

Delegation to Brockton Council - August 27, 2024



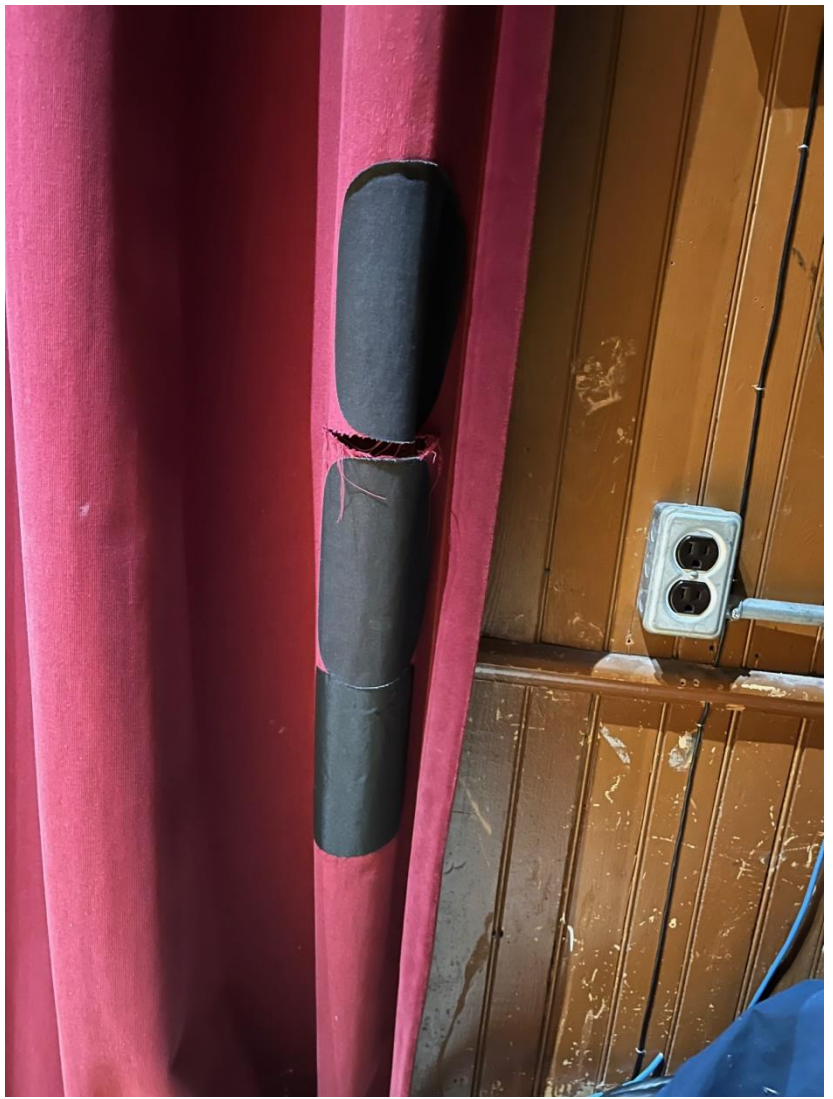
THE STAGE CURTAINS at Victoria Jubilee Hall are front and centre during every performance, so much so that we take them for granted. They very much reflect the history and tradition of the Hall, and lend dignity and elegance to the building.

The history of these curtains is not entirely clear. Where they began their service is unknown. They were purchased used, either from the Walkerton or Hanover Theatre, by County Towne Players in the '70s. That makes them at least 50 years old, probably closer to 75.

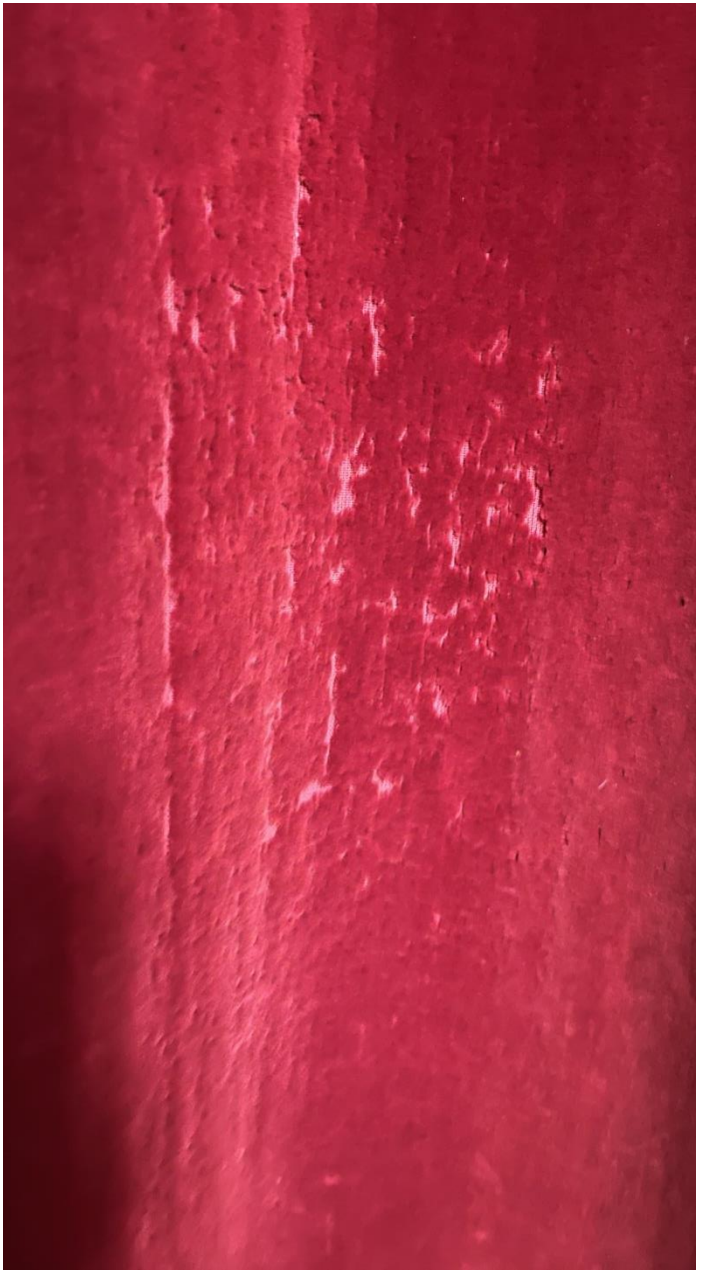
Nothing is known about their status regarding flammability.

While they may look presentable in a small photo, a closer examination reveals the ravages of time and use, certainly not unexpected in material this old. They have been patched and re-patched, and while the holes provide handy lookouts on the audience for the stage crew, they present a very shabby image to visiting musicians and players.





Despite heroic efforts to keep the curtains useable, the fabric itself is starting to crumble. Below are views of BEHIND and IN FRONT of the curtains.



Perhaps more importantly, virtually all stage curtains today have **flame-retardant properties**. It is unlikely that these very old curtains have any intrinsic capability to resist burning, and they are not in good enough condition to be treated with flame-retardant chemicals.

The current Fire Code regarding our building reads:

Flame resistance of textiles

2.3.2.1. (1) Drapes, curtains, netting, and other similar or decorative materials, including textiles and films used in **buildings**, shall meet the requirements of CAN/ULC-S109, “Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films”, when these materials are used in any

- (a) **care and treatment occupancy** and **detention occupancy**,
- (b) lobby or **exit**,
- (c) **access to exit** in **assembly occupancies**, and **assembly occupancies with an occupant load of more than 100 persons**

The exact application to our situation is currently being determined by Brockton’s Fire Prevention Officer and the Building Inspector. However, given the proximity to ignition sources in the overhead stage lighting, it would be prudent to have flame retardant fabric in all of the curtains surrounding the stage.

These curtains are very important in maintaining the image of our vibrant Opera Hall.

The Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee has been faced with a \$5000 elevator repair in January 2024, issues with the main floor washrooms, installation of West and South security cameras, replacement of an A/C Unit on the roof of the Opera Hall, replacement of the last 2 windows, plus the many inevitable ongoing expenses. We are budgeting for the imminent roof replacement, and are not in a position to replace these curtains.

A company, Horizon Solutions, which works with major and smaller theatres in Ontario, including the Stratford Festival Theatre, has given us prices on a number of possible improvements at the Hall, including these curtains.

The quoted price for supplying and installing new, flame-retardant curtains is **\$22,982.84**. (See attached quote)

We have another quote coming in this month.

Therefore, the Committee of Victoria Jubilee Hall is respectfully requesting funding from Brockton Council, to replace our existing stage curtains, for an amount not to exceed \$22,982.84.

Sincerely,

The Committee of Victoria Jubilee Hall:

Henry Simpson, Chair and Treasurer, Bob McCulloch, Secretary,
Ted Cobean, Jim Bohnert, Ken Coleman, Don Moore, Maria Ballagh

