



# ArtsLetter

THE DUFFERIN ARTS COUNCIL - JANUARY 2024

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## What's New in 2024

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### **We are now members of the Dufferin Board of Trade!!**

That brings with it a lot of perks.

The DBOT website is distributed to about 1300 people, and that doesn't include their social media, and we can now post items there. All DAC members can sign up at [www.dufferinbot.ca](http://www.dufferinbot.ca) Not only can we post on their website and social media links, but individual members can have their own listing for free. We will also be part of their Business Directory. Check out the DBOT website for information about how we can participate in special Business Support Services, space rentals, Level Up Dufferin Training and Health benefits. We have just expanded our visibility and viability. What a great way to start the new year.

### **DAC is now a member of SPARC (Supporting Performing Arts in Rural Communities)**

SPARC has so graciously welcomed us:

“Thank you for becoming a member of SPARC and further strengthening our network of producers, presenters, creators, and community animators in rural and remote communities across Ontario, and eventually all of Canada. All SPARC members are invited to share their news, develop ideas and promote outreach via our social media accounts and newsletter. Like our public Facebook page and follow us on Instagram Check out our YouTube channel to see videos from our previous symposia, the SPARCS of Hope and Rural & Remote Arts Visibility Campaign and our Expert Chat (now called Peer to Peer Chats) series.

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Please note our new website address, [www.dufferinarts.com](http://www.dufferinarts.com)  
Membership forms are online and membership fees can be paid with e-transfer to [inbox@dufferinarts.com](mailto:inbox@dufferinarts.com)

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## What's New in 2024 (continues)

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Join us in the Town of Minto May 23-26, 2024 for our next Symposium.”

SPARC supports more than performing arts, they also manage and host community consultations in other

communities. Those consultations can be valuable feedback sessions to help us understand current needs in the whole arts community. Have a look at what SPARC is all about... <https://sparcperformingarts.com>

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## Message from the Chair

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The Dufferin Arts Council was reinvigorated in 2023. We are already feeling excited about our bright future. On behalf of the board of DAC, I would like to thank every one of you for your commitment to the arts in Dufferin. Your continued support is what we need in order to flourish. We are finally coming out

of the pandemic shadow and all the difficulties that it presented. We believe that the arts is foundational to a healthy, thriving community. The board decision to hire an ED was grounded in that reality. With our dedicated volunteers and resource support we will build positive momentum and put signature programs like Artists in the Schools back in motion. It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we usher in 2024!

*Warren*

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## Best Wishes for 2024 from the Executive Director

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My time with DAC is inspiring and enlightening. We are surrounded and enriched by arts all the time. It is communication, expression, therapy and so much more. We watch art, we wear it, we listen to it. Some of us have art on our skin or our hair. It is infused into so much of what we are and what we do.

We have initiatives planned for 2024 that will support DAC in meeting its mission “to advance and support all forms of art through education opportunities, scholarships, bursaries, arts community communications, and by partnering with individuals, organizations and institutions engaged in the arts”.

Come to a luncheon, share your thoughts, join a committee, read our newsletters and share them with friends. We need to grow and we need your support.

We are developing plans for getting artists back in schools in partnership with Streams Community HUB who currently offers after school and camp programming. It’s a partnership that strives to further the Arts with school-age young people during and after school. We also have a SPARC managed Arts Community Consultation under consideration pending a successful grant application. All initiatives have costs attached so grant funding is essential to move forward. As soon as we make a connection, we’ll be telling you all about it.

I look forward to a year of growth and revitalization!

Wishing everyone an art inspired 2024!

*Shirley.*

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## Remembering Nancy Woods & Jean Watson

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A very fond farewell to Nancy Joy Woods who left us December 15, 2023, in her 86th year. She was a devoted community-builder, who founded the Dufferin County Circle of Storytellers; a group that has been telling stories in schools, churches, libraries, seniors' homes, museums and the local pub. Your legacy lives on Nancy.

We also just learned of the passing of Jean Watson on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Jean was long standing member of DAC who hosted many DAC events at her tree farm, Blithe Hill, in Mono. In the absence of being able to share more, we leave you with this: [Jean WATSON | Obituary | London Free Press \(remembering.ca\)](#)

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# Bursaries and Opportunities

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Elizabeth Bryan was the lucky recipient of the Linda Jenetti travel award – a one-time opportunity to grow her skills and career. Elizabeth will be doing a presentation of her experiences.

Awards, scholarships, bursaries, and grants can be ongoing, or they can be a one-time opportunity. If you'd like to sponsor or support Dufferin Arts Council and the arts community in one of these ways, we'd love to hear from you.

All of these possibilities have impact for our artists.



The late Linda Jenetti with her work

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## Let's Stand Together

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We will be looking for enthusiastic hands-on-deck in the days and weeks to come as we rebuild our foundation. Skill sets are needed for any board and we welcome new ideas and faces. 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

This committee will look at how we can connect more deeply with our community. Please consider joining this committee and adding to the conversation.

### Events

This committee looks at events that we can present and what makes sense with our current level of volunteers. We need some fresh ideas here.

Please contact us at [inbox@dufferinarts.com](mailto:inbox@dufferinarts.com) if you're thinking of volunteering.

To see our volunteer postings go to <https://www.volunteerdufferin.ca>

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## Coming Events

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- Deb Menken is showing her work at the Alton Mill. Here's what she says about the pieces she will be exhibiting:

“As surely as the seasons change, so does an artist's work. After seasons of florals and landscapes, this past year I have focused on developing my abstract work, work that is grounded in my love of colour and the painting process

itself. Rather than portray what I see, I am using brush strokes, colour, texture and line to capture the feeling of it: the energy of the wind, the delight of falling leaves, the calmness of a hike, the dropping temperatures. By focusing on the emotional impact, the art becomes a vehicle for you, the viewer to connect with your own memories and experiences. My paintings reflect my feelings and impres-

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## Coming Events (continued)

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sions and have been a joy to create. I hope they evoke meaningful joy and emotion in you as well.”

- The very popular luncheon series at Mrs. Mitchells is back this year. Currently we have April 2 and May 7 lined up... presenters to be announced.



# DEB MENKEN ART



## SEASONS

January 3 - 28, 2024

Reception Jan. 13, 1-4pm, all welcome!

**Alton Mill Art Centre**

Alton, Ontario

open Wed-Sun 10-5

[www.debmenken.com](http://www.debmenken.com)

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