

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Spring 2016 newsletter

Director's message

What glorious fun everyone (cast, crew and audience members) had with our spring production of **What Glorious Times They Had** and what a wonderful tribute it was to the gutsy women (and men) whose tireless campaigning gained women the right to vote in Canada 100 years ago this year. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Here's what one audience member had to say: "I'm still pondering last night's performance. Not only did I learn a lot about a subject about which I had only previously been mildly informed, but I truly enjoyed watching a troupe of excellent actors taking on their characters and expertly bringing them to life. The timing was spot on, the voices strong and I have to say, Gabriola's got some superb talent and a whole lot of it was on stage last night! The set was really well done and the creative ideas (walking around the room, voices from the back, simple yet really effective stage set) not only got the audience involved but made the whole experience a 'theatre in the round'. Thanks for all the effort I know goes into a production like this."

There were kudos as well from the playwright, Diane Grant: "Congratulations! I am so happy that you had such a successful run. The cast looks just terrific! Thanks for sharing the [beautiful photos](#). I sent them to three of the original cast who thought that you had completely captured the tone and the look of the play. I would love to include them in a report I'm sending to the Manitoba Status of Women. Thanks so much!"

As always, it's all go at Gabriola Players. We're already well into rehearsals for our annual **Festival of One-Act Plays**. (See page 3 for more information about the programme.) Mark your calendars for the performances on **May 27-29** at the Rollo Centre.

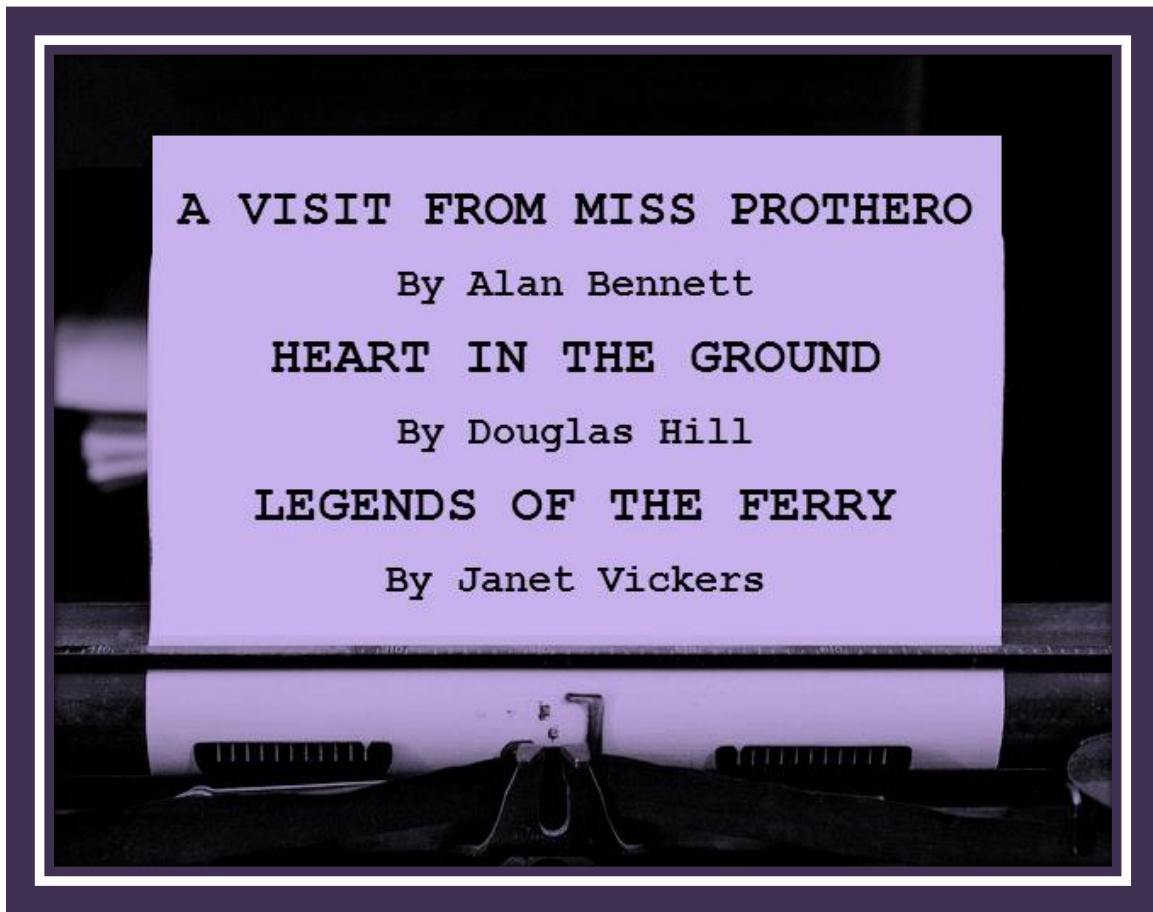
And don't forget we'll be taking the Bard back to the bay in **July** with a staged reading of **Twelfth Night**.

Miranda Holmes



The cast of *What Glorious Times They Had*. Back row, left to right: Peter Dzierzawa, Garry Davey, Joe DiCara, Cec Ashley, Alex Dewar and Peter Jones. Front row, left to right: Lesley Hazeldine, Jenn Feenan, Jean Wyenberg, Margaret Litt, Donna Deacon, Joyce Ashley and Nancy Jenner. **Cover photo:** Margaret Litt as Nellie McClung, Jean Wyenberg as E. Cora Hind, Joyce Ashley as Lillian Thomas and Donna Deacon as Francis Marian Beynon. © Bill Pope

Festival of One-Act Plays



Rehearsals are well underway for our annual festival of one-act plays. As always there is something for everyone in the programme.

In Alan Bennett's two-hander, widower Arthur Dodsworth finds he is enjoying retirement more than he'd expected – until he receives ***A Visit from Miss Prothero***. Directed by Dave Innell and featuring Charlie Cheffins and Miranda Holmes.

Love and loss are touchingly explored in Douglas Hill's ***Heart in the Ground***. Directed by Dennis Johnston and featuring Dean Clark and Christine McKim.

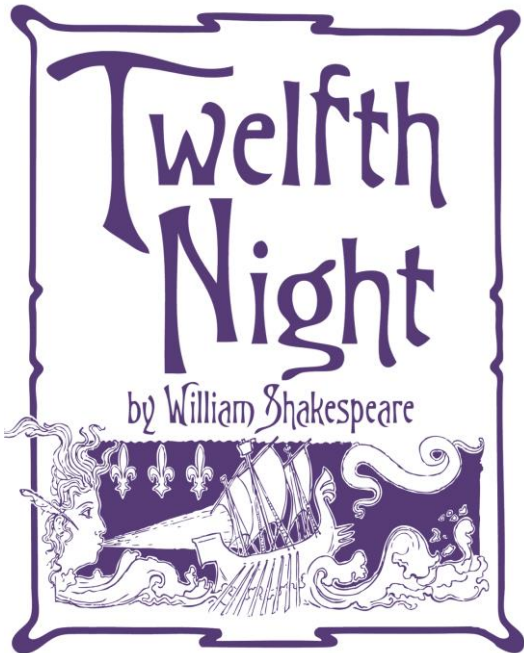
A year after our successful all-Gabriolan one-act play festival, we are pleased to announce that the third play, ***Legends of the Ferry*** was written by Gabriolan Janet Vickers. The ferry in question is the *Quinsam* and the characters will resonate with islanders. Directed by Jean Wyenberg and featuring Catherine Andersen, David Cosbey, Peter Dzierzawa, Jenn Feenan, Lesley Hazeldine, Doris McLaughlin, Steve O'Neill, Nick Squire, Susan Yates and Michelle Young.

The festival will be performed at the Rollo Centre on May 27, 28 and 29.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GABRIOLA PLAYERS?

You don't have to be a member of Gabriola Players to enjoy our productions, but we'd love it if you decided to become one! Your \$15 membership can begin whenever you want and lasts a year. Members receive a \$15 discount on any workshops offered by Gabriola Players and – as a small token of our appreciation – a free beverage at all performances. You can become a member (or renew your membership) on our website, gabriolaplayers.ca, or send a cheque to Gabriola Players, PO Box 374, Gabriola V0R 1X0. Not sure if your membership has lapsed? To check, send an email to Ginny Lowes at gabriolaplayers@gmail.com.

Still to come – Bard on the Bay 2016



Following the success of last year's performance of [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), we will be back by the bay this summer with a staged reading of **Twelfth Night**. (A big thank you to George and Nikki Westarp for inviting us back.)

Worried about tackling Shakespeare? Don't be! None of last year's cast had any previous experience with the Bard and everyone loved it.

As one cast member said: "This was one of the most richly enjoyable experiences I've had with Gabriola Players. The opportunity to learn about playing Shakespeare's text with such excellent support and encouragement was amazing. The ensemble became like a big happy family and I think it showed in our performances. Such fun!"

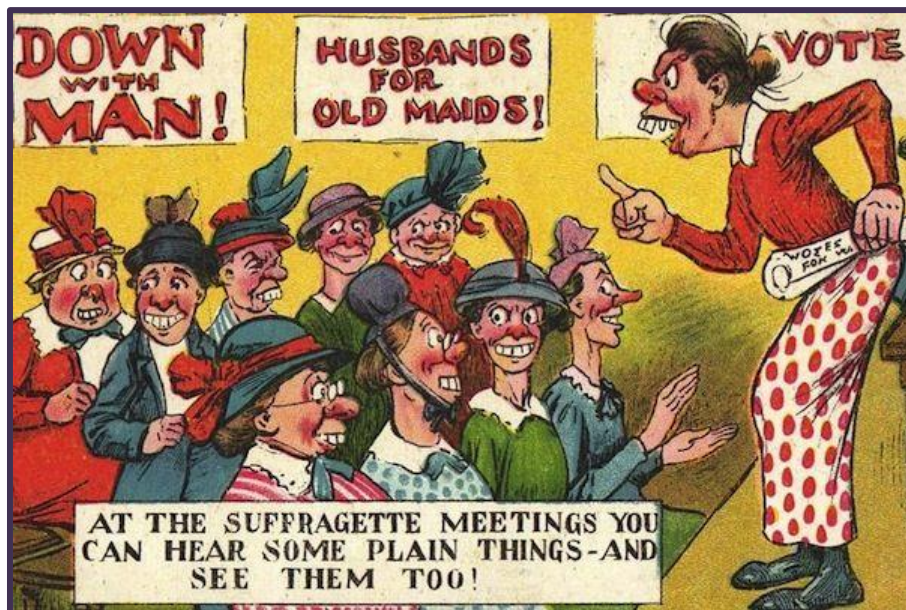
Adapted by Garry Davey

Auditions: June 5

Performances: July 8-10 at 775 Seagirt Road

In case you missed it

As the campaign for female suffrage gained momentum in late Victorian and Edwardian times, it came as no surprise that the male establishment fought back. Their chief weapon wasn't reason (as there was none), but mockery. Charming cartoons like this began to appear regularly in newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets.



In the run up to the opening of *What Glorious Times They Had*, Gabriola Players shared a number of these anti-suffrage images on our [Facebook](#) page, along with pro and anti-suffrage quotes. If you missed them, they can all now be viewed together on our website, by clicking [here](#).