

 northumberland players present

LAST DAY, LAST HOUR

CANADA'S GREAT WAR ON TRIAL

by Hugh Brewster

PRODUCTION OF
ARMISTICE
ARTS & CULTURE

VICTORIA HALL COURTHOUSE, VICTORIA HALL

OCTOBER 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

NOVEMBER 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2018 AT 8:00PM

OCTOBER 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2018 AT 3:00PM

Director's Notes

The time was February, 2017. The place was the Social Capital Theatre in Toronto. The event was a very well attended Playwrights Guild of Canada meeting. I expected this to be a typical PGC event and, for the most part, it was until fate played her hand. I was sitting alone when two men approached me and asked if the last two empty seats in the crowded room were taken. One of those men was Hugh Brewster. When the conversation revealed that I was the President of the Beech Street Theatre Company, Hugh asked if I would look at his play. Upon reading it, I immediately saw the potential not only to produce a great play, but to make it the centre piece of a commemoration to the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the Great War in 1918.

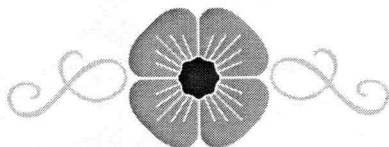
When I discovered that Victoria Hall housed the very courtroom where the Currie libel trial took place we acted quickly to move the production from our home base in Whitby to the courtroom in Cobourg. Today you have taken a step into history as you savour this re-enactment of an important moment in Canadian history, in the very place where the actual trial occurred.

I would like to acknowledge Dean Hustwick, who quickly grasped the vision, and his incredible team who worked diligently to create what is now Armistice 18. Jack Boyagian of the Northumberland Players quickly saw the potential of this play and readily agreed to produce it.

And so today you are enjoying the results of a fantastic team of actors, crew and organizers whose talent, hard work and creative energies have enabled this story to unfold. A very special thank you to Rebecca Summers, without whom I would not have gotten through the first two months of rehearsals. My gratitude goes out to everyone who was involved in making this play happen and for making my job a pleasure.

And as always, I thank you, the audience, for your continued support.

...Michael Khashmanian



CENTENNIAL | 1918-2018

ARMISTICE18

COBOURG | ONTARIO

MUSIC | ART | SPEAKERS | FILM | EXHIBITS | THEATRE

Cast

Ian Speiran	...	Sir Arthur Currie
Jody Ledgerwood	...	Lady Lucy "Lil" Currie
Robert Bailey	...	Fred Wilson
Tom Anthony Quinn	...	Frank Regan
Robert Davidson	...	William Tilley
Jamie Sperean	...	William Preston, Bartender
Peter Kedwell	...	Mr. Justice Hugh Rose
Mandy Robinson	...	Court Clerk, Mary
Matthew Blundell	...	Ensemble
Garret Lee	...	Ensemble

Setting

Sc. 1	Principal's residence, McGill University, Montréal, July, 1927
Sc. 2	Principal's office, McGill University, November 5 1927
Sc. 3	Law Office of G.N. Gordon, Peterborough, November 9, 1927
Sc. 4	Courtroom, Victoria Hall, Cobourg, April 16, 1928
Sc. 5	Courtroom
Sc. 6	Dunham's Hotel, Cobourg, April 1928
Sc. 7	Courtroom, April 20, 1928
Sc. 8	Courtroom, April 21, 1928
Sc. 9	Legion Hall, Port Hope, April 24, 1928
Sc. 10	Courtroom
Sc. 11	Anteroom of Courtroom
Sc. 12	Courtroom
Sc. 13	Dunham's Hotel, April 25, 1928
Sc. 14	Courtroom, April 27, 1928
Sc. 15	Courtroom, April 30, 1928
Sc. 16	A room at Victoria Hall, Cobourg, May 1, 1928
Sc. 17	Courtroom, Victoria Hall, Cobourg, May 1, 1928, 3:26 pm
Sc. 18	Principal's residence, McGill University
Sc. 19	Epilogue

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DIRECT



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District A-3



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INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Production Volunteers

- Producer ... Jack Boyagian
- Director ... Michael Khashmanian
- Stage Manager ... Rebecca Summers
- Costume Consultant ... Delphine White-Crane
- Costume Designer ... Sharon Anderson
- Costume Construction ... Sharon Anderson, Catherine Hazlitt,
Barbara Horscroft, Lois MacLeod,
Pat Spalding
- Dressers ... Sharon Anderson, Lee Wakelin,
Carol Anne Caswell
- Hair Stylists ... Trisa Chernuck
- Properties Manager ... Carol-Anne Caswell
- Properties Assistant ... Lee Wakelin, Wally Keeler
- Building ... Jack Boyagian, Gord Buxton
- Lighting Designer ... Victor Svenningson
- Lighting Hang ... Vince Edgar, Jordan Carrol, Ward
McCance, Jack Boyagian, Victor
Svenningson
- Sound Designer ... Victor Svenningson
- Lighting and Sound Operators ... Lynne Templer, Catherine Holland,
Rebecca Summers, Abby Corkery,
Ward McCance, Victor Svenningson
- Poster Designer ... Greg Curtis
- Show Photographer ... Sherwood McLernon
- Program Designer ... Maureen Holloway
- Marketing ... Alina Adjemian, Laura Garton,
Maureen Holloway

Mons, Belgium

The Battle of Mons, August 23, 1914

When Germany invaded Belgium on August 4, 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. On August 21, the British soldiers of the British Expeditionary took up a position on the left flank of the French forces on the line along the Mons-Condé canal and the Mons-Beaumont road. It was on August 23, starting at 8:00 in the morning, that the "Battle of Mons" took place. The 70,000 British troops clashed, for the first time, with 160,000 German soldiers. The fighting, which had started in Obourg and Nimy, spread west along the entire canal. After heavy fighting, Field Marshall John French, who led the BEF, ordered a retreat to prevent his troops from being surrounded, while the French retreated from Charleroi. After two days of fighting the British and German forces had sustained almost equal heavy losses. "The Great Retreat" to the River Marne lasted twelve days, during which the BEF, driven back by the advancing German. The Battle of Mons became an important symbol to the Allies.

Return to Mons, November 11, 1918

On November 10, 1918, the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Canadian Army reached the outskirts of Mons. Anticipating the end of the war, General Currie wanted to protect the town from further damage. To accomplish that, he ordered an encircling manoeuvre: the 2nd Division skirted the city from the south, while the 3rd division had to take the northern suburb of Nimy and advance to the centre of the city. At about 11:00 pm, the platoons of the 42nd Montreal Battalion (Canadian Black Watch) of the 7th Brigade entered the City of Mons and began clearing eastward, while others crossed the Canal de la Dérivation and moved northwest into the town.



Canadians marching through the streets of Mons on the morning of the 11th November, 1918
CWM 19930065-434

George Metcalf Archival Collection. Canadian War Museum

In the early morning of November 11, 1918, all four battalions of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade penetrated the city: The Canadian Royal Regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the 42nd Montreal Battalion and the 49th Battalion. At 3:10 AM, the first patrol crossed the Grand-Place and at 4:00 AM the entire city was under the control of the Canadian units. At 5:00 AM, the first Canadian officers were received in the Mons town hall.

The Battle of Mons. Wikipedia. Accessed October 7, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Mons

Canada and the First World War. Canadian War Museum. 2018. Accessed October 7, 2018. <https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/people/generals/sir-arthur-currie/>



Inglis Harry Jodrel Sheldon-Williams. The Return to Mons.
CWM 19710261-0813

Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum

Playwright Hugh Brewster's Note

In the spring of 1928, Cobourg's Old Bailey courthouse was the scene of one of the most sensational trials in Canadian history. The case was a libel suit brought by Sir Arthur Currie, the general who had led the Canadian Corps to victory in 1918. The cause of his grievance was a front-page article in a Port Hope newspaper which claimed that Currie had needlessly wasted Canadian lives in the capture of the Belgian town of Mons on the last day of the war. The trial placed Canada's entire role in World War I under a spotlight and kept the country riveted for weeks. It raised issues that are as pertinent today as they were 90 years ago. The dialogue in the courtroom scenes is taken from the trial transcripts which are in the Currie papers at Library and Archives Canada.

MONS

Cable despatches this morning give details of the unveiling of a bronze plaque at the Hotel de Ville (the City Hall) at Mons commemorative of the capture of the city by the Canadians on November 11th, 1918. This is an event which might very properly be allowed to pass into oblivion, very much regretted rather than glorified.

There was much waste of human life during the war, enormous loss of lives which should not have taken place. But it is doubtful whether in any case there was a more deliberate and useless waste of human life than in the so-called capture of Mons.

It was the last day; and the last hour, and almost the last minute, when to glorify the Canadian Head Quarters staff the Commander-in-Chief conceived the mad idea that it would be a fine thing to say that the Canadians had fired the last shot in the Great War, and had captured the last German entrenchment before the bugles sounded eleven o'clock, when the armistice which had been signed by both sides would begin officially.

Canadian Headquarters sounded the advance upon the retreating Germans, unsuspecting that any mad proposal for further and unnecessary fighting was even contemplated. The men were sent on in front to charge the enemy. Headquarters, with conspicuous bravery, brought up the rear. The fighting may have been more severe than was expected. Certain it is the Germans did not take the attack lying down.

Of course the town was taken just at the last minute before the official moment of the armistice arrived. But the penalty that was paid in useless waste of human life was appalling. There are hearts in Port Hope stricken with sorrow and mourning through this worse than drunken spree by Canadian Headquarters. Veterans who had passed through the whole four years of war lie buried in Belgian cemeteries as the result of the "glories of Mons."

Headquarters Staff assembled in the centre of the town as the eleven o'clock signal sounded that the official armistice was effective from that hour. Along the route that they had carefully and with safety made their way to the centre of the town, passing the dead and dying and the wounded, victims of their madness. It was common talk among the soldiers that while the staff were congratulating themselves upon the great victory and enjoying the pride upon having "fired the last shot in the Great War," a sergeant advanced and whispered to one of the Staff that unless they withdrew immediately to a place of safety, they would not be allowed to leave the place alive, as the guns of the indignant Canadian soldiers were already trained on them. In less time than it takes to tell the story, Headquarters got into motors and were fleeing for their lives.

It does not seem to be remembered that even Ottawa, neither by government nor Parliament, gave Sir Arthur Currie any official vote of thanks, or any special grant as an evidence of the esteem or appreciation for his services. And this is the only case of the kind in connection with any of the high commanding officers of the war. He was allowed to return to Canada unnoticed by officials of the government or of Parliament and permitted to sink into comparative obscurity in a civilian position as President of McGill University. The official desire to glorify Mons, therefore, deserves more than a passing or silent notice. Canadian valour won Mons, but it was by such a shocking useless waste of human life that it is an eternal disgrace to the Headquarters that directed operations.

Northumberland Players and Armistice 18 Present

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by
Stephen Massicotte

ARMISTICE 18

performed as a staged play reading

Produced by Jack Boyagian Directed by Paula Worley

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NOVEMBER 8, 2018 AT 8:00 PM

NOVEMBER 4, 10, 2018 AT 3:00 PM

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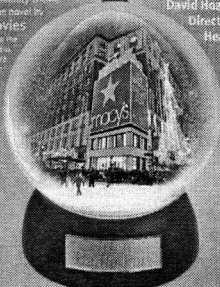
For the Holiday Season

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

**Miracle on
34th Street**

Adapted by
Mountain Community Theatre
from the novel by
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Music by
TheatreWorks Company Ltd.
Original Plot
Music by
John Knecht

Produced by
David Hoare
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Photo credit: Michael S. Greenberg

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**The Lion, the Witch
and the Wardrobe**

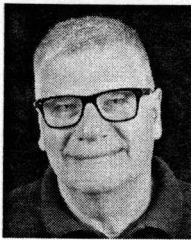
by Joseph Robinette
from the story by C.S. Lewis

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SCHOOL PERFORMANCES DEC. 12, 13, 14, 2018, 10AM & 1PM
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PUBLIC PERFORMANCE: DEC. 15, 2018 AT 2:00 PM



Jack Boyagian - Producer

Jack is the President and Artistic director of the Northumberland Players. He was the recipient of the 2017 Cobourg Civic Award for the contribution to the Arts and Education. He is especially proud of this award because he considers it a collective award to all volunteers of the Northumberland Players. He has been on stage as an actor and has directed a couple dozen shows for the Players and at East Northumberland Secondary School where he taught drama and English for 26 years before retiring. Jack has enjoyed working with Dean Hustwick, Director of Recreation and Culture, playwright Hugh Brewster, Councillor Susanne Sequin, director Michael Khashmanian, and the entire Armistice 18 committee. Congratulations to this stellar cast and crew for bringing to life this significant new play.



Michael Khashmanian - Director

Whether as playwright, director or actor, Michael never seems to slow down in the theatre world. He has written fifteen plays, all of which have been produced. His direction and acting credits are too numerous to mention here. He is currently the President and Managing Artistic Director of the Beech Street Theatre Company in Whitby. Michael is thoroughly enjoying his first involvement with the Northumberland Players as director of *Last Day, Last Hour* and hopes to work with them in the future.



Rebecca Sumners - Stage Manager

Rebecca is proud to be working on *Last Day, Last Hour: Canada's Great War on Trial* as part of the centennial commemoration of the Armistice and thinks it's super cool that the show is being staged in the historic Old Bailey courtroom where the real-life trial actually took place. She's also excited to finally be involved in a play that her dad will actually enjoy seeing and not fall asleep!



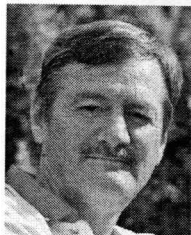
Delphine White-Crane - Costume Consultant

Delphine White-Crane is a Canadian costume designer who has been nominated for Emmy, Gemini, Genie and Canadian Screen Awards. Her last project was with Guillermo Del Toro on Season IV of "The Strain". Throughout her career she has worked with directors David Cronenberg, Terry Gilliam, Gus Van Sant, Norman Jewison and Barry Levinson. Delphine is pleased to be Costume Consultant on *Last Day, Last Hour*.



Sharon Anderson - Costume Designer

Sharon has been busy the past few seasons with costumes and props for numerous Northumberland Players productions. And on Mondays can be found volunteering at the Costume House. This production has been a pleasure and educational – the history of the time, costumes of the day and the opportunity to learn from Delphine White-Crane.



Victor Svenningson - Sound and Lighting Designer

Victor started his professional career in sound design and then moved on to theatre management until retirement. He is thrilled to be back at the beginning and with the Northumberland Players. Recent Sound Design credits include: *In Continuum* (Northumberland 89.7), *Quartet*, *Comedy of Tenors*, *Mary's Wedding* (Northumberland Players), *The Birds and the Bees*, *Rainmaker* (Drayton Entertainment).



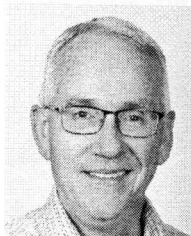
Carol-Anne Caswell - Props Manager

Carol-Anne is delighted to be Props Manager for this memorable WW1 court drama. She enjoys a successful treasure hunt for hand props & set props and researching each according to the time period. Carol-Anne has worked backstage in other capacities, attended workshops, as well as acting in musicals, dinner theatre, children's theatre & the Firehall Theatre (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Les Belles Soeurs*) with the Northumberland Players.



Lee Wakelin - Props Assistant

Since retiring to Cobourg, Lee has become involved in local theatre. She has performed in a number of productions both here and in Peterborough, and has also helped backstage in several different areas. She is happy to be part of such an inspiring production with a wonderful cast and production crew.



Robert Bailey - Fred Wilson

For almost 50 years, Bob has trod the boards as everything from a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Ben in *The Secret Garden*...from a cadet in *Cyrano* with Scana McKenna as Roxanne to Elwood in *Harvey* with an invisible rabbit. His favourite roles? A couple of minutes as the Bishop in *Les Misérables* and the one you're about to see. Enjoy this wonderful piece of history, and thanks to Hugh for the play and Michael for the opportunity!



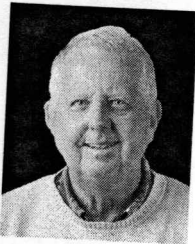
Matthew Blundell - Ensemble

Matt has been with Northumberland Players for about two years and has been on stage for several productions, including *A Comedy of Tenors* as Max and *Sister Act* as Curtis. Most recently, Matt made his directorial debut with *For Sale - Baby Shoes - Never Worn* as part of the One Act Festival. Matt is very excited to have this once in a lifetime opportunity and to share this with a very talented cast and production team. Enjoy the show!



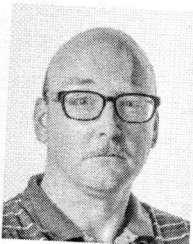
Robert Davidson - William Tilley

Rob is delighted to be involved in this project - re-creating an important piece of Canadian military and legal history in the very spot where it occurred is very attractive to him: a Navy brat with a deep interest in Canada's past. Rob has been in several Northumberland Players productions, most recently *A Festival of One Acts* at the Firehall and before that Best Western Dinner Theatre with *39 Steps*. As always Rob is bowled over with the talent and generosity of his fellow players and all the volunteers that make a show like this possible. Thanks are never enough.



Peter Kedwell - Mr. Justice Hugh Rose

Peter has had a life-long love affair with theatre starting in a high school production of A. A. Milne's *The Ugly Duckling*. He has enjoyed roles in *Our Town*, *The Laramie Project*, *Under Milkwood*, *A Month of Sundays*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *On Golden Pond* and *August: Osage County* to name a few. In his 38 years in education, 35 of which he spent at Trinity College School, Port Hope, he directed and produced over 25 plays. He dedicates this performance to the memory of his uncle, Flt. Sgt. H. Russell Kedwell (1942), whose bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire over Germany and crashed into the sea as the crew made a desperate attempt to reach home base. Thanks to Michael and Jack and a wonderfully accomplished and supportive cast and crew for this opportunity!



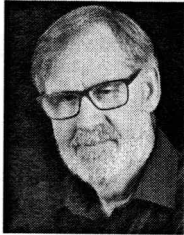
Garrett Lee - Ensemble

Garret is very proud to be a part of this particular performance. He has had a busy year playing such characters as Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Hannay in *The 39 Steps* and Dr. Stanley Pill in *Frankandstan*. He hopes you enjoy.



Jody Ledgerwood – Lady Lucy “Lil” Currie

Jody is an active member and Director on the Board for Northumberland Players (NP) & the Northumberland Hills Association of Realtors (NHAR). She enjoys participating as crew on productions but her true love is to be on the stage. Most recently you may have seen her in *A Comedy of Tenors*, *For Sale-Baby Shoes-Never Worn*, *Jenny’s House of Joy*, *Boeing, Boeing* (multiple award winning); *Macbeth* and *Harvey*. Jody would like to credit her family & friends for their constant support of her volunteer efforts both on and off the stage. Enjoy the show!



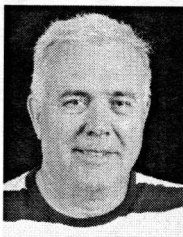
Tom Anthony Quinn – Frank Regan

This is Tom’s fifth show with the Players, last appearing as St. Clair in *1940’s Radio Christmas Carol*. Most notably, Tom has appeared as Doctor Gibbs in *Our Town* with New Stages Theatre; Francis Nurse in *The Crucible* with Hart House Theatre and as Robert in Peterborough Theatre Guild’s multiple award-winning production of *Proof* (Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role – Theatre Ontario) Over the past 20 years Tom has been working to hone his craft appearing in theatres as far away as Prince Edward Island where he lives part-time.



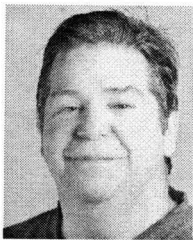
Mandy Robinson – Court Clerk, Mary

Excited to return to the stage again since performing in several Shakespeare plays for Northumberland Players, Mandy loves the diversity of roles she is assigned. Mandy is a professional speaker/story-teller with years of experience as a Distinguished Toastmaster and speech competitor. Cobourg’s first female Town Crier, winner of the 2015 Provincial Award for Leading women Building Communities Recognition program, an ardent community volunteer, this dedicated actress is animated and engaging in every role she brings to life.



Ian Speiran - Sir Arthur Currie

Ian is thrilled to be making his Cobourg and Northumberland debut as Arthur Currie in *Last Day, Last Hour*. Ian is a resident of Ajax and is active with Ajax Community Theatre (ACT) as an actor, a director, and a board member. With Beech Street Theatre, he has ticked all those same boxes as well, but you can swap out board member for playwright. Ian would like to thank Mike Khashmanian for the opportunity to be in this production, and his wife Catherine, son Evan and daughter Charlotte for their ongoing love and support.



Jamie Spereman - William Preston, Bartender

Jamie is so looking forward to this production. He has performed many plays with the Players, among them *Miracle on 34th St.*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *12 Angry Men*, *Harvey* to name a few. He certainly hopes you enjoy this celebration and remembrance of a very important date in our history.



Sherwood McLernon - Show Photographer

Sherwood retired from a career in Engineering Sales in 2010 and was asked to fill in for a photographer friend for some headshots and a poster for the Northumberland Players. Being an avid photographer for over 50 years at that point, he was only too happy to help out. Forty productions for the Players later, he treasures having had the opportunity to work with such a talented and friendly theatre group and looks forward to continuing in the future.



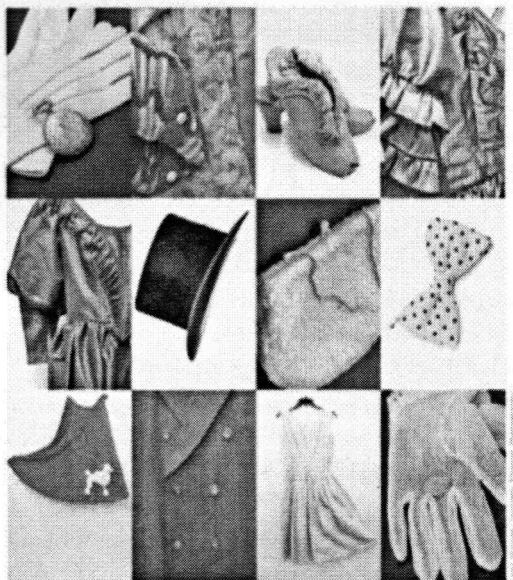
Canadians in Mons.

CWM 19900076-637

George Metcalf Archival Collection. Canadian War Museum.



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Who Are Northumberland Players?

Northumberland Players is live, local, and committed to bringing quality theatre to the whole family.

In 2018, Northumberland Players are proud to be part of Cobourg's **Armistice 18**.

In its 43 years, Northumberland Players, a not-for-profit community theatre, has won numerous Theatre Ontario awards for performance, direction, music and production. Its active youth theatre program includes a major children's production presented every Christmas season and drama camps that run throughout the summer months.

Northumberland Players provides opportunities in all aspects of quality theatre. Over 300 enthusiastic, *un-paid volunteers*, who work as actors, directors, producers, set builders, costume makers, etc., are proof there is passion for live theatre in Northumberland County. By supporting our not-for-profit theatre company, your entertainment dollars stay in the community, creating cultural and economic benefits that ripple throughout our community.

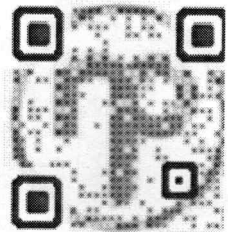
Home for Northumberland Players is the historic *Second Street Firehall* in Cobourg. The building houses the Players' administrative office, rehearsal spaces, and a ground-floor theatre. The *Firehall Theatre* is an intimate venue with comfortable seating that can be arranged in various configurations to present innovative theatre to smaller audiences.

Unit 4, 450 Campbell Street in Cobourg houses *Cobourg Costumes*, the Players' vast collection of period and contemporary costumes, all of which are available for rentals. Northumberland Players also leases *The Third Space* on Lovshin Road for set storage and construction.

Over 11,000 people attended our productions last year. We hope this year even more will see our shows. We welcome members and volunteers to join us in the fun of producing quality theatre.

Be a Player - There are many roles!

- Members have a voice in the operation of Northumberland Players and a vote at the Annual General Meeting on November 13, 2018. Individual Memberships are \$25. A Family Membership of \$40 includes spouses and, as non-voting members, children and youth.
- Volunteers participate in all aspects of community theatre: artistic, backstage, clerical, construction, production and/or technical roles. If you'd like to volunteer sign up on the website as a volunteer and you will be contacted.
- Donors and Sponsors provide financial support.



Visit us at www.northumberlandplayers.ca for more information, to donate and/or sign up. You can visit the Firehall office at 213 Second Street, Cobourg, or call 905-372-0577, or email to info@northumberlandplayers.ca. We accept VISA and Master Card. The office is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays.



42nd Battalion resting in Grand Place, Mons, on the morning of the 11th November, 1918
CWM 19930065-429.

George Metcalf Archival Collection. Canadian War Museum

Acknowledgements

The Armistice 18 Committee

Dean Hustwick

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