Royal*. She last appeared on the Stratford stage in 2006. That season she realized a life-long ambition, undertaking a one-woman show, *Fanny Kemble*, written especially for her by her actor/playwright father, Richard Blythe, and created for her by director Peter Hinton. The accompanying *stratfordfestival.ca* photo is from that acclaimed production.

Domini is survived by her husband, Jean Beaudin; her father, Richard Blythe; brother, Ben Blythe, sister-in-law Andrea Schlieker and their two children Lily and Phinn.

PAL Canada has two new Board members, Stratford's ***Aggie Elliott*** *and Edmonton's* ***Brenda O'Donnell****.* ***Racheal McCaig*** *resigned from the PAL Toronto Board but remains on PAL Canada's as Equity Rep.* ***Paul Shaw*** *now a PAL Canada employee, has resigned his positions on PAL Canada and PAL Toronto Boards.*

EVENTS

What's Coming Up in PAL Chapters

26 MARCH **PAL STRATFORD**

Rummage Sale

Army-Navy Hall on Lorne Avenue

theatrical memorabilia, chachka's, books, etc.

If anyone would like to donate items, you can contact Aggie Elliot at 519-271-0344.

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4 APRIL **PAL TORONTO**

7th ANNUAL
SCRABBLE® WITH THE STARS
Hosted by
Jeanne Beker and Barry Flatman
Monday, 4 April, 2011
The Arcadian Court, 401 Bay St. in Toronto

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21 APRIL **PAL STRATFORD**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at **7:00 p.m**. in the **Chalmers Lounge**
Avon Theatre, 99 Downie Street
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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1 MAY **PAL VANCOUVER**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Reports and other Information Regarding Last Year's Chapter's Activities and Plans for the Future
(*Check for confirmation of the above date*)

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13 MAY **PAL VANCOUVER**

ACTRA FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
in
PAL Vancouver Theatre

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