

**Chatham Community Players Centennial Celebration
(September 24, 2022)**

Wow, 100 years! Tonight, the Chatham Community Players celebrates 100 years of its fabulous existence. That's 100 years of providing theatrical and musical entertainment for the Chatham community, the surrounding region, and Morris County in general. That's 100 years of contributing to the artistic development – and passions – of both young and old alike. That's 100 years of amusing us, soothing us, diverting us, enthralling us, educating us, cheering us, and pleasing us – to our heart's content. Indeed, that's 100 years of transporting us from mere everyday experience to the very heights (or sometimes depths) of introspection, contemplation, discernment, enjoyment, and just plain fun.

Tonight's centennial celebration of the Chatham Community Players is a testament to the tremendous importance of this institution to the Chatham community. When you think of some of the most culturally diverse and vibrant places on Earth, they all have at least one thing in common: art. From repertory theaters to local galleries to music venues, a community full of art is a community full of cultural expression and understanding. Research has shown that municipalities that emphasize art frequently possess greater civic and social engagement, better child welfare, and higher levels of social cohesion. Moreover, local repositories of artistic expression, such as the Chatham Community Players, tend to be key components of thriving downtown economies. And that is certainly the case here.

For all these reasons, and for so many more which time precludes me from fully canvassing, Chatham Borough is deeply grateful for the 100-year contribution of the Chatham Community Players to the cultural life of this extraordinary town. And it is our most fervent wish that you should continue to grace us with your most valuable presence for, at the very least, another 100 years.

And now, on behalf of the Borough of Chatham, it is my great pleasure to present you with this lovely plaque to commemorate your 100-year anniversary.

Congratulations to you all!