

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S UP MUSKOKA

"I'm Dick Smyth"

Tune in for Dick's daily commentary on:

Muskoka Information Radio 102.3 FM



## Dragonfly delivers intellectual mystery

By Sandy Lockhart

A tradition of British drama is returning to the Gravenhurst Opera House.

*An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestly is the latest production by Dragonfly Theatre.

"We call it an intellectual mystery," says Pru Donaldson, who is acting in this show but has produced their shows in the past. "It is really quite clever."

*An Inspector Calls* was written in 1945. It tells the story of an upper class family in 1912 England that has its morals challenged when a mysterious inspector unexpectedly calls to question them about an ill-fated incident which occurred earlier that evening. The play was written as a commentary on the social change in Britain prior to the First World War.

Guests can come for dinner theatre, with a choice of beef, salmon or a vegetarian option served by David Friesen at 5:30 p.m., or simply enjoy the show that starts at 7:30 p.m.

Guest director Dave Lawton is working with stage manager Flo Adams for this show, which runs Nov. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and then Nov. 12, 13, 14 and 15. Call the Gravenhurst Opera House for tickets.

Also in the play are Dragonfly regulars Emma Phillips, Kaileigh Adie, David Walton and Al Hutchings. It is the first Dragonfly show for Nicholas Kulchar.



Kaileigh Adie, playing Sheila Burling stares down Nick Kulchar, playing Eric Burling in the play *An Inspector Calls*.

Donaldson is happy to welcome David Eardley back to the stage.

"He was in our first ever production years ago and then went back to Britain," she says. He moved back to the Barrie area but is coming up to per-

form in this show.

"We are very pleased to have him," she says.

Stepping onto the stage for the first time is Donaldson's granddaughter.

"She's playing the maid and will be on

stage with her mother and grandmother," she says.

Popular summer entertainment offered by Dragonfly Theatre at the Opera House in the past has included *Blythe Spirit* and *Fallen Angel*.

## First Lady of Guitar takes the stage in Huntsville

By Chris Occhiuzzi

It's been several years since iconic Canadian musician Liona Boyd entertained a Muskoka audience.

Boyd, known to many as Canada's first lady of guitar, is excited about returning for an afternoon performance at Huntsville's Algonquin Theatre on Nov. 10.

Showcasing the original music from her newest album, *The Return ... To Canada with Love*, Boyd says it's wonderful playing an intimate setting like the Algonquin.

Not only does the audience get to connect with the performer, and vice versa, during the show but afterwards Boyd will be signing CDs and chatting.

"I'm a storyteller," says Boyd. "Weaving in my experiences. A lot of songs are very autobiographical. We do a couple of beautiful, classical duos. There's guitar throughout, I have folk influences but I'm not a folk singer. It's quite varied and sort of a unique style."

Having travelled and lived around the world, Boyd has often missed the best of life in Canada. While away and thinking of home, Boyd began penning the music and lyrics for several songs on her new album.

Two songs in particular remind her of time spent in Muskoka on Lake Rosseau over the past few years and even takes her



Photograph: Courtesy of Liona Boyd

Liona Boyd is bringing her smooth musical style to the Algonquin Theatre.

back to fond childhood visits with her family to Eagle Lake. One is *Canadian Summer Dreams*, on which Olivia Newton John joins Boyd, and the other is *Silver Birch*, which Boyd says describes the poetic imagery of Muskoka.

"It's just all the imagery from cottage country," says Boyd. "When I went up to

Rosseau, it was like a checklist. I saw every single image I had put into the song. I saw the beaver dam, the wild geese, I heard the loon, I went paddling in the canoe. At the course of being at the cottage a few days you do all those things."

Born in London, England, Boyd moved to Canada with her parents at age eight. At

13, she received her first guitar. In 1975, at 26, Boyd made her Carnegie Hall debut. After five instrumental artist of the year Juno awards, 22 albums, five honorary doctorates, an Order of Canada, an Order of Ontario, a Diamond Jubilee Medal and countless concerts and TV specials Boyd is just hitting her stride.

Her entire new album is a tribute to Canadiana with songs such as *Aurora Borealis*, *A Mes Beaux Souvenirs* and *Little Towns* taking listeners from coast to coast. One song in particular has special meaning to Boyd as she's joined on the album by a cast of stars in singing *Canada My Canada*. Artists on the album include Serena Ryder, Jann Arden, Randy Bachman, astronaut Chris Hadfield and more.

Boyd thought of the idea while overseas; she wanted to have a patriotic song which was not our national anthem. She's hoping *Canada My Canada* will become a new song to rally the nation and Boyd even wants to do a music video including everyone who participated in the recording.

"I'm just so delighted," says Boyd. "It's a song that I hope kids and adults can learn to sing around the campfire."

Tickets are available at theatre box office on Main Street, by calling 705-789-4975 or visit: [www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca](http://www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca)