

President's Report Langham Court Theatre Society AGM November 3rd 2024
Submitted by Caroline Herbert

What a year it has been! Congratulations to everyone involved in Langham's productions and co-productions for continuing to bring wonderful, engaging community theatre to Victoria. This year we have seen sold out shows, great sets and amazing performances. We have also mentored many new volunteers, including a number of students who have been instrumental behind the scenes on several productions. Thank you to everyone who worked on the 2023/24 and start of the 2024/25 season for all your hard work and for giving an extremely positive theatre experience to our audiences.

This has also been a productive year behind the scenes. When I started out as President, I wanted to look at Langham's strategic direction. The Strategic Plan committee of myself, Toshik Bukowieski, Alan Penty and Gloria Di Ioia sat down and realized that although the list of things that needed to be addressed was very long with an overriding theme; to improve Langham's financial situation.

The treasurer spot became vacant early into the term and the Board instead looked to the Finance committee for assistance. With the skill and dedication of Michael Chadwick, Gordon Alexander and Gloria Di Ioia, with help from Marilyn Kuss, the financial situation was kept well in hand throughout the year. Thank you to Dick Newson for stepping into the role of treasurer in June. The finance committee soon realized that there were matters that had not been addressed. There were outstanding grants from previous years that had not been utilized and there was funding available from projects that were no longer viable. We managed to convince the funders to redirect the funding to other much needed projects. The grants were used in part to upgrade the sound system and improve the theatre experience for patrons with hearing or mobility concerns. We now have live streaming in the lounge with a new big-screen television on which all productions can be viewed. The new systems will also improve the theatre's ability to live stream outside of the theatre. Thank you to Jason King and Perry Burton for all your technical work in getting the systems in place.

This year thanks to a fundraising initiative started and spearheaded by Gloria Di Ioia and Ian Bidgood, we were able to raise \$6000 to renovate the lounge in honour of a longtime member and amazing individual, Vinnie Chadwick. The Board made the decision to match the \$6000 in donations received. The centerpiece of the renovation is a black local marble bar donated by Ivo Zanatta and Tim Kyle from Matrix Marble and designed by JC Scott. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you to Mike Kuss and the team for all your work on the beautiful new lounge. This summer many more projects were completed. We were able to repaint the exterior of the building, replace some of the worn exterior wood, fill in the potholes in the driveway, upgrade

and improve the outside lighting and electrical systems and trim back some of the overhanging trees. The new look and improved visibility in the entrance of the building makes a visit to the theatre much safer and more enjoyable for our patrons and members. Many members, volunteers and contactors were involved in all this hard work, we thank them all.

This spring Deanna Milligan, the costume loft manager, stepped down and Misty Buxton was hired to run the loft. Misty is an experienced costume designer and loft volunteer. We were able to purchase a much-needed air conditioner/heater for the loft this summer. The loft sale was delayed this summer to give Misty and the team time to prepare for the sale.

It has been fabulous to see the theatre getting back to capacity after the years of the pandemic closure and recovery. Thank you to all the dedicated members who worked so hard to keep Langham a vibrant and active community theatre space. Without you none of the last year would have been possible. It is through your efforts and your enthusiastic support for all aspects of the theatre that keeps the audience coming back.

I look forward to what the future brings for Langham. What productions and projects will be completed and how we will move forward to celebrating Langham's 100th year.

It is my honour and pleasure to be your president.

Cheers

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Hunt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Cheers".