

For Immediate Release

SOLD OUT CROWD FOR WORLD PREMIERE!

Murphys Point Provincial Park, August 21, 2011 – The world premiere of *The Silver Lining* saw a sold-out audience last night (August 20) at The Heritage Mica Festival at Murphys Point Provincial Park. The Friends of Murphys Point commissioned this outdoor theatre piece to bring to life the Lally family who settled in the area where the park is now located back in the late 1800's. During the performance of *The Silver Lining*, we follow James, David and Katie Lally as they meet up with Rinaldo the prospector, John McGlade the mine foreman, and many other characters who were involved with the Silver Queen Mine from 1903 to 1906.

The Silver Queen Mine located at Murphys Point Provincial Park is a mica mine that operated in the early 1900's. Representative of numerous mines that existed throughout the area, the Silver Queen has been restored and is open for viewing regularly throughout the spring and summer months on a variety of tours provided by park staff. *The Silver Lining* provided an opportunity to view the homestead area, the mine trail and the mine at night, lit by the glow of mica lanterns carried by the audience. With two shows on opening night, the audience was entranced as these characters from our history came to life.

Children and adults alike responded with cheers when the Lally family heard they could make money from the mine, giggled when the pompous mine owner Edward Smith bragged that he was the one who would profit from the mine and sighed when young Katie Lally dropped her handkerchief as she passed by a teenaged Edmund O'Neill who was seeking a job in the mine. Edmund gallantly retrieved the handkerchief and a romance was born!

If you missed the shows last night, there is another opportunity to see *The Silver Lining* later in the festival. The Heritage Mica Festival continues at Murphys Point Park over the next three weekends. *The Silver Lining* returns on Saturday September 3rd with shows at 7 and 9 p.m. Another sell-out is expected so guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets are just \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family and can be reserved by contacting eventsmurphys@ripnet.com or calling 613-267-5340. In addition, you will

need a day pass from the park or a valid camping or seasonal day use pass from Ontario Parks. Full information for this and all festival activities is available at www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca. Future festival weekends see Voyageur Canoe tours on Hogg Bay, concerts at the outdoor amphitheatre, children's programs, music on the beach, barbeques, pancake breakfasts and a heritage day at the Lally homestead.

The Silver Lining was written by Yvonne Helwig and produced and directed by Rachel Marks of the Rideau Islands and Lakes Theatre School. This production was made possible through funding support received by the Friends of Murphys Point from the Ministry of Tourism.

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