

June 2020

Dear Theatre Lover,

It's time we gave you an update on where we are and where we hope to be going with our live theatre offerings. There are many unknowns so, like you, we're playing it by ear and planning as best we can. **We also have a request for you to consider.**

Cancellations Due to COVID 19

As you know, we had to cancel *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble* in April, hoping we might move it to the fall slot. (A big thank you to those who converted their tickets to a tax deductible donation.) We also had to cancel *Theatre on the Edge* this July even though we had a full slate of performers ready to go. We cancelled two fundraisers – the St. Patrick's Day Shed Party and a planned appeal to help pay for our new roof and HVAC system. It didn't feel like the right time.

Next Season

If we are able to do a fall show at all it may be restricted to audiences of 50 or less. That would probably be worth doing but we would take another financial hit. Even if we're allowed bigger houses there's no guarantee that all our patrons will feel safe in large gatherings. This could be true for the entire season and longer. Finding business sponsors will be difficult as they, too, have fallen on hard times.

New Ideas

We are currently considering various ways we might keep theatre alive during these COVID restrictions. Kim MacMillan is working on a public reading, recorded via Zoom, of *Outside Mullingar*, which is scheduled for full performance (cross your fingers) next April. The Artistic Committee has brainstormed a whole list of possibilities from two person scripts, improv, and monologues all presented online. We're also looking into the possibility of using outdoor venues where audience members can keep their distance. The Board and Artistic Committee is holding a backyard meeting July 4th so stay tuned for more news.

Roof and HVAC Replacement Projects

Our new roof is now completed – a relief as the old one was in very bad shape. We're nearly midway through the replacement of all our furnaces and air conditioning units. We're extremely grateful to Steve Genn and Leah Shaw of **Proair Heating and Cooling** for their generous donation of more than half the cost of the HVAC project. We're also grateful for grants that have been received from the City, the Community Foundation and SASCU.

These two projects totalling in the neighbourhood of \$70,000 (our cost) have almost wiped out our savings. This would not worry us greatly if we could count on the usual revenues from the coming season to begin building that back up – an unlikely prospect in the near future. We expect a much reduced level of income over at least the next year.

How You Can Help

My wife, Susan, and I both receive the Old Age Pension. When I read that the Canadian government is giving each of us a one-time additional payment of \$300 to help with the challenges of the pandemic, I thought, "That's nice, but we have not suffered financially from this pandemic. Perhaps we should direct that money to where it's really needed."

Live theatre is my passion and Shuswap Theatre is my avenue. We have watched with delight as our company's community support has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. These are hard times and we hope you will stand with us as you are able. A large percentage of our regular patrons are seniors and will therefore receive the supplement at the end of June. If, like Susan and me, you have not experienced financial stress from the pandemic, Shuswap Theatre invites you to consider donating some or all of that additional income to our **Keep Theatre Thriving** fund. It would make a huge difference to our ability to keep offering quality drama to the community.

Of course if you're not a senior but still have the means to help, we would gratefully receive donations of any amount to get us through this challenging time. To donate online and get an immediate tax receipt just click on the button.

[Donate Now](#)

If you would rather send a cheque (which nicely avoids processing fees) just mail it with your name, address, phone and email address to:

"Shuswap Theatre"
Keep Theatre Thriving Fund
Box 2432
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4R4

You will receive much gratitude (and a tax receipt in the mail).

Thank you so much for your support.



For the Shuswap Theatre Board

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