

SINCE  1939

**CHESTER
PLAYHOUSE**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Building Community

One Show at a Time



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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2025 was a special year for our Playhouse.

There was no COVID, no Restoration, no fire, no planning for a new Playhouse, no Rebuild, no learning to function in a new facility. So, in 2025 we were able to focus on our primary purpose, our Mission:

“To offer and promote cultural experiences which engage our community, and to operate a welcoming accessible, arts facility.” - Chester Playhouse Strategic Plan 2024-2026

By all measures 2025 was a stellar year. I invite you to review the reports from our Executive Director and the Committee chairs. Notably, you will see that:

- number of seats sold - 9,248
- number of performances - 114 (over two a week)
- number of performers - 126
- numerous sold out performances
- financially, a modest loss after accounting for depreciation.

These successes would not exist but for the contributions of our staff and the many Volunteers who show up at every performance to assist with operations, who assist with the summer Playhouse Party and who contribute their time to serve on the Board and its Committees.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

I am continually reminded that the Chester Playhouse is able to operate because of the revenue from ticket sales and the financial contributions from government funders and donors/sponsors (including the annual contribution from the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Foundation).

Each of these three revenue sources (ticket sales, grants and sponsor/donations) contribute approximately 1/3 to our total revenue. We could not exist without them. I would like to thank those who provided their homes for the summer Playhouse Party, Jim and Val Spatz in 2025 and Bruce Bowser and Rob Steele in 2026.

Amongst the many to thank, I would like to acknowledge a few:

1. Andrew Chandler, our Executive Director, now in his 5th year, who continues to provide leadership, guidance, commitment and an ability to select performers who sell out our shows.
2. Kathy McNab, who organizes the Playhouse Party, our major fundraising event. Kathy has advised that this year's event will be her last hurrah as the Board member responsible for our gala.
3. Carol Dodds and Issie Patterson, who are retiring from the Board of Directors after many years of service..

And thanks to everyone who supports the Playhouse through attending our shows, making donations, being a sponsor, and working and playing with us to make our community what it is.

See you at the Playhouse,

Thomas Boyne
President and Chair of the Board



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As in so many things over the past year, our best laid plans haven't always gone as intended. I'm proud that in the face of shifting winds, we've persevered, and continued to deliver a widely varied program of concerts, theatre, variety performances (comedy, drag, magic), movies, conversations, community events, and more.

In 2025, through what was a challenging year, we presented about 12 less events, and had a slight decrease in audience, compared against 2024. This decrease came from a number of factors, including increased economic anxiety in our patrons, unexpected staff turnover in several key positions, and a different distribution of rental events, some of which were much smaller-scale events than we hosted in 2024.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
# of events	23	33	38	126	114
# of tickets sold	1507	2375	5008	10430**	9248**
# of artists	92	94	153	209	126
% sold	*	45%	70%	49%	56%

* On average over the last decade, the Playhouse has been selling about 50% of available tickets.
** Includes rentals

In 2025, we engaged 126 artists, and our overall percentage sold increased 7%. This included significant increases in proportion of our audience coming from HRM and the Municipality of Lunenburg. We are selling more tickets for each show, and drawing more visitors from outside of the Municipality to visit the Playhouse (and supporting numerous other businesses once they arrive!). Meanwhile, we remain committed to supporting our community, knowing that 43% of our tickets in 2025 were sold to those who live within our municipality. We enjoyed numerous sold out performances, including an unprecedented run through the fall, where nearly every live show sold out. What we offer is appreciated, and for many is a staple of public life in this municipality.

As community partners, we were able to support numerous local organizations, including hosting again the Forest Heights Community School's drama club for their annual production, a marvelous staging of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". We hosted the Chester Sharks Basketball team's Awards Night & Movie screening, several birthday parties, a concert, film screening, and a fundraiser for Park View Education Centre's Astronomy Club. We look forward to a busy 2026, which we hope will bring a new staging from the Chester Drama Society, and the return of the By Folk-Le Community Variety Show.

Theatre and Arts Education remains an important part of our programming. While our Summer Youth programming was hampered when one instructor having to step away quite late in the process, we offered 3 weeks of summer theatre camps to 50 youth. We also expanded our educational programs for adults, with several evolving iterations of a popular Adult Intro to Acting Workshop, as well as a trial run of a Flamenco dance class. We will continue to nurture both of these in 2026, along with a more robust offering for youth.

We continue to prioritize accessibility in our work, and are committed to continuing to increase our accessibility where we can. To this end, in 2025, we installed a lift to the 2nd floor, along with numerous accessible door opening hardware installations throughout the building, thanks to a grant from the Royal Bank Foundation. With support from Seaside Hearing, we added an Auracast Hearing System, providing another way for patrons who use hearing aids to enjoy performances here.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR cont'd

We've continued to welcome residents of Shoreham Village and Bonny Lea Farm, and continued to offer the Scotiabank Newcomers Program, offering free tickets to Newcomers to our community. Meanwhile, we strive to offer tickets that are as affordable as possible, with Pay What You Can and Free performances, along with our ongoing Community Ticket Program, which offers 10 tickets for every performance for just \$10, no questions asked. We believe that the Playhouse serves our entire community, and that ticket prices should not be a barrier to the arts.

2025 brought its share of challenges, including the transition of our box office platform, and the turnover in several key staffing positions on our small team, including our Marketing Manager and Technical Director. As presenters, we have sought to carefully increase our frequency of programming (and audience attendance to match), but had some events in our Summer Season fall somewhat short of their targets. Most notable, of course, is the economic environment, which has forced some patrons to be more choosy about how often they can attend, and how much they can support. Though our Summer Fundraiser, the Playhouse Party, was remarkably successful, our fall donor campaign underperformed, leaving us with a small shortfall in our 2025 budget. With new personnel in our Marketing and Technical Director roles, and renewed energy and ideas coming from our various board committees, I'm confident that we will continue to navigate these shifting winds, and build to an even more successful 2026.

Your Playhouse is sustained in equal thirds by tickets sold, government support, and private donations from corporations and individuals. All three are vital to sustaining the work done by our small team, who I believe punch well above our weight. Thank you to our patrons, who enjoy the shows, the movies, and the programs we offer. Thank you to our corporate sponsors, for demonstrating your support for the arts and community. And thank you to our donors, for giving to support the work we do, so we can continue to grow and serve our community. It matters.

I am continually awed at the hard work of our incredible staff. Thank you to the following folks, who continue to go above and beyond in service of our artists, our patrons, and each other: Briana Doyle, Beth Elliot, Gabriel Harding, Trina Ladd, Anne Koloff, Luba Magnus, Shirley McCaw, Krystle O'Brien, Lynn Pettypiece, and Ryan Wilcox. Thanks also to our volunteer board, who give so generously of their time, and to our incredible team of volunteers who support each show; they are the face, the heart, and the soul of the Playhouse.

When times are tough, and money gets tight, it's easy for some to think of the arts as a luxury, an extra, a "nice to have". In the hierarchy of our needs, the arts don't protect us from the weather, or fill our bellies, it's true. But they do fill our hearts. In a world that feels increasingly engineered to divide us from one another - to make us feel angry, scared, and alone - a space like the Playhouse is one of the few places in modern life where we can still gather together with friends, neighbours, and strangers, to celebrate beauty and craft, to nurture joy, to discover new ideas, and to join together not as a collection of individuals, but as a community. I believe that what happens in this building matters - that it can lift us up, make us more empathetic and understanding of one another, even save lives. I think that the arts matter now, more than ever. And I know I'm not alone.

Thank you for supporting your Chester Playhouse,
Andrew Chandler (he/him)
Executive Director





CHESTER PLAYHOUSE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Playhouse for 2025, continues to host a number of very successful events and performances. The team continues to fine tune the building and theatrical systems and everything is working as intended.

The focus of the building committee has been to help deal with maintenance and improvements as they come up and to ensure that capital is set aside through our ticket surcharge and other funding.

Some initiatives in 2025 included flagpoles, electronic well monitoring, installing a lift to the second floor, accessible door hardware throughout the building and other maintenance issues. We also solved the excess heat issues that were problematic in the tech booth.

Deficiencies have been mostly addressed and any items still outstanding are not impacting on audience experience. Some future items discussed include a projector, improved outdoor lighting, improved ice and snow removal and a facilities management plan.

The Building Committee continues to support management in the operation of the facilities and includes Matt Ross, Tom Boyne, Technical Director Beth Elliot, chair Kirby Putnam and our Executive Director, Andrew Chandler.

We look forward to a successful 2026!

Respectfully submitted,
Kirby Putnam, Committee Chair



Michael Kaeshammer (photo Valerie LeDuc)



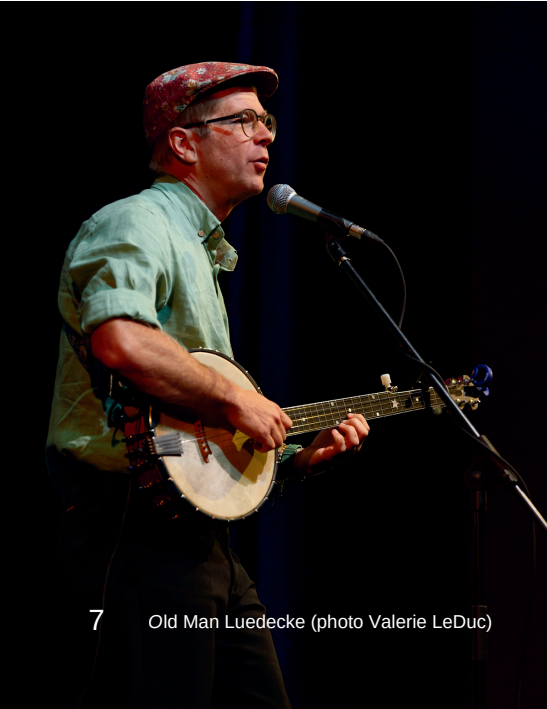
Susan Aglukark
(photo Valerie LeDuc)



In Conversation with Jim Meeks (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Ian Stewart World Record Magician
(photo Valerie LeDuc)



7 Old Man Luedecke (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Horse Girls - From the FRINGE: 2 Hits from the Halifax Fringe Festival (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Morgan Toney Trio: Live in Lordly Park (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Steph's Summer Shindig (photo Valerie LeDuc)



A Tribute to Hank Williams ft. Ryan Cook (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Sarah Hagen plays Bach's Goldberg Variations (photo Valerie LeDuc)



8 Something Missing- From the FRINGE: 2 Hits from the Halifax Fringe Festival (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Blessing Tangban (photo Valerie LeDuc)



PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

A Review of 2025 Programming

The Program Advisory Committee acts as a sounding board for Andrew Chandler, our Executive Director, offering perspective on upcoming programming, bringing forward new ideas, scouting new acts, and providing feedback on performances we have attended. We meet three times a year. Here is our review of 2025.

2025 was a strong year for programming at Chester Playhouse. We offered a rich blend of events for all age groups and interests, while working to keep ticket prices as affordable as possible. The fall season was a particular highlight, with nearly every live show selling out. Music, Movies, Stage on Screen, and Variety performances all exceeded their targets by at least 25%.

2025					
Genre	# of events	Total Attendees	Avg % of target	Avg % of overall	Profit
Music	18	3,011	127%	92%	\$15,326
Theatre	10	1,037	80%	63%	-\$9,725
Variety	5	806	132%	89%	\$4,501
In Conversation	3	143	64%	19%	\$28
Movies	44	2,945	127%	36%	\$2,645
Stage on Screen	9	579	128%	36%	\$1,719
Rentals (performances)	12	601			
Youth Program	6	50		43%	\$1,466
Adult Program	7	76		79%	\$5,615
TOTAL	114	9,248	110%	56%	\$21,574

Overall attendance was over 9,000 attendees, and the Playhouse continues to draw from Chester and well beyond. We saw growth in attendance from Halifax and the Lunenburg/Mahone Bay area, a sign that our reach and reputation continue to grow.



Tales of a Charlie Brown Christmas (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Educational programming was a success in several areas. Introduction to Acting Classes for Adults proved popular, with students returning to build on their skills over time. A one-day Flamenco class sold out and has set the stage for more robust offerings in 2026. Youth camps in Musical Theatre and Filmmaking were very well received

This year's committee members were Andrew Chandler, Matt Ross, Issie Patterson, Alison McEachern, Tom Boyne, Tammy Gonzalves, Sara Filbee, and Sarah Hampson.

The Program Advisory Committee would like to thank the community, funding partners, sponsors, volunteers, and Playhouse staff for everything they contribute. Programming would not be possible without their support.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2026 continuing to offer a wide array of programming that entertains, educates, and brings people together.



Winter Olé with Maria Osende

Nominating Report

The 2026 Nominating Committee members have been Sara Filbee, Carol Dodds, Tom Boyne, Alison MacEachern and Andrew Chandler (ex-officio).

Outgoing Board Members...We extend our thanks to the following Board members who served on the Board in 2025 and are not re-offering for 2026:

Carol Dodds
Issie Patterson

Board Nominations

The following people are being nominated to serve on the Board of the Chester Playhouse for 2026:

Gavin Brimer	Tammy Gonsalves	Emily Mosher
Tom Boyne	Alan Jeffers	Kirby Putnam
Sara Filbee	Alison MacEachern	Trevor Rogers
Kathy Ferguson	Kathy McNab	Matt Ross
Sarah Hampson	Frank J. Metzger	Jon Waddell

We would also like to welcome Pete Dalmazzi, Helen Matthews, Victoria McGregor, and Issie Patterson as community members of board committees.

Proposed Executive

The following people will be nominated for service on the Executive at the Board Organizational meeting directly following the AGM:

Tom Boyne – Chair

Gavin Brimer – Treasurer

Sara Filbee – Past Chair

Alison McEachern – Vice Chair

Matt Ross – Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Filbee, Chair of Nominating Committee





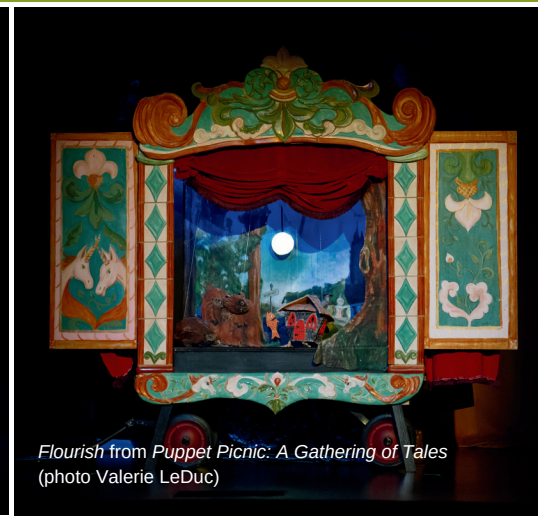
Terra Spencer & Ian Sherwood (photo Valerie LeDuc)



In Conversation: Amanda Peters (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Catherine's Cello (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Flourish from Puppets Picnic: A Gathering of Tales (photo Valerie LeDuc)



The Sea Shanty Show (photo Valerie LeDuc)

YOUR CHESTER PLAYHOUSE 2025 SNAPSHOT



9248 Audience Members



114 Events



106 Artists engaged



12 Theatre Rentals



5 weeks of Summer Youth Programming

7 Adult Theatre Education Programs

1 Discover Flamenco Dance Class



12 Deconstructing Abbey Road with Scott Friesen (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Jenn Grant (photo Valerie LeDuc)



Comedy Night in Chester (photo Valerie LeDuc)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance Committee Report for 2025

Committee Members: Gavin Brimer, Sara Filbee, Tom Boyne, Andrew Chandler (ex-officio)

Overview of 2025

2025 represented the second full year in the new building. With the benefit of two years of actual results on both the revenue and expense side, it made the budgeting process much easier. Despite that however, from an income perspective we did fall short of both our budgeted target and last year. Before accounting for amortization, we had an excess of revenue over expenses from operations of \$3,685. This compares to a budgeted number of \$15,014 and \$69,700 last year. After amortization we had a deficiency of revenue over expenses of \$28,189 this year versus an excess of \$41,779 in 2024.

While still in a strong financial position, there is a need to manage cash inflows and outflows carefully. While our requirement for cash outflows is more predictable, timing differences cause cash inflows to vary from month to month.

Throughout the year, the Finance Committee reviewed the monthly operating statements and balance sheets with Management and the Board of Directors. Additionally, cash flow projections and the 2026 budget were prepared. At the end of the second and third quarters, the annual budget was re-forecasted. Lastly, we met with Belliveau Veinotte Inc. to review the Playhouse's 2025 annual financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

There was an increase of \$175,000 in intangible assets resulting from an easement granted in 2024 in favour of the Playhouse to allow for access and parking at the rear of the building.

	Dec 31,2025	Dec 31,2024 (restated)
Cash	\$206,998	\$243,204
Amounts receivable	\$5,362	\$9,348
Inventory	\$2,788	\$2,007
Prepaid expenses	\$23,999	\$20,891
Capital assets	\$2,549,880	\$2,706,670
Intangible assets	<u>\$175,000</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>
Total Assets	\$2,964,027	\$3,157,120
Accounts payable	\$55,428	\$60,124
Deferred revenue	\$11,211	\$14,604
Deferred contributions	\$2,279,726	\$2,436,541
Fund balances	<u>\$617,662</u>	<u>\$645,851</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$2,964,027	\$3,157,120

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued

Cash balances totaled \$206,998, with \$117,393 of that resting in the General Fund (for day-to-day operations) and \$79,605 in the Building Reserve Fund (for future major repairs). Additionally, that total also includes \$10,000 in the Cash Flow Fund.

Capital assets include the value of the building and other assets net of amortization for depreciation. As of Dec 31, 2025, they were valued at \$2,549,880. The deferred contributions relate to capital grants and donations dedicated to the rebuilding project and stand at \$2,279,726. These deferred contributions are recognized as revenue over the same period that the new building is depreciated- 40 years straight line.

Statement of Operations

The three main sources of revenue for the Playhouse are ticket sales, grants and fundraising/donations. As illustrated in the chart, all three sources fell short of last year's number.

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Ticket sales & building reserve fund	\$196,545	\$239,605
Sponsorship	\$48,500	\$37,000
Youth theatre programs	\$24,178	\$21,625
Donations	\$173,350	\$192,893
Grants	\$164,083	\$183,105
Fundraising	\$77,566	\$76,895
Other revenue	<u>\$28,085</u>	<u>\$70,064</u>
Total Revenue	\$712,307	\$821,187
Expenses		
Cost of attractions	\$152,295	\$191,344
Wages and benefits	\$313,527	\$304,438
Administration	<u>\$242,800</u>	<u>\$255,705</u>
Total Expenses	\$708,622	\$751,487
Excess of Revenue over Expenses from Operations	\$3,685	\$69,700
Amortization of deferred contributions	\$156,815	\$143,220
Amortization of capital assets	-\$188,689	-\$171,141
Net Amortization	-\$31,874	-\$27,921
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	-\$28,189	\$41,779



Rum Ragged (photo Valerie LeDuc)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued

There were slightly fewer shows presented than in 2024 yet from a profitability standpoint, the 2025 shows were only \$4,011 short versus 2024. On the grant side, all core operating grants from the three levels of government were received. There was a shortfall to last year on some project grants. Fundraising (which is the net revenue from the Playhouse Party) exceeded last year's number. Donations were weaker than last year, primarily due to a shortfall in the Fall Campaign. Sponsorship of shows was much stronger than last year, up 31%. Added together, total revenue for 2025 came in at \$712,307 versus \$821,187 last year.

On the expense side, total expenses came in at \$708,622 a reduction of \$42,865 versus last year. There was excellent cost control in all three categories of expenses, especially wages and benefits which only rose 3% to last year.

From a bottom-line point of view, it is important to note that from operations we had an excess of revenue over expenses of \$3,685. After adding in amortization of deferred contributions and capital assets (both non-cash values), the deficiency of revenue over expenses was \$28,189.

We are very grateful for the support we have received in 2025 from the three levels of government and our generous donors, sponsors, foundations and of course our loyal patrons. As we look forward to 2026, with the ongoing support from our communities and various funding sources, the Playhouse looks forward to delivering on programming while maintaining a solid financial position this coming year and beyond.

Respectively submitted,
Gavin Brimer
Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

Use your smartphone
camera to scan this code
to view the full
Financial Statements



FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The role of the Fund Development Committee is to directly support and oversee fundraising programs of the Chester Playhouse. Fundraising is critically important to the arts and culture sector, which traditionally relies on donations for one third of operating budgets, and one third each from governments grants and box office receipts.

Government reductions to arts funding, and our efforts to keep the Playhouse programming accessible to the community, make fundraising even more vital, especially during difficult economic times.

2025 Annual Fund Development Revenues:

It was a positive year for donations, thanks to two successful operating campaigns, box office donations, and our major fundraising event, the Playhouse Party. Thank you to our extremely generous Playhouse Party hosts, Jim Spatz and Val MacDonald, and the many guests and volunteers for their enthusiastic support for this critical event. Additional fundraising support came from patrons who rounded up their purchases or donated unused box-office credits.

Thank you to our Endowment Partner, The Sir Christopher Ondaatje Theatre Foundation, and to the Municipality of the District of Chester and the governments Nova Scotia and Canada for their ongoing operating support.

And thank you to the 837 donors who financially supported your Chester Playhouse. Donations totaled \$217,693.65, including \$173,795.65 from the annual Spring and Fall operating campaigns. The donor base continues to grow and increased from 438 donors in 2024. However, the economic atmosphere is growing more challenging, and some past donors did not renew their support.

It is critically important that fundraising continues to help support Playhouse programming for our community, especially in the face of government cuts and our goal of keeping the Playhouse accessible to all with affordable ticket prices and pay-what-you-can events.

Our Fund Development Committee is focused on fundraising strategy and execution, and was made up of board members Alan Jeffers, Carol Dodds, Sara Filbee, Tammy Gonsalves, Sarah Hampson, Frank Metzger and Andrew Chandler (ex officio).



THE SIR CHRISTOPHER ONDAATJE FOUNDATION



THE FOUNDATION

The Sir Christopher Ondaatje Theatre Foundation was established as a registered charity in 2010 to benefit the Chester Playhouse and has current assets (2024) of \$1,418,000. These funds are administered by an independent Board of Trustees, with the support of professional money managers and accountants.

The Board of Trustees are members of the Chester community with a range of governance and risk management experience. Growth in the fund has been aided by market performance plus the eligibility of new donations to attract a matching grant of up to 85% from the Canadian Cultural Investment Fund, offering tremendous leverage to donors.

The Foundation provides an important supplement to the annual revenue relied on by the Playhouse – donations from individuals, ticket sales, grants from three levels of government, and sponsorship contributions from businesses – through a grant to the Playhouse from the earnings on invested assets. Our aspiration is to significantly grow the Foundation to help ensure the long-term financial stability of the Playhouse while weathering economic cycles. Working with the community, we want to protect this special asset that elevates life in Chester!

An important initiative was launched last year with the creation of the Encore Society and we are pleased to report that some regular Playhouse operating donors have now taken an important step to also plan to support the Playhouse through their wills: The Cleather Family Foundation, Susan Crocker, Robin and Diane Gilbert, Ross and Willa Norman, The Spafford Estate, and Linda Young.

The Encore Society members have designated the Chester Playhouse as a beneficiary of their estate and have taken the step of advising the Foundation of their intention to make a bequest of at least \$20,000. The Foundation also accepts gifts of cash or marketable securities in any amount, with CRA receipts provided.

To become involved with the Foundation as a current donor or as an Encore Society member, please email foundation@chesterplayhouse.ca with the subject "Foundation Inquiry". A Foundation representative will follow up with appropriate information, forms and instructions. We are also welcoming new Board members this year, so please reach out to learn more!



The Foundation's Board of Trustees

Robin Gilbert (Chair)

Robin Carling (Secretary)

Jeff Somerville (Treasurer)

Liz Crocker

Susan Crocker

Paul Dyer

Sara Filbee

James Fotheringham

Sue Patillo

Ross Norman

Not pictured: Tom Boyne

MARKETING AND SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT

SPONSORSHIP

We have been very fortunate to have community support from businesses of all sectors providing sponsorship funds for The Chester Playhouse. We recognize and thank our sponsors at our shows and in numerous marketing materials throughout the year.

Sponsorship contributed \$44,500 to our revenues in 2025.

OPERATING SPONSORS

- Castle Chester Building Supplies
- Seawinds Carpentry Services
- Plan-it Construction
- MacQuarries Pharmasave
- Tanya's Independent Grocer
- Personal Care Physio & Osteopathy
- Access Storage
- Gates Electric
- Chester Clinic Dental
- Big Red's Pizza
- Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre

The Sponsor of the Scotiabank Newcomers Program is Scotiabank.

SHOW SPONSORS

- Belliveau Veinotte Inc
- Cabot Shipping Supplies
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Duckworth Real Estate
- The Rope Loft

Please recognize and thank our sponsors when visiting their locations.

THE PLAYHOUSE PARTY

On Saturday, July 11, 280 guests joined us for the annual Playhouse Party at the stunning home of Jim Spatz and Val MacDonald. It was a spectacular evening overlooking the harbour where guests enjoyed music by Shirley Jackson and Her Good Rockin' Daddies, food and beverages with their friends and neighbours to celebrate The Chester Playhouse. The auctions and guests making matching donations allowed us to raise \$110,000.

We are very grateful to our guests, volunteers and our host Jim and Val for opening their home, for their financial support, and for working with us to make this another spectacular evening in Chester.

Quality events like this happen through the support of Party Sponsors who are eager to help the community. Our sincere Thank You for their generous support to:

- Bishops Cellar
- M Creative
- Katzman Art Projects
- 31 Westgate
- Touch of Gold
- Stanhope Simpson Insurance Ltd.
- The Wine Spa
- Think Vertical
- Sensea Nordic Spa
- Oceanstone Resort
- Jan Malone Realtor
- Oxner's Party & Event Rentals

And congratulations and thanks to the Playhouse Party Committee who worked tirelessly for many months to bring this event together:

Carol Dodds, Catherine Read, Emily Mosher, Frank Metzger, Kathy McNab, and the Playhouse staff. We look forward to bringing people together again on Saturday, July 18th 2026.



The Playhouse Party

All Photos Victoria MacGregor





SINCE  1939
**CHESTER
 PLAYHOUSE**

OUR SPONSORS MAKE IT HAPPEN

2025 was a challenging year, and in challenging times, we believe that arts, culture, and community matter more than ever. Undaunted, your Playhouse continued to deliver a vibrant mix concerts, theatre, comedy, variety performances, movies, and more. We expanded our youth theatre programs, introduced popular adult theatre education programs and hosted numerous rental events. In all, we've continued to build on our recent successes, giving more to our community than ever before.

It's with the support of Sponsors that we can continue to thrive. Their support of your Chester Playhouse demonstrates your commitment to the arts and your community. Our patrons see that support, and appreciate your support this community hub. Thank you, for helping us make a difference.

Here are some of the highlights of our 2025 season, all thanks to incredible local support.

YOUR CHESTER PLAYHOUSE 2025 SNAPSHOT



9,248 Tickets Sold



2,397 Customers



114 Performances



12 Theatre Rentals



5 weeks of Summer Youth Programming

7 Adult Theatre Education Programs



Corporate Sponsorship in 2026 offers a unique opportunity for visibility and recognition, in drawing interest and attention from across the province and beyond, while demonstrating your support for you community.



SPONSOR RECOGNITION

It is our honour to recognize our corporate sponsors in pre-show announcements and onsite signage as well as through our website, newsletter, and social media channels.

- 4250+ Monthly Website Views
- 3200+ Newsletter Subscribers
- 5900+ Facebook Followers
- 2500+ Instagram Followers

For information on our 2026 Corporate Sponsorship packages please contact us via email at info@chesterplayhouse.ca or call us at (902) 275-3933

OUR SPONSORS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

The support the Chester Playhouse received through corporate sponsorships in 2025 allowed us to present more of the incredible shows that audiences love, while recognizing the community-minded local businesses who value the arts and entertainment. Corporate sponsorship provides stability, allows us to take artistic risks, and, most importantly, offer more events, with more affordable ticket prices for our patrons.

Thank you to our generous sponsors who truly do make it all possible.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors:



Hospitality Sponsor



Scotiabank Newcomers Program Sponsor



Thank you to our Event Sponsors:



Thanks to the RBC Foundation, we've installed a new stair lift to make our second floor accessible to more members of our community.



Thank you to Seaside Hearing for their doantion of the Hearing Loop and Auracast Systems!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CHESTER PLAYHOUSE

Thank you to our generous donors for their continued support of the Playhouse through our General Operating Campaign in 2025 and to the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Theatre Foundation.



The Encore Society

Encore Society members have designated the Chester Playhouse as a beneficiary of their estate with a bequest of at least \$20,000. See page 17 for more info and to join!

The Cleather Family Foundation
Susan Elizabeth Crocker
The Brian Crocker Family

Robin and Dianne Gilbert
Ross and Willa Norman
Patillo Foundation

The Spafford Estate
Sir Christopher Ondaatje
Linda Young

Champions (\$5000+)

Black Family Foundation
Wes & Diane Campbell
Susan Crocker

Suzan Fraser
Richard Gummer
Sarah Hampson & Mark Raynes Roberts

Alan Jeffers
Jim Spatz & Val MacDonald
Farhad Vladi & Associates

Leaders (\$1000 - \$4999)

Adam Barrett
Ann Barry
Thomas Boyne & Debi Conrad
Richard Calder
Spencer Family Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth Crocker
Henry & Rena Demone
Doug Doucet
Sara K Filbee
Jane Filbee
Jay Forbes
Gary Foshay & Mary Steckle
Elizabeth & Fred Fountain
Mary Fowke

Wayne & Barbara Grigsby
Andrew & Nora Gross
Douglas Hall
Dean Leland
Kirk & Elisabeth MacCulloch
Janet Malone
David Mann & Lois Dyer-Mann
Colin Matthews
Victoria McGregor
Lloyd & Kelly McKnight
Leslie McLean & Scott McCain
John McLennan
David Miller
Bill & Sally Morris

Nancy Murray
Sherry Porter
Kirby Putnam
Catherine Read
Leigh Robertson
Arif Samad, Md
Victoria Stanhope
Bruce Towler
Virginia Veinot
Derek & Alison Wells
Rose Wilson
Christine & David Wilson
Pelka Wiltshire
Robert & Joanna Zed

Builders (\$250 - \$999)

Esther Amiro
Robert Ayling & Philip John
Debbie Bond
Hugh Bowness
Lee & Amy Bragg
Jim & Debbie Breeze
Gavin Brimer
Margaret Brown
Diana J Chandler
John & Susan Chandler
Rhonda Church
Christopher Church
Janet & Larry Creaser
Julia Creighton & Michael Frevola
Alastair Cribb
John & Donna Curry
Carolyn Davis Stewart
Gordon & Linda Deeks
James Dimitroff
DeeDee Dyer
Carolyn Feindel
Chris & Hiya Field

Peggie Findlay
Wilson Fitt & Thelma Costello
Ronald & Jennifer Friesen
Robin & Dianne Gilbert
Tammy Gonsalves
Rob Healy
Robert & Anna Healy
David & Carol Hilchey
William Hughes
Ward & Sharron Isnor
Michael Kennedy
Paul & Angela Kidston
Katie Macdonald
Rosemary K MacInnes
Lisa MacIntyre-Smith
Anne MacLaren
Robert MacLeod
Pam Maloney
Malcolm & Sandra Matthews
Lili McCurdy
Daniel & Marie McDougall
Alison McEachern

Kathy & Ken McNab
Ross McNeil
Tim & Bernadine Moore
Thomas Murphy
Anne Murphy
Erin O'Brien Edmonds
Richard & Barb Oland
Bill & Luann Polk
Elihu & Wendy Rees
Brian Robertson
Diane Scott
Allan & Leslie Shaw
Elaine & David Shaw
Jeff Somerville
Stewart & Sidney Spahr
Mary Steckle
Teana Stewart
Lynn Stewart
Oscar Straus III
Anne & Grant Tipler
Lisa Totman
Kelli Tynes-Harrington
Mark Watling

Community Circle (\$20 - \$249)



Lisa Aiken	Candice Ellis	Elizabeth King	Philip Poirier & Sharlene Wolchik
Peter Akerley	Mary Filbee	Sheila Knowlton - MacRury	Robert Presson & Deborah Byrd
Oyungerel Akerley	Wade Fisher	Charli Laforce	Eleanor Publicover
Gerri Allen	Karen Flinn	Lisa Lafrance & Nicholas Spencer	Lisa Quigley
Margaret G Anderson	Max Flinn	Lewin	Christopher Quigley
Rodney Andreychuk & Richard Malone	Jill Flinn	Terri Langille	Richard Rachals
Jamie Baillie	Jennifer Fraser	Stewart Lindsay Jr.	Leonard J Rafuse
Barry Baker	Linda Fraser	Sue & Paul Logan	Stephanie Ray
Piers Baker	Wenda Fraser-Housego	Patricia Lounsbury	Eileen Reardon
Gary Barkhouse	Myra Freeman	Barbara Luedecke	Barbara Richman
Janet Barkhouse	Barbara Fry	Steve Lumb & Joanne Corbett	Eileen Richmond
Avril Barton	Nicole Gale	Deborah Lusby	Sarah Riley
Linda Beaudoin	William Gallacher	David & Mary-Anne Lyons	Jill Robbins
Susan Belliveau	Joseph Gallagher	Daniel MacDonald	Jan Rofihe
Patricia Bilek	Lisa Gallivan	Cameron MacKay	Doug & Lynne Ross
Diane Binmore	Omar Gandhi	Sue Mackintosh	Cathy Ross
Fiona & Malcolm Black	Deborah Gass	Dave & Peggy MacLean	Matthew Ross
Edward Blackburn	Stephanie Gatszegi	Roger Mader	Mary-Jane Saffrey
Margie Blundell	Gerry Giffin	Stephen Marinelli	Jenny Sandison
Marie Bowness	Laura Gillis	Thomas & Kathleen Marrie	Claudette J Sapp
Bruce Bowser	Francine Gingras	Gerrie Masters	Margo Schwartz
Heather Brophy	Erin Gore	Lisa McCabe	Martha Scott
Patsy & Glen Brown	Sherry Lee Gregory	Donna McCready	Kathryn Shaw
Kelvin Browne	Wayne Groszko	Donna McGrath	Jonathan Silverman
Catherine Burchell	Charlotte Hache	Shirley McInnes	Whipple Smith
Anna Camp	Sara & Jonathon Hall	Rob & Joan McInnes	Fred Smithers
Katie Carroll	James Hallett	Amy McKay	Jane Solomon
K. Rebecca Chandler Nauta	Margaret Hallett	Michelle McKillop	Rob Steele
Lisa Christensen	Carol Hansen	Duncan & Sylvia McNeill	Paul Stockall
Mary Sandra Clark	Kim Hardacker	Stacey McRae	Don Stoddard
Joan Cleather	Reid & Marilyn Harrison	Louise Michalos	Darlene Stonehouse-Clark
Sarah Collins	Brenda Hartley	William Middleton	Lana Sugarman
David Connolly	Dawn Harwood-Jones	Bruce Middleton	Wanda Suppanz
Matt Conrad	Trudi & Robert Helms	Cheryl Millar	Mila Surrette
Donna Cooper	Alex Hickey	Tristan Mills & Lane MacDonald	Kathie Swenson
David Corkum	Gillian Hill Regimbal	John Montgomerie	Geraldine & Wayne Tuck
Simone Cottreau	Sheryl Hoblitzell	Senator Wilfred Moore & Jane Ritcey	Robert J Tupper
Dan Cox	Cheryl Hodder	Janice Moreside	Carol Vaughan
Hawley Crosby	Karen Hooper & Frank Metzger	Emily Mosher	Judi Vincent
Duncan & Deborah Cross	Heather Hughes	Evelyn Murphy	John Volcko
Dawn Curry	Paul Ingram	Jeanne Nash	Monica Wallenfels
Arlene Dalton	Frances Jamieson	Ross Norman	Mary Elizabeth Walton
Laurel Darnell & Reid Campbell	Karen Janigan	Sheilagh O'Brien-Parker	Anne Watling
Peter Debruin	Rita & Keith Johnson	Katherine Osler	Patricia Watson
John DeRoche	Bethany Johnson-Theedom	Phil Otto	David & Alison Williams
Scott Drummond	Michael Kaczorowski	Jennifer Paterson	Deborah Windsor
Dave Duchene	Eimear Kelly	Jane Pattillo	Sheila & Gary Woodcock
Sydney & Sandra Dumaresq	Chippie Kennedy	Kevork Peltekian	Stephen Young
Doug Eisan	Andrea Kew	Robert E Pietrafesa II	Linda Young
	Marshall Kidston	Karen Pinsent	David Zitner & Lezlie Oler

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

One thing we've learned over the years is that it truly takes a village to support the operations of your Chester Playhouse. From our volunteer board of directors, to our hard-working staff, to our incredible team of volunteers, we're blessed with tremendous amount of energy, expertise, and dedication to making your Playhouse a true community hub. Thank you to all of these individuals, for their passion and commitment to supporting the Playhouse.

CHESTER PLAYHOUSE BOARD

EXECUTIVE

- Tom Boyne - Chair
- Alison McEachern - Vice Chair
- Matthew Ross - Secretary
- Gavin Brimer - Treasurer
- Sara Filbee - Past Chair

DIRECTORS

- Carol Dodds
- Tammy Gonsalves
- Sarah Hampson
- Alan Jeffers
- Kathy McNab
- Frank V. Metzger
- Emily Mosher
- Issie Patterson
- Kirby Putnam



CHESTER PLAYHOUSE STAFF

- Andrew Chandler - Executive Director
- Krystle O'Brien - Controller
- Lynn Pettypiece - Marketing Lead / Box Office Manager
- Gabriel Harding - Marketing Manager (Nov '24 - May '25)
- Briana Doyle - Marketing Consultant (May - Sept '25)
- Max Dooher - Marketing Assistant (June - Sept '25)
- Luba Magnus - Marketing Manager (Sept '25 - present)
- Ryan Wilcox - Technical Director (July '24 - Oct '25)
- Beth Elliot - Technical Director (Oct '25 - present)
- Anne Koloff - Front of House Manager
- Shirley McCaw - Front of House Assistant Manager
- Trina Ladd - Front of House Assistant Manager

VOLUNTEERS



At the heart of the Chester Playhouse are the many wonderful volunteers. The Playhouse is a volunteer-directed charitable organization, with a volunteer front of house team. We are tremendously grateful to the generous individuals who give so much of their time to help bring live arts and culture to our community.



*See you soon at your
Chester Playhouse!*

SINCE  1939
**CHESTER
PLAYHOUSE**

chesterplayhouse.ca
(902) 275-3933