



## 'All's Well' In Prescott for Local Festival

### MPP Clark Announces \$28,000 Grant for St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival

**Prescott, Ontario** – On Sunday, the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival hosted local MPP for Leeds--Grenville, Steve Clark, to announce some wonderful news for the Community. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Festival was awarded a \$28,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to increase volunteer opportunities at their annual festival.

"The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we're announcing today is great news for the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival and it's great news for the Prescott community," said Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark. "We all know that the arts make an invaluable contribution in many ways to society and that includes the important role events like this festival play in the economic development of our region."

Thanks to the grant from the Foundation, the group will be able to hire a full-time coordinator to recruit, provide orientation and support valuable volunteers who help make the Festival a success. They expect to increase their volunteer base by 10% and to provide meaningful engagement by giving their volunteers all the tools they need to succeed and enjoy their contribution at the Festival. From taking tickets to sewing costumes to billeting actors over the summer months, the possibilities are endless.

"Our volunteers are crucial to the prosperity of the Festival," said Board Chair Sandra Lawn. "We are so thankful for the Ontario Trillium Foundation's commitment to community engagement in our area."

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival works with the local community to provide diverse audiences with an accessible and inspirational theatrical experience of the highest standard. Professional actors from across the country come to Prescott each year to bring Shakespeare's stories to life and 2011 is no exception as it brings two new productions of Shakespeare's comedies to the Amphitheatre on the river.

"If music be the food of love, play on" is one of Shakespeare's most famous quotes from *Twelfth Night*, a story of shipwreck, disguise and romantic confusion. Director Craig Walker will be giving the production a distinctly Irish flavour, with lots of Celtic music.

*All's Well That Ends Well* is one of Shakespeare's less well-known comedies, which at its heart is a fairy tale of a young girl in love with a handsome prince and asks how far people will go to get what they want. Directed by Janet Irwin, this production will intrigue and entertain.

In addition to the mainstage events, the Festival produces a number of complementary activities, such as the Sunday Series and a week-long Young Artists Training Program, giving local youth the opportunity to work with actors from the Festival.

Upcoming special presentations include *Toad*, the story of Anna Russell, the larger-than-life singer-comedienne on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and *Jake's Gift*, the award winning play about a WW2 veteran's journey back to Juno Beach for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or a link to this year's program, please visit their website at [www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca](http://www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca)

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

**For more information, please contact:**

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