



MEDIA RELEASE

JANUARY 13, 2010

“VOICES OF THE TOWN”

Travelling Vaudeville Exhibition Created by the Peterborough Museum & Archives is Featured at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) is pleased to announce that a travelling exhibition created in-house, and entitled “Voices of the Town: Vaudeville in Canada,” is currently on display at the Elgin & Winter Garden Theatres (E&WGT) in Toronto. Arranged in partnership with Theatre Museum Canada, the exhibit will be made available for viewing at the E&WGT until the end of January 2010.

The pairing of the PMA’s exhibit with this exquisitely restored, national historic site is a superb combination, as it lends a tangible, heightened dimension to the exhibit. The photographs of Vaudeville performers, from the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio images, appear right at home in the theatres’ Palladium Lounge, where an original stage set panel from the Elgin’s Vaudeville days is also on display.

Creation of the travelling exhibit was made possible by a grant from Canadian Heritage, and was completed in 2004. Since then, it has already travelled to museums across the country before arriving in Toronto. From the start however, it was hoped that the exhibit would be displayed at the Elgin at some point--as it is one of the few vaudeville era theatres still standing in Canada. The Elgin and Winter Garden theatre has the added distinction of being the last operating double-decker theatre in the world. It is owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Arrangements to ship and set up the exhibit in the theatre lounge was provided by the Toronto-based Theatre Museum Canada, whose mandate is “to share the wonder of Canada’s rich theatre legacy with Canadians and theatre enthusiasts everywhere”. (For more info about this organization, see: <http://www.theatremuseumcanada.ca>).

Viewing “Voices of the Town” at the E&WGT is possible for patrons attending a show at the theatre, or as part of a guided theatre tour. Tours are available Thursdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. Tour Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors. Group tours are available by reservation – call 416-314-2871. See the website for more visitor information at: <http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca>.

-30-

Media Contacts

Michelle Watson: mdwatson@peterborough.ca

Jon Oldham: joldham@peterborough.ca

tel: (705) 743-5180 fax: (705) 743-2614

