

Board Report – 28th Rogue Folk Club AGM– 29 November 2024

During 2023 the Rogue was pretty much over the effects of the pandemic. We presented many shows with Audiences back in decent numbers. We live-streamed most of the shows, thanks to our video partners Hubcast Media. This enabled Audiences who couldn't make it to shows to still experience the magic from home, or anywhere on the planet with an Internet connection, at a very reasonable price. It has also provided an incredible archive of past performances for which we hope to create a fee structure for access.

The Rogue is doing reasonably well financially although the live-streaming is still not making it to the break-even point after expenses. We could definitely appreciate our Audience and Rogue Members spreading the word to their friends and extended family. The quality is so good and not to be missed. With generous help from Donors and Sponsors, we managed to safely make it through 2023. The excellent work on Publicity and Communications was also a big help.

Steve, Margaret, Paul, Brooke, Kate, Jill and Rob along with Peter and the Hubcast team put their hearts into preparations for every show. Steve's volunteer work with his CiTR Saturday Edge on Folk radio show continues to help keep the Spirit of Folk alive and well in Vancouver.

Also, thanks to the hard working staff at Heritage Canada and the BC Gaming Branch for the funding we have graciously received and hopefully they will continue to fund us on an annual basis. Their operational grants allow us to continue paying for portions of our part time Staff and other costs to keep the lights on and ticket prices as low as possible. Such grants for Arts organizations are hard to come by and we truly appreciate this funding, despite having have provided the same fixed dollar amounts each year with inflation taking an increasingly heavy toll. In recent years, Heritage Canada has graciously provided some additional funds to help a little in hedging against inflation.

In addition, the Board thanks the performing Artists and their Management, and most importantly, all of our dedicated Volunteers and our varied and loyal Members and Audiences.

I would like to personally thank the 2023 Board of Directors – Morris Biddle (Vice Chair), Monica Dare, Tom Nesbit, Phil Gray (Treasurer), Bill Hooker, Doug O'Neill (Secretary), Ian Robertson and Andrew Smith for their efforts.

The Board has put forward a slate of willing and experienced Director candidates for your consideration today. This will complement the six Directors who still have a year remaining on their two year terms.

We see the ongoing Rogue Board priorities as obtaining charitable status, fundraising, sponsorship, strategic planning, publicity, increasing attendance, solid financial reporting, and minimizing risks associated with operating the Rogue's large number of concerts.

Through the use of our Arts People database, we see Members and Volunteers as key players helping to spread the Rogue's value in the community. We hope that some of you will want to volunteer or participate on Committees or even with Donations or Sponsorships to help us keep the Rogue moving ever forward and long may it live.

In closing, I want to again thank you, the Members, for supporting The Rogue. Enjoy tonight's show with Doug Cox and Linda McRae, both accomplished artists with deep BC roots who make magic together on stage! Doug is also well known for running the Vancouver Island Musicfest for the past 30 years and you will recall Linda along with our own Steve Edge being inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame at the Rogue in September of 2016.

-- DAN BOWDITCH, Board Chair