

ArtsLetter

Summer 2018

Dufferin Arts Council



Sharing Stories with the
Intergenerational Writing Program

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As one year comes to an end ...

a new one begins, with new challenges and new opportunities. My one hope for DAC for the 2018/19 season is that some of our members will commit to the opportunities that await them to create a truly memorable DAC year!

You can choose to become vice-president and be the person who ensures the future of our organization and the good that it does. Or, you can choose to become one of team of people who make our lunches the highlight of the month that members have come to expect. This team consists of a reservation taker, a money receiver, a speaker contact, a speaker host and a ticket seller our regular wine auction. A volunteer co-ordinator would certainly help to make our special events run more smoothly. All these positions must be filled to ensure the success of the 2018/19 season, so step right up!

You will read more about the Arts and Culture weekend being planned for 28 to 30 September in this newsletter. We have received special funding from the county to support this three-day event and volunteers will be essential to ensure the celebration is a success. We'll need volunteers to help with our annual general meeting as well. Our various fund-raising initiatives throughout the year will be much more successful if everyone commits to our fundraising initiatives.

Another place we are going to be asking for your help is in recruiting new members. A membership form is included with this mailing, and you can find it on our website as well. Our membership numbers are barely breaking even right now as the number of new members only matched the number of resignations this year. And, I wish this were the only issue regarding membership. Again this year we have removed those members who have not paid their fees for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Your board of directors has worked hard this year, but we can only do so much. We need your support to continue the significant contributions we make especially to arts education programs and events throughout the county. Remember, we all have a part to play!

Shelagh



On the Cover

Capturing Connection
The Intergenerational Writing Project in action
at Island Lake Public School.

Photo Credit to Felicite Morgan

ArtsLetter

Dufferin Arts Council

Summer 2018

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Orangeville, ON
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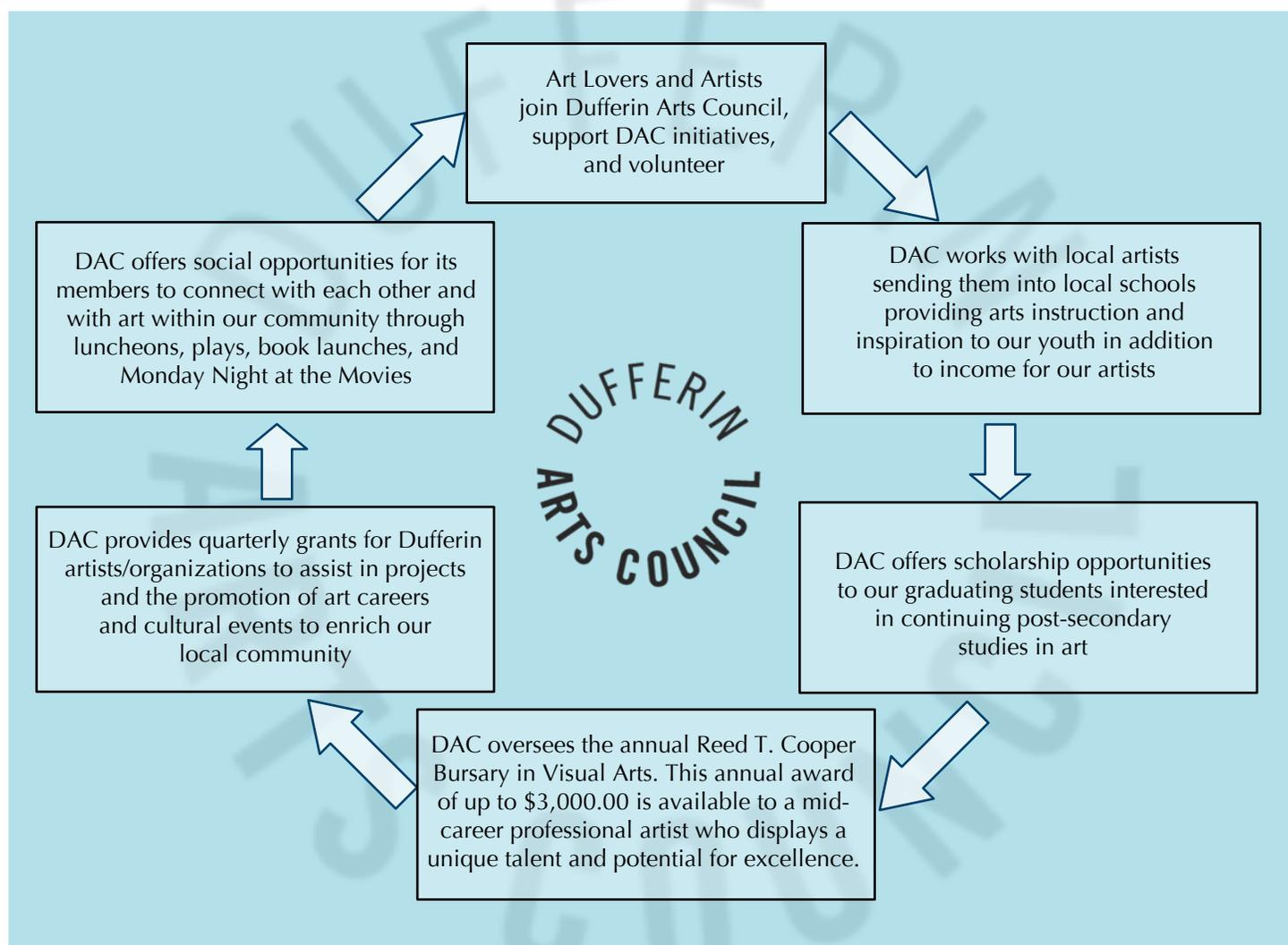
Dufferin Arts Council, Box 21052, 150 First Street, Orangeville, Ontario, L9W 4S7.

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 membership@dufferinartscouncil.com.

The Circle of Dufferin Arts Council

We frequently hear people asking "What is DAC?" or "What does Dufferin Arts Council do?" In all honesty, DAC has done so much for Dufferin County artists (and lovers of art) over the years that it's difficult to sum up the definition in a single sentence. Sometimes an image truly is worth one thousand words.



It's time to renew your membership!

The DAC Year runs from July to June.

Now payable by e-transfer, membership fees and donations can be emailed to membership@dufferinartscouncil.com. Cheques are also still accepted.

Our future depends on your support. Consider a donation in support of our scholarships, the Reed T. Cooper Bursary, the community grants program, or the Artists in the Schools program when you renew your membership. Thank you!



Day of the Poets

The Day of the Poets took place on Saturday, May 5th, 2018 from 11-4 in downtown Orangeville, as a legacy project organized by Dufferin County Poet Laureate Harry Posner. Twenty local and regional poets were invited to read their poetry at 4 different venues in the downtown, including outside Town Hall, the Library on Mill St., outside Maggiolly's Art Supplies, and inside Dragonfly Arts. Broadsheet poems were printed and placed in store windows along Broadway so that passersby could do a poetry walk. As well, poets gave out poetry chapbooks, individual poems on postcards, and presented their poetry in the Farmers Market.

The idea was to saturate the air with poetry, to weave it into the fabric of the downtown on a busy Saturday when the Farmers Market would be outdoors for the first time in the season, when lots of energy would be in the air.

By all accounts the festival, contained and small budgeted as it was, was a great success. With 20 poets, the town crier, and 8 volunteers on hand all contributing their talents and efforts, Orangeville citizens and visitors were treated to a wonderful day of verse and poetic imagery. Poetry was spotlighted, which is one of the mandates of the Poet Laureate position. Attendance was good, given that this was the first festival of its kind.

Budget was small to start with (estimated at 1880.00), but quickly grew to approximately 3400.00 as the number of invited poets increased. However, with the help of four major sponsors, including the Town, BIA, DAC, and the League of Canadian Poets, along with many local individual and business sponsorships, all expenses were covered, and the budget was balanced at the end of the festival.

The festival was able to garner media coverage, both before and after the event. It was covered by In The Hills magazine, Orangeville Banner, Orangeville Citizen, and on MyFM radio. Posters and social media coverage also served to bring people out.

Making this an annual festival on the cultural calendar of the Town of Orangeville is to be seriously considered. Mr. Posner is totally on board with working with the Town and others towards a festival that will grow and develop over the years, just as the jazz festival has done, making the Town a mecca for culture lovers, and bringing tourists and new business to the downtown core.

Harry Posner
(photos supplied by H. Posner)

Sharing



The dining room was packed at Mrs. Mitchel's Restaurant on May 27 as the Dufferin Circle of Storytellers exercised a new storytelling format, "Stories at High Tea"! The event spanned three hours with two groups of tellers interspersed with food and music.

The food provided by Mrs. Mitchel's, naturally, was an event in an of itself with two-bite sandwiches ranging from cucumber to smoked meat, a myriad of teas, and a dessert platter with sweet and savoury treats to anyone's taste! The staff was efficient and friendly given the extreme attendance and kept everyone well in hand throughout the experience.

The interval music was provided by teller/musician Jennifer Vereshack in the form of acoustic guitar that serenaded the audience without fault.

And the stories! Six of them! Dick Byford, began by using a First Nations creation story to outline the use of the art of

storytelling as a means of gaining world-wide perspective and understanding of our fellow man.

He was followed by Carol Cholvat who had the audience in tears as she told the painfully true story of how a fifteen-minute walk through the woods with her grandchildren became an eye-opening, hour-long experience filled with child-like wonder, aged cynicism, and unconditional love.

Nancy Woods, founder and matriarch of the group, rounded out the group with another heartwarming original tale, outlining her struggle in joining a French university choir and the lessons she learned from it when studying abroad.

After an intermission for the dessert to replace the sandwiches, Marian Gallagher recited Alfred Noyes' epic "The Highwayman". With the timing of a storytelling veteran, each hoofbeat echoed through the room.

She was followed by Mackenzie Seymour, a novice in the ranks, who told his first original story to the public; a contemporary piece focusing on overcoming grief, which he suffused with contemporary twentieth-century music to general approval.

Marie Swidersky wrapped it all up with a two original songs linking the themes of spring and faith that were enjoyably interactive.

The event was one of the most successful in the Storyteller's history and it is largely in thanks to the membership of DAC for their support in spreading the word so well!

The Circle is considering all feedback from the event and will decide from there how to proceed with regards to making this a more frequent function.

Mackenzie Seymour

Wise Ones...

The Intergenerational Writing Program



In early 2018 the Dufferin Arts Council received a grant of \$25,000 from the New Horizons for Seniors program from the federal Employment and Social Development Canada department. The program is to encourage seniors to share their knowledge, skills and expertise to benefit others and will run from 1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019.

The purpose of this program is to bring together members of the Dufferin Arts Council, community seniors and students from grades 7 and 8 in Dufferin schools to share cultural and personal stories of both past and present. With this grant we hope

to be able to involve Indigenous seniors as well as people newly settled in Canada.

The first session began in early March at Island Lake Public School with about 20 seniors willing to share their life stories with 55 students. Subsequent sessions were small group sessions consisting of three or four students interviewing their Wise One.

Over an eight-week period the students concentrated on gathering the information and the photographs they would compile into memory album. As they worked with their Wise One, the

students developed a wide range of skills. Interviewing, sharing ideas, creating an outline, then writing the text, editing and polishing it all went into the production of their Wise One's memory album.

The participants developed very strong relationships with one another and an appreciation of the life experiences that have brought them together. The responses have all been positive and many students and seniors seem to more than willing to participate all over again.



"What a joy this experience has been, and what a gift to be listened to as I shared my life. I feel I have been given a gift from Mackenzie, Maya and Kasandra. They were such good listeners and writers. Thank you for all you did to make Intergenerational Program to be born."

Penny Lewis

The Students' Side

The joys of learning when you're wrong

Most kids have their opinions on older people and ours were far from correct. Before we got to know our Wise Ones, all the grade eights thought they would be grouchy and boring. Little did we know that each and every one of the people we were about to meet had amazing stories to tell and great personalities.

"Wise Ones" was a project the grade eight students at Island Lake were assigned. Each student was given a partner or two, plus a retired pal. We had six weeks to learn about their lives, starting from their childhood. Every session was more interesting than the last. We talked about teen years, their work lives, retirement and ending with all the important people in the person's life.

In the few weeks we got to know our Wise Ones many bonds were made. Not only between the Wise Ones and the kids, but also with our fellow classmates. Not one person walked away from a session without learning something new about someone else.

After each session, students would get down to work writing the stories that their Wise Ones had told them. Each week our Wise Ones brought in pictures that coincided with the topic of discussion. By the end, the outcome was beautiful. Nobody could've imagined a better way to finish.

When the final session was over, we were all scurrying to complete our books. Nobody wanted a story to go unfinished. Luckily each of the "story tellers" was able to take home a completed masterpiece.

Handing the memoirs to the Wise Ones at the party was by far the best part of the entire project. We all knew our hard work paid off when we saw their tears of joy and happiness.

All of us students had different expectations about how Wise Ones would go. I think it's safe to say that the lessons we learned and the moments we shared will stick with all of us forever.

Let us tell you something, we were wrong about labelling seniors grouchy and boring, Wise Ones are amazing!

The Grade 8 Class of Island Lake Public School

Looking for Wise Ones!

Join us this autumn and share YOUR story

We need interested adults who are willing to share their culture and life experiences over a two-month period of weekly meetings.

Time allocation: eight sessions including, introductory meeting of students and seniors, 6 active sessions, and a celebration party. The program takes place over a 6-8 week period. Each session goes for 60 to 90 minutes. Between sessions the teacher will supervise the writing and editing of interview material.

Program culmination is a party, a celebration of the work where each senior is presented a memory book of their life. The final book is a good quality folder with many scanned photographs to supplement the text.

For more information contact Donna Henderson, 519-942-0917





Artists in the Schools

Thank you DAC for your support for this program. It really is a wonderful vehicle for students in Dufferin schools to get professional artists' ideas for expression.

During the school year from September 2017 to June 2018 the program put 14 artists into the schools in Dufferin County. That works out to be approximately 111 hours of art instruction throughout the school year.

In August 2017, I was contacted to ensure to secure both artists and budget for a particular school for June 2018 to supply the allotted budget for a Wellness Day. This is a prime example of using the program to maximize its impact.

The results are impressive. If every artist sees approximately 60 students during their school visits, that means that DAC has supported high quality arts instruction to approximately 2,220 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Dufferin County in the 2017/18 school year!

The topics offered are art therapy, visual art including painting etc., clay work, print making, dance, yoga, magic, drama, drumming, and percussion. From any of the available artists there are many curriculum interests that can be addressed in the classroom. Class teachers and artists collaborate to come

up with custom lessons suitable for both the age group and the curriculum.

Over the year there were DAC art classes in two high schools and 12 elementary schools in Dufferin County. There are still approximately seven school sites in addition to one high school which could also be visited. Schools need to call us!

Your donations help make this program available for each school year. DAC members should be very proud of this amazing program with its engagement of artists for the students in Dufferin.

Donna Henderson
Artists in the Schools Coordinator



It's Not too Late!

Attention all grade 12 graduates! The deadline for applying for a DAC Anne Laurier Scholarship is July 30th!

Each year the Dufferin Art Council (DAC) awards three, one-time scholarships, each worth \$2,500.00, to students of exceptional talent in the field of the arts—the visual, literary or performing arts.

These awards are available to students who are **residents** of Dufferin County, graduating high school this year and preparing to attend an accredited university or college.

DAC acknowledges that all the categories of the arts include a wide range of programs, please go to our website to see

the full range of programs considered. Successful applicants will be notified the final Friday in August, and their names and photos will be published in our Fall ArtsLetter.

Please let any high school graduates of your acquaintance know about these wonderful scholarships!

Sara May and her plans with Falcon Jane...



Photo supplied by Sara May

A DAC Community Grant helped fund the release of "Go With The Flow", the first single from Falcon Jane's upcoming album, *Feelin' Freaky*.

"Go With The Flow" was released on February 15, 2018, and the music video premiered on a music website out of Glasgow, Scotland, called *GoldFlakePaint*

(www.goldflakepaint.co.uk).

"Go With The Flow" also played on CBC Radio 1 on Saturday, February 17, during Adam Carter's new releases segment on *Big City Small World*. (www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/3-new-ontario-songs-1.4537213)

Since then, the song has been featured on multiple websites, blogs and playlists,

including: *Music and Other Drugs*, *IX Daily*, *The Grey Estates*, *Canadian Beats*, *Route 26*, and Spotify's *Fresh Finds Playlist*.

Falcon Jane will be playing at the Rainbow Trout Music Festival in Manitoba, August 17 to 19.

Thanks again for your support!

Upcoming Events

For further details go to the events listings at www.headwaters.ca



July 20 - 22



August 23, 2018

BENEATH & BEYOND
DUFFERIN COUNTY
SOIRÉE
AUGUST 23RD 7:00 - 9:00 PM
DRAGONFLY ARTS ON BROADWAY

Darlene Hassall
Come join us for an evening of arts and celebration! Darlene will be showcasing the works she has done that are part of her Beneath & Beyond Project. These are her wonky buildings and people...but of Dufferin County. Come see who has 'showed up' and what landmarks you recognize.

See you at Dragonfly!
New to the store?
Just look for the moose standing out front and come in.
By the way, his name is Orville...

DRAGONFLY ARTS
189 Broadway, Orangeville
519 941 5249

Darlene Hassall - Recipient
2018 Dufferin Arts Council/ Reed T. Cooper Bursary

Authors in the hills of Mulmur

Sunday, August 19th, 1 - 4pm
Brian Goldman, Scott Thornley, & Joanna Goodman

September 28, 29, 30, 2018

Celebrate
the
Arts

The Secret Garden
Opens July 27, 2018

Riverbend Artists
of Grand Valley
August 4, 2018

July 21, 2018
Alton Mill
ARTS CENTRE
WINE & FOOD
FESTIVAL

August 8 - 11, 2018



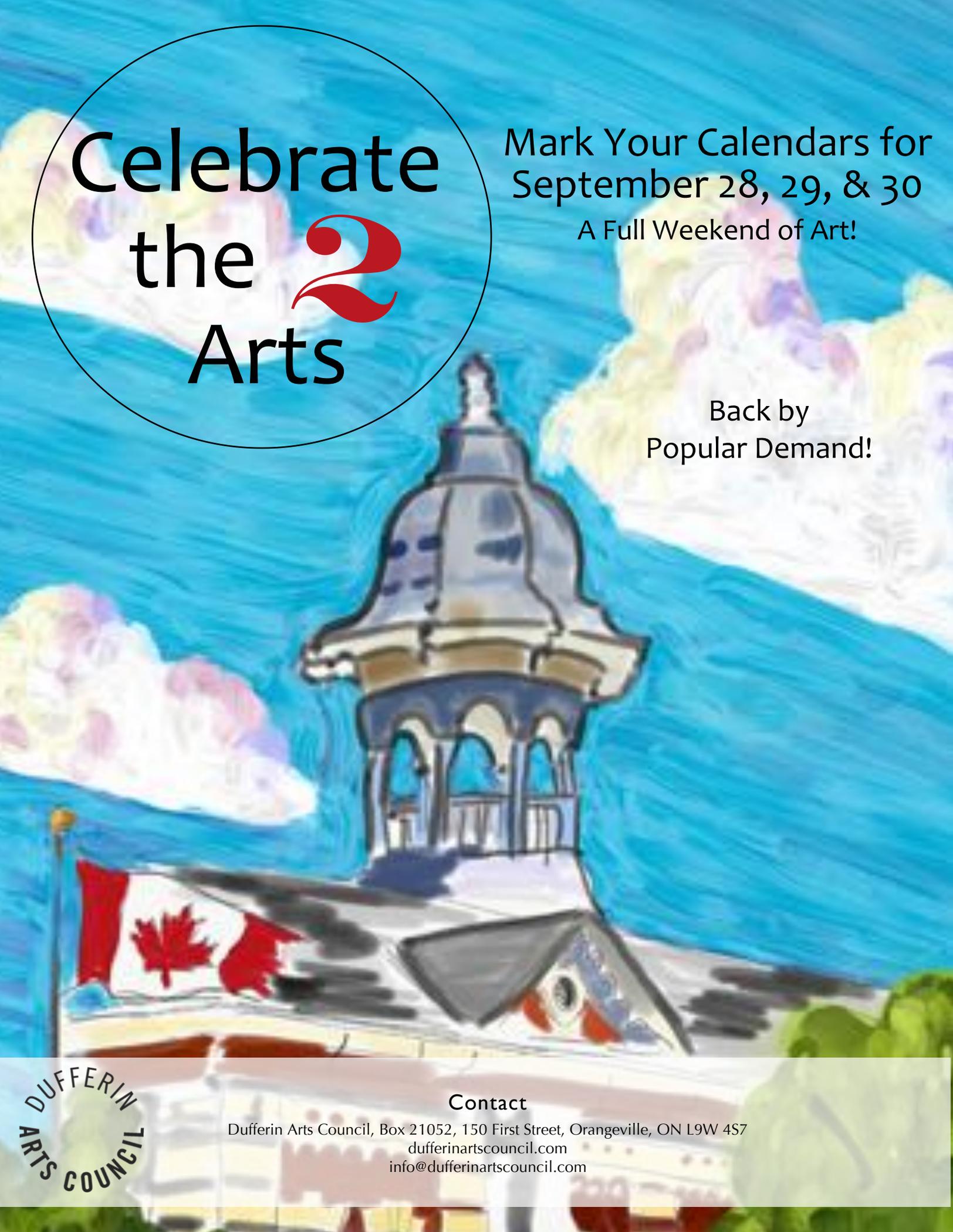
August 18, 2018

CARIBFEST

August 10 - 12, 2018



FRINGEnorth(519)
The BEST of the Toronto FRINGE
2 SHOWS, 2 VENUES
2 BE EXPERIENCED
STAY TUNED!
July 26th at EVE (late night)
July 27th at Sautyres (afternoon/evening)



Celebrate the Arts

Mark Your Calendars for
September 28, 29, & 30
A Full Weekend of Art!

Back by
Popular Demand!



Contact

Dufferin Arts Council, Box 21052, 150 First Street, Orangeville, ON L9W 4S7
dufferinartscouncil.com
info@dufferinartscouncil.com

Reed T. Cooper Bursary News

Congratulations to Roslyn Levin for her recent occupation of the west window in Dragonfly Arts on Broadway! Roselyn was the winner of the Reed T. Cooper Bursary in 2010.

Roslyn used her bursary win in helping to create her book, *The Brush Dances*, which is being published this autumn! With testimonial from Nancy Jacobi (proprietor, The Japanese Paper Place, Toronto) the book promises to be something special! Be sure to congratulate Roslyn if you happen to see her about town!



REMINDERS!

In the hot summer sun it is easy to forget that September 30th is not too far away! Calling all artists! The Reed T. Cooper Bursary deadline is September 30th. This bursary of up to \$3,000.00 is available to all professional artists, who have been members of Dufferin Arts Council for at least two years. Please see the website, www.dufferinartscouncil.com for more details.

AGM! Please mark your calendars for September 16th, 2pm for the Dufferin Arts Council Annual General Meeting. Location TBD.

Thank you to



&



Monday Night at the Movies made a donation to DAC for the Artists in the Schools for \$1500 as a donation from the group after the sponsored showing of *Loving Vincent* on February 12. There also was \$150 from Orangeville Music Theatre for the presentation of the special play *My Fair Lady*.

Monday Night at the Movies (MNM) is a non-profit organization running in partnership with the Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group. Founded in 1989, Film Circuit is TIFF's successful film outreach programme, bringing the best of Canadian and international films and artists to communities across the country. The Film

Circuit now has more than 180 groups in over 160 communities across Canada and Orangeville, Ontario is one of them.

MNM was launched in 1997 and is run by a dedicated committee of volunteers. We've screened over 200 films at the Orangeville Galaxy Theatres, donated the DVDs to local libraries, hosted fundraisers

and provided Commencement Awards at three local secondary schools.

The MNM Season runs from September through May every year, please go to their website www.mondaynightmovies.ca for more information.

Orangeville Music Theatre (OMT) is a not-for-profit community theatre group based in Orangeville. Founded in 1979, OMT was originally known as the St. Mark's Choral Society and performed one show a year.

OMT is currently celebrating its 40th year and could not be more thrilled with how

much the company has grown. The group now mounts four shows per year and has a full Youth Troupe program.

Orangeville Music Theatre is an ACT-CO member and have received various nominations and awards at the annual ACT-CO Festival for the work on their productions. OMT is a volunteer

organization and are truly thankful for all the community support we receive from our amazing sponsors, not to mention the parents, family and friends that offer their helping hands.