



SHELBURNE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Fall 2012

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Art on the Trails Projects

A beach stone xylophone is just one of the works of art now completed as part of the Arts Council's project, Art on the Trails. Barrington sculptor Clifton Sears built the xylophone and another to go with it made of driftwood.

SCAC commissioned Sears as well as Lockeport blacksmith Hayward Meisner and Clyde River carver Darryl Swaine to build works with a musical theme. The pieces will be installed on trails in the county in the coming months.

Sears' xylophones aren't just decorative. They actually work. The driftwood instrument comes with a set of wooden mallets, and for the



Driftwood xylophone by Barrington artist Clifton Sears.

beach stone xylophone, Sears built small mallets with stone heads.

Meisner built a sturdy wind chime of scrap metal that has a lovely tone. It stands on a tri-pod and has a decorative treble clef on the top.

Swaine carved a delicately featured face from a tree root. He calls his work "Whistler" because the lips of the figure are pursed as if to whistle.

The "Art on the Trails" project is funded with grants from the Nova Scotia Department

of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Municipality District of Shelburne.



"Whistler" by carver Darryl Swaine.



Clifton Sears

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Take Note

- **Membership renewal:** SCAC memberships just \$10 are good Jan to Dec.
- **SCAC Records** could fund your project.
- **You could be eligible** for a Community Arts Grant: See page 3.
- **Are you an artist in need of a higher profile?** Consider our site.
- **Writer Harry Thurston's** coming to town.

Local Artists Now Profiled on SCAC Web Site

SCAC has introduced a new page on its website to document and celebrate the artists of the county. Over 40 artists now have profiles on the site including musicians, painters, writers, actors and crafters.

In most cases, the profile consists of a short biography of the artist and two photos, one of the artist and one of a work by the artist.

Some of the artists have their own websites. The



Jordan Falls painter Lio Lo.

profiles of these artists include a link to their sites.

The Arts Council hired Barrington student Carissa Hatfield to work on the project for the summer. To begin the project, Hatfield created an extensive list of artists in the county. Using this list, the Arts Council will be continuing the work of profiling each artist who wants to participate.

If you are an artist with some connection to Shelburne

County and you'd like a profile of your own on the SCAC website, please contact SCAC using the information on the back of this newsletter.

The only requirement other than being an artist with a connection to the county is that you are a member of the Arts Council. Membership is a very reasonable \$10 per year. Just follow the instructions on the back of this newsletter.

Voices of Local Artists Recorded and Preserved

This summer, Shelburne student Katie Walsh built on SCAC's collection of audio interviews with county artists.

Katie researched many artists and prepared questions for each. She then recorded interviews with these artists. In her office generously provided by the Shelburne County Museum, she edited them for inclusion in SCAC's Shelburne County Arts Archive. Katie also edited existing interviews conducted by SCAC board member Kim Truchan who supervised Katie during the project.

"They were so interesting to conduct," says Katie of the interviews. "I never knew the diversity of artists within our community." She added of her summer job, "I wish I had more time to interview. The eight weeks went by really fast."

To date, the Arts Archive contains interviews with Loraine Donati, Susan Hoover, Tony Cunningham, Joan Oliver, Deny Eschelby, Peter Healy, Robbie Smith, Darcy Rhyno, Anne Priest and Tanya Mars. To hear the interviews, contact the Shelburne County Museum.



Tanya Mars

"A Musings" a Fundraising Hit

The "Don't Ask Comedy Troupe" headlined "A Musings" at Trinity United Church Hall, Hammond Street in Shelburne on Saturday, July 14th, 2012. The evening of entertainment, desserts and drinks raised \$900 for the Peter Oliver Scholarship.

The "Don't Ask Comedy Troupe" includes Ben Pooley, Ed Trevors, Alison Stanton, Chett Buchanan and Susan Hoover. "Don't Ask" performed two classic Monty Python skits, but with a surprising twist. The troupe delivered with hilarious quirkiness and in drag the famous "Four Yorkshiremen" skit in which four wealthy men... ur, women... reminisce about how poor they were in the bad old days. They also put on a great rendition of "The Dead Parrot Sketch."

Terry Bower and Lorraine Chapman presented their rendition of a comedy favourite, the "Barrel of Bricks" skit.

Musicians for the evening included Rod Mossman, Merrie Howe, Lisa Buchanan, Michelle Riley, Bob Vacon, Guy Tipton and Alex Buchanan. As well, Timothy Gillespie and Kathleen Tudor offered readings.

Peter Oliver created events he called "Musings" and held many to raise funds for various community causes. Now, Musings are presented by the Shelburne County Arts Council as fundraisers for the scholarship awarded to honour Peter Oliver's memory. The venue is usually the

Trinity United Church, which generously donated its Hall for the event.

A lifelong professional actor and director based in the United Kingdom, Oliver conceived of musings – unique to Shelburne – as a kind of coffee house where actors, musicians, writers and others would take the stage to entertain in a relaxed, cordial atmosphere with desserts, coffee and tea and soft drinks.

The Peter Oliver Scholarship is awarded by the Shelburne County Arts Council annually to a graduating or graduated Shelburne County student pursuing post-secondary education in fine arts, performing arts or literature.

When Peter and his wife Joan retired to Shelburne in 1991, they founded Basement Theatre, a group of local adults and young people keen to rekindle theatre. In what England's The Guardian newspaper called his "carnavalesque spirit," Peter nurtured many, many local youth and actors, sharing generously his expertise in theatre. His considerable legacy lives on through Musings, through an active theatre community and in the scholarship awarded to the young artists for whom he cared so deeply.

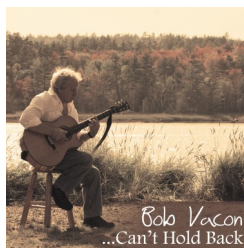


Sing For Your Supper: Music Recording Grants Available

SCAC is always open to applications for funding to support music and other sound recording projects by those with a Shelburne County connection. Supported projects can include demos and full length CDs by new or established artists working in any genre. The Council also has a record label – SCAC Records – which may or may not become part of a supported project. Support will be in the form of a loan, a grant or a combination of the two.

The Arts Council has assembled a group of people from across the county with expertise in music and/or recording to assess applications as they arrive. This group will make recommendations to the SCAC board about which projects to fund.

Last year, SCAC funded Shelburne blues musician Bob Vacon to record his first full length CD of music "Can't Hold Back."



Currently, SCAC has several applications to fund full length CDs under development. The Council is always open to receive more. Watch the SCAC website for news about the next SCAC Records projects.

If you have a music or other sound recording project in mind, you can apply for assistance. Write a letter to

SCAC that includes a brief description of your project and a budget of your costs that shows the amount you are requesting from the Council. There is no deadline. Applications will be considered as they are received. Mail it to SCAC at the address on the back of this newsletter.



Making Things Happen: Community Arts Grants

The Arts Council offers small grants to groups and individuals for all sorts of artistic activity, but this year the theme was music. Young Barrington singer Charlene Nickerson received \$200 while another \$250 went to Lockeport's growing Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women and Song. In addition, Ashley Stuart and Natalie Lynn MacIntosh each received their \$300 grants to record music under this program.

Natalie says that writing and performing music has always been her passion. Her goal is to make a career in music, and to be successful she says, "having your own music recorded is essential."

"With the funding provided by the SCAC," Natalie says, "I have been able to record my own music at HarbourTone Productions." Of the funding, she adds, "I am so thankful to

have such a great Arts Council present in Shelburne that supports the talent that is always growing. She says she's honoured to have had the SCAC involved in the project, "as it means a lot to myself as a musician and to my career."

Natalie Lynn is excited to see the release of her album. Watch for a release date soon.

As a university student, Ashley says she was unable to gain recording studio experience, so she came to SCAC. She was very excited to receive a letter from the Arts Council confirming her grant. "I was so grateful that the SCAC wanted to support me and my style of music," she says, "as I am more of a rock sound." Ashley says without the support, "I would have probably had to wait a long time before recording again."

"I am very grateful that

the SCAC wanted to help me out because I feel it has helped me to grow more confident in



Ashley Stuart of Lockeport was awarded a Community Arts Grant to record her own songs.

my own music, and tell me that there are people out there who like what I am doing, and that makes it all worthwhile!"

SCAC is always open to applications in any artistic genre. In the past, SCAC has granted funds to individual painters to purchase supplies and to take training. It has pur-

chased theatre seats for children and supported arts events like the Lockeport Beach Centre's Paint Out program.

There is no deadline. Grants are made on an ongoing basis as applications are received. Although the budget for this program is only \$1000 per year, the small amounts granted make a huge difference to the recipients.

Any person or group wishing to apply for assistance should write a letter to SCAC at the address on the back of this newsletter. The letter should describe the project and the purpose of the funds requested. A list of costs to explain the financial need and the amount requested from SCAC should also be attached.

Visit by Author of Books on Atlantic Coast and Egyptian Oasis

Award Winning Nature Writer and Poet Harry Thurston Speaks at Schools

Prolific and highly respected nature writer and poet Harry Thurston is this year's visiting author. He'll visit all three Shelburne County high schools on November 15 and 16 where he'll read from his work and engage students in discussions and writing activities.

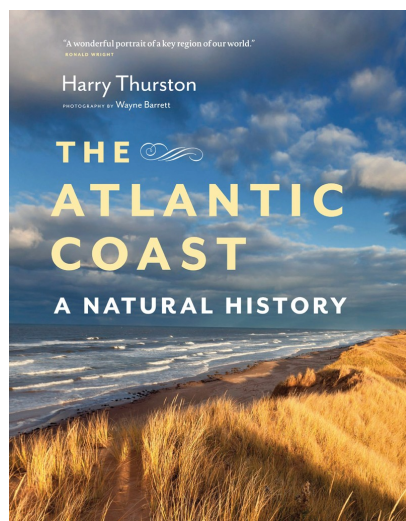
Thurston's visit is entirely free to the schools. With a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, SCAC is able to pay for all costs associated with the engagements.

On Thursday, November 15 at 6 pm, he'll be at Kathleen Tudor's house, 322 Pleasant Point Road near Lockeport, for a meet-and-greet public potluck.

Born in Yarmouth in 1950, Thurston graduated with a degree in biology from Acadia in 1971. Author of fifteen books of non-fiction and poetry, Thurston now lives on the banks of the Tidnish River where it flows into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

As a fisheries research technician in the late 1960s, he was witness to the decimation of herring stocks on Georges Bank. That work set his course on a career as an environmental writer.

His writing has appeared in over



thirty North American magazines specializing in environmental issues and natural history including Audubon, Canadian Geographic, National Geographic, and Equinox. He's won numerous journalism and book awards for his work, including the Evelyn Richardson Prize for the best non-fiction book by a Nova Scotian on three separate occasions.

His books include *Tidal Life: A Natural History of the Bay of Fundy*, *Island Of The Blessed: The Secrets of Egypt's Everlasting Oasis* and *Dawning of the Dinosaurs*. His collections of poetry include *Broken Vessel: Thirty-five Days in the Desert*, *A Ship Portrait*, and *If Men Lived On Earth*.

Harry Thurston is just the latest author to visit Shelburne County as part of SCAC's annual series that has included such high profile writers as George Elliott Clarke, Sheree Fitch and Donna Morrissey.

Piping Plover Poster Project

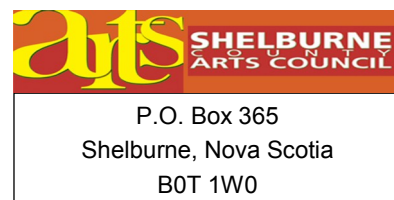
SCAC board member Chris Curry is also the Education and Engagement Coordinator for Bird Studies Canada's Piping Plover Conservation Program. When she came to the board for ideas about how to improve the annual Piping Plover Poster Contest to include more student artwork, several members were happy to oblige.

Chris organized a poster making project for



Shelburne County elementary schools called Sharing the Beach and displayed the resulting artwork in several storefronts in Shelburne and Barrington Passage, including Grovestine's, the Mason's Building, and DTC Natural Store, as well as the Barrington Library and JB's Restaurant. Board members Bob Turner, Joan Oliver and Gloria Hanief helped with the project.

"Art is the beating heart of life"



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

Bob Turner

Executive Director-Darcy Rhyno

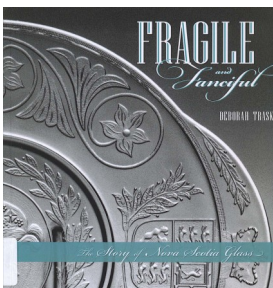
Seafaring Wives, Privateers and Crystal in Community Talks 2013

In 2013, the Arts Council will continue to support an annual series of talks about culture, history and art. "Community Talks" has featured presenters from near and far on subjects as wide ranging as rug hooking and ship portraits.

On March 21, 2013, Deborah Trask, author of *Fragile and Fanciful: The Story of Nova Scotia Crystal* will speak at the McKay Memorial Library. Before her talk, people may bring pieces of Nova Scotia glass to Trask for her comments.

The second Community Talks on May 16 will feature Louise Nichols speaking about women who went to sea with their husbands, the captains of merchant ships. In her book called *Quite a Curiosity: The Sea*

Letters of Grace F. Ladd, Nichols wrote about the adventures of this Yarmouth resident and those of other seafaring wives from across the Maritimes. This talk will take place at the Anglican Church Hall on Anne Street in Shelburne.



On June 21st, popular speaker Dan

Conlin of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic will return to the Shelburne Dory Shop to talk about the era of the Privateers. Last season's presentation on pirates by Conlin filled the

Dory Shop to overflowing. Organizers expect to fill the museum again next spring.

This will be season three for Community Talks, which searches out speakers on historical topics of interest to the Shelburne County community. In 2012, the series included Conlin on pirates, Clary Croft on the folklore of Shelburne County and Nova Scotia, Bill Smith on rug hooking and Molly Titus on her book *Letters From India*.

The Community Talks series is a cooperative project between The Shelburne County Arts Council, The Osprey Arts Centre, The Shelburne Historical Society and The Shelburne County Genealogical Society and Archives.

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**



Communities, Culture and Heritage