

OUR VOICES: SENIOR SELFIES

A Play Created by Local Seniors

Playwright: Catherine Frid Director: Dale Hamilton



New Horizons

for Seniors Program

Project # 12347332

This project is funded in part by
the Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors program.

Canada 

OUR VOICES WELLINGTON

**Join us for laughter, friendship
and creating together!**

**Our Voices is for seniors (55+).
Through storytelling,
improvising, writing and music
we'll share our knowledge,
experience and skills.**

**Our creations will be formed into a theatre
performance to debut in October.**

**For more information call Gloria Nye at 519-856-0380
or email: ourvoiceswellington@gmail.com**

**We meet Wednesdays from 1 – 3 pm, until October.
You don't have to attend every week.
If you need transportation, let us know!**

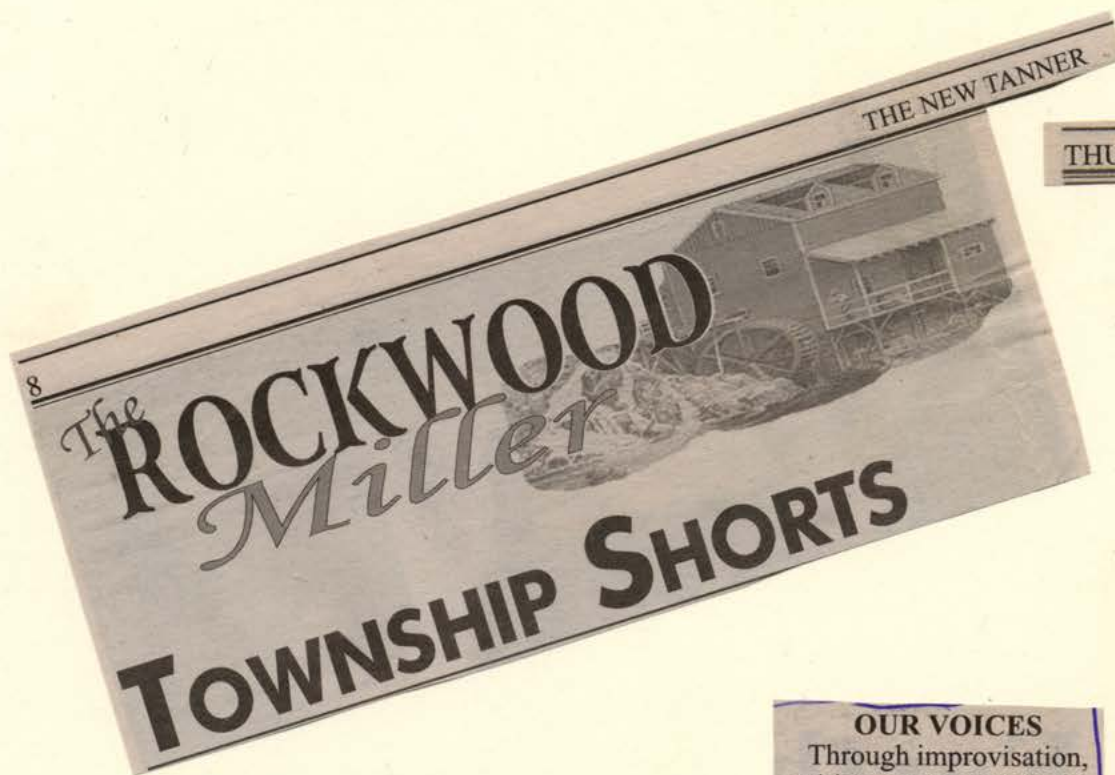
**Wednesdays, 1-3 pm
Eramosa Eden
8178 Indian Trail
Rockwood
Call 519-856-0380**

**Everyone welcome, heroes, villains and non-actors!
No memorization & no experience required.**

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Getting The Word Out



THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014



OUR VOICES

Through improvisation, writing, music and storytelling, people over 55 can explore their creativity and issues that matter at the *Our Voices* program which offers laughter, friendship and creating together.

Our Voices meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., beginning April 9 at the Rockwood Library.

For details call Gloria at 519-856-0380 or email VoicesWellington@gmail.com

OUR VOICES PROJECT

Men and women over 55 welcome to Our Voices for laughter, friendship and creating together!

Our Voices is a project for seniors (55+). Through improvisations, writing, music and storytelling we'll explore our creativity and issues that matter to seniors.

*There are many ways Our Voices can be heard
We can call them out loud or sing like a bird.*

*"Our Voices" Project is looking for the ideas in your mind
Topics can be unearthed from those depths you will surely find.*

*Discovering and presenting for seniors by seniors is what it's about
Can you write, design, explore, improvise, participate or simply shout?*

*Your ideas and your feelings, your stories and issues abound
Are opportunities to be heard, resolved and even found.*

*Delve deeply into your history, your lessons not yet sealed
Now is the time to get your story to an artistic creative field.*

*It may sound convoluted but it is surely not that way my friend
We desire to work together to make a splash from beginning to end.*

We will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 1–3 pm. You don't need to attend every week, and there's no memorization and no prior experience required.

Our creations will be formed into a theatre performance and presented in October (by those who want to act).

To find out more about Our Voices, email us at:
OurVoicesWellington@gmail.com

or call **Pauline MacDonald** at
519-824-4879

and plan to join our first meeting:

Wednesday April 9, 2014

1 – 3 pm
at **Rockwood Library**
85 Christie Street,
Rockwood

*Use your voice as a senior for others to listen to and respond
You may be surprised how many feel alike both here and beyond.*

*There'll be short and long storytelling as different as **we** all are
It'd be fabulous to get the community together from near and far.*

*Need clarification on this intriguing poem with the curious name?
Come hear more about "Our Voices" Project of soon-to-be local fame.*

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Telling Our Stories





First Reading of Script





Eramosa Eden Retreat Centre

A Gathering Place for Ecology, Spirituality and Social Justice



Rehearsals in Eramosa Eden





*Rehearsing in Eden Mills
Community Hall*



The Song of Our Voices



Our story for today - is our truth as we see (it)
This play's to wake your senses not to make you flee it!
Our **V**oices: Senior Selfies . . . what do you think?
Were we wonderful or did we stink?

Our voices - that's our title showing issues of today
We've shared, planned, and acted, in this creative way!
We've laughed, cried, stretched, and sometimes limped along
What we hope to leave you with . . . is this brilliant song

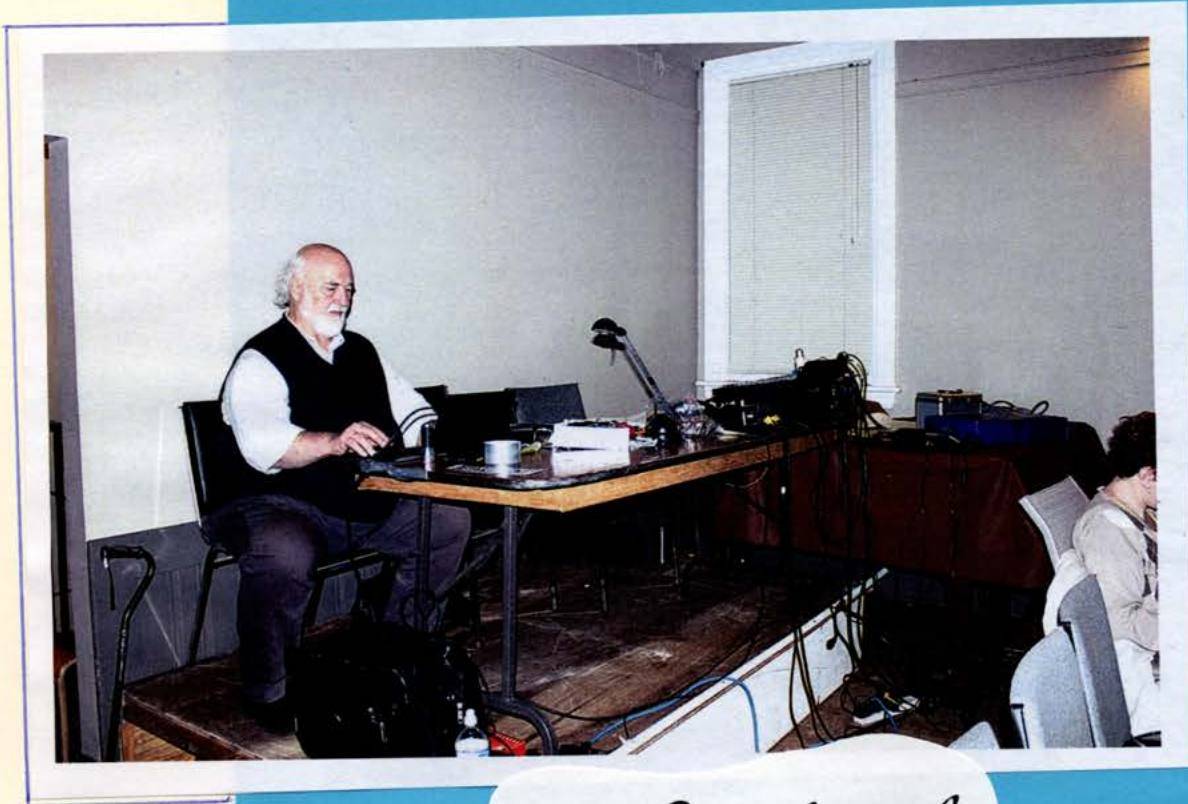
Our story for today - is our truth as we see (it)
This play's to wake your senses not to make you flee it!
Our **V**oices: Senior Selfies . . . what do you think?
Were we wonderful or did we stink?

We're seniors one and all, with experience and wisdom,
Not too old to have a ball, with energy and then some.
We're all about living . . . from now until the end.
Selfie, smelfie, look deeper friend,

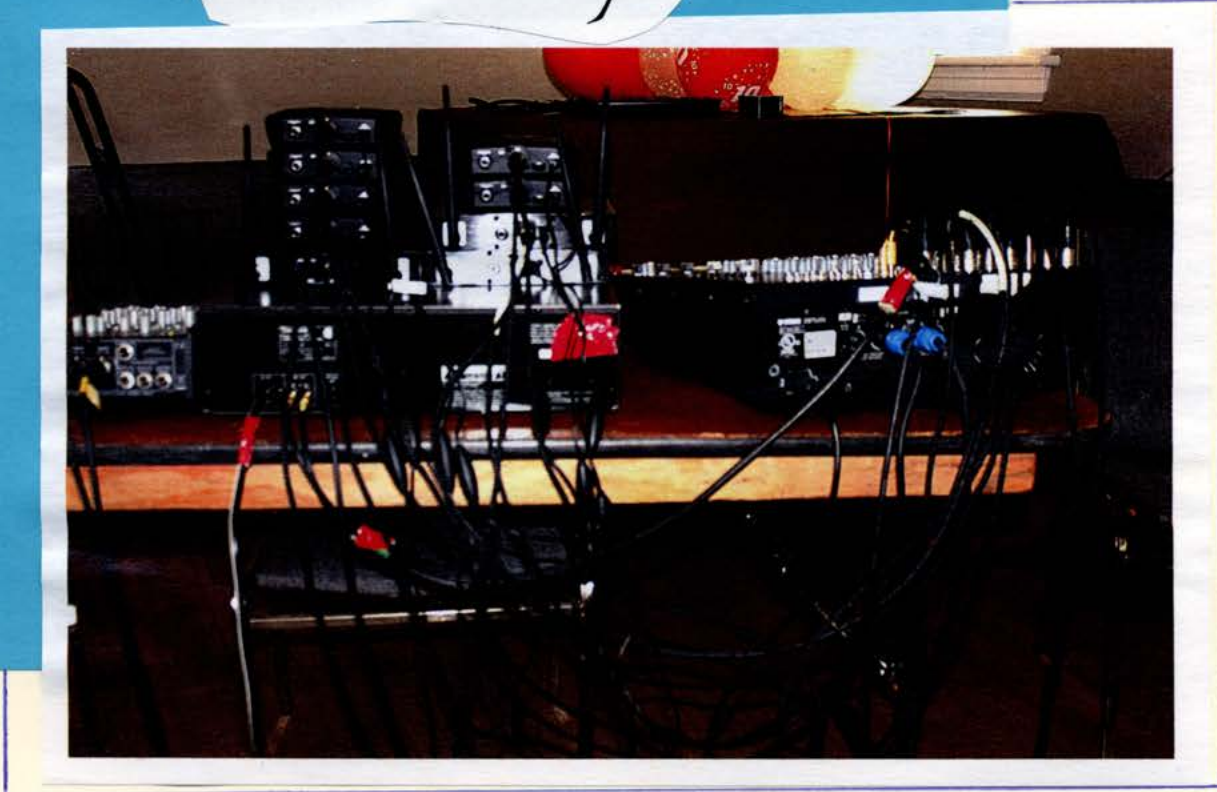
Our story for today - is our truth as we see (it)
This play's to wake your senses not to make you flee it!
Our **V**oices: Senior Selfies . . . what do you think?
Were we wonderful or did we stink?

We've opened up our hearts, with courage not fear,
Are we your mirror, can you see yourselves here?
Living in the moment, life goes on and so do we,
And now we have to exit . . . cuz we all have to pee!





Technical Help





Last minute Pep Talk



*James Gordon
Songwriter*

*Dale Hamilton
Director*

*Chris White
Mayor*

The ROCKWOOD Miller



TOWNSHIP DIGEST

OUR VOICES

A group of local seniors has many insights into life as a senior, right here – in the Guelph-Rockwood-Eden Mills area – and right now.

Their stories, by turns hilarious and poignant, have been crafted into the stage play *Our Voices: Senior Selfies*, which they will be performing at the Eden Mills Community Hall on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19, at 2 p.m.

A New Horizons for Seniors Project grant teamed local seniors with playwright Catherine Frid and director Dale Hamilton to create this production by seniors and for everyone.

Ticket reservations are available by phone at 519-856-0380 or online at ourvoicestickets@gmail.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Announcing the Play



Your Voice in Guelph
GuelphTRIBUNE

Eden Mills seniors pen play about their life experiences

A group of local seniors is offering up their insights into life in a new play to be staged in Eden Mills on Oct. 18 and 19.

Our Voices: Senior Selfies is a play crafted from the seniors' stories, described as "by turns hilarious and poignant," a news release said.

"I didn't realize our true-to-life stories could be

turned into such a funny play," participant Sytske Drijber said in the release.

Scenes include a comical doctor's visit, a moving look at grieving and a competition for the "Best Adult Child," the release said.

The show also includes a song the group created with local singer-songwriter James Gordon.

The play was created

through a New Horizons for Seniors Project grant, which teamed local seniors with playwright Catherine Frid and director Dale Hamilton.

Both the Oct. 18 and 19 shows take place at 2 p.m. at the Eden Mills Community Hall.

Tickets can be reserved by phone at 519-856-0380 or email at ourvoicestickets@gmail.com.

Senior LIFESTYLES

Our Voices: Senior Selfies, a new community production

EDEN MILLS – Seven months ago a group of seniors from Rockwood, Eden Mills and Guelph sponsored by the Eramosa Eden Retreat Centre received a New Horizon Grant.

Their project was to provide a social community theatre forum to raise public awareness on the issues facing seniors.

Over the last few months a curious group of seniors met at Eramosa Eden on Indian Trail and became involved. Through laughter and some tears they told their stories. Playwright Catherine Frid listened and took notes. Frid has written other plays: *Homegrown*, *Over the Edge*, *The Bold Canadian*, *GuineaPigging* and *Dead Cat Bounce*.

When asked about acting out their stories on stage in front of people, 90 per cent of the participants frowned and shook their heads. However, enthusiasm and confidence grew and they are all now in full rehearsal mode, meeting at the Eden Mills Community Hall for finishing touches on their original play *Our Voices: Senior Selfies*.

Dale Hamilton, artistic director at Everybody's Theatre Company will direct. Hamilton is well known for writing and producing the first Canadian Colway-style collaborative community play, *The Spirit of Shivaree*, performed in the ruins of the old Rockwood



Senior Selfies – Gloria Nye, Marion Bascom and Anne Snell practice taking “selfies” while Sytske Drijber studies her script in preparation for their performance at the Eden Mills Community Hall Oct. 18.

submitted photo

Mill in 1990. Ed Langevin, a veteran stage manager, has worked on several local plays, including *Jealous River* and the Elora Community Theatre's *That Summer*.

Eden Mills resident John Crompton, is one of Canada's leading cultural figures in the performing arts and agreed to be the lighting and projection creator. Rounding out the creative team is Barbara Bryce from Guelph Little Theatre designing costumes and Joe Brenner producing the sound. Scenes range from a comical doctor's visit, to grieving friends, to a competition for the best adult child. The show even includes a rollicking song the group created with local

composer James Gordon.

“I didn't realize our true-to-life stories could be turned into such a funny play,” says nonagenarian participant Sytske Drijber of Rockwood. Documentary film maker, Alberta Nye has been video taping rehearsals and will also be filming the show.

The play will be performed on Oct. 18 and 19 at 2pm in the Eden Mills Community Hall, 108 York St., Eden Mills and is a fundraiser for the hall.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Bookshelf in Guelph, or reserved by calling 519-856-0380 or online at ourvoicestickets@gmail.com. Only 120 seats are available so book now.

OUR VOICES: SENIOR SELFIES



A Play Created by Local Seniors

Playwright: Catherine Frid

Director: Dale Hamilton

Saturday & Sunday October 18-19, 2014 2pm

Eden Mills Community Hall

108 York Street, Eden Mills

\$10.

Reservations: Call 519-856-0380

or Email: ourvoicestickets@gmail.com

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT
EDEN MILLS COMMUNITY HALL**

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OUR VOICES: SENIOR SELFIES

A Play Created by Local Seniors



Two Sold Out Performances!



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Playwright: Catherine Frid Director: Dale Hamilton

**Saturday & Sunday
October 18-19, 2014 2pm**

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108 York Street, Eden Mills**

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OUR VOICES: SENIOR SELFIES

October 18 & 19, 2014

Welcome to Our Voices: Senior Selfies

In April, a group of seniors from the Eden Mills/Guelph/Rockwood area met to talk about their lives. As the creation group shared their stories, Catherine Frid drafted them into scenes for this play. Then this creation group, many of whom have never been on stage before worked with Director Dale Hamilton, and stage manager, Ed Langevin to put this play on its feet for you. We are happy to make our show a fundraiser for the Eden Mills Community Hall. So sit back and enjoy this script-in-hand presentation of **Our Voices: Senior Selfies!**

Creation Group: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Ross Coulter, Sytske Drijber, Ed Langevin, Darlene Lamb, Pauline MacDonald, Jean McClelland, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell, Alberta Nye, Gloria Nye

Producers	Catherine Frid, Gloria Nye
Playwright	Catherine Frid
Director	Dale Hamilton
Stage Manager	Ed Langevin
Sets/Props/Costumes	Barbara Bryce
Lighting Design	McBride Hunter
Sound Design	Joe Brenner
Projection Design	John Crompton
Graphic Design	Pierre Leclipteux
Videographer	Alberta Nye
Musical Composer/Muse	James Gordon
Ass't Stage Managers	Barbara Bryce, Catherine Frid, Dale Hamilton, Pierre Leclipteux
Projection Operator	John Crompton
Lighting/sound Operator	McBride Hunter
House Manager	Barb Marshall
Front of House	Kit Bresnahan, Barbara Buckendale, Marilyn Kleiber, Rob Kleiber, Charlotte Reinhart, Wendy Smith

Act 1

Speaking my Mind: Ensemble

Doctor's Visit: Ross Coulter, Jean McClelland

So You Think You Can Help? Game Show: Marion Bascom, Ross Coulter, Jean McClelland, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell

Crones 1: Ross Coulter, Darlene Lamb, Anne Snell

Second Lease on Life: Marion Bascom, Ross Coulter, Shoppers: Darlene Lamb, Jean McClelland, Norah Menzies, Jean McClelland, Gloria Nye

Old Woman's Secret: Written and read by Sytske Drijber

Crones 2: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Ross Coulter, Darlene Lamb, Pauline MacDonald, Jean McClelland, Anne Snell, Gloria Nye

Elephant in the Room: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Pauline MacDonald, Jean McClelland

People's Choice Awards - Part 1: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Darlene Lamb, Pauline MacDonald, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell

15 Minute Intermission

Act II

Generation Gap: Marion Bascom, Alberta Nye

The Sunset of Dawn and Don: Marion Bascom, Ed Langevin, Sytske Drijber (voice)

Poem - Individuality: Written and read by Jean McClelland

Smart Alec Car Sales: Ross Coulter, Darlene Lamb, Norah Menzies

Daughter's Revelation: Catherine Frid, Gloria Nye

Driving: Helen Bennett, Ross Coulter, Sytske Drijber, Darlene Lamb, Jean McClelland, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell, Alberta Nye

Crones 3: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Sytske Drijber, Dale Hamilton, Darlene Lamb, Jean McClelland, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell, Gloria Nye

Quickie: Ensemble

People's Choice Awards - Part 2: Marion Bascom, Helen Bennett, Darlene Lamb, Pauline MacDonald, Norah Menzies, Anne Snell

Finale Song: Ensemble

*You're invited to stay for a
15 minute talk-back after the show.*

Many thanks to Kit Bresnahan, Michael Dryden-Crompton, Al McBride, Richard Pilon, Jim Spencer, Chris Wilson, Eramosa Eden Retreat Centre, Crones of Rockwood and Eden Mills Community Club.

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support for this project provided by the New Horizons for Seniors Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

A Play Created
by Local Seniors
**Our Voices
Senior Selfies**
Sat. Oct. 18
Sun. Oct. 19
2:00 pm
Eden Mills Community Hall
108 York St
Eden Mills
A Fund Raiser
for Eden Mills Community Hall
519-856-0380
\$10
No. 109

Our Audience Awaits



They loved it!

And Gave Us a Standing Ovation



A great cast and crew

Time to Celebrate



Comments



"Congratulations everybody on a job well done! You entertained us, made us laugh, made us cry, and made us reflect on our own lives. Thank you for your courage and your zest for life. You are living examples of lives well-lived and were gutsy enough to want to share your lives with us. Your time and effort was appreciated and added to our own understanding of life as a senior. You make us think about our own ups and downs in life. We're not alone in our journeys and, once again, I thank you for sharing yours."

Barb Heagy,
Audience Member, Guelph.

"Please extend our most sincere appreciation to the 'Cast' of this afternoon's presentation. The standing ovation from the packed house clearly demonstrated the admiration of the audience of the Seniors' play.

Great work."

John & Elaine

(John R. Scott

Councillor, Ward 4 Guelph/Eramosa)

OUR VOICES: SENIOR SELFIES

A Play Created by Local Seniors

"Our Voices: Senior Selfies has far exceeded my expectations, and I can't wait for us to share it with the world. Our show is important and insightful, and what we've created in six and a half months, starting from scratch and ending in a full production, is amazing and something that's likely never been done before."
Catherine Frid
Playwright

"I cannot believe how smoothly it went. Even a few bloopers didn't matter. Having people stare at us wasn't quite as scary as I thought it would be. Thank you for inviting me to participate in this project and for giving all of us the opportunity to be involved with such a terrific bunch of people. You never know what you can do until you do it."
Jean (McLelland)
Senior Participant



"Fantastic performance! Even my jaded internet-age teenagers really enjoyed it! My aunt was there with her women's group and she said the Cronos scenes could have been their scenes. Drink in that standing ovation!"
Respectfully,
Dale (Hamilton)
Director

**Saturday & Sunday
October 18-19, 2014 2pm**

**Eden Mills Community Hall
108 York Street, Eden Mills**

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*"Congratulations to you and your
organizers, performers, and
playwright for providing an
excellent afternoon of entertainment
and enlightenment. "Our Voices
Senior Selfies provided an original
and cogent portrayal of aging in
21st Century Canada."*

*Judith Carson,
President, Guelph Wellington
Seniors Association.*

*"My heart is so full and
overflowing. I am speechless and oh
so close to tears. I can't tell if it is
because I am so happy to be having
this experience, or fast-tracking to
next week when I will be missing
everyone soooooo much.*

Hello forever,"

Darlene (Lamb)

Senior Participant

*"I hope you're riding as high as I am on today's
fantastic performance! Congratulations -- you are ALL awe-
inspiring. It was a great show and the audience loved it. And I
was amazed at how many people stayed for the talk-back and the
super discussion we had.*

Love,

Catherine (Frid)

Playwright



*Thank you
New Horizons for Seniors*



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SENIOR SELFIES**
A Play Created by Local Seniors

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