

Message from Alan Walker, President, Shaw Guild



At a time when we received news that “Gypsy” would not be staged this season this news was counterbalanced by the announcement that several Guild members received well deserved **Ontario Volunteer Service Awards**, as nominated by the Shaw in January 2020. More information on this appears in another section of this Newsletter.

I had the good fortune to be invited to attend the online ceremony, and although it had its technical issues, it was so gratifying to see tangible recognition of the importance of volunteerism in Ontario. And as to technical issues associated with online calls and presentations, most of the Shaw/Shaw Guild related ones I have attended recently usually involve the participation of recalcitrant felines, entering from stage left, and not responding to directions to exit stage right.

I digress. I wanted to focus my remarks this time on a **joint Shaw Guild/Shaw Festival Initiative that we are calling “Helping Each Other”**.

By way of background, as the 2021 Shaw Festival season is coming together for a Spring launch, with many of the sets and props already completed for use in 2020 being used this year.

As such, this leaves certain Shaw Company staff with time on their hands, with the opportunity to devote this time to other work. This may be for work/service(s) that they may already do/provide as a side venture. The **Helping Each Other Initiative** is our way of enabling them, potentially, to offer their services to people in our community. To some extent there have been informal arrangements (albeit, informal) that continue today; for example, deck building and house painting services have been provided to Guild Volunteers by members of the Shaw community.

Given that the Guild exists to support the Shaw Festival, and, when possible, that includes Company members. With this in mind, we in the Guild are proposing to host **an online “bulletin board” where Company members can advertise their services, products and skills** that local (e.g., NOTL, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls) Guild members (or their family) may need.

This Initiative will be launched on March 12th.

Here’s how it will work:

- Members of the Company (Suppliers) will provide a brief description of what they can offer.
- A public page of the Guild website will post these descriptions and contact information.
- Then it is up to those interested (Clients) to contact the Supplier and arrange details and payment terms.

DISCLAIMER: Neither the Shaw Festival nor the Shaw Guild will be involved in or responsible for negotiations, intercessions, guarantees or disputes, if any arise between Supplier and Client.

Next steps:

Suppliers: Commencing March 12th will be asked to email the following to info@shawguild.ca by March 26th.

- 25-word description of the type of work/product or service being offered. This could be: furniture-building, deck-building, sewing, culinary products or services, painting, etc.
- This will include those geographic areas where Company members are willing to work.
- A preferred means of contact. This could be an email address, phone number, Facebook page, or other.

Clients:

- Once the web page is populated, Guild members will receive an email inviting them to look at the page (address to be determined) and contact the Supplier for the services they need.

We hope to get this going by the time we see flower buds in NOTL 😊

Let's all see if, during this difficult time, the members of the Shaw Festival family can help each other!

Finally, I would like to close by acknowledging the efforts of both **Lesslie Tunmer**, Head of Scenic Construction, Shaw Festival, and our own **Dave Hunter**; they are the architects of this Initiative, and to them I express my gratitude.

As always, keep well and safe.

TC UNPLUGGED!



Join us via ZOOM on **March 11th at 4:00 pm** as Guild President **Alan Walker** chats casually with Shaw Festival Artistic Director **Tim (TC) Carroll**. Alan and TC will have an hour-long conversation about all things **Shaw – past, present and future!**

This will be very informal and TC will take as many questions as there is time for. Send questions in advance to info@shawguild.ca.

You can join the Zoom session at 3:55 on March 11th at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89719365072?pwd=WkZFUDZ3Q0ZzVU84T3RyVVZ0TVhXQT09>

Still available: You can watch the February 11th recording of the very entertaining talk by Shaw actor Jenny L. Wright about her life in theatre. [Watch the recording here.](#)

We'd like to learn more about you!

Guild members possess a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience. The Executive Committee would like to learn more about your attributes to help us when we search for volunteers for a committee or project, or when we need to find candidates for open positions on the EC.



Using **My Volunteer Page (MVP)**, we've come up with a "skills list" that, once these are identified in each member's profile, will make the search a lot easier and more accurate.

You will soon receive an invitation to complete an online survey, which should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Check the boxes that reflect your skills and competencies. **Please complete this survey by March 26.**

The information that you submit will be entered for you in your MVP profile by us. **You don't have to do anything but complete the survey!** You will be able to see this information in your profile in a couple of weeks. You will also be able to update any of these at any time. **They will show up under My Profile -> Additional Information.**

By providing this information, you are not obligated in any way to take on a project or EC role, but if you might be interested now or in the future, this makes it easier to find you and start the conversation!

Let's prepare for an amazing 2021 season as volunteers at the Shaw Festival!

Send an email to mary.mizen@gmail.com if you have any questions about the survey.

Ontario Volunteer Service Award Recipients

This award recognizes volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to an organization. Candidates are nominated by the organization for which they volunteer.

Glenna Collins



As a former teacher for both Elementary and Secondary schools, and subsequently an Elementary School Principal, it was common practice to volunteer for at least one special and essential activity within the school year. The activities centered around school life and school community entertainment and charity work. They typically would involve overseeing a special club, assisting in the production of a play, hosting a talent show or supervising a class trip or coaching a sports team.

Having moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake for my retirement, it has been a pleasure to be able to continue volunteering within the Shaw community. During COVID days, it has given me such joy to reflect upon the variety of activities that I have been a part of, and the students that I have been privileged to meet and continue to teach in order

to promote future theatre goers.

Margie Enns



I was a supply teacher with NDSS for over 40 years, and decided to do some volunteer work. Together with my sisters, we decided to volunteer at the Shaw Festival, but slowly over the years, they all dropped out. I guess it was the love of theatre that kept me going.

Before COVID, I also volunteered for many years at Chateau Gardens and Pleasant Manor, singing with the residents and accompanied by my sister on the piano. When the Christian Benefit Shop opened in St. Catharines, I did a little bit of volunteering there as well. I have really enjoyed hosting at Shaw and hope to do so for many years to come.

Elaine Evans



I knew that we had retired to the right town when my lovely neighbour told me that she led backstage tours at the Shaw and her training included meeting directors and designers and sitting in on dress rehearsals. "Really!" I said. Twelve years later, I still can't believe how fortunate I am to be part of the amazing Guild, leading tours, planning events with the Activities gang and sitting in beautiful gardens welcoming the world during Garden Tours.

Thirty plus years as an Arts educator and a passion for gardening made volunteering at the Shaw a perfect fit. Thank you, Shaw Festival, for the joy of live theatre and for this honour.

John Mather



"Volunteering with the Shaw Guild is such a rewarding and enjoyable experience, providing the opportunity to connect directly with Shaw's patrons".

My career has included 16 years with Continental Can and then 28 years with the Ontario Ministry of Labour. During those 28 years, my work took me to all types of workplaces in all corners of Ontario. I retired from the Ministry as Assistant Director of Mediation Services.

My wife Marg and I retired to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2009. Shortly afterwards, I joined the Shaw Guild, initially as a Host. Over the years, I also served on the Guild Nominating Committee, delivered materials for 'Playing this Week', volunteered for the Shaw Garden Tours, and worked with the MVP Steering Committee. For the past five years, we have coordinated the volunteers in the successful Greeter program at the Festival Theatre. We always say "our greeters have become our extended family".

In addition, I have volunteered for community activities including NOTL's Bicentennial, Rotary's Holiday House Tour and Icewine Evening, the Terry Fox Run, Canada's 150 Celebration and 2019 Snowbirds Airshow.

Sip, Savour & Stroll: An Elegant Garden Party!

Saturday August 28, 2021, 6:00 - 9:00pm



A summer's evening of strolling from one magnificent Old Town NOTL garden to another, enjoying fabulous food and beverages does sound enticing, doesn't it?

You can be one of 100 ticket holders to enjoy this exclusive event, presented by the Shaw Guild.

In 2020, tickets were sold out long before the Early Bird period had ended. The team, led by Keith Mills and Mary Mizen, were thrilled. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the event had to be cancelled.

This year, we are going all out and adding many extra attractions. These include live music, an auction of original art, photo souvenirs and more!

Check-in and a glass of bubbly will be waiting for you at the Royal George Gallery space. Next, a short walk to the two fabulous private gardens where food and drink will be served. We'll end the evening back at the Royal George Gallery garden with dessert and tea or coffee.

NOTE: Safety protocols will be in practice for the well-being of patrons, garden owners and volunteers.

Tickets will be sold online at shawguild.ca using EventBrite. This ensures a contactless and easy method for you to purchase your tickets. There are no phone or email orders.

**Early Bird ticket sales begin March 28 and end May 28, 2021. Cost is \$90 each (+ \$6.49 processing fee).
Between May 29 - August 27, 2021. Cost is \$100 each (+\$7.10 processing fee)
No tickets will be sold on the day of the event.**

As with the Shaw Guild Garden Tour, proceeds will go to support the Shaw Festival.

Guild Members Respond with Enthusiasm to Fall Garden Tour!!!

M. Jane Catcher (Garden Tour Convenor) wasn't willing to leave any stone unturned in finding a way to make the 2021 Annual Garden Tour happen in these times of uncertainty. She pulled the Garden Tour Team together to discuss her idea to host the Garden Tour as a fall event, and the vote was unanimously in favour! Her motto is "Let's ALL work together as a cohesive TEAM to make this year's Tour 'THE BEST WE CAN MAKE IT'"

The first thing that needed to take place was informing Guild members and past Tour patrons of the September 11 date.

The response was extremely positive! Texts, emails and posts started coming in with words of encouragement and joy at the news.



Penny Curran, a long-time Shaw Guild member as well as volunteer for previous Garden Tour teams, expressed it best of all:

“Imagine my delight when I read the latest Shaw Guild newsletter (I am still a member in good standing of the Shaw Guild, even from afar!) and saw that the Garden Tour has been shifted to a Fall tour! My dream has come true! Picturing some of the gardens on the tour I see hedges of red burning bush, waves of hydrangeas and a sweet autumn clematis that will be intoxicating, both visually and aromatically. And, hopefully by then, with vaccines in place and people hungry for outside enjoyment, [this year’s tour] will be the most successful yet. Absence does make the heart grow fonder. And goodness knows it’s been a year of absence!”

Thanks to all who sent us their very supportive thoughts and wishes.
Don’t forget to buy your ticket when they become available on May 21.