

Comfy Bottoms Project Report - 2018

- Spring 2017 – Shuswap Theatre Board decided to mark the 40th anniversary of the group by replacing the seats.
- In June 2017 Shuswap Community Foundation kick-started the project with a grant for \$5000.
- A four-person committee was stuck to manage the project – Joyce Henderson, Tracy Nash, Bea Kirkwood-Hackett, Susan MacMillan.
- Our old seats came from the Salmar Classic in two batches, the first being almost 50 years old, the second, over 40.
- All were narrower and less comfortable than seating nowadays and were requiring constant repair.
- New seats were ‘purchased’ for \$250 each, with donors of one or more seats having their name on a permanent plaque which is now displayed in the Theatre lobby.
- In total 6 organizations, 8 businesses and 66 individuals donated \$250 or more with many more people making smaller donations.
- Two fundraisers, a Shed Party and a Variety Show, both spearheaded by Peter Blacklock, added to the total.
- \$41,218 was raised which covered the cost of the seats and part of the flooring.
- The old seats were removed in early June by Theatre members and a team from Mascon-Telus as part of their ‘Days of Giving’ Program. The seats were advertised as free to anyone who could pick them up and went to homes throughout the province, as far away as Prince George.
- The ceiling and pipes were then cleaned of almost 40 years of dust, with air compressors, a job which was virtually impossible to do with seats underneath.
- The old carpet was removed and new flooring, vinyl planking under the seats and carpet in the aisles, was installed.
- After a many delays, the new seats were fully installed by Wednesday, July 18 - *Theatre on the Edge* Festival began on Friday, July 20.