



ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS



MARCH 2019

NEWSLETTER

2018-19 EXECUTIVE

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Geli Bartlett
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www.stlukesplayers.org

www.facebook.com/stlukesplayers.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Janine Longy



Welcome to 2019. We had a great start to the season with *Night Watch* and our annual Panto, *Sleeping Beauty*. For each of the plays, once again we welcomed new actors and crew.

It was a pleasure to invite St Luke Player's members to our 70th anniversary celebration February 23rd. We welcomed one hundred people. Certainly, it was a wonderful evening with good food, great entertainment,

and historical displays. Best of all was the chance to visit and celebrate our community theatre. The hall was beautifully decorated by a group of volunteers under the direction of Vinnie Chadwick. Each member of the executive played a role to make the evening a success.

Thank you to the entertainers, Mitch and Jo Barnes, Geli Bartlett, Michael King, Zuzana Macknight, George Morfitt, Neville Owen, Jonathan Stoppi and Anne Swannell. After these entertainers presented,



The hall was beautifully decorated for the 70th Birthday Party

MEMBERS ACTING UP AROUND TOWN

Julie Gray is performing six characters in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* with Theatre Inconnu Feb 12–Mar 2.

Janine Longy performed with a star-studded cast in Reader's Theatre *An Ideal Husband* at Langham.

Ann Harris is doing props for Langham's next production *That Elusive Spark*.

Anne Swannell is getting ready to show her Indoor/Outdoor Mosaics at Langham Court Theatre Lobby in April. Anne is the set designer for BEMA's *We are the Levinsons* coming up in May.

Several members of the St. Luke's Players community will be busy this summer with the Victoria Fringe Festival (August 21 to September 1) show, *Dressing for Cancer*. The play, written and directed by Mitch Barnes and featuring Jo Barnes, Daniel Gallant, and Steve Eastman on stage and Karen Coverett offstage, is the true story of a local woman's determination to find the positive side of battling breast cancer.

Jon Scheer is directing Langham's April show, *Quartet*, which will run April 17 through May 4. Then to keep him busy, he's Langham's Planning Production Chair with responsibility to develop their 2020–21 and 2021–22 seasons.

Congratulations!

The winners of the vouchers to Langham Court Theatre's "Quartet" are Sandra Allen and Judy Bell.

President's Message continued...

we had a special *Sounds Like Panto* written by Dave and Helena Hitchcock, directed by Merry Hallsor, starring Niko Batinovic, Maegan Bercovici, Beverly van Druten-Blais, Lia Collis, Helena Descoteau, Steve Eastman, Annabel Gibson, Joel Gibson, Robert Hallsor, Heather Lee, and Janine Longy. Thank you to Guy Blais for sound operation. Oh, I must mention the Reverend Daniel Fournier. Not only did he sing an original song to commemorate the relationship between St Luke's Church and the Players, he starred in his first Panto. Might he be next year's dame? Mike Chadwick, our MC, kept the show rolling and didn't tell too many jokes!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our March show, *Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead*. Not only will you be intrigued by the suspense, the set and costumes are great.

See you at Sherlock



Geli Bartlett working hard as usual



The Chadwicks tripping the light...

SLEEPING BEAUTY THE PANTO



Seen and Heard!

Ed and Linda Wilkinson from Yakima, WA. They come every year to celebrate Ed's birthday and enjoy our annual panto. Next year we'll get a photo of this couple of our favourite fans.

A TANTALIZING MURDER MYSTERY IS UP NEXT! *submitted by director Geoffrey J. Davidson*

Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead is nearly upon us. Like Sherlock Holmes, the St. Luke's Players have been hard at work unravelling the mystery of turning the printed word into compelling entertainment for the stage.

Our suspects... The Cast—eager, excited, and with a little trepidation are dying to give the performance of their lives. The Production Team—set builders and decorators, light and sound operators, costumers and props persons, and many more using their expertise to lend a sense of realism and the fantastical, while helping to fulfill the Director's vision. And the Director—experienced yet demanding. Trying desperately to put the pieces together.

A TANTALIZING MURDER MYSTERY
Sherlock Holmes
 by C.P. Stanchich
 directed by Geoffrey Davidson
and the Spinsters of Blackmead

Evenings 7:30
 Mar 13–16, 20–23
 Matinees 2:00
 Mar 16, 17, 23 & 24

ST. LUKE'S PLAYERS

Performances are held at St. Luke's Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd • Like us on Facebook
 Website: www.stlukesplayers.org • Phone 250-884-5484 • Email: stlukesplayers@yahoo.ca
 Presented with Heuer Publishing

Celebrating 70 years of COMMUNITY THEATRE

The one thing they have in common? A burning desire to create a work that will delight audiences while

suspenseful. Will they decipher the mystery of this production? Come to the show and find out!

AUDITIONS *keeping them in edge-of-their-seat for a heartwarming comedy. Everyone welcome to try out!*

Things My Mother Taught Me

written by Katherine Di Savine
 directed by Penelope Harwood

**Sun, Mar 10 • 2-4 pm or
 Tues, Mar 12 • 7-9 pm**
 Callbacks, if necessary,
 Sun, Mar 17 at 7 pm.

No appointments are necessary, just show up promptly at the start time.

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TECH WORKSHOPS

A recent weekend saw two workshops held: one about Sound, on Saturday and the other about Lighting, on Sunday. The emphasis was on practical aspects as applied to St. Luke's Players' equipment and arrangements in the hall. They were very much hands-on, as an example the participants had to patch the various speakers and to change the back stage mixer.

All together about 25 people came along, some suffered through both workshops!

Thanks to Neville Owen and Max Terpstra (Sound) and to Carol-Anne Moore and Max (Lighting) for their thoughtful work.

 **PLEASE NOTE:**
 No smoking on the church grounds.

ANATOMY OF A HAT *submitted by Susan Ellis, costume designer for Sherlock Holmes....*

For the St. Luke's Players' upcoming production of Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead we wanted to present Holmes' classic look, with the caped overcoat, the deerstalker hat, pipe and magnifying glass. We could not source a deerstalker hat larger than child-size, so I had to make one.

1. I started with a nice tweed hat made of Irish wool from a thrift store.



2. Even this hat was too small, so I removed the inside and outside hat bands and cut the sides. I also cut off the brim along the two sides, leaving just the front and back brims. I really wanted to use the beautiful feather, but in the end there was nowhere on the hat to put it.



3. I then sewed the extra brim pieces to the front and back brims to make them longer.



4. Then I made a pattern of the longer brims and cut out four pieces of fabric to cover them. We wanted the hat to complement the brown tweed overcoat, so I used a brown herringbone patterned scarf, also from a thrift store.



5. Next, I sewed the fabric pieces together and then onto the brims themselves. The crown of the hat was covered by six triangles of the herringbone sewn together to make a dome shape. This was sewn onto the hat by hand along the six seams in order to secure the crown. I also cut out two ear flaps and lined them, adding ties.



6. After adding the flaps, hand sewing everything down securely around the crown, sewing the original inside hatband back on and tying up the flaps, the hat is done!



In 1949 a group led by Mrs. Flora (Nicky) Nicholson began life as the Doncaster Players. The following year they accepted the invitation of Canon Pike (see his photo in the lobby) and moved up the road to St. Luke's Church Hall. They became known as St. Luke's Players. We have been here ever since, putting on at least two plays every year, and in one year, ten. Over the years hundreds have trodden the boards at St. Luke's and many more have done back-stage work, all volunteers—no one gets paid.

Then as now some of the members of the Players are also members of St. Luke's Church.

From its earliest days, the objective of the Players has been to produce 'good, clean plays for your enjoyment' subject to the Rector's approval. The very first production was *Our Hearts Are Young and Gay* by Cornelia Otis Skinner. To celebrate our 40th anniversary in 1989 we presented *A Fate Worse Than Death* written by the Players' Betty Jeanpierre. In 2006, a pantomime, *Aladdin* was introduced by Helena and Dave Hitchcock. One has been performed every year since. Our Pantos are extremely popular. In 2008, *Sleeping Beauty* was completely sold out before the first performance. This sell out trend has continued for the past 10 years!

In the early days, plays ran for only one or two nights. Later it became standard to run from Thursday to Saturday. We then extended to four nights. In 1989, the leap was made to a split run of Wednesday to Saturday on two successive weeks for 8 performances.

In 1997, a Saturday matinee was added for those who could not venture out at night. In 2006 a Preview night was added This is free of charge to crew, family, friends of the cast and various organizations. In 2010, Sunday matinees were added. Now, in addition to the Preview, we regularly present 12 performances for each play, 13 for the Panto.

Several years ago, Season Tickets were offered. This year we sold 400. This growth is due in part to seat reservations being offered to Season Ticket holders but perhaps because in 2015, we went to a 7:30 pm opening.

In 2003, a website was established giving the latest information, including auditions, performance dates and a listing of all past productions complete with photographs. Recently we went to on-line ticket sales. This has proved to be popular.

Now to money: over the years, St. Luke's Players has contributed to the Church in lieu of rent.



It's amounted to \$200 000 over the past dozen years. Of course, it hasn't always been easy. One year two members had to loan \$\$ to the Players so that we could present a play. Another year an arrangement had to be made for the Treasurer to pay back "borrowed" funds. We are pleased that our concession prices, set 10 years ago have remained inexpensive, and we still make a small profit.

In addition, the Players have upgraded the stage and hall facilities with new lights, improved sound

equipment, stage curtains window curtains, dimmer over-head lights, and 'comfortable' chairs. Let's not forget the cushions! We were also pleased to make a contribution towards a new hall roof.

We very much appreciate the support, cooperation and assistance provided by St. Luke's Church. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Players. We look forward to the next 70 years!



Season 32, May 1981 *The Curious Savage*