

SOUTH SIMCOE ARTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report of the President

The municipal elections in the later part of 2014 provided the President with a unique opportunity to raise the awareness of local municipal councils to the activities and value of the Arts Council. Information packages were prepared and personally delivered to the municipalities to all members of the newly elected Councils and senior staff. The President followed up by attending all of the inaugural events. She sought out the newly elected members for introduction and congratulations.

Shortly following this introduction to the South Simcoe Arts Council, it was time to present and discuss funding requests for the upcoming budget deliberations. Once more the President, Executive Director and members of the Board made efforts to personally present information to Council in keeping with their budget process. The President was on hand for all relevant municipal discussions and presentations making direct presentations to both New Tecumseth Council and Bradford West Gwillimbury Council.

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 after being turned down for operational funding from an earlier application. The result of the Boards efforts in this area was the success of the 2015 application resulting in a one year operational grant from the Ontario Arts Council of \$8,000.00. 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.

The South Simcoe Arts Council Board has developed over the past year a process for budget preparation that is based on a business planning model that reviews all activities from the previous year noting successes, weaknesses and value of each and every activity. Data is collected related to revenue and expenditure for each activity. Program evaluations and feedback from participants and the general public are included. Decisions are made to ensure value for money and impact on members and the community.

Recognizing that the lease at the Gibson Centre was coming due, the Board fulfilling its fiduciary duties commenced an evaluation of the existing arrangements and possible alternatives. Criteria for the ideal location that would meet the needs of the members and the organization were drafted and used in the evaluation process. The Gibson Centre was informed in late July of the ongoing evaluation. The process was ongoing for approximately 3 months resulting in the move to the current location.

As my term ends with the Council, I wish to express my gratitude to the members, the Board and especially to the Executive Director.