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Ceremony marks opening of White Rock Players Club's 77th season

# Oceana PARC Playhouse formally named

Alex Browne  
 Staff reporter

The home of the White Rock Players Club was officially renamed last week.

The city's oldest functioning performance space, the theatre – originally opened in 1960 at 1532 Johnston Rd. – is now known as the Oceana PARC Playhouse.

The change comes as the result of a naming rights partnership between the club and PARC Retirement Living, parent company of the Oceana PARC building, located a block away, at 1575 George St.

Although new signage was installed at the playhouse earlier this year, formal announcement of the new name came Friday (Sept. 30) at a pre-show reception in the lobby.

The occasion also marked the gala opening of the 2022-23 season, the 77th for the club, with the debut of Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville*, a comedy loosely based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes novel *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Among those present for a ribbon-cutting were Oceana PARC general manager Michael Traquair, senior living specialist Bette Hutchinson, White Rock Players Club president Rebekah MacEwan and Tony Baena, CEO and president of PARC Retirement Living.



Oceana PARC general manager Michael Traquair, White Rock Players Club president Rebekah MacEwan and Oceana PARC senior living specialist Bette Hutchinson were among those on-hand for the formal renaming of the White Rock Playhouse, Sept. 30. (Alex Browne photo)

ment Living.

In remarks to the crowd, Baena noted that the playhouse is “practically next door to Oceana PARC” and that it provides the independent living facility's 220 residents with the opportunity to enjoy cultural and performing arts right on their doorstep – and perhaps even become involved as volunteers.

He said that while the company

reached its decision to partner with WRPC in February of 2020, that had been “just days” before the COVID-19 emergency and subsequent lock-down were declared, and it was decided appropriate to hold off on the announcement until the club – originally founded in 1944 – could return to full production.

MacEwan, who said the club “deeply

values the support of another pillar in our community,” noting that the 2022-23 season is the first full-season attempted in three years since the announcement of COVID restrictions.

“We have five shows and we also have other folks who come in and rent our facility during the year,” she said.

Contributions Oceana PARC has made locally – since the building's opening in 2019 – include \$1.2M to the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, annual support of the Peace Arch Foundation Gala, Sources Gala, White Rock Concerts at the Pier and South Surrey and White Rock Chamber events.

Oceana PARC also played an instrumental role in the fundraising campaign to repair the damaged White Rock Pier.

WRPC previously had a naming rights partnership with Coast Capital Savings, and the theatre was known as the Coast Capital Playhouse from its renovation in early 2006 until March of 2019.

*Baskerville*, directed by Thomas Gage and starring Tina Teeninga, Fred Partridge, Scott Campbell, Bryce Mills and Katherine Morris, continues at the Oceana PARC Playhouse to Oct. 16.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.whiterockplayers.ca](http://www.whiterockplayers.ca)

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