

The Community Players of New Hamburg Proudly Present

A **Christmas** *Carol*

Audition Package

Artistic Director's Note

Step into the magic of Christmas and become part of one of the most beloved stories ever told!

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is more than just a holiday tale—it's a timeless journey of redemption, kindness, and the spirit of giving. This year, we invite you to join us in bringing this iconic story to life on stage. Whether you're a seasoned performer or stepping onto the stage for the first time, we welcome you to audition and be part of something truly special.

We are looking for actors, singers, and storytellers of all ages to help us create a world filled with warmth, wonder, and a touch of Christmas magic. Every role—from Ebenezer Scrooge to Tiny Tim, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, and the bustling townsfolk of London—plays a part in weaving this unforgettable tale.

So, come out, share your talent, and help us bring this classic to life! Let's create a show that will warm hearts, spread joy, and remind us all of the true meaning of the season.

We can't wait to see you at auditions!

Brooke Gamble
Artistic Director
The Community Players of New Hamburg

Director's Note

This is a theatrical opportunity you do not want to miss out on. I am so excited for the opportunity to direct *A Christmas Carol*, and am eagerly searching for the cast and crew who will dive into this story with me.

Based on the 1843 novella by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* harkens back to Christmases past filled with mulled wine and candle-lit carolling. However, its message still rings strong, asking us to assess our lives and the everyday relationships we take for granted.

This script has roles for every type of actor, whether it's your first time on stage, or you're a seasoned professional eager to dive into a 19th century soliloquy. Whether you're a singer who can lead the carolling, or you'd prefer a silent role as The Ghost of Christmas Future, I'm confident every member of this show will have a valuable and memorable experience.

Thank you for even just reading my rambles (as it means you're maybe considering joining us this fall...) and I hope to see you at auditions!

Ryan Dunham
Director
The Community Players of New Hamburg

Show Dates and Performance Venue

Thursday, November 6, 2025	7:30 pm
Friday, November 7, 2024	7:30 pm
Saturday, November 8, 2024	2 pm & 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 9, 2024	2pm
Thursday, November 13, 2024	7:30 pm
Friday, November 14, 2024	7:30 pm
Saturday, November 15, 2024	2 pm & 7:30 pm

A Christmas Carol will be performed at the Studio Theatre at the New Hamburg Community Centre, 251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg.

Schedule

Rehearsals for *A Christmas Carol* will begin on Sunday September 7th, 2025. Rehearsals will be mainly at the New Hamburg Community Centre (251 Jacob St., New Hamburg) and occasionally at the St. Agatha Community Centre (1791 Erbs Rd, St. Agatha).

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will take place during the following scheduled times. With that in mind, we ask that everyone auditioning for this production commit to our FULL rehearsal schedule. Attendance at rehearsals is critical to the success of this production.

Please identify all potential conflicts including travel, vacation, etc on your audition form. Any conflicts with the posted schedule must be discussed with the Production Manager or Stage Manager and agreed to by the Director before casting can be confirmed.

Sundays	1:30 pm - 5 pm and 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Tuesdays	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm (starting October as required)
Thursdays	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Though we ask for full commitment to this schedule, there are likely to be some exceptions along the way. For instance, we can tell you now that there will be **no rehearsal on October 13, Thanksgiving Sunday**. Other changes will be announced as we go.

Key Dates

In the week leading up to the show, the following special rehearsal schedule will apply:

Lighting - Thursday, October 30th 2025, 6:30 - 10:00
Tech - Saturday November 1st 2025, 10:00am - 5:00pm
Cue to Cue; Run - Sunday November 2nd 2025, 12:00pm - 10:00pm
Dark Day - Monday November 3rd 2025
Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday November 4th, 2025
Invited Dress Rehearsal - Wednesday November 5th, 2025

Other Notable Dates

Script Pickup, Headshots and Measurements - Thursday June 26th, 2025
Show Promotion Photoshoot - Wednesday September 10th, 2025 7:00pm (Scrooge, Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present, Ghost of Christmas Future & Tiny Tim)
Load In & workday- Saturday October 18th, 2025 9:00am- 5:00pm
Workday - Saturday October 25th, 2025 9:00am - 5:00pm
Tear Down *mandatory - Sunday November 16th, 2025 9:30am - 3:00pm

General Expectations

- Everyone who performs on stage must pay a \$20 participation fee.
- Cast members are required to provide their own makeup and hair products recommended by the hair and makeup team.
- All cast members should be available 2 hours prior to performance for make-up and hair styling.
- All company members will receive their script in advance of first rehearsal and should be familiar with their role, working towards full memorization.
- Every cast member will be emailed a “TCP Fall Show Information Kit”. It will include everything you need to know about being part of a TCP show including how to check rehearsal schedules, important email addresses and more. You should carefully read and fully understand that document BEFORE you come to your first rehearsal.
- **As a member of the company you are required to spend a minimum of 10 hours in pre-production activities in addition to performing on stage and rehearsing.** Sometimes this is work that can be done at home (sewing/prop construction) or it may mean a Saturday work day doing painting or stage construction. As we get closer to our production dates we always require lots of help to transform the community center into the Studio Theatre – a great time to fulfill some of those hours.
- Have fun! Becoming part of the “TCP Company” is a wonderful experience! You will meet many new friends, be challenged and be rewarded with the applause of an audience and being part of something very special ... of Community Theatre at its Very Best!

Audition Dates and Times

Friday June 13th 2025: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday June 14th, 2025: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Saturday June 14th 2025: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Callbacks - Thursday, June 19th 2025: 6:30 - 9:30pm

Due to the casting requirements of the show the audition panel will be seeking people 8+ (*Please see the character listing.*) Each audition will take approximately five to ten minutes.

Audition Location

New Hamburg Community Centre - arena entrance
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg, ON

Audition Panel

Brooke Gamble	Artistic Director
Ryan Dunham	Director
Melanie Purcell	Co-Music Director
Amy Wewiora	Co-Music Director

General Audition Information

Please arrive approximately 10 minutes early, so you'll have time to sign in and prepare for your audition.

What to Prepare

We ask that you come prepared to perform a one-minute monologue of your choice, and one of the “sides” available at the end of this package. Please have your monologue memorized and be prepared for some direction. The “side” you choose does not need to be memorized (in fact, we encourage you to keep your printed sides with you), but you should have a very clear understanding of the dialogue and the character you’re playing. Someone from the panel will read opposite you in the side if necessary.

Booking an Audition

When you are ready to book your audition time please fill out the ONLINE form/below form.

Website Form Requirements (can this form email to auditions@thecommunityplayers.com and if possible fill to a Google Sheet - not sure if you are setting up the form through website or as a Google Form inserted into website)

First Name:

Last Name:

Home Address:

Age:

Gender:

Email:

Cell Phone (if applicable):

Home Phone (if applicable):

I will be auditioning for the following roles:

Are you comfortable participating in square / line dancing?

I will accept any role offered (yes/no)... If no, please explain: _____

I can attend all scheduled rehearsals and performance dates (yes/no)... if no, please explain: _____

Audition Availability:

Friday June 13th 2025: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday June 14th, 2025: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Saturday June 14th 2025: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Callbacks - Thursday, June 19th 2025: 6:30 - 9:30pm

Comments:

Note: Attach photo and theatre resume

Any questions regarding this audition process can be directed to auditions@thecommunityplayers.com.

Summary of the Play

A Christmas Carol tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited and stingy old man who despises the cheer and joy of those around him. On Christmas Eve he is visited by the ghost of his deceased business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him to change his ways or face a terrible fate in the after-life.

Following this encounter, he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. They show him the story of his life, along with the impact he has on those around him today and the foreboding future that awaits him should he fail to change his ways.

Scrooge awakes a changed man, eager to rebuild his relationships and improve the lives of those in his community.

The Characters

All **Supporting** and **Featured** roles will also be in the ensemble. They will play various minor parts in the show and also act as the narrator, telling the story directly to the audience.

Character	Role	Age	Description
Ebenezer Scrooge	Lead	45+	A stingy old man, Scrooge believes that good things come to those who earn them. He despises Christmas and doesn't see the value in wasting time or money on it.
Bob Cratchit	Supporting	25-45	A father and husband who cares deeply for his family. He works hard to provide for them despite being mistreated by his employer, Scrooge.
Fred, Scrooge's Nephew	Supporting	18-30	Scrooge's nephew and only living relative. A pleasant young man who believes in the joy of the Christmas season.
Ghost of Jacob Marley	Supporting	45+	Scrooge's deceased business partner who was like Scrooge in life. He has returned in chains to warn Scrooge about the consequences of his life decisions.
Ghost of Christmas Past	Supporting	Any	An ever-cheerful, sprightly ghost who shows Scrooge the events that led to his current state.
Ghost of Christmas Present	Supporting	Any	A jovial, larger-than-life ghost who shows Scrooge the joy, love and celebration he is missing out on.
Ghost of Christmas Future (non-speaking)	Supporting	Any	An ominous figure who speaks to Scrooge only through gestures. He shows Scrooge the consequences of his current trajectory.
Young Scrooge	Supporting	14-25	Fezziwig's apprentice, as seen in Scrooge's past
Tiny Tim	Supporting	8-12	The Cratchit's youngest son. He embodies the Christmas spirit despite being crippled since birth, bringing joy to those around him.
Two Portly Gentlemen	Featured	Any	Two affable gentlemen who have come to Scrooge's office looking for donations for the poor of London.
Fred's Wife	Featured	18-30	Less patient with Scrooge than her husband, she'd prefer an evening of games with her friends.

Mrs. Cratchit	Featured	30-45	Bob's Cratchit's wife and Tiny Tim's mother. A loving woman who tries to provide the best for her children with what she has.
Peter Cratchit	Featured	16-25	The Cratchit's oldest son. Soon to be a junior clerk at a respectable company.
Belinda Cratchit	Featured	10-20	The Cratchit's younger daughter.
Martha Cratchit	Featured	16-25	The oldest of the Cratchit children. A promising seamstress.
Mr. Fezziwig	Featured	30+	A jolly man and Scrooge's first boss, he used to throw a huge Christmas party every year.
Dick Wilkins	Featured	14-25	Fezziwig's other apprentice, working alongside Young Scrooge.
Belle	Featured	14-25	Young Scrooge's sweetheart, who tries to help him see good in the world.
First Businessman	Featured	Any	A businessman of the London Stock Exchange. The type who knows all the goings-on in London.
Old Joe	Featured	50+	A pawn dealer in London's poorest neighbourhood.
Charwoman	Featured	Any	A poor woman who used to work cleaning Scrooge's house.
Child Scrooge	Featured	8-12	Scrooge as a young child at boarding school
Fan, Scrooge's Sister	Featured	8-12	Scrooge's younger sister who has arrived at his boarding school to bring him home.
Boy in Sunday Clothes	Featured	8-12	A boy of London who meets Scrooge on Christmas day, sent on a quest to retrieve a turkey.
Additional Ensemble	Ensemble	Any	Additional ensemble members will play multiple small roles and present multiple narration sections.

The "Sides"

If the character you are auditioning for is not featured in any of the sides, please prepare the side in the style of the character.

Scrooge

I wish to be left alone! I don't make merry at Christmas. And I can't afford to make idle people merry. I support the Poor House, sir. And the Treadmill. And the Gaols. They cost enough, in all conscience. Let those who are badly off make use of such luxuries!

(Second Portly Gentleman): Many would rather die, sir. Then go to the Poor House.

If that's what they'd prefer...By all means let them do it! Why not? Decrease the surplus population. It's not my business if they'd rather die. It's enough for a man to understand his own business and mine occupies me continually. Good afternoon, gentlemen.

Belle

I understand that we can never have a home together. It will matter little. To you, very little! Another idol has displaced me. If it can cheer and comfort you in time to come - as I would have tried to do - well then, I have no just cause to grieve.

We used to agree long ago. When we thought you'd work hard and improve our position...just a little...and then we'd marry. When we agreed we were one heart! Now we are two, our agreement is fraught with misery. I won't say how often I have thought I must tell you this. It's enough, I have thought it.

(Young Scrooge): Have I ever tried to wriggle out of our bargain, Belle?

Not in words, but in changed nature. In an altered spirit. In everything that made my love valuable to you. Tell me honestly. If we had never met before, would you try and win me now - a girl without money, or the hope of money?

Spirit of Christmas Present

(Scrooge): Spirit! Tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

If these shadows are not altered, he will die.

(Scrooge): No no. Kind spirit. Let him live...

I said if those shadows are not altered, none of my kind, who come after me, will see him there. What of that? Does that concern you, Scrooge? Remember your own words. If he'd like to die, he'd better get on with it and reduce the surplus population.

Man! Forbear that wicked cant. Will you decide what men shall live? What men should die? In the sight of heaven it may be you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child. Oh God! Spare us from hearing the insect on the leaf deciding there's too much life among his hungry brothers in the dust!

Boy in Sunday Clothes

(Scrooge): What's today, my fine fellow, my lad?

Boy: Today? Why, it's Christmas Day.

(Scrooge): Do you know the Poulterers in the next street but one?

Boy: I should hope I did.

(Scrooge): An intelligent boy! Do you happen to know whether they've sold the Prize Turkey that was hanging up there?

Boy: What, the one as big as me? It hangs there at this very moment.

(Scrooge): Does it indeed! Then nip round and buy it, will you? For Mr. Scrooge. Come back in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown.

Boy: I'm off like a shot!

Vocal Audition

As part of your audition, we are asking everyone to prepare approximately **20 bars or 30 seconds of a Christmas carol of your choice**. You are welcome to bring a backing track to sing along with—please ensure it is cued and ready to go at your audition time.

This is your chance to show us your vocal tone, storytelling ability, and comfort with holiday music. Choose something that suits your voice and style!

There will be both **soloist opportunities and choral components** in the production, so we encourage you to bring your full energy and character to your performance.

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Get Involved With TCP – Community Theatre with a difference.

Be part of our theatrical journey. Volunteer with The Community Players of New Hamburg. Every year TCP's productions 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, acting, singing and dancing, or behind the scenes, sewing, painting or building our theaters, we have a place for you.

TCP is all about community. Since 1984, we have proudly given more than \$65,000 back to our community. Whether supporting the local food bank or counseling centers, investing in local projects, such as the new Wilmot Recreation Complex or Splash Pad, or simply helping out other community groups like itself, TCP remains committed to helping those around us and making our community a better one.

The Community Players firmly believe in the possibilities that await us all. It's part of how we continue to provide "community theater at its very best". Performing with passion. Giving with compassion. Investing with hope. Come be part of our future! To learn more about volunteering with The Community Players of New Hamburg, please email us at onstage@thecommunityplayers.com, or call us at 1-800-827-7524.