



2018

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Take Note

- Just \$10 gets you a membership good Jan. to Dec. Yup, the price of three Tim Horton's large triple triples supports local artists.
- We gave out about \$10,000 in grants to local artists last year. Are you eligible?
- Are you a musician? We can make beautiful music (and videos) together.
- Planning to study arts at the post secondary level? Apply for our scholarship.
- Contact SCAC about any other arts related project, training or work.



Lockeport Theatre, ArtGigs, Ceramic Conference

In 2018, SCAC supported everything from community theatre to a book launch to attendance at an international craft conference, in all a wider range of arts activities than ever under its **Community Arts Fund** program. A record-breaking \$3525 was granted to seven organizations and individuals.

The Locke's Island Players completed a second season of theatre productions including "The Collector," a play about the great Nova Scotia folklorist Helen Creighton, "A Life Not Forgotten," a play by Dayle Eschelby about Alzheimer's disease, and "Lest We Forget," a re-mounting of their Remembrance Day play about the First World War, this year performed at the Osprey Arts Centre.

The group approached the Arts Council to help with the cost of paying for the rights to produce some of these plays. SCAC agreed to grant Locke's Island Players \$725 so the group could buy the rights to produce "Vincent."

A second Lockeport based organization – Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women and Song – applied to the Arts Council for assistance. SCAC provided \$300 in funding for the festival's Youth Stage to support the development of local singer songwriters.

A second festival – The Whirligig and Weathervane Festival in Shelburne – came to the Arts Council to request support of a special project. A grant from SCAC for \$500 helped the festival engage local artists in a project called Art-Gigs. Organizers provided whirligigs in

the shape of an octopus that artists painted and displayed during the festival like the one below by Chett Buchanan. The colourful works were auctioned with all funds raised returned to the artists.



Four individuals received Community Arts Fund grants. Author Sandra Phinney wrote a book about exploring Nova Scotia's South West coast, including Shelburne County, called *Waking Up in My Own Backyard*. SCAC funded her for \$150 to give a slideshow and reading at the McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne.

Photographer Lisa Buchanan requested assistance to create a website to support her photography career. SCAC provided her with \$600 to help with the fee of a professional designer. This project was important to Lisa as she shifts from running an art gallery to creating her own work.

Shelburne singer songwriter Natalie Lynn contacted SCAC with her plans to hit the road for a regional tour. The Arts Council was pleased to assist with a grant of \$400 to help Natalie Lynn with travel and accommodations costs as she develops her career.

There's nothing like an international

conference in an artist's area of work to learn, inspire, network and generally prosper as an artist. Ceramic artist Melissa Strachan came to SCAC for assistance to attend the National Council of Education for the Ceramic Arts in Pittsburgh, a ceramics conference that celebrates artists making both sculptural work as well as pottery. The theme of this year's conference was Cross Currents: Clay and Culture, and addressed questions about the sources of inspiration and influence for today's ceramic artists.

The Arts Council awarded her a grant of \$850 to assist with the costs of attending the conference, which otherwise she could not have done. Over 6500 people attended the conference.

"I had the chance to meet some great Canadian makers at the Make & Do Meetup," says Melissa. Make & Do is a group bringing awareness and showcasing opportunities to Canadian ceramic artists on an international level. Melissa gave a presentation about the conference to the local arts community at the Shelburne library upon her return.

Any person or group can apply for a Community Arts Fund grant. While the Arts Council encourages applicants to submit requests for funding by the two annual deadlines of March 15 and October 15, SCAC will consider applications that require timely responses. There is no application form. Anyone can make a request by writing a letter to SCAC that explains the importance of the project and the financial need.

Gloria Hanief Poetry Collection and Slam

When Shelburne lost the wonderful Gloria Hanief to illness a few years ago, the Arts Council began a memorial project for its former Treasurer, a collection of poetry books at the library in Shelburne.

It started with a few books and the design of a bookmark to go in each one. Since then, the project has grown with generous donations from Gloria's family and community, to date about \$650.

SCAC's goal is to build a poetry collection that is broad, enticing, inclusive and educational.

The collection now contains 30 books by poets from Nova Scotia,

Atlantic Canada and around the world. Most of the books are by contemporary poets like Nova Scotian Sue Goyette who wrote *Ocean*. The collection includes *Selected Poems: 1988-2013* by Nobel Prize winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney. Other books are guides to poetry or collections like *Words Out There: Women Poets in Atlantic Canada* and *A Poetry Handbook* by Mary Oliver.

SCAC launched the collection with a poetry slam at the library in Shelburne this past April. About a dozen people read and performed their own work, as well as work by

world renowned poets.

To donate, send SCAC a cheque indicating Gloria Hanief Poetry. To borrow a book from the collection, visit the library in Shelburne or make a request at another library.



Commissioned Art

This year, SCAC revived its **Commissioning** program for a fun, creative project with “Manitoba” Hal Brolund.

Hal lives in Shelburne, using it as his base to write songs and plan tours that take him across Canada, to the US and overseas to Europe, Australia and New Zealand. When at home, Hal performs locally and organizes the Dock Street Uke Camp in partnership with the Osprey Arts Centre that brings 30 or more amateur ukulele players to town for a weekend of workshops, playing and fun.

As a blues ukulele player, Hal is known for his skills on small stringed instruments and his smooth vocals. What many don't know is that Hal is also an instrument maker, but not of the kind one might expect. Hal makes ukes from scrap wood,

metal and anything else he can find.

That's where SCAC's commissioning program comes in. The Arts Council asked Hal if he would build a kind of one-man band out of scrap and perform on them in Shelburne. He gladly accepted and got to work.

Hal made the instruments – a double-neck cigar box guitar/tenor ukulele, a 2.5 watt amp housed in a vintage RCA Victor radio (see photo page 1) and a suitcase kick drum. He will perform on them for the public in 2019. The suitcase



Hal at the Newcastle Australia Uke Festival

came from a Port Mouton shop. “I used an old men's watch box for the body,” says Hal of the uke. “The 3-string neck is made with local pine, the fingerboard a LINK Hardware yard stick and the tuning keys were found in Value Village. It's eye catching and musically very interesting.”

“I found this old amp in a second hand shop near Quebec City, removed the old electronics and replaced them with the amp. A red LED power indicator was installed in the centre where the radio frequency dial had been.”

SCAC commissions local artists to create original work for two reasons. First, to provide support and encouragement to artists in their work. Second, to challenge artists to create new work that builds on their existing skills and talents. Hal's scrap instruments are a great example of a successful SCAC Commissioning project.

Holmes and Dares Awarded Joan and Peter Oliver Scholarships

The Arts Council named Jonathan Dares of Sable River and Ben Holmes of Ohio the most recent recipients of **Joan and Peter Oliver Scholarships**.

Jonathan was accepted into the music program at Mount Allison University and was awarded an Oliver scholarship of \$1035. Ben Holmes is in the Media Arts program through the Nova Scotia Community College and was awarded an Oliver scholarship of \$1500.

Jonathan is in his first year at Mount Allison University, studying music, particularly piano. He's also an accomplished and skilful athlete, as well as an inventor. SCAC is very pleased to be able to offer this talented young Shelburne County musician its support and encouragement.

Ben Holmes has appeared on stage in

many memorable roles with Basement Theatre. He's also had a keen interest in radio for a long time. Some will remember him as that guy in the CJLS summer cruiser, attending events like Founders Days in Shelburne. SCAC is very pleased to support a talented young man we'll be hearing a lot more from in the near future.

Joan and Peter Oliver were involved in theatre and the arts all their lives. Peter worked as a professional actor and director. Peter and Joan worked hard to increase artistic activity in Shelburne County. Basement Theatre is the best known of their local projects.

Joan and Peter are considered important figures in the founding of British alternative and fringe theatre. They led a generation of actors, writers, directors and musi-

cians who went on to become household names like Salman Rushdie, Athol Fugard, David Hare and Pierce Brosnan.

The Arts Council awards Joan and Peter Oliver Scholarships to assist Shelburne County students entering post secondary education in the arts, but also to celebrate the Olivers' lifelong working relationship, their love for each other and their commitment to theatre and the arts in the County.



Ben Holmes uses his radio voice to emcee Musings 2018.

Sidewalk Public Art Coming Soon (Shelburne Wins Arts Award)

In spring 2019, the Arts Council will unveil a fun new **Public Art** project. SCAC will create a collection of poetry that will be painted in ten locations around Shelburne town.

The poems will be written on the sidewalk in rain paint. In other words, they will only be readable when wet. SCAC will create a guide to the poems and provide small watering cans at the VIC for those who would like to search them out when the streets are dry.

In preparation, the Arts Council is working with artist Blanka Dlouhy to test materials and techniques to carry out the

project. At the same time, SCAC has gathered poetry mostly from local writers to become the subject matter for this special project. Much of that material emerged from the years of workshops and guidance by our Writer-in-Residence, E. Alex Pierce.

This project is supported through the Town of Shelburne's arts funding.

Town of Shelburne Wins Award

The Town of Shelburne won the 2018 Community Arts and Culture Award handed out by Arts Nova Scotia last fall.

“The Town is thrilled to win the award,” says Julie Ferguson, Town Clerk/

Special Projects Coordinator. “Town Council recently approved a Public Art Policy and Public Art Fund in the yearly budget for their term in office. This recognition helps show the value of that work.”

In its application for the award, the Town named SCAC as an important contributor to a lively arts scene. “SCAC supports community art projects, offers art grants to students and artists for development in their field, hosts writers in residence, and works with musicians to create albums.”

SCAC is pleased to be a part of the growth of the arts in the Town and County.

Funding Recipients Featured

SCAC's annual variety show fundraiser "A Musings" (this year's theme: Celebrating Generations) was held November 17 at the renovated Trinity United Church hall in Shelburne. Ben Holmes – recipient of a SCAC Oliver scholarship, now a radio personality – emceed the event.

Jay Pilzer opened the evening with his touching song about moving to Shelburne. Members of the Locke's Island Players followed with excerpts from plays they performed this year.

Alex Buchanan provided tech assistance and presented the music video for "Sing the Winter Away" by Naming the Twins for which they received a SCAC Records grant. Lisa Buchanan gave a tour of her new photography and art website.

Sarah McClure performed original poetry and dance and Jonathan Dares played classical piano pieces. Clara Jurgenliemk sang and played piano.

Tony Caruso read from one of his new novels *Death's Secret*



Tony Caruso reads from his new novel, "Death's Secret," at Musings 2018.

about the capture of a Nazi submarine off Shelburne at the end of World War II.

The evening ended with two guitar based songs by Mike and Steve Elliott, previewing the 2019 release by the Elliott Brotherhood Band of a full-length SCAC Records project.

Sue Deschene, Susan Hoover, Therese Cruz and Rachel Yellin organized Musings this year. The desserts were plentiful and all made by volunteers. Musings grossed just over \$800 in donations. All funds raised help pay for SCAC programs, including the Oliver Scholarship.

National Craft Conference

In October, SCAC board members Therese Cruz-Atkinson and Melissa Strachan represented the Arts Council at the national Canadian Craft Federation Conference held this year in Lunenburg. The theme of the conference was Place-making: The Unique Connection Between Craft, Community and Tourism.

In their report to the Arts Council board, Therese and Melissa said the conference emphasized and examined links between craft and health.

"As artists and craftspeople, we often find ourselves looking for our niche, whether it's for inspiration, education or just simply where we can be accepted and our art understood," they reported. "We later realize that we are more impactful than we think we are as we bring about a story of everyday activities through everyday materials."

Keynote speaker Senator

Patricia Bovey said that research shows how the arts can help revive communities, especially in rural areas. One of Canada's premier textile artists, Laurie Swim, originally of Lockeport, explained how she expanded her skills outside of Nova Scotia, but returned to dive into her craft of weaving and quilting. Several ceramic artists spoke about their connections to their home communities as well.

Organizations like the Saint John Arts Centre and the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador spoke about their experiences, supporting artists as they develop their careers in small communities. When communities welcome artists and help them find their place, those communities are rewarded in many ways by what the artist gives back to that place. SCAC is proud to support local artists and crafters to find their place and thrive so they can help Shelburne County and the arts thrive.

Five Awarded SCAC Records CD and Video Grants

Four music recording projects received support in 2018 from the Arts Council's SCAC Records program.

The Elliott Brotherhood Band is now recording a full album of mostly original songs by members of the musical Elliott family.

Pat Melanson is creating a unique musical project. Pat has written and recorded a musical version of an old Scottish myth called "Fingal and the Harpies."

Common People is a new band in the community. Members Guy Tipton on lead vocals and guitar, Matt Swim on guitar and backup vocals, Bruce Bennett on bass and Darren Stoddard on drums applied to the Arts Council to support the recording of their first single, "Old Pal."

SCAC assisted Naming the Twins in completing their new CD, *Sing the Winter Away*. Late in 2018, they released a video of the single of the same title from the album. The album has a dozen original songs about winter and Christmas, including "Christmas on the Shrimp Boats," "One Storm from Home," "When the Carols Begin," and "Klondike Christmas."



The Ghost Town Heroes received funding to help with the shooting of a video to promote their song "Madolyn."

There are two annual deadlines for musicians to apply for support to record music: April 15 and September 15. There is no application form, but musicians can check the SCAC website to see what is required for submitting a request for funding.

SCAC is ...

Chair - Michelle Blades

Vice Chair - Melissa Strachan

Treasurer - Susan Hoover

Secretary - Sue Deschene

Board Members

Suzy Atwood

Rachel Yellin

Terese Cruz-Atkinson

Executive Director

Darcy Rhyno

SCAC MEMBERSHIP



Ten bucks – what can you get these days for \$10?

Answer – you can buy support for artists and the arts in Shelburne County. \$10 is all it costs to become a member or to renew your membership in SCAC.

It's vitally important that SCAC has a healthy membership base both for financial support and to demonstrate to funders that it has broad community support. SCAC has about 50 members. We always hope our membership will grow larger.

As you can see from the contents of this newsletter, your membership supports the arts in many ways. It helps give work to local artists by paying them to mentor others and by commissioning them to create original new work. SCAC offers scholarships to graduating students bound for higher education in the arts, archives the artistic history of the County, works with others to record and publish musicians and writers, and provides other grants for a wide variety of artistic activity by and for County residents.

All of these activities are carried out by a board of dedicated volunteers with a small budget. Please support their efforts by becoming a member or by purchasing a gift membership, which are good from January to December. Send a cheque for \$10 (add a donation if you wish) to the address below.

Contact Us ...

Shelburne County Arts Council

P.O. Box 365

Shelburne, NS, B0T 1W0



Woolly Mentorships

It's just on the Queens side of the Shelburne County border, but when SCAC received a **Mentorship** application from the Harrison Lewis Coastal Discovery Centre in Port l'Hebert, they wanted to support it.

That's because the Never-2-Old (N2O) workshops they offered on May 8 and September 11 were being conducted by Shelburne resident, Cindy Hagen.

In the first workshop, "A Garden to Dye For," Cindy gave participants an introduction to the natural dye process that includes the use of pigments for textiles and yarn, as well as instruction on planting and caring for their own dye garden.

In the follow-up "Natural Dye Process Workshop," participants learned about harvesting plants for dying. On a nature walk at the Centre, Cindy identified wild plants like goldenrod as sources of natural dye. Finally, the group dyed yarn, which they took home.

In a related Mentorship Program grant, SCAC assisted with the costs of training for Cindy Hagen when she was accepted into the Level 1 Master Weavers Program at the Gaelic College, Cape Breton.

Local artists involved in either receiving arts training or in delivering arts training either in small groups or as individuals should consider contacting the Arts Council for support through the Mentorship Program. Simply write a letter to SCAC explaining the need.

Yarn About an Artist: Mona Foged Profile

Mona Foged started knitting when she was seven, and has never stopped. She was born in Aalborg, Denmark where girls were taught to knit in grade two. In Denmark she says, "Everyone knits." Like all beginners, she learned the European way. Mona soon started helping the other students with their projects.

This was all the instruction Mona needed. She has figured everything else out herself. Being mathematically gifted has helped. Many people follow patterns, but Mona quickly realized that patterns were just someone else's ideas. Because she recognized that there are formulas for socks, hats and pretty well everything else, she has always altered patterns or created her own.

When Mona started a family, she knitted for everyone. She recalls knitting baby socks in a lace pattern. When she finished, she swore never to knit socks again. Years later, when self-striping yarn appeared, she broke her resolve because the yarn patterns were so interesting. Now she always has a pair of socks on the go, and she's rarely seen without a set of needles.

In 1974, Mona, her husband and two children came to Canada, settling in Calgary where her brother was already living. She and her family planned to stay for two years, but Calgary was very welcoming. It even had a large Danish community into which they integrated.

Mona worked for an insurance company, but dreamed of opening a yarn store, which she did in 2001. Because she belonged to knitting groups and spent time helping others, her store became the hub of knitters at all levels.

Mona and her husband Dave moved to Nova Scotia because they wanted to be near water in retirement. Soon after they arrived, Mona started the Shelburne Library Knitting Group. Many knitters in the area are working on or have finished a top-down sweater in a pattern Mona created.

Mona's aesthetic calls for the use of natural fibers. She likes textures such as cables and loves lace weight yarn for shawls and other delicate items. Her designs are rather simple. She hates "fiddly stuff," but she has a remarkable colour sense. She insists that a knitter's work does not have to be perfect. One of the charms of hand knitting is that it does not look manufactured.

Mona says that you need at least three projects on the go at all times: one for charity, one that is easy to knit in groups and one that is challenging. Infant hats, pneumonia vests, finger puppets are all in Mona's charity repertoire, but she and the library knitters are taking on a new project in January 2019 – Knitted Knockers. Curious? Check it out at the Shelburne library any Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm. All are welcome.

Writer-In-Residence Leads to Published Book in 2019

The Arts Council has a big publishing project planned for 2019. With E. Alex Pierce as editor, we'll be putting together a collection of stories and poetry by Shelburne County writers. A Nova Scotia book publisher will be publishing it.

In preparation for this exciting project, SCAC did some important preliminary work in 2018. Last summer, the Arts Council supported Alex to run a series of workshops at the McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne. In total,

nine local writers took advantage of the offer to polish their work for the upcoming publication and other purposes.

"In addition," says Alex, "I held a group session at my home in Sable River and did follow-up individual sessions both at the library and at Sable." Alex also met individually with several of these writers.

"It was my pleasure to include the individual and Sable River sessions as part of the workshop fee," says Alex. "That's my contri-

bution to this successful ongoing SCAC **Writer-in-Residence** initiative."

She adds that, "As always, the library staff at the McKay accommodated our needs and offered their meeting room as a quiet space for work."

SCAC board member Susan Hoover has worked with Alex to develop this program and to plan the upcoming collection of writing that will include many of the works created through the program, as well as other local writing.