

Barbecue Saturday ? Caledon Townhall Players celebrating 50 years



The Caledon Townhall Players were participating in the recent Doors Open event as part of the observances of their 50th anniversary. Helen Mason and Fay McCrea were representing Caledon Village Heritage, along with Players' President Linda Smith. Photo by Bill Rea

The 2013-14 season is very special for the Caledon Townhall Players.

The troupe is celebrating 50 years of fantastic community theatre in Caledon village, along with great value. Where else can one eat a great dinner and then walk across the street to see a full-length show for less than \$30? Regular patrons of the Caledon Townhall Players theatre productions know the answer ? there is a special Dinner Theatre evening during the run of every play.

Since 1962 this group has performed more than 120 plays, and as part of their anniversary celebrations they are repeating three great ones. It starts with Neil Simon's great comedy *The Odd Couple ? Female Version* in November. That will be followed in February by the comedy-drama *On Golden Pond* and another Neil Simon favourite, *Jake's Women*, in the spring.

To kick off this special season, there will be an open house and barbecue at the theatre Sept. 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The whole community is invited, together with patrons young and old. The theatre is on the east side of Highway 10, in the village of Caledon.

Members of the theatre, past and present, have also been invited to a party Sept. 28, to reminisce and share fond memories of the past 50 years. The group is very pleased that Jim Dodds, one of the original members, is going to attend.

It was June 1962 when the first play, *Angels Unawares*, was performed by a small group in the Caledon Township Hall. Morton Paterson, a student minister, initiated this venture and when he left the area a small group of enthusiasts decided to form a play group which led to the first official production, *Simple Simon Simple*, in January 1963. When the new municipal building was completed in the village in the fall of 1963, the players were able to lease the old Caledon Township Hall, an arrangement that continues to this day. The theatre group is very fortunate to have a permanent home in this lovely old heritage structure. The building was moved back from the edge of the road to accommodate the widening of Highway 10 in 2003, and a basement area, with dressing rooms, costume room, meeting room and washrooms, was added to complete the facility.

Things have changed drastically since those early days. Entertainment is readily available at anyone's fingertips, anywhere, any time, and local live theatre attendance has suffered. The Caledon Townhall Players group is fortunate that there is still a core of dedicated and reliable participants in all of the disciplines, whether on-stage, backstage or off-stage, to ensure that ?the show goes on.? New members are always welcome to join in the fun and social events.

Visit the website at www.caledontownhallplayers.com for more information about the season. An on-line ticket-booking system is currently being set up. However until this is operational, call the answering machine at 519-927-5460, to order tickets. Evening performances are \$15, matinees are \$12, (plus service charge) and group rates are available.