



June 2008

Volume 20, Issue 6

# VMC Newsletter

**Victoria Magic Circle – Ernie Crockford Ring #183**

## UPCOMING DATES:

- **VMC Monthly Meeting** will be held Tuesday, **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at The Langford Fire Hall
- **Magic Youth Meeting**, Friday, **June 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2008 ~ 7:00 at Murray's Trick & Joke Shop
- **Round Table Meeting** Monday, **June 16<sup>th</sup>**, 2008 7:00, at The Malahat Lounge
- **VMC Annual Picnic**, July date TBA at the Selkirk Guesthouse, 934 Selkirk Avenue

## INSIDE:

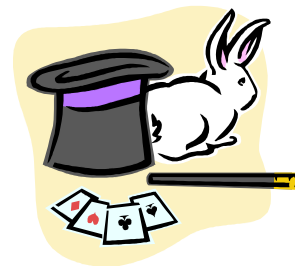
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## June 3rd Monthly Meeting

### Featuring:

- ~ INDUCTION OF NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS
- ~ WHAT'S MY STYLE – Lucas Kavanagh
- ~ TEACH A TRICK – Murray Hatfield
- ~ SHOW TIME ACTIVITIES – David Mohr
- ~ REFRESHMENTS – Shayne King



## VMC Annual Barbeque

*VMC Annual Barbeque*



Mark it on your calendars, folks:

The VMC Annual Barbeque/Picnic will be held **Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>** this year, from 2:00 to 5:00-ish, at the home of Lynne (and Norm) Jackson, aka 'Sparkle the Clown'. Their home is, in fact, 'The Selkirk Guest House' at 934 Selkirk Avenue, Victoria.

This is a great yearly event and is FREE to VMC members and families, and MYI are invited too. So plan on bringing your kids, parents, spouse, and join us for this summer rendezvous.

**George Pruden** will once again be at the helm, shopping and cooking for the BBQ. Thank you George, you did a great job last year and we know we will be well-fed again and enjoying a good social time. George, do not hesitate to ask for help 😊 !



Paul Kilshaw

# THE PREZ SEZ.

Well June is here, along with your last official news-bite from *Yours Truly* as I sit and gear up for Mirth and Magic. I cannot help but reflect on all that has happened to us as a Club over the past year. I also look ahead to sharing more great times with you all.

Throughout the year many members have been singled out to be given thanks and pats on the back for 'a job well done' in serving our Club's objectives. Beyond this (this is important!) I would **also** like to extend **thanks to each and every one of you for all the efforts that have made such a magical year!** Collectively even the smallest contribution can make a world of difference when it comes to putting on the events. Help and support keeps coming in and I appreciate it all.

With that said, here are a few future dates to take note of : This year's VMC Picnic/ BBQ on **Saturday, July 12th 2008 , from 2:00 pm till 5pm-ish** (see page 1 for full details)...Also Don't forget that on **May 28th we have lecturer Bill Abbott** coming to Victoria at the Malahat room Starting at 7:00 Pm Sharp. Please park in the upper lots behind the Ramada Inn.

**In conversation with Bill he is also performing two public shows while in Victoria: Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31 at Saanich Baptist Church, 4347 Wilkinson Road, Victoria. There's a notice on the sign at the church, and also on their website. Tickets are ten dollars and can be purchased through the church. More info can be found at <http://www.saanichbaptist.org/>. This is a special opportunity to see the material you will have learned at the lecture manifest in a live performance, so go get your tickets and keep the magic happening!**



Bill Abbott



## Still Seeking Newsletter Editor

*Still Seeking Newsletter Editor*

Hi Folks, due to returning to work part-time and other volunteer commitments, I am retiring from the Newsletter Editor position at the end of June © ...please consider taking on this special job! With no volunteers coming forward at this point, President-Elect Rob Brown has decided he will 'give it a go' this summer with a couple of smaller, special issues, but with his busy upcoming Presidential duties he would prefer another member help out with this instead, so if you would like to make a huge (and essential) contribution to the Club, and are contemplating learning a new skill or bringing current skills to the task, please contact Rob at [ring183vp@islandnet.com](mailto:ring183vp@islandnet.com)



On Monday May 19th, about one dozen magicians convened at the Round to discuss Rope Magic -- led by Shayne King.

We all brought rope, scissors etc. Shayne performed some very interesting magic, taking the time to carefully explain the various ways of doing it. Paul & Murray suggested anyone interested in Rope magic should pick up the book ' Encyclopedia of Rope Magic' .

The next Round Table session will be at **7:00pm, Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Malahat Lounge ~ Building #105 Gorge Road East. Buzz #80 to be let in to the building and head up to the Penthouse.

The June Round Table topic is TBA, and rumor has it that it will be led by Dave Attwood!

Looking forward to the next Round Table. See you all there!

Submitted by Richard Herbert

# The Tony Trophy Night

Though we all missed Tony's presence terribly, we enjoyed each other's presence more dearly than usual at the well-attended Tony Trophy Competition which took place at our May monthly meeting.

Canada's amazing Magicienne (and out-of-town VMC member) Julie Eng came in her dad's stead, and shared thoughts and thanks from the family for our support during the precious final days of Tony's life. The evening was hosted by Cool Magic Dude Eric Bedard, who also delivered some good words and stories that brought smiles and tears to our faces. We also heard from Ron Bell, Murray Hatfield and Doug Poruchny who shared memories and feelings about Victoria's Ambassador of Magic, Tony Eng.

We ate good food and raised either a glass of bubbly or a can of Coke (Tony's favourite) in honour of Tony too!

The Tony Trophy Close-up Magic competition of 2008 was the best yet with a full slate of competitors, and the grand honour of winning the award went to one of our youngest members, **Lucas Kavanagh** (yes, I spelled your name correctly, Lucas, heheh!). Congratulations Lucas, another much deserved award for your magic portfolio!

Joy Kruger



above: Competitor Lucas Kavanagh

below: Julie Eng presents winner Lucas Kavanagh with the Tony Trophy



left: Competitor Hugh Livingstone and volunteer Bob Smith



right: Doug Poruchny speaks of Tony



right: Eric Bedard, stepped in as MC when it was apparent Tony would not be able to. Eric speaks of Tony.



above: Ron Bell speaks of Tony



left: Competitor Ben L'Heureux appears as Ben Eng, distant cousin of Tony Eng. Tony got a real kick out of the first appearance of his 'distant cousin' last year!!



right: Competitor Shayne King



below: Competitor Steve Hignett and volunteer Ryan Stanley



below: Competitor Charles Morgan and three volunteers: guests June Slack, Winnie Cooper, and Ryan Stanley's guest, Tanya



above: Competitor Ray Parker and Ryan Stanley's guest, Tanya



# Celebrating Tony Eng

The excerpts (ultra-condensed from their original sources) on this two-page spread are compiled from the dozens of well-wishes and memories shared so far in on-line guestbooks.

If you have not yet visited these websites/guestbooks, visit the main page of [www.victoriamagiccircle.com](http://www.victoriamagiccircle.com) for the links.

I think it's nearly 45 years since I first met Tony and knowing you all has been a continuing joy. Let's keep that joy alive. Tony has left delightfully indelible memories with us all! ...we have been touched by his humour and gentle nature. Our last memories of him were happy ones...singing and playing guitar at the Wades. He was such a sweet man and I know he will always be near to all those who knew and loved him. I think his life was a life well lived!... I never saw him without a smile and a trick up his sleeve...He could entertain an audience of 1 or 1000 with the same energy, wit and showmanship that leaves all other performers jealous with envy...His precise sleight of hand was matched and exceeded only by his role as a mentor, entrepreneur, friend and father.....I hold such respect and regard for the man, his interest in people, and the pleasure he gave. His personal touch mirrored so much that was joy and reflected such vitality....Tony was known to us as an ambassador to good thoughts and wellness brought on by wonder, to arms-wide care and his awareness of us all being connected....he was a man who with a twist of a wrist and a flip of a card made the world stand still for us...He was a good friend and will have a lasting place in my heart always...we hired Tony for a number of events (including my surprise 60th birthday party) and never failed to be impressed with his professionalism but more so by his warmth of personality and obvious joy of life and amazing ability to connect with people of all ages...He was a real treasure and will stay in my memory forever ...Thanks Tony (Frank) for the special memories - the jokes and tricks at 'The Beacon Cafe' and at school - and that scary night when you, Reg and I rolled that old Austin... how we survived I'll never know. We love you Tony, your smile, your spirit and your integrity...a wonderful entertainer, friend and community leader. Tony charmed those of us who were fortunate to know him, as far back as the Beacon Cafe in Sidney...in those high school days, he would eagerly demonstrate his latest magic trick and when asked to show how he did the trick, the grin that would come over his face as he gleefully refused to divulge his newest secret...I know that Tony was extremely proud of his family though a humble man by nature...I consider myself extremely privileged to be able to call him a friend...



Tony & his prized bust/trophy, 2007

We were fortunate to have Tony touch our lives...I had to learn magic from this amazing man...The man was a living legend...I'll never forget Tony...He was a wonderful person, magician & friend...Tony Eng was a very special man. He was everybody's friend, always quick to help magicians with tricks, advice etc...I'm sure he is somewhere doing magic and fishing...It seemed like all of Victoria knew him and that is a rare thing these days...His close up magic right before our eyes was truly amazing...Having lived next door for the last five years, we have come to appreciate his warmth, humanity, humour and love of life. We will miss seeing his smiling face at our door offering a juicy bone for our dog, Dora. Tony made every day special and showed many others how to as well. We will think of him often... His good nature, humor, magic tricks and friendship will be cherished forever in our memories. Until we all meet again Tony, dazzle the Big Guy with your tricks!.. ....My daughter was his student, my son the beneficiary of his skill and I was an admirer of his professional style... Tony Eng is the reason I got back into magic. His enthusiasm was contagious. He was a



Tony watches the Tony Competitors, 2007 ~ Murray Hatfield & Frank Sanz sit background

mentor and a friend to many... For having known Tony I am not only a better magician, but a better man...His true magic was in the way he inspired and instilled confidence and pride in the many students and staff he worked with... Not only did he teach us how to mix drinks, he taught all of us many life lessons and at a time when I desperately needed some brightness in my life, he supplied it... With so much love and laughter surrounding him, Tony was particularly blessed. The Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association was completely enriched by his passion for fly fishing and magic! He and Ann brought so much fun to our gatherings over the years... Tony was one of the great mentors of our time. We "roasted" each other on many occasions in many shows and events. My friend for 30 years. Never equaled. Forever remembered... He was always full of amazing magic, a great showman, but above all, generous, loves to share and a super nice guy... I will remember the experience of fishing with Tony on Prospect Lake always smiling and having a good time. He was truly a man who loved



life... We will never forget Tony and his kindness and how well he treated us when we were on tour... Tony Eng was my teacher, my mentor, an all around wonderful person and above all a great friend... He will live on in our thoughts and in our hearts forever... You're the reason I live in Victoria now and strive to live up to the standards you set. Your teachings have made me a better magician and your example will continue to make me a better person... We will always have great memories of working with Tony and Ann sharing the billing for stage shows. Tony was the consummate professional and a pleasure to work with. His smile and great humor will forever be with us... Tony, keep practicing that guitar, man - we'll jam together in heaven!.. Tony helped guide and shape the performer and person I am today and for that I will always be grateful...Our love and prayers are with you...

Tony receives his Life Membership in the Spring of 2007 ~ 06-07 Prez Joy Kruger is left, and TVP David Wilson is right

# Victoria's Ambassador of Magic and Friendship

...a true gentleman whom everyone loved, but also a world class magical entertainer... Thank you for the magical gift you have given me, and the friendship we have shared... He made everyone feel special...Loved his shows... fond memories of his ever-present kindness and happy, somewhat mischievous sparkle in his eyes... He has touched the lives of so many people and been such an inspiration, that it is certain he will not soon be forgotten... It is a comfort to know that Tony's spark of brilliance still lives on in both of his lovely daughters, Sandra and Julie... His infectious laugh and crooked smile was that of a mischievous leprechaun, bent on enjoying life to the fullest. He was a true friend who left us with so many fond memories... I have always remained in awe of Tony, from his wonderful humor, right down to the way he could nibble every last bit off of a chicken wing bone... Tony was a wonderful man, whose love of life, his humour, sense of fun and connection to all who knew him, will be a lasting legacy... Tony was a fine gentleman, and we were honoured to have him play such an important and joyful part of many, many, conventions here in Victoria... We all loved Tony, he made us laugh and was one of the most wonderful people we have the honor to know in the magic circle... Tony was a wonderful gentleman, as well as an extraordinarily talented magician. I will remember him always for his



Tony & Dave Wilson at the VMC Picnic last year.

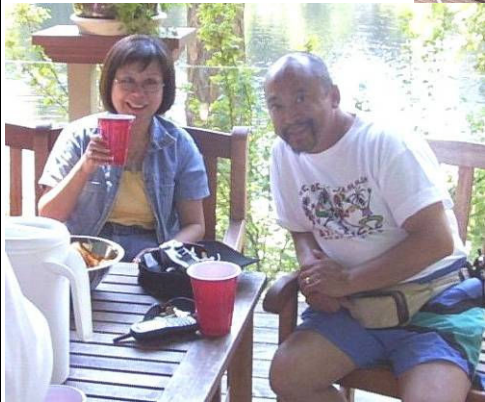
great good humor, his kindness, and his enthusiasm... I had the honor of being Tony's friend for thirty years and during that time I learned more things from him than can ever be written. He will be missed and remembered by many forever... a Mentor, and a True Friend... he helped me out when I was down and out by letting me do work at his home and he made these time special making me breakfast I don't think I will ever find a friend as special as him ever again... You were a legend in Victoria as one of our most magnificent entertainers. Your positive attitude and great humor brought smiles to so many... The world needs men like Tony Eng... the magic community has lost a fine performer and human being... Tony touched the lives of so many others and gave them the gift of many happy memories... Tony your positive energy and exemplary living has touched so many lives, and your teaching and advice and camaraderie with fellow magicians has made so many careers and friendships flourish!... We will always cherish the fond memories of family times we had with Tony who made us laugh and cry at his antics... From the first time I met him to the last day I saw him Tony was a man full of laughter... Tony inspired me to not only learn magic but to be happy in life... A true gentleman and superb performer. Tony was a friend to everyone he met. Many young magicians (and older ones, too) will long remember his help and the love for magic that he shared... I hold dear the memories that Tony spent with me as a boy teaching me magic. What a wonderful teacher!.. Many years ago my mother would take us to the Sherwood Hotel on the Gorge for dinner and to enjoy Tony's magic show. I remember every time we went, I was so determined to figure out at least one of his tricks, but never could... Tony, will definitely miss your magic & positive attitude to life. Also, will miss those racquetball games with you at the Y!.. Tony you touched many hearts in Victoria and you gave kids that sparkle of fantasy in you magic and teaching,.. Tony not only mentored magicians but saved careers (and I daresay lives!) setting people onto the path of success with his advice and inspirations... Years ago, Tony stole my watch while performing at our table at Japanese Village... I know that Tony is doing some magic tricks in heaven with my dad cheering him on... I remember going into his shop as a kid and being mystified by his over-the-counter performances. A great man who will be missed... You have left your mark and happy spirit within our Tea room for always... You have left a trail of happiness... Tony showed me several tricks and then said "bring me a blank video tape and I'll see what I can do for you", I still have that tape as one of my prize possessions, that's the sort of man Tony was.. Tony was a true Ambassador of magic! I consider him my father in magic and I will greatly miss him... . Not only was he a supportive and involved dad, in a variety of ways he was quick to volunteer his time and talent to building community around our school... My family really enjoyed the times we had together and coming over to your place for dinner... Tony gave me great advice in running my magic shop in Portland... I am a couple of years older than Tony but he still managed to teach me new things,.. I lived in Prince George for about 4 years ten years ago, and Tony would always give me a call when he was in town and give me front row tickets for his show.... When I was a teenager playing with latex and wax, creating make-up fx from all the cool stuff Tony would show me at the store, I never thought back then, in the late 80's, that it would lead me to an award-winning career in the movie business! Tony, you gave me the inspiration to follow a dream and I'll always remember how awesome you were, how great of a guy you were. God bless you Tony! ...Tony was the kind of guy around whom you felt better about life, no matter what was going on. He always lived it flat out and had fun doing it. We will miss him greatly...

...Tony was a gentleman in every sense of the word... I first met Tony last year at the Comox Racquetball tournament. He entertained all of us with his music and magic and made the tournament extra special... You inspired me 19 years ago to become a magician and fostered my love of magic every time I came in. I still look back fondly upon my time spent in your store. Just yesterday I walked by where the store used to be and smiled inside... Tony, you were always a great addition to all of our campouts with the Victoria Wanderers as well as a good friend... Tony was a mentor, a colleague, a father figure to me, a big brother and at times an impish little brother. He was the cement that held our Magic community together, and an inspiration to magicians everywhere. He was a very dear friend and it hurts my heart that he is gone. He is deeply missed...

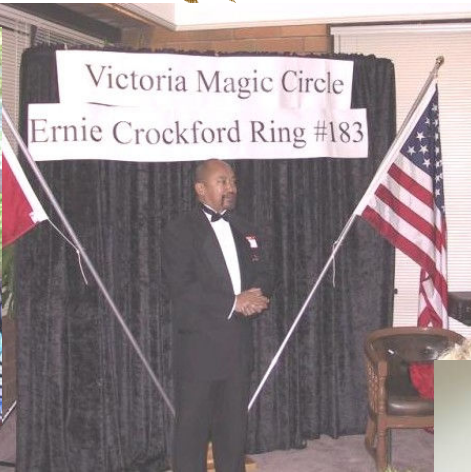


Tony performs at the Annual Dinner, 2005?

# ..more Fun Times with Tony!



Tony & Ann Eng enjoy the Annual VMC BBO at Jennifer Burke's home 2003



above: Tony officiates as TVP during the visit of IBM President Bob Escher (2001/2002)



Tony at the Tony Trophy competition in 2007, with Ben L'Heureux, Kirklan Lum, Ron Bell, Eric Bedard & Shayne King



Tony vanishes a coin at the Annual Dinner in 2003

below: Tony stands behind the scenes at PCAM 2006 with Ron Bell, Chris Yuill, Shayne King, Brian Cook, and Eric Bedard



above: Tony with 'distant cousin', Ben Eng



left: Tony visits with Anna Crockford during Bob Escher's visit, 2001/2002

# ..and more Fantastic magic!..

"SOUR MILK" By Jay Sankey [sankeymagic.com](http://sankeymagic.com)



Jay Sankey

I've only ever done this five or six times as an after dinner effect for friends, but it was a BIG hit and it's dead simple so be sure to try it soon! To prepare, you need to grab one of those small plastic creamers from the restaurant several days before you plan to perform this effect. Leave the unopened creamer sitting out on your kitchen counter instead of putting it in the fridge, and then bring it with you to the restaurant.

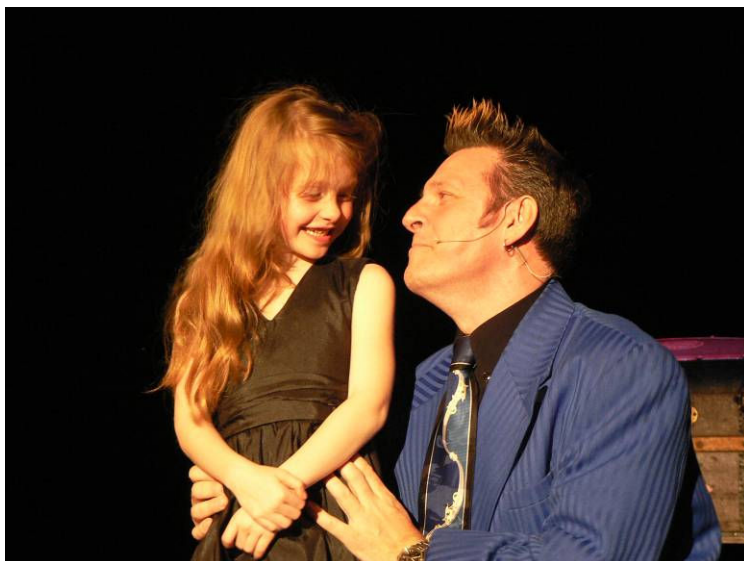
After dinner, when people order coffee and tea, ask the waitress to bring a few extra creamers. Around this time, secretly get the old creamer into your lap. When the other creamers arrive, have one freely selected and handed to you. Under cover of placing the creamer under your napkin, switch it for the old creamer and leave the selected creamer in your lap. After wrapping up the old creamer in the napkin, hand the small bundle to someone to hold. Ask another spectator to name a number "between ten and twenty." Whichever number they name, announce that you will send the creamer "forward in time" that number of days. After a few magical gestures tell your friends that "it's done." When they don't believe you, ask someone to open the creamer and SMELL IT. They will find it is now gone sour. Notes: In Toronto there are only two or three popular brands of creamers that most of the restaurants seem to use so it would be easy enough for me to keep a handful of each brand at home, but I'm not that organized! A few times I have grabbed TWO creamers, kept them both at home, and then opened one just before going to dinner to make absolutely sure they have gone bad.

(Reprinted with permission from Jay Sankey) Submitted by Rob Brown

a few pictures from  
**Mirth & Magic**  
see page 8 for the write-up!



*left:* Teresa Midbo receives the Assistant of the Year award from Shawn Farquhar.  
*above:* Paul Kilshaw presents the Wansborough Trophy to winner Donald Dunphy  
*right:* Alex Day performs his manipulation routine in the showcase  
*left:* David Mohr (Odge Podge) emotes with his bird buddy  
*below right:* Steve Hignett dazzles with multiplying booze bottles  
*below left:* Hannah & her daddy Shawn are kiddin' around





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## A Message from MURRAY'S TRICK & JOKE SHOP

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Dear fellow Magi,

As I sit down to write this I am acutely aware of the loss of our friend, and the man who made the Tony's/Murray's Trick and Joke Shop what it was and is. Not a day goes by without some reminder of the incredible impact that Tony has had on both the magic community and the city of Victoria as a whole. While this has brought a great deal of sadness it has also made me realize how much joy and happiness that Tony and Ann created in this very special place. I'm truly thankful and honoured to have the opportunity to carry on their tradition...

As we begin gearing up for tourist season we have a number of new items in the shop as follows;

**Card in Can** - This is a powerful effect that is exactly what it sounds like. The magician has someone select a card and as a receipt, tears a corner from the card and gives it to the spectator to hold. The magician then loses/burns/destroys the card and attempts to find/restore it. When this fails the magician introduces a Can of Peas into the mix which is opened by the spectator to find a restored card with one corner missing. This of course perfectly matches the corner held by the spectator. Comes with 10 prepared Cans and everything you need to perform.

**Alpha Cards** - Heat sensitive, REUSABLE color changing cards! Hold an Alpha Card in your hand, and it will magically change from spades to hearts! If you wave it in the air, the

card will change back to spades. No setup or reset required. Just add a little body heat to the special playing card. This is a brand new technology for magicians. It looks like real magic!

**Split Spade Deck** - SPLIT SPADES playing cards are recognized as must-haves among magicians and card players - a true collector's item. The latest edition, the LION DECK, is once again personally designed by David Blaine, in collaboration with renowned artist Mark Stutzman. Printed in limited quantities.

Also back in stock are wiregrams, spongeball toolbox, loops, heart to heart, and many more.

See you at the shop...  
Murray..

## Mirth & Magic

May 23rd at the Isabel Reader Theatre

Our sell-out Mirth & Magic 2008 was dedicated to **Tony Eng**, and the magic was preceded by a beautifully staged Broken Wand ceremony honouring Tony. Tony's wife **Ann Eng**, daughter **Sandra Eng** and mother **Mary Eng** were in the audience to enjoy the show and to take in the

Broken Wand Ceremony. Ron Bell asked all the magicians to stand while he read aloud some words that guided us in prayer contemplating Tony's passing. Thank you **President Paul Kilshaw** and **Ron Bell** for presenting this ceremony. How apropos to start out the night with gratitude for, and remembrance of, one of Victoria's treasures, **Tony Eng**.

Then it was 'On With Mirth & Magic 2008!' We enjoyed MC **Murray Hatfield** as he 'passed the wand from magician to magician' throughout the night with his contagious energy. Thank you to our Wansborough Comedy Magic Trophy competitors: **Steve Hignett**, **David Mohr**, **Ben L'Heureux**, **Donald Dunphy** and **Kirklan Lum** for the great variety of magical entertainment you provided, and congratulations to **Donald Dunphy** for winning the trophy this year; it's about time your name was engraved onto that trophy base! What a stellar 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the show: thank you **Murray Hatfield**, **Alex Day**, **Lucas Kavanagh**, **Cool Magic Dude Eric Bedard**, and **Shawn, Lori & Hannah Farquhar** for dazzling us with your personalities and talent!

Apart from great magic, Shawn Farquhar presented the Lottie Hemeon Award of Excellence (Assistant of the Year). Congratulations to this year's recipient, Murray Hatfield & Teresa's '**Teresa Midbo**' who was indeed present to receive it. *Teresa, for those of us who have had any window into what you do, your immense talent, dedication, insights & perfectionism in production, choreography, teamwork and performance is beyond the word of 'assistant' -- you are star-quality in all these areas, and more!*

From the audience's perspective, the M&M show came off without a hitch because of our focussed and hard-working crew: **Carolyn Sadowska** & **Ryan Stanley** our stage managers, **Don Cyr** and **Hal Weaver** our stage hands, **Justin Louie** on follow-spot and **Frank Sanz** on sound, and **David Wilson** for helping during the tech rehearsal with mics and such! Thanks as well to this year's M&M Producer and ticket sales coordinator **Paul Kilshaw**, program designer David Mohr, and thank you to **Nick Schols** (*Nick the Entertainer*) for providing live music before the show and during intermission.