

LAMPLIGHTER TOUR 2008

# Rotary's Lamplighter Tour an 'overwhelming' success

*Fifth annual tour raises \$15,000 in support of bandshell*

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STAFF

From Jennifer Southward's perspective, it's a prime example of what a community can accomplish while working together.

From the set designers to the actors to the playwrights, each and every little job was a big part in making the fifth annual Rotary Club of Lincoln Lamplighter Tour a success. This year's event, held in Jordan Village, raised \$15,000 — bringing the tour to a total of \$46,000 raised over the past five years of the production. This year's funds will be directed to the Rotarians' \$165,000 commitment to build a bandshell at Charles Daley Park.

"It's such a wonderful community spirit surrounding the whole thing. Everyone has worked together and this year was an overwhelming success," said Southward, producer of the unique production, which featured five vignettes in Jordan Village based on the life of settlers in Jordan and Ball's Falls during the 1850s.

About 440 people took part in the tour, which featured several shows from November 20-23. Plays on this year's production included *Once Upon a Time in Jordan* by John van der Beek, at the Snure-Sedgewick House (Mosaika Gallery); *The Hair of the Dog* by David Fanstone, at The Twin House/Snure-Sedgewick House 2 (Glass Arts and Crafts); *Freedomland* by Sheila Laundry, at The Kiddick House (Santa Fe Lifestyle and Victoria's Vanity); *Fiddler in the House* by Neil Galloway, at Jordan Vinegar Works (Cave Spring Cellars); and *The Meaning of Christmas* by Katherine Alberts, at the Jordan Museum School House. Productions focused on topics ranging from Christmas in the village to the underground railroad to life at the post office, an information hub in the community.

More than 100 people participated in the cast and crew, from serving as actors to helping out with serving in Miss Nettie and Nan's Tea Room.

Calvin Quirk of Grimsby, 13, was one of the young actors, performing in *The Hair of the Dog*.

He said he was pleased to participate.

"I've really enjoyed it. You make a lot of friends and get to have fun. It's all for a good cause," Quirk said.

Bob Bujas has looked after props and sets for the past five years as stage manager. Each and every year, he says, has a new challenge. This year was creating a "ghost" for *Fiddler in the House*. He designed a special wall of plastic and adhesive to permit a silhouette that gives a ghostly feeling.

"We didn't try it until the first night, but it came out absolutely excellent," said Bujas. "It was just another challenge I enjoyed trying to overcome - every year seems to have one."

Diana Bujas was Miss Nettie. While guests on the tour think they're just getting a warm drink and snack on the final stop, Miss Nettie and Nan's Tea Room, it's much more. Diana gets right into character serving up the treats and drinks created by numerous volunteers. There is a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure there is enough snacks for the hundreds of guests.

"For every person out front here, we have five in the back working away," she said. "It's a real team effort, which is what the whole tour is about."

Each and every role volunteers played were integral, said Southward.

"They gave of themselves totally without any remuneration and showed a real spirit of joy and fun. They were gracious with their time and expertise and it helped make this a success," said Southward. "We appreciate everyone's support."

Bob Bujas says Southward, artistic director Bev Haskins and the other faces behind the scenes are also major pieces to making it happen.

"They put their heart and soul into this. Everyone really comes together and it's a time effort, but a labour of love," he said.

The labour of love continues, as the Lamplighter team is already working on 2009. While the focus will be a surprise, they say it will be the "best year ever," with some special surprises in store. Stay tuned to [www.lamplighter.com](http://www.lamplighter.com) for updates.



Lamplighter guide Lome Gretsinger leads some of the guests attending this year's Lamplighter Tour to one of the play venues. About 440 people attended this year's production, which featured five vignettes in Jordan Village.