



Dean in his role in Oliver!

In March 2019 we lost one of the great benefactors of The Village Players, Dean Richardson. Dean loved to sing and he appeared in several of our musical productions including *Oliver!* 1996, *My Fair Lady* 1997, *Hello Dolly* 1998 and *HMS Pinafore* 1999. However, his most important contributions to The Village Players were behind the scenes. Dean was the leader of our first major fund-raising campaign which brought us the \$360,000 needed to do the renovations on the building which allowed us to make it into a theater. He spearheaded the campaign and used his connections with others in Wolfeboro and the surrounding area to raise the money we needed. Without his leadership, it would not have happened.

Then Dean took responsibility for refurbishing the seats which you now see in the theater. He enlisted a group of his friends to come to the theater a few hours a day for several months during which time they sand-blasted the metal parts of the seats and repainted them. They also sanded the wooden arms down to their rich wood patina and stained those. The seats and backs were sent out to be reupholstered. Then they reassembled all the parts and installed the seats on the risers. So today we have comfortable, raised seating in our theater for all our audiences to enjoy.

We will miss you, Dean, and we hope you know how much we appreciate all you have done for The Village Players.