



# Friends of Roselawn Centre

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

## CHAIR CHAT

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter and thank you for supporting the Friends of Roselawn Centre as we continue to promote the Arts in our community and raise funds to assist in the restoration of the Victorian Roselawn heritage home.

This light newsletter version includes our upcoming events in the Fall and our work during this past Summer.

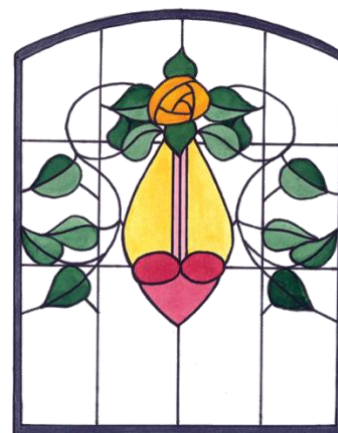
We deeply appreciate the opportunity provided by Showboat Theatre and Roselawn to allow us to provide 50-50 draws during the theatre & musical events. Of course a big thank you to a great group of volunteers who are assisting us with the draws this year!

This is also our REMINDER to renew your membership to continue to get the great discounts from our local shops and restaurants. What a bargain!

In our Winter newsletter we will get back to everyone's favourite articles including Carole Brisley's history of Roselawn series and Pat Bowman's artist feature that will both inspire & entertain you.

We invite you to enjoy the end of the summer and events like Showboat Theatre... or take a stroll through the gardens and relax in the solitude and imagine what it was like in a simpler time at Roselawn.

See you in the Fall!  
*Arlene Lessard*  
FoRC Chair



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## FUNDRAISING REPORT

Hello Friends of Roselawn! I'm excited to report that our 50/50 fundraising at the Showboat Festival has been a huge success. The Friends of Roselawn Centre and the Port Colborne Lioness Service Club shared in the 50/50 draws this summer. It's so wonderful that both organizations can benefit from this lucrative fundraising opportunity. To date we have raised over \$4,500! We still have one more week of the show to come in September so are estimating we will reach well over the above amount! Isn't that fantastic!

We are so grateful to those of you who bought 50/50 tickets. Your support will help us to further improve the inside of our beautiful Roselawn mansion in collaboration with the City of Port Colborne.

Finally, an extremely huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who took the time to man the 50/50 table and stay until intermission for the draw. We could not have done this without your generous gift of your time and your cheerful greetings to the Showboat patrons. Many thanks to all 50/50 volunteers!

Once again, our thanks to all our donors for your support. To donate, please make your cheque payable to The Friends of Roselawn Centre. Please note on your cheque that you give permission to publish your name or company. Then mail to Roselawn Centre for the Arts, 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne, ON L3K 4T6. For further information on our capital fundraising program, email [friendsofroselawn@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroselawn@gmail.com).

*Glenda Buck*

Capital Campaign & Membership Chair

## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that the Friends of Roselawn Centre's application for funds to replace the stove in the Roselawn kitchen has been accepted. The City has approved \$1200 to help purchase the new equipment.

Interest in culinary programs has been growing in Port Colborne. There has also been an increase in the number of Roselawn events that require in-house catering. There is extra demand on the kitchen's outdated stove/oven unit. The current stove lacks the precise cooking controls and capacity required by a commercial kitchen serving the public. A more updated stove/oven would help to attract more cooks/chefs who could offer additional cooking classes. Local restaurant chefs could showcase their culinary delights with special classes or presentations. It would also bring more exposure to our local cooking talent and help market Port Colborne's South Niagara cuisine.

*Pat Bowman*

Treasurer & Master Gardener



*Laurie Fuaco and Glenda Buck  
volunteer to host the 50/50 Draw at  
the Showboat Festival Theatre*



## CHRISTMAS MARKET 2019

Join us for all things festive and handmade at our sixth annual Christmas Market, Sunday, November 10, from 10am-4pm, in the beautiful Roselawn Centre.

Meet your favourite makers and vendors as well as new ones during our popular one-day show and sale.

Shop for Christmas gifts and for yourself as you prepare for seasonal entertaining!

Bake table, free door prize draws, 50/50 draw, seasonal music by Doug Mundy on the Roselawn grand piano, and other surprise guests – all complement an exciting array of arts and crafts.

Look forward to seeing you there! Get a gang together – bring family and friends – for a wonderful afternoon in support of local Niagara artisans and the Friends of Roselawn Centre.

Warmly,  
*Gail Todd*

Christmas Market 2019 Event Lead

Visit the event page on our website:  
[friendsofroselawncentre.org/events/christmas-market/](http://friendsofroselawncentre.org/events/christmas-market/)



FRIENDS OF ROSELAWN CENTRE ANNUAL

# Christmas MARKET

FREE ADMISSION

**Sunday, November 10, 2019**  
**10am-4pm**

Roselawn Centre  
296 Fielden Ave, Port Colborne

Shop for gifts from local vendors. Enjoy refreshments and the Christmas ambiance of Roselawn. Linger and enjoy live entertainment!

Follow us! @friendsofroselawn

Email [friendsofroselawn@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroselawn@gmail.com) for more info or visit [FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org](http://FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org)

Registered Charity # B2681 4370 RR0001

Photo highlights from previous Christmas Markets:





## IN THE GARDENS

### DAY LILLIES

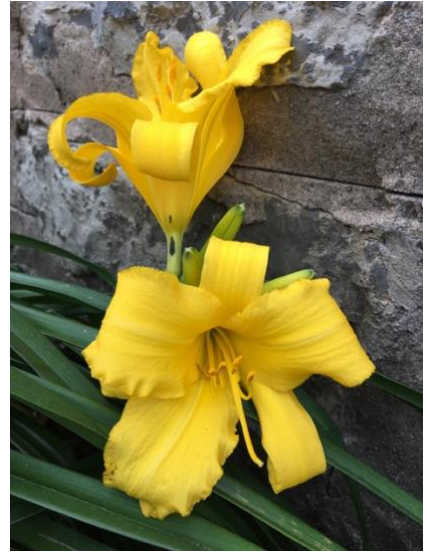
Nestled among the hostas in the north courtyard, these wonderful yellow daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) really stand out against the Roselawn mansion's rustic stone walls. Heat and drought tolerant, daylilies are an easy to grow, long-blooming perennial. They make any mid-summer garden shine.

### POLLINATOR MAGIC

This magnificent butterfly was spotted in the cutting garden enjoying some nectar on the Echinacea and Cosmos blooms. Found throughout southern Canada it is an eastern black swallowtail (*Papilio asterius*). This butterfly can be identified by rows of dramatic yellow dots on its inky wings and body, a halo of bright blue bands, a pair of orange eyespots on the topside and the distinctive tails on its hindwings. Underneath are more orange, yellow and blue markings. The colourings help the eastern black mimic the poisonous pipevine swallowtail as a line of defense. But be careful around this butterfly because if it gets poked just behind its head it will emit a rather unpleasant odour to deter predators.

*Pat Bowman*

Treasurer & Master Gardener



## SHOWBOAT FESTIVAL THEATRE

It's hard to believe that another wonderful Showboat season is coming to an end!

Be sure to get your tickets for our final show LUNENBURG, a comedy by Canadian playwright, Norm Foster. The show runs from September 11 – 22 and is directed by Derek Ritschel. Please read the following article by Showboat publicist, J.P. Antonacci, to learn more !

Call the Box Office at 905.834.0833 to reserve your seats.

See you at the theatre!

*Carole Brisley*

Secretary, Historian & Newsletter Editor



## EVERYMAN SPARKS A MAINSTAY ON SHOWBOAT STAGE

One of Artistic Director Derek Ritschel's most important jobs is choosing which actors will appear on the Showboat stage every summer. Since in many ways casting can make or break a show, Ritschel and the guest director will often see dozens of hopefuls vying for the same role and debate their relative merits for weeks before making a final decision.

But there's one actor Ritschel does not hesitate to cast if the part is right – Stephen Sparks.

"Stephen is the everyman," Ritschel said. "It doesn't matter what generation you are, when you're in the audience you can connect with Stephen very easily."

The Edmonton-born, Toronto-based actor goes back a long time with Ritschel, who cast Sparks in his first show as artistic director of Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover.

"When I worked with him for the first time, it was like a dream," Ritschel said. "He's down to earth and so easy to work with, because he's a super nice guy."

Ritschel added that Sparks' dedication rubs off on his castmates.

"He raises the game," Ritschel said. There's lots of fun with it, but he's here to work. There's total focus."

"I take the craft really seriously," Sparks said, whether he's taking a pratfall, landing a biting zinger, delivering a poignant monologue, or donning Sherlock Holmes' famed deerstalker cap in Baskerville.

"I've played a lot of big roles here, so that brings a lot of responsibility when you have a leading role," Sparks said, explaining that with top billing comes the obligation to show up early and encourage the other actors, while keeping the mood in the rehearsal hall "convivial" yet disciplined.

He loves coming back to Port Colborne summer after summer because of the sense of community.

"The people, the town, the work," Sparks said. "The people at Showboat – Derek in particular, and everyone – are always so welcoming and supportive."



*Stephen Sparks, left, Melanie Janzen, centre, and Sharon Heldt have some world-changing surprises in store for them in Norm Foster's Maritime comedy Lunenburg.*



Sparks says his favourite Showboat shows – if he were forced to choose – are the ones that combine humour and heart.

"I love telling stories. Just making people laugh is fun, but when you do a show that is entertaining but also has a beautiful message and leaves you thinking, that's so gratifying," he said.

"And Lunenburg has that."

Sparks brings his everyman quality to his role as Charlie, the charming neighbour in Norm Foster's Lunenburg, a Maritime tale about a widow (played by Sharon Heldt) and her best friend (Melanie Janzen) who unearth world-changing surprises on the shores of the Atlantic.

"It's real people being superhumanly funny," Sparks said. "It's about people connecting and losing connections and finding new ones. It's got a masterful playwright, masterful women – and I'm in it too," he laughed.

Having a cast of seasoned actors who know each other well, combined with Showboat's experienced team of designers, tech crew and stage managers, means everyone could immediately get down to the business of making Lunenburg sparkle.

"Everyone in that room is a veteran, and Derek's a great leader," Sparks said. "I adore everybody in this company. You know you're in good hands."

He can't wait to bring this show before a packed Showboat audience.

"There's nothing like it to have 250 people laughing in concert," he said. "You can go to the movies and there are giggles. In theatres, especially in a big theatre, it's a wave that is palpable."

Foster's script certainly brings the humour, Sparks added.

"It's impeccable. He's a craftsman," he said. "If you paraphrase a Norm line, it doesn't work. If you say it his way, it's always funnier. He's got a musical ear for comedy. And it's not just about the jokes – it's about the rhythm and what comes before the setup and punchline."

But like the best Foster scripts, Lunenburg goes from punchlines to emotional gut punches in a matter of moments.

"Stuff matters," Sparks said. "It's funny, you can really laugh to it, but there are moments where you go, ohh, that's real. I prefer to have audiences going away thinking."

Lunenburg is on stage at the Roselawn Centre from September 11 to 22. Tickets are available at [showboattheatre.ca](http://showboattheatre.ca) or by calling the box office at 905-834-0833.

*J.P. Antonacci*

Showboat Festival Theatre Publicist

## FoRC DONORS 2017-2019

The Friends of Roselawn Centre are very thankful to our donors who have contributed to our successful fundraising campaign. It is through you that we can make a difference in your Roselawn experience in the Arts and the heritage home.



## FRIENDS OF ROSELAWN CENTRE

*Supporters 2017-2019*

*Visionary* Laurie Griffin & Theresa Ursacki  
Showboat Festival Theatre  
Anonymous (1)

*Benefactor* Janice Taylor

*Patron* Ron & Claire Bodner  
Leo & Joyce Lange

*Partner* Claudia Brema  
Boggio Pharmacy  
Canalside Pub & Eatery  
Ray & Audrey Huffman  
Lakeside Vision Clinic  
Bob & Arlene Lessard  
Dick & Dorothea McCaffery  
John & Mickey Mayne  
Pat Premi  
Scotia Bank  
Smokin' Buddha  
Gail Todd  
Fred & Marsha Warren  
Anonymous (1)

*Advocate* Monica Rose

*Associate* A Raven's Nest  
George Emerick & Cindi  
Pohonick Talbot

Thank you for your contributions!



## BECOME A MEMBER

Please join us in supporting the restoration and development of the Roselawn Centre for the Arts, by becoming a Member. Your membership dollars directly support the efforts of the FoRC.

Card-carrying members receive great benefits from our local business partners, including: Eh Amigos Cantina, Boggio Pharmacy, Canalside, JB Fashions, Lemayzzz Meats, Maple Meadows, Port Paint and Paper, A Raven's Nest, The Saucy Pot, Smokin' Buddha, Standard Time, and Treasures on West. For more details, visit the membership page on our website, [FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org](http://FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org).

The annual membership period runs from September 30th through October 1st.

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Adult	\$15
Couple	\$25
Family (3+)	\$30
Youth	\$10

**Or become a Lifetime Member for a one-time fee of \$100!**

Download our membership form on our website: [FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org](http://FriendsofRoselawnCentre.org)

## SPONSORSHIP

Local business are invited to support the FoRC by offering benefits to our members. Can you offer a discount or benefit at your establishment, or on the purchase of services that your business offers?

Promote your business and support the FoRC today! Get in touch with us at: [friendsofroselawn@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroselawn@gmail.com).

## FoRC VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

### **Arlene Lessard**

Board Chair

### **Pat Bowman**

Treasurer & Master Gardener

### **Carole Brisley**

Secretary, Historian & Newsletter Editor

### **Glenda Buck**

Capital Campaign Lead & Membership Chair





**Heather Finlayson Fenton**

Graphic Design & Social Media

**Gail Todd**

Board Member, Christmas Market 2019 Event Lead

**Paul Tyson**

Board Member

*Get to know us!*

Read more about the dedicated volunteers of the Friends of Roselawn Centre Board of Directors on our website at: [friendsofroselawncentre.org/forcs-board-of-directors/](http://friendsofroselawncentre.org/forcs-board-of-directors/)

**VOLUNTEER**

We are always looking for people who are interested in joining our growing group of volunteers. There are a variety of ways to get involved.

You may like to help setting up at events, working in the gardens, or promoting the FoRC. Or you may have a special talent that you think we could use. Let us know! Email us at [friendsofroselawn@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroselawn@gmail.com).

If you'd like to volunteer for our annual Christmas Market, there are opportunities to get involved:

*Decorating Roselawn for Christmas* – November 8, 2019 at 9 a.m.

*Volunteering at our Christmas Market* – November 10, 2019 between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**CONTACT US**

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Email: [friendsofroselawn@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroselawn@gmail.com)

Phone: 905.834.7572 (Roselawn Box Office)

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