

## **President's Annual Report for 2018-19**

A glance through the reports in this annual report will give you a glimpse, but only a glimpse, of the amazing number of things going on at Shuswap Theatre. I remarked at a recent board meeting that in the old days the board did not meet in the summer months. Sherry Bowlby, who has been around for a while, said, "that's because we didn't do nearly as much as we do now." It's true, and although it's always a challenge to find enough volunteers to fill all the roles we need done, it's now a struggle at a much higher level! We always aspire to a little more than we can do.

### **Governance and Operations Improvements**

The board has continued in the direction of recent years, improving our governance practices, planning and funding constant improvements to our building and artistic capacities, and, of course, solving the unanticipated problems that pop up along the way. In an organization as complex as this there will always be times when people rub each other the wrong way, but my observation is that we have created a wonderful, creative community marked by mutual respect and synchronicity.

At this meeting we will consider changes to two of our bylaws. One will reduce the number of members needed for a quorum. It's not that our meetings are not well attended (we have very committed members) but we have a large number of people who become members as a gesture of support but do not intend to be active, so we just want to make sure that the business can go on with a smaller number of committed people.

The second change is intended to provide more continuity of board members from year to year. Again this has not particularly been a problem as our members tend to serve for years at a time. But we are looking to the future here. The change will institute two year terms for board members with approximately half being elected every year.

### **OZone Festival and Theatre on the Edge**

The OZone Board was desperate this year as they had no club willing to host the festival. They prevailed upon us, and though we had done it only two years ago, our intrepid co-chairs, Joyce Henderson and Bea Kirkwood-Hackett, with their army of volunteers took it on again. It was a huge success and brought in a significant amount of money for our efforts.

We were delighted to be able to appoint Scott Crocker, with years of theatre experience to be our Producer/Coordinator for Theatre on the Edge this year. He initiated a number of innovations, got new sponsors and put on a first class festival, with the help of course, of the usual army of volunteers. Thanks to Scott and everyone for another fabulous festival.

### **Relationship with the Community**

Our relationship with the larger community continues to grow. In a recent conversation with Mayor Alan Harrison and Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond they underlined the growing appreciation the community has for what we do and how well we do it. I have a sense that the whole community increasingly has a *sense of ownership* of Shuswap Theatre. That is a significant accomplishment.

### **Capital Replacement Projects**

A recent sign of that community support arrived this summer after we realized that the two big ticket items that can most drain an organization's bank account were occurring at the same time. We need to replace both our roof and our entire HVAC (heating and cooling) system. Out of the blue I received a call from Steve Genn of Proair Heating and Cooling with an offer to replace the whole system at a much reduced cost. These two projects together could have thrown us for a financial loop. But with the successes of recent years we have been putting money away for just such an occasion, and two or three years of grants from various sources should make this goal very achievable. One furnace and the main AC in the house have already been replaced. (And it's quiet!!) A huge thanks to Steve and Leah for their wonderful support over the years and for this generous offer.

### **Collaborative Christmas Show**

This year saw an experiment that has borne fruit and may lead to further collaborations. This was our partnership with Salmon Arm Secondary School in offering a Christmas production of "Santa's Zombie Apocalypse" directed by Gloria Cox. With two alternating casts, lots of young people got valuable experience working with our people, and some of them are still volunteering with subsequent shows.

### **New Ticketing Service**

This year saw us sign a contract with a new, Canadian supplier of ticketing software called TixHub. There have been ongoing irritants with the Vendini system related to specifically Canadian issues. Season subscriptions should be on sale (all going well) using TixHub by the time you read this. Please bear with us as there are always bugs to be ironed out with any new system. Over time we believe TixHub will serve us better and cost less.

### **Directors**

You will notice that the upcoming season is the third in a row in which we have hired a professional director for one of our shows. We would like to underline that it is still our policy to use our own people whenever possible to direct our shows but with a shortage of willing and able directors we may occasionally go outside. The upside is that we often learn a great deal from working with skilled, visiting professionals.

There is much more going on but I will leave you to peruse the remainder of this report to hear from those making it all happen.

I'm grateful for the support of my fellow board members this year who have stepped up to the plate to make things happen. The board members are:

Tracy Nash (secretary)

Sherry Bowlby (treasurer)

Nedine Scott

Paula Shields

Craig Massey

Peter Molnar

Julia Body

Kim MacMillan (president)

Submitted by Kim MacMillan