



OUR TOWN

by Thornton Wilder



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[and we are proud to have been there for 20 of them.]



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President's Message

Welcome to The Community Players of New Hamburg's production of *Our Town*.

This production is the second in our 40th season, after this spring's *Anne of Green Gables*. Across those 40 years, many hundreds of volunteers have come together to create theatre magic. To all of you who have rehearsed, sewed, painted, played an instrument or planned: Thank you for making this production possible. It's wonderful to see community in action!

I also want to say thank you to our incredible partners for letting us do what we do. Your faithful support is such a blessing, and truly represents the generous spirit of Wilmot Township.

Finally, thanks to all of you sitting in these chairs waiting for the lights to dim. Theatre is nothing without an audience, and we're so grateful you've chosen to join us here tonight. Enjoy the show!

Nicole Cotie

President



Artistic Director's Message

Welcome to our production of *Our Town*, a timeless masterpiece that captures the beauty of ordinary life and the universality of human experience. It is with great pride and joy that we present this play in celebration of our company's 40th anniversary. Over the past four decades, we have brought many stories to life, and tonight's performance is a tribute to all the artists and audiences who have been part of this incredible journey.

Thornton Wilder's play reminds us that amidst the hustle and bustle of life, it is the simple, everyday moments that matter most—the shared meals, the quiet conversations, the joys, even the sorrows. *Our Town* asks us to reflect on the passage of time, on love, on loss, and on the profound connections we make with one another. In its simplicity there is a depth that resonates across generations.

As we look back on 40 years of community and creativity, we are reminded that our town—our TCP family—is built on these same principles. We have thrived because of the relationships we've formed, the memories we've shared and the love we have for the art of storytelling.

Thank you for being part of our town tonight and for supporting us through the years. Here's to 40 years more of storytelling, connection and community.

Brooke Gamble

Artistic Director

Directors' Message

Our Town is a classic story of simple small-town life: high-school sweethearts, everyone knowing everyone's business, friendly faces in every direction. We used that along with personal experience to develop a show that we hope will hit home.

This production uses the simple set, minimal props and reliance on mime that Thornton Wilder called for, and is performed on a thrust stage with the intention of creating a truly immersive play.

Our Town is a story about life and the nuanced relationships of the human experience. We loved guiding this story to life, and we look forward to sharing this reflection of humanity with all of you. We hope you come out of the theatre with a deeper appreciation for the little things, because these are what really define the shape of our time here on Earth.

Keegan and Elisabeth Serres

Directors



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TOWN
by Thornton Wilder

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the legacy you
want to leave.

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THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF NEW HAMBURG PRESENT

OUR TOWN

by Thornton Wilder

featuring

AARON BALZER
PAIGE CORRIVEAU
LEAH COTIE
NANCY CROTH

HANNAH DAVIDSON
KIM DE HAAN
RYAN DUNHAM
JACK GRIFFIOEN
ILSA HAGERMAN

LORI HOELSCHER
IAN HOPKINS
DAVE HUMPHREY
MARY BETH JANTZI
STEVEN MARTIN

ANNA MASTE
JILL PRINCE
MIKE VANDERLOO
JARED WALLIS

PRODUCTION MANAGER
LISETTE WEBER

SET DESIGN
ALF ZEUNER

ACTING COACH
JAIME VANDERMOLEN

HEAD OF CONSTRUCTION
STEVEN VANDERMOLEN

STAGE MANAGER
SARAH BRNJAS

LIGHTING DESIGN
BEN THOMAS

HAIR AND MAKEUP
KELSEY GAMBLE

SET PAINTER
SANJA ILIĆ

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
GRACE MCHARDY

AUDIO TECHNICIAN
JEFF BLAIN

COSTUMES
JENNIFER PARKER

PROPS
ANN MARK

DIRECTORS
ELISABETH SERRES, KEEGAN SERRES

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
BROOKE GAMBLE

Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* was written in the 1930s and premiered in Princeton, New Jersey, in January 1938. It opened on Broadway in February of that year, and it brought Wilder the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

Numerous actors have played the central role of the Stage Manager, among them Henry Fonda, Spalding Gray, Hal Holbrooke and Paul Newman, who made his final stage appearance in a revival of the show from December 2002 to January 2003.

OUR TOWN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc., www.concordtheatricals.com.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before the performance begins. Photographing, videotaping or recording any portion of this production is prohibited.

Food and drink are welcome inside the theatre, but we ask that you finish eating and crinkling up the wrappers before the start of the performance.

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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Stage Manager	Anna Maste Nancy Croth (NOV 9TH MATINEE & NOV 14TH)
Dr. Gibbs	Ian Hopkins
Joe Crowell Jr.	Jack Griffioen
Howie Newsome	Dave Humphrey
Mrs. Gibbs	Kim De Haan
Mrs. Webb	Mary Beth Jantzi
George Gibbs	Ryan Dunham
Rebecca Gibbs	Ilsa Hagerman
Willa Webb	Leah Cotie
Emily Webb	Jill Prince
Professor Willard	Lori Hoelscher
Mr. Webb	Mike VanderLoo
Simon Stimson	Jared Wallis
Mrs. Soames	Paige Corriveau
Constable Warren	Steven Martin
Si Crowell	Jack Griffioen
Joe Stoddard	Aaron Balzer
Sam Craig	Hannah Davidson
Mrs. Carter	Nancy Croth Anna Maste (NOV 9TH MATINEE & NOV 14TH)



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ACT I: DAILY LIFE
ACT II: LOVE AND MARRIAGE
ACT III: DEATH AND ETERNITY

THERE WILL BE TWO 10-MINUTE INTERMISSIONS

The Community Players of New Hamburg are pleased to offer an accessible performance of *Our Town* on Sunday, November 10. This special presentation will feature dimmed lighting, recorded music and reduced sound levels. Patrons will also have free in-and-out privileges, allowing flexibility and comfort throughout the show. TCP is committed to making theatre accessible to all.

THE MUSIC

Thornton Wilder wanted the staging of *Our Town* to be utterly sparse: “No curtain. No scenery.” Certainly no orchestra. But when the play was made into a movie in 1940, the producers asked Aaron Copland, arguably America’s greatest composer, to write the score. Copland later created an orchestral suite based on his film score, which was then adapted for other instruments, including an excellent saxophone-quartet arrangement by Paul Cohen. Thus the appearance of four saxophones in Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire.

The suite is in three movements, but for this production the directors have used short excerpts at various points. The third movement is played in its entirety at the end of the show.

The other music used for this production, both live and recorded, was chosen to fit the mood of the play and of 20th-century America.

Soprano Saxophone	PAULA KOKOT
Alto Saxophone	HAL GOODMAN
Tenor Saxophone	DAVID ROSE
Baritone Saxophone	PETE RICE

ACI

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LORI HOELSCHER



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Your Monthly Feel-Good Newsletter
"Keeping the Community Connected!"

**Congratulations to
The Community Players
on another successful production!**



Thank you for entertaining Wilmot and area with the production of Our Town

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COMPANY

AARON BALZER, Joe Stoddard Since his first TCP show, *Children of Eden* in 2004, Aaron has appeared onstage in seven TCP productions, including as Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and has directed *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Anne of Green Gables*. Aaron is excited to be onstage again with TCP friends old and new.

SARAH BRNJAS, Stage Manager Sarah is ecstatic to be the Stage Manager for her first time with TCP. She has directed *Anne of Green Gables* and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Conrad Grebel), and her acting credits include *Immigration Acts* (KWLTL), *High School Musical* (St. Jacobs Playhouse) and *The Vagina Monologues* (Daegu Theatre Troupe). She thanks Sushil and family for supporting her passions. உன்னை காதலிக்கிறேன்

PAIGE CORRIVEAU, Mrs. Soames Paige is excited to be returning to the stage. Credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Up Close and Personal* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (TCP), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (KWMP) and *Charles Dickens Writes a Christmas Carol* (Lost&Found Theatre). A special thank you to family and friends for their ongoing love and support.

LEAH COTIE, Willa Webb Leah is thrilled to be onstage for her second TCP show. TCP has been a huge part of her life, from "helping" at work days as a kid to finally acting onstage for the first time in *Anne of Green Gables* this spring. She has loved working with this amazing cast and crew. Much love to mom, dad, Claire and Milo for all their love, support and chauffeuring.

NANCY CROTH, Mrs. Carter, Stage Manager Nancy has been onstage with TCP for six years, in *Anne of Green Gables*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Up Close and Personal*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Oliver!* She has been Assistant Stage Manager for *Calendar Girls* and Stage Manager for *Take Two* and *Best Brothers*. Nancy is thrilled to be part of the amazing cast and crew of *Our Town*.

HANNAH DAVIDSON, Sam Craig Hannah is honoured to be back onstage for her second TCP show, and to be managing TCP's social media. Hannah's previous role was as Miss Stacy in TCP's production of *Anne of Green Gables*. She would like to thank her phenomenal partner, Aidan, and her family and friends for all their patience, constant love and support.

KIM DE HAAN, Mrs. Gibbs Kim is delighted to be making her acting debut. She wants to thank all her Stratford Festival colleagues who laugh at her foolishness and say she should be onstage. She is especially grateful to Scott for encouraging her to audition for TCP, and to Denise for pushing her (hard!) into actually doing it.

AKENAZ DOLSON, Production Crew New to TCP, Akenaz is thrilled to help bring *Our Town* to life with work on the sets and costumes.

RYAN DUNHAM, George Gibbs Ryan is excited to be in his first production with TCP. He has performed the roles of Jeff in *Brigadoon* (Ayr Community Theatre), Ralph Sheldrake in *White Christmas* and Mr. Green in *Clue* (Theatre Sarnia). When not onstage he works as a technician in community and professional theatre.

BROOKE GAMBLE, Artistic Director Brooke is excited to be working with her TCP family in Grover's Corners. Select credits: *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Up Close and Personal* (TCP); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (KWMP); *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver!*, *The Sound of Music* (ALT). Film: *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Ginny and Georgia*, *I Woke Up a Vampire* (Disney+, Netflix). She would like to thank her family and the TCP company for their support.

Brooke works with the permission of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA).

KELSEY GAMBLE, Hair and Makeup Kelsey is thrilled to be part of *Our Town*. She has previously contributed to *An Ideal Husband*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Anne of Green Gables*. A graduate of Sheridan College, Kelsey currently works as a professional makeup artist in the commercial and editorial industry.

LISA GAMBLE, Assistant Concessions Manager Lisa has been a member of TCP since 2019, working on shows such as *Anne of Green Gables*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Up Close and Personal*. She is excited to bring her experience to *Our Town* and looks forward to another memorable production.

HAL GOODMAN, Alto Saxophone Hal has played sax and clarinet in numerous ensembles and theatre pits across a wide swath of southern Ontario; current groups include the Stratford Concert Band; the Festival City Big Band; SOUSE (the Southern Ontario Uncertain Saxophone Ensemble) and of course his woodwind duet, Total Galactic Annihilation. Thanks and love to Beth and Mai.

JACK GRIFFIOEN, Joe Crowell Jr., Si Crowell Jack is excited to be onstage for the first time with TCP. Jack's roles include the Children's Ensemble in *Evita* and *Joseph* (Drayton Entertainment); Michael in *Elf Jr.* (TYPP); and the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and Grunch in *The Grunch* (LAMA). Thank you to everyone for all the support.

ILSA HAGERMAN, Rebecca Gibbs Ilsa is thrilled to be joining TCP. Past credits include the Youth Chorus in *Peter Pan: the Panto*, Buddy in *The Buddy Holly Story* (Drayton Entertainment) and *Brigadoon* (ACT). Ilsa also enjoys climbing trees, writing songs and lyrics, and waffles. She'd like to thank her mum, dad and sister for their love and support.

COMPANY

LORI HOELSCHER, Professor Willard Lori's community-theatre roots are with the Drayton Community Players. In the past decade she's been with Theatre Wellesley, predominantly onstage (her favourite being the two-hander *Harvest*), and has directed TW's production of *Tuesdays With Morrie*. This is Lori's first TCP show and she's thankful for new friendships and new experiences with thrust stage and pantomime.

IAN HOPKINS, Dr. Gibbs Ian is delighted to be back for another fall show with TCP, after appearing in *12 Angry Men*, *Dial M For Murder* and *Calendar Girls*. Special thanks to the TCP production, directing and Leadership teams, without whom none of this could happen. Love to Amanda, Lohgan and Sophie for being the best supporting cast a guy could hope for.

DAVE HUMPHREY, Howie Newsome When not delivering milk, Dave's a travel agent. This is his third TCP show. Favourite shows include *How to Succeed in Business* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Stratford Community Players), *Dial M for Murder* (ETC) and *Charlie Brown* in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (JM Drama). He thanks his wife, Pam, for her eternal patience (and love!).

AMELIA HUNTER, House Manager Amelia has chosen to volunteer since being assistant to the ASM for *Mary Poppins*. She helped with many shows long before that. She has been an usher for every TCP show since 2018 and has taken on the House Manager position this year, training ushers on safety and procedures before each show.

LAURIE HUNTER, Theatre Manager Since joining TCP in 2003, Laurie has been onstage, box office, front of house and even a short stint on the Leadership Team. She loves her TCP friends like family and is happy to add more each year.

SANJA ILIĆ, Set Painter Sanja is excited to be bringing the world of Grover's Corners to life. With five years of scenic painting experience, Sanja has worked on TCP's productions of *Oliver!*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Anne of Green Gables*. She's thrilled to be part of this talented team.

MARY BETH JANTZI, Mrs. Webb Mary Beth is thrilled to be onstage with TCP for the first time. She taught drama and English for 28 years at SHDHS in Exeter. Previous community theatre has all been with Theatre Wellesley. Her favourite roles include Marjorie in *Willow Quartet* and Ruthie in *Making God Laugh*. She would like to dedicate this run to her brother Dave. Miss you, big brother. 1,2,3, Dave!

PAULA KOKOT, Soprano Saxophone Paula is a performer and teacher based in Stratford. She has won numerous awards for performance, and is a member of the Szivi Saxophone Quartet, the Stratford Concert Band, the Wellington Winds and other groups.

ALIVIA KOOY, Stage Crew Alivia is thrilled to be in the stage crew for her second TCP show. Her favorite theater experience so far was participating in TCP's *Anne of Green Gables*, where she discovered her passion for acting. She looks forward to making more memories with the TCP community.

STEVEN MARTIN, Constable Warren Steven is happy to be part of *Our Town*, his second TCP production, the first being *12 Angry Men*. He thinks TCP is a wonderful part of our community. Steven thanks Karen for being patient with him, and Cedric and Cecilia for encouraging him to be in theatre.

ANNA MASTE, Stage Manager, Mrs. Carter Anna has been obsessed with *Our Town* since seeing snippets on TV's *Growing Pains* in the '80s. Playing the Stage Manager is a dream come true. She has been in the cast for TCP's *An Ideal Husband*, *Calendar Girls*, *Oliver!* and *Carousel*, and was Music Director for *Anne of Green Gables*. When not onstage, Anna talks to herself in her closet, recording audiobooks. Love to Ed, Piet and Dani.

GRACE MCHARDY, Assistant Stage Manager Grace is excited to be in her third show with TCP. After performing in *Anne of Green Gables* in the spring, she decided on a backstage role for this show, and has enjoyed seeing a different side of theatre. She would like to thank her theatre family for giving her a home away from home.

JENNIFER PARKER, Costumes Jenn is honoured to be a part of the TCP team for the first time. New to the theatre scene, she was taken by the recent production of *Anne of Green Gables* (a longtime favourite). She hopes to bring her passion for fashion and design to the stage for *Our Town*.

JILL PRINCE, Emily Webb Previous TCP: Soloist in *Up Close and Personal*, Bouc in *Murder on the Orient Express*, Brooke Ashton/Vicki in *Noises Off*, Florika/Gargoyles in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and Annie in *Mary Poppins*. KWMP: Ilse in *Spring Awakening* and Princess Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*. All my love to Brendan, Sadie and our fur babies. Thank you for supporting community theatre.

PETE RICE, Baritone Saxophone Pete was a science teacher with the Avon-Maitland Board of Education for 30 years. Now retired, he plays sax with the Stratford Concert Band, the Waterloo Uptown Swing Band and the Elastik (R&B) Band.

DAVID ROSE, Tenor Saxophone David has played in the pit for countless musicals across KW and the GTA, most recently for TCP's *Anne of Green Gables*. Being involved in one of his favourite plays is different and exciting. David is a regular member of the Stratford Concert Band and plays with amateur orchestras in KW. In a past life, he was on the science and medical faculties of Universities of Waterloo and Toronto. Thanks for supporting community theatre.

COMPANY

CLAUDIA SCHUMM, Concessions Manager Claudia is happy to be involved in yet another TCP show. She is not ready to make her stage debut just yet, but she's happy to continue her involvement in any way possible.

ELISABETH SERRES, Co-Director This is Elisabeth's first foray into directing after a lifetime of community theatre in different capacities. She joined TCP as a Stage Manager for 2018's *Noises Off*, and has been around ever since. She feels lucky to have been a part of this beautiful show with her husband, brother and two delightful kids, Sloan and Brighton.

KEEGAN SERRES, Co-Director Starting community theatre in his teens, Keegan has been in various roles, including onstage, sound operation and backstage. Being able to share this experience with his wife and two small boys has reinforced TCP's family and community beliefs.

BEN THOMAS, Lighting Design Ben is thrilled to be back lighting with TCP. This spring he designed lighting for *Anne of Green Gables*, and has served as lighting designer and director on productions across Ontario. He is Forum Marketing Coordinator at the Stratford Festival, and lives with his wife, Gaby, their kitty, Reia, and their puppy, Paskwa.

MIKE VANDERLOO, Mr. Webb Mike VanderLoo is thrilled to be back on the TCP stage with some old acquaintances and some new friends. Fell in love with the stage (and his wife) in Rockway Mennonite High School, and has been performing in one capacity or another since. His favourite TCP roles to date are Fagin in *Oliver!* and Tateh in *Ragtime*.

JAIME VANDERMOLEN, Acting Coach Jaime is no stranger to TCP, but she is thrilled to be in her new role as Acting Coach. Her dedication to the theatre can be seen both on- and offstage: acting (*Drowning Girls*, ETC), directing (*Love Letters* and *An Ideal Husband*, TCP) and sitting on TCP's Leadership Team. Big thanks to her supportive family.

STEVEN VANDERMOLEN, Head of Construction Steven is making his debut as Head of Construction. He's a lover of theatre and building, so it was about time he got his feet wet. Thank you to TCP for the opportunity.

JARED WALLIS, Simon Stimson This is Jared's sixth performance in a row with TCP, starting the streak with Take Two's *Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and doing every show since. He is excited to be back with TCP. Jared graduated with his master's in English and film studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, and is currently in the Teacher's College program at Redeemer University.

LISETTE WEBER, Production Manager Lisette is thrilled to be Production Manager in her 11th TCP show. Favourite production credits: *Noises Off* and *Anne of Green Gables*. Notable onstage credits: *Aida*, *The Music Man*, *Fiddler*, *Mary Poppins* and *Hunchback*. When not volunteering, she's an advocate for perinatal mental health in the region. She currently juggles her volunteer work with two rambunctious kiddos at home.

ALF ZEUNER, Set Design This is Alf's third show working with the talented TCP team to build innovative and interactive sets. He enjoys the challenge of transforming a plain room into a new place and time, which comes alive with the actors and directors.

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PRODUCTION TEAM

TCP Leadership Team	PAUL ARSENAULT, AARON BALZER, CHERYL BRUBACHER-CRESSMAN, NICOLE COTIE, NANCY CROTH, HANNAH DAVIDSON, KIM FIELDING, BROOKE GAMBLE, SHERRY ROBINSON, CLAUDIA SCHUMM, JAIME VANDERMOLLEN
Selection Committee	HARRY FROCKLAGE, DANIELLE GUISTINI-CROUSE, KAREN REMPEL
Wellness Committee	KELLEA CORRIVEAU, NANCY CROTH (LEAD), LISA GAMBLE
40th-Anniversary Committee	ROB BRIDEL, KELLEA CORRIVEAU, PAIGE CORRIVEAU, DALE BRUBACHER-CRESSMAN, NANCY CROTH, PAULA FEWKES, BROOKE GAMBLE, LISA GAMBLE, SHARON HORST, RACHEL LOCKHART, DAVID MURRAY, KAREN REMPEL, CLAUDIA SCHUMM, MARILYN THIESSEN, WENDY WAGLER
Audio Technician	JEREMY PETRIW
Backstage Crew	AKENAZ DOLSON, ALIVIA KOOY, AMBER WEWIORA
Concessions	LISA GAMBLE, CLAUDIA SCHUMM
Construction	STEVEN VANDERMOLLEN
Costumes	AKENAZ DOLSON, JENNIFER PARKER (LEAD), LAURINDA WALLIS
Front of House	LISA GAMBLE, AMELIA HUNTER, LAURIE HUNTER (LEAD), CLAUDIA SCHUMM (LEAD)
Graphic Design	BRENT ROTH
Hair and Makeup	ALYSSA CRUZ, EMMA DIETRICH, KELSEY GAMBLE (LEAD)
House Manager	AMELIA HUNTER
Lighting Design	JEFF BLAIN, BEN THOMAS
Marketing	HANNAH DAVIDSON, KIM FIELDING, BROOKE GAMBLE
Painting	AKENAZ DOLSON, SANJA ILIĆ (LEAD)
Partnership Program	CHERYL BRUBACHER-CRESSMAN, HARRY FROCKLAGE
Photographer	NARCIS POPA
Program	HANNAH DAVIDSON, BROOKE GAMBLE
Props	ANN MARK
Theatre Manager	LAURIE HUNTER
Ticket Sales	LAURIE HUNTER
Website	BRIAN COTIE, KIM FIELDING

THANKS

Ashley Joex Photography
Judy Allred
Grand River Academy of Dance
MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre
M&M Transfers
Steven Martin
David Seyler
Straight Street
Steven Vandermolen
Jared Wallis

The Community Players would like to thank all the volunteers and contributors, both onstage and off, for their support of this year's production.

Our apologies to anyone omitted from this program



Every year TCP's shows are made possible by the dedication and energy of hundreds of volunteers and supporters. It takes a huge team to create the magic of a TCP production, and encouraging members of the community to get involved is what TCP loves to do. Whether it's onstage, singing and dancing, or behind the scenes, sewing, painting or building (to name just a few activities), TCP is all about community. The Community Players firmly believe in the possibilities that await us all. It's part of how TCP continues to strive to provide "community theatre at its very best" both onstage and off.

Come be part of our future! To learn more about volunteering with The Community Players of New Hamburg, please email us at info@thecommunityplayers.com, or call us at 1-800-827-7524.



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