



North Grenville Community Theatre

President Report, 2025 AGM

Hi. As your President, I chair the NGCT board. I have been doing that since 2021, and will continue another year if elected at this AGM.

This has been a successful year for NGCT. You will get more details from our Treasurer, but the last time I looked at the financial summary, we were in the black over the year by about \$100. That is as close to break-even as we could hope for, and, since we are a non-profit corporation, it is a perfect result. We do not want to be accumulating profits.

We have been very active with our outreach. We help fundraisers and local non-profits by staging entertainment for them. Thanks to Darrell Nunn for managing the touring series, Romance on the Road, which continues to raise money for our friends. Thanks to Cathie Raina for her popular Murder Mystery offerings. These shows are our gift back to our community.

Our main shows over the past year were both successful, yes financially and yes artistically. Our version of Our Town was as good as it gets. And here is a special thanks to our actors in Mr. Pim Passes By, many of whom rose to the challenge of playing the grand piano on stage.

Our entry in the 2024 one-act festival in the Eastern Ontario Drama League brought home several accolades. Robin Churchill directed it.

This past year we broke new ground by putting on a French-language workshop, performing a classic play by Moliere that we first performed, in English, so long ago that we didn't exist. That was in 1951, which is pretty good because our documented history only goes back to 1967. The play is Le Malade Imaginaire and our workshop was a blast. OK the 1951 play included PEOPLE that carried on into our official formation later, it wasn't really NGCT, not really. It is easy to get lost in the sands of time.

If you didn't get to the French workshop, or if you want to review several of our other shows, check out our new YouTube Channel.

An amateur association like NGCT relies on the skills of its members. Although, as a theatre group, one might think that mostly comes down to actors and directors, there are many more critical skills. Set design and building. Technical aspects of sound and light in the shows. Publicity. Financial management. Costumes and Makeup. Props. And, corporate management, such as the Secretary faithfully preparing minutes and agendas.

Thank you, one and all.

I am happy to say that we bring new people into the group with almost every show.

We have to be careful that we plan ahead, so that our skill set doesn't age itself into oblivion. We also

don't want to concentrate too many critical functions in too few people.

Let's take me as an example. I am getting old. The time will come when my usefulness has declined like spit disappears on a hot griddle. Maybe that is a bad simile – you should not spit on the griddle if you plan to then make pancakes.

I first became involved with NGCT and our friends at NGCC as a stage performer. Since about 2001, on stage in plays and musicals by these two groups, I have appeared in 18 area shows, not counting several murder mysteries. For NGCT and ITR I have directed 12 plays. I have written 6 plays, 2 of which have been performed locally. I did on-stage Foley for one radio play and I have made lots of props for various shows - I have accumulated some experience in our core stuff. Meanwhile I also made a transition from stage work to administration.

I have been on our board off-and-on, I'm not sure when I was first a member. Eventually I became the president. What skill set do we want in the president? We need someone who will take the time to see how a corporation is governed by the Not-for-Profit Corporation Act in Ontario. Someone who will study our corporate bylaw. Chair meetings. It is a bureaucracy skill-set, and we should look for that in our president and vice-president as well. After all, the idea is that the vice-president takes over from the president after gaining experience.

Another skill-set I have been fulfilling is in informatics, notably the management of our websites. That can be a lonely world, and at present I am the only one working in it for us. The main entry point of our website is NGCT.CA. Our previous webmaster maintained the website in HTML, and I liked that, but we needed to prepare for the future so I set up a new web environment based on WordPress. With WordPress it is relatively easy to add new functions. For example, recently I added a contact management system to the website. Yes, the world-wide web experience can be both lonely and exciting. It would be great to find someone who would like to double the size of our little IT team.

For too long we have counted on a single individual as our Treasurer. Richard Pickard. Looks like he can finally retire. I am sure that all of our members share in thanking Richard for his years of service.

Some time ago Paul Rochon set up an annual award called the President's Award. We don't have to give that award every year, but this year I do have someone in mind. That will be announced at the AGM.

It is a KPI tradition to provide some entertainment at the AGM. This year I have prepared a short video documentary called “A Brief History of KPI, Inc.”. I hope you enjoy watching that.

Steve Wendt
President, KPI Inc., 2024-2025