



# SHELBURNE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Patrick Keeler



## “The Rock Before the Door”

“That Dear Old White-Washed Cottage With the Rock Before the Door” is the long title of the latest book from SCAC Publishing. Known by its shorter title, *The Rock Before the Door* it’s an illustrated poem about a Barrington family home that’s now just a fond family memory.

Thomas S. Hopkins wrote the verse and his daughter Jane illustrated it. The book belongs to their descendants, and they granted SCAC permission to publish an annotated version of it as a community cultural project.

Former board member and Shelburne County Arts Archive Committee leader Kim Truchan discovered the handmade book – printed in a school notebook – while searching for arts related artefacts in the county to be included in the Shelburne County Arts Archive. The book is dedicated to her and to Marsha Goodwin, the family member who owns the original and the great great granddaughter of Thomas Hopkins.

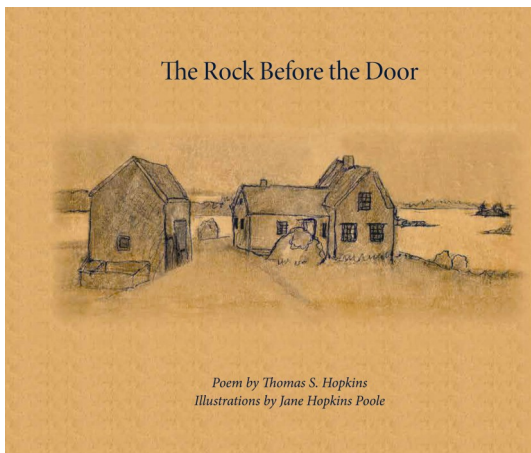
The age of the book is a bit of a mystery, but SCAC and the original owners of the book estimate the illustrations were completed about 1940 to accompany the verse, which was written many years before.

The illustrations are primarily watercolour, but some are pen and ink. The original book is 15 pages, but SCAC’s version is 32 pages, which includes both the original handwritten text and the printed version.

Professional designer Brenda Conroy designed the book. SCAC had it printed at Gaspereau Press in the Annapolis Valley.

SCAC launched the book at the library in Barrington on August 8. Many family members of the author and illustrator were in attendance.

*The Rock Before the Door* is a



charming work by a father and daughter that reflects their affection both for their family home and the times they enjoyed together, for this example of typical local architecture, the seaside and for the way of life associated with it.

The book sells for \$10 and is available by contacting a board member or by contacting us through our website. It’s also available through Marsha Goodwin and at the Shelburne County Museum and several other locations.

## 2013 Report

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### Take Note

- **Membership renewal:** SCAC memberships just \$10 are good Jan to Dec. Support local arts and artists.
- SCAC Records could fund your project.
- You could be eligible for a Community Arts Grant: See page 4.
- Find a list of Shelburne County artists on our website. If you’d like a profile of your own, contact us.
- Are you a student planning to study in the arts? Apply for our Peter Oliver Scholarship

## Public Art on the Way for Whirligig Festival

To mark its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, the Whirligig and Weathervane Festival is commissioning a significant work of public art. The Shelburne County Arts Council is one of the partners assisting with the process.

At the time of this printing, a selection committee of Whirligig, Arts Council and other community members had researched about half a dozen possible sites and narrowed them to two locations in the

Town of Shelburne.

At the same time, the committee identified ten artists in the province capable of conceiving and constructing a significant work of public art. From that pool, the committee narrowed final selection to four. Each of those artists was paid \$200 to submit a proposal.

Once the selection committee makes its final decision, it will announce both the artist and the location and finalize the funding

with the goal of officially presenting the piece on the weekend of the 2014 Festival, September 20-21.



# First Writer in Residence Program for County

E. Alex Pierce, a poet and writing teacher from East Sable River, became the very first Writer in Residence in Shelburne County this past September when the Arts Council contracted her to fill the position, which was created in conjunction with local libraries.

The Arts Council presented an opening evening of activities with Pierce at the Mackay Memorial Library. Pierce introduced herself and the program and read from her poetry. Local writers Darcy Rhyno and Kathleen Tudor read from their recently published works - Rhyno's young adult novel *Monsters of Suburbia* and Tudor's CD of short stories, *The Life and Times of Jane Plusplus*. Musician Alex Buchanan sang three songs he recently composed. The room was filled to capacity and the audience was very receptive with several people signing up for Pierce's workshops.

Ten people attended the workshops Pierce offered at the Mackay Memorial Library Saturday mornings throughout the fall. She also met individually with writers on alternate Tuesday afternoons in Shelburne and at the Lillian Benham Library in Lockeport.

On December 4, Pierce and the members of her workshop presented readings from their work at the Osprey Arts Centre. Family, friends and members of the

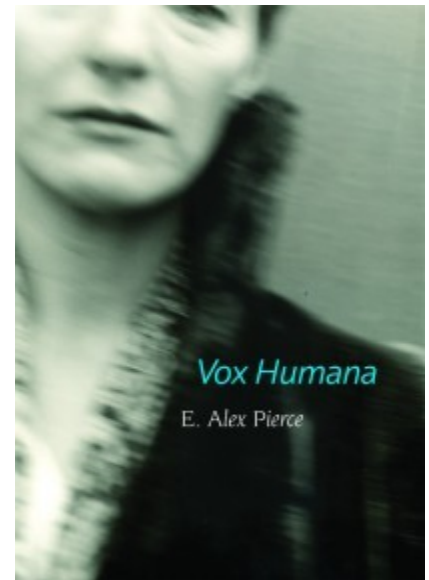


public attended and heard Shelburne's emerging writers read as they celebrated the completion of their work with Pierce.

E. Alex Pierce is the author of *Vox Humana*, published by Brick Books (2011). She taught creative writing (playwriting, poetry and poetics) at University of Cape Breton and is currently Series Editor for the CBU Press publication, *The Essential Cape Breton Library*. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College, and has been a participant in the Writing Studio at the Banff Centre and in the Poetry Colloquium at Sage Hill. She

developed E. Alex Pierce Writing & Editing through the Shelburne County CBDC and has been working as a free-lance editor since 2011. Alex has won awards in both poetry and creative non-fiction, and conducts writing workshops throughout Canada.

The Shelburne County Writer in Residence program was made possible by three grants, from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, the Nova Scotia Department of Community, Culture and Heritage, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



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## Community Talks of Flutes, Glass, Privateers and Letters

Forbes and Yola Christie kicked off the 2013 edition of Community Talks with a demonstration and talk about their company Windward Flutes. The presentation took place at the Shelburne County Museum in March.

On May 16, Louise Nichols spoke about Grace F. Ladd, a Yarmouth woman who went to sea with her merchant ship captain husband in the late 19th century. Nichols' talk was based on the research she did for her book *Quite a Curiosity: The Sea Letters of Grace F. Ladd*. This talk, entitled "Dutiful Wife/World Traveler: The Journeys and Letters of Grace Ladd, 1886-1899," took place at the Anglican Church Hall in Shelburne.

On June 21st, popular speaker Dan Conlin of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic returned to the Shelburne Dory Shop. This time, his talk was about the privateers of Shelburne. He spoke about the ship Nelson, funded by the Cox and Gracie families, which fought bloody battles, survived a hurricane and rescued the Liverpool privateer Lord Spencer.

On July 11th, Deborah Trask, author of *Fragile and Fanciful: The Story of Nova Scotia Crystal* discussed the topic at the Osprey Arts Centre. Before her talk, people brought pieces of Nova Scotia glass to the Osprey for Ms. Trask to examine. Many took advantage of this mini antiques road show to get comments on

special glass antiques brought from home.

Community Talks is a joint venture with the Shelburne County Arts Council, The Osprey Arts Centre, The Shelburne Historical Society and the Shelburne County Genealogy Society.





# SCAC Records Supports Two More Music Projects

This past year, SCAC awarded two recording grants, bringing the total support for local music recordings to seven. Jessica Jurgenliemk and Naming the Twins received \$750 each toward the recording of a full length CD of mostly original material.

The SCAC Records Committee that met on May 9 was impressed with the professionalism and quality of work from both artists.

Jurgenliemk's application was particularly remarkable because of her age. At the time of application, she was just 14 years old and had already written and performed a full album of original material. Her CD will be completed and released in 2014.

According to Alex Buchanan at HarbourTone Productions, Jessica has it all—a strong, crys-

tal-clear singing voice, a great sense of harmony and pitch, songs on both acoustic guitar and piano, well written melodies and lyrics that easily paint a picture.

They range from moody ballads to commercial Adele-type pop. He suggests checking out her video on YouTube.

Naming the Twins – Rob-

bie Smith and Kathleen Glauser – has accomplished a great deal in the duo's short history with one CD already to their credit along with a significant touring history. The Arts Council funding assisted the recording of *Drifters and Dreamers*, their second CD, which they launched at the Osprey on July 6.

"Drifters and Dreamers" has songs on subjects from Newfoundland to the deep south of the USA. All 13 tracks from their first album, "Sweet Transitions" had radio play. They have appeared in person on CBC, Woody's Children in New York and Blue Plate Special in Knoxville Tennessee. Alex Buchanan recorded both CDs at HarbourTone Studios in Shelburne.



## Three High School Students Receive Peter Oliver Scholarships

### Musings Raises Over \$1000 Toward the Next Round of Scholarships

For the first time, the Arts Council was able to award three Peter Oliver Scholarships in one year to graduating students entering post-secondary arts programs. Receiving \$335 each were Cassie Seaboyer and Michelle Riley of Shelburne and Mati Williams of Lockport.

Seaboyer is attending the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design while Riley is enrolled in the music program at Mount Allison University. Williams is studying dance in Yarmouth and attending Community College there.

Some of the funding for these scholarships comes from an investment of the Arts Council's held at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. SCAC has been raising money for this scholarship through private donations and through its annual fundraiser, Musings.

This year's Musings held on September 28 attracted an audience of 75 people who donated at total of \$1150. Headlin-

ing this years Musings event was Patrick Keeler, fresh from theatre school in Bristol, England. He performed a set of monologues – some classical, some contemporary – about men in love. Patrick grew up in Shelburne and as a student worked under Peter Oliver in several Basement Theatre productions.

Alison Stanton and Jan Pulfrey from Basement Theatre performed a comic skit about mailboxes and the excesses of red



Patrick Keeler (right) in "The Rivals" in Bristol.

tape. Musicians for the evening included Cheryl Graul on voice and saxophone. Pat and Celia Melanson performed on flute, pennywhistle and guitar.

Jessica Jurgenliemk wowed the audience with a couple of her original songs. Brothers Samuel and Thomas King showed off their talent on the piano. And authors Kathleen Tudor and Darcy Rhyno read short excerpts from recent work. Amanda Pedro produced this year's Musings. Ed Trevors was the hilarious emcee.

Peter Oliver created 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 has always been the Trinity United Church, which generously donates its Hall for the event.

## Support for Harmony Bazaar

Through its Community Arts program, SCAC supported Harmony Bazaar with a \$500 grant to assist with their songwriting and performing workshops for young musicians and to help in the production of a film about women.

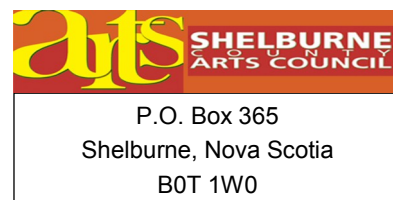
SCAC is always open to applications in any artistic genre. In the past, SCAC has granted funds to individual artists to purchase supplies and to take training. It has purchased theatre seats for children and supported arts events at the Lockeport Beach Centre's Paint Out program.

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.

"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 - vacant

#### Board Members-

Ruth West

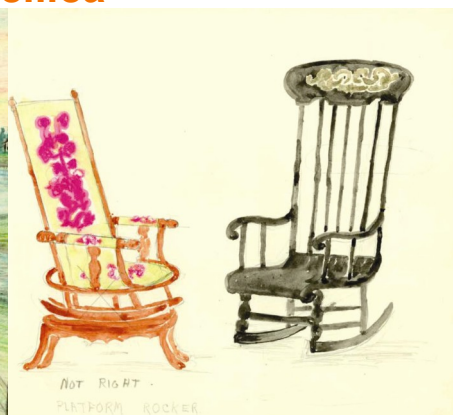
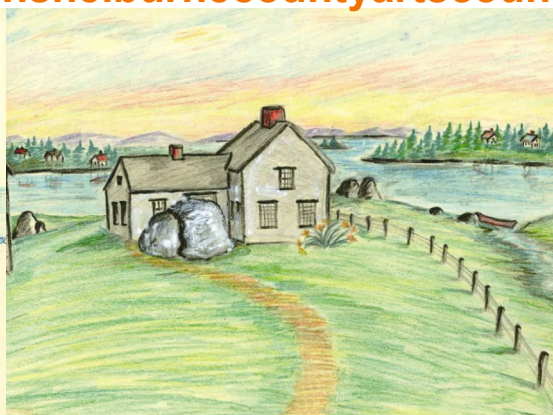
George Harding

Kathleen Tudor

Cindy Hagen

Executive Director-Darcy Rhyno

[www.shelburnecountyartscouncil.ca](http://www.shelburnecountyartscouncil.ca)



These drawings are from the book *The Rock Before the Door* published by SCAC in August. The book is available for sale.

## 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 about 50 members and that number has to stay the same or improve.

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