









HSF Highlands Summer Festival 2024 Live Theatre!





2024 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.



Ms. Schwartzandgrubenniere, your word is **RESOUNDING**.

May I have that word in a sentence, please?

The Highlands Summer Festival's 2024 Season, under the leadership of Artistic Producer Scot Denton and Executive Producer Melissa Stevens, was a **RESOUNDING** success!

R-E-S-O-U-N-D-I-N-G, **RESOUNDING**.

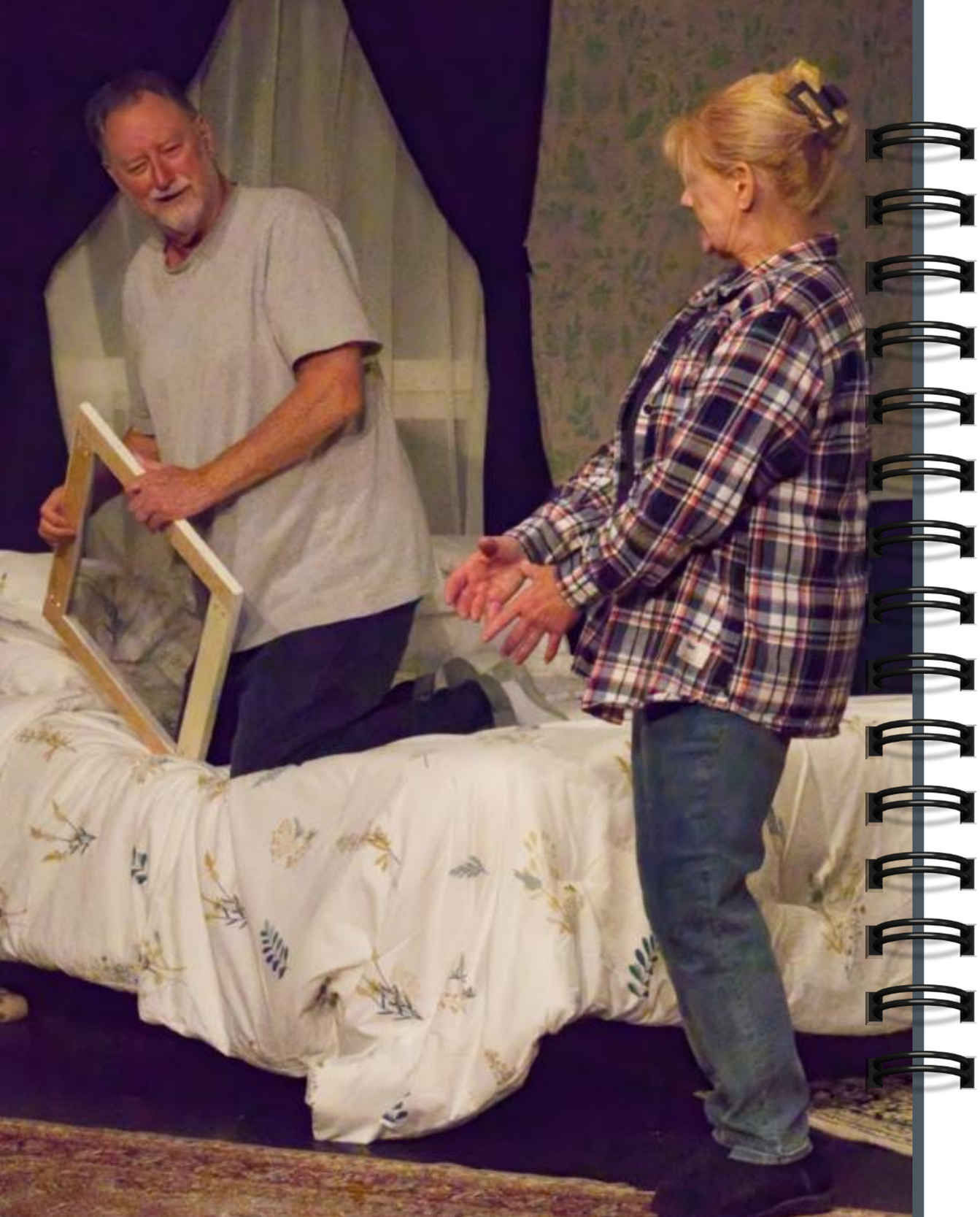
That is correct, a **RESOUNDING** success!

2024

The Highlands Summer Festival's 2024 Season, under the leadership of Artistic Producer Scot Denton and Executive Producer Melissa Stevens, was a **RESOUNDING** success. The Season opened with **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** with a group of six-graders competing in a spelling championship and sharing hilarious and poignant personal stories; adding in a little audience participation ..... pandemonium! This was followed by William Gibson's **The Miracle Worker** – an exploration of the volatile relationship between a lonely and fiercely determined teacher and her headstrong charge, Helen Keller. Next, **The Good Lovelies** - a Juno award winning folk/country harmony trio - graced our stage in three sold-out performances. **The Birds & The Bees**, a Canadian comedy by Mark Crawford, sets Gail, a beekeeper, Sarah, her divorced daughter and turkey farmer, Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, a graduate student, in adjoining bedrooms for some love, lust, bee keeping, artificial insemination and a whole lot of fun! To finish the season, Lisa Wey and the Windward Band took to the stage with a foot-stomping selection of country music in **Opry Gold**.

The productions, with thirty-one performances in all, included an enriching mixture of professionals, emerging local artists, both young and old, and many who stepped onto the stage for the first time. In 2024, three professional directors – Scot Denton, Heather Davies, and Douglas Walker, five professional actors, and professional set and lighting design artists joined our casts and creative teams to create an engaging and truly memorable theatre experience for our patrons.

Of the thirty actors that stepped onto the stage in the three HSF productions, twelve were young performers. Gracie Griffith, 16 years, made her Festival debut this year as Loraine Schwartzandgrubenniere in **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**. Gracie won the hearts of the audience spelling, singing, and dancing alongside Jordan Kovac, 18 years, who made his Festival debut in **She Loves Me** last year. Evelyn Mardus, 12 years, who debuted on the Festival stage in **The Sound of Music** in 2022, gave a riveting performance as Helen Keller in **The Miracle Worker**. Evelyn was joined by nine other young performers in the production, seven in their Festival debut. These young performers brought an amazing level of talent to the Festival, delighting audiences, and took their final bows with promises that they would soon return to the stage!



The Highlands Summer Festival is incredibly proud of the astonishing skills and talents of our more than 100 volunteers; volunteers hold cast positions; construct, paint, and dress the sets; design and construct the costumes; gather and create props; stage management and crew; manage the house, and anything else that needs doing. We saw growth in the skills and leadership of our volunteers as they took on additional tasks in the face of fiscal restrictions. And, in 2024, for the first time in decades, the set painting team took on painting the stage floor, transforming a bland black stage into a gym floor for **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**! We are so very proud of and grateful for our volunteers.

In 2024, we bid a fond farewell to our retiring Artistic Producer; Scot Denton. Scot was, over his almost twenty-year tenure with HSF, largely responsible for growing the Highlands Summer Festival from its humble beginnings to a prominent, high-quality cultural element in our community, a community already known for its wide diversity in arts and cultural pursuits. We welcomed Douglas Walker - a director and actor in past HSF seasons and a new resident to in the Highlands - as our new Artistic Producer; we are really excited by his energy and fresh perspective.

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. While many similar sized and even larger theatre companies closed, the Highlands Summer Festival has been able to maintain 2019 ticket prices and grow a more social media-oriented community outreach to potential younger and seasonal residential patrons. Key to our success in furthering these goals was rigorous financial oversight and financial support. A very generous donation by BMO largely sponsored our musical production – **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** – and together with local corporate support, individual donors, and a gala fundraising event in January, we were able to move forward on these goals.

We have great plans for 2025! We are thrilled to be celebrating 25 years in the Highlands and excited to start working on a new strategic plan that will guide us through to 2031. Our goal is, amid significant challenges, to ensure sustainability as we focus on audience growth and a commitment to diversity and accessibility.

Rita Jackson
President
Highlands Summer Festival

2024 SEASON





THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

JULY 1 - 15

Music & Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Directed by Douglas Walker
Musical Direction by Melissa Stephens

SPONSORED BY BMO



THE MIRACLE WORKER

JULY 1 - JULY 15

By William Gibson
Director: Scot Denton



THE GOOD LOVELIES

JULY 1 - JULY 15

Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough, & Sue Passmore



THE BIRDS & THE BEES

JULY 1 - JULY 15

By Mark Crawford
Director: Heather Davies



OPRY GOLD

JULY 1 - JULY 15

Leisa Way and
The Wayward Wind Band

















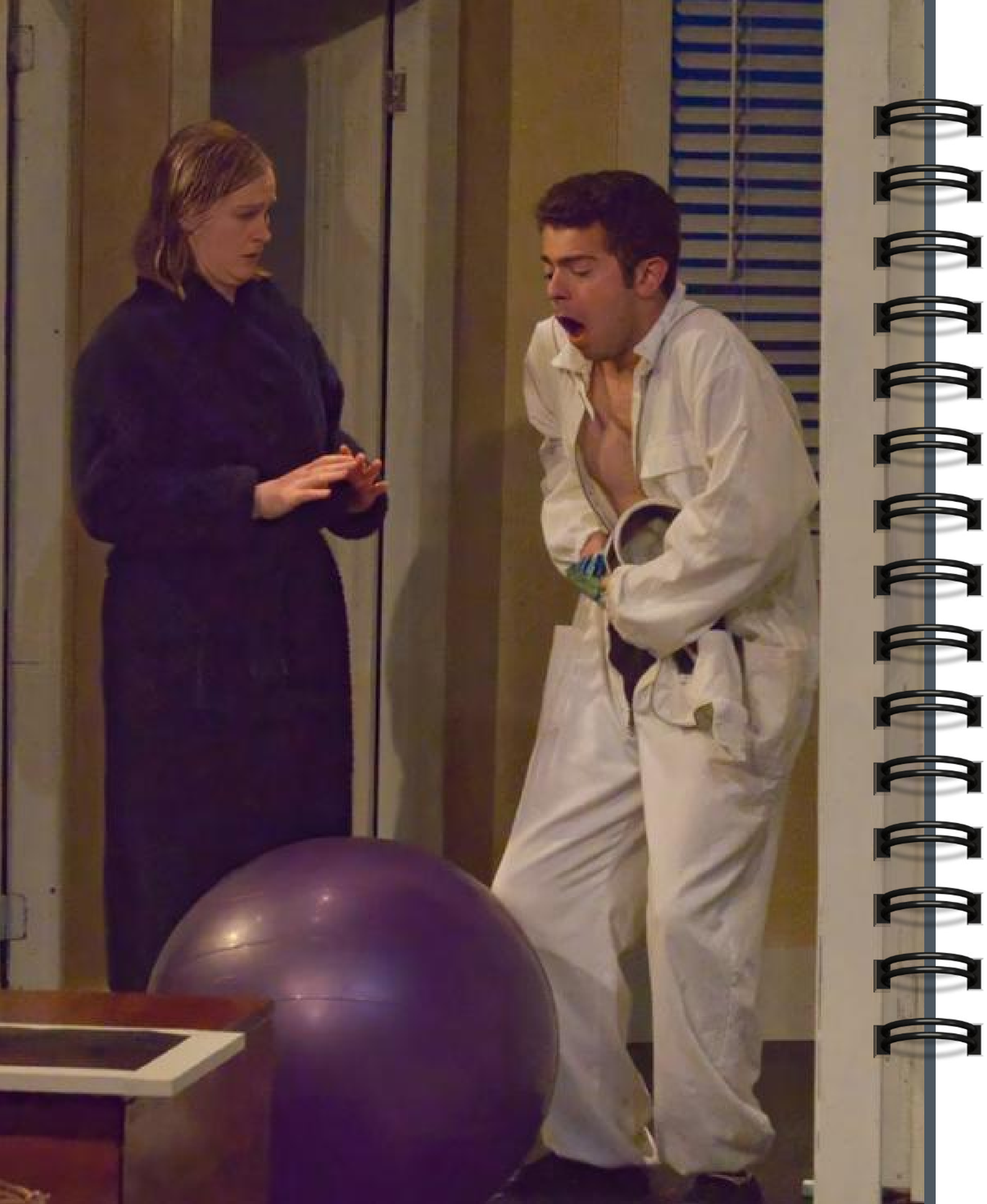












Our Team

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Bob Wing

- Memoriam donations



HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 2024

(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 2024

(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, 2024 and the statements of deficiency 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 19, 2025

Christopher J. Mills, Bookkeeper

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2024
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 10,698	$ 10,271
Short term deposits	1,500	1,500
Accounts receivable	1,000	1,750
HST receivable	6,958	8,217
	$ 20,156	**$ 21,738**
LIABILIITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	18,000	0
HCDC loan payable	18,000	18,800
Total liabilities	36,000	18,800
SURPLUS	(15,844)	2,938
	$ 20,156	**$ 21,738**

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

(Director)

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF DEFCIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Advertising	$ 10,675	$ 13,150
Board revenues	18,373	6,976
Donations	27,666	26,171
Early stages	1,250	4,190
Grants	0	1,591
Miscellaneous	4,489	1,779
Rental	2,434	2,196
Sponsorships	10,000	6,750
Ticket sales	143,070	138,197
	217,957	**200,999**
GENERAL EXPENSES		
Accommodation and expenses	6,500	8,204
Bank and credit card charges	5,413	5,133
Board expenses	7,584	4,561
Box office	4,740	6,120
Costumes	1,609	1,757
Early stages	0	2,589
Equipment	0	5,065
Expenses for out-of-towners	1,000	500
General manager	12,000	10,000
Honorariums	35,863	29,792
Insurance	1,667	1,416
Marketing	14,143	13,670
Miscellaneous	13,760	2,103
Non-recoverable HST	3,026	3,574
Programmes	6,550	6,450
Refreshments	718	965
Rehearsal accommodations	2,349	2,536
Rent and utilities	14,845	15,941
Set assembly	2,983	6,592
Storage and theatre rental	18,720	13,720
	154,157	141,823
SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES - SCHEDULE 1	82,583	73,258
(DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	**$ (18,783)**	**$ (14,082)**

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2024	2023
SUPLUS , BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,938	$ 17,020
(Deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(18,783)	(14,082)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), END OF YEAR	**$ (15,844)**	**$ 2,938**

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

SCHEDULE 1

SHOW #1 - SPELLING BEE		
Production rights and rentals	9,878	
Running costs	122	
Show honoraria	17,785	
		$27,785
SHOW #2 - MIRACLE WORKER		
Production rights and rentals	2,206	
Running costs	344	
Show honoraria	14,939	
		$17,488
SHOW #3 - GOOD LOVELIES		
Production rights and rentals	10,500	
Running costs	1,014	
		$11,514
SHOW #4 - BIRDS & BEES		
Production rights and rentals	2,604	
Show honoraria	10,692	
		$13,296
SHOW #5 - OPRY GOLD		
Production rights and rentals	11,000	
Running costs	1,500	
		$12,500
TOTAL SHOW PRODUCTION EXPENSES		**$ 82,583**

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2024
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

	2024	2023
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR):		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	$ (18,783)	$ (14,082)
Net change in working capital balances		
Decrease (increase) in HST refundable	1,260	(889)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	750	(350)
Increase in accounts payable	18,000	0
	1,227	(15,321)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
HCDC repayments	(800)	(2,400)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS	427	(17,721)
Cash and short term deposits, beginning of year	11,771	29,492
CASH AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS, END OF YEAR	**$ 12,198**	**$ 11,771**
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	10,698	10,271
Short term deposit	1,500	1,500
	$ 12,198	**$ 11,771**

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2024
(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

gm@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca