



Shelburne County Arts Council

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Check It Out

- Just \$10 gets you a membership good Jan. to Dec. Yup, the price of two large Tim Horton's cappuccinos supports local artists.
- Are you eligible for a SCAC grant to buy art supplies or take a workshop? Ask us.
- Are you a musician? We can make beautiful music (and videos) together. Check out SCAC Records.
- Planning to study arts at the post secondary level? Apply for our scholarship.
- Contact SCAC about any other arts related project, training or work.



SCAC Shows Some Love with the Members Art Show

Every year, SCAC shows some love to the local arts community with funding and other support to a wide range of artists, groups and projects through our Community Grants program. This year, SCAC created the Members Exhibition at the Boxing Rock taproom from September 9 to 30.

Membership in SCAC is as easy as sending in or filling out an on-line a membership form and paying \$10. All SCAC members were encouraged to submit work to be included in the exhibition.

The exhibition included works by Michelle Blades, Abby White, Janet Stritychuk, Eric MacIntosh, Janet Moore, Kim Smerek, Therese Cruz, Braden Chetwynd, Tanya Mars and Melissa Strachan.

On September 11, SCAC hosted an opening reception. Anyone who dropped in to see the exhibition could vote for

their favourite works. The top three won cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100. Eric MacIntosh placed first, Abby White second and Janet Moore third.

Other projects and artists also received support of about \$200 each through the Community Arts Program. Julie Balish and Terridean MacNeil applied for



Painting by Eric MacIntosh at the SCAC Members exhibition at Boxing Rock in September.

support to attend a songwriting workshop with well-known, accomplished East Coast singer-songwriter Lennie Gallant held at the Osprey Arts Centre in September.

SCAC supported the chil-

dren's workshop and the Art Gigs competition at the annual Whirligig and Weathervane Festival on the Shelburne waterfront in September with a \$500 grant.

The new Shelburne Farmers Market and Artisan Co-op received funding of \$500 to develop and host musical jams every week throughout the summer.

Any person or group can apply to SCAC for a Community Art 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 always consider applications that require timely responses. There is no application form. Any-

one can make a request by writing a letter to SCAC that explains the importance of the project and the financial need. Find us on

Facebook and **Instagram** at [shelburnecountyartscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/shelburnecountyartscouncil)

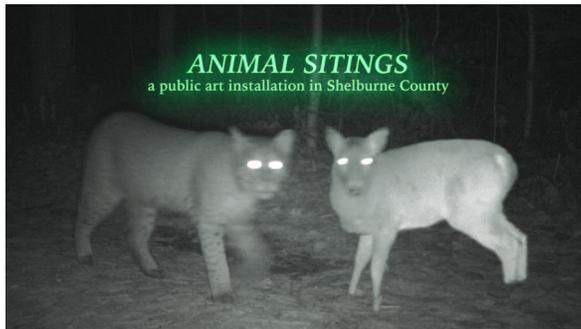
New Public Art Installation for Shelburne Municipality

SCAC's on-going efforts to encourage, commission and install public art in Shelburne County took a major leap forward in 2021. We partnered with the Municipality of the District of Shelburne to commission a work of public art.

After working out the details of the partnership, SCAC put out a public request for proposals to encourage ideas from Nova Scotia artists. By the August 30 deadline, we received five propos-

als, all from Shelburne County artists. Following an extensive assessment process, SCAC announced the winning proposal.

Alex Balkam's proposal



"Animal Sitings" was selected as the winner. This is how he describes his project in his proposal to SCAC and the Municipality: "ANIMAL SITINGS is a public art installation celebrating Shelburne County's unique passion for the outdoors through the installation of phosphorescent, or "glow in the dark", screen printed images of wildlife caught on local trail cams by our devoted hunting, fishing and outdoors enthusiasts.

SCAC is Seeking Oliver Scholarship Applications

SCAC received no applications for the Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship in 2021. Every year, we contact Shelburne County schools to encourage students who are going on to post secondary arts programs to apply for this significant scholarship.

Some years, several students apply. This year happened to be one of those years when no students made an application. We ask teachers, parents and friends to encourage students to apply in 2022.

Past recipients include Susannah Dedrick of Barrington Passage in 2020. SCAC awarded her a scholarship of \$760 toward attendance in the Music Business Management program at Durham College in Oshawa, Ontario.

In 2019, Lockeport graduate Madison Lyle received a \$750 scholarship

to attend the Screen Arts Program at the Nova Scotia Community College, the Ivany Campus in Dartmouth.

In 2018, SCAC named two scholarship recipients, Jonathan Dares of Sable River and Ben Holmes of Ohio. Jonathan was accepted into the music program at Mount Allison University while Ben attended the Media Arts program through the Nova Scotia Community College. Jonathan was awarded a scholarship worth \$1035 and Ben a scholarship of \$1500.

The scholarship is named for Joan and Peter Oliver who 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 their adopted community of Shelburne. Basement Theatre is the best known of their local

arts projects. At its height, dozens of local actors, singers, and costume and set designers were involved in Basement Theatre productions.

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

The arts council awards the Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship to assist local 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 the arts and their support for young people in Shelburne County.

SCAC Records Supports Two Local Music Recording Projects

SCAC got to greenlight two music recording projects in 2021, one by Julie Locke Balish of Lockeport and another by the David Burbine Band of Shelburne.

Julie wanted to record a four-song CD of original work. One of the songs, a ballad called "The Storm of '61" remembers a famous and tragic event in Lockeport history in which two fishing boats and all hands were lost during a major storm in 1961. It left many families without fathers, husbands, uncles and brothers. With SCAC funding, she wanted to record three other original songs. The mini-album of four songs will be printed on about 100



CDs, which Julie will use as promotion when applying to perform at various events. She'll also sell a few at those performances. SCAC supported her project with a \$500 grant.

The David Burbine Band is well known on the South Shore as a very popular country music group performing up to 100 shows a year. Burbine and his band have recorded 13 CDs. They've won awards from the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame. Burbine was named the 2019 International Male Vocalist of the Year and Most Promising Entertainer of the Year in the North American Country Music Association International's competition in Tennessee.

Recently, new band members sent the band in a new direction. As a result, they wanted to record a full 12-song CD of new work to promote their new sound, intro-

duce the new band and to sell at performances. The pandemic made it impossible for the band to finance this most recent CD, so they came to SCAC for help. SCAC supported the recording project with a \$1500 grant.

There are two annual deadlines for SCAC Records when musicians can apply for support: April 15 and September 15. There is no application form.

Applicants to SCAC Records must submit a letter describing their project whether that's a song, several songs, a full album or a music video. The applications must also include a budget of the project costs, a request for a specific amount of funding and a sample of work, which should be one to three songs and/or a video of a performance.



Julie Locke Balish and Terriean MacNeil perform at Musings in November. SCAC funded both to attend the Lennie Gallant songwriting workshop. Julie received a SCAC Records grant to record a four-song CD.

SCAC Annual Variety Show Was Doubly “A Musing”

In 2021, uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic forced SCAC to rethink many programs and look for alternate ways of presenting them. “A Musings” was one of them.

Musings, as it’s known, is an annual variety show celebrating local artists and the work they have created in partnership with SCAC. It also serves as our annual fundraiser for the Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship and other initiatives.

Last winter, SCAC asked artists to create videos to present on our Facebook page under the banner “We’re Still Here: An Online Musings Showcase of Shelburne County Artists!”

From April 14 to May 12, we rolled out a weekly series of videos starting with Dirty Boots, a Shelburne line dancing group that recorded a video of a nighttime outdoor rehearsal and their Halloween “Trunk or Treat” performance.

The Locke’s Island Players, a Lockeport theatrical troupe, performed an excerpt from their audio play and CD, “The Adventures of Princess Pete.” Also from Lockeport, Madison Lyle (the recipient of the 2019 Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship) presented his short film, “The Punching Bag.”

Ben Nickerson, a Shelburne hip hop artist, performed songs from his latest release, “The 40 Year Old Version.” Also from Shelburne, painter Janet Moore demonstrated how a SCAC grant enabled her to try a cold wax technique with oil paints.



Therese Cruz reading from her original work at SCAC’s second Musings of 2021, this one in November at Boxing Rock.

Finally, on May 19, we presented a surprise bonus video by Rick Snow featuring Tribe Phoenix, a Shelburne County belly dance group.

The videos were a tremendous success, bringing a flurry of activity to our Facebook page and generating excitement for each performer.

When Nova Scotia relaxed restrictions last fall, we decided to go for it. After a two-year absence, Musings was once again live, on stage, but in a new home, the Boxing Rock Taproom, on Saturday, November 13. It was as if we’d never left!

“Celebrations” was the theme. The lineup included some of the performers from our video series, plus many new and

familiar faces. SCAC Chair, Therese Cruz emceed the evening and read some of her original writing.

The band Common People reunited to perform three original songs in memory of their late bandmate, Matt Swim. Mike Hartigan read one of his original poems, and Dirty Boots performed a lively dance set. Ben Nickerson performed a medley of his original songs, while Kim Smerek explained the process of creating her “Stones in Water” paintings.

Julie Locke Balish and Terridean MacNeil performed songs they wrote at the Lennie Gallant songwriting workshop held at the Osprey Arts Centre in September. Locke’s Island Players performed an excerpt from “The Adventures of Princess Pete.”

Celia and Pat Melanson played two classical pieces, while Lisa and Chett Buchanan closed out our program with a rousing musical set. Kim Smerek’s painting “Stones” appeared on the cover of the Musings program.

Many of the performers have received support for their work from SCAC. The audience of 85 donated \$1070 in donations toward the Oliver Scholarship. The videos from our video series, as well as from our live Musings event, are posted on the SCAC Facebook page. Check them out:

<https://www.facebook.com/shelburnecountyartscouncil/videos/>

New Public Art Installation for Municipality, cont’d...

A selection of wildlife images from the community will be transferred onto transparent materials using specialized phosphorescent paints and installed along the Shelburne County Rail Trail. Absorbing light each day, the animals glow ambiently from dusk until dawn, their phosphorescent light inscribing memories on passersby.”



Balkam describes himself as “a visual and media artist born and raised in the town of Shelburne, the place I still consider my home.”

Currently, he’s completing a Bachelor

of Fine Arts with a Major in Visual Arts at Emily Carr University in Vancouver, with a focus on painting, sculpture and art history. His early work was primarily in experimental cinema and short films screened at the Vancouver International

Film Festival, Festival du Nouveau Cinema in Montreal and the Atlantic Film Festival. His first short film “The Canoe” was produced with support from Canada Council for the Arts. He presented a public art installation entitled “Folded River” as part of Nocturne: Art At Night in 2017 for which he was awarded RBC Emerging Artist recognition.

Balkam’s project will receive \$8750 toward its completion with funds going toward materials, installation and artist fees. He is aiming for completion and installation of the project in mid-2022.

SCAC is ...

Chair - Therese Cruz
 Vice Chair - George Harding
 Treasurer - Susan Hoover
 Secretary - Sue Deschene

Board Members

Kelly-Ann Callaghan
 Braden Chetwynd
 Sarah Dunswoth-Nickerson
 Tanya Mars
 Ben Nickerson
 Melissa Strachan
Executive Director
 Darcy Rhyno

SCAC MEMBERSHIP



SCAC thanks our long time supporters for their annual memberships and new supporters for their first memberships. Even in such a difficult time, our membership has remained stable, thanks to you.

At just \$10 a year, a SCAC membership remains one of the best deals around. It's an inexpensive and effective way to show your support for our arts community that make our county such a rich place to live. A strong membership base is vitally important for financial support and to maintain broad community support.

As you can see from the contents of this newsletter, even in such a difficult year, memberships support the arts in many ways. It helps this organization give work to local artists. SCAC offers scholarships to graduating students bound for higher education in the arts, archives the artistic history of Shelburne County, and works with other community groups to record and publish musicians and writers. SCAC also supports with small grants efforts by individuals or other organizations to create and present arts activities.

All of these activities are carried out by a board of dedicated volunteers with a tiny budget. Please support our efforts by becoming a member or by giving a gift membership, which is good from January to December.

Send a cheque for \$10 (add a donation if you wish) to the address below OR send an e-transfer to our email address.

Contact Us ...

Shelburne County Arts Council
 P.O. Box 365
 Shelburne, NS, B0T 1W0
 shelcoartscouncil@gmail.com

Start Your Own Scholarship or Art Prize

We've done it, and we can help you do it, too. SCAC has created scholarships and prizes for local artists, so if you've ever dreamed of creating a scholarship or art prize in your name or to remember a loved one, we can help you do it.

Our Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship is a good example. Named for two of the most creative and influential arts figures ever to spin their magic in Shelburne County, SCAC created a scholarship in their names. Hundreds of local people benefitted from their

great work over a long period of time, and our communities are richer for it. This year and in every year into the future, there will always be a scholarship awarded in their names to a Shelburne County student who plans to continue studies in the arts. That will be true even if, for some reason, the arts council discontinued operations. That's because we secured the funds to support an annual award. That investment will exist in perpe-

tuity. It can never be used for anything else but to fund the Oliver scholarship.

SCAC has done the same for its own purposes. We created a second fund that helps support the work of the arts council indefinitely. Some of the funds needed to support the activities you see in this newsletter come from that second investment.

Over the years, we've also created and awarded art prizes like the Roseway Poetry Prize. We awarded it annually to Shelburne County high school students.

Imagine the celebration around an annual prize for literary, visual art or music that is named in memory of an important local artist or supporter of the arts.

We know how to do this. If you want to create a scholarship or art prize, contact us. If you'd just like to help support local arts in general by helping us build the funds that already exist, please contact us.



A Profile of Artist and Board Member, Tanya Mars

Tanya Mars recently joined the SCAC Board of Directors. When she retired from teaching at the University of Toronto Scarborough, she moved permanently to her Shelburne County summer home.

Mars is a feminist performance artist who has been involved in the Canadian art scene since 1973. She has lived and worked in Québec, Ontario and Nova Scotia where she has done many different things. Highlights of her early career include being a founding member and director of Powerhouse Gallery (La Centrale) in Montreal (the first

women's art gallery in Canada), editor of Parallelogramme magazine for 13 years, and very active in ANNPAC (the Association of National Non-Profit Artist-run Centres) for 15 years.

Mars is the recipient of a 2008 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts and was an International Artist-in-Residence at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2008. In addition, a book on her work entitled *Ironic to Iconic: The Performance Works of Tanya Mars*, was published by FADO and edited by Paul Couillard (2008).

With Johanna Householder of OCAD, she was co-editor of *Caught in the Act: an anthology of performance art by Canadian women* (2004, YYZ Books/Toronto) and *More Caught in the Act* (2016, Arttexte/Montreal and YYZ Books). She is a member of the 7a*11d Collective that produces a biennial International Festival of Performance Art in Toronto. Until she retired, she taught art at the University of Toronto Scarborough and was part of the graduate faculty of

the Master of Visual Studies Program at the University of Toronto St. George.

In the '70s and '80s Mars' work focused on creating spectacular feminist imagery that placed women at the centre of the narrative. Since the mid-'90s her performances have included endurance, durational and site-specific strategies. Her work is political, satirical and humorous. She has worked both independently and collaboratively to create both large-scale as well as intimate performances.

She has performed widely across Canada, in Valparaiso, Chile, Mexico City, Sweden, France, Poland, China, Finland, the U.S. and Svalbard, Norway.

Examples of her work include *In Dulci Jubilo* (Malmo, Sweden) and, *6 Images in Search of An Artist* (after Pirandello) (Gotenburg, Sweden), which are reflections on our complicity in the world of excess and consumption in the face of economic collapse.

SCAC is very pleased to have such an important artist on the board.



Tanya Mars at the Guangzhou Live Festival of Performance Art in China, 2013, performing "Rare Parity," a durational, task-oriented performance using foreign currency as its primary material.