



## Live Theatre Returns for Drayton Entertainment

### *Provincial Grant Supports 2022 Season at 3 Theatres*

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – In 2021, Drayton Entertainment received a \$247,600 grant from the Government of Ontario’s Community Building Fund – Operating stream. This funding, administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will allow Drayton Entertainment to support ongoing operating expenses, maintain and upgrade theatre equipment, and implement Health & Safety protocols amid the ongoing pandemic. It will also help the not-for-profit charitable arts organization reopen its three theatres in the Region of Waterloo: St. Jacobs Country Playhouse, St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre, and Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge.

“Arts and culture are both drivers of entertainment and tourism in our region and I’m thankful that the Ontario Trillium Foundation is supporting local theatre and Drayton Entertainment,” says Mike Harris, MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga. “I know my family and our whole community are excited to enjoy the various cultural activities Waterloo Region has to offer, and that includes theatre productions at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse.”

“The arts keep people hopeful and connected. The Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge is critical to building a healthy and vibrant community,” says Belinda Karahalios, MPP for Cambridge.

“This has been an extremely challenging time for our organization, but we are very lucky to have such steadfast support from audiences, artists, staff, our communities, and the Province of Ontario,” says Alex Mustakas, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “It’s going to be a long and slow recovery, but we’re thrilled to welcome back audiences back to experience the magic of live theatre with our 2022 Season.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Drayton Entertainment has made health and safety a top priority. It was one of the first theatres across the country to close its doors in March of 2020 to prevent the spread of coronavirus. That commitment continues with the organization’s reopening strategy, which includes a robust Duty of Care to keep audiences, artists, and workers healthy and safe, and flexible ticket policies. Visit [draytonentertainment.com](https://draytonentertainment.com) to learn more.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit [otf.ca](https://otf.ca) to learn more.

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