



2009-2010 Annual Report

of the

Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd.

**(a unique non-profit arts co-op that contributes to
our Valley's vibrant cultural life by operating
the Al Whittle Theatre and Studio-Z on Wolfville's Main Street)**

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For more information about the Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd., visit our website at acadiacinema.coop, send an e-mail to info@acadiacinema.coop or call our volunteer Theatre Manager Bill Zimmerman at 542-5157.

Executive Summary

- The 199 **events** at the Al Whittle Theatre during the year included:
 - 117 **film** screenings (including 101 Fundy Film Society screenings and the 10 screenings that made up the first *Slow Motion* film festival, put together by **Slow Food Nova Scotia**)
 - 41 **music** events (including *Sheila Fest*, *AMP Fest* and eight *Night Kitchens*)
 - 22 live **theatre** performances (including the inaugural season of **Valley Summer Theatre**)
 - 4 **musical theatre** performances
 - 15 **other events**
- In January, 2010 the newly refurbished and outfitted multi-purpose space above the theatre lobby opened for rental business. Since then, **events at Studio-Z** have included Acadia Cinema Cooperative board meetings, meetings of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative - Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative Co-management Committee and **29 other events**
- **Jack's Gallery**, in the theatre lobby, was the venue for **seven exhibits** during the year
- In January, our **public relations** committee held a "Name that Space" contest, and after reviewing 240 entries from 126 people, marke slipp was the winner and the new space above the lobby is Studio-Z in honour of Bill Zimmerman
- Other efforts to **enhance communication** with our shareholders, presenters, performers and audiences included:
 - updating and enhancing the Acadia Cinema Cooperative and Al Whittle Theatre websites, including a PR kit for prospective presenters
 - establishing a *Friends of the Al Whittle Theatre* facebook page
 - ensuring a presence at events such as the Wolfville Farmers' Market
 - developing a family of logos to enhance the consistency and clarity of our branding
 - We continued to **collaborate with other cultural groups** through ARTS 542 and the Southwestern Circuit
- Our **Equity Tax Credit** share offering and **Sink the Mortgage campaign** resulted in sales of 152 shares to 79 subscribers, allowing the coop to make four double mortgage payments this fiscal year
- We received a grant of \$72,000 from the **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency** (ACOA) for our digital projector, moving lighting bridge, sound and lighting equipment, building insulation and 35-seat upstairs space
- **Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage** provided an \$8,000 operating grant and the **Town of Wolfville** contributed a \$5,000 facility grant
- The sold-out **Sheila Fest**, held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 in memory of Sheila Morrison, resulted in **proceeds** of \$2,445
- We completed all **facility renovations** funded by the grant and, in response to feedback from our audiences, installed acoustical doors to reduce noise in the Al Whittle Theatre
- We developed a **three-year plan** to guide us as we move forward from 2010-2011 to 2012-2013
- The board continued the work needed prior to hiring a **manager**
- On June 25, 2010 Acadia Cinema Cooperative representatives attended a meeting at the Randall House Museum to discuss the possibility of an exhibit there in 2011 to celebrate the historic Acadia Cinema Building's **100th anniversary** as an arts venue
- As of June 30, 2010, our organization had:
 - 686 **shareholders**, holding 3,141 shares
 - many active **volunteers and supporters**
 - a **three-year funding commitment** of \$10,000 per year from Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage

Message from our Board Chair

On behalf of the board of directors, I'm happy to present this report as a demonstration of our commitment to be fully accountable to our shareholders, our performers, our supporters, our funders and other volunteers. I was delighted to be elected as a director of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd. last fall and honoured to be selected as chair by my colleagues on the board. I could not have accepted the role, nor succeeded in it, without the support and assistance of both long-time and new board members alike.

Being new to the organization myself, I was grateful for the perspectives provided by my predecessor **Stephen Peters**, long-time treasurer **Lay Yong Tan**, and experienced board members **Barbara Kaiser** and **Jeff Moore**. Of course very little would have been possible without the wealth of knowledge and commitment contributed by our board colleague and volunteer theatre manager **Bill Zimmerman**.

I have also been impressed by our new board members **Fred Chipman**, **Lorne Saul-Demers** and **Steve Slipp** whose respective expertise in records management, human resources and graphic design. They have all helped the organization to move forward. And having **Al Whittle** with us as an honorary board member has been pure joy! Our Public Relations Committee (**Pam Ackerman**, **Susan Hauer** and **Nancy Saul-Demers**) conducted a fun-filled contest to name our second space, Studio-Z, and updated our website with **Ned Zimmerman**'s help. There's also a PR kit on alwhittletheatre.ca – check it out.

We are, indeed, a unique non-profit arts cooperative. With funding from all levels of government, amazing ongoing support from the community and a lengthy roster of volunteers who pitched in on a one-time basis or an ongoing basis, we have dramatically transformed both our physical spaces. We have reason to be proud of all that we have accomplished and even more reason to be excited of the possibilities that now exist for us given the strong base we have continued to build.

Our most notable event over the last year was the provincial funding of \$10,000 with a promise of three year funding by the province of \$10,000 per year. We plan to top that up with our rental income so that we can hire a part-time Theatre Manager and still use our shares purchases to reduce our debt. 2010-2011 offers us these challenges while at the same time we invite you to join us in the 2011 celebration of the opening of the Opera House (in 1911) on this site.

I know those with a passion for our venues and what they represent will continue to step forward to offer their time, their treasure troves of knowledge and their impressive abilities. In the future, our challenges pale in comparison to our many opportunities.

I hope you'll take some time to read Our Community – the appendix at the back of this report. It reveals something of the number and diversity of people it takes to make this venture possible and the many, many ways in which they contribute to the vibrant cultural life enjoyed by all of us here in Wolfville, the rest of the Annapolis Valley and beyond.

Audrey Conroy
Chair, Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd.

Our Year in Review (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

Events at the Al Whittle Theatre

Since 2004, the state-of-the-art 160 soft-seat Al Whittle Theatre has been the home of the Fundy Film Society, live music, theatre, dance, author readings, conferences and much more! The theatre is named for A. Ellsworth (Al) Whittle, manager of the Acadia Cinema from 1953 to 2000, and current honorary board member of both the Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd. and the Fundy Film Society.

Events at the Al Whittle Theatre this year included 117 film screenings, 41 music events, 22 live theatre and four musical theatre performances and 15 other events.

Film Screenings

The 117 film screenings during the year included:

- 101 Fundy Film Society screenings
- 10 ***Slow Motion Food*** film screenings, which made up the second season of the film festival, put together by **Slow Food Nova Scotia**, that revolved entirely around food
- screenings of *The Cove*, *Dirt!*, *Four Feet Up and Laughology*
- film screenings by the **Alexander Society**, **Kings Chorale** and **Cub Scouts**

Digital Projector Launch

Our new digital projector was formally launched in the fall of 2009. Area artists collaborated on a video public service announcement for the Al Whittle Theatre screen, acknowledging those who made the purchase of our new CP2000M Digital Cinema projector possible.

Fred Macdonald provided the unique time lapse High Definition video footage; **Ken Shorely** provided the music; **Warren Young**, of Crank Media in Wolfville, did yeoman's duty handling the editing and post production (and his lovely wife, **Elizabeth** provided occasional catering!) and **marke slipp** was producer/director.

Music Events

The 41 musical events held during the year included:

- ***Sheila Fest***, a fundraiser for sound equipment at the Al Whittle Theatre in memory of Sheila Morrison
- eight ***Night Kitchens***
- a **Deep Roots Music Festival** performance
- the **AMP Fest**
- **performances** by Mike Aube, Amelia Curren, Michael Pickett, VOW, Dr. Zoo, Steve Poltz, Rose Cousins, Kevin Davison, David Francey, Hupman Bros (3), t@b, Stan Carew, War Child, Dworkin, Skydiggers, Willpower, Jenn Grant, Acadia Farm Benefit, Bang Bang, Lamb's Way, Drum Night, Steve Poltz, Stephen Fearing, Jack MacDonald, Ian Janes, Acadia Dance, Hest & Hupman and John Tetrault

Live Summer Theatre

Summer theatre returned to Wolfville in July and August 2009. Executive producer **Bruce Klinger** chose Acadia Cinema's Al Whittle Theatre as the home of his new company, **Valley Summer Theatre**.

The theatre stage was transformed with **Victoria Marston's** stunning set and **Leigh Ann Vardy's** equally effective lighting for *The Gin Game*. Under the able hand of director **Linda Moore**, the wider community enjoyed a mighty fine piece of theatre from July 29 to August 16. Then, **A.R. Gurney's** *Love Letters* ran Thursday to Sunday, August 19-23.

Other theatre events

The Al Whittle Theatre was home to **Kimberly Dark** and *Shakespeare On Trial* this year as well as four **musical theatre** performances: *A Brand New Year*, *HMCS Pinafore*, *Puccini's Women* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Other events

Other events held at the Al Whittle Theatre during the year included: two speakers, three private events, a film shoot, a rental by **Nova Scotia College of Art and Design**, *Shout Out* – a webcast speakers event associated with the G20 meeting and belly dancing classes.

Events in Studio-Z

Completed in 2010, Studio-Z is a flexible, well-equipped multi-purpose 35 soft-seat venue (20' x 40') for a wide variety of community activities, digital screening and intimate live performance—an affordable venue for emerging artists to share their work. With two tiled showers it also serves as the Al Whittle Theatre Green Room/dressing rooms. Named through an open community contest, the space honours Bill Zimmerman, founding member of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative and volunteer designer/manager of the Cooperative's facilities.

In addition to Acadia Cinema Cooperative board meetings and meetings of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative - Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative Co-management Committee, there were **29 other events** held in Studio-Z, between its opening in January and June 30. They were:

- meetings of the Dandelion Cooperative, Newcomers Club, Alliance of Kings Artists, Fundy Film Society and the Retired Acadia Faculty Association
- a Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative speaker
- a film screening – *Gopher Wood*
- a birthday party and
- weekly yoga classes on Wednesdays.

Exhibits at Jack's Gallery

Located in the Al Whittle Theatre lobby, Jack's Gallery honours the late Jack Sheriff, a memorable name for art and culture in the Annapolis Valley. Jack started the Theatre Arts Festival International (TAFI) in the 70s and ran the Kipawo Theatre and Art Gallery on Wolfville's Main Street until his death in 2005. The gallery, a shared venture of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative Ltd. and Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op, with funding from Youth Challenge International, opened on January 8, 2009. Shasta Grant, Kate Adams and Barbara Kaiser initiated and created this community exhibition space, which aims to give young and emerging artists of the Valley a community space to share and sell their work.

As our year began on July 1, the gallery's third exhibit – *Eudaemonia* – featuring the work of advanced art 11 & 12 students from **Horton High School** was in place. It ran from May 14 to July 16. Then, the Summer exhibit opened on Thursday, July 16. This exciting and colorful summer exhibit was a collection from nine different **artists of all ages from the valley**. It featured works by: **David Morine, Michaela Hayes, Matt Palmer, B.J. Bentley, Peter Gordon, Christine Hooper, Val Ward, Cathy MacLellan and Olivia Frampton**.

There was a special exhibit in the gallery for just two weeks in October, featuring letterpress posters from **Gaspereau Press**. This exhibit accompanied the October 21 Al Whittle Theatre screening of *Proceed and Be Bold*, about Amos Paul Kennedy, an artist who uses his posters to bring complicated issues to the forefront of American consciousness.

The fall show featured the work of four valley artists – two photographers and two painters – under age 35. *Two by Two*, exhibiting the work of **Anna Watson, Kyle Thompson, Andrea Cann and Luca Ayoub**, opened on November 5th.

The work of **Benjamin Allain, Shayna George, Shasta Grant and John Robichaud** was featured in the *Coffee and Art- One Year Later* anniversary exhibit. This was followed by the beautiful black and white photographs by **Amanda Ferguson** of 2009 AMP festival performers on display for the weekend of the 2010 AMP music festival at the Al Whittle Theatre.

On May 7, 2010, *Growth* opened. This was an exhibit by **Horton High School** Advanced 11 and 12 Art students Gill Baldin, Jenna Hamilton, Jossee MacInnis, Margie Peill and Devon Thomson.

Current exhibits are highlighted on the Jack's Gallery Facebook page and historical information is captured on the Acadia Cinema Coop's Jack's Gallery webpage.

Funding

Sheila Fest

The sold-out **Sheila Fest** was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 in memory of **Sheila Morrison**. The event resulted in **proceeds** of \$2,445 donated to the co-op in addition to the \$925 of memorial donations received before June 30. Further contributions have since brought the total donated in Sheila's name to more than \$8,200.

Sheila Morrison's love of cinema and active support for the Fundy Film Society was matched only by her passion for live music. She felt the wealth of talent in our lovely Valley knew no bounds. If it were possible, wherever folks were performing, Sheila would be there, front and centre. She grew to know and love our resident musicians and their music. How appropriate then that her dearest friend and life partner, **John Robichaud**, decided to put on a memorial concert at the Al Whittle Theatre, to honour her memory. The concept was eagerly welcomed. Not only did some of her favourite musicians immediately come on board, they actually helped to organize the event. It was John's wish that all proceeds from the concert be put toward the purchase of audio equipment to support and enhance live music in the theatre. "Sheila understood the magic of live music and the priceless gift it provided to the soul of the listener." . . . "What greater honour could be bestowed upon her than to help perpetuate that experience in her name?" says John.

Operating Grants

We recognize the support of the Province of Nova Scotia through the **Department of Tourism, Culture & Heritage**. We are pleased to work in partnership with the Culture Division to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians. This year, we received an \$8,000 operating grant from the province and a commitment of \$10,000 per year for each of the next three years. The organization also benefited from a \$5,000 facility grant for the fiscal year from the **Town of Wolfville's Community Partnership Program**.

ACOA Grant

On Monday, August 17, 2009, **Senator Donald H. Oliver, Q.C.** announced a federal government investment of \$72,429 on behalf of the **Right Honourable Peter MacKay**. A supportive audience in the Al Whittle welcomed the official Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) announcement of funding for the Acadia Cinema Cooperative's digital projector, moveable lighting bridge, sound and lighting equipment, building insulation and 35-seat upstairs space. Noting that, "The venue has played a leading role as a cultural institution, family-friendly gathering place and cultural tourism destination," Oliver said the funding is intended to enhance cultural tourism in Wolfville and the surrounding area.

The announcement also included remarks from the **Honourable Ramona Jennex** (MLA, Kings South) who recalled living above the theatre (and Al Whittle as landlord!) and offered greetings on behalf of the Provincial Government and **Premier Darrell Dexter**. Jennex noted that the Al Whittle Theatre is a valuable cultural resource. Town of Wolfville's **Mayor Bob Stead** focused on "the partnership that made this endeavour possible." He said, "Every small community seeks a pivotal place that brings people downtown. This facility is that place." And **Peter Herbin**, president of the Wolfville Business Development Corporation, spoke of his organization's contribution to the projector (\$10,000) as part of its 30-year history of reinvesting in the Wolfville community.

The audience gathered for the announcement included Acadia Cinema Coop board members, shareholders, volunteers, event presenters, funding partner representatives and many who regularly attend films, concerts and other events at the Al Whittle Theatre.

Emcee **Bill Zimmerman** elaborated on the coop's ongoing plans and projects, made possible by the government funding, before wrapping up with thank yous from the cooperative's Board to all present. Light refreshments were served.

Facility Improvements

During the summer and autumn of 2009, the Acadia Cinema Building was a beehive of activity! Volunteers dropped in to lend a hand in the Al Whittle Theatre and in the room above the theatre lobby that got a significant makeover.

The Acadia Cinema Cooperative Board is grateful to the many volunteers who helped prepare the Al Whittle Theatre for its first summer theatre company and began transforming the upstairs room to an intimate 35 soft-seat venue for live performance and digital cinema in addition to the roles it plays as a multi-purpose community space and Al Whittle Theatre performer Green Room-dressing room area.

Our summer volunteers moved scaffolding up and down, hauled in acoustical panels, put together the hardware to hang and hung the panels high in the upstairs room's ceiling to provide excellent acoustics; cleaned and prepped the room, bathrooms and unfinished shower stalls for new flooring, floor tiles and wall tiling for working showers; made a whack of new "two-fer" cable splitters for Al Whittle Theatre lighting instruments; loaded in new theatre equipment; cleaned and ordered back stage and storage areas

of the Al Whittle Theatre and the up-stairs storage room and built new wiring for the Old Kipawo theatre lights to replace the asbestos wiring. It was very exciting. Thank you all!

\$20,000 of new **sound gear** arrived in mid-July. Further equipment was added at the advice of **Graham Coldwell** and **Andy Flinn** using funds donated in memory of Sheila Morrison. We are now equipped to meet the needs of almost any touring group and many have commented on the improved sound.

In July, **Al Whittle** decided it was time to paint the theatre floor! Together with **Bill Zimmerman**, Al put on a fresh coat of grey paint and returned to white line the top of each aisle step after the grey had dried. Thanks, Al, for taking the initiative and doing a really great job!

Begun in the spring, work continued through the fall and early winter of 2009 on the ACOA grant mandate in the theatre. The focus of many volunteers was insulation, the moveable lighting bridge and the multi-purpose room above the lobby. But the renovations weren't complete. During the spring and early summer of 2010 volunteers contributed time to further work on Studio-Z, installing and painting sound-lock doors inside the Al Whittle Theatre and painting the eastside staircase and stairwell up to Studio-Z.

Connecting with Our Community

Name That Space Contest

Early in January 2010, the Acadia Cinema Coop announced it was having a contest! The coop's second space upstairs needed a name that:

- conveys the range of activities the space can serve
- is creative and succinct
- conveys an association with the Al Whittle Theatre and/or the Acadia Cinema Co-op

We came up with a great prize: two six packs of tickets to each of the year's three Fundy Film series. Through e-mails, facebook postings, public service announcements and word of mouth, we encouraged our shareholders, presenters, supporters and other community members to enter early and enter often. And they did.

By the contest deadline of February 2nd, our public relations committee was faced with evaluating 240 entries submitted by 126 people. The sheer quantity and quality of entries meant they needed to follow a grueling process to select a winner. They considered our three criteria and let their selection be guided but not directed by popular opinion. Of course, they considered how the name would sound, how it would look (on signage for example) and how it would be presented.

It was clear that there were two themes – one was to recognize **Al Whittle** and one was to recognize **Bill Zimmerman**. Al had made it clear he felt that he had been recognized enough. The board of directors accepted the public relations committee's recommendation: Studio – Z (in honour of founding member and volunteer facility designer/manager Bill Zimmerman) and **marke slipp** won the contest.

100th Anniversary Exhibit Proposal

On June 25, 2010 Acadia Cinema Cooperative representatives attended a meeting at the Randall House Museum to discuss the possibility of an exhibit there in 2011 to celebrate the historic Acadia Cinema Building's 100th anniversary as an arts venue.

Business Considerations

Three Year Plan

Early in the new year, we developed a three-year plan to guide us as we move forward from 2010-2011 to 2012-2013. It included goals, actions and evaluation measurements for each of these strategic directions:

- sustainability
- board governance
- infrastructure
- community relationships/networking
- artistic development
- industry growth
- cultural sector stability

Initially, debt reduction through increased share investment and venue rentals and hiring a part-time salaried theatre manager are seen as key elements of our sustainability as an organization operating a vibrant cultural hub in the Valley. We also need to:

- increase venue use by emerging artists and under-represented performer groups, such as dancers
- work on policies
- ensure qualified technical staff are available when needed
- increase accessibility to the Al Whittle Theatre stage and reduce ambient noise to the theatre
- work on two-way communication and collaboration with our presenters, performers, audiences and other elements of our cultural community

Shareholder Loan

In July 2009, given the organization's solid financial situation, the board agreed to repay \$2,500 of the outstanding shareholder loan.

Share Sales

We had an Equity Tax Credit share offering from December 26, 2009 to March 1, 2010. This, combined with our continuing **Sink the Mortgage** campaign, resulted in sales of 152 shares to 79 subscribers, 25 of whom were new shareholders with our cooperative. This sustained demonstration of community support allowed us to make four double mortgage payments during the year.

Increased Rental Revenue

With the Al Whittle Theatre being even busier than last year and the new Studio-Z venue off to a solid start, the organization benefited from increased rental revenue.

Governance

Together with the volunteer theatre manager, the board worked on:

- job descriptions and contracts for event managers
- developing an apprenticeship for lighting
- offering CPR training for event managers and coop volunteers
- revising the governance manual
- developing a rental use policy and revising rental fees for both spaces
- approving a family of new logos for the coop and both facilities

Our Breaking News

Some significant events that have occurred since the end of fiscal year on June 30 are included here to make this annual report more timely.

Sink the Mortgage

A total of 160 people have already bought 390 shares (contributing \$39,000) since our *Sink the Mortgage* campaign began. But there's still a ways to go. Every share purchased makes a difference, taking us closer to the goal of retiring our mortgage entirely.

To date, wonderful community support has funded eight double mortgage payments and, as of August 1st, we had paid down 30% of the total mortgage since the *Sink the Mortgage* program started. When we began *Sink the Mortgage* we had a \$227,000 mortgage and as of August 1st, it stood at \$160,000.

The Equity Tax Credit – that's 35% of the cost of every share right off the top of your Provincial income taxes for this year – offers an added incentive to help the Acadia Cinema Cooperative reach our goal.

Jack's Gallery

On Wednesday, August 7, there was an opening gathering for *Dark Makes Light*. This exhibit is a collection of artwork by Shasta Grant featuring text by Patrick Bazinet, photography by Shayna George and quotes by Alan Watts. The occasion included cider from the Grand Pre winery and treats from the Rolled Oat Café.

As this annual report was being written, Jack's Gallery was looking for creative graphic novel/comic art for a new exhibit! The submission deadline was October 15th.

Upcoming Bookings

By fiscal year-end, the theatre had been booked for six weeks of **summer theatre** – Valley Summer Theatre's second season at the Al Whittle Theatre. And the theatre has already been booked for a seven-week season next year. The Fundy Film Society screened *Colville*, with Alex and his family in attendance. The proceeds went to the Valley Hospice Foundation, a charity that Alex and Rhoda have supported for years. *Call Me Fitz* premiered at the theatre and there was a performance of *Jake's Gift*, not to mention a continuing strong season of live music.

As an interesting side note, we were told that our marquee was one of the main reasons *Christmas In November* shot in Wolfville.

100th Anniversary Exhibit Proposal

Just after the September 2010 board meeting, having received board support, the Public Relations Committee submitted a 100th Anniversary Exhibit Proposal to the Wolfville Historical Society. The proposal suggested an exhibit take place at the Randall House Museum's exhibit room from June 1 to mid-September 2011 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Acadia Cinema Building as an arts venue. At the time of writing of this annual report we had not yet received a decision from the Historical Society.

Appendix A – Our Community

Our Board of Directors

(those directors whose names are preceded by an asterisk (*) have signing authority)

***Audrey Conroy, Chair**

Audrey joined the board of directors in 2009 because she had not volunteered with cooperatives before. Audrey had hoped to engage all board members in governance issues and in the preparation for hiring a salaried theatre manager. She feels that the greatest accomplishment occurred when “a small and mighty team prepared a grant application that describes not only what we do but why we do it and we were funded for three years - whoopee!” As for programming, Audrey says, “Isn't it wonderful to have Andy and Ariana, African Drum Workshop, Coco & Igor and The Gertrudes with the Mountains and the Trees all in one week - diversity lives on.” Looking ahead, Audrey thinks that plans for a new theatre manager are exciting.

***Fred Chipman, Corporate Secretary**

Fred Chipman joined the board of directors in 2009, having been a strong supporter of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative since its inception. Knowing that maintaining the shareholder registry was one of the multitude of tasks that Bill and Susan undertook, he thought that this was something he could do to reduce their load. Fred feels that the increase in the number of bookings and development of Studio-Z were the highlights of 2009-2010. He thinks attracting a theatre manager for January 1, 2011 is the top priority.

Barbara Kaiser, Secretary

Barbara joined the board in 2006. She thinks that the Acadia Cinema is a wonderful part of our community and wanted to support it in as many ways as possible. She felt that her previous experience on boards as well as her communication skills would support the coop's goals. One of her personal goals was to create a gallery space in the lobby and she thinks that Jack's Gallery has turned out to be a valuable addition to the ambience and opportunities available in the Al Whittle Theatre. Barbara feels that the greatest accomplishments during the past year were reviving the community spirit and purchasing the digital projector. Looking ahead, Barbara thinks that one of the biggest challenges is successful outreach. People easily become complacent when things appear to be working, but the Acadia Cinema Cooperative, Ltd. cannot continue to thrive without ongoing community financial support. Money is needed to maintain the premises, help the organization to continue to grow and hire a paid manager. Barbara says, “Bill is fabulous, but we cannot rely on his generosity forever.”

***Lay Yong Tan, Treasurer**

Lay Yong Tan has been part of the board of directors since the beginning. He was one of the original board member as Treasurer. At the time, he was in Wolfville as a student and used to having the Acadia Cinema to go to. He wanted to bring it back to Wolfville and also to give back to the community. He feels the greatest success during the past year has been to remain in operation and also to grow in terms of support. He sees the coop's work – having a community theater that is owned by the community and run by volunteers – as a benchmark project for a community as small as Wolfville. He looks forward to seeing the organization remain sustainable and operated by proper paid staff.

***William Zimmerman**

Bill was a founding board member who hoped to contribute his technical expertise and enthusiasm for the project. He wanted to see the Acadia Cinema Building renovated to provide a multipurpose venue for music, dance, theatre and film as well as informational programs – a cultural gathering place for Wolfville and the surrounding area. Bill believes the work of the cooperative is important because it provides cultural opportunities that would otherwise not exist and as a cooperative it gives the community a sense

of shared ownership. Bill feels the organization's greatest successes during the past year were completion of our Facilities Improvement Project – with digital projector, Studio-Z and moving catwalk as the major components – and the return of Valley Summer Theatre for a second season. He also includes as highlights: a Skype conversation with the director after the screening of *In the Footsteps of Marco Polo*, the *Slow Motion* food film festival, the screening of *Four Feet Up* with the director present and a panel discussion and the fact that Nova Scotia College of Art and Design students shot a short film using our theatre as the principal location. Looking ahead to 2010-2011, Bill hopes to see the organization hire a qualified theatre manager and secure sustainable funding for the position as well as make significant progress in paying down the mortgage.

Jeff Moore

Jeff has been on the board of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative from the early days. He and the Just Us! Co-op wanted to help in any way they could to bring the theater back to life, believing that the wonderful old building was at the heart of our community. Jeff counts improving the facilities and increasing the usage with many great events as highlights of the past year. In October 2010, Jeff and his wife Debra were awarded Honorary Doctorates from Saint Mary's University in recognition of 35 years of community work in the Wolfville area and internationally. Specifically mentioned were the co-founding of L' Arche-Homefires, Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op and advice on the "development of a cinema co-op."

Stephen Peters, Past Chair

Stephen joined the board of directors in 2004, attracted to the idea of a space in town that provided for artistic entertainment while also enhancing the business sector on Main Street. He hopes to contribute a solid business sense to the co-op's activities, with the ultimate goal of making the organization truly self-sustaining. Stephen feels the greatest accomplishments during the past year were solid progress towards establishing paid management and staff positions and good work by the marketing committee and others to develop and promote a brand for the Coop. He looks forward to improvements in defining and managing our relationship with the building co-owner, JustUs!, and further efforts to sell shares and pay down the mortgage.

Lorne Saul-Demers

Having regularly attended events at the Al Whittle Theatre, Lorne became a board member in 2009. Recently retired, he was interested in becoming involved with a community based organization. With his background as a human resources executive, he hoped to help the coop move forward in volunteer management and engaging paid staff. Lorne feels that finishing renovations to improve the quality of both sound and cinema was a key accomplishment during the past year. He is looking forward to the organization being able to hire a theatre manager and investigate technical improvements like using the organization's spaces as virtual venues.

Steven Slipp

Steve rejoined the board in 2009 to advise on branding, marketing and publicity. He believes the Cinema Coop is increasingly becoming the cultural heart of Wolfville, and as such deserves the best governance possible and needs excellence in communication with members, presenters and the public. He feels the purchase of a digital projector and increases in events per week/month/year were the organization's greatest accomplishments during the past year and hopes to see the organization hiring a part time manager and exploring its role as a potential presenter in its own venue.

Al Whittle – honorary Board Member

From the village of Port Elgin New Brunswick, a journey to Amherst Nova Scotia began a career of 52 years with the F G Spencer Co., the former owners of the Acadia Cinema Building. Forty seven years as manager supervisor of the Acadia Cinema is summed up in two words "Dedication" and "Love." He has carried that commitment forward to bringing the Acadia Cinema back to its central role in Wolfville. He is "honoured to continue as a member of the greatest industry in the world - The Entertainment Industry."

Our Volunteers

This year, many, many volunteers contributed their time and talents to the success of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative. They make their time and talents available when needed, providing a huge infusion of help that is so heartening to the board of directors. Their efforts, on both a one-time and ongoing basis, demonstrate the passion they have for the Al Whittle Theatre. Many have worked tirelessly throughout the year to upgrade our facilities, including:

- preparing the Al Whittle Theatre for its first summer theatre company
- pulling off a rather miraculous clean-up in the almost impossibly short time between a major renovation (lighting bridge installation) and an evening performance
- ongoing renovation work to fulfill the ACOA grant mandate in the theatre (insulation, moveable lighting bridge) and transform the multi-purpose room above the lobby from the spring through the autumn and early winter of 2009
- further work on Studio-Z, installing and painting sound-lock doors inside the Al Whittle Theatre and painting the eastside staircase and stairwell up to Studio-Z during the spring and early summer of 2010.

Volunteers also completed grant applications, worked on facility renovations, continued to implement our public relations plan and so much more. The Acadia Cinema Cooperative Board thanks:

- Pam Ackerman - PR Committee, ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Ann Anderson for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Christina Barrett for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Rick Clayton for serving on the Board of Directors and digital projector help
- Graham Coldwell for sound gear advice
- Audrey Conroy for provincial grant writing/ Studio-Z booking
- Pete Conroy for all aspects of theatre lighting (Al Whittle Theatre & Studio-Z), lighting bridge installation, technical advice, ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Mark Crosby for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Trevor Dalglish for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, painting of stairs and stairwell to Studio-Z
- Andy Flinn for sound gear advice
- Susan Hauer - PR Committee, volunteer manager's assistant & marquee reader board changer, ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, grant writing (ACOA & provincial), Acadia Cinema Cooperative web site content
- Barbara Kaiser for Jack's Gallery, provincial grant writing
- Heidi Kalyani for Acadia Cinema Coop, Al Whittle Theatre/Studio-Z web sites and graphic design work & advice
- Kanayok Klengenber (Yellowknife) for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Fred Macdonald for digital projector thank you video
- Marilyn Manzer for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Jeff Moore for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Tony Napoli for projector help
- Malorey Nirlungayuk (Fort Simpson) for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- George Pickford for electrics, Studio-Z work
- Mark Ponikvar for new Al Whittle Theatre acoustic doors installation, Studio-Z work
- John Robichaud for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, organizing Sheila Fest tribute fundraiser
- George St.Amour for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, digital projector
- Nancy Saul-Demers - PR Committee
- Lorne Saul-Demers for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work

- Ken Shorley for Acadia Cinema Cooperative & Al Whittle Theatre/Studio-Z web sites/graphics work & advice, digital projector thank you video, producing updated voice mail messages on a weekly basis
- James Skinner for computer & technical help/Valley Events and renovation clean up
- Marke Slipp for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, digital projector thank you video
- Steven Slipp for web site/graphic advice/design
- Al Smith for ACOA grant/Studio-Z work
- Jennine Wilson for coordinating the Flower Cart's Transition to Work program for weekly theatre cleaning, help hauling for ACOA grant work
- Linda Wheeldon for helping organise the SheilaFest tribute fundraiser
- Al Whittle for painting theatre walls and floors
- Warren Young for digital projector thank you video
- Bill Zimmerman for facilities design (Studio-Z most recently), facilities management, ACOA & provincial grant writing, ACOA grant on-site manager, ACOA grant/Studio-Z work, graphic work (PR brochure & web sites and signage), new paneling under the marquee
- Ned Zimmerman for the new Acadia Cinema Cooperative web site design and content management system

Our Shareholders who purchased shares this year

Deane Allen	Peter Drummond	Barbara Mitchell
Ann Anderson	Jennie Enman	Reginald Moore
Margaret Archibald	Steven Enman	Andrea Northey
Joan Baker	Gail Gordon	Cathy Oomen
Maxine Barrett	Gordon Haliburton	Don Regan
Eunice Basaraba	Martin Hallett	Anya Jenny Richmond
Joseph Basaraba	Lisa Hammett Vaughn	Anna Saroli
Antony Berger	Anthony Harding	Nancy Saul-Demers
Wally Bower	Ken Harrison	Lawrence Saul-Demers
J. Roy Brideau	Susan Hauer	Diana Shelley
Nancy Burbidge	Douglas Hergett	Midge Stalley
Duncan Burton	Sally Hills	Erma Stultz
Paul Cabilio	Phyllis Holmes	James Tillotson
Ann Cameron	Maria Jacobs	Lucy Traves
Janet Cameron	Barbara Kaiser	Elizabeth Vermeulen
Marilyn Cameron	Michaele Kustudic	Derek Watts
Paul Cameron	Joan Langille	Linda Wheeldon
Brian Edward Carter	Mary Leroux	Helen Whidden
Janet Cayford	Saralee Lewis	Kirk Whidden
Fred Chipman	Joanne Linzey	Geoffrey Whitehall
Nancy Chipman	Robert Lutes	A. Ellsworth Whittle
Adam Clarke	Douglas Lutz	Howard Wightman
John Cline	Cyrus MacLatchy	Robert Wrye
Audrey Conroy	Kathie Manko	Ned Zimmerman
Pete Conroy	Bruce Matthews	William Zimmerman
Beth Crosby	Clare McKee	
Trevor Dalgleish	Brian McKenzie	

Our Presenters

Our anchor tenant, the **Fundy Film Society**, presented 101 film screenings. Other multiple event presenters included:

- Deep Roots Music Festival
- GHG Productions
- Hupman Brothers
- Kerri Leier
- Slow Food Nova Scotia
- Susan Dworkin
- t@b
- Valley Summer Theatre
- World in Wolfville

Besides the Fundy Film Society, others who presented films included:

- BALLENS
- Cub Scouts
- Fred Williams
- Slow Food Nova Scotia

In addition to **Valley Summer Theatre**, live theatre presenters included:

- Acadia University
- Susan Dworkin
- Kerri Leier
- Nova Scotia G&S Society
- Opera Nova Scotia
- Jeremy Webb

This year's self-presenters included:

- Acadia Dance
- Alexander Society
- Annapolis Valley Business Women's Network
- Mike Aube
- Bang Bang
- Kevin Davison
- Dr. Zoo
- Fish Mix
- Investors Group
- Ian Janes
- Lamb's Way
- Jack MacDonald
- Michael Pickett
- John Tetrault
- VOW
- Warchild
- Willpower

Our Supporters

Over the past year, we have received very much appreciated support from:

- young adult participants from the Flower Cart's Transition to Work Program who have arrived to clean the theatre each week.
- John Robichaud, organiser of the SheilaFest tribute fundraiser
- Wendy Elliott for media coverage

Our Funders

Funding from all three levels of government has aided the cooperative in moving towards the goals in our three-year plan. Many thanks to:

- The Town of Wolfville
- Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)