

REHEARSALS SET TO BECOME A MORE WARMING EXPERIENCE

DAYS of chattering teeth and donning layers of thermals will soon be over for the performers of the Invercargill Musical Theatre with the Don St building in Invercargill set to get an overhaul.

IMT president Philip Fraser said money received in grants from the ILT Foundation (\$40,725) and Invercargill Licensing Trust (\$9,244) will go towards the installation of heatpumps and also doing some remedial work on the many cracks and crevices.

“In the past we have been using gas heaters. Our last bill was \$800. And the heat has just been escaping out the sides of the building.”

There have been times in the past when members of the club have had to do a mad dash to save costumes and props when the west side of the building has flooded, he said.

The building was originally a house used by the organisation. The house still remains in the core area of the rooms however there was an extension completed to create a bigger rehearsal area and also to make room to house the wardrobes, sets and props the organisation has used in many of its productions.

Making the west wall watertight and also installing new spouting will also be undertaken in the next few weeks. Some windows will also be replaced including the distinctive window on the south-east corner of the building.

With rehearsals sometimes from 10am to 10pm in the darkest days of winter, the renovation work will come as a welcome reprieve from the cold.

Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said the Invercargill Musical Theatre is an icon of Southland.

“The shows put on by these very talented individuals are enjoyed by many throughout the province.

“The ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust are delighted we can assist such a worthy organisation which brings so much pleasure to others. We hope these grants will make performing in these shows a far more pleasurable experience for cast and crew.”

The work has already begun and with auditions and rehearsals for the theatre restaurant Turn Back Time set to begin in the next few weeks it is hoped the refurbishment will be completed in time for those successful entertainers to enjoy.