

The Shaw Guild

Wonderful Town is truly wonderful. There was however a serious side to Eileen and Ruth McKenney. One of Ruth's first jobs was as reporter on the Akron-Beacon Journal, home of the tire industry. She wrote a serious book about the 1936 CIO strike, when workers at the Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone plants had joined to fight poor working conditions. Ruth wrote about this struggle in a book called *Industrial Valley*. On the side she wrote humorous short stories about sharing a very small living space with her sister in New York's Greenwich Village and the various characters she and her sister met while living there. The stories became so popular that they became the book *My Sister Eileen* which in turn became the musical *Wonderful Town*.

Ruth fell in love with an author, Richard Branston who Eileen also fell in love with— Eileen soon moved to California because she realized it would be too much of a strain on the sisters relationship if she stayed in New York City.

President's Column

April 27 to May 3 marks National Volunteer Week. And our Guild volunteers are certainly always ready to help!

In early March I received a special request from Dona Hrabluk in Props. Could we recruit a number of Guild members to help her department in a special task: gluing blue leaves to 270 branches which will form the canopy for *A Little Night Music* at the Court House. Carol Reid, our Vice-President, took over the recruiting task. Twelve Guild members showed up at the Props shop for the organizing meeting, with their glue guns. In total, we logged in 97 hours of volunteering.

I hope you will all go to the Court House this summer, to enjoy *A Little Night Music* and the creative work of your colleagues and friends.

Suzanne Hebert,
President, The Shaw Guild



Above are Guild members Barbara Ransom, star of the 1962 Shaw performance of *Candida*, Dave Pritchard, Pastor of Grace United Church and Beth Bastion, writer.



Above are Guild members Glenna and Derek Collins, Carol Fraser, Zenovia Charvat, Carol Reid, Elizabeth Adams, John Edmonds and Warren Fraser.



14 Gay Street

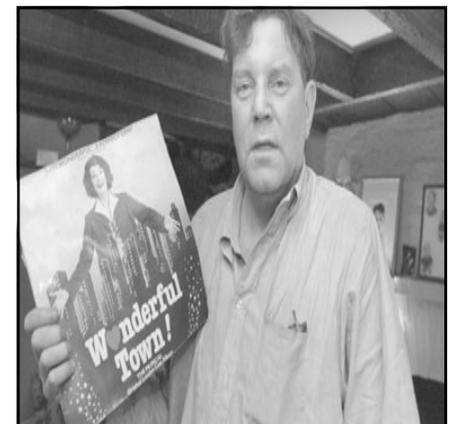
Home of Ruth and Eileen McKenney



Ruth McKenney

David Ryan, paid \$40 per month rent when he moved into the former basement apartment of Ruth and Eileen McKenney. He is currently fighting eviction. He claims he will only leave this apartment with its beautiful triangular garden and fountain if he is blasted out.

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Mark Your Calendar

SHAW GUILD SPRING GARDEN TOUR

On **Saturday May 31 between 10 am and 4pm** The Guild will be showcasing seven lovely private gardens during its Annual Spring Garden Tour. Volunteers may still be needed and if you can work a shift at a garden and have not been contacted, please call Pam Ward at 905-468-8824. Tickets for the day are \$20 and are available at the Shaw Box Office 905-468-2172 or the Chamber of Commerce on Queen St. 905-468-1950. Come on out, bring your friends and enjoy visiting these very special and different gardens.



Guild members enjoying last years tour.

SET CHANGE OVER AT THE COURT HOUSE THEATRE

On **Thursday June 12 starting at 4:45:** Guild members are invited to a set changeover and backstage tour at the Court House Theatre. The Court House Theatre is on the top floor of the historic Court House building on Queen St. Built in 1847 it is a designated heritage building. The Shaw Festival rents the Assembly Room each year, but cannot make any permanent changes to the structure. Each year in March we assemble a freestanding interlocking structure which provides both audience seating and the lighting grid. In the second room, wall partitions are set up to create lobby and dressing room areas. In October everything is dismantled and the rooms are refurbished and turned back over to the Town.

Even if you have taken a backstage tour of the Festival Theatre, this backstage tour is different and particularly interesting. Join us to visit the theatre, and see where the sets for this season's three play are stored. Walk behind those black curtains that are usually closed to the public. Laugh at the small and cramped dressing rooms, where company members still maintain a degree of privacy.

GUILD DRESS REHEARSAL

Friday July 4 at 1:00 PM: *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at the Festival Theatre. Tickets distributed on a first come basis beginning at Noon. This event is restricted to Guild members. Please wear your Guild badge.

CRICKET MATCH BETWEEN SHAW AND STRATFORD

The Shaw -Stratford annual friendly Cricket Match will take place **Monday August 25, commencing at noon**, in the Commons in Niagara-on-the-Lake. More details will follow in our next Newsletter, but expect a day of fun, lots of food and drink and excitement.



Barbra Streisand as St. Joan and Steve Lawrence as the Dauphin

Streisand sent word that she viewed this casting "as not unlikely at all" and Lawrence quipped that "I would be glad to play anything with Barbra—even jacks."



This and That

UPDATE ON OUR GARDNERS

As rehearsals begin and plays open, one can sense the feeling of renewed excitement among company members as well as Guild members. This is particularly true this spring of our Guild gardening group. Green Scenes Landscaping has been contracted by The Shaw Festival to do maintenance. This will relieve our gardeners from the more mundane chores and allows them to develop their creative skills:

- * an herb or vegetable garden for Chef Amanda on the Greenroom Terrace
- * the redevelopment of the "secret garden" behind the Members' terrace
- * increasing light penetration in the "Linden Alley" behind the Festival Theatre, thus improving the opportunity to create gardens in the alley for our patrons to enjoy.
- * developing more colourful plants throughout the Festival Theatre Gardens
- * labelling of specimen trees and plants which would further enhance our patrons' experience



"The Guild gardeners met at Peggy and Ken Bell's house, on Monday March 10. Despite the big snow storm of March the 8, our gardeners met with Paddy Parr, Shaw Director of Operations, to plan for the 2008 season. There was snow outside, but inside, the talk was mostly about roses and flowering trees!



PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON AND SHOW AND TELL

Eighty-nine happy and satisfied Guild members attended the President's luncheon in the lobby of the Festival Theatre. Following lunch Colleen Blake provided the members with an in-depth discussion of the 2008 season.



Suzanne Hebert welcoming members to the luncheon



Colleen Blake reviewing the Shaw 2008 Plays

Democracy substitutes elections of the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few.

GBS, Man and Superman, 1903

Executive Committee

President	Suzanne Hebert	905-468-3590	sogestec@sympatico.ca
Past-President	Faye Goodwin	905-468-8981	Bob.faye@sympatico.ca
Vice-President	Carol Reid	905-680-1020	cm.reid@sympatico.ca
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Fundraising	Peter Gill	905-468-5190	gillhome@cogeco.ca
Orientation	Jack Harmer	905-468-0990	harmer@niagara.com

Niagara -On-The-Lake Cultural Newsletter

The Niagara Historical Society and Museum produces and emails a weekly cultural newsletter which might be of interest to our Niagara-On-The-Lake members. It outlines the Shaw Playbill and other cultural events of note in town (concerts, films, exhibitions,) at the Museum, the Pumphouse, Willowbank, and other non-profit organizations.

It's wonderful source of information. The newsletter is available to everyone who requests it. If you are interested please email Amy Klassen at the Museum, at amyklassen@niagarahistorical.museum.

BED & BREAKFAST SPRING HOUSE TOUR

On Saturday May 10, the fourth annual Spring House Tour of Bed and Breakfast Homes takes place. Six beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake homes will be open to the public, along with the following three sites. Willowbank, RiverBrink Art Gallery and MacKenzie Printery.

Tickets are now on sale for \$20 via the website: www.springhousetour.com or at selected Avondale stores. Three great prize packages are available to ticket purchasers in a random draw following the tour. All proceeds will be donated to Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and RiverBrink Art Museum.



Childhood Home of GBS,
33 Synge Street ,Dublin Ireland