



participation in this volunteer work with ECHO Players has always been a joy for him.



Although in the early years we were very short of people, facilities, and construction tools, we have a set construction and storage facility in Hilliers next to the Winery, with an excellent workshop, all the necessary power tools and equipment, and a large assortment of standard set components which can be used again and again.

Set painting and dressing are a vital part of creating a set. Jeanne Ackles-Cardinal has been a specialty painter for ECHO Players' productions for 18 years. With paint, she can create almost any type of surface from hardwood floors to granite pillars. She recently held a workshop on "Specialty Painting for the Theatre" to introduce various techniques to our members. Maureen Ross takes the almost-finished set and turns our modern everyday world into another era on stage by providing period furnishings, textures, colour schemes and assorted refurbishments. You will see her crawling about in local consignment shops, antique stores, and bargain centres to find treasures to add to our sets. Her favourite role is choosing paints and fabric to complement the costumes.



Our amazing 164-seat theatre in the heart of Qualicum Beach has all the things we need to create interesting and workable sets, including a full-size white cyclorama for projecting images, a rigging system for flying scenery from up to five cross-stage pipes, black and white scrim systems, and flame retardant curtains surrounding the stage.



But perhaps the most enjoyable aspects of involvement in set construction and decorating over the years has been the comraderie and teamwork working with ECHO Players. There is a real sense of fulfillment when we see the actors bringing to life a set we have helped create.



The results are often outstanding as the accompanying photos show. Indeed, testament to that teamwork that is at the core of ECHO Players' set building crew are the numerous Best Backstage Cooperation Awards at the North Island Zone Festivals and the one most recently awarded to ECHO Players for Best Set recently in Nanaimo at the North Island Zone Festival, designed by George Murguly.

Alistair McVey