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 10 ISSUE 4 WINTER 2010

PAL ENGAGES FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SARP EVOLVING INTO CSARN

A new organization, *Canadian Senior Artists Resource Network (CSARN)* has emerged out of the *Senior Artists Research Project (SARP)*. An in-depth study undertaken to statistically determine the status of older artists in Canada, SARP recently publicly released its findings, along with an announcement that CSARN would be launched early next year to address many of the critical areas noted in the study. PAL President, Chris Marston, involved in the project from the beginning, expressed a hope that the new body will assist in maintaining and expanding services to members throughout the country.

PAL Canada did have concerns that, to avoid the potential for duplication or functioning at cross purposes, the new organization be clearly committed to cooperation with the ongoing work of organizations already delivering services to our community.

An amended Mandate includes the selection of Actors' Fund of Canada, Actra Fraternal Benefit Society, Union desArtistes and PAL Canada as permanent members of a Board "oversight committee", to monitor this aspect of the Mandate.

Full info on the SARP results may be found at www.hillstrategies.com. A summary and other related information is on our own PAL website (palcanada.org). The material elicits concern, is vital and, at times, surprising.

Another important step has been taken in the firming up of PAL's administrative underpinnings with the creation of its first Executive Director's position. The selection of Stratford-born Paul Shaw (right), a man who has worked continuously in the Theatre from his days as a Shakespeare Festival child-actor to top theatre technical director and principal player in BaAM, a design and products services company, is a measure of the expertise PAL brings to the post.

That PAL Canada has been able to secure the services of such an experienced and committed individual speaks, not only to the excellent work of our Executive in enticing such an accomplished candidate, but of the commitment to the PAL ideals of Paul Shaw himself.

Paul has been serving in various capacities within the PAL family for several years, most recently as a representative on the PAL Canada Board itself. He has also given volunteer service to the Actors' Fund of Canada and is well known for his interest and support for his colleagues in official and unofficial areas wherever he has worked in the country - which seems to be everywhere. A constant presence in theatre companies of all sizes, shapes and philosophies, he creates an expectation of organizational excellence, coupled with a ready wit and good humour, that has been his reputation throughout his professional history.
This latest staff addition bodes well for PAL's future.

Keep Spreading the News

The moving finger writes...

While rumbling along a New Brunswick highway recently we were treated to a story about PAL on CBC Radio. The programme's theme focused on the commitment of artists to their art in a number of situations in Canada, using clips and interviews . Those with members of PAL Vancouver were particularly effective in illustrating the continuing devotion we have to the practice of our craft. Emphasis on the *national* nature of PAL was lacking, perhaps, but it *was* about the general recognition of artists' contributions and devotion after all and, biased as we are, we judged the highlights of the show to be those longer sessions with our West Coast colleagues.

There are moves afoot in PAL Canada to encourage and coordinate efforts to publicize our work. Chapters are urged to participate in raising our profile nationally, to let others know what they are doing in that regard and not to be timid about boasting about what we've done since our founding. We have accomplished some spectacular things and we ought to be proud of it.

This has been an interesting year with much progress visible, and much sweat and toil on our behalf by many people throughout our constantly surprising organization. With this in mind, and looking towards a new year of further satisfaction at the unfolding of our particular universe, we wish you All the Best during this happy Season and hope your 2011 will bring the rewards you seek as you celebrate Christmas or Chanukah or any of the many other seasonal celebrations we observe in this multi-cultural land of ours.

And having writ moves on...

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PATRONAGE

Chris Marston has announced that our new Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., has, following the tradition of his two predecessors, graciously agreed to be our Patron.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

As a resident of (*Pal Place*) Toronto I must object to the tone of your item (in your last Issue)...regarding the Woodcliffe Corporation.

(*In two meetings)* ... with Woodcliffe ...the feeling was far from a 'Big Goliath' takeover. Indeed Woodcliffe was more than willing to make concessions ...(*and at*) both meetings I attended the majority of residents were happy with (*their proposals*). My concern now is that Woodcliffe will lose patience, another developer will move in, and a multi-story structure will be built in the proposed site. That will mean, no light, no access, and general ill feeling. And it will be our (PAL's) fault.

-Mignon Elkins

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Firstly, Let me express my great pleasure and satisfaction that we have been able to obtain the services of Paul Shaw as our Executive Director. His presence will set us securely on the path to achieving the objectives we have set out for PAL Canada to make it an increasingly effective organization.

As you will read elsewhere, the Senior Artists Research Project has resulted in the establishment of a new organization (CSARN) representing all professional artists, a move that I suggest has great potential to be a major and positive force in our world. I am glad PAL Canada was able to be part of the initiative bringing this about. With its firm commitment of cooperation with those of us already in the field, it will be a great help. Joysanne Sidimus, the prime force in forging this grand alliance deserves, I think, our very special appreciation.

I addressed a meeting in Ottawa organized by Jim Bradford and Aileen Atkins to consider the potential for a PAL Canada Chapter there. The energy and creativity of the event was truly impressive and I was very pleased to be invited to attend. I think the community in Ottawa will quickly move forward to Chapter status.

Several Board seats are expected to fall vacant in June. Good committed people are needed. We have especial need of professional expertise in fund raising, the law and accounting. Official announcements will come in March, but now is the time to start thinking about whether you could become involved or know someone who should be approached to do so. Contact our Vice President, Jane Heyman at EMAIL, if you're that person or know someone who is.

HALIFAX SWTS IS HUGELY SUCCESSFUL

With 30 participating stars and the extraordinary support of ACTRA Fraternal Benefits Society, Jack & Joan Craig and ACTRA Maritimes, PAL Halifax's Scrabble® with the Stars was a resounding success. The event raised more than $9,000 for the Chapter.

John Dunsworth, the event's Grand Marshall (shown Centre in the accompanying photo with (l) Eric Stotts, PAL Halifax Co-chair, and (r) Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly) was chief judge and resident expert, generously offering to donate $50 for each person able to beat him. One did, but smilingly admitted John had thrown the game so he could make a bigger donation to PAL Halifax!

There were high scores and highlights, including Dancer Veronique Mackenzie scoring a whopping 107 points on a single word, "vermouth" in her second game, and a coup by Gregor Ash, Executive Director of the Atlantic Film Festival, who stole a game from feared opponent, author Silver Donald Cameron. Then there were two young players earning kudos, Emma MacNutt, whose two-game score totalled more than 300 points, and Harrison Regan who was willing to individually take on the Grand Marshall himself. A local writer Ryan Turner -his first book *What We're Made Of* was published in 2009- was Grand Prize winner.

Former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Myra Freeman, who played as a Star at the event, pronounced it "a great success and well organized." In commenting on the interesting people and the worthiness of the cause, her Honour deemed it "a most enjoyable and relaxing evening" and congratulated everyone on a job well done as Scrabble® with the Stars continues to expand and support the community.

All success goes to the organizing Committee both past (many are now members of other Chapters) and present, the Board and to the outstanding support of local stars and individuals. PAL Halifax is already planning Scrabble® with the Stars 2011!

CLARIFICATION

A residents' rep has been on the PAL Toronto Board for many years. The position is not newly created. *Fall Issue* readers may have concluded otherwise.

CORRECTION

The Colin Miller Library in *Pal Place*, Toronto, has operated without a break since it was established. Incorrect information was provided for our *Fall Issue*

IN MEMORIAM

Gerry Salsberg Jack Timlock
Jean Morpurgo

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

PAL HALIFAX

These are exciting times for PAL Halifax!

We've forged an alliance a newly-formed organization called the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia. This partnership of architects, developers and community activists is close to sealing a deal whereby they will replace long-derelict buildings on Gottingen Street in Halifax with new affordable housing. Initial meetings with the Trust have produced an agreement in principle whereby PAL Halifax will ultimately manage one section of the building – apartments that will be made available to PAL's constituency. Talks are ongoing, but things are looking very, very promising. Thanks to our new co-chair, architect Eric Stotts, for taking the lead on this initiative.

As things fall into place with the Trust, we will be besieging the representatives of those chapters with existing lodges with pleas for advice and counsel. Gird your loins!

Given all that has happened in the past weeks, we are planning a "Blue Sky" strategic meeting in January to figure out next steps.

-Gary Vermeir

PAL Stratford

Greetings from the Festival City! Membership coordinator, Aggie Elliot, and her assistant, Jessica Bowles had their summer's hard work rewarded! We're delighted to announce that paid membership has now grown to 111 from only 53 in July!

The "blitz" was launched with a mailer that included an update on PAL Stratford, and a renewal form. Aggie has also organized a series of monthly PAL Community Events. The intention is to raise community awareness of the organization, and to entice both benefactors and active members to join.

The first event, "The B Concert" (a one-hour recital celebrating Bach, Beethoven and Boulanger), was held on November 13th at Greenwood Court Senior's Home, featuring PAL Member Julie Brierley on cello, and Kerry White on piano. This free concert was well received, with more than 70 in attendance.

Our committee wishes to extend best wishes for a very happy holiday season to everyone at PAL Canada, and our hopes for a happy, healthy new year!

Other events are in the works. (*See **Much Ado About Something**, page 6*)

-Brenda Martin

PAL WINNIPEG

FROM THROUGHOUT CANADA ...CHAPTER NOTES

PAL CALGARY

Our Calgary Chapter is awaiting a report from Paradox in order to determine future plans. President David LeReaney writes, "Once we get our report from Paradox we'll have more to talk about. In the meantime we are in a holding pattern."

PAL EDMONTON
(Artists Urban Village)

Greetings and best wishes for a warm and merry Christmas holiday season.

As we wrap up our third year it's easy to see the pace has picked up. The Artists Cooperative project on 118th Avenue is filling with tenants. A meet-and-greet evening led to the first session to establish the co-op. Both events showed an eager, community-building spirit in the group — an encouraging sign for future projects.

Board members have been meeting with City officials about the re-visioning of the area just east of downtown. We have submitted proposals on several pieces of property, gaining experience on the paperwork and insight into City ways and means.

We are preparing our report to CMHC to gain the next installment of our development grant. This document will be the foundation of our Business Plan.
Our AGM was a success and we were able to report on a busy year of steady accomplishments, as well as welcome new Board Members Katie Collie, Robert Thornton, and Beverly Campbell.
"Break a leg" to you all in the new year.

-**Robert Clinton**

PAL VANCOUVER

Remembering Rosie was a sold out tribute to Rosemary Clooney developed and performed by residents **Lorraine Foster** and **Patricia Duval** in the *PAL Theatre*. They remounted a few numbers for those at PAL Vancouver's Recognition Event.

PAL Vancouver staged a successful Recognition Event in October to thank individuals and organizations for their financial support, including named suites, theatre seats and the last available bench in our roof garden.

Former CBC personality **Pamela Post**, now freelancing, produced a lovely radio documentary about PAL Vancouver, which aired on CBC regionally on NXNW during the summer, and nationally on Living Out Loud in October.

On October 16, PAL's Theatre and Lounge were transformed into an art gallery, filled with 53 works of art created by 19 PAL residents for the 2nd annual *Fromson Art Exhibit* and Awards. The variety and quality impressed the jury, comprised of **Dr. Jack Rootman, Dr. Shel Cherry, Ella Morton** and **Shanna Fromson**.

Showbuzz is the name of the residents' lively new internal newsletter, published monthly by the PAL Vancouver Residents' Council.

-Ellie O'Day

MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING

Our Stratford Chapter held a members' Christmas party on Sunday, December 5th, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the beautiful B&B (and home of our Vice-President, **Ross Hodgson)**, *Hughson Hall*. In the theme of *Christmas Cheer* members mixed and mingled, while enjoying nibblies and 'nog and an old-fashioned carol sing-along. The event was free for PAL Stratford members, and guests were invited to donate $5 at the door.

On Sunday, January 16th, there will be a Visual Arts Show at *Factory 163* from noon to 5 p.m. PAL members and guest artists will exhibit and sell their art and photography. Entrance is by donation, and there will be light refreshments available.

Future events already in the advanced planning stage include a rummage sale, *Scrabble® with the Stars* and an intergenerational improv workshop with **Marion Adler.** Membership Coordinator, **Aggie Elliot**, has been dogged in her efforts, gathering door prizes for each event, and making it her personal mission to ensure that each event is well publicized and well attended.

On the business side, the Chapter is making good use of a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation grant to build a Business Plan for future development. In order to formulate the Plan, an updated assessment of the need for a PAL Residence that would offer not only affordable housing but also an activity centre for members is necessary. In order to get a current snapshot, a survey has been sent to the membership and results are expected by the end of 2010.

PAL Stratford stands ready to celebrate 2011 with a strong membership, and solid plans for the future.

PLEASE NOTE

Palingenesis is always looking for writers, cartoonists, commentators, letter writers, etc. for these pages. If you have an interest and the necessary time and talent to contribute, get in touch with us.

Contact the PAL Canada Office, or

palingenesis@eastlink.ca

PROFILE PEEK

-at Allan Macmillan

Sometimes in looking for those to honour with a *Profile Peek* we overlook those many workers right under our nose; the many who serve on Boards and committees and go unsung because of their familiarity. Westcoast-born musician Allan Macmillan is one of those. A Vancouverite, a frequent contributor to CBC jazz and music variety shows (and pianist in the famed Cave Supper Club house band for several years) he relocated to Toronto in 1964, later becoming the Managing Partner in Nimbus 9 Productions Ltd., whose principal founding partners were Jack Richardson, Ben McPeek and Bob Ezrin, and in the following decade was Music Director for the original Toronto production of "Jacques Brel is Alive….Paris" and co-arranger and orchestrator on many recording sessions in Toronto, London, New York and Los Angeles (The Guess Who, Alice Cooper, Kiss, Lou Reed, Dave Mason, Grand Funk RR, etc.). He performed on innumerable Radio/TV commercials and served as Music Director and arranger/orchestrator for the 1982 main stage musical "Skin Deep" at the Charlottetown Confederation Centre. Always involved in union activities with the Toronto Musicians' Association, he has been a member of the Pal Canada Board since 2006, being appointed Secretary in late 2009.

Allan says his past experience as Secretary -he was reappointed in 2010- "helps keep me from losing my marbles completely in the process." He also manages to "toss in my 2-bits worth of opinion on matters before the Board and Executive Committee. " As to why he does it, Allan Macmillan suggests its the usual reasons, including "returning some sort of *pro bono* service to the industry in which I was engaged for most of my professional working years." There are many who give generously of themselves to assist PAL. We are fortunate to have the Allan Macmillans with us in the struggle to provide the services to our colleagues for which PAL was founded.

JOY COGHILL IS AWARD RECIPIENT

Union of BC Performers (UBCP) member, **Joy Coghill**, PAL Vancouver co-founder and Honourary President, has been awarded the *Gemini Humanitarian Award for 2010*. This award is presented to an individual for their exceptional contributions and commitments to community and public service outside the Canadian television industry.

A performer, director, playwright, and teacher, Ms. Coghill was the driving force, with co-founder **Jane Heyman**, behind PAL Vancouver, and the spokesperson for the organization's fundraising initiatives.

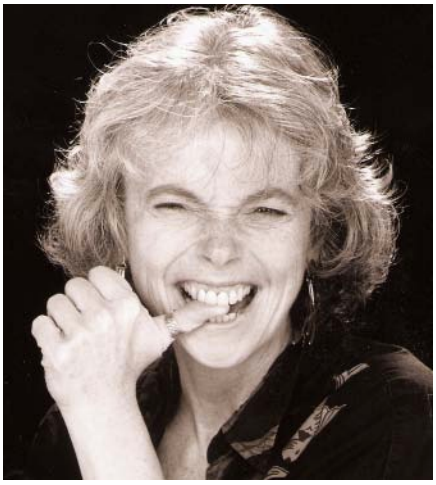
UBCP's Acting President **Jackson Davies** stated, "The Premier of this Province once said - you can't say no to Joy." Mr. Davies went on to say, "Seven years ago I got a phone call from Joy and 20 minutes later I was the Capital Campaign Chairman of PAL because 'you can't say no to Joy'. Today I was congratulating her on her well-deserved Gemini Humanitarian Award. Joy's commitment to the artist community is legendary, but she said 'you don't have to say anything about me, just make sure people know that PAL still needs their financial support.' So I just did, because - 'you can't say no to Joy'."

PAL'S FILM FESTIVAL CREATOR

Long time Pal Place resident **Sandie Defreitas** had a job that included watching and distributing 1000's of movies from emerging filmmakers, but on seeing the many good projects being rejected she left the company. In 2004 she founded *Global Community Film Festival* (C*OMMFFEST)*, today recognized as a leading not-for-profit platform for emerging filmmakers, permitting them to record world-wide social and cultural issues using digital technology. (*Cont'd p.8*)

PAL LOSES JEAN MORPURGO

Halifax is mourning the tragic loss of yet another of its Originals. Jean Morpurgo was there from the beginning of PAL's East Coast Chapter providing many hours of work, encouragement and laughter during the early struggles to become an important part of the growing national body. She died 3 Dec., after a long struggle with cancer.



Former Chair, Gary Vermeir commented that Jean "joins our dear David Renton and Bill Forbes as PAL pioneers lost much, much too soon." Jean Morpurgo was a beloved, respected and celebrated actor, director and dramaturge in Eastern Canada and a Founding Member of PAL Halifax.

Jeremy Webb, Co-Chair of Halifax Chapter wrote , "We were a lucky community to count her as one of our active, supportive, creative and vibrant members." He went on to say that her work laid a foundation on which the current Board continues to build.

Gary Vermeir expressed what many are feeling in Halifax these days, "Jean was a bright light in our community - a compact, smiling bundle of energy, creativity, love and courage. She fought her illness with an unabashed gallantry that was breathtaking to behold. She will be missed, but her contributions will be long remembered. "

Jean is survived by her father, Ralph, brother Stephen, her children Kirstie, Duncan and Benjamin, their father Dr. Bruce Wright and several other family members along with an entire arts community left mourning their loss.

EVENTS

What's Coming Up in PAL Chapters

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON
from
President Chris Marston, the
Board of Directors and Staff of
PAL Canada

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PAL STRATFORD

Sunday, January 16th

Visual Arts Show at Factory 163 from noon to 5 p.m.

PAL members and guest artists will exhibit and sell their art and photography. Entrance is by donation, and there will be light refreshments available

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PAL's Film Festival Creator ...(*Cont'd from p.7*)

The very first COMMFFEST (2005) was held in the *Crest Theatre* at Pal Place. The memorable Opening Night Gala was followed by 3 days of screenings (30 movies), Q & A's and workshops. Its success necessitated a move to a larger venue in 2006 where, by 2010, 70 movies were screened with 100's in attendance over a 6 day period.

In 2006 Sandie went on to create and publish GTA Film Festival *NEWSMAG*, and its internet version www.newsmagtv.tv featuring necessary information about schedules, films and filmmakers. Now, working with the *Toronto Film & Television Office*, NEWSMAG is fast becoming Toronto's most influential film festival magazine & guide.
Always encouraging and helpful at PAL, Sandie's an inspiration with a vision for the future. Volunteers may contact her at sandie@commffest.com.

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