

SOUTH SIMCOE ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
**Report of the Executive Director**  
**December 15, 2016**

Welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary at **41 Victoria** Street East! It has been a fantastic and energizing year with each day being a new adventure! I personally have loved it; especially since we brought Murphy's sweets on board!

As Ken has just said, it has been a year of adaptation; Charles has coined it a year of transition. To be quite frank; after changing our feet in mid air so many times, nothing is the same any more. Positive change came quickly. It is so evident that when Michelle asks how to carry out a process; I have to note to her that it has changed from the day before. For me it has just become a good ploy to cover up for any memory loss I might be experiencing; I can start fresh!

Change has been good. It has brought more and more new people in the door and it has expanded our horizons to work with more people on initiatives outside of our original arena.

As a result, we have committed to more changes every day, expanding our reach to the many disadvantaged youth, seniors, newcomers, and those living in isolated areas on low incomes.

Going forward, we expect to continue to grow, facilitate more innovative arts activities, improving the quality, timeliness of both our advertising and programming, to accommodate our growing communities and continually encourage new, high, calibre and unique artworks in the Gift Shop.

I will not begin to address all of our activities on your behalf this evening however, I have provided you with a snapshot of happenings on a separate sheet along with our Year in Review.

Coupled with Canada's exciting 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations, we too plan for another exciting, ambitious year ahead. We invite your continued volunteer support more than ever to achieve our endeavors. Evaluations and feedback from participants and the general public are always welcome. Please feel free to

drop in regularly to see what is new and upcoming in our program year.  
Feel free to ask lots of questions.

I convey my sincere best wishes to you and your families over the  
Christmas season and as we go forward into a new year. I thank you for  
the support and courtesies that you have afforded me throughout the years.

Lynda Mitchell Reynolds

Executive Director

- membership has increased by 10% over last year at this time.
- we have been blessed with 133 volunteers, contributing 1,800 volunteer hours October 2015 – October 2016
- Service providers coordinated 25 workshops, a significant milestone in our history
- we have met great success in our new location showcasing 2,500 pieces of Artworks in the Gift Shop, realizing over \$15,000 worth of Sales for our local Artists; \$4,000 revenue for SSAC
- SSAC's Annual Music Festival continues to raise awareness of our local talent. For information on the 2017 Music Festival go to our ArtsETalk and save those Dates!
- we now have two very active creative writing groups
- Board Member Dian Bowers; spearheaded a successful Creative Works, Youth Writing Contest that was adjudicated for prizes – 51 entries
- Your Executive Director, Treasurer and Board members personally presented information to the Town Council in keeping with their budget process. We were on hand for all relevant municipal discussions and presentations making direct presentations to the New Tecumseth Council ensuring their continued monetary support of our programming.
- The South Simcoe Arts Council has been working diligently with the Ontario Arts Council since 2013 in an effort to realize and obtain operational funding from the Ontario Arts Council. The Board followed up directly with contacts at the Ontario Arts Council. The result of the Boards efforts in this area was the success of the 2016 application resulting in a one-year operational grant from the Ontario Arts Council of \$6,800.00. With this goal realized the South Simcoe Arts Council is now in a position to move forward on a multiyear grant with the Ontario Arts Council
- We are very fortunate to have easy access to local writers in our midst. One such writer gathering the thoughts from a number of our Members nominated the South Simcoe Arts Council for the Premier's Award. What a tremendous boost provided to us. Let's hope that we have a chance at the \$50,000. Award!