

# Royal St. George's Society of Halifax



## *President 's Review Alan Williams*

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Since our last newsletter The Society has been afforded a number of opportunities to interact and socialize in a myriad of activities. This is rewarding on a number of levels and most importantly it indicates that the Society is alive and well in fulfilling our mission from 1786. We have been very fortunate for the goodwill and interest of many members. We had a wonderful afternoon at Greg King's residence where he and Donna treated the Society to a wine and cheese reception at the height of the fall with the trees turning colour. Thanks again Greg and Donna!



A number of our members met at the University Club for refreshments prior to attending the Stadacona Band concert, "Til we Meet Again" at the Rebecca Cohn. A few of our members attended the Saint Andrews Day Carvery at the Royal Artillery Park. We had a wonderful Christmas Brunch at the Armdale Yacht Club hosted by Peter Hutchins. And the following week members attended the Pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*. I have been told by many attendees that the Pantomime was very well done and much like a musical so we must add this to next year's events. Thanks David for coordinating this event. And in January we had a good turnout for the Fish and Chip night at the Henry House which is always a superb social event to chat and catch up after Christmas. We have been busy in this Society, and that is a good thing. I thank all who attend these events, as the Executive put a lot of thought into keeping the program full and interesting. I encourage you to participate in our events and increase the collaboration.

As we move into 2011 I see we have just as busy a program ahead. The Executive is a conscientious lot. The Annual General Meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup>, Annual St Georges Day Dinner is April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Stadacona Wardroom, and we are planning a Royal Wedding Breakfast for April 29<sup>th</sup> and more information on these events are described elsewhere in the newsletter in more detail. So as you can see the ship continues to steam ahead. The executive is busy looking at events for you to attend and you will see an interesting list elsewhere in the newsletter. I thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Dinner which is going to be one of the best I am sure.

### Special points of interest:

- The Executive encourages you to attend any or all of the events organized. We want you to enjoy the friendship of our Society.
- Membership in RSGS is an ongoing effort by all members. Please bring someone new as a guest to the Annual Dinner or Royal Wedding Breakfast.
- Remember the Annual General Meeting

## **RSGS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Royal SAINT GEORGES SOCIETY OF HALIFAX will hold its Annual General Meeting on February 24th 2011 at 7:00 pm McNally Board Meeting Room Saint Mary's University 923 Robie Street Halifax.

## *Mahler's Fifth*

### *Sunday February 20 2011 7 30 pm*



Mendelssohn: Concert for Violin in e  
Mahler: Symphony no. 5

Symphony Nova Scotia joins with the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra to perform one of the largest best known works in the symphonic repertoire. Mahler's Fifth Symphony. The Symphony Nova Scotia performs this selection in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahler's untimely death in 1911. This particular concert will feature one of the young musicians the RSG Society sponsored with a scholarship last year. **Brandon Lange** 3rd year music student **Tickets:** \$29-52 (HST included).

# Theatre Arts Guild

*Canada's oldest continually operating community theatre*

## *Deathtrap Mar 5, 2011 8 pm*

### Written

by Ira Levin and directed by Nick Jupp

Written in 1978, *Deathtrap* holds the record for the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway. A once famous author begins a murderous plan to steal a sure fire script and get himself back on Broadway. Sounds simple, but events begin to unfold that reveal startling and unimaginable ulterior motives. The "trap" part of the play's title rises to the forefront and before long audiences will be on the edge of their seats in laughter, fear and anticipation.

### Ticket prices

Regular - \$16

Student/Senior 60+ - \$13

# PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

*March 26 2011*  
*8 pm*  
*Rebecca Cohn*

CHOREOGRAPHY **Igor Dobrovolskiy** | MUSIC **Francis Poulenc**  
A sell-out across Canada and Europe, our most popular production returns. Igor Dobrovolskiy's PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, inspired by the unforgettable story by Gaston Leroux, is set on the haunting music of French composer Francis Poulenc. The production features a spectacular set, breathtaking costumes and evokes timeless themes of love and loneliness. Erik, an exile, who is driven by a hopeless love, lives in the shadows of a world of his own creation.

Atlantic  
Ballet Theatre  
of Canada





## Annual Saint George's Day Dinner April 20

Royal St George's Society of Halifax will be breaking with tradition this year for the celebration of our Ancient Patron, St George. As you will appreciate traditionally his day is honoured on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. However this year that date happens to fall on the Saturday of Holy Week. We have therefore made the decision to hold our Annual Dinner 6:30 pm on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are confident the membership will appreciate the reasoning. The dinner will be held in the Stadacona Wardroom and will feature entertainment and our guest speaker will be Mr Paul Kent.



Paul A. Kent is the President and CEO of the Greater Halifax Partnership, a catalyst for economic growth and confidence in Greater Halifax. Paul has over 30 years of experience at executive and senior management levels, in both the public and private sectors. Previous positions include Senior Vice President, Bell Aliant, Chief Operating Officer, Xwave and Senior Vice President of Strategic Consulting, Fujitsu Canada. A natural collaborator, Paul builds lasting relationships and thinks long-term. He believes in the power of partnership, and in embracing, rather than avoiding, risk. His enthusiasm and belief in people and the community in which he lives is contagious, and he loves a challenge. He has twice been named one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEO's by Atlantic Business Magazine. He holds a Bachelor of Sci-

ence from Saint Mary's University. Paul is an active member of the local business community

He is also deeply involved in the cultural and social fabric of the area. He serves as Vice-Chair of Listen to the Future, Symphony Nova Scotia's Endowment Campaign and as a Director of the Symphony Foundation. He is also Community Gifts Chair for the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia's Opening Minds Capital Campaign, President of the Dartmouth United Soccer Club and a Warden of the Anglican Church of Saint Andrew in Cole Harbour. Paul's background in business, along with his long-standing reputation as a champion for the Greater Halifax community will make for an interesting address to the Society at the Annual dinner. Paul lives in Dartmouth with his wife, Barbara and two daughters, Julia and Jessica

## *RSGS Royal Wedding Breakfast April 29 6:00 am*

As many of our members will already appreciate by now, there is to be a Royal Wedding this year of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The Royal Couple will be married April 29<sup>th</sup> 2011. And your Executive has been very busy putting together an event where we hope you will join us to enjoy the historical wedding together to watch the broadcast on a large screen display.

The Royal Wedding Breakfast will be held at 6 am onward in the Sobeys building at Saint Mary's University beginning with a buffet breakfast of:

- Scrambled Eggs
- Farmers Sausage & Crispy Bacon
- Country Style Home fries
- Freshly Baked Oven Scones &

Croissants

- Seasonal Fruit Salad
- Fruit Juice (Orange, Apple & Cranberry)
- Coffee & Tea

A small glass of sparkling wine *with or without* orange juice will be provided for the toast to the Royal Couple.

A mid-morning snack of muffins & assorted Danish pastries, coffee and tea will round off this wonderful special event.

This event will be very special for those who remember the previous Royal Weddings with the pageantry and splendour. Of all Royal events.

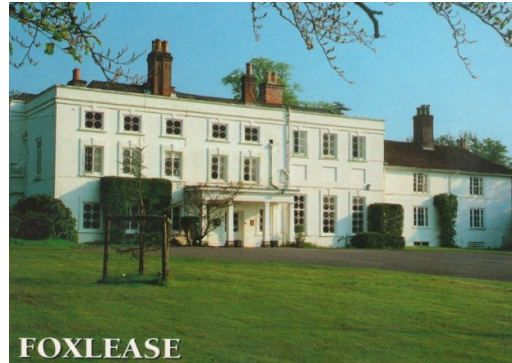
Please join us to enjoy the Royal Wedding with your fellow St George's members as a new page of history is written.



## Bev Woodward Bringing Canada into Foxlease Training Center for GGs UK



Foxlease Coach House



FOXLEASE

On one of my trips to England, I was invited to spend time at Foxlease. This is the International Training Centre for Girl Guides UK., situated in Lyndhurst, in the New Forest in Hampshire County. On my first visit to Foxlease, there was a group of Guides, Guiders and Scouters from Tokyo. I was invited, with other UK fellow guiders, to join in the activities of our visitors. Most of the visitors could not speak English, but luckily there were one or two who could. One of their activities was a trip to Brownsea Island, for a day. I was asked to join them on the coach tour. I was thrilled. This was my first trip to that island, where Lord Baden Powell held his experimental camp in 1907. This camp was to see if boys from different social backgrounds could successfully work and play together. It was the beginning of the Boy Scout Movement. It was also to test Baden Powell's ideas for the book, "Scouting for Boys". It was quite an experience and a lovely day spent on

Brownsea Island, situated in Poole Harbour, opposite Poole, a town in Dorset, being the largest of eight islands in the Harbour.

When I returned to Foxlease, I heard there was a Canada Room so asked if I could see it. When I was taken to the room, a board room in the coach house, I was surprised and disappointed to see that it was empty of Canadian memorabilia, other than the Canadian flag on a wall. I immediately started thinking of ideas to fill this room. One was to write to all Canadian Trefoil Advisors requesting some memorabilia from their Province or Territory to place in the room. I was overjoyed to receive so much support from the Advisors for this project. Badges were sent, which I placed in a photo album, a beaver, a mounted police bear, a flag display of the provinces and territories, a

beautiful blanket from Alberta depicting First Nations' cultures and so many other

Artefacts, too many to mention in this article. We were able to fill the room and the walls. We hung pictures with the Coat of Arms from each province, the flowers, and animals of Canada etc.

It was a busy time, and I must give thanks to the staff for their help in every way they could. The staff later informed me that Guiders, Trefoilers, Guides and Sr. Guides had left numerous comments about our room. It was so gratifying. The contributions continue to flow in. This year, one of our Trefoilers made curtains from Maple Leaf Tartan material and they were donated to our Canada Room by Nova Scotia Trefoil Guilds.

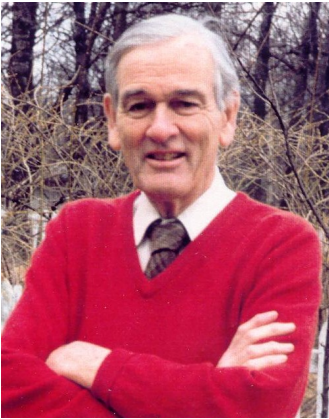
## Survey to Our Members ...

In order to appropriately assess our social program, members of the executive will be contacting you this week to ask you a few questions regarding the *Annual Dinner and Royal Breakfast* to ensure we are doing what the membership will enjoy. We will be asking you the following questions to help provide the Executive with information for discussions and planning purposes.

1. Will you be planning to attend our Annual Dinner on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Stadacona Wardroom  
Yes or No, how many in your party?
2. Will you be planning to attend The Royal Wedding Breakfast on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sobeys Building Saint Mary's University  
Yes or No, How many in your party?
3. Will you be planning to attend both events the Annual Dinner and the Royal Wedding  
Yes or No, How many in your party?

Note from the President: I trust our members appreciate the Executive always does its very best to assure you the best value for the cost. We closely scrutinize all costs on your behalf. Our price estimates are as reliable as possible.





## Doctor Grog's Historical Corner

*in 1948. The hero of James Fennimore Cooper's stories was a prisoner of War here in 1813-1814, the island also inspired Joseph Howe's Poems*

A few years ago Sonia and I were lucky enough to visit the old prison which still stands which is now used as a store place by members of the Armdale Yacht Club. Although the building has been largely preserved and partially restored it remains a reminder of the grim past

Melville Island was a prison for centuries. The building was first used for Prisoners of War in 1797. It subsequently became the Prison for more than 8000 American prisoners. The Island was the subject of the Novel "Hangman's Beach" by Thomas Raddal who discovered original plans for the Prison by British Army Engineer. This prison is also famous as the place where French Prisoner of War Francois Lambert Bourneuf was imprisoned from 1809-1812. His story is told in the book "Diary of a Frenchman" translated from French by J. Aalphonse Deveau.

It is important to distinguish Melville Island Prison from Hangman's beech a short distance away. This site is just visible from the Armdale Yacht Club. It was restored in 2005 and the names of the 195 American soldiers who were buried there are displayed.

Melville Island Prison incarcerated American, French, Spanish soldiers and Sailors. British Penal Law was tough. Minor crimes could be punished with lashes and hard labour whilst the death penalty was awarded for, serious crimes, sheep stealing and murder.

Conditions in the prison varied considerably. By the time Francois Bourneuf arrived in 1809 the place was relatively benign. In fact it was a busy shop. Prisoners were busy with different crafts. Some made hats out of Birchwood, some tailors made suits for gentlemen, some knitted gloves, masons made stone walls. All this is reported by Bourneuf in his diary who almost enjoyed his three years stay whilst planning his escape. After two years in prison he went to work on the

road near Truro. He was a strong young man of 24 and managed to escape from his guards only to be recaptured and returned to Melville Island. He was incarcerated in "the hole" a dungeon in which he was fed on bread and milk for ten days

Three months later he went to work in Prospect and this time he was able to escape by seizing a boat off Purcell's island and making out to sea. With two companions he sailed as far as La Have and Liverpool and reached Port Shelburne where he was imprisoned for six weeks. However the indomitable Frenchman escaped again by managing to get the crew of the boat in which he was being returned to Melville Island, all drunk. Subsequently made his way by making friends amongst Acadians and lived in St. Mary's Bay for the rest of his life. He became a Member of Parliament for Digby.

\*The current property is owned by DND and is leased to the Armdale Yacht Club.

*Known in the 18th century as Conive Island and then as Velville Island this island is now named Melville island in honour of Henry Dundas Viscount Melville First of the Admiralty 1804-06. It was used from 1797 for the accommodation of prisoners of War. In 1804 James Kavanagh conveyed it to the King. In 1808-09 the Admiralty erected a Prison and Officers' Quarters here. It continued to be used as a place for prisoners of War during the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812. Later it was used as a hospital on one occasion and as a barracks for recruits for the Foreign Legion.*

*In 1855 to 1856 it was transferred to the Dominion of Canada and additional buildings were erected. During World War 1 prisoners of war were kept here. It was leased by the Armdale Yacht Club*



## 2010 CHRISTMAS BRUNCH Armdale Yacht Club

On December 5 2010, our Society was fortunate to enjoy a magnificent brunch at the resplendent home of the Armdale Yacht Club just before Christmas. We were greeted by Captain Peter Hutchins a long time member of this auspicious sailing association. It really was a wonderful moment as 24 members of the Royal St George's Society of Halifax sat in an impressive group amongst the trophies and insignia of the famous sailing club. President Alan Williams was in jovial form as he welcomed us and proposed a toast to the Queen



## Henry House Fish and Chips night out .....



One of the Society's all time favourite evenings is a relaxed fish and chip night at the Henry House in historical downtown Halifax. The Henry House was built in 1834 and was the home of Williams Alexander Henry one of the Father's of Confederation present at the Charlottetown Agreement which started Canada. . It has a side hall plan which is typical of the houses built in that period. The use of ironstone and granite is relative of the style of many Halifax residences of the early 19th century. The masonry of the gable wall and surrounds are English in many respects. One of the nicest rooms in Halifax is on the third floor where Bill and Donna have done a magnificent renovation in keeping with the character of the building.



### Dates to Remember:

Mahler's Fifth February 20th  
 Annual General Meeting Feb 24th  
 Theatre Art Guild 'Deathtrap' March 5th

Phantom of the Opera March 26th  
 Annual St George's Dinner April 20th  
 Royal Wedding Breakfast April 29th