

# MUDD PRINTS

[www.mississippimudds.ca](http://www.mississippimudds.ca)

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - July 2021



## **From the Desk of the President - Sandra Dunlop**

Thank you to all of you that attended the Annual General Meeting. There were 25 members and 2 guests. At the end of the meeting the election of the new Board of Directors took place. The members accepted the slate presented. The results were:

President: Sandra Dunlop  
Treasurer: Roxanne Broer  
Secretary: Stephanie Stephens  
Show Development: Karen Lapointe  
Past President: Jeff Lee  
Directors Without Portfolio:  
    Tracy Ahern  
    Cheri Swackhammer  
    Laurel Tye

Initially Danielle Gregoire took on the position of Director Without Portfolio. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, she cannot fulfill the position. Cheri Swackhammer was appointed in her place.

The new Board of Directors had their first meeting on Monday. The main focus of the night was the sharing of duties. The following are the results:

Fundraising: Jeff Lee  
Membership/Communications: Karen Lapointe  
Properties: Jeff Lee  
Public Relations: Sandra Dunlop  
Publicity: Stephanie Stephens  
Records Management/Archives: Tracy Ahern  
Single Point of Contact: Cheri Swackhammer  
Social: Tracy Ahern  
Web and Social Media: Tracy Ahern  
Youth Liaison: Laurel Tye  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liaison: Laurel Tye

Other projects assigned were:

Code of Conduct: Karen Lapointe  
Constitution/Bylaws: Sandra Dunlop  
Not-for-Profit: Roxanne Broer  
Practices: Cheri Swackhammer

Once these documents have been looked at they will be presented to the whole board for input. The Constitution/Bylaws have to be approved by the membership before they come into effect.

One of the topics of the night was the resumption of activities for the Mississippi Mudds. To date there is little information to go on. We will monitor the rules and regulations from the province and act accordingly.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 18. If you have an agenda item you would like to be discussed please let me know.

## **Meet Your Four New Board Members**

### ***Tracy Ahern***

My name is Tracy McMillan Ahern, and I am the mother of 3 adult children: 2 girls and a boy. Both my daughters have been involved in Mudds' productions, and hopefully someday soon my husband and son will join us either on stage or off.

Growing up, I was surrounded by music with my first role models being my father, who played piano and a great aunt who is a member of the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame. From a young age, I learned piano, and then in my teens, I started voice lessons. In grade 7, the flute was introduced to me, and I still enjoy playing. By my late teens, I was teaching private

piano, voice, flute, and theory lessons and continued to do so until the onset of Covid-19.

My first encounter with the Mississippi Mudds was going to watch HMS Pinafore. I was hooked and shortly after, I operated spotlight for Assassins. When auditions rolled around for Guys and Dolls, I decided to try my hand being on stage and immediately found my home and theatre family. Since then, I have spent time both onstage and as musical director. This year sees me throwing my hat in as a member without portfolio on the Mudds' board of directors.

As Covid-19 restrictions are gradually relaxed, I am excited to see what happens when the curtain rises. It is going to be a wild ride, and I simply can not wait to meet more of the extended family from the Mississippi Mudds as we set out to entertain the masses.

### ***Roxanne Broer***

I am new to the Mississippi Mudds and recently joined with the Mamma Mia production (thanks to encouraging friends!). It has been a large learning curve for me on the stage but I am loving every minute of it - who doesn't like to sing and dance?

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Business and Music. My career to date has involved accounting (Kelly Huibers McNeely), payroll and banking (BMO), my own bookkeeping business and teaching piano. Volunteer experience on various boards such as the CP Canoe Club and the Almonte Soccer Club as registrar and Director of Finance. I have a passion for sports, music, people and numbers!

It is my pleasure to take the torch from Louise Link who has done an amazing job with no QuickBooks experience or accounting background. Perhaps she can teach me about costumes and sewing?

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. My goal is to help the Mississippi Mudds in the financial aspects and wherever else I might be needed.

I look forward to meeting you. Roxanne

### ***Cheri Swackhammer***

My name is Cheri Swackhammer but I do have a few aliases: Cheryl Swackhammer, Cheri Martin and the one I use the most is Bobby and Kenny's mom.

I was first introduced to the Mudds back in 2013 when Bobby was interested in musical theatre. Although he didn't get a role in that play, we began supporting the Mudds as part of the audience. The interests of my children have driven areas of new interests for me. Both Bobby and Kenny have found a niche with the Mudds; Bobby in performing and Kenny in lighting.

As a new member to the Mudds and the board as a director without portfolio. We have all missed the camaraderie of the Mudds over the last year and a bit and can't wait to get back to this wonderfully supportive family.

I am an elementary school teacher at Arklan in the Building Bridges program which is a specialized mental health program.

### ***Laurel Tye***

Laurel began directing groups at an early age and studied conducting under James Tamburini and Richard Householder in the University of Windsor where she earned her B.Mus. She was a lead in The Windsor Light Opera's production of "The Pirates of Penzance" and a cast member in this company's production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

Laurel moved to Ottawa in 1982 where she resumed her teaching career with the OCDSB, eventually becoming a Principal. During these years Laurel had the pleasure of directing several local church choirs including Parkdale United, Carp United, and Fourth Avenue Baptist. She also had the honour of taking her school choir from Fisher Park to sing in the Senate for Remembrance Day.

Laurel has been a member of the Mississippi Mudds since January, 1992. She has been in most of the musicals since that time as Music Director, performer on stage, and once as stage manager for the

play "The Odd Couple". Ten years ago she happily took on the role of Music Director for Mudds Jr.

She has served on the Board once before and looks forward to working again with the present Board. Now that Laurel is retired from the OCDSB she has plenty of time to devote to her beloved Mississippi Mudds.

**From the Editor - Sandra Dunlop, Editor**

Please - if you have a change in any of your information (address, telephone number and especially email address) please make sure that you get that information to Sandra Dunlop

at 613-599-7221 or [pcbear@rogers.com](mailto:pcbear@rogers.com). This will make sure that you continue to receive the Mudds newsletter and any other pertinent information that is sent out.

Know that I welcome articles monthly, be it from members, former members and people involved in current productions. The deadline for the next edition of Muddprints is August 20, I would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be long, just of interest to Mudds members and fans.

**Mudds in Your Eye #14 July 2021 (coordinated by Stephanie Stephens)**



**Here is another in a series which profiles members of the Mississippi Mudds, written especially for the readers of the Muddprints!**

The spotlight is on Laurie Dickson. You haven't been really in a show until you've played opposite Laurie. Not only is he incredibly charming and charismatic on the stage, he is everyone's best friend backstage, greeting everyone with warmth, attention, and respect. Laurie was in the news as a Canadian hero at the beginning of covid, as he reworked his company, LD Tool & Die, to manufacture the testing kits that were so imperative and hard to come by at the start of the pandemic. Laurie proves that our Mudds members are the best kind of people.

**1. What was your very first show with the Mudds?**

Mudds Summer Icecream

**2. How long have you been a member?**

Since 2006.....That's 15 years.

**3. How many shows have you been in as a Mudds member?**

About 15 shows, pantomimes, and murder mysteries

4. **What was your favourite character you've ever played on the stage? Why?**

Besides playing numerous DAMES in pantomimes, which I love, playing TEVYA in Fiddler on the Roof was by far my dream role come true. I feel the way I live my life is very similar to Tevya. Fiddler is my heritage. My Grandparents were thrown out of Russia during the Pogroms. I used my Grandfather's wine Cup during the show for Sabbath Prayer.



5. **What was the hardest role you've ever had and why?**

This is a difficult question to answer because most roles are hard for me. I try to immerse myself into my new character. Where possible I do a lot of research into my character. Lines have always been difficult for me to remember (as Tony Scott will tell you). I tend to ad-lib a lot in pantomimes and murder mysteries.

6. **You are a really good singer. Do you have any voice training?**

Thank you for the compliment, but I think I have an average voice. I have sung in Choirs since a young boy of 8 years old. Also sung with various theatre groups such as Orpheus and Savoy Society of Ottawa. Over the years I have had many Musical Directors and picked up many tips and exercises.

7. **Are there any shows you'd like to see the Mudds do?**

Yes of course. My Fair Lady and Oliver are two shows that I would love to do. I'm sure you can guess why.

8. **What's the funniest thing (bloopers) to have ever happened on stage in a show you were part of?**



I was a Gentleman of Japan in the Mikado for Savoy Society of Ottawa. We were playing in CentrepoinTE Theatre in Ottawa. The set was magnificent.... I was standing Stage Right on a small bridge leading to the castle door. We were waiting for the "Grand entrance of Katisha" She would fling the door open..... Spread her hands in the air..... and sing....."Your Revels Cease, Assist me All of You"....

Well as luck would have it..... I was standing a little too close to the door and her hand smacked me in the head and knocked me off the bridge. Katisha just glared at me as if to say....out of my way boy..... and carried on with her solo. We still laugh about this whenever we meet.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wishes go to members past and present who are celebrating their birthdays

between July 23 and August 22. We know this is not a time that we can go out and party with our friends, but we hope you find something awesome to do! :-)

Alexandra Levstek	Jul-24
Meagan Brodie	Jul-24
Mary Alexander	Jul-26
Cheline Collier	Jul-27
Gillian Whitlock	Jul-28
Jenny Pfitzer	Jul-29
Catherine Clark	Jul-30
Fiona McCready	Jul-30
Keely Welin	Jul-30
Sharon Stelzner	Jul-31
Mary Marten	Aug-02
Vivien Bolger	Aug-02
Madison Sonnenburg	Aug-03
Ayden Baldwin	Aug-04
Yolande Hardy	Aug-04
Kate Martin	Aug-05
Adrian Osborne	Aug-05
Jaime Birrell	Aug-05
Ben Bourne	Aug-06
Jenna Wicks	Aug-08
Stephanie Scott	Aug-08
Erica Danells	Aug-09
Judith Scott	Aug-10
Kiera Uriarte	Aug-12
Tracy Julian	Aug-13
Toni Moffa	Aug-13
Sydney Osborne	Aug-14
Ainsley Mohns	Aug-14
Brady Mackay	Aug-14
Kaleigh Irvin	Aug-15
Heidi Nephin	Aug-15
Janis Nutty	Aug-15
Hanna Pringle	Aug-16
Callum Leroy	Aug-17
Aiden Letemplier	Aug-18
Stefan Kaleb	Aug-18
Aurora Hardy	Aug-19
Christine Dever	Aug-19
Olivia Grummish	Aug-20
Heather McDermid	Aug-20
Kevin MacMillan	Aug-21
Stephanie Stephens	Aug-22

Watch this space for more birthday celebrations next month :-) Karen Lapointe, Membership

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The next issue of Muddprints will be published on August 22. The deadline for articles is August 20.

If you wish to be removed from the Muddprints mailing list please send an email to [pcbear@rogers.com](mailto:pcbear@rogers.com) - please make sure you give me your full name in the email.

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**Mudds Calendar (2021)**

**Aug 18      Mudds Board Meeting - 7:00pm (Online)**