



ArtsLetter



THE DUFFERIN ARTS COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 2023

Long Live the Luncheons!

Cover Image: Deb Menkin chatting to DAC members at the November 7th Luncheon about her artistic process.

The October 3rd lunch at Mrs. Mitchell's featured Signe Ball. As you surely know, Signe is the publisher and editor of our beloved *In The Hills* magazine. Her presentation: A History of the Arts in Headwaters was a hit for all who attended. There were many ooh's and ah's as we learned about the rich depths of the local arts community both currently and in the past. A myriad of art in varying disciplines has been produced here.

Highlights. There are some well-known names who have lived here; notably authors Robertson Davies and Farley Mowat, as well as our own *In The Hills* columnist, Dan Needles. Dan got his start as the editor of the *Shelburne Free Press and Economist*, where he wrote a column called *Letter from Wingfield Farm*, a column which turned into his hugely popular series of Wingfield Plays – all set in Persephone Township (the fictional name for Mono).

Fans of Monday Night at the Movies were particularly interested to hear about the film directors who have lived here, including **David Cronenberg**, (who had a weekend place in Caledon) **James Cameron**, he named one of the protagonists in the film *Titanic* Caledon Hockley, (of note is the Cameron family farmstead is now in the path of proposed blasting quarry near Caledon village), and **Sean Cisterna**, a Theatre Orangeville alumnus. Sean's recent film *The Long Rider* was shown this past April by Monday Night at the Movies. The film chronicles the story of former Caledon resident **Filipe Leite**, who travelled 25,000 kilometres on horseback from Calgary to his family's home in Brazil. **Norman Jewison** (*Moonstruck*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *In the Heat of the Night*, etc.), still lives in the area and is the founder of the Canadian Film Centre.

Some of the famous musicians who have made their home in Dufferin are Jim Cuddy, Dinah Christie, pianist Gene di Novi and the late Shirley Eikhard.

Please note our new website address, www.dufferinarts.com

Membership forms are online and membership fees can be paid with e-transfer to inbox@dufferinarts.com

Reed T. Cooper Bursary News

It is with great pleasure that the Dufferin Arts Council has awarded two Reed T. Cooper bursaries to local artists Emily Escoffery of Mono and Deb Menken also of Mono. Emily is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Ottawa and her current work is abstract visual art. This award will support her final thesis. Deb is heading off to the East Coast for a specialized artist retreat with access to stunning scenery to help develop her painting skills in landscape and abstract.

“It’s always such an honour to be able to support our local, and already very talented artists” said DAC Chair Warren Maycock. “What amazing homegrown talent we have here in Dufferin. It was a delight to meet both of these women.”

As an added bonus, Deb Menken happily agreed to substitute for us at the last minute for the Nov. 7th Luncheon when our scheduled guest, Robert Chisholm, took suddenly ill. Deb wowed the crowd with recent examples of her stunning work as she described her painting process. Thank you so much Deb for stepping in and get well soon Robert, we are looking forward to your presentation in the future!



Deb Menkin, Warren Maycock and Emily Escoffery

The Annual General Meeting

On September 25th at the Centre on Hansen Boulevard, DAC held its Annual General Meeting. President Warren Maycock welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting, providing a recap of events of the past year. Members enjoyed catching up with each other, and were treated to a slide-show of creative artwork by the recent winners of the Anne Laurier Scholarship. Beyond meeting up with friends, attendees were invited to participate in contributing ideas and answers to a variety of questions that were posted around the room. The feedback will prove useful to our (still fairly) new Executive Director

Shirley Boxem, as well as provide some fresh ideas for new committees to be formed.

Election of Board was moved by Brenda Stephen, seconded by Sharon Martin, that the following people be elected to the Board of Directors of the Dufferin Arts Council: this motion was Carried.



President: Warren Maycock
Vice President: Catherine Carpenko
Treasurer:
Secretary:
Director at Large: David Nairn
Director at Large: Michele Maycock
Website/Social Media: Felicite Morgan

Hands Up! We'd Love to Hear From You.



The Board report leads us to our next bit of business. As DAC moves forward with building capacity back into its structure and programs, we will be looking for enthusiastic, hands-on-deck people. Skill sets are needed for any

board, and DAC is no exception. Please contact Chair Warren Maycock or Vice-Chair Catherine Carpenko if you would like to discuss becoming a board member.

We are also looking for volunteers for two committees: **Communications** and **Events**.

Communications: Connecting with our membership and the public happens in many ways. There is lots of opportunity to hone and share our messages. How to? What format? How to support our community? More heads are better than one, so consider joining the conversation.

Events: DAC has done many events in years past and in a variety of formats. What makes sense now and what is feasible given our available volunteers? The possibilities are many and it all starts with a conversation.

Please contact us at inbox@dufferinarts.com if you're thinking of volunteering, or see our volunteer postings in <https://www.volunteerdufferin.ca> Meeting frequency is at a maximum monthly, or ad hoc.

Update From Elizabeth Bryan

I would first like to thank the DAC for honouring me with the Linda Jenetti Travel Award. I will be writing a more thorough account of my trip for an upcoming newsletter, but I had such an amazing experience that I couldn't wait to share a bit about it with you now.

What can you say about Italy? It was hot, smelly and crowded but also gorgeous, full of gourmet meals and warm, passionate people. The experience was so worth it. I toured museums, saw

extraordinary works of art, fabulous textiles and took 2 workshops.

The jacquard weaving workshop was the focus of my time in Florence. There were both delights and challenges at the workshop which combined to create the extraordinary experience I was fortunate enough to have.

(Elizabeth will tell us more in our next ArtsLetter issue.)



Comments on this issue are welcome at inbox@dufferinarts.com.
If you'd like to submit articles for the next issue, we'd love to have them!