



SOUTH SIMCOE
arts
COUNCIL



Arts Talk

www.southsimcoeartscouncil.com

The Music Festival • Working with Matthews House • Events & more...



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THANK YOU to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making the publication of this magazine possible. Thank you to Lynda Mitchell-Reynolds, Charles Cooper and Rosaleen Egan for writing the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and charting its initial course and direction. Thank you to Kim Reynolds and Marie Fischer for all your valuable advice.

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Welcoming Message From the Board of Directors

It is with great excitement that the Board of Directors of South Simcoe Arts Council welcomes the launch and re-activation of Arts Talk, this time in a quarterly on-line and print magazine, reminiscent of the early issues.

2018 marks the SSAC's 25th year. 'Creativity, Determination & Strength' initiated this fine Arts Council and persistence has kept it growing. Today's Board maintains the original purpose of Arts for All within an expanded mandate of Arts & Culture education. The 2018 magazine issues will share the SSAC's

history and exciting programs celebrating the 25th anniversary milestone.

In addition, each issue of the magazine will highlight Arts & Culture disciplines, work, events, festivals and groups. We look forward to receiving written and photographic contributions from our members, making this magazine outstanding!

To participate in SSAC events, information and updates are available at www.southsimcoeartscouncil.com.

A Message from Len MacLeod, Executive Director

It is a privilege to welcome you to the new Arts Talk, art & culture magazine!

Art and culture are vital building blocks for healthy tourism, economic development and most importantly, community.

Healthy community reveals the best of ourselves, collectively and individually: our humanity, compassion, empathy and acceptance of others.

Through community art, culture lives and breathes via the creators, inheritors and

teachers of creative treasures. The South Simcoe Arts Council, a provincially recognized community arts council, has held a long-lasting mission of building strong, vibrant, creative community and community art. May Arts Talk magazine be a meeting and gathering place for the mutual sharing of our creative expression, wisdom and humanity.



Certificates will be awarded in gold, silver and bronze. Accomplished musician-adjudicators from across Ontario will provide written remarks of encouragement and advice to foster confidence in performing.

Since 2011, the South Simcoe Music Festival has been a member of the Ontario Music Festival Association. From the 2017 SSAC Music Festival ten performers who displayed musical excellence were selected to attend the Provincial Music Festival in Hamilton. Of these participants, three received Honourable Mention, seven were finalists, one received third place in speech & drama and one received second place in piano.

The SSAC is honoured to showcase talented performers from South Simcoe communities, Newmarket and Barrie. It is a privilege to help performers build their confidence.



The SSAC Music Festival offers sincere thanks to all participants, the dedicated volunteers and community donors and sponsors, many having supported the festival since its beginning.

Please contact the SSAC with questions and/or to make a donation.

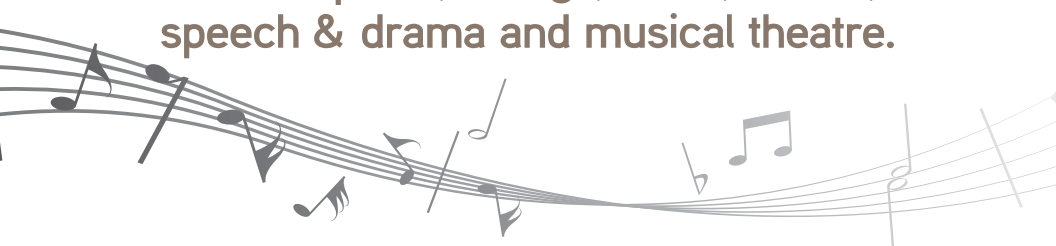
Rules, syllabus and on-line registration will be available soon through the SSAC website. We invite you to each exciting performance!



THE 2018 Music Festival

By Jan Atkinson

The South Simcoe Arts Council warmly invites you to participate in its 15th Music Festival to be held April 16 - 27, 2018. There will be performance opportunities for youth to adult in piano, strings, voice, choral, speech & drama and musical theatre.



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SHARING COMPASSIONATE Community

The South Simcoe Arts Council and Matthews House Hospice presented Wellness Sampler Day on Friday October 27, 2017. This experiential day of art, yoga and meditation was offered free of charge to South Simcoe community members as the final event in a three-day introduction to Compassionate Community.

A Compassionate Community is one whose “residents recognize that care for one another at times of crisis and loss is... everyone’s responsibility.” (The National Council for Palliative Care, February 17, 2015). The Wellness Sampler Day workshops promoted compassion both to yourself and each other through enjoyable, stress-reducing activities.

These workshops took place at Matthews House Hospice, which provided refreshments, snacks and a light lunch to forty participants ranging in age from early twenties to late eighties. The peaceful atmosphere was accentuated by wonderful sharing of personal stories, light humour and laughter.

There were two workshops in the morning, afternoon and early evening.

Art for Mental Health with Lee Cook encouraged participants to rip, tear and deconstruct found materials in order to reconstruct them into fun and meaningful mementos.

Roslyn Levin presented Japanese Brushstroke Painting, a form of breath-guided, moving meditation which introduced the grinding of ink and two basic brush strokes to create a crocus.

Fotini Walton’s Yoga, Sound Therapy and Meditation encouraged each participant to tap into his or her authentic self through seated, low-impact stretching and breathing, bathing in high-frequency sound and opening the chakras.

In Creating from the Heart, Lisa Harpell provided opportunities for accessing love and gratitude through intuitive, heart-centred three-dimensional journaling using soapstone, clay and paint.

Len MacLeod’s Charcoal Drawing balanced the stages and techniques of drawing with supportive strategies to lower stress and anxiety using seated, mindful breathing and positive affirmations.

Eryn Manchanda’s seated meditation utilized guided imagery, focusing participants on self-awareness while revitalizing mind and body, allowing them to manage stress with greater clarity.

Everyone unanimously agreed that the Wellness Sampler Day was a resounding success! The leaders were welcoming, positive, empowering and encouraging. The workshops were meditative and relaxing, reduced stress and renewed motivation and overall wellbeing. Nearly three quarters of the participants wish to continue attending similar workshops as a strategy to reduce stress and increase their personal wellbeing.



The South Simcoe Arts Council thanks Matthews House Hospice for funding and hosting this event. It is an honour to promote Compassionate Community in partnership with Matthews House Hospice.

As one workshop leader said, *“it’s not the results that matter, it’s the soul’s journey through participation.”*

Watch for more Wellness workshops in the New Year!

MY JOURNEY IN Ceramics

By Len MacLeod



Ann Randeraad



Debra Gibbs



Debra Gibbs

I first entered a pottery studio when I was six and being unfamiliar with ceramics I was mesmerized by all the activity. I witnessed artists at their pottery wheels, magically summoning small lumps of clay into large vases and bowls. These wares were dipped into buckets of dull matt liquids, and then magically emerged from the kiln brilliantly coloured and lustrous. How whimsically peaceful and easy it all looked!

As a young adult minoring in ceramics, I learned very quickly that trying to create a ceramic vessel was anything but easy for a lay-person.



Ann Randeraad

Every day for weeks I practiced centering stubborn balls of clay, which were determined to fly off my spinning pottery wheel in every direction! Even after months of practice, as I pulled the centered clay into small, symmetrical vessels, I expected start-overs. My hand would slip, or my thumb would nick the edge of a rotating pot instantly disfiguring it.

After painstakingly creating a series of containers, with walls and bottoms of almost equal thickness, my wares were then subjected to the kiln. In the kiln, countless pots exploded because I had inadvertently trapped moisture in small air pockets within the clay. Thankfully, I never melted my pots by turning the kiln temperature too high. Perhaps that was only because I was never left alone with the kiln controls.

For those vessels that survived the first firing, ruin still occurred during the glazing process. I knew the qualities I desired in a glaze: brightly coloured, opaque glassiness with durability against scratches and resistance to temperature shock. To achieve that, however, was no easy task.

I struggled over molecular formulas and calculations to determine the weights of each chemical ingredient. Even with my greatest effort for accuracy, surprises were plentiful. Countless vessels emerged from the kiln with unexpected colours, luster and durability. Considering the additional factors of firing temperatures, pace of cooling and the expansion and contraction of clay and glaze, it was a wonder that any of my pots successfully emerged from the kiln.

After four years of ceramic study, I certainly understood what not to do. I also learned how to create thin, strong, symmetrical vessels on the wheel, how to prevent explosions and the relief of using pre-made glazes.

I invite you to experience the unique and functional ceramic dinnerware and gifts at the South Simcoe Arts Council gift shop. Debra Gibb's work is high fired, translucent porcelain and Ann Randeraad creates woodfired stoneware and porcelain. All pieces are finished in the artists' original, studio-made glazes.

**Come and
experience
these beautiful
ceramics!**



Ann Randeraad





41 VICTORIA ST. E., ALLISTON

Photos: Cassandra Matson Photography

"This is such a beautiful shop!"

"This is my favourite shop in Alliston!"

"This is such a charming, warm and delightful shop! It has such a warm atmosphere."

Step inside the South Simcoe Arts Council gift shop located on the main street of Alliston at 41 Victoria St. E. Within the shop, there are 867 square feet of wall and floor display space. The gift shop showcases one-of-a-kind and unique art works and gifts created by SSAC artists. The 229 members are from the five municipalities of South Simcoe and beyond. The shop holds over one thousand items of textiles, pottery, cards, books, photography, painting, drawing, prints, music, jewellery, woodworking and more. The gift shop, thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, has the latest, state-of-the-art point of sale system now allowing customers to purchase services and art by debit, credit and cash.

meetings and exhibits. It also houses the administrative centre that generates grant writing, community partnering and outreach. From this hub, for example, the Arts in our Community programme reaches eight satellite locations displaying SSAC member work in South Simcoe.



With the gift shop's location and its adjacent courtyard, the SSAC has

benefited from participating in main street events organized by the Alliston Business Improvement Association. We are now part of every activity with the ABIA. "We are fortunate to have this quaint retail art shop in our downtown core," shared Linda Spurr, General Manager of the ABIA, "as it boasts one of a kind pieces hand-crafted by local artists. Every corner of this delightful shop showcases beautiful finds that are infused with character. This charming addition to Victoria Street is certainly one of our significant area attractions."

The SSAC gift shop thrives thanks to the dedicated effort of amazing volunteers. Countless hours have been devoted to educating the public to local arts and culture, fundraising, hanging exhibits, enhancing décor, serving customers,

managing inventory, and creating social media. To each volunteer, thank you! Your service is priceless!



Come to the South Simcoe Arts Council gift shop to enhance your home and attire with unique creations. We look forward to seeing you soon!

READY, SET,

By Michelle Dinnick

Write!

The second annual Creative Works Writing Contest provided an exciting opportunity for writers to put pen to paper and showcase their very best poetry and short stories. The SSAC congratulates all participants!

This year, seventy-four submissions were judged by local authors and literacy advocates. Jan Atkinson, SSAC board member and long-time Next Step literacy volunteer, was one of the adjudicators. "It was a privilege," she said, "to be able to read such a variety of written works from our community. Contributors are to be congratulated for their determination of thought, the time taken to commit their thoughts to print and their courage to share with others."

This year, a total of \$1,130 in awards were received by the top three winners in each of six categories. Subsidizing these awards were The Wordsmiths, the SSAC and corporate and private donors. Awards were given in memory of Dorothy-Jane Needles and Howard Dinnick, who each contributed to the arts in meaningful ways.

Dorothy-Jane Needles (1923-2017), who preferred to be called DJ, wrote her first play at age 5. She went on to write close

to a hundred plays and several books. As an editor of "Stories with John Drainie," she read 14,000 Canadian Short Stories! DJ provided immeasurable insight as one of the adjudicators for the initial Creative Works contest last year. The winner of the Adult Short Story received the Dorothy-Jane Needles Award.

Howard Dinnick (1929-2010), was a long-time real estate agent, but his favourite job was working in the classifieds department at the Toronto Sun. He is remembered for the passion and joy of writing he shared with his family, and for his commitment to writing handwritten letters, even when most people would send emails. The winners of the two categories of Children's Short Stories received the Howard Dinnick Memorial Award.

The awards ceremony for the Creative Works Writing Contest was held on Monday, November 13th at the New Tecumseth Town Council Chambers. Mayor Rick Milne extended "sincere congratulations to the South Simcoe Arts Council on another successful local arts competition and all the best to this year's exceptional award recipients."



Photos: Charles Cooper

Creative WORKS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS!

Children - Short Story, age 8-10 years, Max. 500 words, Howard Dinnick Memorial Award

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| First Prize | Yui Hsieh |
| Second Prize | Evelyn Hollmann |
| Third Prize | Sasha Siska-Humphries |

Children - Short Story, age 11-13 years, Max. 750 words, Howard Dinnick Memorial Award

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| First Prize | Doris Schraa |
| Second Prize | Morgan Leitch |
| Third Prize | Josiah Hughes |

Young Adult Short Story, written by a teen. Age 14 -18, Max. 1500 words

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| First Prize | Deanna Sceviour |
| Second Prize | Rebecca Moore |
| Third Prize | Nicole Demick |

Young Adult Poetry, written by a teen, age 14-18, Maximum 30 lines

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| First Prize | Mia Fielding |
| Second Prize | Brooke Barry |
| Third Prize | Rebecca Moore |

Adult Short Story, age 19 plus years, Max. 2500 words Dorothy Jane Needles Award

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| First Prize | Angie Carnegie |
| Second Prize | Angie Carnegie |
| Third Prize | Bruce McMillan |

Adult Poetry, age 19 plus, Max. 30 lines

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| First Prize | Jane Butler |
| Second Prize | Brenda Short |
| Third Prize | Craig Scutt |

WHO ARE THE Wordsmiths?

By Michelle Dinnick

Do you wish to be a part of a community of writers? Join the Wordsmiths every other Tuesday from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm at the South Simcoe Arts Council. This dynamic writing group keeps up with writing news, local authors, attends workshops and supports and encourages each other's writing.



Dian Bowers, the Wordsmiths Coordinator, explains the importance of a writing group: "Writing can bring comfort, smiles, laughter and personal insight in one's self. Being part of writing group brings out the best in your writing. You learn so much about yourself and help others navigate their way through this media."

This past summer, the members contributed short stories and poetry to the first Wordsmith book aptly titled, "The Wordsmiths." Available at the South Simcoe Arts Council gift shop, all sales raise funds for SSAC literary events such as the Creative Works Writing Contest. The Wordsmiths also jointly fundraise with Next Step Literacy Council of South Simcoe.

PHOTO BACK ROW, L TO R: Isolde Ryan, Joyce Ernyes, Mike Crompton, June Chambers, J.C. Kavanagh
FRONT ROW, L TO R: Michelle Dinnick, Dian Bowers, Mary Penner
Not present for photo: Brenda Short, Barbara Cotterchio-Milligan & Bev. McCallum

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Arts Talk welcomes edited and polished submissions in the following categories:

Articles on or about the arts in South Simcoe. Up to 250 words; reflections/personal experiences, educational/informational, profiles or interviews.

Short story up to 450 words. Open topic. Poetry up to 16 lines. Open topic. Letters up to 100 words. Suggested topics:

- my favourite SSAC memory from the last 25 years
- my favourite SSAC event or festival
- how the SSAC supported me in the arts or as a professional artist

Illustrations or photographs to support written submissions welcome.

Submission deadline for entry into next issue is Dec. 20th. SSAC accepts both electronic and hard copies. Email: info@southsimcoeartscouncil.com or hand-deliver your submissions to 41 Victoria St. E. Alliston, ON.

ArtsTalk reserves the right to edit, crop and editorialize all submissions. Members are given space priority. ArtsTalk assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials.



FIRST
PRIZE
FOR
YOUNG
ADULT
POETRY

Nature Hymn by Mia Fielding

how peculiar the scent
of the creaking door of dawn in april
but how much more peculiar
a lullaby composed of
the chorus of the delicate earthworms
the sweet one of sweat on summer's brow
the hungry hum of the oak trees
a gentle harmony of earth's most prized possessions

o, how alive a melody can be
if only it is comprised of the hidden noises
burrowed sheepishly under layers of madness
if only it is accompanied by the erratic buzz
of life so inconspicuous
yet perpetually dripping with enthusiasm

never has a song spun quite so smoothly
as the hushed babbling of a creek
excited words spilling over aching bones
of the birches that sing so softly
so delicately into the ears of children
or, quite often, the ears of the aged
tender with the glow of rehorn infancy

o, how alive a melody can be
if only it is composed of creatures that are most alive
dancing under the snouts of giants
if only it is pulsating wildly
under the feet of a tree branch-turned-colony
reverberating throughout our quaking leaves

never has a song spun quite so smoothly
as the metronome of the legs of beetles
crawling so rhythmically through the brush
tangled yet unbothered by the webs at its ankles
how we all must eternally wish
to stride so precisely yet so patiently
why must our feet grow to such sizes?

why must our voices rasp so jaggedly
when we open our throats to sing?
why are we condemned to such blatant expression