



20 Years of Connecting Arts & Community

## In the Beginning

The Cambridge Centre for the Arts came into being because of the drive and vision of Jill Summerhayes, along with the commitment and tireless activity of the original members of the Cambridge Arts Guild, as well as the significant support and financial contribution of the City of Cambridge, local businesses and members of the community.

The capital fundraising campaign, led by Jill, raised half a million dollars to contribute to the City of Cambridge project of building the Centre for the Arts. Generous donations were received from individuals, families, Cambridge and area corporations and businesses, organizations and foundations, as well as provincial and federal government grants.

These capital campaign contributions are recognized on the donor wall in the lobby of the arts centre.

Jill and members of the Cambridge Arts Guild, with support from City of Cambridge staff, also held public input sessions, developed ideas for use of the building, worked with staff to guide construction and generated awareness and support for the initiative.

This partnership between the community and the City of Cambridge resulted in the grand opening of the arts centre in May of 2001. It was the start of the Centre for the Arts playing a central role in the rejuvenation of the arts and cultural life of Cambridge.

Since opening, the Cambridge Centre for the Arts operations, staffing and programming have been financed and administered by the City of Cambridge, as part of what is now the Recreation and Culture Division of the municipality. The Cambridge Arts Guild has continued to play an important role by supporting these activities, and arts and culture in the community, through financial contributions from an annual fundraising event they plan and organize.

