

Backstage Whispers



February 2021

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the February issue of Backstage Whispers. Since the November issue, many events have taken place in the world that sometimes we wonder if we will ever get out of this mess.

It was a year ago when Prime Minister Trudeau was saying to vacationing Canadians to come back home before the US/Canadian border will be closing to non-essential travellers. Since then we have heard about the ravages of Covid-19.

Last year we thought by the fall of 2020, everything would be back to normal. Now, we are looking at the fall of 2021 and perhaps 2022. It has been a year of lockdowns, curtailed summer and Christmas holidays, a US election with false claims, democracy jeopardized with the insurrection of the Capital Building in

Washington, to the impeachment and acquittal of President Donald Trump.

At home our economy is limping along and our national debt is rising. We are in the midst of a downward curve from the second wave of Covid-19 only to be told there is a strong possibility of a third wave coming. We will get through this with the vaccine but it will take time.

We look forward to returning to the stage and welcoming back our patrons. In a way, we are an essential service when consideration is given to the patron's mental health and well-being. They are looking forward to evenings of fun, entertainment, and of laughter.

Hopefully by the time of the next Edition of the newsletter comes out a substantial number of Canadians will have been vaccinated.

Outlook for Spring 2021

President Shannon Lever is looking into virtual plays or murder mysteries. At a recent KPI get together, Dirk Visback, who is also a member of Isle in The River (ITR), mentioned that group just had a recent successful virtual productions. He has been asked to look further into virtual plays for KPI. At this time a fall production is uncertain.

KPI KIDS

KPI Kids, we have not forgotten about you! We hope that we can continue our workshops and work towards a production soon. When we have clearance from the health advisors we will let you know. In the meantime, we could meet online to work on some monologues with coaching if there is sufficient interest. If you are not already on our KPI kids email list, please email KemptvillePlayersKids@gmail.com

President Shannon Lever

The monthly zoom social hour has been a success so far with ten to fifteen members participating. The first one was just before Christmas and the second one on February 11th. No need to dress up, you can participate with or without video.



It has been entertaining with members presenting various readings as well as some of their own material.

The executive has had some changes to the Bylaws- see KPI website for updates.

We welcome Phil Irving as the new KPI webmaster and Caroline Matheson as our Secretary. Thank you to both of you for stepping up into these important roles.

Ripcord Directors Winston and Steve will continue with planning of the play Ripcord.

KPI Mask are now available at \$20 each. Contact Shannon.



The Executive donated \$400 from KPI funds to the House of Lazarus to assist them in purchases required for those in need.

Vice President Darrell Nunn

As VP outreach I am in ongoing detailed talks with Melanie Mott at the high school about how North Grenville High and KPI can partner going forward. The high school wants an ongoing partnership with KPI so they can have some kind of official designation for participating high school graduates. More details when we have a plan the executive has approved.

I have contacted those who have replied to my call for online readings presentation. The goal is to have it available by late February.

Members may email him directly for details at darrell@kapn.net

Eastern Ontario Drama League

KPI was approached by Eastern Ontario Drama League to host the 2021 Fall One Act Festival after it was cancelled in 2020.

Paul Rochon as the Chairperson of the One Act Festival Committee approached all the committee members. Due to the work entailed and the uncertainty even for this fall, it has been decided KPI will not host the Festival this year. Further, inquiries will be done to determine what to do in 2022.

Future of Local Theatre Groups



What have the local theatrical groups have been up to? As mentioned ITR have been doing some online virtual plays and murder mysteries. Their next one is a Murder Mystery, "A Virtual WHodunnit" is set for April 8th to the 11th.

On the Dundas County Players website they have four Cabaret shows in June scheduled. It is thought this may be old information.

Theatre Night In Merrickville is putting the finishing touch on a radio play called "Shady Rest". The opening date will soon be advised.

Brockville Theatre Guild website has not been updated for some time.

Ottawa Little Theatre is closed down until the pandemic is under control.

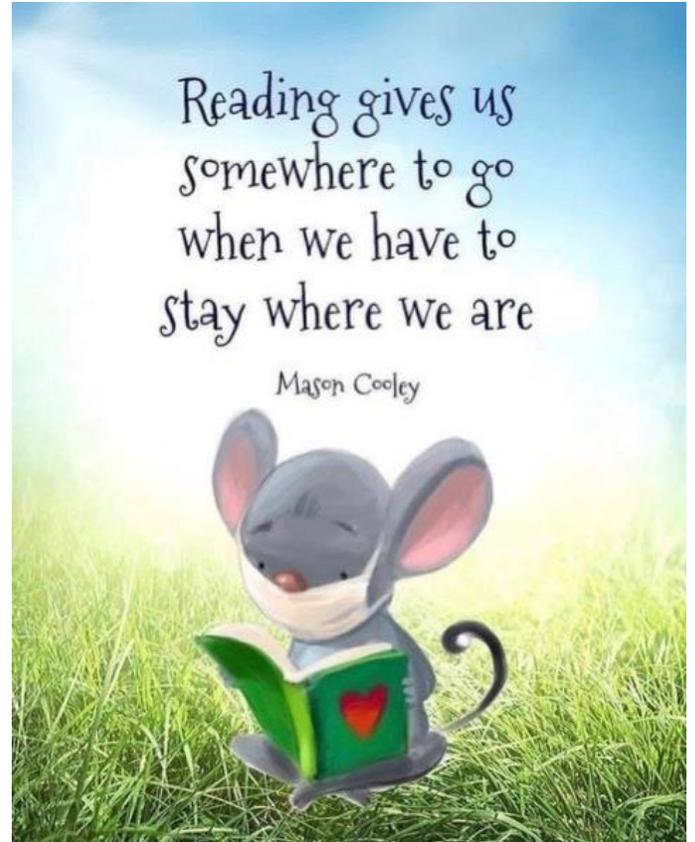
Happy Corner

I have decided to have a Happy Corner in future editions. It can be a milestone anniversary or birthday or the purchase of a new home or your dream car. We look forward to hear some good news.

I will start with great news. Some of you know our daughter Anita. She is a professional theatre director based in Vancouver but working across Canada.

For the last six weeks, she has been directing a play at the National Theatre School in Montreal with graduating theatre students. Anita informed us just before Christmas she is pregnant with her first child at age 42. This will be our seventh grandchild - a future director?

Please share your happiness event with me at aprochon@cogeco.ca If you send it NOW I will insert it into the next edition of the newsletter.



Kemptville Players Inc. Executive

Kemptville Players Inc. continues to revamp, re-evaluate and move within the global shifts we are all experiencing. We look forward to sharing more of our new artistic plans and ways we are trying to make changes, we as a Community theatre group and as individuals in this coming year. We feel pretty happy that so far we managed to pull off a quiet, cozy and safe winter, and we sure hope you did too.

Please try to remain safe during the pandemic this year and beyond.

Paul E. Rochon

