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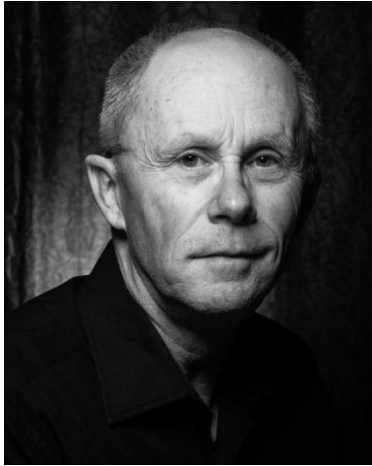


Photo Caption #1: Gerry McBride directs Trent Valley Archives Theatre's production, *Tide of Hope*. A public performance will be staged on May 16, 2024, at The Market Hall Performing Arts Centre. (Photo by Suzanne Schroeter.)

Photo Caption #2: Gerry McBride directs a script reading of Trent Valley Archives Theatre's production of *Tide of Hope*. A public performance will be staged on May 16, 2024, at The Market Hall Performing Arts Centre. (Photo by Suzanne Schroeter.)

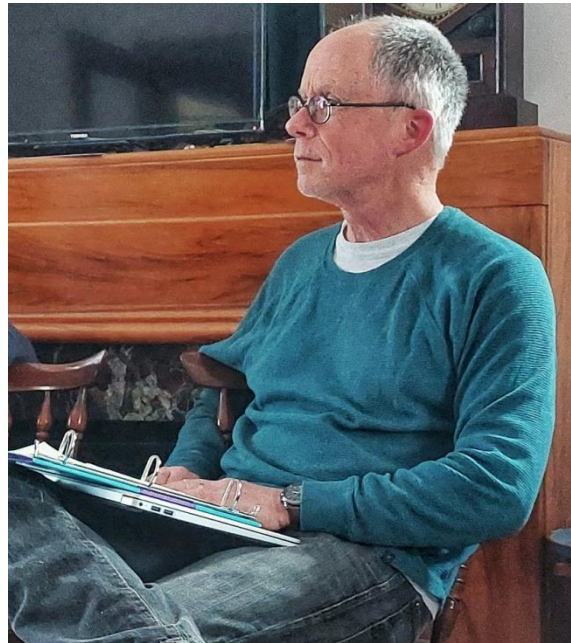
Retired Educator-Turned-Director Uses Theatre to Teach History

PETERBOROUGH – The director of a local history play coming to Market Hall Performing Arts Centre this spring believes that live theatre is a great way to engage students.

“Some people think history is kind of dry, but at its heart, it’s the stories of people who have come before us dealing with many of the same issues we are grappling with today. And seeing those struggles brought to life on stage can be a powerful experience, indeed,” says Gerry McBride.

Trent Valley Archives’ (TVA) new production company, Trent Valley Archives Theatre (TVAT), is presenting *Tide of Hope* at Market Hall in May 2024. Two performances for students in Grades 6 to 12 are planned for May 15 with a public evening performance on May 16. TVAT’s mission is to bring regional history to life on stage and raise funds for TVA.

The Wednesday, May 15 school group performances take place at 10 am and 1 pm. Teachers can book their classes by email at trentvalleyarchivestheatre@gmail.com. Admission is \$250 for a class of 25 students or more. Teachers may request one free seat for themselves and seats for up to four volunteer chaperones at the time of booking.



More information about the background of the play and digital teacher resources can be found on the [TVAT website](#).

The Thursday, May 16 public fund-raiser will be performed at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$40 for table seating. They are available now from the [Market Hall Performing Arts Centre](#) website.

Tide of Hope, by local playwright Ed Schroeter, is set in Ireland and tells the story of the conflicts and struggles of Irish families debating whether to leave home and travel with Peter Robinson to forge a new home in Upper Canada. The production commemorates the 200th anniversary of the 1825 immigration that saw some 2,000 Irish people settle in this area. Mr. McBride, a retired elementary school teacher, has a diverse theatrical background and has seen first-hand the impact theatre can have, especially on young people who may have limited experience seeing live performers.

“Over the years I’ve seen lots of live theatre productions with students. When the lights go down, it’s thrilling to see how quickly they become gripped with what’s happening on stage. And being able to present at a venue as great as Market Hall is the cherry on top of the sundae.”

The play, a prequel to the Peter Robinson immigration story, follows the fortunes and misfortunes of David Nagle, an Irish land agent and rent collector forced to flee to Upper Canada in 1825 when Irish rebels fighting against English tyranny brand him a traitor. The play opens a dialogue about immigration, refugees, migrants, and European settler history.

The play is about one-hour long. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of the cast and crew after the show. Teachers will be able to book in-school workshops after the performance dates.

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