



Sandra
Thank You

FOR YOUR
UNWAVERING
DEDICATION

DEDICATION TO SANDRA LAWN

ST. LAWRENCE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL APRIL 2026 AGM

Our AGM earlier this month was a wonderful celebration of the past year and what's to come. It also included a celebration of the one and only Sandra Lawn, who stepped down from the Festival's Board of Directors that night, after helping shepherd this work for over two decades.



Anyone who has been in a room with Sandra knows that she is a force, and we are so grateful for all she has done to support the past, present, and future of the Festival. We wouldn't be here without her.

Sandra was awarded a lifetime ticket as a small token of our thanks, and we can't wait to continue to welcome her to our shows for years to come!

Thank you, Sandra, for your immense contribution!

...Excerpt from Facebook Post by SLSF

(Photo by Deanna Clark)













Sandra,

It's a real pleasure to recognize you tonight, and to thank you for everything you have given to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival.

Your connection to the Festival goes back many years, and your impact has been both significant and lasting.

You've served in so many capacities—as Chair, as Treasurer, as a member of the Board, and as part of the fundraising committee—and through all of those roles, you've helped guide and strengthen the organization in meaningful ways.

But beyond the titles, what stands out most is your steady presence.

You've been someone the Festival could rely on—bringing insight, experience, and a deep understanding of both community and governance.

You've helped shape not just how the Festival operates, but how it grows—thoughtfully, sustainably, and always with a strong connection to the community it serves.

Organizations like ours don't thrive by chance. They thrive because of people who show up consistently, who care deeply, and who are willing to put in the work over time.

And that is exactly what you have done.

Your contribution has helped build the foundation that allows the Festival to continue today—and to look ahead with confidence.

Sandra, we are incredibly grateful for your leadership, your dedication, and your belief in this Festival.

Thank you for being such an important part of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival story.

Jan Irwin

Sandra Lawn is a Force and an inspiration! The first time I directed for the Festival was Taming of the Shrew in 2009 . On Day One of rehearsals, my billet fell through due to an unexpected flood in the house plumbing. Sandra Lawn to the rescue! She offered me her lovely guest room, and I gratefully spent the remaining weeks in the Lawns' beautiful heritage home. I learned a lot from Sandra that summer, and during the many years that I served on the Board of Directors with her. She is central to the history of the Festival - there for its inception and a champion for its entire life. She's seen every show numerous times, and remembers them all. I love her for her vision, her generosity to SLSF and her welcome when I badly needed a good bed!!

Ian Farthing

Sandra Lawn has been indelibly linked to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival since its inception. If you have Sandra Lawn on your side, you have a tenacious champion and we have all benefited from that passion over the past 24 years.

Personally, I felt like I'd been welcomed into her family - and those links remain strong today, even to the extent that her daughter Julia hosted our wedding at their home in North Vancouver a few years ago.

Some of my favourite memories of Sandra include a moment during one of our Sunday Series events under the tent - an Afternoon of Sonnets - when Robert got up and read a particularly sensual ode to her, causing her to blush profusely.

Then there were all the welcome dinners for the cast and crew in her back yard, with delicious food and always a keen interest in getting to know the new members of the SLSF ensemble.

And I will forever remain grateful for the way she sacrificially came to SLSF's rescue during financially difficult times.

We've been lucky to have Sandra as one of our most vocal supporters - and I know she will continue to be so, even though her time on the board has come to an end.

Thank you, Sandra!

Quincy Armourer

One of the first events during my first season with the Festival (2008) was the welcome party at Sandra and Robert's home. I'll never forget it. It's one example of the generosity and kindness that they bestowed upon company members year after year. Sandra has always been welcoming - her openness and inviting nature is something I look forward to whenever I return to Prescott. I'm very moved by her incredible contribution to the Festival, and I am grateful to her for her caring, her warmth, her smiles, her hugs and that wonderful spirit that makes her who she is. Thank you, Sandra, for everything!!!

Rebecca Eamon Campbell

When I first came to Prescott in 2010 to work at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Sandra thanked me. For my time, my knowledge, my belief in what the Festival was trying to achieve and in Prescott itself. Her guiding force inspired me to go from Stage Manager in 2010 to General Manager in 2011 and 2012. We spent hours together working to make the Festival better. Her enthusiasm and business acumen were invaluable. Sandra cares - a lot. And when you start from a place of genuine care and kindness, and you back that with unwavering commitment and knowledge, you inspire others to believe the impossible can be possible. Sandra has promoted growth in this region for so many wonderful projects. I left a fantastic team of strong women at the National Arts Centre to come to Prescott, and I found more strong women! Women who believe in each other and in the power of community. Sandra Lawn is truly a Great Canadian, a wonderful Businesswoman, a devoted Mother, and a massive Community Promoter! Thank you, Sandra, for your dedication to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival.

Richard Sheridan Willis

Over my six years as Artistic Director of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, I came to realize the immense influence Sandra had on the festival — her utter dedication to its survival and flourishing through some of its most difficult times was nothing short of extraordinary. Her constant advocacy, her unflagging support of every creative team that came each summer, and her tireless work in securing funding from sponsors leaves me in no doubt: the Festival could not have survived as long as it has without her.

My favourite memories are always of her quietly turning up to see the plays throughout the summers — the glowing smile and genuine pleasure she radiated in simply watching them performed, knowing she had been such a large part of making this most fragile of art forms — an outdoor Shakespeare festival — happen every single year.

For those in Prescott and the surrounding area who cherish this unique theatrical event, taking place in the most picturesque of settings against the backdrop of the harbour that bears her name, we have so much to thank Sandra for — not only for the festival, of course, but for the town itself.

I am in awe of her energy, intelligence, wit and passion — for the arts and for the river she loves. I hope that stepping back from the board gives her more time for her other pursuits.

A woman of warmth, grace and class. A legend in our midst.

Thank you. Sandra.

Warren Bain

Sandra and I got along famously and I always looked forward to the annual dinner at her home to welcome us into the town. On one such visit I had brought my (now) wife with me... but froze as I had a brain blip and forgot her name! I was mortified. Sandra was poised. Ever patiently Sandra waited and then gave me my cue "It's the name that's on your cheques." Which fired up the synapses and caused me to immediately remember. Now though, I find it easy to remember her name because it's on my office wall on my (officially unofficial) "Sandra S. Lawn Warren Bain Key to the City of Prescott".

James and Julia

Sandra is a formidable presence in any room. We feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to get to know her, learn about the region from her, and experience her passion and knowledge first hand.

Her impact on the Festival is immeasurable, and we are indebted to her for all she has done to ensure its success. Sandra's passion for this work and ensuring its accessibility to this region is something we're proud to champion as we envision the future of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, always grateful for its important past.

Ingrid Bjornson

Sandra took a chance on me at a time when I didn't quite fit the traditional mould. I came in with a strong theatre background, but not the administrative experience you'd typically expect for the role—and she saw past that.

She saw potential, trusted her instincts, and gave me the opportunity anyway. That kind of belief in someone can change the trajectory of their career, and it certainly did for me.

Sandra has always led with that same combination of thoughtfulness, openness, and quiet confidence—supporting people, encouraging growth, and helping shape this Festival into what it is today.

I'm incredibly grateful—not just for the opportunity she gave me, but for the support and leadership she's shown over the years.

Though, I am pretty sure she probably hired me because she liked my East Coast accent... for sure.