



## Award Recipients Announced in Honour of National Volunteer Week

*Long-time volunteers Janet & Michael Collins of Cambridge honoured*

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – In honour of National Volunteer Week, Drayton Entertainment is pleased to announce the recipients of the organization’s *Jean Campbell Volunteer Award*. Named after Jean Campbell, the Drayton Festival Theatre’s first volunteer, the award recognizes volunteers whose commitment, positivity, and passion help to support the various Drayton Entertainment theatres. The recipients are **Janet and Michael Collins** from Cambridge. Both Janet and Michael are huge theatre fans and have been volunteering regularly at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge since the venue opened in 2013.

2020 was a unique year where only 13 performances happened before the COVID-19 pandemic caused *Kinky Boots* and *A Few Good Men* to close early on March 12. Ultimately, Drayton Entertainment was forced to cancel all productions last season, encompassing 20 shows on seven stages and over 800 individual performances.

Despite the cancelled performances, volunteers continue to show their support for Drayton Entertainment by sending words of encouragement and writing testimonials about the importance of their volunteer work with the organization.

“What do we miss about our special volunteering jobs? The camaraderie with our fellow ushers as we stuff programs, and going about our ushering duties for yet another great performance,” said **Janet and Michael Collins** reflecting on what they miss about volunteering at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge. “What do we miss most of all? When the patrons are seated, the doors have closed, and we stand at our respective positions and see all those eager faces awaiting that first magical moment, which is what live theatre is all about – PRICELESS! We miss you all.”

“Janet and Michael are bright lights on our volunteer team. Their infectious positivity and steadfast support for our organization over the years are undeniable. They both take every opportunity to promote the theatre by chatting with new patrons and encouraging others to attend shows on social media,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director & CEO of Drayton Entertainment. “We have missed their smiling faces during this extended intermission, and we look forward to the time when they’ll be joyfully greeting patrons at the theatre once again.”

Past recipients of the *Jean Campbell Volunteer Award* include Robert “Bob” McQuigge (Cambridge), Huron Country Playhouse Guild (Grand Bend), Wolfe Derle (Cambridge), John & Phyllis Phillips (St. Jacobs), Catherine Shaver (Cambridge), Betty Jane Rose (St. Jacobs), Linda Ash (Drayton), Ridia Bender (St. Jacobs), Eileen Shafer (St. Jacobs), Huron Country Playhouse Guild (Grand Bend, 2011), Vic Roberts (Drayton, 2010), and Dolores Bugera (St. Jacobs), Dolores Straus (St. Jacobs).

“Drayton Entertainment was founded on volunteerism, and that spirit of generosity still flourishes today,” says Mustakas. “In a normal year, our volunteers would clock in more than 30,000 hours across our seven theatres. Quite simply, we couldn’t do what we do without their support and commitment to the arts.”

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each year, with thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. The week is an annual observance recognizing that volunteers provide vital support to their communities. The initiative also encourages more people to consider volunteering. The theme for 2021 is *The Value of One, The Power of Many* – it reflects the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by millions of individuals and the magic that happens when they work together toward a common purpose.

Drayton Entertainment’s volunteer program at all seven of its stages will reactivate when live theatre programming resumes. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.draytonentertainment.com/Online/article/volunteer](http://www.draytonentertainment.com/Online/article/volunteer), email [boxoffice@draytonentertainment.com](mailto:boxoffice@draytonentertainment.com), or call toll-free **1-855-372-9866**.

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