



SHELBURNE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Fall 2011

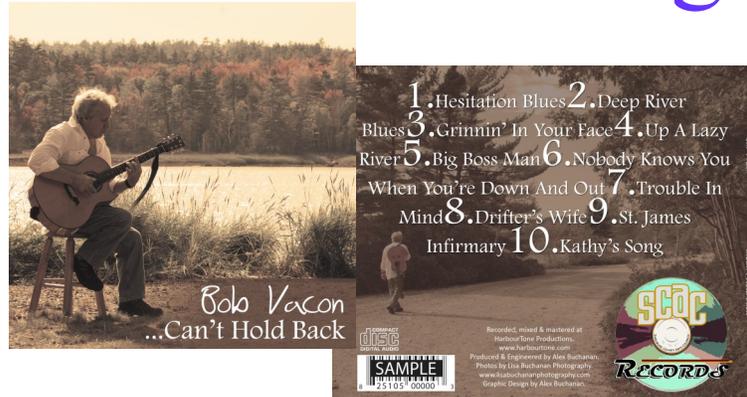
Volume 5, Issue 1

SCAC Records Evolving

SCAC will release its second CD on the SCAC Records label on Saturday, November 12 starting 8 pm at the Osprey Arts Centre in Shelburne. With SCAC's assistance, Bob Vacon, a blues singer, songwriter and performer from Shelburne, recorded a full-length CD of original and cover tunes at HarbourTone Studios in Shelburne.

SCAC initiated and supported the project by offering Bob a combination grant and loan of \$1500 toward the project. Bob received half early in the project and half upon the completion of the project. A small royalty on CD sales will be returned to SCAC to offset the cost of the loan portion of the contribution.

With the help of a \$300 grant, Becky Myers-Adams and Eddie Perry recorded two original, fully-produced, radio-ready, demo songs at HarbourTone Productions in Shelburne. The songs were meant to demonstrate their musicianship and song writing abilities. They used these recordings to apply for bookings at festivals and venues, as support material for grant applications and to send to radio sta-



tions for airplay. Through these songs, they were able to get bookings at The Coal Shed Music Festival in Yarmouth, The Shelburne Exhibition, Shelburne Founders Days and the Seadog Saloon this past summer. One of their songs "Can't Knock Me Down" was on regular rotation on CJLS Radio throughout the summer.

An on-going effort to bring to fruition a recording of the songs of George Elliott Clarke by jazz singer Pat Watson has run into obstacles. Pat is trying to get funding for her project from government sources and so far has been unsuccessful. SCAC continues to support her applications and her future project with the offer

of a combination grant and loan. Everyone is hoping for a spring 2012 start date for the project.

In the meantime, SCAC is receiving new requests from Shelburne County musicians to help with their recording projects. These requests are all under consideration, and SCAC will offer assistance where it can. Because of the number of worthy requests, SCAC is in the process of establishing program guidelines and a budget. SCAC is also searching for people to get involved in a decision making committee regarding these requests. Anyone interested should contact SCAC.

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Take Note

- **Membership renewal:** SCAC memberships just \$10 are good Jan to Dec.
- **SCAC Records looking for volunteer grant decision makers.**
- **Enter the new one-act play competition.**
- **You might be eligible for a Community Art Grant ! See page 3.**
- **New web site!**

Two New Arts Endowment Funds for the County

Signed, sealed and delivered, SCAC officially created two brand new endowment funds for the arts in Shelburne County. SCAC mailed off two contracts and a total of \$14,000 to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, the organization that will manage the funds from now on.

SCAC created the scholarship and now the fund to honour the late, great actor and director Peter Oliver who had such a huge impact on Shelburne, its culture and its youth through groups he and his wife Joan created and ran, groups like Uranus Theatre and Basement Theatre. Over the past several years, through fundraising efforts and very

generous donations by some of Peter's and SCAC's biggest supporters, the fund has grown to about \$6500. CFNS will invest this amount on SCAC's behalf. The interest will be used to support the scholarship.

The second fund is the Endowment Fund for the Arts. SCAC created this fund to support the arts in Shelburne County in perpetuity. With an initial investment of \$7500, the fund is off to a good start. The money came from the \$10,000 Arts Recognition Award SCAC won in 2009. SCAC wants to grow the fund in the coming years through donations from people keen to support the arts.

The Community Foundation of Nova

Scotia is a public foundation created to enable effective philanthropy. CFNS works with private donors, communities, and charitable groups like SCAC to build financial and social capital. CFNS does this by stimulating charitable giving, establishing permanent endowment funds and supporting initiatives that make an ongoing difference in Nova Scotia communities. Visit their website at www.cfns.ca

SCAC Arts Archive Moves to Shelburne Museum Complex

Thanks to the generosity and spirit of cooperation being nurtured by the board and friends of the Shelburne County Historical Society, the SCAC Arts Archive has a new home in the Shelburne Museum Complex.

SCACA is very pleased with this new development and is looking forward to creating a relationship with the museum that will both build the fledgling archive and benefit the Shelburne County Museum. SCAC is looking forward to volunteering time, creating some great partnership projects and



Edwin "Trapp" Locke painted "Fog is Clearing" in 1924.

participating in exciting new collaborations.

One such collaboration that has already started is the new series of presentations called Community Talks. SCACA, the Shelburne Historical Society, the Shelburne Genealogical Society and the Osprey Arts Centre are all working together to bring interesting presentations to many different locations throughout Shelburne County.

You can visit the SCAC Arts Archive during the regular operating hours of the Shelburne County Museum.

Harmony Bazaar, Others Awarded Arts Grants

Every year, SCAC makes small arts-related grants to individuals and organizations in Shelburne County. In 2011, SCAC approved three grant applications.

Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women and Song received \$500 to support the 2011 festival. Alex Buchanan received \$150 to purchase a promotional banner for his new business, HarbourTone Studios where he records CDs of local musicians. One of those new recording artists, Becky Myers-Adams, received a grant of \$300 toward the cost of recording a demo CD with Eddie Perry.

Grants are made on an ongoing basis as applications are received.



Tiffany Latham and Melanie Doane at the 2011 Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women and Song in Lockeport. Photo by Ken Chetwynd.

There is no deadline. Although the budget for this program is only \$1000 per year, the small amounts granted make a huge difference to the recipients. In the past, SCAC has granted funds to individual artists to purchase supplies and to take training. It has purchased theatre seats for children and supported arts events like Lockeport's Crescent Beach Paint Out.

Any person or group wishing to apply for assistance should write to SCAC at the address on the back of this newsletter. Write a letter describing the project or purpose of the funds requested and present a list of costs to explain the financial need.

One-Act Play Competition Launched

SCAC is holding a competition for one-act plays. The contest is open to Shelburne County writers age sixteen and older. The prize is what every playwright hopes for – production of their play. Basement Theatre is a partner in the project and will produce the best three plays. A third partner, the Osprey Arts Centre, will host the productions.

This competition evolved from SCAC's annual Roseway Literary Competition. Launched in 2003 as the Roseway Poetry Prize, the competition evolved to include fiction, song lyrics and even non-fiction. Hundreds of Shelburne County students ages twelve to nineteen entered many hundreds of

original creations. SCAC even published a book that included the winners from the first three years of the contest.

While there is no word limit for the one-act play competition, Basement Theatre is asking writers to submit plays that are 10 to 25 minutes long. Writers should keep in mind that the number of characters and the difficulty of technical directions may be taken into consideration.

These evolving literary contests in all their forms are named in honour of Roseway Publishing, founded and operated by Kathleen Tudor of Pleasant Point near Lockeport. The company is now owned



by Fernwood Publishing, but Kathleen continues to operate her spinoff company, Community Books.

The deadline for entries is March 31, 2012 with the winners announced in May. Basement Theatre has agreed to produce the winning plays within two years, but the intention is to perform them during the annual Shelburne Writers Festival in August. Entries must be emailed as PDF or Word attachments to shelburnewriters@gmail.com.

Two Peter Oliver Scholarships Awarded

SCAC awarded two \$300 Peter Oliver Arts Scholarships this past June to Rachael Hanakowski and Catlin Perry, both graduates of Shelburne High.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to a student graduating from one of our three high schools and moving on to post-secondary education in the arts. Because there was no winner in 2010, SCAC was able to award two this year.

Rachael is taking a BA in English at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB and Catlin is studying fine arts at the NSCC Centre for Arts and Technology.

In a thank-you letter to SCAC, Rachael wrote, "I was absolutely delighted to be awarded the Peter Oliver Scholarship. I felt very touched to be the recipient, particularly because of my knowing Peter



Rachael Hanakowski, one of two recipients of the Peter Oliver Arts Scholarship.

Oliver. He was always a joy to be around."

She goes on to say how the scholarship has encouraged her. "I am pleased that my writing – which is simply something I love to do – has gotten me ahead in life. Winning this scholarship has encouraged me to push on in my writing endeavours, to believe that what I have to say is important and, I hope, inspiring."

The scholarship is named for the late beloved actor/director and founder of Basement Theatre, Peter Oliver. Peter once served on the SCAC board. His wife Joan continues to do so. Peter created a semi-regular event he called "Musings". Once or twice a year, he'd rent the United Church Hall and present skits, readings and music by local performers. Admission was by donation. Commu-

nity members donated desserts and these were sold with tea and coffee. Peter donated the funds raised to several causes dear to him like Our House or Basement Theatre itself.

To raise funds for the scholarship, SCAC revived the annual Musings event last winter. Former Basement Theatre actor/director Alison Stanton assembled the entertainment for the evening, which was an eclectic mix of music, readings and skits by those who Peter supported over the years and those who wanted to support the arts in the county. The event raised \$931 for the scholarship.

To make a donation to the scholarship, send a cheque to the address on the back of this newsletter or come to the next Musings.

Mi'kmaw Author Visits Shelburne Schools

Author of children's book on the cougar read to kids, attended a public potluck

Mi'kmaw author and teacher Michael Isaac read to kids at three Shelburne County Elementary schools and attended a public potluck on October 20 and 21.

The author of the children's illustrated book called *How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost Cat* met kids at Lockport Elementary School on Thursday October 20. The next morning, Isaac read and spoke to kids at Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School in Woods Harbour and then visited Hillcrest Academy in Shelburne that afternoon.

On the evening of October 20 starting at 6 pm, Isaac attended an informal meet-and-greet potluck at the home of Kathleen Tudor who organized Isaac's visit for the Shelburne County Arts Council. Members of the public attended the potluck.

Michael Isaac is from the Listuguj First Nation near the border of Quebec and New Brunswick. Formerly a law enforcement officer and federal civil servant

including at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Isaac returned to Atlantic Canada to pursue a career in education. He now teaches in the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board.

His book is about Ajig, an adventurous young cougar who goes to live in a strange forest. When he finds that all of the animals in the forest are afraid of him, Ajig agrees to stop behaving like a cougar so that he can make friends. But when Ajig tries to return to his birthplace, he learns that he is no longer welcome there either. Lost between two worlds, the young cougar becomes a "ghost cat." The book is illustrated by Dozay (Arlene) Christmas and is written in both Mi'kmaq and English.

SCAC member Susan Hoover attended the potluck and reports, "His commitment to his community while fraught with the anguish of living caught between two worlds, was very inspiring. His life's

work has been to help his own people, something he has been very successful with. His story about how his book came about once again focuses on the importance of writing from the heart."

Michael Isaac's visit was funded with the help of a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.



SCAC Seeks Music Decision Makers

SCAC is looking for people to help make decisions about supporting music recordings in Shelburne County.

Because of the volume of requests from local musicians asking for financial assistance with their recording projects, SCAC needs to create a new music program and make decisions about who gets funded and under what conditions.

SCAC would like to build its SCAC Records label while supporting local



musicians as much as possible. Through a combination of grants and loans, SCAC hopes to expand the assistance it can offer.

If you want to help take music recording to the next level in Shelburne County and you have some background in music or in running programs or in simple finance, SCAC Records could be the place for you. Contact SCAC via the website or by mail or talk to a board member.

“Art is the beating heart of life”



SHELburne COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Shelburne County Arts Council

P.O. Box 365
Shelburne, Nova Scotia
B0T 1W0

SCAC is ...

Chair - Rebecca Tudor

Vice Chair - Susan Hoover

Treasurer - Gloria Hanief

Secretary - Christine Curry

Board Members-

Ruth West

Joan Oliver

Ian Anderson

Kathleen Tudor

Rhonda O'Callaghan-Steele

Kim Truchan

Executive Director-Darcy Rhyno

SCAC Launches New Website - News, Programs, Contacts

SCAC has a new website, which it launched this past June. The address is www.shelburnecountyartsCouncil.ca.

The new site is a tool SCAC can use to document its programs and achievements, as well as to communicate news about itself as well as about arts and culture events, activities and opportunities in the county and beyond.

SCAC posts its annual newsletters on the site — this issue included. There's a news service that SCAC uses to communicate to the community about upcoming events, opportunities and other news. There's also a resources page with infor-



mation for artists and arts organizations regarding arts funding, provincial arts service organizations and opportunities like artist-in-the-schools programs.

The new website is important to the organization because SCAC has no office. The site is an easy way for the public to have access to all of the organization's

information, programs and resources.

Based on feedback and ideas from the arts community in Shelburne County, SCAC hopes to make the site ever more useful to artists and arts supporters. Executive Director Darcy Rhyno designed, created and manages the site.

Memberships Now Good from January to December

The Shelburne County Arts Council is calling on all supporters of the arts in Shelburne County to buy or renew a membership for \$10. It's vitally important that SCAC has a healthy membership base both for financial support and to demonstrate to the core funder, the Nova Scotia government, that it has broad community support. SCAC has just over 30 members and its goal is to double that number for 2012.

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 ar-

chives the artistic history of Shelburne County, that works with other community groups to record and publish musicians and writers, that helps present performances and that supports with small grants efforts by individuals or other organizations to carry out arts activities.

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 gift membership for someone else. Memberships are now good from January to December. Simply send a cheque for \$10 (add a donation if you wish) to the address on the back of this newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TIME**

**ONLY
\$10**

NOVA SCOTIA

Communities, Culture and Heritage