

ArtsLetter

Summer 2019

Dufferin Arts Council

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What You Missed...



On April 2nd, to a sold-out Luncheon, Mag Ruffman shared with us some of the Creativity Tools she has been engaging with or considering as she contemplated her 62nd year of life. She entitled the presentation "Letting Go". Mag has had a varied and exciting career, some of it as the "Tool Girl", and is at a stage in her life where the subject of What's Next was staring her in the face. Her advice to those of us in a similar situation is: avoid the "UnTools" (namely: smartphone use, smoking, eating, drinking, shopping, social media, compulsive reading, TV) and consider some or many of the 38 Creativity Tools she presented.

On May 7th, to another full house, David Nairn introduced us to a wonderful "Dream Project" that will be conducted on the Waterfront Stage in Island Lake from August 22-25, 2019. The Dream at Island Lake is a presentation of William Shakespeare's enchanting comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in a collaboration by Theatre Orangeville, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Creative Partners on Stage and the Sweet Adelines; Orangeville Chorus. David also presented a video of the unique and wonderful performing arts work that Theatre Orangeville does with young people on the autistic spectrum as well as with Community Living Dufferin. The performing arts elicits a new and joyful chapter in their lives and David's presentation made us all proud to live in the Headwaters area.

On June 4th we learned about Canada's amazing DAREarts program. Marilyn Field was DAREarts' Founder and Executive Director for 23 years. She stepped down from these positions in 2017. This year, 2019, Marilyn described exciting new projects she has engaged with in Scotland and the Czech Republic. Both countries have asked her to counsel them in developing the kind of arts-based curricula that has helped 200,000 at-risk children in Canada, in urban cities and Arctic and Indigenous lands, become leaders in their own communities. As Marilyn described some of the educational methods the program has developed, we were very moved by how powerful the DAREarts values (Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence) appeared to be in developing Leaders among DAREarts' at-risk students.

Looking for Scholarship Applicants!

Do you know a Dufferin County student graduating high school and going on to continue their studies in the arts at college or university? We have three \$2,500 scholarships looking for applicants. The student must live in Dufferin County and be going on to study in Music, the Performing Arts, Literature, Visual Arts, Media, Design, or Film at an accredited post-secondary institution. The deadline to apply is July 30, 2019. Pass this information along, and go to our website to download the scholarship application forms.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!



On the Cover

Caps

Photo Credit: Jim Waddington, J.A.W. Photography

ArtsLetter

Dufferin Arts Council

Summer 2019

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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.

Reed T. Cooper

Bursary News

The Winner of the 2018 Reed T. Cooper Bursary is none other than local Mono resident, Anthony Jenkins.

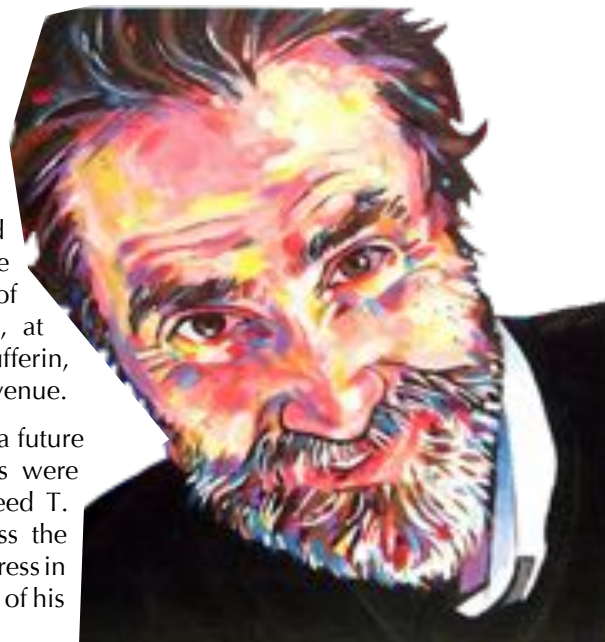
A long-time cartoonist for The Globe & Mail, Anthony's work has also appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Maclean's Magazine, The South China Morning Post, The Melbourne Age, The Straits Times in Malaysia, in the Lonely Planet line of travel guides, and on the covers of many books for various publishers.

Anthony applied for the Cooper Bursary in order to broaden his range and artistic approach to portraits. He will be creating a body of work consisting of twenty 12" by 12" portraits over a range of five different styles: lino cut, acrylic painting, stylized (using art resin), digital, and encaustic. There will be four portraits to each style.

The subjects of the portraits would be DAC members, both past and present, chosen with the help of the current board. The finished body of work would be locally displayed, at either the Museum of Dufferin, or potentially another appropriate venue.

Anthony proposed to give a talk at a future DAC luncheon of how the works were created in each style, how the Reed T. Cooper Bursary helped him access the resources he needed in order to progress in his skills, and to present the subjects of his portraits, their finished pieces.

Anthony is also keen to share his career with the local high school population, as Career Days tend to see the more traditional professions (doctor, lawyer, carpenter, engineering) showcased for students. He



remembers his own youthful self having art questions that went unvoiced. "If I can reach one kid like I was, encourage one aspiring artist, I'd feel that I was successful."

SAVE THE DATES!

Please mark you calendars for Sunday, September 15, 2019, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. **The Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Hockley Historic Community Hall, 994174 Mono/Adjala Townline. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Luncheon Dates for the 2019/2020 year will continue to be the first Tuesday of the month. October 1st, November 5th, April 7th, May 5th and June 2nd. Once again the "winter months" are being excused due to poor travel conditions. The venue will

continue to be the wonderful Mrs. Mitchell's Restaurant in Violet Hill. 887395 Mono/Mulmur Townline (Hwy 89). Lunch service begins at noon, but get there early for a good spot and some camaraderie!

The Need for New Members and for Volunteers

The Dufferin Arts Council is in the enviable position of having some well-managed fiscal assets, increased by the generous donations from its membership over the years and earning decent annual interest. The irony is, despite the well managed funds, DAC has too few volunteers to actually run all the programs which allocate said funds. Without more volunteers to help the Board assess the requests, it becomes increasingly difficult for the Board to allocate money into the community.

The simple truth is that while DAC is fiscally stable, in terms of people-power, the organization flirts with a human-resource type of bankruptcy. Without more people to commit to the small jobs of DAC, the more heavily taxed are the volunteer members of the Board and

existing Committee Co-ordinators.

Of course, many long-time members of DAC have *already been there and done that*. They have already volunteered their time over the years, taken on roles and then retired from them having done their share. Many members are completely justified in thinking that "I've done my part, it's time to pass the torch."

The problem remains that DAC, like many service organizations today, is finding it difficult to source the people to pass the torch to. The threatened cancellation of the Shelburne Fiddle Parade in January 2018 was one such example.

Traditionally hosted by the local Kinsmen Club, the future of the parade was placed in question when the Club no longer had the

volunteer base to run the event. The Rotary Club of Shelburne stepped in to support, and the parade was saved. It took the reality of cancellation to stimulate the necessary resources in order to keep this amazing local community event going.

So how does DAC move forward? Perhaps the first thing to do is to get the word out. **Share** with friends and neighbours the incredible, good work that DAC does; offering enriched Arts Curriculum to all the resident youth of Dufferin County. **Encourage** the people you know to **become members**, and especially let parents of school-aged children know. DAC needs more members from this demographic in particular as they (and their children) have the most to lose if the Dufferin Arts Council were to close its doors.

Help us to **recruit**. We can build ourselves back up and show all of Ontario that some communities will not let Provincial cuts keep their communities from flourishing with the arts and a balanced education.



Artists In The Schools

With the recent funding cuts to education, the Artists in the Schools (AITS) program is more important than ever. Available to all Dufferin County Schools, the teachers can select workshops taught by professional artists in the visual arts, music, dance, and drama.

During the school year from September 2018 to June 2019 the program put 17 artist visits into the schools in Dufferin County. If each artist worked with roughly 60 students in a half day, this means that DAC has offered enriched arts programming to approximately 1,020 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Dufferin County this past school year.

The topics covered were: painting, clay work, dance, yoga, writing, and drumming.

From any of the available artists there are many curriculum interests that can be addressed in the classroom. Classroom teachers and artists collaborate to come up with lessons suitable for the site.

Over the year there were DAC art classes in one high school and eight elementary schools in Dufferin County. There are still approximately ten school sites and three high schools which could also be visited.

Your donations to Artists In The Schools help make this program available for the school year. DAC members should be proud of this amazing program employing the talents of local artists to enrich the education of the students in Dufferin.

Donna Henderson

Artists in the Schools Coordinator

Looking for 2019 Cooper Bursary Applicants!

Each year the Reed T. Cooper Bursary is awarded to a mid-career visual artist. This bursary was set up by the Cooper family in honour of Reed's own artistic work. Reed became active on the local art scene after retiring to Mulmur. This annual award, of up to \$ 3,000 is given to a local artist who shows promise for excellence in pursuing his or her artistic career. The Dufferin Arts

Council administers this award and we encourage all Dufferin County professional visual artists to apply. Former recipients of this award are also able to apply again after five years. Eligible media include, but may not be limited to: painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, fibre arts, glass, wood, photography, digital/computer-generated art.

Deadline to receive applications is September 30th. Guidelines and application form are available on the DAC website: www.dufferinartscouncil.com, go to Programs .

If you know of an artist who might be eligible, please pass along this announcement.

TIME TO RENEW FOR 2019 - 2020

Please fill out the application form and mail it in, OR use your phone to snap a photo of it and email it to: membership@dufferinartscouncil.com. Then e-transfer your fees to the same address.



Contact

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