



Thursday to Sunday  
June 4th to 20th, 2026  
Thu, Fri, Sat 6<sup>th</sup> & 13th 7:30 pm  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> & 14th 2 pm  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> 2 pm





# *Calendar Girls*

**by Tim Firth**  
**directed by Clair Henderson**

Bedford Players Theatre  
1408 Bedford Highway  
Bedford, NS



**Bedford Players Community Theatre**  
1408 Bedford Highway  
Bedford NS

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**The use of cameras, cell phones, and all recording devices is prohibited in the theatre.** Please ensure cell phones and other devices that may disturb patrons or actors are turned off or silenced.

Bedford Players Community Theatre consists entirely of volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering with the theatre, please contact:  
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There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Our cash-only canteen will be available before the show and during intermission.



presents...



*Calendar Girls*

by Tim Firth

"Calendar Girls" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
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# President's Message

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President  
Elaine Melanson

Welcome to the final production of our 2025-2026 season! The time has flown since our season debuted in November. It's also hard to believe that Bedford Players has been offering high-quality theatre for 44 years! With your continued support, we hope to keep that tradition alive for many years to come.

This production, directed by Clair Henderson, marks the second time *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth has graced our stage. A smash hit in 2013, we're sure that all of the new elements, such as an updated script, new technology, a (mostly) new cast, and some of the finest volunteers in the HRM, will make the 2026 version just as successful.

To our talented cast, crew and volunteers - our heartfelt thanks for bringing us your best. This production would not be possible without your hard work and commitment. We are profoundly grateful for your contributions.

And to you, our valued patrons. Without your unwavering support, community theatre at Bedford Players is not possible. You make the magic happen, and for that, we express our deepest thanks. Stay tuned to our social media and website as we unveil our 2026-2027 season productions in just a few weeks.

We invite you to sit back and enjoy this wonderful show – don't be surprised to find yourself belly-laughing and maybe even shedding a tear or two over the next couple of hours! As the curtain falls on another Bedford Players' season, we want you to know we are grateful to you for supporting our theatre. We hope to see you again in the audience (or maybe even volunteering!) next season.

# Director's Message

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Director  
Clair Henderson

I was browsing through scripts when I came across *Calendar Girls* and I decided to suggest that I thought we should produce it again and that I wanted to direct it once again for Bedford Players. I was elated when the board agreed and placed it as the spring play. *Calendar Girls* takes a fun but sympathetic look at friendships and relationships when dealing with cancer. The humour is lighthearted and fun but there is also a sensitive side to the play when dealing with the death of a husband and friend. This play is an emotional journey that will make you both laugh and cry out loud and leave you with a warm insight that there can be light from a dark place.

This production would not have been possible without the amazing cast and crew. Their dedication and patience to make this work has been exceptional. I thank all of you for your enthusiasm, energy, and time to bring this beautiful play to life. To our patrons, a huge thank-you as without you, community theatre would not be thriving. Enjoy the show and spread the word!

The play is set in modern times in a church hall in Yorkshire, England. It is performed over two acts with a 15 minute interval between acts

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# The Cast

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In order of appearance

Cora Emma Bicknell  
Chris Marina Romeo  
Annie Erin Niedermayer  
Jessie Pat Post  
Celia Pamela Sullivan  
Ruth Elaine Melanson  
Marie Christine MacNeil  
Brenda Hulse Candace Conlin  
John Mike Taylor  
Rod Jeff Karabanow  
Lady Cravenshire Bonnie Matthews  
Lawrence Liam Browne  
Elaine Desarée da Cruz  
Liam Mark Rushworth

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**after the show.**

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**and keep our costs low.**

# The Play

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**Time:** The present

**Place:** Knapeley village, Yorkshire, in the church hall and on top of a nearby hill (John's hill), and at the annual WI conference in London.

## Act 1

Scene 1 - The church hall, autumn

Scene 2 - The following winter

Scene 3 - The following spring

Scene 4 - John's hill, early summer

Scene 5 - The church hall, later that summer

Scene 6 - Night, a few days later

## Act 2

Scene 1 - The WI conference, London

Scene 2 - The church hall, the following day

Scene 3 - A few days later

Scene 4 - A few days later

Scene 5 - Later the same day

Scene 6 - The next day

Scene 7 - Late summer

Scene 8 - John's hill, half an hour later



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## Cast in order of appearance

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Emma Bicknell  
appearing as  
***Cora***

Emma has dreamed of being on stage since she was a teenager and now it's finally happened! Like the *Calendar Girls* she is a late bloomer! She loves musical theatre, hiking and baking a good cake. She would like to thank her partner Mark for suggesting that she finally audition for a play and making her dreams come true.



Marina Romeo  
appearing as  
***Chris***

Marina has always had a passion for live theatre and was thrilled to make her stage debut in BPs Looking. She is excited for the opportunity to be part of this year's production of *Calendar Girls*. Cheers Megs!

# Cast in order of appearance

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Erin Niedermayer  
appearing as  
**Annie**

Erin is no stranger to local community theatre, having been involved with Bedford Players, Dartmouth Players, and TAG for many years as an actor, director, and stage manager. Her most recent forays include *A Murder Is Announced* (SM, BP), *Murder Tonight* (Mia, TAG), and *Finding Ivy* (Ivy, DP).

She is delighted to be taking on the role of Annie in this funny and touching production, and thanks her partner Chris for all his love and support. Enjoy the show, and thank-you for supporting community theatre in HRM!

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## Cast in order of appearance

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Pat Post  
appearing as  
***Jessie***

Cajoled into auditioning by a gaggle of theatre-loving grandmothers who raved about Bedford Players' past productions, Pat is delighted to be part of the lively cast and skilled creative team who make up this zany yet heartfelt production. Pat, who has rewired herself from a not-so-stuffy academic into a novelist, playwright and comedic chanteuse, regularly takes the stage as the sarcastic Crash Test Grannie. Most recently at TAG Springfest. As "Miss January," Pat is committed to baring her soul... and whatever other "parts" of herself are necessary to bring the sarcastic Jessie to life on the stage.



Pamela Sullivan  
appearing as  
***Celia***

Pam is excited to be part of this funny, heartfelt production. This is her first time with the Bedford Players, and she loves being part of this incredible cast and crew. In November, she appeared at Hubtown Theatre in *A Case of Mistaken Identities*. She hopes you enjoy the show.

## Cast in order of appearance

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Elaine Melanson  
appearing as  
***Ruth***

Elaine is thrilled to be back on the Bedford Players stage making live theatre! She has previously trod the boards at BP in numerous productions, including *A Murder is Announced* (Miss Marple), *Welcome to Paradise* (Evelyn), and *Sex Please, We're Sixty* (Mrs. Stancliffe). She also played the role of Marie in BP's original production of *Calendar Girls* in 2012. Along with film and television gigs, Elaine keeps busy as a member of the BP Executive Council and is an active volunteer. Big thanks to the cast and crew for making this show such fun and to director Clair. Enjoy the show, everyone!



Christine MacNeil  
appearing as  
***Marie***

Christine has been involved with community theatre across the country for almost 30 years. She has taken part both on and off stage, variously filling the roles of director, stage manager, and actor. Her most recent stint was in Campbell River, B.C. playing the role of Robert/Thomas in *The Play That Goes Wrong*. While she didn't get to wear a cape, she did get to sword fight and channel her inner Tim Conway as she spent two minutes dangling desperately from the second floor of the set (as part of the show!). Christine is delighted that her Bedford stage debut will be with the wonderful cast and crew of *Calendar Girls*.

## Cast in order of appearance

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Candace Conlin  
appearing as  
***Brenda Hulse***

Candace is new to the Bedord Players and is very excited to be part of the team. Away from theatre for many years, she is thrilled to be back on stage.



Mike Taylor  
appearing as  
***John***

Mike's first show was on the BP stage some years ago, so he has a special affinity for this place. Mike has appeared in numerous other shows at BP, the last being *Gibson & Sons*, and several shows at each of Dartmouth Players and TAG. He has also appeared in commercial, film and television. It has been so rewarding to work with such a talented and fun-loving cast to bring this show to life. The knowledge, talent and enthusiasm at BP is impressive, and is the main reason behind its long-time success, along with what is the most loyal fan base of all local theatre groups. A fellow actor called acting in Community Theatre "recess for adults", and it truly is. Enjoy the show!

## Cast in order of appearance

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Jeff Karabanow  
appearing as  
***Rod***

Jeff is an avid theatre/movie goer. He's fairly new to the acting world and loves to hike and surf. He's a professor at Dalhousie University and has three beautiful boys (one being a golden retriever) 😊




Bonnie Matthews  
appearing as  
***Lady Cravenshire***

Bonnie discovered the magic of theatre at Dartmouth Players in 1995. She loves the challenge of putting method acting to the test and disappearing completely into a role. Her last appearance here was in *Murder on the Orient Express* as Helen Hubbard. Along with theatre, she also enjoys the challenges of working as a simulated patient for Dalhousie University, and as an ACTRA member in the film industry when those opportunities arise. Special thanks to Clair for inviting her to take part in this wonderful classic, alongside this exemplary cast and crew.

# Cast in order of appearance

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No Photo Available

Liam Browne  
appearing as  
***Lawrence***

Liam has been involved in a number of productions as actor, director, and writer at Theatre New Brunswick, Dartmouth Players, and Hubtown Theatre in Truro. This is his first production with Bedford Players. He would like to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming and he hopes you enjoy the show!



Desarée da Cruz  
appearing as  
***Elaine***

Desarée discovered her love of theatre when she was cast in her first school play at the age of seven. Since then, she has acted in and stage-managed countless plays. When she's not spending her time in the theatre, she's playing tennis, dancing ballet, volunteering, or attending trivia night. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time within this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

## Cast in order of appearance

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Mark Rushworth  
appearing as  
***Liam***

This is Mark's first production for many years since moving to Canada from the UK in 2014. He enjoyed the limelight across the pond by performing as an amateur magician and also appearing on multiple TV game shows. He thanks his partner Emma for her adventurous spirit in encouraging him in being part of the *Calendar Girls* cast.



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# Creative Team

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Director  
Clair Henderson

Clair is delighted to be directing *Calendar Girls*. She enjoyed it so much in 2014 she decided to do it again! Clair has been involved in community theatre in the HRM for nearly 20 years both having acted, produced and directed with Bedford Players. Clair has also been involved with other community theatres but is firmly part of the Bedford Players family and is currently the Vice President. Clair thanks the phenomenal and eclectic cast and all the backstage crew for their hard work and energy. She knows you will enjoy this show which will make you both laugh a lot and cry a little.



Stage Manager  
Amanda Willmore

Amanda was very happy when Clair asked her to be involved in this play with a wonderful cast and crew who will delight you! You might have seen Amanda onstage last at BP as Mrs Swettenham in *A Murder is Announced*. Since then she has been working on BP plays, but behind the scenes! Amanda would like to thank her family for their love and support as always and hope that you, our patrons, enjoy this production.

# Creative Team

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Assistant Stage Manager  
Danielle Fry

Photo credit: Lydia Fry

A firm believer in the magic sparked when people share ideas and pursue self-discovery, Danielle is thrilled to be behind the scenes for this production. While new to theatre, she is no stranger to the art of a smooth rollout, trading corporate operations for the fast pace of the stage. After meeting Clair while volunteering at the SPCA, Danielle jumped at the chance to swap leashes for stage cues. She hopes this performance highlights the beauty of human endurance and the power of having a "crew" that calls out the best in you.



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# Supporting Our Community

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For each of our productions, Bedford Players donates tickets to local not-for-profit organizations to sell. The tickets, usually for the opening weekend, are sold at regular prices with all proceeds going to the organization. We thank TicketPro for recognizing this contribution and providing these tickets with no service fees.

Fundraising support for this production is given to **Bedford Grandmothers** and **Friends of Blue-Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Society**.



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Along with our fundraiser groups, Bedford Players selects, for each production, a Charity of Choice from causes close to our members' hearts. The selected charity receives \$1 from every ticket sold, along with patron donations and tips from our canteen.

The Charity of Choice for *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth is **The CELLFiE Project**. Developed by Dr. David Conrad at the IWK Health hematopathology lab, they offer children undergoing treatment for leukemia and their families an opportunity to demystify the process by allowing patients to see images of their cells before and after chemotherapy. This fosters better understanding and empowers young patients and their families.

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Our canteen is open before the show starts, and at intermission during each performance. Help support Bedford Players with your purchase of a beverage and a light snack (cash only). All canteen tips are donated to our Charity of Choice,  
**The CELLFiE Project**

# Creative Team Leads

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Director	Clair Henderson
Stage Manager	Amanda Willmore
Production Manager	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee & Michele Gaudet
Assistant Stage Manager	Danielle Fry
Pre-show Slide Presentation	Trelawney Erwin
Set Design & Construction	Beth Spratt & Stephen Melanson
Props & Set Dressing	Trevena Trimmer
Wardrobe	Terri Smith-Fraser
Logo and Poster Artwork	Matthew Goodmanson
Promotional Video Production	Trelawney Erwin

# Administrative Team Leads

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Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Technical Director	Duncan MacPhee
Ticketing Liaison	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Sponsorship Coordinator	Bonnie Matthews
Canteen Manager	Joe LeBlanc
Front of House Managers	Tierney Thibodeau & Kelly Morrison
Hall & Lobby Set Up	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Photographer - Headshots	Jay Fisher
Photographer - Rehearsals	Carl Wills
Program	Trelawney Erwin
Poster	Trelawney Erwin
Program Proofreader	Alexander MacDougall
Poster Distribution	Kelly Morrison
Telephone Notification Team	Sandy Van der Made
Volunteer Coordinator	Clair Henderson
Volunteer Database Manager	Clair Henderson
Newsletter Editor	Elaine Melanson
Publicity - Social Media	Trelawney Erwin & Kelly Morrison
Website	Alexander MacDougall
Charity Coordinator	Wendy Hutt

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# Production Volunteers

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## **Front of House & Canteen**

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Helen Goyan  
Kim Shaw  
Lillian Goyan  
Linda Goldwater  
Lisa Sutherland  
Lorraine Watson  
Lynne Isnor  
Marko Elgin  
Monique LeBlanc  
Patricia Macleod  
Rose Anne Kennedy  
Sandy Mitchell  
Wanda Sutherland  
Tierney Thibodeau  
Kelly Morrison  
Joe LeBlanc

## **Props & Set Dressing**

Trevena Trimmer  
Amanda Willmore  
Rhea Vardy-MacPhee

## **Publicity**

Kelly Morrison  
Trelawney Erwin

## **Parking Attendants**

Stephen Melanson  
Herbie Desmond

## **Set Construction & Painting**

Stephen Melanson  
Beth Spratt  
Peter Hall  
Joe LeBlanc  
Slavko Negulic  
Lorne Morrison  
Bryn Rowlands  
Clair Henderson  
Patrick Henderson

## **Projection Field Technician**

Karen MacDougall

## **Hall & Lobby Setup**

Rhea Vardy-MacPhee  
Michele Gaudet  
Wanda Sutherland  
Beth Spratt  
Pat Brinton  
Elaine Melanson

## **Wardrobe**

Terri Smith-Fraser  
Karen MacDougall  
Sanda Knox

## **Lighting Design**

Stephen Melanson

## **Technical Operators**

Sanda Knox  
Theresa Hanna  
Trevena Trimmer

## **Technical Assistants**

Emma Whitley  
Sanda Knox  
Trevena Trimmer

## **Phone Notification**

Diana Mabbett  
Dianne McDonald  
Audrey Peake  
Rose Pearle  
Debbie Saarloos  
Sandy van der Made

## **Poster Distribution**

Kelly Morrison  
Brad Morrison  
Lynn Reicker

## **Pre-Show Slide Presentation**

Trelawney Erwin

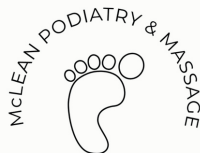
And others whose names may have been missed due to publishing deadlines.

***THANK YOU!***

# Bedford Players Executive Council 2025-2026

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President Elaine Melanson  
Vice-President Clair Henderson  
Treasurer/Ticketing Liaison Rhea Vardy-MacPhee  
Secretary Pat Brinton  
Artistic Director Michele Gaudet  
Member at Large Kelly Morrison  
Member at Large Lorraine Cantwell  
Member at Large Mike Taylor  
Member at Large Amanda Willmore  
Member at Large Brad Morrison



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**Jay Fisher** of **Capture It Photography** for the Calendar photography.

Our many **Volunteers** who work diligently to make our productions a huge success. Their time, talents and efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

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