

## **Presidents Report 2023 AGM**

**by Caroline Herbert**

As the newly appointed Langham President I would like to start by thanking Wayne Yercha for all his hard work at Langham as President up to July. Wayne spearheaded the reopening of the Theatre and spent many, many hours working with the Langham community to make sure the productions and co-productions were successful, and that the theatre ran as smoothly as possible.

Thank you to all the Langham members and volunteers who put their heart, soul, and energy into bringing Langham back to life after the pandemic. We appreciate each one of you.

Thank you to the Board for their time and patience managing the business and the work of overseeing Langham. Thank you to Jacqollyne and Toshik, the production chairs, for spear heading the play selection and getting the season up and running.

Thank you to Dick who manages the Box Office; we couldn't do any of this without you.

A big thank you to Deanna who is brilliant in the Costume Loft and has brought some amazing business opportunities to the loft through some exciting community connections.

Thank you to Jason and all the tech gurus whose expertise keeps the lights and sound on. You are all greatly appreciated.

We had a fabulous start to the season. What fun was Maggie's Getting Married! The set, the physical comedy, and performances where everyone seemed to be having such a good time, was a great season opener. Next was The Lost Boy, that also had some very strong performances and was very well received. But really, how can you go wrong with pirates, fairies, a talking crow, and a giant crocodile! Thank you to the directors, producers, actors, techs, and the backstage and support crews that have made everything possible so far this season. We look forward to Murder weekend in February, 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress in May and Present Laughter this coming summer.

For the remainder of 2023 and looking to the 2024/2025 season, we will aim to bring Langham members, patrons, season ticket holders and new theatre goers, productions that are entertaining, exciting, and engaging. We will also continue to invite the local arts community to experience our amazing and unique theatre. By working together on Co-productions, we will continue to offer Langham as a space of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Greater Victoria arts community.

This coming year we need to focus on funding. It is essential that we apply for new, and pursue, outstanding, grants. We must continue to create sponsorship opportunities and engage community partners. Funding is needed for things that include a salary for a general manager, new lighting, and structural upgrades, as well as many other projects that are fundamental to the running of the theatre.

I would also like to see a strategic plan built for Langham. A plan that gives direction, establishes priorities, looks at programs and determines Langham's operational infrastructure. A realistic and forward-thinking action plan for the future of Langham.

I believe in collaboration and cooperation. These endeavors will require the membership to step up and take on the work of acquiring funding and creating the strategic plan. You will need to be on the committees that will ensure Langham is able to keep on being the amazing community theatre that it currently is.

I look forward to working with everyone interested in supporting the success of Langham as we head towards its 95th, and not so far away, 100-year anniversary celebration.

Thank you.

Caroline Herbert