



## **Neil Aitchison: Canada's Favourite Funnyman**

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Neil Aitchison is widely regarded as one of Waterloo Region's most beloved entertainers—a humourist whose warmth, wit, and unmistakable voice have made him a familiar presence on stages and airwaves alike. Based in the Kitchener–Waterloo area for decades, Aitchison has built a reputation not only as a performer, but as a storyteller who draws deeply on Canadian identity, community life, and shared experience. His comedic style tends toward the genial and observational, often delivered through richly developed characters that invite audiences to laugh at both themselves and the culture they inhabit.

Born in Harriston, Neil's career has spanned an unusually broad range of disciplines. He first came to prominence in broadcasting, working as both an on-air personality and later a broadcast executive, including time with CKCO-TV, where he met his “first” wife, Helen. Over the years, he expanded his repertoire to include acting, public speaking, and serving as a master of ceremonies, becoming a sought-after presence for events across the region. This versatility has allowed him to move fluidly between media, always anchored by his natural ease with audiences and his instinct for humour.

Neil's long and storied association with Drayton Entertainment is central to his legacy. In fact, he has been involved with the company since its earliest days more than three decades ago, contributing as a performer, fundraiser, staff member, and board director. His impact has been so significant that this past spring the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse lobby was officially named in his honour—recognizing over 50 years of volunteerism, philanthropy, and commitment to the arts and community.

On stage, Neil is perhaps best known for his comedic alter ego, RCMP Constable Archibald F. Inkster—a character he has portrayed for more than 25 years in a series of popular productions. Through Inkster, Aitchison delivers a brand of distinctly Canadian humour that

blends gentle satire with heartfelt affection, examining national quirks, traditions, and shared values. The character has become a signature creation, earning him a loyal following and cementing his place as a uniquely Canadian comic voice.

“There's nothing like the sound of hearty laughter filling the theatre,” says Neil. “We're not just sharing a story together; we're making new friends along the way.”

“Neil has this rare gift to take an ordinary moment and turn it on its head, to find the truth hidden inside the absurd,” says Alex Mustakas, Founder and CEO of Drayton Entertainment and Director of *Sorry...I'm Not Sorry*. “Neil doesn't just make people laugh. He breaks down barriers, disarms expectations, and creates a connection that's immediate and honest. That's the magic— watching him spin a tale so deftly that laughter becomes the thread tying every person in the room into the same shared experience.”