

Langham Cultural Society
AGM April 30, 2009
Presidents Report 2008

Well, here we are again! This past year the role of President has been a shared one. Heather was willing to hold the title, for legal purposes but the 'running of business' was passed around among board members. For the most part it worked quite well. I'm going to give a brief overview of some highlights from 2008...

Board:

The Langham board is a group of volunteers dedicated to maintaining this large and complex organization. There is almost always more to deal with at a meeting than is possible in the allotted time, which necessitates prioritizing and perhaps not accomplishing some of the things we'd like to. The focus through the past year was to urge completion of major projects, and focus on creating more efficient systems, and becoming a more 'professional' organization. I think this focus will continue through 2009 as the board takes a serious look at our staffing requirements.

Staff:

Alice Windsor continues to handle the day-to-day affairs of the Langham. Her position is now one of a paid employee rather than a contracted service, but her tasks remain essentially the same. The board is in the process of looking at how best to staff the organization. There is no doubt that far more work is done by our ED than she is being paid for. This situation has been ongoing and needs to be addressed. As our financial circumstances improve, I believe our obligation to lessen the gap (between hours worked and hours paid for) increases.

Volunteers...

They are the heart of the Langham, especially in the galleries and theatre. Getting, keeping, coordinating and showing appreciation for our volunteers continues to be one of our biggest challenges. It is an area that needs continual nourishment. A volunteer drive is required and a committee needs to be set to decide how best to complete some of our projects. At the moment we are most in need of people to coordinate the membership drive and the garden committee... but there are plenty of other places where willing volunteers would make things run more smoothly.

Gallery:

Eliza Fry took over the curation of our Galleries in 2008. She has followed through with pre-planned exhibits and has created a second schedule of shows for our new Community Gallery - a venue for local, regional and emerging artists; she rents studio space here to produce her own work which has shown in a number of regional galleries; she volunteers as Gallery host on a regular basis; she offers family art afternoons once a month; she is coordinating a one-week summer mentorship program for visual artists, performers and writers, that will be held in August; she has applied for grants to support her projects; and she reports to the board at our monthly meetings... Eliza's efforts are bringing many new people through our doors. Thank you!

Theatre:

Lynn van Deursen and Marianne Johnston haven't let up a bit! We continue to see a variety of first rate shows throughout the year and theatre rentals for performances, meetings, movies or music have kept the space well used. The old screen has been repaired and re-installed giving us the needed complement to the digital projector. Which brings us to... the

Movie Club:

Which is becoming a reality, but the parameters are yet to be determined. Mike Young is the driving force behind the club and he is in negotiation with FLIKS, to see if a partnership can be worked out. Otherwise, the club will move forward on its own. A strong show of community support was seen at the screening of White Diamond in January. Stay tuned.....

JCM:

Huge improvements to the Japanese Canadian Museum were made in 2008. We have more than \$11,000 in deferred income for further upgrades that will be completed in 2009. Sound stations have been ordered which will allow visitors to listen to stories and commentaries in the words and voices of people who were here during the internment years. A new 'wing' of the exhibit will be installed on the third floor which will display information relating to Japanese-Canadian relations since government re-dress. Thanks to Ian Fraser for his continued work on this project.

Building:

Improvements to the Langham building continue... the sprinkler system is complete, but is waiting for the alarm system to be tweaked before it is charged with water. Complete lighting upgrades have been completed on the second floor and will be on the third floor, and our bright hallways are much more inviting to all. Exit lights have been repaired; new hardwood floors installed and finished in two of the rental studios (many hands didn't make that light work, but they're done!); work is in progress to spruce up all our bathrooms; spindles have been replaced on the stair railing; there is talk of installing an exhaust fan in the theatre, and extending the stairway handrail leading to the second floor....

Bob Stair has provided the impetus to get things done... much needed and appreciated energy! I think everyone on the board (and a number of their family members) contributed hours to getting these projects completed.

Membership:

Have you purchased your Langham membership? Do you know people who would like to be members of the Langham, but aren't? Our membership numbers are holding steady (perhaps increasing slightly) but could definitely grow. We have sent our reminders to our existing members, and would like to focus on expanding our list to include new-comers to the community and people who have let their memberships expire. Once again we will have membership sales at May Days, the Summer Market and a number of events throughout the year. Please encourage friends and family to buy memberships!

Submitted by
Fiona Anderson