

HSF 2026
Live Theatre!
Highlands Summer Festival

Made in Canada





2026 ANNUAL REPORT











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Mission

The Highlands Summer Festival is a not-for-profit, charitable community theatre company in the Haliburton Highlands, producing live dramatic and musical productions utilizing the facilities of the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion and other venues. The Highlands Summer Festival was created to encourage the development of theatrical skills and talents in the Highlands, especially among young people. We are committed to presenting at least one Canadian production each season.

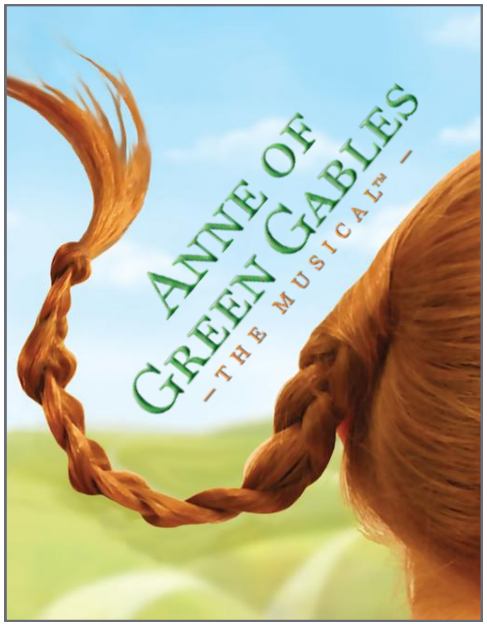
The purposes of the Festival are to educate and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the arts; to provide instructional seminars on topics related to the performing and visual arts; and to produce performing arts festivals for the purpose of education.

Land Acknowlegement

The Highlands Summer Festival acknowledges that these lands and waters are the traditional homeland of the Ojibway Nation and the Huron/Wendat Nation, and now includes communities from the Mohawk Nation, the Pottawatomi Nation and the Métis Nation of Ontario. We acknowledge their stewardship throughout the ages.

2026 SEASON





ANNE OF GREEN GABLES – THE MUSICAL

JUNE 29 – JULY 8

Music by Norman Campbell
Book by Donald Harron
Adapted fromt he novel by L.M. Montgomery

Directed by Douglas Walker
Musical Direction by Melissa Stephens



DORIS & IVY IN THE HOME

JULY 13 – 20

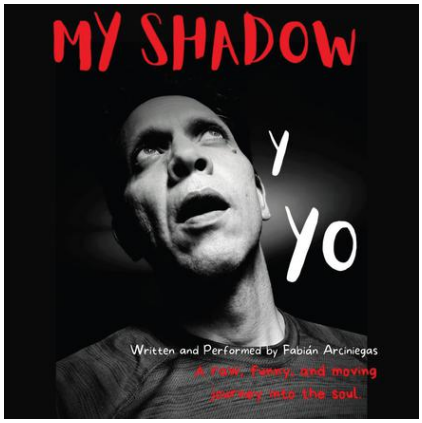
By Norm Foster
Director: Myrna McBrien



TOO MANY COOKS

JULY 27 – 31

By Marcia Kash &
Douglas E Highes
Director: A Braatz



MY SHADOW Y YO

JULY 21 – 23

Written and Performed by
Fabián Arciniegas



SWEET DREAMS

AUGUST 2 – 6

Leisa Way &
the Wayward Wind Band





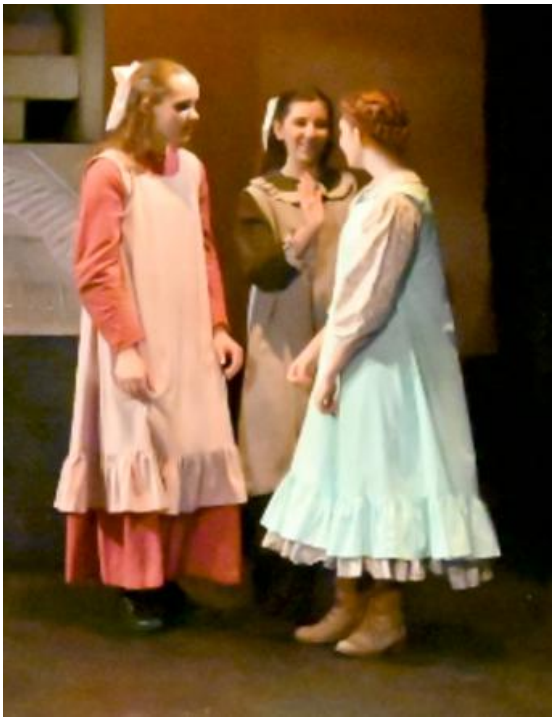






















Reflections on the 2026 Season

Rita Jackson, President

The Highlands Summer Festival's MADE IN CANADA 2026 Season, under the leadership of Artistic Producer Douglas Walker and Executive Producer Melissa Stevens, was a ***FABULOUS*** success!

Please pardon the rather un-Canadian boasting!

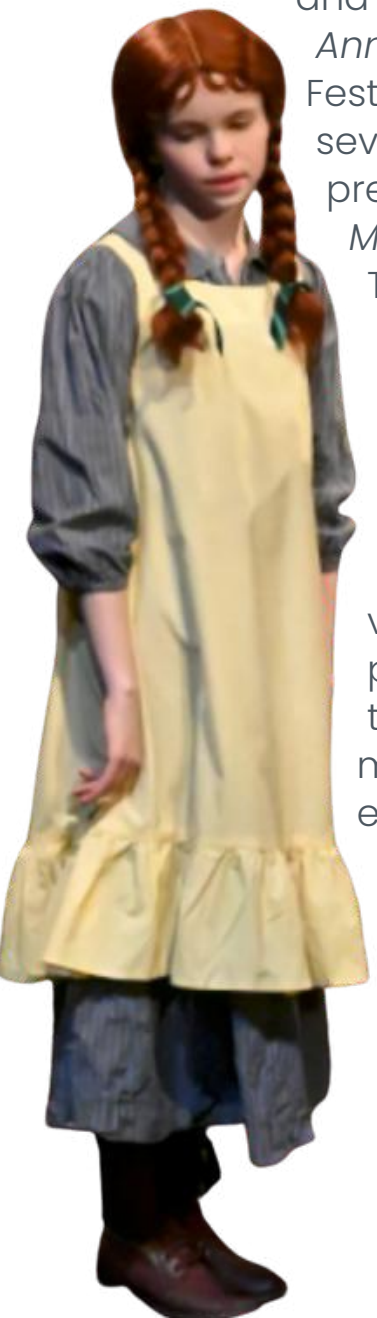
We kicked off the MADE IN CANADA 2026 Season with the classic musical *Anne of Green Gables - The Musical,* the beloved story of Anne Shirley – a spirited red-haired orphan who arrives at Bright River Station dreaming of a fresh start. Next was Norm Foster's *Doris and Ivy in the Home*, a testament to living life to the fullest, regardless of age or stage. Our third show featured the celebrated Colombian-Canadian opera singer Fabián Arciniegas in *My Shadow Y Yo*; he guided us on a journey of migration and acceptance through a masterful blend of song, monologue, and wit. We then returned to comedy with the hilarious farce *Too Many Cooks*, where, in Niagara Falls, Ontario during Prohibition, chaos ensues as a father and daughter attempt to open a restaurant amidst madness, mistaken identities and murder. We closed our season with Orangeville's own Leisa Way and the Wayward Wind Band presenting *Sweet Dreams: A Tribute to Patsy Cline*.

The 2026 Season engaged almost 150 community volunteers - actors, creative teams, set design and construction teams, front of house, and various support roles - all volunteering their time, talents, and resources.

Continued...

The 2026 Season - twenty nine performances in total - included an enriching mixture of professionals, local artists – both young and old, experienced and a few who stepped onto the stage for the very first time. Three professional directors – Dougie Walker, Myrna McBrien, and A Braatz – expertly guided mostly local casts and creative teams to create an engaging and truly memorable theatre experience for our patrons.

Of the thirty-five actors that stepped onto the Festival stage in the three HSF productions, thirteen were young performers. Ella Gooley and Thomas Austin-Ward stood out as Anne and Gilbert in *Anne of Green Gables*; Ruby Mansfield, 13 years old, made her Festival debut this year as Ruby Gillis and was joined by several other young performers in the production, all with previous appearances in HSF productions of *The Sound of Music, The Miracle Worker* and *Urinetown – The Musical*. These young performers brought an amazing level of talent to the Festival, delighting audiences; they took their final bows with promises that they would soon return to our stage!



The Highlands Summer Festival is incredibly proud of the astonishing skills and talents of our more than 100 volunteers; volunteers held cast positions; constructed, painted, and dressed the sets; designed and constructed the costumes; gathered and created props; stage management and crew; managed the house, and anything else that needed doing. We saw growth in the skills and leadership of our volunteers as they took on additional tasks in the face of fiscal restrictions. We are so very proud of and grateful for our volunteers.



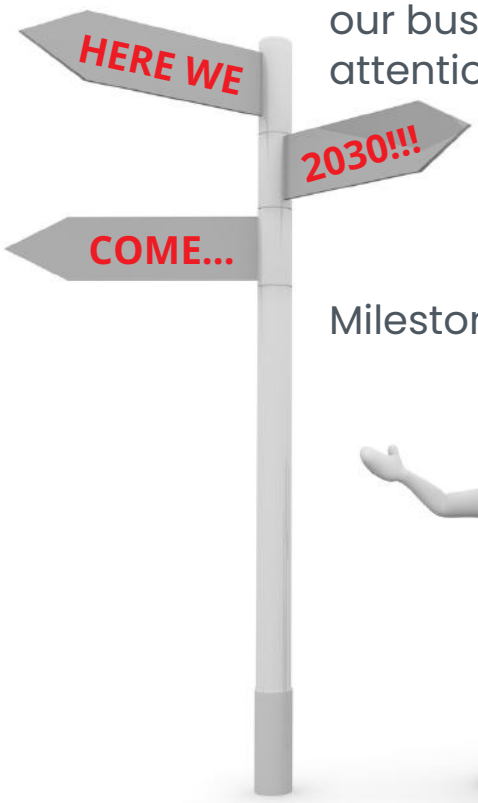
Taking Stock... Looking Forward

Immediately following the 2025 season, the Board undertook an intensive strategic planning process. We began with a survey of our patrons, measuring their satisfaction with the 2025 season and exploring what they wanted from the Festival going forward. Over 250 responses were received, and we took these responses into a strategic planning session led by Heather Reid of the Haliburton County Development Corporation.At the end of the day, we had our direction for the next five years.

Among other things, our patrons told us that they preferred comedies (86%) and musicals (82%); they preferred a 7:00 pm start for evening performances (50%); the most needed theatre improvement was audio (46%); and more than half supported an on-line version of the program. Based on our values, mission and a comprehensive SCOT analysis, Board members identified our business areas that required innovation and a attention. These included:

a) Financial Viability,
b) Succession Planning, and
c) Community Partnerships.

Milestones and timelines were identified for each.





Continued...

The first steps towards 2030 were taken in our 2026 Season. Our season was all about music and comedy, and evening performances moved to a 7:00 start.

In a big step towards financial viability, we tested program options; the printed version was significantly reduced from 82 pages to 48 pages, and to showcase the possibilities of on-line programs, we provided a 90-page full- colour, no ad, on-line flipbook version with several additional feature stories. We are currently in the process of evaluating these changes through a patron survey.

We developed a list of staff/volunteer positions for which job descriptions will be completed this year; a survey of our volunteers, asking about satisfaction and future year intentions, is currently underway.

The Board worked diligently towards building audience accessibility, increasing ticket sales, and attracting a more diverse audience in a very challenging environment; all the while very conscious of our financial constraints.

Key to our success in furthering these goals was rigorous financial oversight and financial support from within our community. With local corporate sponsorship, individual donors, and a gala fundraising event in January, we were able to move forward on these goals.

We have big plans for 2027 and we are excited to expand on our steps forward on the work identified in our strategic plan.



Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RITA JACKSON
BOARD PRESIDENT

SUSAN DEANE-VORVIS
TREASURER

EMILY STONEHOUSE
SECRETARY

BRIAN KIPPING
PAST PRESIDENT

RENEE GRIFFITHS
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA PERKINS
DIRECTOR

DOUGLAS TINDAL
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER STRYPE
DIRECTOR

CREATIVE TEAM

DOUGLAS WALKER
ARTISTIC PRODUCER

MELISSA STEPHENS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MANAGEMENT

KEN LONEY
GENERAL MANAGER



Friends of the Festival

HEADLINER
Family Foundation Aston

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Anonymous
Brian & Beth Kipping
Marian Langdon
Bessie Sullivan

PRODUCER
Anonymous
Ed Canning
Sandre Daoust
Greg Freeman & Jeff Papiez
Bill Gliddon
Pat Maulson
George McElroy
Ilse Marie Tarte

DIRECTOR
Susan Bardwell
Michael Browne
Margaret Coles
Marg Cox
John & Valerie du Manoir
Gary & Pat Hunt
John Jackson
Mike Johnson
Ann McIvor

DIRECTOR
David McKay
Wendy Ogilvie
Jane Robinson
Katrina Shaddock
Gord & Susan Sheehan
Chalene Smith
Carol Stewart
Heather Taylor
Maggie Thompson
Lorraine Virgin
Stella Voisin
Maraylene Welch
Renée Woltz
Paul Zalan

ACTOR
Joan Bell
Barb Bohlin
Rodger & Nancy Cummins
Margo Davidson
Robert Deubel
Jan Garrow
Eleanor Hall
William Hearn & Ruth Hunt
Linda Lewis-Daly
Randall LIntall

ACTOR
Carolyn Ludlow
Diana McCullough
Judith McNeilage
Philip Meades
Christine Miller
Sally Moore
Anne Murray
Sylvia Perkins
BJ Romans
Gwen Scriven
John & Judy Skinner
Susan Spencer
Bob Stiles
Verla Stinson
Wilma Warne
Marie Watson
Sylvia Winder

STAGEHAND
Robin Begin
Brucie DeLazzer
Wendy Evenden
Laurie McFarland
Peggy Menzies
Reet Murray
Stephen Robson
Barb Swannell
Ulrike Woll-Morrison

As of June 1, 2026



Corporate Sponsors































HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 2025

(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

Note: Financial Statments for year ending October 31, 2026 will be available in December 2026

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 2025

(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

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NOTICE TO READER

I have compiled the Balance Sheet of **Highlands Summer Festival** as at October 31, 2025 and the statements of excess of revenues over expenditures, surplus and cash flows for the year then ended from information provided by management.

I have not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information. Readers are cautioned that these financial statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

January 12, 2026

Christopher J. Mills, Bookkeeper

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2025
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Advertising	$ 12,125	$ 10,675
Board revenues	16,072	18,373
Donations	27,275	27,666
Early stages	0	1,250
Grants	8,864	0
Miscellaneous	3,991	4,489
Rental	1,513	2,434
Theatre rental waived - 2024	18,000	0
Sponsorships	14,850	10,000
Ticket sales	140,882	143,071
	243,572	**217,958**
GENERAL EXPENSES		
Accommodation and expenses	2,325	6,500
Accounting	560	500
Auditions	375	187
Bank and credit card charges	4,775	5,413
Board expenses	8,856	7,584
Box office	4,664	4,740
Costumes	786	1,609
Expenses for out-of-towners	0	1,000
General manager	12,000	12,000
Honorariums	26,074	35,863
Insurance	1,567	1,667
Marketing	13,852	14,143
Miscellaneous	5,149	13,760
Non-recoverable HST	2,855	3,026
Programmes	10,231	6,550
Refreshments	555	718
Rehearsal accommodations	3,147	2,349
Rent and utilities	17,156	14,845
Set assembly	3,424	2,983
Storage and theatre rental	11,745	18,720
	139,014	154,157
SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES - SCHEDULE 1	69,212	82,583
(DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	**$ 35,346**	**$ (18,782)**

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2025
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

SCHEDULE 1

SHOW #1 - URINETOWN		
Production rights and rentals	7,879	
Running costs	474	
Show honoraria	16,409	
		$24,762
SHOW #2 - THE FITZGERALDS		
Production rights and rentals	10,170	
Running costs	1,620	
Show honoraria	0	
		$11,790
SHOW #3 - SALT WATER MOON		
Production rights and rentals	2,799	
Running costs	11,560	
		$14,359
SHOW #4 - DRINKING HABITS		
Production rights and rentals	1,865	
Show honoraria	8,384	
		$10,274
SHOW #5 - JAY DAVIS & THE FEELING BUBLE BAND		
Production rights and rentals	7,200	
Running costs	827	
		$8,027
TOTAL SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES		**$ 69,212**

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2025
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2025	2024
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR):		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	$35,346	$ (18,782)
Net change in working capital balances		
Decrease in HST refundable	393	1,260
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(3,525)	749
Increase in payroll deductions payable	1,853	
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable	(18,000)	18,000
	16,067	1,227
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
HCDC repayments	(2,400)	(800)
INCREASE IN CASH AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS	13,667	427
Cash and short term deposits, beginning of year	12,198	11,771
CASH AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS, END OF YEAR	**$ 25,865**	**$ 12,198**
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	24,365	10,698
Short term deposit	1,500	1,500
	$ 25,865	**$ 12,198**

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2025
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Revenue and expenditures are recorded on the accrual basis, whereby they are reflected in the accounts in the year in which they have been earned or incurred respectively, whether or not such transactions have been finally settled by the receipt or payment of money.

REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Festival recognizes revenue at the time monies are received. Investment income is recognized as revenue is earned. Donations are recognized as revenue when received.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Festival is subject to market risk with respect to its investments. The value of these investments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices or other factors affecting the values of the investments.

Accounts receivable and HST receivable are measured at fair market value.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are classified as current liabilities and are measured at fair value.

NATURE AND PURPOSES OF THE FESTIVAL

The Festival is a not-for-profit charitable organization, incorporated without share capital and is designated as a registered charity and, as such, is exempt from tax.

The purposes of the Festival are to educate and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the arts; to provide instructional seminars on topics related to the performing and visual arts; and to produce performing arts festivals for the purpose of education.





Contact Us

705-457-9933

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