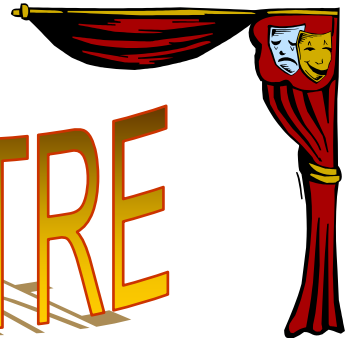


# FRONT AND CENTRE



Volume 1

Newsletter of the Hanover Community Players

January 2021

## **HO, HO, HO! The North Pole Chronicles**

"Wonderful. The virtual play was a shining example of what can be done and I can't wait to share it with my network around the world. It is my hope that it will inspire other groups and provide opportunities to those that are marginalized in their abilities to participate in or attend in person events whether it be in Covid times or not. Thanks so much for being a leader during these times of tribulation."

"Congratulations for a terrific opening night. You can all be very proud."

"Great job by all!!! Thanks so much for a great show!!!"

"Hi there, I just wanted to tell you how much my family and I enjoyed watching the production last night! Although we were watching it online it gave us a little piece of normal. Thanks again for putting this together for everyone to enjoy! Merry Christmas"



The above are just a few of the wonderful comments that we received about our first virtual play in December. Thanks to all of the cast and parents who supported us and especially a big thank you to the production team—Joey, Norm, Jenn, Nathan and Alex did a terrific job.

We received some wonderful donations which were put towards the cost of the production which totalled about \$1,000.00. Thank you supporters!

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## **Civic Theatre Renovations**



Some of you may have read about the need of renovations to the Civic Theatre, which have been necessary

for some time. These will bring the theatre up to code and include electrical, insulation, ventilation and fire safety, among other things. The Town is hoping to have tenders out and the work done by local firms.

This does, however, create a problem for productions of all types scheduled in the theatre in 2021. It is hoped the theatre will be ready in the fall but we will be making plans just in case!



The spring production of *Hilda's Yard* will be filmed—yes, we got permission! We are in the process of seeing just how we are going to do it but the plan is to stream it on our YouTube channel.

## **Why We Do Community Theatre**

Community theatre enriches the lives of those who take an active part in it, as well as those in the community who benefit from live theatre productions. On either side of the footlights, those involved represent a diversity of age, culture, life experience, and a strong appreciation of the importance of the arts. It is an economic boon as well.

"The theatre has opened my eyes and shown me the life of others in a way I could never have hoped to see by simply sharing a conversation with them. I have seen inside the souls of people whose passion for the stage is as deep as mine and whose gifts are deeper. Each time I become part of a production, I am thankful that I have the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the heart to feel what is in front of me."

- Annette Procnier, Theatre Thoughts, Ltd., Ontario, Canada

Until Ontario has enough people vaccinated, the government allows the meeting of larger groups and the theatre renovations are completed, HCP will be unable to mount any live shows in the theatre space; however, we shall persevere in other ways! Your continued support is much appreciated.

## **Little Red Riding Hood, the Panto Auditions**

These are still scheduled for May 12th and 13th but may take place via Zoom—yes, you would film your audition and send it in! Or, we may move the auditions to September. Remember to keep checking our website:

[www.hanovercommunityplayers.ca](http://www.hanovercommunityplayers.ca) to get up-to-date information.

## Mamma Mia, the Musical

Auditions for this great musical are still scheduled to take place Wed. Oct. 27th and Fri. Oct. 29th. Depending upon the theatre availability and Covid restrictions, these may be done individually in the theatre to keep social distancing. If the theatre is not available another location will be used. Our goal is to cast the show early. Again, please check the website.

**Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 2021 via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Members have voting privileges. Fantastic chance to attend a meeting without leaving home! The meeting is not long as it is a timed one.**

## Building Set Flats

Many of you have carried in our flats or maybe helped us to build the set for shows but do you know how the flats are built? We will need to re-do our supply at some point as some of the flats are over 14 years old!

We generally use what is called a 'tv flat' or 'Hollywood flat' meaning they have a depth to them.

A Hollywood flat is made by turning the boards on their edges to make a three-dimensional, box-like frame. Each type is uniform in size and design so they can be stacked together and stored in a small space. You can build theatre flats from lumber, plywood, and door skin or cloth.

Cut lumber (1" pine boards 10' long can be ripped 2 1/2" wide for all pieces) Rails form the top and bottom of the flat. Standard flats are 4' wide and 8' high. In theatre we don't use metric measurements!

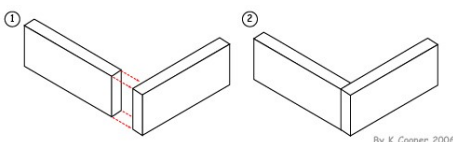


Top and bottom pieces are 4' (48") and known as **rails**. They're the full width of the flat so it doesn't get ripped apart when moved from storage to the stage.

Sides are 94 1/2" long using the same ripped boards and are known as **stiles**.

The two extra pieces (stiles) are cut at 46 1/2" to fit in between and are spaced evenly about 2' 6" apart to provide stability.

**The rails and stiles are glued and screwed—carpenter's glue and #2 Robertson 1" screws. Drywall screws really work because they pull things together. Two in each joint.**



By K. Cooper 2006



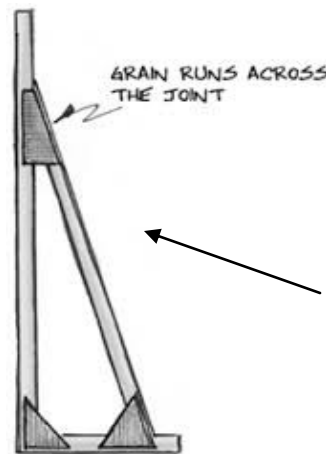
The covering is what we call 'door skin' or luan - what you often see on interior doors. It can be 1/8" thick or 1/4" thick and comes in a standard 4' x 8' sheet. We generally use the 1/8 because it is lighter.

The door skin is fitted onto the frame that has first had glue laid all along the edges. Starting in one corner it is screwed down. After that the frame is made to fit the door skin because it is square. We usually use 1/2" screws as their job is to hold everything until the glue dries.

*You have to make sure you have marked where the interior stiles are on the finished side of the flat to find the screw path!*

And there you have it—a finished flat ready to be base painted with latex sealer and then you paint whatever is needed!

Canvas flats are made by cutting a piece of unbleached muslin larger than the flat. Glue all edges of the frame and lay the muslin on it, pulling taut. Let dry. Once it's dry, roll on a watered down mixture of glue and let dry. The muslin will shrink and is now 'sized', ready for paint.



TRADITIONAL L-JACK

Some of you may have seen these. They are 'jacks' or stage braces. They can be attached to a flat with ordinary hinges and thus help to hold a flat up, particularly if it is supposed to be free standing.

They would be made in 8' lengths. Other lengths can be made for taller flats.

The same wood and thickness are used as in flats.

The corner blocks are usually 1/4" scrap plywood cut into triangles.

Corner blocks are glued and screwed. Notice they do not come to the edge of the stile or rail. This is to allow the attachment of the hinges. We screw them to the floor with a hinge and small screws to make sure they stay in place and are safe.

Behind the stage people have to be sure they don't trip over jacks—we put glow tape on the ends to make them easy to see.

NOW YOU ARE READY TO HELP CONSTRUCT FLATS!

