

News From the Shuswap Theatre Board

January 21, 2015 Meeting

Bah, Humbug!

Director Paul Kirkwood-Hackett and Stage Manager Lois Towgood reported on the challenges and successes of our Christmas Pantomime. (James Bowlby, under the weather, sent a written Producer's report.) There were challenges in a number of areas:

- the need to rehearse off site for the first four weeks due to conflict with *The Odd Couple*
- a large cast of 27 in a small dressing room
- tickets being sold at the door only, but with large blocks pre-booked by organizations
- casting people who were performing in *The Odd Couple* while *Bah, Humbug!* was rehearsing
- a grueling two shows on Saturday
- a difficult musical score
- several young children in the cast, and
- an over booked musical director

In spite of the difficulties the end product was a high quality, wonderful show that the audience loved and a cast that bonded with one another!

Zone Festival 2016

Shuswap Theatre has been asked to host the Zone festival in 2016. The Board will make a decision at the February Board meeting. It is a lot of work but if we want to have a festival, then each club must do its part.

The Prompter

Special thanks was given to Susan MacMillan who has put together 44 wonderful editions of *The Prompter* over eight and a half years. The format of the Theatre's newsletter will now change to a more frequent shorter version sent out by email only. On a trial basis, printed copies for those without email will be available for pickup at Intwined Fibre Arts.

We've Got Money

We are doing well so far financially this year. At the end of November we had \$21,969.47 in our savings account and a healthy \$24,959.67 in the chequing account. We think this is due to a variety of factors but great productions is at the core of it. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to put on *The Odd Couple* and *Bah, Humbug!* with many sold out performances.

The budgets for 2 X 2 and the "Theatre On The Edge" Festival in July were passed and a request for \$1,800 from the City through the Shuswap Community Foundation for new doors on the Scene shop has been submitted.

A (Front of) House Divided

Due to the demands of our new ticketing system, a decision was made to divide the Front of House function for productions into two separate departments with separate department heads:

- Box Office—for selling and collecting tickets
- Hospitality—welcoming, concession and looking after the needs of the audience.