



Probis Club of Central Edmonton

January 2017

Editor: Ken Hoffman

Speaker: January 17– Ken Davis, Citadel Theatre

This January we learned about the Citadel Theatre. Ken Davis, Director Marketing & Communications. He spoke to us about the history of the Citadel, key people who contributed to the success of the Theater over the years, and current building.

Joe Shocter, a key mover behind the establishment of the Citadel Theatre, obtained space and funds which resulted in it opened its first play in 1965 in the old Salvation army building. It became clear to the leaders of the Theatre that they needed a building with top of the line theatre facilities. Thus, began the drive to raise funds for such a new building. Ultimately \$6.5 million was raised to construct the first phase of the current building, which opened in 1976. Since then, it has expanded, adding new venues, and renovated the original ones. In 2015 it celebrated 50 years of success.

It is one of the top 3 regional theatres in Canada. Annually it entertains 110,000 patrons. In addition, more than 100 organizations utilize the Citadel for events, totaling over 20,000 people accessing our facility annually. As a registered Not-For-Profit, all proceeds go to supporting and delivering high quality productions. We were interested to hear that because of the existence of the theatre people can make a full-time career as actors in Edmonton.

He spoke enthusiastically sharing many addition facts. He answered our many questions sharing more information. His presentation set us up well for the tour the following week.

Tour: January 24– Citadel Theatre

On January 24, a group of members and guests attended the Theatre for the tour. The Tour lead by Doug Mertz started at 10:00 am. We spent the next hour and a half taking in the Citadel's venues and other attractions. During the tour, he provided a considerable amount of information including pointing out several unique elements such as ghost lights, the elevator that raises Scrooges bed to the stage and the two Vomitorium. To be clear, these are ramps that allow actors to quickly move on and off stage in the Maclab Theatre.

We started in Zeidler Hall. It is a single screen venue that is rented by organization for meetings such as AGMs. Next was the Shocter followed by the Club, the Mclab, Tucker Amphitheatre and Lee pavilion. After the tour several of us lunched at Normad's Bistro.

Following are pictures from the tour:



The Schoctor



The Club



The Maclab



A Vomitorium