

Northumberland Players presenting 'Silent Sky' at the Firehall Theatre in Cobourg

By **Cindy Taylor** Northumberland News

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COBOURG — A play about the true story of astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, who was born in the 19th century, is on at the Firehall Theatre.

Northumberland Players is presenting *Silent Sky*, the poignant tale of a woman's dedication to the stars. It runs from March 22 through April 7.

The play, written by Lauren Gunderson, and produced and directed by Valerie Russell, showcases Leavitt as a brilliant astronomer who worked in relative obscurity in the early 1900s as a "computer" classifying stars at Harvard University.

Northumberland Players says *Silent Sky* explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them.

For a long time, it was thought that the Milky Way Galaxy was the full extent of the universe. The majority of

astronomers in the early 1900s agreed there was nothing outside of the Milky Way.

Leavitt's work was directly responsible for changing this viewpoint. Her discovery turned astronomy on its head and, for the first time, enabled astronomers to begin working out just where we fit into the universe. This is the story of a remarkable woman and her extraordinary discovery.

Performances run March 22 through April 7, at the Firehall Theatre, 213 Second St., Cobourg.