



Rotary Club of Grand Bend Gifts Windmill to Commemorate Huron Country Playhouse 50th Anniversary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – As the venerable **Huron Country Playhouse** continues celebrating its momentous 50th Anniversary Season – and acclaimed reopening following two years of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic – the **Rotary Club of Grand Bend** has commemorated the occasion by gifting a windmill located at the entrance of the theatre grounds.

“For several years, we have been searching for the perfect roadside marker to welcome everyone to the theatre,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director & CEO of Drayton Entertainment. “The windmill speaks to our rural roots, yet it also symbolizes innovation and progress, which is what we strive to do as a charitable arts organization. It is a fitting welcoming point for current and future generations of theatregoers.”

The gesture came about after Rotarians invited Mustakas to give a presentation about the theatre and its role in the community, which, based on Government of Ontario tourism modeling, estimates the pre-pandemic annual economic impact in the area at \$17.1 million.

Immediately following the meeting, and unbeknownst to Mustakas, Rotary Club members began a year-long, top-secret effort – headed up by Jim Southcott, Gerhard Eilers, Ed Fluter, and Bryan Beattie – to procure and install a windmill in time for the theatre’s 50th Anniversary Season.

“Huron Country Playhouse is one of Canada’s largest and most successful summer theatres. It is successful by every measure – quality of productions, audience satisfaction, and financial stability,” says **Tom McCann**, President of the Rotary Club of Grand Bend. “It has become an economic hub, source of social engagement, and attraction of national acclaim for Huron County, and we felt this vital asset in our community should be recognized and celebrated.”

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. For many years, the organization has held its signature fundraising event – Autumn Indulgence – on the theatre grounds. Event proceeds are allocated to community projects, youth and international endeavours. Through this initiative, the Rotary Club of Grand Bend has donated over \$1 million to its local and international projects.

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