

ArtsLetter

Winter 2018

Dufferin Arts Council



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Let's get started ...



The New Year is underway and it already presents an interesting array of possibilities. On Sunday 28 January ticket sales for *My Fair Lady* earned us \$150 toward the Artists in the Schools program. On 12 February Monday Night at the Movies is donating the proceeds from ticket sales to the film *Loving Vincent* to DAC, and again the money goes to our Artists in the Schools program.

However, these funds pale in comparison to the \$25,000 DAC will receive from the New Horizons for Seniors Program administered by the federal department of Employment and Social Development. This money arrives in early March and is destined for our intergenerational writing program, a program that matches the grant criteria to a T— a program that encourages seniors to share their knowledge, skills and experiences to benefit others. With this funding we will be able to offer this intergenerational writing program to at least seven schools in Dufferin. Be assured that Donna Henderson will be looking for volunteers willing to share their stories. Congratulations to Donna and Ken Topping for a very successful grant application!

As you continue to read this newsletter you may be surprised to see that we have a complete calendar of speakers for February to June. It took some doing and we hope that everyone will find something of interest in the scheduled speakers and their range of topics. Please note, however, that we have not given up our search for a speaker committee to deliver this part of our program come September. As I have already mentioned, we have a list of names, a list that has grown longer as the year unfolds. You will not be at a loss for potential contacts. So, step right up and help an under-staffed board to deliver at least one component of our program. We have other projects on our plate that are demanding our attention.

What other projects, I can hear you asking? Attracting new members with the co-operation of Theatre Orangeville. A get-together with some young, under 30 artists is in the works. We have a couple of ideas for workshops and have begun planning another September dazzler for which a grant application has been submitted to the county. And there is the annual general meeting and the development of a social media and branding strategy.

If you have any ideas or suggestions or simply want to help out, please, please get in touch. Contact me at shelagh.mj@sympatico.ca, I'm sure we can find something for you to do.



Shelagh

On the Cover

Ricky Schaeede on stage at Westminster United Church during our anniversary celebrations, September 2017. Photo credit J.A.W. Photography.

ArtsLetter

Dufferin Arts Council

February 2018

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Dufferin Arts Council, Box 21052, 150 First Street, Orangeville, Ontario, L9W 4S7. Annual membership is \$35.00 Cdn. for individuals, and \$45.00 for a couple membership. All memberships include a subscription to ArtsLetter.

The membership year runs from July to June, with renewals due July 2nd each year. To sign up, change your address, or make a query please email f_nadafi@hotmail.com.



How You Can Contribute

In our strategic plan of 2015 we stated that DAC's goals are to [Inspire](#), [Educate](#) and [Support](#). We do this through our programs. How else do we describe our Artists in the Schools but inspiration in all the arts through education—at the elementary school level? The goal of the Reed T Cooper Bursary is to inspire established artists to look for new challenges and then support their pursuit of these challenges. The same holds true for the recipients of our scholarships—we are here to support their pursuit of further education in their chosen field. Our community grants round out our role as supporters of people inspired to expand the arts in our community. And finally, we try to apply these same goals on behalf of our members.

Where do you fit in? There are plenty of places where you can contribute.

- Become a member of the board of directors and participate in DAC's evolution and growth
- Join a committee that supports an initiative near to your heart
- Invite people you know to join DAC and help pursue our goals

Right now we need people to take on the following responsibilities.

- Show up for community events, fundraisers and spread the word
- Vice-president. Ideally this is someone who is enthusiastic about DAC, its role in the community and its future. Join now and learn the ropes. Special projects abound. Bear in mind, if no one steps up, as of June 2019 DAC will be without a president.
- Speaker chairperson. One of a group of people who selects the speakers—four for the fall session and five for the spring session. (We have already have a dozen names on file.) Contact the candidate, confirm availability, obtain title of talk and biography, advise newsletter editor, find someone to introduce and thank the speaker, and book luncheon seats.
- Scholarship chairperson. One of group of three or four people who chooses recipients based on applications as submitted

according to guidelines on our website. Ensures annually that all three high schools are aware of our program.

- Volunteer co-ordinator. Get to know the new members and the shy ones and find out what skills they have that we don't know about, what they enjoy and where they might be invaluable to the organization.

Like any other volunteer organization, we have jobs both big and small to offer. Some may require a small time commitment, for a couple of days or over a period of months. Other jobs may require more time but may also offer greater satisfaction—the satisfaction of a job well done in addition to the gratitude and appreciation of our wider community. It's your choice! But, you need to make the choice, now, before the existing volunteers reach the point of exhaustion, and the wonderful programs, initiatives, and scholarships offered by DAC come to an end.

Tangible Benefits

How Joining DAC can improve your health

Life is busy. Everywhere we go, regardless of age, no matter who we speak to, people describe their lives as crazy, busy, nutty, rushed. This overall culture of stress goes a long way towards explaining the declining member rosters in our local social organizations. These declining numbers are the widening cracks in the foundation of our communities as a whole, and in terms of membership numbers, the Dufferin Arts Council is no exception to this.

With life so busy, who has time to join something new, or even to renew? Many of us rely instead on virtual connections to feel involved, scrolling through screens and “liking” topics to show that we care. The crowning irony is that in the current culture of viral hyper-connectivity, the human population is more physically and psychologically isolated than ever before and we spend less and less time connecting face to face.

The consequences of this are sobering. Recently CBC’s *Cross Country Checkup with Duncan McCue* (January 21) addressed the topic of the growing problem of loneliness, social isolation and its corrosive effect on our health. Earlier that same week, CBC’s *The National* asked if

Canada needed a loneliness strategy; a strategy to mimic the U.K.’s recent appointment of a Minister of Loneliness in their country’s cabinet.

It seems that many of us are waking up from a decades-long, internet inspired daze to realize that we haven’t had real conversations with actual people, sharing the same physical space for a long time. How many of us have chatted with local friends online or over the phone without seeing them for weeks or even months? Is this the new reality for us? Is this recent mode of social interaction while in isolation the future of our species?

I say no, and you can too. Join the Dufferin Arts Council and say yes to Art instead.

To my mind, if money is what makes the world go round, the Arts are the carbon-fiber filaments weaving together our true social fabric. Art connects us, helps us to understand another’s point of view, even if we don’t agree with the vision. Art allows dialogue and encourages conversation. Art both invigorates and soothes us, no matter

which form it takes. Art entertains. Art tastes great too, as many chefs out there will tell you; inspired cooking is also art. Music in all its genres is art. Our passions fuel art and art fuels our passions. Without art we might as well be ants, scurrying through life on task with day-to-day minutiae.

Joining Dufferin Arts Council opens pathways for you to connect not just with



Photo Credit: JAW Photography

the arts community, but to connect with the people of this community. It’s social and fun, and it enriches not just your own life, but the lives within the wider community too. Healthy member numbers enable this organization to support our youth. The Ministry of Education has cut arts funding dramatically. The membership fees support DAC’s Artist in the Schools program, a program that provides a needed boost to arts curriculum for every child within Dufferin County. DAC also offers scholarships to our high school graduates interested in post-secondary studies in the arts, and DAC funds a quarterly community grants program for local artists interested in producing work for launch within the community.

Book launches, art shows, plays, movies, concerts and speakers’ series give all of us reasons to get together, to connect in reality and to be social. Joining Dufferin Arts Council will not just benefit the youth and local artistic talent within this community, it will enliven you. It’s time to minimize the virtual connections and make tangible ones instead. Join DAC, and we’ll look forward to seeing you soon!

Felicite Morgan

Artists in the Schools in action



Reed T. Cooper Bursary Update

2017 Recipient Debbie Ebanks Schlums reports on her progress
with the *Museum of Settlement Project*

Debbie (far right) with two of our recent newcomers,
mixing plaster for sculptures.



Over the course of the past eight months, I met with Syrian newcomers at the Gibson Centre, at the Dufferin County Museum & Archives and in my home. We met in small groups and created a number of objects in glass. I introduced the project during an ESL class in Alliston, and opened up the project to people from other places. As a result, there is also another participant who is Korean. There is something beautiful about mixing cultures, and the willingness to do so because of circumstance.

An OAC grant was not forthcoming, which has meant that I am partially funding the project and also looking for a swap/trade/donated/cheap trailer on

which to build the museum. I have had several offers, but not yet the right size.

Working with a Syrian architect, we now have a basic design for the museum, subject to modifications depending on the trailer we are able to acquire. I have begun to build the vitrines for display. In the new year, I will finish the vitrines and record and design the sound for the installation. There is still considerable work to be done in terms of cold-working the glass (sanding, cutting) for final presentation

We have confirmations from both the DCMA and the Gibson Centre to exhibit the Museum of Settlement and establishing dates in 2018.

This project is a significant shift in my work, both in terms of scale and in terms of thinking about participatory artworks. Because of this shift, I am now gaining the attention of a few curators (both freelance and in institutions). We'll see what happens in the future; for now I am pleased to be having these conversations. Without the bursary, it would have been difficult to take the next step in my career. I have immense gratitude for the DAC and the Cooper Family. Thank you for the opportunity.

Thanking Glenn Godfrey

Retired chair of our Scholarship and Bursary Program

Dufferin County has seen a lot of new people moving to the area, and subsequently joining DAC. (Welcome!) These new members have expressed curiosity about the history of the Dufferin Arts Council, and about the people who got this organization up and running. It is our pleasure to not only devote space to the current goings-on of the DAC community, but to write about these past heroes who laid the foundation of DAC.

Many thanks to Ken Topping, Past-president of DAC for putting together the following article on Glenn.

“I have always tried to manage this program so that it was inclusive, open and based on need, talent and appropriate application. We rarely turned a student away empty-handed.”

Glenn Godfrey

Glenn is a former high school Visual Arts teacher, now retired after 30 years with the Dufferin and Upper Grand District School Boards, including several years as Head of Fine Arts at both Orangeville District Secondary School and Centre Dufferin District Secondary School. He is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, University of Guelph and Western's Althouse College, as well as a practising visual artist, specializing in drawing, painting, caricature and illustration. He is also a charter member of the Dufferin (formerly Shelburne) Arts Council (1992) and was chair of the DAC scholarship program, 2005-2017.

Glenn and his family have resided in rural Mono since 1981. His other interests include guitars, old cars, travel, toy collecting, theatre, film, reading, cycling, trivia competition and eating too much.

The Scholarship and Bursary Program

As an arts council, we have good reason to be very proud of our Bursary and Scholarship Program that has awarded well over \$100,000 since its inception. This program has been skillfully managed by Glenn since the days of the Shelburne Arts Council (the predecessor of DAC).

In those early years, the arts prizes consisted of portfolios, paints and other supplies customized to each recipient and partially subsidized by the Fine Arts budget of Centre Dufferin & District High School.

The program may have been modest, but it achieved Glenn's goal of promoting the achievements and raising the profile of our community's talented young artists.

Enter Anne Laurier, a tireless and formidable fundraiser who would

not take “no” for an answer when it came to supporting the arts. Together, she and Glenn formed a productive partnership and became great friends. Anne's creation of the DAC Endowment Fund in 1998 expanded the scholarship program throughout Dufferin County. As the program evolved, individual scholarships ranging from \$300 to \$1500 were awarded in an ever-widening range of arts disciplines; in keeping with DAC's belief in supporting students on a very open, creative and inclusive basis.

Glenn is proud that, in addition to the traditional arts, we have assisted students in some very diverse endeavours, including

music composition, speculative fiction writing, clogging, jazz dance, improvisation, digital photography, computer game animation and even the culinary arts.

For over two decades now, DAC has supported and celebrated Dufferin students at all three local high schools, as well as Robert F. Hall in Caledon East. Glenn is also justly proud that many students in special financial circumstances or who followed non-traditional paths to graduation received support. As an artist himself, Glenn was uniquely able to appreciate when a student might benefit from continued funding during their post-secondary studies, and made a point of communicating with them throughout their academic careers to facilitate this.

Glenn attended many commencement ceremonies to personally congratulate scholarship recipients with DAC certificates, and ensured that their achievements were commemorated on permanent plaques mounted in each school. The DAC board fully supported Glenn in his traditional and creative management of the program, as he was always the advocate for talented students

“Art has the role in education of helping children become like themselves instead of more like everyone else.”

Sydney Gurewitz Clemens

needing assistance. How could we not?

Glenn, thank you for your work over the years that assisted so many talented and creative students of Dufferin County. I hope this brief article reminds the DAC membership of your considerable contributions as you acted on our behalf as a council committed to arts education.

Let's get

Together



Photo Credit: JAW Photography

Upcoming Cultural Events in Dufferin and Area

February 17 Celtic Illuminated Lettering with CJ Shelton, Alton Mill. Let's get knotty! Create and paint your own decorated and illuminated initials, word or name in traditional Celtic knotwork style. Full day.

February 17, 7:30 pm The Big Easy Blues Bash. Best Western Plus, Orangeville. Beat the February Blues! The theme for this year's event will be based on a night in The Big Easy.

February 19, 11am-4pm. Family Day Wassailing Festival at Spirit Tree Cider. Help us promote a good apple crop with the Orange Peel Morris Dancers. Fun for the Whole Family! Bring your skates and sleds for lots of outdoor fun!

February 21, 7pm-9pm. Foods of the World Cooking Class Series (Mexico). Join Chef Pam Fanjoy and Bertha Lopez as we explore the freshest ingredients of Mexico to make authentic tamales, gorditas, beans, salsa and guacamole.

February 22, 7pm-10pm. Paint Nite at Fan/Joy. Whimsy Love in the Moonlight at Fanjoy.

February 24, 8am-1pm. Orangeville Farmer's Winter Market (Indoors). Orangeville Town Hall, Broadway.

March 4, 2pm-4pm. Oscar Night Soundtrack Celebration. Caledon Concert Band at the Caledon East Community Complex. Enjoy famous melodies from

Disney musicals, dramatic and action films and Broadway inspired Hollywood hits presented by the Caledon Concert Band. All concerts are family friendly events with casual cafe style seating. Children 12 years and under admitted for free with \$10 Senior/Student or \$15 Adult ticket purchase

March 9-April 14. Magic of Maple 2018 at Millcroft Inn & Spa. Alton. Celebrate the maple syrup harvest and the first hint of spring in Caledon!

March 10, 8am-1pm. Orangeville Farmer's Winter Market (Indoors). Orangeville Town Hall, Broadway.

March 16, 8pm. *Fatal Attraction* at Century Church Theatre. A mystery/thriller by Bernard Slade, Directed by Nick Farrow While at her beach house sorting out her divorce, movie star Blair Griffin spots a paparazzo who has been stalking her. She takes a bold step to shake him loose, setting in motion a series of shocking and terrifying events.

March 24, 8am-1pm. Orangeville Farmer's Winter Market (Indoors). Orangeville Town Hall, Broadway.

April 5-22, 8pm. Screwball Comedy at Theatre Orangeville. *Screwball Comedy* By Norm Foster The year is 1938 and aspiring reporter Mary Hayes, is struggling to break into the male-dominated world of journalism. Jeff Kincaid may be the hottest

reporter in the city, but his job is on the line and Mary could well be the one to replace him.

April 7, 8am-1pm. Orangeville Farmer's Winter Market (Indoors). Orangeville Town Hall, Broadway.

April 14, 10am-11am. Dividing Perennials Workshop. Plant Paradise Country Gardens. Over time most perennials require dividing to revitalize them. In this fun outdoor workshop, Lorraine Roberts will demonstrate the many varied techniques of successfully dividing perennials.

April 21, 10am-11am. Orangeville Farmer's Winter Market (Indoors). Orangeville Town Hall, Broadway.

April 21, 10am-11am. Pollinator Garden Workshop. Plant Paradise Country Gardens. Creating a butterfly sanctuary in your backyard will add to the many benefits of gardening.

April 21, 2pm. Here's To Song! Knox Presbyterian Church, Alliston. A Celebration of Achill's 35th Year. The Achill Choral Society presents their spring concert with music conductor, Shawn Grenke, and pianist Christopher Dawes. Adults \$25, Youth (13-17) \$10, Children \$5. Tickets available online (achill.ca) & at Booklore in Orangeville.

April 28, 10am-11am. Spectacular Plant Combinations Workshop. Plant Paradise Country Gardens, Caledon. Lorraine Roberts will demonstrate how to create beautiful perennial combinations from an artist's perspective. Free, registration required.

April 28, 7:30pm. Here's To Song! Westminster United Church, Orangeville. A Celebration of Achill's 35th Year. The Achill Choral Society presents their spring concert with music conductor, Shawn Grenke, and pianist Christopher Dawes. Adults \$25, Youth (13-17) \$10, Children \$5. Tickets available online (achill.ca) & at Booklore in Orangeville.

May 5, The Day of the Poets, with Harry Posner, Poet Laureate and friends including the town crier at the market, on the main stage at the Town Hall, in the library, and along the street in Orangeville.

June 1 to 3, Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival.

Join Us for Lunch

The DAC Luncheon Series

Speakers Series Luncheons

Please note the space seats only 75 people.

Reserving a seat in advance is crucial.

\$30.00 per person - CASH ONLY

Persons with accessibility challenges can be accommodated with advance notice.

Reserve with Agnes Donaldson at
abdean5555@gmail.com or
519-939-7492 by the Friday
preceding the luncheon.

Meetings for the Winter/Spring

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Harry Posner, Poet Laureate for Dufferin County

Poetry's Relevance in the Digital Age: a vigorous defence of the importance of poetry in the age of the Internet.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Neil Orford, 2013 recipient of the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching

Following on from his success with the Digital Historian Project at the DCMA, Neil has begun an exploration of the flu pandemic of 1919. Join us to learn about where it began, how long it lasted, why it was called the Spanish Flu, its impact on Canada and the rest of the world in the early 1920's.

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Michele Harris, CEO of Headwaters Tourism

Headwaters Tourism is re-imagining tourism marketing and is gaining provincial and national recognition for innovatively highlighting the "faces and finds" of Headwaters through compelling and engaging storytelling. It may not be traditional tourism promotion, but it most certainly is *Headwaters: Where Ontario Gets Real!*

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Cecily Ross, Author, *The Lost Diaries of Susannah Moodie*

An award-winning writer and editor who has worked at The Globe and Mail, Maclean's, Harrowsmith, The Cobourg Star and The Peterborough Examiner. Her writing has appeared in these publications as well as in The New York Times, Chatelaine, ON Nature and Zoomer Magazine. She lives in Creemore, Ontario.

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Darlene Hassall, Artist

"Paws with Love to Share" is the motto of the Therapeutic Paws of Canada (TPOC), a registered non-profit Canadian charity that certifies dogs, cats and their humans to participate in various programs offered throughout the community.

Come out and hear about all the programs they conduct, what it takes to get certified...for TPOC....

Meet Mackenzie King, Mac the certified therapy dog, and his human chauffeur, Darlene Hassall who will share some of their wonderful stories with you.

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