

President's Message



It may be getting closer to year-end but there's still a lot of activity happening around the Shaw Guild.

The gardeners have been called on to put the "beds to rest" for the winter and their efforts may represent the only regular volunteer services we have had the chance to provide to the Shaw since the arrival of the pandemic. But even that was far from business as usual – especially the "no coffee and cookies" they normally enjoy after their hard work.

I'm proud to announce that the Town has asked the Ambassadors to return to their greeting roles during the fall and we'd welcome all new volunteers who have time on weekends between the end of October and December 20. The newsletter provides details on how to get involved.

The A Lot O' NOTL boxes are back with a special Christmas edition. Led by Emily Lukasik, a member of the Shaw Ensemble, our team will be launching the initiative in early November with an advance purchase opportunity for Guild members.

And finally, I encourage everyone to read the information on the new Guild initiative known as IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity in Action) and to check out the IDEA section just created on the Guild website. It's an area where we especially welcome your comments and questions which can be provided either by email or anonymously from the website.

The final meeting of the year is the AGM on Monday, November 23rd. It will be an "adventure" using Zoom (see article below), and we hope you are able to join us. Fingers crossed it will enable a smooth transition to your new Executive Committee for 2021.

Stay safe ... keep well.

Shaw Guild AGM – Monday, November 23 at 10am

You should have already received a Save the Date email as well as a PDF of the By-Law Amendments that require a vote by all members for approval. During the AGM Zoom session, you will be able to indicate your vote. **You will also receive (by email) a copy of the AGM Report on November 9 and the link to the AGM Zoom meeting.**

We look forward to "seeing" you. If you cannot attend the live session, a link to the recording will be sent to you afterward.

NOTE: If you have not already received the Save the Date email, please contact info@shawguild.ca and it will be sent to you.

Members' Day Honorees

The following long-service Shaw Guild Members were recognized on Friday, October 23, in a Guild broadcast hosted by Laurie Harley and Susan MacDonald.

Congratulations to all!

40 Years

- Geraldine and Robert Barnim

35 Years

- Margie Enns

30 Years

- Betty Blaney, Peggy Lampard

25 Years

- Lyndsay Dobson, Sheila Hill, Jackie Johnson, Josephine O'Brien, Ruth Payne, Irmgard Penner

20 Years

- Rollice Blake, Mary and Peter Joselin, Lenore Morrison, Nancy Ployart, Brenda Trauttmansdorff, Joan Wilks

10 Years

- Carol Andres, Jane Calver, David Livett, Julian Rance, Barbara Waller, Susan White

If you missed the live broadcast, you can view the recording here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehjIK6x1pWo>

Shaw Announces 2021 Season

Tickets go on sale to Friends of The Shaw on November 7 and to the public on December 5

“This is an expression of faith. Of course, it is impossible to know what the situation will be next year. We may have to change our plans again; we will be ready to do so. But we have decided to be optimistic and plan for a season. This year has shown us how desperately we miss the experience of live theatre.” said Artistic Director Tim Carroll.

Safety will be the utmost priority – for our patrons and Company – and The Shaw will do everything possible to make sure everyone can come to the theatres with confidence. The Shaw is the first theatre in Ontario to receive the Safe Travel Stamp from World Travel and Tourism Council and the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario.

For details, please check out www.shawfest.com

November Dates of the Shaw Festival's FREE Concert Series Now Available

Revues will be limited capacity, socially distanced indoor concerts

SHAW FESTIVAL



As of October 28, the Shaw Festival's concert series will move indoors to the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre (10 Queen's Parade) with a limit of 50 guests and safety protocols in place. Featuring the music of Duke Ellington, Dorothy Fields and Cole Porter, the socially distanced free indoor performances run Wednesdays to Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. from October 28 through November 20. For more information about the Festival's COVID-19 health and safety practices, please visit shawfest.com/dutyofcare/.

Each concert features the music of a renowned 20th century artist:

- The Duke Ellington Revue and Dorothy Fields Revue are directed by Associate Artistic Director Kimberley Rampersad with music direction by Paul Sportelli.
- The Cole Porter Revue is directed by Tim Carroll with choreography by Kimberley Rampersad and music direction by Paul Sportelli.

The 30- to 45-minute concerts feature the talents of Festival ensemble members Kyle Blair, Andrew Broderick, James Daly, Kristi Frank, Élodie Gillett, Alexis Gordon, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane, Jonathan Tan and Associate Music Director Ryan deSouza.

Tickets are general seating and can be reserved by calling the Shaw Festival's box office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429). Tickets for the concert series will not be available online. To allow a wider audience to enjoy these concerts, The Shaw is limiting patrons to two tickets per concert and two concerts per household.

Help to Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Shaw Guild is donating \$500 toward this worthy cause, led once again by Bea Campbell of the Shaw Festival! Bea has identified a family of six people to receive the benefits of the funds collected – from Shaw Company Members and the Guild. Due to everyone's generosity, she is now working toward helping a second family!

If you would like to make a personal donation, please send an e-transfer to campbellbea@gmail.com. There is no password required, but please write "Christmas Family" in the note section. If you would prefer to give cash, or send a cheque, just send her an email and she will contact you to make arrangements.

Bea is also offering her services as a personal shopper to anyone in the Guild who is feeling anxious about going shopping leading up to the holidays. There is no charge other than a wee donation to pay for gas. If you are interested, please call or email Bea: 905-324-2236 / campbellbea@gmail.com.

The IDEA Team

Over the past months we have become acutely aware that racism exists both in the Shaw Festival and in our community.

What can the Guild do?

We are launching a new initiative called IDEA, which stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity in Action. The team's mandate is to listen and learn from the experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in the Guild, The Shaw and the community to better understand racism and white privilege and help us see how we can make a difference. By reaching out, gaining knowledge and taking action, we can foster equity and inclusion in everything we do.



Susan MacDonald, Shaw Guild Membership Chair, is leading the IDEA team. Members include: Arlene Carson, Laurie Harley, Gail Kendall, Marg Mather, Mary Mizen, Kim Mustill and Julian Rance.

Please watch this video with Laurie Harley and Susan who explain the impetus and objectives of forming the IDEA team. [youtube.com/watch?v=74qhQEvj4gA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74qhQEvj4gA)

The team is looking for your input and participation, and have a lot to share with you as well.

A new page on the Shaw Guild website will soon be populated with resource materials, links to videos, recommendations for books and articles. There is a contact form on the page that you can use to send comments anonymously. The resource page with the contact form is password-protected, so only Guild members will be able to access it. You will be sent the password by email shortly.

You can also send email to idea@shawguild.ca. **It's time to talk about racism and equality.**

Looking for Volunteers to be NOTL Ambassadors in Pilot #2



After the very successful pilot program that ran during September, we have been asked by the Town to continue the program until the end of this year. The time commitment is more flexible than in Pilot #1:

- Saturdays and Sundays only with 2 volunteers per shift.
- 2 shifts each day at noon – 2pm, and 2pm – 4pm. However, if 2 hours is too long on some days or the weather is bad, volunteers can end the shift early.
- Shift sign-ups will be done via MVP.

Several people have already signed up, but we do need a few more. Each volunteer will receive a Town mask, face shield and a NOTL Ambassador “racing bib” that attaches to your coat or sweater.

Margot Devlin, who completed 9 shifts for a total of 18 hours during the Pilot (wow!), is coordinating Pilot 2. You can reach her via info@shawguild.ca.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
THE SHAW GUILD PRESENTS:



CHRISTMAS EDITION!

What is this? It is a box of carefully curated items from the merchants of Niagara-on-the-Lake which showcase the wonderful variety of excellent products available in our town.

Why is it being offered? The Shaw's own Emily Lukasik had a great idea to showcase the merchants, help bring them more business and highlight what is out there. Guild members joined Emily in her vision – and VOILA! Our pilot project in August was a smash success – in fact we sold out in less than three days! So, we wanted to do an encore presentation – just in time for holiday gift giving!

How much does it cost? Each box will contain a surprise assortment of carefully chosen items which all are available from the shops in town. Perfect for gift giving! Boxes cost \$100 and there is a finite number (100) of boxes available.

How do I get one (or two... or three...)? Watch for instructions which will be sent to all Guild members on NOVEMBER 2nd for a chance to be among the first to reserve your box(es). Orders can be placed using a credit card.

When will I get my order? Volunteers from the Guild will deliver your order personally on December 11th, in time for the holidays.

HOORAY! We are so excited to be able to offer a special holiday version of the box everyone's been talking about! Don't miss your chance to order!

The Lot O'NOTL team



Shaw Guild Garden Tour 2021

The DATE is set, the TEAM is in place and 8 FEATURED GARDENS chosen!

With energies high, we are actively planning for the 15th Annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour.

Save the Date Saturday, June 12, 2021 to enjoy what will be THE BEST WE CAN MAKE IT.

Note: Sip, Savour & Stroll is now a separate event and will take place later in the summer. Stay tuned!

M Jane Catcher, Garden Tour Convenor

Sip, Savour & Stroll will be held as a separate event on Saturday, August 28, 2021! Enjoy private gardens, refreshments, live music and an original art auction at this exclusive event. Only 100 tickets will be sold!

Ticket ordering information will be found on shawguild.ca Check back soon for details!

Guild Membership Renewal

We appreciate the loyalty and dedication of Guild members, especially throughout a year that pretty much stopped in March.

Without volunteer duties, we hope we've been able to keep you up-to-date and engaged with the Shaw through our newsletters and online events.

2021 looks promising, and we are waiting to gear up to actively volunteer again.

Officially, memberships in the Guild expire on January 31. We plan to launch a membership renewal campaign for 2021 at the start of the new year. As in the past, there will be a \$20 renewal fee. We need these fees to cover Guild fixed costs and operating expenses.



You'll be receiving notices about membership renewal in late December and early January.

Last year, we introduced permanent name badges with printed lanyards and no year on the badge. Most of you already have them. For those who didn't have a chance to pick it up, your badge is here for you and will be distributed at the first meetings of the gardeners, greeters, hosts and docents next year.

If you have any questions about membership renewal, please email us at membership@shawguild.ca

We have a fantastic team of Greeters!



During this unprecedented time, Shaw Guild Greeters have always been optimistic and overwhelmingly said “We’ll be there” when we’re allowed.

When we emailed them that sadly the Season had come to an end, we were told “See you a little bit later on”. Then, when we let them know that, as an expression of faith, Shaw was planning for the 2021 Season.... “Great” “Good news” “Wonderful” ...was their answer.

Thank you all so much and onward to 2021!

Stay safe, Stay healthy

Marg and John

Stratford/Shaw Cricket Game a Smashing Success

The traditional match-up took place on September 11, with a new twist – the two teams each consisted of company members from both Festivals! Lots of fun, cheering and socially distanced camaraderie was enjoyed by players and audience.

According to Jeff Irving, captain of the Shaw players, “We were able to raise over \$3500 for the AFC!! This number could not have been reached without Guild support. We all thank you very much for being part of the day. For those that couldn't make it on the day, Jeff's Jellybeans beat Ben's Bolts by 2 wickets. The score was 178-177. It was a blustery cold start but by the second half of the game it turned out to be a decent day. Thanks again for your amazing support. You're all top shelf to me!”



Shaw Festival History

Did you know

On June 20, 1973 the Shaw Festival Theatre was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Designed by renowned Canadian architect Ronald Thom, the Festival Theatre enabled The Shaw to mount large-scale productions, drawing national and international acclaim.

On the opening day of the theatre ... the star and the centre of attention was the theatre, not the play. Among the accolades was Clive Barnes's description of it in the *New York Times* as "the loveliest in North America," but the most eloquent tribute to what Ron Thom had achieved came from the *Toronto Star*: Beautifully proportioned and superbly detailed, the new Shaw Festival Theatre gives its lucky audiences room to admire, room to wander, and, most important, room to think. It is an environment which leaves a dimension for the intellect, for words, ideas, and reflections.



Many famous people came to the Shaw Festival in the inaugural season of the Festival Theatre. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (at left with Margaret Trudeau) escorted Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi; Ontario Lieutenant-Governor Ross Macdonald and Ontario Premier William Davis came; Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh attended a special performance of *You Never Can Tell* on 28 June 1973.

Best seats in the house \$6.50; back balcony \$2.50!

Many thousands of less famous people have seen the nearly 150 productions in the Festival Theatre since then. They might not always have enjoyed the plays, but the quality of the theatre in which they have seen them has rarely failed to impress.

Excerpt from *Shaw Festival - The First Fifty Years* by L.W. Conolly.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON #8 – All Hands On Deck!!

Eighth in a series by Paddy Parr, Shaw Gardens Chair

In the theatre industry, whenever there is a crisis, teamwork is imperative!! The Shaw Festival is truly an "all hands-on-deck" company whenever there is a problem that could take down a performance. I remember a mid-nineties incident with yet another huge torrential downpour, which threatened the evening musical performance at the Royal George.

I was at home, feeling very uneasy about the rapidly growing storm. My thoughts were with the theatre. Suddenly, my daughter came running upstairs to announce that water was pouring into the family-room below through the over-flowing window wells! My husband rushed down to help with the situation, but I on the other hand, sat by the phone that I knew was going to ring! Sure enough...that dreaded call came.

The Royal George was in trouble!! Torrential rain was pouring in beneath the house-right exit doors, creating a river flowing down the rake floor, and subsequently pouring into the orchestra pit. Water travelled on to the greenroom below, and into three of the dressing rooms!! This was major serious for many reasons. Musical instruments in the pit, and costumes in dressing-rooms were at risk, and an audience was about to arrive!!!

The show must go on, but can it??? It was 7:15 pm with the 8:00 o'clock curtain looming, and the actors arriving for their 'half-hour call'.

I jumped into my truck and arrived at the theatre to find a flurry of activity already in progress. Stage crew was lifting all the musical instruments out of the soggy orchestra pit, (including the piano).....and the wardrobe running crew were scrambling full-tilt to move ALL the costumes/wigs/shoes and accessories out of the flooded dressing rooms, moving them ALL to the only high-level dressing room, thanks to the heaved floor in this groaning old building (that's another story).

So there we were...my maintenance staff, the stage crew, wardrobe and props running crews, wading through approximately 8 inches of water in the lower level, wondering what do we do next. The clock was ticking!



From nowhere - with no social media network to alert the players - company members started to arrive with multitudes of shop-vacs in hand as they knew we would be in trouble, and the clean-up commenced at top speed. Soon the bewildered actors and musicians started to arrive and the fun began. The actors were ushered into the ONLY dry dressing room, and scrambled into their costumes! As the hum of the shop-vacs droned on, the orchestra was re-established, (including the piano), and, as the saying goes, the show goes on!!!

At precisely 8:00 pm the curtain went up in the Royal George Theatre. The musical was such a lovely piece that I'm sure the audience in the first six rows didn't notice the carpets squishing under their feet, or suspect the extraordinary effort it took to get that show on the boards in less than an hour!! Teamwork!

In Memoriam: Burke McNeill (1928-2020)

With sadness, we announce the September 27th passing of former Guild Gardener, Burke McNeill. Longtime volunteers Burke, and his late wife Margaret, were dedicated Shaw Guild members for many years. After their move to Milton, Burke continued to find his way back to The Shaw to join us for our annual end-of-season luncheon, happy to be with his former gardening buddies, and forging many new friendships. He shall be missed, but we are richer for knowing this charming imp! Heaven's gardens have a new volunteer!