



SHELBURNE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Fall 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1

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The Ducking Show

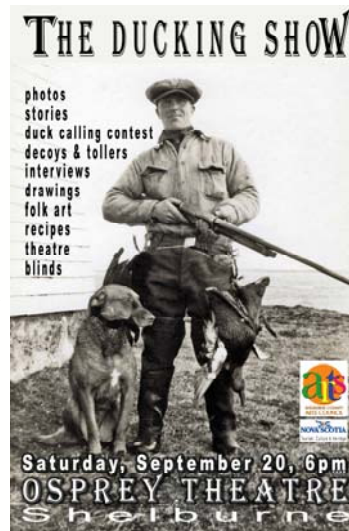
On September 27, just days before the inside ducking season opened, The Shelburne County Arts Council opened “The Ducking Show”. The show is a collection of visual art, a live performance of duck hunting songs and stories related to the tradition and culture of duck hunting in Shelburne County and a duck calling contest.

By all accounts, the show was and is a big success. Duck hunters and art enthusiasts came together for opening night at the Osprey Arts Centre. The Osprey’s Coastline Gallery is home to the visual arts portion of the show until December. This part of The Ducking Show includes photographs (vintage and new), recorded stories, decoys, folk art, posters and some rather unusual items like the Scotch Duck Call and a costume made entirely of duck feathers. Local photographer Linda Ross took many of the photos. Along with photos by duck hunters, the

show is a fascinating collection that celebrates the tradition.

Susan Hoover put together the evening of Sept 27 in the theatre by collecting stories from duck hunters and assembling fascinating historical and cultural information as well as a cast that included singers Robbie Smith, Kathleen Glauser and Jamie Cotter and story tellers Peter Healy and Christine Curry.

The duck calling contest included two categories: realistic and creative. Contestants exhibited some expert calling techniques and some hilarious creativity. Ducker Danny Swim and bird watcher Joan Czapalay judged the contest. Alan Harlow took first prize of \$100 in the realistic category followed by John Nickerson who won the \$50 second prize. Third was a tie between Kyla Thomas and a youngster known only as Lucas who both took home Osprey gift certificates and SCAC memberships. John Nickerson



“The Ducking Show” poster featuring a vintage photo of Morrill Richardson.

also took first prize in the Creative category with Ron O’Connell winning second and Ron “Barkie” Barkhouse taking third for his “1-800-DUCK” call. The prizes were the same in both categories. There is talk of a repeat of this show in 2009.

Author Budge Wilson Coming to Shelburne County

“Anne of Green Gables” Prequel Author to Visit Schools, Give Public Readings

Budge Wilson is coming to Shelburne County. Wilson is the author of the highly acclaimed recently published prequel to “Anne of Green Gables”, a Governor General’s Award winning book of short stories for young readers and many other books both for chil-

dren and for adults.

Wilson will visit two Shelburne County elementary schools and give a public presentation and reading at the Osprey Theatre on Friday, November 7 starting 8 pm. Tickets are just \$10.



Budge Wilson

The visit by Wilson is the most recent of SCAC’s annual autumn authors visits. Past authors include George Elliott Clarke, Donna Morrissey, Bill Richardson, Leo McKay, Michael Crummey, Shauntay Grant and Natalie Meisner.

Take Note

- Membership renewal: SCAC memberships just \$10 are good Sept to Sept. They get you \$2 off Select Cinema movies.
- African drummer, dancer & kalimba player Njacko Backo at Osprey Oct 25.
- Writer Budge Wilson at Osprey Nov 7.
- You might be eligible for a Community Art Grant ! See page 3.
- Hattie Perry recognized at last. See page 2.

Funds Raised for Peter Oliver Scholarship

Peter Oliver, the much-loved, highly respected director, actor and social activist, has a new scholarship in his name.

The Peter Oliver Arts Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student graduating from a high school in Shelburne County. The student must be entering a post secondary program in the arts. The amount of the scholarship is currently \$300.

The arts community held a "Musings" in November 2005 to raise funds for the scholarship. Peter introduced "Musings" to the community some years ago. A "Musings" is a variety show that includes music, skits, readings and dessert, all for a nominal fee.



Peter Oliver as a young performer in Britain.

Following the Musings, many people donated directly to the Peter Oliver Arts Scholarship. Sums from \$5 to \$1000 were gratefully accepted.

All his life, Peter Oliver was a generous supporter of youth and the arts. When he arrived in Shelburne as a retired actor and director, he started a theatre group for young people called Uranus Theatre. Then he started Basement Theatre, which is open to both youth and adults. The group continues to put on plays for the community. The Scholarship is an appropriate legacy for a great mentor to many young people. If you wish to contribute, contact the Arts Council.

SCAC Offers Community Arts Grants

The Shelburne County Arts Council is offering small grants to individuals and groups in the community to support artistic activity.

Grants are made on an on-going basis as applications are received. There is no deadline.

SCAC has only a small budget for such grants, but it certainly has managed to accomplish a great deal in the past.

Grants have helped schools to send students to arts events, artists to purchase supplies, would-be artists to receive training in the arts.

Any person or group wishing to apply for assistance should contact SCAC and be prepared to write a letter and present a list of costs to help explain their financial need.

African Roots of Hip Hop Coming Soon

African drummer and kalimba player, Njacko Backo, will give a public performance and drumming workshops in two Shelburne County Schools to junior high students and for the Black Loyalist Heritage Society.

Njacko Backo, originally from The Cameroon will perform at the Osprey Theatre on October 25, 8 pm. A Trinidadian drummer named Muhtadi will join him. Tickets are available in advance from the Whirligig Book Shop or at the door.

Njacko will be at the Black Loyalist Community Centre on Saturday, October 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to play. Participation is encouraged. Lunch will be served. Admission is

"pay what you can".

The following week, Verve Mwendo a dance troupe from Halifax, will be giving workshops in the African roots of hip hop to grade 12 students at all three of the county's high schools.

Truro native, dancer, actor and musician Corey Bowles leads the group. He will be joined by Jacinte Armstrong, another member of Verve Mwendo.

This program of African-based music and dance is presented with assistance from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage.



Njacko Backo

SCAC Commissions Crosby Mandolin, Pierce Poetry

SCAC's Commissioning Program has been on fire lately. The Council paid musical instrument maker Russel Crosby to build his first mandolin and writer E. Alex Pierce to write a work of poetry. Both were presented to the public in August.

Russel Crosby, owner of Crosby Guitars, has been building beautiful guitars for some time, but he had never built a mandolin, an instrument he wanted to try. So SCAC paid him the value of a mandolin to build his first. The instrument was presented to the public and played during the annual Mike Elliott's Kitchen Party on August 23. The mandolin is now Crosby's to do with as

he pleases.

Following E. Alex Pierce's significant success as an emerging writer, SCAC commissioned her to create an original work for the first annual Shelburne Writers' Festival. She came through with flying colours. In fact, the first segment of her long poem "To Float, to Drown, to Close Up, to Open – A Throat" was named to *The Best of Canadian Poetry in English, 2008*, one of only 50



in total. This portion of her poem, appeared in *Arc*, a literary magazine.

Both Crosby and Pierce have strong Shelburne County roots. Crosby has lived here all his life. Currently, Pierce is Assistant Professor of creative writing at Cape Breton University where she teaches poetry and playwriting.

Previous commissions have included The Hupman Brothers (their commission led to the recording of their first CD) and Bill Smith who wrote an original score for a play performed by Basement Theatre. More commissions are in the works.

2009 Roseway Literary Competition Starts Soon

SCAC will soon launch its sixth annual Roseway Literary Competition for young writers between 12 and 19 in Shelburne County.

Big cash prizes in two age categories have attracted hundreds of poems, stories and song lyrics over the years. The winners from the first three years of the Competition were collected in a book that can still be purchased from SCAC.

This year, like every year, SCAC will announce the Competition and call for entries in the fall for a deadline in early

spring of the same school year. Prizes will be announced shortly and awarded in June.

The Competition is open to youth living in Shelburne County between the ages of 12 to 19, whether or not they are in school. The prize is named in honour of Roseway Publishing started by Kathleen Tudor.

Here are the 2007-08 winners and their prizes:

Ages 12-15

1st Rachael Hanakowski, \$50
2nd Mallory Munroe, Gift Certificate
3rd, Courtney Foote, Gift Certificate
Honourable Mention, Mallory Munroe

Ages 16-19

1st to Morgan Harlow, \$300
2nd, Ali Holden, \$200
3rd, Sarah deMolitor, \$100
Honourable Mention, Colin Dares

"Big cash prizes in two age categories have attracted hundreds of poems, stories and song lyrics over the years."

Shelburne County Arts Archive Underway

The Shelburne County Arts Council is archiving the arts history of the County.

Kim Truchan, an artist and resident, is working for one year to get the archive off the ground. She's doing historical research, conducting interviews with artists and gathering other archival material.



Kim is discovering that

Detail, "Cape Sable Light" by Marsha Goodwin

Shelburne County has a rich, long and varied arts history. In addition to the expected painters, craftspeople, writers, theatre troupes and musicians, the County has a history of musical instrument makers, quilters, photographers, potters, choirs and carvers.

What has become apparent as the project proceeds is that the definition of art must be relaxed and made inclusive. Practices such as decoy carving and quilting did not start out as artistic endeavours. They began as practical skills required to survive and thrive in Shelburne County.

Eventually, the Shelburne County Arts Archive will be housed at a permanent

location. Kim is also conducting the search for this location. There are a number of possibilities and each has to be assessed for its merits as the project continues.

The Archive will be accessible to everyone. In spring 2009 the Archive will be hosting a special event highlighting some of Shelburne County's amazing artistry and launching our new database that will enable you to access everything in our collection with ease. If you are interested in donating material, know a person or group we should know about, or have any questions please contact our researcher, Kim Truchan at 637-8238 or ktruchan@ns.sympatico.ca

Select Cinema Helps SCAC Survive

Select Cinema has long been the most visible SCAC program. In at least one way, it's also the Arts Council's most important as well.

The SCAC Select Cinema Committee rents the Osprey Theatre in Shelburne to show a wide variety of Canadian and foreign films, many of which can't be seen elsewhere. The Osprey has a big screen, great sound and comfy seats. SCAC volunteers make popcorn and sell drinks.

SCAC works on many projects behind the scenes, but because Select Cinema is a regular and

very visible program, it helps the Arts Council survive.

When movie buffs buy a film pass, it doubles as a SCAC membership. In this way, the membership grows, SCAC generates a small amount of revenue and film fans get a discount on the films they come out to see.

There are two movies coming up later this fall. On Tuesday, October 21, Select Cinema will present "The Visitor" a PG13 post 9/11 drama about a New York bored economics professor who finds two people squatting in his apartment. *Rolling Stone* magazine says it's a "Heartfelt human



Shelburne County Arts Council

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SCAC is ...

Chair-Rebecca Tudor

Treasurer-Becky Richardson

Secretary-Ruth West

Board Members-

Marlene Baksh

Gloria Hanief

Susan Hoover

Jay McConnell

Joan Oliver

Kathleen Tudor

Executive Director-Darcy Rhyno

Archivist-Kim Truchan

drama that sneaks up and floors you."

On Tuesday, November 18, it's "The Band's Visit", a touching and timely film

about a police musical band from Egypt lost in Israel. Both movies are rated PG. Select Cinema will be back in March with a new season of movies.

Hattie Perry Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Barrington resident Hattie Perry was presented with a one-of-a-kind award for "lifetime achievement and significant contribution to the culture of Shelburne County."

SCAC presented Perry with a plaque and gift (a painting by Lio Lo) before a large crowd at the Osprey Theatre on August 16 at the Shelburne Writers' Festival. Writers David Adams Richards, Marq deVilliers, Don Hannah, Stephanie Domet and Alex Pierce were on hand.

Perry, a school teacher by profession, is the author of 15 books of local history. She's

received accolades from Canada and the United States for her work as an historian and genealogist, amateur scientist and environmental activist, but she has not been recognized enough at home.

During the event, Perry, born in



Cumberland County, said, "I appreciate the recognition that was given to me. One of my nephews flew from Winnipeg to be here. Other relatives came from various places in Nova Scotia. It was a memorable evening."

Perry added, "I have also received numerous notes of congratulations and phone calls from relatives and friends who were unable to attend. The article that appeared in the *Coast Guard* also appeared in the *Amherst Citizen*. I want to say a special thanks to you and your committee. You made me very happy."

Membership Renewal Time

The Shelburne County Arts Council is calling on all supporters to buy an SCAC membership for \$10.

Membership gets you \$2 off every movie SCAC shows through its Select Cinema program. Select Cinema shows the best movies from Canada and around the world. Movies show at the Osprey Theatre where viewers enjoy a big screen, big sound, comfy seats, popcorn and drinks.

More importantly, membership buys support for an organization that gives work to local artists by commissioning them to create original work, that brings the best authors to Shelburne County schools and for public readings, that offers a scholarship to graduating students bound for higher education in the arts, that archives the artis-

tic history of Shelburne County, that works with other community groups to present performances and that supports with small grants efforts by individuals or other organizations to carry out arts activities.

SCAC commissioned The Hupman Brothers to write an original set of music. This music became their first CD. SCAC has purchased arts supplies and contributed to tuition fees for local artists who have become more independent as a result. SCAC has made it possible for children across the county to see high quality arts performances in dance, theatre, music and literature and to take part in artistic activities themselves.

All of these activities are carried out by a board of dedicated volunteers with

a very small budget. Please support their efforts by becoming a member or by purchasing a membership as a gift for someone else. Memberships are good from September to September and double as a movie discount card.

SELECT CINEMA

Movie Discount & Membership Card

The SCAC Membership Card doubles as a movie discount card & gets you \$2 off every movie shown

