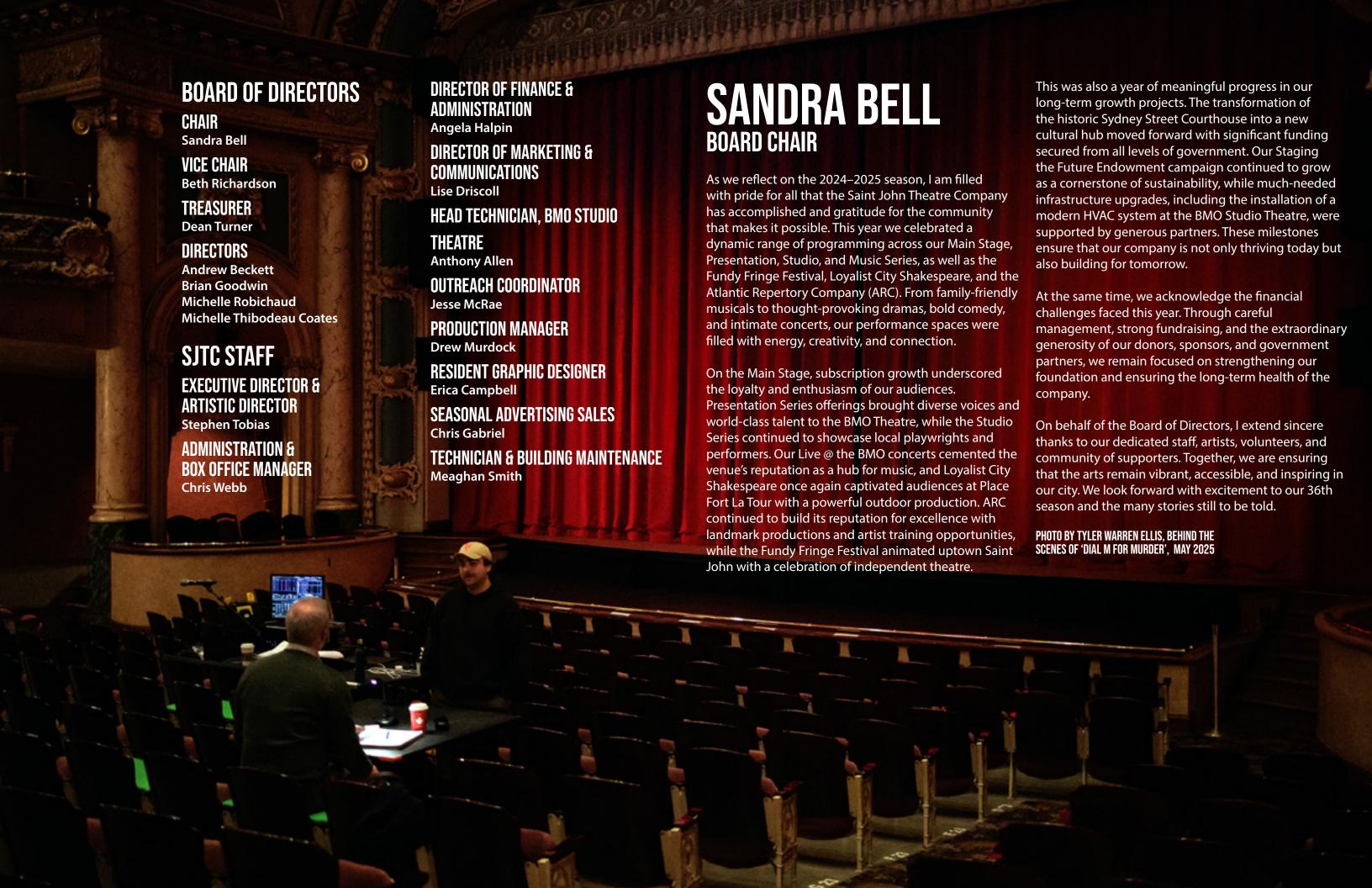


# MISSION & VISION **MISSION** The Saint John Theatre Company is a leading Canadian performing arts organization that produces and presents professional and community-based performances. We entertain, educate, employ, and enrich our communities. **VISION** Changing lives through performance. PHOTO BY ANDREW FINLAY, BEHIND THE SCENES OF ROALD DAHL'S 'CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY', NOVEMBER 2024



## STEPHEN TOBIAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Once again, I look back over the scope of work of the Saint John Theatre Company organization this past year, and I marvel at the continued evolution from a small community group to one of the larger cultural institutions in New Brunswick.

Our programming is the most public face of what we do. Our Main Stage series at Imperial Theatre (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Lend Me A Tenor, and Dial M For Murder) offered amazing entertainment for our audience while developing and showcasing our incredible local talent. The Main-Stage series is important to us and has been a key focus of our work since producing the first event when Imperial Theatre first opened in 1994. As we are soon coming to our 100th major production in that venue, we are proud to be the largest rental client, and I am aware that there are many people in the community who can't imagine Imperial Theatre without the SJTC as its leading anchor tenant.

Over many years, this Main-Stage series has entertained tens of thousands of SJTC audience members at Imperial Theatre and has an alumni base of over 3000 people who have worked onstage or backstage in SJTC productions in that venue. As we have come to the end of our 35th season of work, I can't highlight enough the importance of that relationship.

Beyond that work, our BMO Studio Theatre has grown into a significant cultural venue for Southern NB, transforming over many years from being a rehearsal hall into a leading multi-disciplinary venue which has been a catalyst for a broad range of cultural activity in our community. It is the current home of the ARC program which showcases emerging professional talent alongside industry leaders. It is the home of the Fundy Fringe Festival, a signature summer event in our community. Without the BMO Studio, there would be no Loyalist City Shakespeare, which attracts audiences to our historic Place Fort La Tour every summer.

Growth is hard. Sustaining growth and managing change over the long term is even harder.

And I'm proud and pleased to say that our team have managed to work through another tough

year, another season of the challenges brought on by continued growth and change management. The SJTC has for the last decade been involved in a major growth program involving the development of the Atlantic Repertory Company (ARC) program as a home for emerging professional theatre talent, and the new Courthouse Stage on Kings Square. These major strategic initiatives inform everything we do: every decision; every production; every outreach initiative. These forward-thinking cultural initiatives represent the largest investment in the cultural future of our community in decades, and will shape the delivery of performing arts for the next generation.

The word that continues to come to mind is "Brave". Many in our industry talk about theatre as a 'safe' space. Our teams have defined how theatre can be a Brave space. A place of strategic risk taking. A place of constant learning; A place where we can fail... learn from it...get better and move forward. It's a place where, frankly, people must keep up. We have built a large machine and if we stand still for too long it will roll right over us. It takes a degree of bravery to manage in such an environment where change is constant; a place where we define our future; a place where we are the authors of our fate.

And so, I close by expressing my absolute gratitude to all of those who make it possible. The SJTC Board of Directors have generously given of their time and expertise and are important partners in the growth of our organization. The SJTC also boasts a large roster of community volunteers, far too many to list here, who contribute greatly to our success. Through our ARC program and our Guest Artist Programs, the creative work of the SJTC has benefited from the input of leading regional and national artists. Most of all, I am extremely proud of the amazing SJTC staff and leadership teams. Nothing is possible without them, and I assure you, when everything is going well, I give them 100% credit. I am lucky to be able to work alongside such committed, dedicated individuals.

Last, and not least, I thank our many thousands of audience members, donors, funders, and supporters. Like the song says, "Everything we do...we do it for you", and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for another great year.

PHOTO BY ANDREW FINLAY, BEHIND THE SCENES OF ROALD DAHL'S 'CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY', NOVEMBER 2024





# ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

#### **NOV 27 - DEC 1, 2024**

Audiences of all ages were transported into a world of pure imagination as we kicked off the season with this dazzling musical. With stunning visuals, heartwarming lessons, and toe-tapping songs, Willy Wonka and his golden

tickets brought the joy of theatre to thousands, making it a holiday tradition to remember.

PHOTO BY ANDREW FINLAY, BEHIND THE SCENES OF ROALD DAHL'S 'CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTO NOVEMBER 2024

WONDERFUL! SPECTACULAR SHOW! COSTUMES, PROPS, SCENERY! CAST... EVERYTHING WAS INCREDIBLE! THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE!

- SUSAN S







## **PRESENTATION SERIES**

The 2024–2025 Presentation Series showcased the diversity and vitality of live performance at the BMO Theatre. This season's **Presentation Series treated** audiences to four outstanding and world-class performers.

comedy events, one local film premiere, and one cultural showcase: engaging hundreds of audience members and celebrating local voices, diverse stories



#### **TOM HEARN: EAST COAST COMEDY PRIDE TOUR**

#### JULY 18-19, 2024

Originally planned as a two-act performance with comedians Tom Hearn and Ajahnis Charley, unforeseen circumstances left Hearn to take the stage solo. Rising to the occasion, he delivered two nights of unforgettable sketch comedy featuring original characters, musical numbers, and razorsharp impressions proving why he is one of Canada's leading comedic voices.

#### **ZOË LINA COMEAU:** F\*CKING TRANS WOMEN

#### AUGUST 7-9, 2024

Zoë Comeau's powerful one-woman show boldly confronted societal norms and celebrated the experiences of transgender women with honesty, vulnerability, and humour. This thought-provoking performance challenged audiences while offering space for understanding, empathy, and celebration of trans voices.

#### **JAMES MULLINGER:** UNPLANNED. UNSCRIPTED. **OFF THE CUFF**

#### **JANUARY 8-10, 2025**

**Local comedy favourite James** Mullinger returned with a high-energy, unpredictable show where the audience chose the topics, and he created the jokes live. No two performances were alike, ensuring fans who attended multiple nights were treated to brandnew laughs and stories every time.

#### **GOODMAN INC PREMIERE**

#### **APRIL 10, 2025**

The Company also supported local film through the premiere of Goodman Inc, an action-packed thriller by local filmmaker Jeffrey Kelley. This event celebrated homegrown talent and gave audiences a chance to experience Saint John creativity on the big screen.

#### **JAMES MULLINGER & ALI HASSAN: COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA**

#### **JUNE 9-12, 2025**

In one of the season's biggest comedy highlights, James Mullinger teamed up with Ali Hassan, one of Canada's most celebrated stand-up comics and CBC personality, for a sold-out run of shows. Together, they delivered stand-up, improv, life stories, and audience-driven hilarity, cementing the BMO Theatre as a hub for worldclass comedy in the Port City.

#### **UKRAINIAN LEGENDS**

#### **JUNE 27, 2025**

In partnership with the Ukrainian Association of Saint John, Ukrainian Legends transported audiences on a moving cultural journey through history, music, and tradition. With folk songs, dance, and stories guided by the voice of Nestor the Chronicler, this performance celebrated resilience, identity, and the enduring spirit of Ukraine.

PHOTO BY STOOMETZPHOTO. ZOË LINA COMEAU IN 'F\*CKING TRANS WOMEN', AUGUST 2024

# STUDIO SERIES

The Studio Series is dedicated to celebrating everything local, with New Brunswick talent featured both on stage and behind the scenes. This season, the series offered audiences powerful drama and fresh, original works.

#### ARTHUR MILLER'S THE PRICE FEBRUARY 19–22, 2025

Directed by long-time company member Dean Turner and featuring Artistic Director Stephen Tobias, *The Price* brought audiences a deeply moving exploration of family, sacrifice, and reconciliation. When two estranged brothers reunite after their father's passing, their attic becomes a place of reckoning for choices made and futures lost. With empathy, wit, and emotional weight, this Tonynominated play captivated audiences.

GREAT SET, GOOD ACTING, INTERESTING STORY. THANK YOU SJTC FOR THIS NON-MAINSTREAM PRODUCTION."

-ADRIENNE M

#### SCRIPT HAPPENS JUNE 5-7, 2025

Our annual one-act playwriting competition returned to the Studio stage, bringing New Brunswick's emerging playwrights into the spotlight. Nearly 20 scripts were submitted, with three chosen for development and production:

#### THE GUILT THAT FOLLOWS

By Dino Andriani Directed by Jonathan Bruce

#### THE TWO HOUR BRIDE

By Stacey Richards
Directed by Denise McGill

#### PAUL FROWN REALLY GOES FOR IT

By Ryan Griffith Directed by Jason Robertson

Over three nights, 200 audience members experienced an unforgettable showcase of originality, creativity, and collaboration. With local cast and crew bringing these scripts to life, Script Happens once again affirmed the Studio Series as a hub for nurturing and celebrating New Brunswick's talent.





# LIVE @ THE BMO MUSIC SERIES

The Live @ the BMO Music Series has become a cornerstone of our season, offering audiences an intimate and dynamic live music experience. This year's line-up celebrated both local and national talent, with performances that spanned genres and styles from jazz and Company's programming. blues to folk, pop, and classical fusion.

The diverse roster of performers created unforgettable nights of music at the BMO Theatre, drawing in both longtime fans and new audiences, and further establishing the series as a popular and essential part of the Saint John Theatre

#### THE 2024-2025 **SERIES FEATURED:**

CHRISTINA MARTIN QUARTET October 4, 2024

**CHARLIE A'COURT** October 18, 2024

PREEPER, RHAYE & MACKAY October 26, 2024

DEE HERNANDEZ BAND November 9, 2024

SHAUN FERGUSON (ARCf de Saint-Jean) November 30, 2024

RAINE HAMILTON STRING TRIO March 8, 2025

MIKE BIGGAR JAZZ & BLUES REVUE March 29, 2025

**ALFIE ZAPPACOSTA** April 12, 2025

I HAD A FABULOUS EVENING, **SURROUNDED WITH INCREDIBLE MUSIC AND** TALENT, IT WAS OVER TOO SOON!" - CHERYL C

PHOTO BY STEPHEN TOBIAS. MIKE BIGGAR JAZZ AND BLUES REVUE, MARCH 2025



LAST EVENING'S ENCHANTING PRODUCTION OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S 'HAMLET,' AMIDST THE EBB AND FLOW OF THE SAINT JOHN HARBOUR FOG AND EXPERTLY DIRECTED BY SANDRA BELL, STANDS OUT AS THE FINEST I HAVE EXPERIENCED." - BERNARD C

A pre-show Director's Chat with Sandra Bell offered behind-the-scenes insights into abridging the play and exploring gender dynamics in the role of *Hamlet*, followed by a lively Q&A with cast members.

#### **HAMLET**

July 2024 | Avg 162 tickets per show 1,295 tickets total (1 cancellation)

PHOTO BY ANDREW FINLAY. Hamlet at place fort La Tour, July 2024

# FUNDY FRINGE FESTIVAL

The 12th annual Fundy Fringe Festival lit up uptown Saint John from August 19–24, bringing together boundary-pushing performances and a vibrant celebration of independent theatre. This year's eclectic lineup featured 11 productions spanning comedy, drama, music, improv, magic, and experimental theatre.

Highlights included the award-winning All Time Greatest Hits! by Floater Studios, Halifax's Sappho's Garden, Saint John's own *True Johner* and *Jimmy Armageddon*, the sci-fi musical *Space Gas*, and the heartwarming cabaret *It's Good to Be Home*. Performances took place across three uptown venues: the BMO Studio Theatre, Concert Hall, and Sanctuary Theatre.

Attendance was strong, with 649 single tickets sold, 274 multi-show passes, and over 1,000 total attendees, reinforcing the Festival's role as a cornerstone of Saint John's summer arts season.





Through world-class productions and meaningful community engagement, ARC continues to solidify its role as a cornerstone of Saint John's cultural life—nurturing the next generation of artists while building a vibrant stage for the future.

The Atlantic Repertory Company (ARC) staged a landmark production of Waiting for Godot from September 24–29, directed by acclaimed Canadian director Richard Rose. This limited exclusive run featured celebrated Canadian actors R.H. Thomson (Anne with an E, The Woman in Black) and

Eric Peterson (*Corner Gas, Street Legal*), supported by ARC ensemble members Kenzie Delo and Patrick Jeffrey.

Beckett's existential masterpiece came alive in Saint John, blending humour, peril, and profound reflection on the human condition. The production drew over 700 attendees, including a special student matinee with nearly 70 students admitted free of charge. ARC also partnered with Outflow to host a preshow discussion, connecting the play's themes of waiting and survival to the realities of the local housing crisis.

### BUILDING SKILLS, INSPIRING ARTISTS

ARC Academy empowers Atlantic Canada's emerging theatre artists through hands-on training led by respected professionals. This year's workshop series kicked off with Master Your Monologue with Caroline Bell (April 26, 2025) followed by Stage Combat 101 with Jean-Michel Cliche (May 10, 2025). Both sessions provided engaging learning experiences designed for both aspiring actors and theatre enthusiasts.

I ENJOYED THIS WORKSHOP IMMENSELY. I LEARNED A LOT AND I'M STILL AMAZED AT WHAT WE COULD ALL DO BY THE END OF THAT DAY! I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT ARC IS OFFERING ACTING/STAGECRAFT WORKSHOPS."

- WINLUCK W

## COURTHOUSE THEATRE TRANSFORMATION



## FINANCIAL **POSITION**

Managing for growth can be difficult. As we continue to evolve the organization in anticipation of managing the new Courthouse Stage venue, financial pressures are part of the growing pains. Additional costs have been created by the administrative burdens of managing the growth of the Atlantic Repertory Company and the Courthouse Stage.

Box office revenues never come close to covering costs, which puts additional pressure on funders and donors to create balanced budgets. This season generated a significant single-year deficit, but the company remains on sound financial footing, having achieved strong surpluses in recent years. We remain committed to growth while creating sustainable financial models through strong programming, enhanced donor and funder support, diversified fundraising, and prudent financial management.

Grants and public funding represented a significant share of total revenue, complemented by vital support from sponsorships, advertising, and private donations. Together, these contributions demonstrate the importance of community investment in sustaining our mission and programming.

On the expense side, the majority of resources were directed toward production and essential

operations, reflecting our commitment to artistic quality, organizational stability, and responsible financial stewardship.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations for the 2024-2025 Season.

## **FUNDING MILESTONES**

A major highlight this year was the funding announcement for the transformation of the historic Sydney Street Courthouse into a theatre space. Through the federal government's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program as well as the Province of New Brunswick and the City of Saint John, support was secured to help bring this long-anticipated project to life. The investment was celebrated at a community event hosted by SJTC in the fall, with government and city representatives joining to mark the start of an exciting new chapter for this landmark building.

Our Staging the Future Endowment campaign is both a source of pride and a cornerstone of our sustainability. This past year, over \$40,000 in new contributions helped the fund grow, providing a reliable stream of income that strengthens our ability to deliver ambitious productions and meaningful community programs today. At the same time, the campaign represents a

powerful investment in the future, ensuring that our theatre will continue to thrive and inspire for generations to come. The value of the SJTC endowment fund is \$298,297.70 (as of Jan. 2025).

Thanks to the generous support of our funding partners, work is now underway on the installation of a much-needed, energy-efficient HVAC system at the BMO Studio Theatre. Backed by contributions from the Government of Canada (ACOA), Canadian Heritage, the Province of New Brunswick, and The Crabtree Foundation, this investment will replace outdated infrastructure with a modern system designed to improve comfort, reduce energy use, and strengthen year-round operations for audiences, artists, and staff alike. The installation will be complete in the summer of 2025.

Our annual Spring Appeal continues to be a vital part of our fundraising efforts, inviting the community to invest directly in the future of our theatre. This year's campaign highlighted the impact of donor support in expanding our team, staging more ambitious productions, and strengthening our community presence. Contributions to the appeal help ensure that our programming remains vibrant, accessible, and sustainable as we move forward into our next season. \$32,289 was raised in this campaign.

The generous support of our corporate partners, government funders, and individual donors continues to play a vital role in our success. This collective investment represents a significant portion of our total revenue and enables us to

deliver ambitious productions, expand community programs, and keep the arts accessible to all. We are deeply grateful for this shared commitment to sustaining and growing our theatre.

### **SUPPORTERS**

**Arts Culture NB Arts NB BMO Canadian Heritage Commercial Properties Limited Colliers International** Crabtree **Envision Saint John** Imperial Theatre Foundation

**James Venner Russell Foundation Province of NB** J.D. Irving Limited

**New Brunswick Children's Foundation Pannell Family Foundation Province of New Brunswick RBC Emerging Artists Sussex Area Community Foundation The Community Foundation** The Murdock Palmer Team of BMO Nesbitt Burns

**Tim Hortons Port Saint John Saint John Exhibition Association** Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception **Socan Foundation Source Atlantic** Sun Life Financial



## **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### SAINT JOHN THEATRE COMPANY INC.

Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2025

		2025	2024	
ASSETS				
CURRENT Cash Term deposit Accounts receivable Harmonized sales tax recoverable Prepaid expenses	s	714,953 18,536 83,275 36,812	s	748,257 150,000 395 12,876 47,354
CAPITAL ASSETS (Notes 4, 5, 7)	_	853,576 4,690,864		958,882 3,757,473
	<u>s</u>	5,544,440	\$	4,716,355
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT Accounts payable Employee deductions payable Deferred revenue (Note 6) Current portion of long term debt (Note 7)	\$	51,352 12,879 823,612	s	35,379 10,729 829,430 15,303
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 8)		887,843 4,355,141		890,841 3,414,506
ASSETS (Hote of	_	5,242,984		4,305,347
NET ASSETS				
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2	301,456		411,008
	s	5,544,440	s	4,716,355

COMMITMENT (Note 10)

Director

#### SAINT JOHN THEATRE COMPANY INC.

#### Statement of Operations Year Ended June 30, 2025

		2025		2024
REVENUE				
Ticket sales	S	360,409	\$	488,08
Government grants (Note 9)		254,962	~	199,91
Courthouse project administration recoveries		197,730		116,85
Sponsorships		108,500		140,50
Foundations		76,360		121,46
Donations		72,106		62,78
Advertising		36,745		32,68
Refreshments				
3 4 4 4 5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5		20,545		14,22
In-kind contributions		18,000		21,70
Facility rental		15,461		11,36
Endowment grants (Note 11)		9,794		9,79
Other	_	7,330		7,15
		1,177,942		1,226,53
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries and benefits		578,038		495,41
Capital campaign costs		141,225		105,67
Production costs		118,733		152,02
Outside facility costs		116,477		137,50
Guest artists and performer fees		96,392		105,73
Professional fees		58,456		53,13
Advertising and promotion		39,530		41,47
Utilities		22,354		20,48
Office (Note 10)		20,618		13,86
Repairs and maintenance		18,519		13,72
Service charges		12,143		5,26
Insurance				
		11,541		9,63
Programs		10,785		9,84
Miscellaneous		9,783		9,81
Refreshments		8,162		6,23
Telephone		6,152		5,19
Volunteer and sponsor recognition		3,898		4,17
Interest on long term debt	-	174		1,552
Gr.	_	1,272,980		1,190,748
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		35-27-25-26-7		552300m
BEFORE NET AMORTIZATION		(95,038)		35,788
SET AMORTIZATION				
Amortization of capital assets		64,096		70,465
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 8)	_	(49,582)		(52,472
		14,514		17,993
XCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	S	(109,552)	S	17,795

