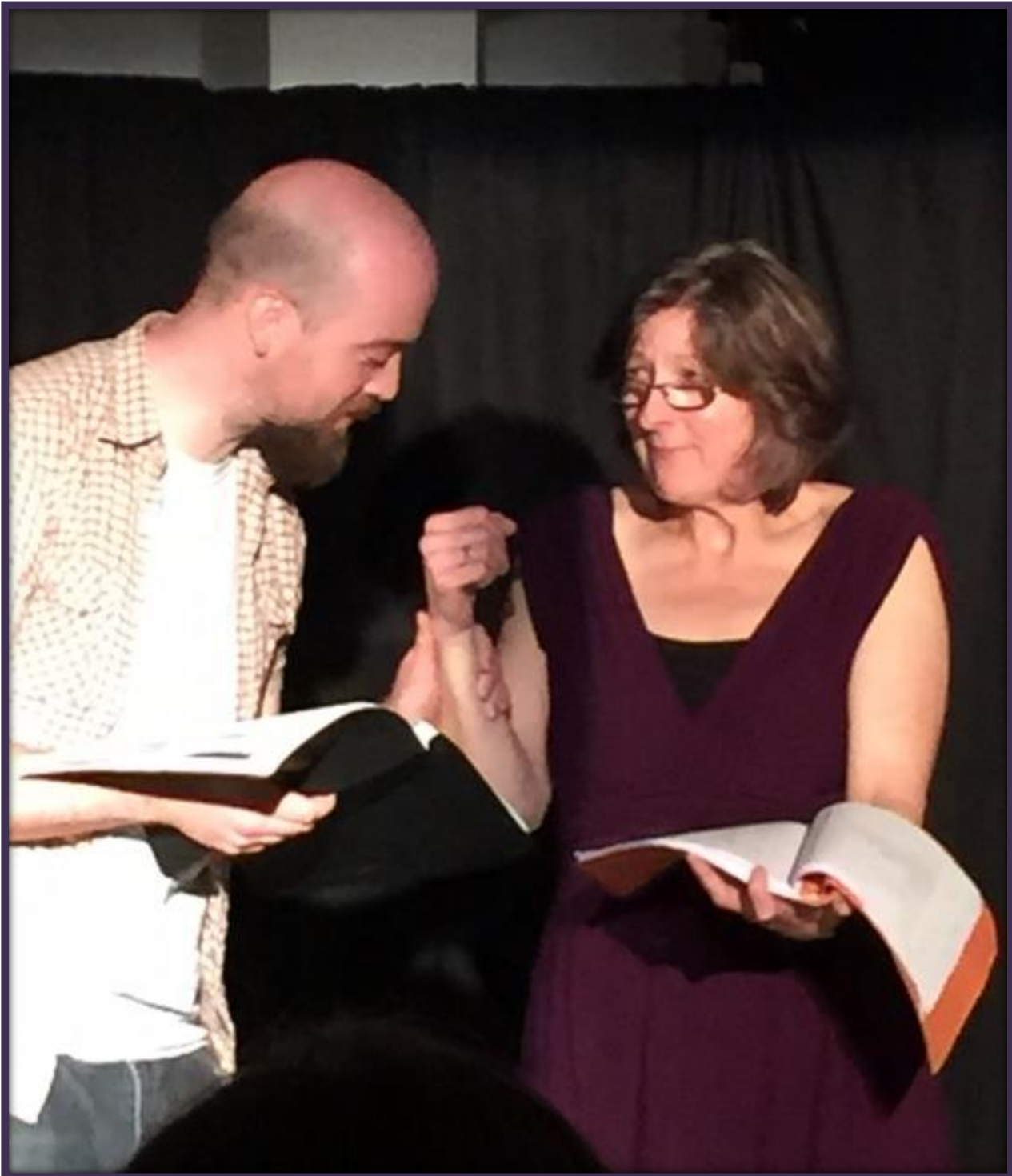


GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Autumn 2015 newsletter

Artistic director's message

What a wonderful launch for our 2015/16 season! There was nothing "almost" about our early October production of Nicole Moeller's award-winning drama **An Almost Perfect Thing**. An extraordinary script, fine direction by **Jean Wyenberg** and pitch-perfect performances by **Roger Carter, Donna Deacon** and **Drew Staniland** made for a marvellous theatre experience. As Mary Poppins would say, it was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. (Don't take my word for it. Read some of the enthusiastic feedback from audience members on the next page.)

As always, there's no resting on our laurels. Rehearsals are well underway for this year's pantomime, **Robin Hood and His Merry Men**. Once again I'm in the director's chair and once again the author is Robin Bailes (who wrote last year's rollicking *Will Shakespeare The Panto*). In fact, I've pretty much got the band back together – lots of familiar faces, lots of booing for the evil Sheriff of Nottingham, lots of cheering for Robin, lots of great music. You won't want to miss this one.

We'll be performing *Robin Hood* at the **Community Hall** on **November 27, 28 and 29**. Tickets are already available on our website (gabriolaplayers.ca) and will soon be available at North Road Sports.

We're also looking ahead to 2016, finalising our line-up for next spring's **One-Act Play Festival**. We'll be doing an assessment reading of two plays on **Sunday, November 8** from 4pm to 6pm at the Rollo Centre. The plays we'll be reading are [Laundry and Bourbon](#) by James McLure and **Legends of the Ferry** (a vignette of overheard conversations on the Quinsam) by Gabriolan Janet Vickers. Members are invited to come along and read a part – or not (the choice is yours). We actively encourage everyone to provide their feedback after the reading.

Gabriola Players is thrilled to say that this year we had a successful candidate for the [Don Whifton Memorial Bursary](#), which provides financial assistance to Gabriolans pursuing the study of some aspect of theatre arts. The bursary was awarded at our Annual General Meeting in late September. (See page 3 for more details.)

Gabriola Players is blessed to have not just enthusiastic audiences, but also the support of many island businesses. We would like to offer a huge thank you – for the third year in a row – to our season sponsor, **Robert's Place** and to all the other [businesses and individuals](#) who have taken programme advertisements for our 2015/16 season. As always, please let them know you appreciate their support for theatre on Gabriola.

See you at the panto!

Miranda Holmes



PS: As you may have read in the programme for *An Almost Perfect Thing*, bottled water will no longer be served at any Gabriola Players performances. Hot beverages and juice are available for your enjoyment during the intermission. All members of Gabriola Players will receive a free refreshment ticket which can be exchanged for a beverage.

An Absolutely Perfect Thing



These are just some of the overwhelmingly positive comments Gabriolans made about our 2015/16 season launch, **An Almost Perfect Thing**:

"Just wanted to say thanks to you all for an excellent performance. It was a very powerful play, and really very well done by cast and crew. We were very impressed. Gabriola Players has taken the local theatre scene to a whole new level. Thanks, and keep up the great work!"

"Was thinking more about last night's performance – which I suspect is a clear indication of the thought-provoking content of the play. The acting was excellent. The choreography of words was really well done, and the expression and on-stage strategy of the actors more than did justice to the words of the playwright."

"A very powerful play." "Outstanding performances!" "Thank you so much. I am very glad I attended"

"Holy Moly, this was an excellent production! The actors were brilliant, the direction was seamless and the writing was intense, full of depth and had a way of making the audience empathize with all three characters. Difficult subject matter but it was handled so professionally that the audience was mesmerized. Really, really enjoyed it. Thank you so much."

"Yes, a truly powerful play and congratulations Jean for casting these wonderful actors whose performances were remarkable"

"Professional quality in acting, directing, sound, lights, producing - made a fabulous experience"

"Do yourself a favour and go see *this play*! I'm helping out a bit, so I get to see it again, and I'm absolutely looking forward to it the second time around."

"Saw *An Almost Perfect Thing* tonight. What to say? *Brilliant!* Brilliant writing, brilliant acting. Also intense and suspenseful. Don't take the kids! But do go!!!"

"An absolute must-see. Brilliant dialogue, superb acting."

"Just went to see *An Almost Perfect Thing* by the Gabriola Players. Go check it out this weekend. Best play I've ever seen" (This from a teenager)

Don Whitton Memorial Bursary



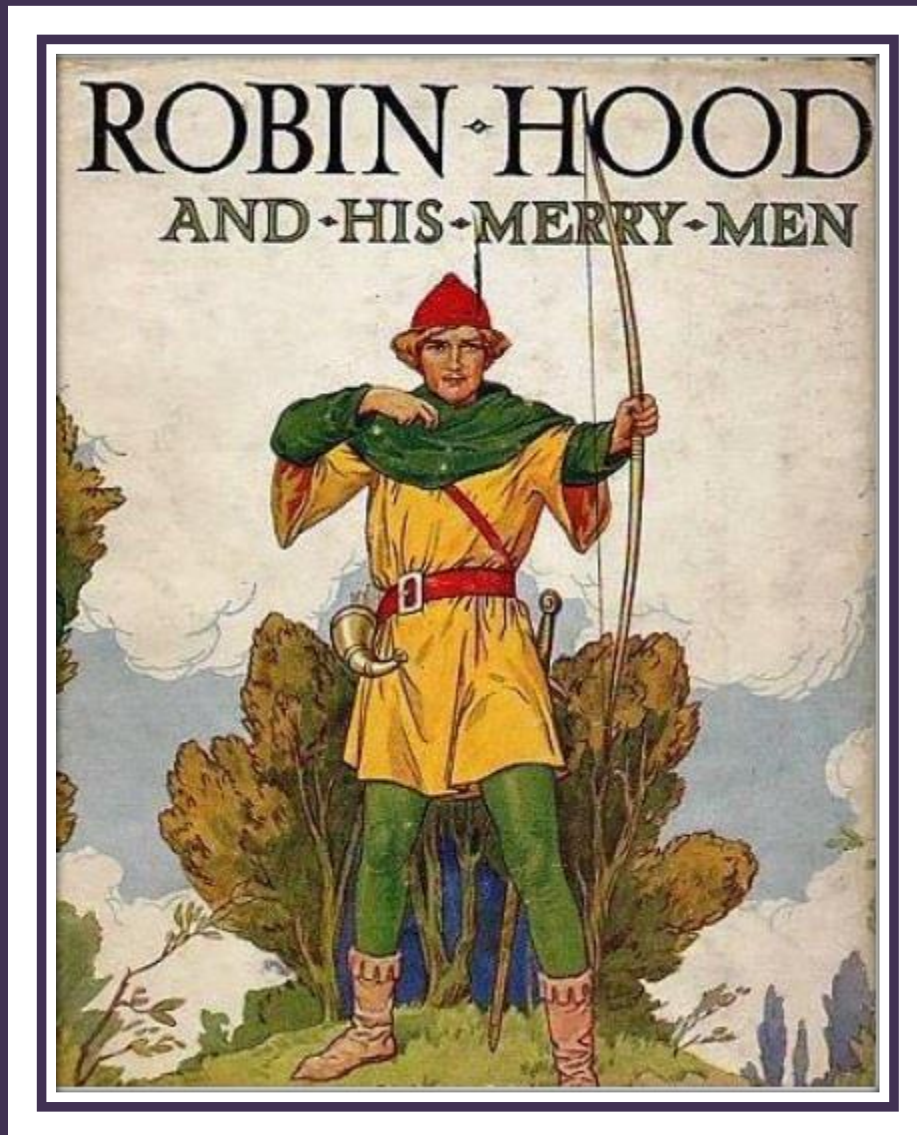
In 2011, in memory of Don Whitton (one of the earliest and most active members of Gabriola Players), we established an annual bursary to provide financial assistance to islanders pursuing the study of some aspect of theatre arts. In late September Don's wife Sue presented a cheque to the parents of David Cosbey, who earlier in the month began his first year of Theatre Studies at Victoria Island University. His mother Virginia read the following statement from David:

"I would like to thank Gabriola Players and the Whitton family for the wonderful support they have given me in the form of the Don Whitton Memorial Bursary. This past summer was extremely hard for me, as I had jaw surgery and therefore I wasn't able to work at a summer job to earn money for school. I am so, so grateful for the kindness you have shown me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I'm terribly sorry that university classes prevent me from returning home to Gabriola to accept the Bursary in person, but my parents will be there to represent me and convey my deep appreciation."

David's father Tim also spoke movingly about the general dearth of bursaries and scholarships available for theatre students and how validated the awarding of the Don Whitton bursary made David feel about his decision to pursue his thespian passion.

The original bursary amount was established as \$500. This year, thanks to the generosity of the Whitton family and their friends, this amount was more than doubled. The \$500 basic bursary will, as of next month, be topped up with 100% of the money made selling cookies (donated by Village Food Market) at all Gabriola Players performances.

And now for something slightly different...



Directed by Miranda Holmes

Written by Robin Bailes (author of *Will Shakespeare The Panto*) & Jonathan Hales

Join us on a wonderful, whimsical visit to Sherwood Forest with Madeleine Ani, Cec Ashley, Aleksandra Brozowski, Roger Carter, Joe Di Cara, Steve Elder, Jenn Feenan, B J Godson, Trisha Gray, Lesley Hazeldine, Sam Hooton, Klaus Horky, Ginny Lowes, Doris McLaughlin, Herb Metcalfe, Esther Moncrieff, Nadine Mourao, Paul O'Sullivan, Adela Torchia and Jean Wyenberg.

As always, there will be a villain to boo, a hero to cheer, puns galore and fun for all. (Not to mention a dancing cow!)

Feel free to wear your green tights (the more the merrier) and mark your calendar for NOVEMBER 27-29 at the COMMUNITY HALL.

Coming in 2016



ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Although the programme for our always-popular weekend of one-act plays has yet to be finalised, we are committed to ensuring that at least one of them will once again be a new play authored by a Gabriolan writer.

Assessment readings: Sunday, November 8 at 4pm, Rollo Centre

Performances: March 11-13 at the Rollo Centre

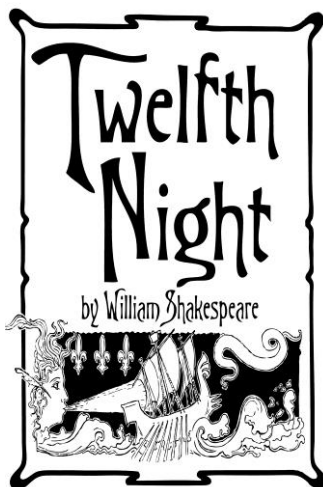


WHAT GLORIOUS TIMES THEY HAD by Diane Grant

To mark the centenary of women first getting the vote in Canada, we are presenting Diane Grant's fast-paced play, *What Glorious Times They Had*. The play is a loving and lively tribute to Nelly McClung and the determined members of the Political Equality League.

Directed by Miranda Holmes

Performances: May 27-29 at the Rollo Centre



TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

In the aftermath of a shipwreck, Viola, believing she is now alone in the world, disguises herself as a young man named Cesario. As such, she enters the service of Duke Orsino. The Duke, frustrated in his wooing of Olivia, despatches 'Cesario' as an intermediary. Olivia promptly falls in love with 'Cesario' (who has, in the meantime, fallen in love with the Duke).

Take it away, Shakespeare.

Adapted by Garry Davey

Performances: July 8-10 at 775 Seagirt Road

CONGRATULATIONS

To MaryAnn Richards, winner of the Gulf Island Seaplanes flight draw at *An Almost Perfect Thing*.

And to the winners of our draw for a pair of opening night tickets to each of our 2015/16 productions:

Elsa Bluethner – *An Almost Perfect Thing*
Norma Gauthier – *Robin Hood & His Merry Men*
Allison Douglas – *One Act Play Festival*

Kayte Summers – *What Glorious Times They Had*
Mark Smith – *Twelfth Night*