



ArtsLetter

THE DUFFERIN ARTS COUNCIL - AUTUMN 2020

World Art Day



On April 15, 2020, the United Nations celebrated the very first World Art Day. It is difficult to determine whether it's ironic or prophetic that this day, the first day where we celebrate the Arts the world over, comes in the middle of the biggest health crisis in living memory. During those early days of lock-down, what did the vast majority of humanity do to pass the time? We were either creating art or absorbing art. We watched movies, we read books, we listened to online concerts and our radios (unless we were baking, which is, arguably, another form of art).

The irony is that the extensive government cuts to the Arts have come at the very time where humanity has needed the arts. We needed art every bit as much as we've needed good healthcare. Where would our collective mental health be without the ability to escape into a good book? To watch films on television? To take advantage of the concerts and plays streamed online by the myriads of festival organizations and artists?

Back in 1918, with the start of the international flu pandemic, there weren't even radio broadcasts to entertain the masses. October 1920 marked the first entertainment broadcast by radio in the United States. A gramophone,

newspapers, magazines and books were the sum of entertainment as public health shut down theatres and cinemas in order to control the pandemic's spread.

Dufferin County's Covid numbers have been lower than most, for which we can all be grateful. That is largely due to the fact that our population is taking the hard steps of maintaining physical distance, and of not gathering in large numbers.

The knock-on effect of these efforts does mean that some of the DAC sponsored events are on hold; most particularly the DAC Luncheons and the Artists-In-The-Schools program. Despite this, DAC is still moving along. We continue to assist where we can, most notably with the scholarships for grade twelve graduates, the Reed Cooper Bursary, and Community Grants. Therefore we urge you to renew your DAC membership for this year as your purchase of a DAC membership facilitates our ability to continue helping local artists in the midst of these challenging times.

Many thanks, and let us all hope that World Art Day 2021 will coincide with the release of a vaccine that will free all of us to enjoy the arts in person and in a shared space.

Supporting Local

With the holiday season around the corner, The DAC volunteers would like to encourage all our members to shop local. We are very blessed in this community to have a wide range of businesses which offer creative art of all kinds. All of which make excellent gifts of love and appreciation. Our local galleries hold a wide

range of hand-made items, from paintings to jewelry. Our local food artisans can supply you with cheeses, chocolates, baked goods and jams; soaps, skin care, candles, the list goes on, and never underestimate the power of a good book or a puzzle!

Thanks to Chanda Leahy

Prior to the COVID shut-down, the last DAC Luncheon saw us enjoying the dancing and fiddle talents of Chanda Leahy and two of her daughters. While Chanda gave us an oral presentation and slide show of Step Dancing, her girls played fiddle and demonstrated some of the dances to everyone's delight.

Step Dancing is uniquely Canadian. It is a mash-up of dancing styles from Irish, Scottish and French backgrounds. These styles were blended together by the men working in the logging camps of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An interesting trivia point - the men were encouraged to settle disputes with their dancing rather than their fists! Long Canadian winters cooped up in those camps must have provided a lot of scope for argument!

It was an absolute pleasure to listen and watch this lunch presentation. Thank you so much Chanda!

We all miss Heidi and her team at Mrs. Mitchell's. The pandemic has been particularly harsh on the restaurant industry. One day soon we hope that we can all get back to our official Dufferin Arts Luncheons. In the meantime please know that Michele Maycock, as Speaker and Luncheon Coordinator for DAC, has a list of speakers to approach as soon as we are all allowed to get together once more. In the meantime, we encourage all members to order take-aways, or if they are comfortable to do so, dine in person at our local establishments.

The Ann Laurier Scholarship Winners 2020

As much as everything has shut down of late, our young people keep pressing ahead. The two recipients of 2020 presented extremely strong applications and it's with great pleasure that we extend these scholarships to Katie Kanters (ODSS) and Katie Waters (CDDHS).

Katie Kanters graduated from Orangeville District Secondary School and has been accepted to Queens University within the Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Education program.

Amongst Katie's many activities and volunteer roles she has recently been awarded the Vimy

Ridge Pilgrimage Award, an honour that is awarded to only 20 students from across Canada who express dedication to their community and a passion for history. Katie is a poet and a creative writer and hopes to continue her passion and exploration of the written word. Katie hopes to pursue her career as both a writer and educator of young artists.

Our other winner, Katie Waters, graduated from Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne, and she has been accepted to York University, Bachelor of Fine Arts program in dance. Katie has been involved in various aspects of performative arts at CDDHS over her high school career, including lyrical &

contemporary dance, as well as being heavily involved in music and the concert band (playing flute). Katie has also pursued her passions within the field of visual arts, being granted an Award of Excellence from CDDHS for the highest mark in non-traditional art for her explorations in diverse art making techniques such as wood-burning, felting, paper-making and poetry.

Save the date for the AGM!

Sunday the 15 of November,
from 2pm to 3:30.

Please keep an eye on your
email for the Zoom link
and further details.

The Linda Jenetti Travel Award



Fifth Line Looking East

L. Jenetti

The Linda Jenetti Travel Award has been established by the Dufferin Arts Council to honour the artistic achievements of Linda Jenetti and her contributions to the local arts community.

Originally the deadline for application was slated to be in the spring of 2021. Given the current bans on travel and the limited in-person learning being offered by the schools themselves, this award is now "waiting in the wings". Despite the delay, we wanted to announce the award, and give our membership time to spread the news. This is an incredible opportunity for our local artists to broaden their experience and we encourage them to start compiling what they need to apply.

This will be a one-time award to be presented to a mid-career visual artist in the Headwaters region. The successful candidate must have been working professionally for a minimum of five years and display a unique talent and the potential for excellence.

Open to any professional visual artist who is resident of the Headwaters region and a

member of the Dufferin Arts Council. Eligible media include, but may not be limited to: painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, fibre arts, glass, wood, photography, digital/computer-generated art.

Eligible artists shall submit a detailed written proposal for a course or workshop being offered nationally or internationally that they intend to take. Proof of the course or workshop must accompany the application.

Time to start planning!

Beautiful Wild with Ricky Schaede

DAC would like to offer congratulations to Ricky for his successful solo show, *Beautiful Wild*, put on at Magiolly in Orangeville this August. Nominated for an Orangeville's Arts and Culture Award, it's our pleasure to let you know that Ricky won! Below are some words of appreciation from Ricky.

"I am honoured to be the recipient of the Town of Orangeville's 2020 Arts and Culture Award for *Creative Cultural Event*! I put so much work, heart, and soul into *Beautiful Wild*, and it's so amazing to be recognized like this.

Thank you to the jurors, to my nominator, and to everyone in Orangeville who supports my artistic career and makes this such an excellent place to work and live. It really is a dream come true to do the work that I do, and I feel so blessed every day to have been able to create a life like this for myself. Making art is my calling and to be able to share it with you at *Beautiful Wild* was, for me, the crescendo of 2020. This award is a beautiful cherry on top! If you missed seeing *Beautiful Wild* in person, you can still check out my new work at www.RickySchaede.com. Thank you so much !



From the Beautiful Wild Collection
Sold to Felicite Morgan

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