

**The 2015 Milford Fair Celebrates Thirty Years  
of the Marysburgh Mummies**

## Mt. Tabor Church Becomes a Theatre

By Bruce Dowdell (part two of three)

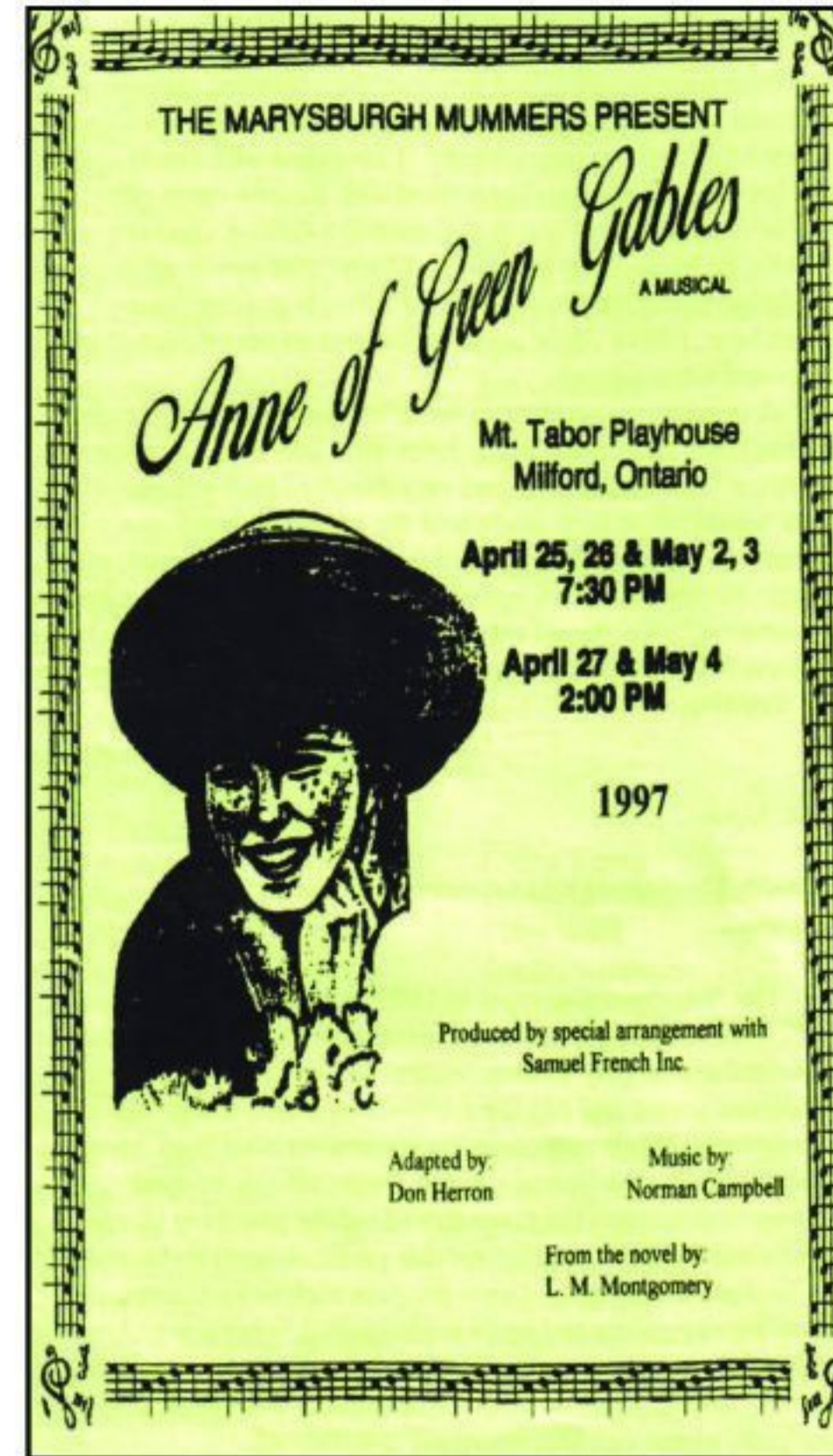
By the last decade of the 20th Century, the Marysburgh Mummies had become well established. However, they were still working under very adverse conditions: the stage was too high so the actors had to crawl under the balcony to get onto it; the church pews were still in use which meant a stiff neck for those sitting in the front rows; the room at the back that was used as a dressing room was cold; but worst of all, there was no indoor plumbing. Granted, the outhouses had been moved closer to the building but that didn't help much on a cold winter night.

In 1989, Joe Otterway built the walkway that joins the two balconies for the production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In 1993, Marilyn Hymus, and her cousin by marriage, Mike Hymus, arranged to have theatre seats from an auditorium in Ottawa donated to Mt. Tabor Playhouse. Scott Demille, who was the new owner of Foster's trucking, delivered them to the theatre.

Volunteers dismantled the raised portion of the church and replaced it with the stage we have today. The pews were sold and the money used to start a "flush" fund for indoor plumbing. The pews in the balcony are original. The ones that were sold downstairs were put in place around 1929. The original downstairs pews were dismantled and used to rake or slope the floor as it is today. Eric Kane, Peter Ritchie, Adam Walker and Bruce Walker were the crew that installed the new seats. The Mummies' first play on the new stage, *Where there's a will...*, had to be delayed until May because of the renovations.

Monica Alyea saw the potential in this new stage and in 1997 started the tradition of the Mummies' spring musical with the production of *Anne of Green Gables*. Heather Ross provided the piano accompaniment and Nancy Sunnucks looked after the choral direction of the cast of 27 ranging in age from seven to seventy years plus. This successful show was followed in 1998 by the popular *Sound of Music* and *Beasts, Babes and Boys of*

*Broadway*, a compilation of hit songs from Broadway Musicals in 1999.



The era of the cold make-up and dressing room and the outdoor privy came to an end on Monday, June 16, 1997 with the demolition of the room behind the theatre. Alice Mennacher was in charge of the project. With donations from The Township of South Marysburgh, The Milford Fair Board, The Mummies and many citizens and businesses, the new community hall we now know as Bredin Hall was built.

The 20th Century ended with the completion of renovations to one of the most sought after intimate theatres in the area. This was due to the dedicated and gifted people that make up the Marysburgh Mummies and the members of the Community who did their part to bring new life to this historic building.

(A special thanks to Bev Walker and her articles in *The South Marysburgh Mirror* for the background information.)

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