

LOCAL NEWS

GRAFTON STAGE CURTAIN: AUTHORS ASSIST SAVING HISTORIC ICON

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The scene is idyllic, a country home set in rolling hills, a wooden punt pulled up on the shore of a pond, shade trees scattered here and there. And for over 80 years, the vista has never changed.

It's an oil-on-canvas mural which serves as a backdrop for

Alnwick/Haldimand Township council and innumerable other community and private meetings and functions on the second floor of the Grafton Town Hall.

But the curtain is in need of restoration.

Heritage Alnwick/Haldimand (HAH), the successor of the former Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee function pre-municipal amalgamation, is step-

ping forward to oversee the project.

The stage curtain was done by a Peterborough company by the name of Taylor, probably between 1900-1920. It is oil on canvas and rolls up. A fabrics consultant retained has reported that the canvas is in good condition, but the paint needs attention. HAH will now retain a painting consultant to advise on the conservation of the painting.

On August 10, noted Canadian authors Nino Ricci and Erika de Vasconcelos will be reading from

their works at a Save The Curtain Fundraiser at the Grafton Town Hall. Billed as a literary evening, the soiree includes wine and cheese reception from 7 to 7:30 p.m. followed by readings with musical interludes with jazz singer Arlene Smith, bassist Rick Homme and pianist Shelagh Purcell.

The event sponsors are Royal LePage ProAlliance Realty and Barry and Sheila Surerus.

Ticket master Joanna Bonebakker says the \$25 per person tickets are selling quickly.

Tables of eight will be set up in the second floor theatre, with a maximum 96 people accommodated.

During the August 10 event, both authors will be available to sign copies of their latest books, *Testament* by Nino Ricci and *My Darling Dead Ones* by Erika De Vasconcelos.

The authors are weekend residents of Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

For more information and/or tickets, call Joanne Bonebakker at 905 349 3402.



PHOTO BY TED AMSDEN

The painted canvas stage curtain provides a dramatic backdrop for the regular and special meetings of Alnwick/Haldimand Township council as well as many community events held at the Grafton Town Hall.

Heritage Alnwick Haldimand is organizing an August 10 literary evening featuring Canadian authors Nino Ricci and Erica de Vasconcelos to raise funds for the stage curtain restoration.

The "actors" centre stage last Wednesday evening at a township planning meeting were, from left, Deputy mayor Rosemarie Robins, Mayor Bill Finley, Clerk Terry Korotki and Councillor Walter Broegelman

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