Hello to the councilors of the Rural Municipality of Victoria,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for news of our 2024 plans.

Most of you will be aware of the challenges the Victoria Playhouse has faced in the past few years including the cancellation of the 2021 season and a difficult 2022 season due to the pandemic as well as the departure of the two key personnel, Executive Director Emily Smith and General Manager Susan Williams Bulman, in the fall of 2022.

In October 2022 the Board of Directors hired Johanna Nutter as Interim Artistic Director to program and produce the 2023 season. A search for a suitable general manager proved unsuccessful and we struggled through the 2023 without the continuity of a general manager. The season we presented was creatively strong, inspiring and engaging, however the production of that season took a toll on our employees and the deficit we incurred, when combined with the larger deficit from the 2022 season forced the Board to pause and examine our options for going forward. In numerous meetings the Board discussed two possibilities: present a much simpler 2024 season or take a year to reorganize and come back with a full season in 2025. We leaned toward presenting a simpler 2024 season.

We received funding for a Strategic Review which is being conducted in February and March 2024. This will give the Board a blueprint for moving forward, and the tasks associated with doing so.

We are excited to share with you that we will be presenting a 2024 season. It will be a simpler season than in past years and will focus on music rather than theatre for this season only. We are keeping the season lean this year deliberately so that the Board and friends of the Playhouse can come together to chart a new course that will ensure that the Victoria Playhouse remains the heart of the community.

We will share with you further details as they are firmed up.

On behalf of the of the Victoria Playhouse Board of Directors,

Pat Smith
President

Stuart Hickox - Vice President
Cynthia Cormier - Secretary/Treasurer
Campbell Webster
Darcy Gorman
Graham Lea
Julia Sauve
Joey Weale
Wanda Naylor