



Media Release

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PICKS FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Prescott, February 3, 2009:

A blustery winter night kept the crowd down, but the 6th Annual General Meeting of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival was recently able to confirm five prominent additions to its board of directors.

They include: Alvin Bennett, Sheila Fawcett, Tom Graham, Martin O'Hanlon and David Timms who join five sitting board members led by current chair Sandra Lawn and including Jo-Anne Beckstead, Patty Dimopoulos, Kate MacDonald and Tom Van Dusen. A 2009 executive will be chosen at an upcoming meeting of the board.

Referring to the wide range of credentials offered by new members, Lawn said the additions will re-fortify the board which had dwindled due to resignations and the recent passing of Prescott lawyer Barry Laushway.

"We have geographical coverage on the board from Prescott and Brockville, to Kemptville and beyond," Lawn observed. "The qualifications of members give us high-level expertise in everything from accounting to media and public relations."

Heading towards the new season at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre in Prescott, Lawn said the festival organization has never been in better shape, having finalized several major policy improvements, with a store-front office on King Street now well established, and with finances in solid shape.

"We can always use more funding but thanks to the hard work of our cast, staff and volunteers and factoring in certain liabilities, we broke even."

As usual, new funding proposals have been advanced to several agencies and corporations. Lawn invited anyone to come forward who would like to financially back the cause of putting Prescott and surrounding area on the map as a centre for live, professional Shakespeare productions.

The seasonal audience last year jumped to 3,827 from 3,403. It's estimated the festival contributed \$780,000 in economic benefits to the area in 2008, a figure the board hopes to see jump to \$1 million in 2009.

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's 2009 season featuring ***The Taming of the Shrew*** and ***Measure for Measure*** runs July 11 to August 15 at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre at Sandra S. Lawn Harbour in Prescott. The Festival also boasts the ever-popular Sunday Series and the Young Artists Training Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 613-925-5788 or www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca