

April 20, 2020

Dear members and friends of the Regent,

As you know, in response to the COVID-19 emergency and on the recommendation of public health authorities, the Regent Theatre closed its doors on March 15th. We remain closed in compliance with the declared state of emergency in Ontario, and will remain closed until these restrictions are lifted and it is safe for our staff, volunteers, patrons, and visitors to return.

We do hope to see you soon. Our Annual General Meeting is currently scheduled at the theatre for Saturday May 30th at 10 a.m. If it remains unwise to hold a gathering like that at that time, we will postpone and keep you advised. The Ontario government has extended the deadline for holding AGMs until 90 days after the Emergency Order is terminated.

We are trying to live up to the spirit of the old showbiz adage that “the show must go on.” Our staff have been working from home to reschedule many of the live events that have been postponed and to line up a new schedule of entertainment for when we eventually re-open. We are exploring new technologies like virtual screening rooms so you can stream movies at home and still support the Regent. We are also processing refunds for those shows we cannot reschedule.

In the meantime, our staff and board are working hard behind the scenes to protect our financial position. Thanks to a successful year last year, we have a reserve from which we can draw to get through this emergency. We have taken steps to reduce our fixed costs wherever possible while maintaining the safety and security of the building, and we will be applying to those government assistance plans available to us.

This year, as ever, we are thankful for the ongoing support of our sponsors, donors, and members. We know the next few months will be difficult for many small businesses, families, and individuals. If you are able to support the Regent’s mission of providing great entertainment right here in the County while preserving a century-old heritage venue, your generosity is greatly appreciated. But we know we are not alone in our need. Whenever possible we encourage you to support local businesses (<https://supportlocalpec.ca/>) and local charities that serve our community (<https://thecountyfoundation.ca/covid-19-fund/>).

And when this is all over and we can reopen our doors, we’ll have the popcorn hot and ready for you. Until then, visit our website and social media channels for updates, and don’t hesitate to contact us at info@theregenttheatre.org.

Benjamin Carter Thornton

Vice-Chair, Regent Theatre Foundation

