

Pallett bids adieu to MAC

By TOM MICHIBATA
Staff

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Mississauga's Laurie Pallett will still be applauding the local arts — only she'll be doing it from the audience.

Pallett, a stalwart supporter, and promoter, of the arts is saying an official good-bye after 17 years of service as Mississauga Arts Council's (MAC) executive director. She leaves early next month.

"For some time now and after long and considered thought, I have decided that it's time for a change for myself," Pallett wrote to MAC's board last winter.

"I guess you could say it's the end of an era," said Pallett this week, acknowledging that her thirst for new challenges and goals motivated her to call it quits.

She'll stay with MAC for the remainder of August to tie up loose ends.

"I have been considering a change — it's good for me. I decided to leave before the season started (in September).

The 56-year-old who grew up in

Mississauga, feels she's leaving at a good time because MAC's foundation is solid.

"I have full confidence that the MAC board will find an executive director with vision and leadership to take them into the next century.

"The council is responsive (to arts groups) — we feel we were there for them. Members have stayed loyal. I see only great things for MAC in the future," Pallett said.

Pallett's notable achievements in the local arts community are numerable.

She was involved in the creation of Meadowvale Theatre, the Art Gallery of Mississauga, the annual Mississauga Arts Awards, Mississauga Arts Festival and most recently ArtsWest which informs arts and entertainment aficionados about what's going on in Halton and Peel.

Pallett was also instrumental in the start-up of the Living Arts Centre (LAC).

Pallett reviews her years with MAC as "rich and rewarding".

"My years have been very significant

and treasured ones for me. I have been honored to have been a part of the development and growth of our city.

Merle Zoerb, past MAC president, says Pallett will be sorely missed.

"We the citizens of this city have lost one of the best arts ambassadors," Zoerb said.

"From the inception of the arts council, Laurie was key to making this organization grow with the city."

MAC president Dominic Hay wishes Pallett the best.

"This is a terrific and happy decision for Laurie that will allow her to

explore her interests and grow into new responsibilities."

At this point Pallett won't admit to having any coals in the fire but she did say that she's leaving the door open for avenues outside out of the arts.

"I will take a look at myself and the steps I want to take."

Yet, she said intends to keep herself in the circle because her family will remain strong arts supporters.

"Growing up there was always arts in my family. I learned to play the piano and organ. It was always part of what we were."



PALLETT