



Musings, 2014

# SHELBURNE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Allan Crosby



## New Public Art Program Under Way

Shelburne County is on its way to having a custom-made Public Art Policy and Program.

Thanks to a grant through the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage called Support 4 Culture, the Arts Council is developing the policy and program.

Support 4 Culture is a new designated lottery program of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation to

support arts, culture, and heritage across Nova Scotia. It's expected to raise about \$2 million each year.

SCAC is conducting research and collecting policies from across Canada, including urban areas like Vancouver and Halifax, as well as smaller places like Brampton, Ontario and Red Deer, Alberta.

These policies are helping guide the work of developing a policy and program that will eventually lead to the creation and installation of public art in Shelburne County.

The Council has also created a Pinterest page where it is collecting examples of the best public art from far and wide, including some of the work it has already commissioned and installed in the community. The page is called "Public Art For Small Towns" which currently has 165 pins and eight followers.

SCAC Executive Director, Darcy Rhyno, created a presentation about public art that explores its benefits, as well as common issues including costs, funding, insurance and maintenance. Several communities like Montague, PEI are offered as case studies.

The presentation is a visual

feast as it includes inspiring works from all over the world, including across Canada, the Maritimes, Nova Scotia and Shelburne County. Rhyno took many of the photos himself.

Any group that would like to see the presentation should contact the Council to make arrangements. The presentation takes about an hour, including a Q&A session.



James MacKay carving, Shelburne



Yayoi Kusama's "Ascension of Polka Dots" in Singapore is an example of art that could be adapted to small towns.

## 2014 Report

### Inside this issue:

Writing Up	2
Musings About Fun	2
Record Making	3
BIG 2015 Scholarship	3
Thanks Rebecca	4
Kim Truchan	4
Membership	4

### 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

## Community Theatre Coordinator In Place

The Arts Council contracted Alison Stanton to take on the role of Community Theatre Coordinator.

With funding through the Support 4 Culture, the program to fund arts in Nova Scotia, the Arts Council has created a position that fills a deep need in the community to solidify the amateur theatre activity in the community and help it develop.

Alison is has appeared in many Basement Theatre pro-

ductions and has directed several major productions for the group. She performed the one-woman play Bitter Rose by Governor General Award winning playwright Catherine Banks. Susan Hoover directed this play and several others featuring Alison.

To begin her position, Alison organized two workshops for Basement Theatre performers with Broadway director and Emmy Award winning director-producer of *Law and Order*, Ed

Sherin. She's also directing a Christmas play to be performed December 13 at the Osprey. She's planning a big musical production for the spring.



## Community Arts Grants

Painting, film, music—the Arts Council supported a variety of arts genres in 2014 with its program “Community Arts Grants.”

Lockeport’s summer music festival Harmony Bazaar received the single largest grant of \$500 to support local musicians.

SCAC was able to support the Shelburne Film Expo in its second year of operation with a \$350 grant. Rob Stork and Marta Ramirez Stork created the Expo as a way to package activities around short films.

Rob and Marta introduced their short film competition this year with a screening of entries at Shelburne High. They showed the winner—a film made in Birchtown—the following evening at the Osprey to a sellout crowd there to see the second annual Asbury

Shorts Film Festival based in New York City. NSCAD art student Catlin Perry of Shel-



“Reflection Shelburne” by Michelle Blades.

burne received a grant of \$300 to purchase art supplies to create commissioned works.

Two painters received funding to be in residence for a day each at the Focus Gallery in Shelburne—\$200 to George Theoret and \$150 to Michelle Blades. A grant of \$100 went to the Osprey Arts Centre to assist young musicians participate in a March break rock camp with the band Speed Control. \$200 went to the Whirligig Festival as a sponsorship for a prize in a special category of whirligig construction.

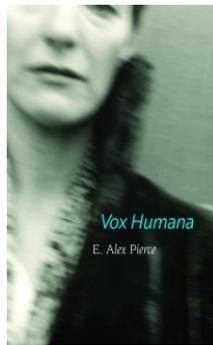
Anyone can apply for funding to support an individual artist or an organization, as long as the funds are used to support arts activity related to Shelburne County. To apply, see the “Community Grants” page on the Arts Council’s website.

## Writing Residency Extended—Pierce Stays On

Following a successful first writer-in-residence program in 2013, the Arts Council continued its relationship with E. Alex Pierce.

She met from time to time through most of 2014 at the library in Shelburne with writers who attend last year’s workshops. Some of those writers wished to continue meeting with Pierce to work on projects that were on-going.

Meeting two afternoons a week through much of the summer, Pierce mentored one writer working on a novel for



young adults that she believes is ready to send to a publisher. Another continued work on a memoir and another a novel. She offered 21 sessions altogether.

“There was something about the residency and extension that encouraged serious projects,” says Pierce.

The Arts Council is very pleased with the results of both the 2013 residency and the 2014 extension, pleased that it could offer a valuable service to the community through such a talented writer and teacher.

A poet and writing teacher

with a home in East Sable River, 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*.

Says Pierce of her accomplishments, “I completed my long poem on Keats and Schubert in October. My poetry group organized a workshop with Don McKay as a way of re-visioning the way we read and critique one another’s work. The support of SCAC has meant a great deal to me in these past two years especially.”

## Musings—Fun, Frolic and Fundraising for Scholarship

Guy Tipton kicked off this year’s “Musings,” the Arts Council’s annual fundraising event with an animated short film.

Tipton’s nephew who lives in the UK made the film as an animation of the title song off Tipton’s album of originals called *These Days*.

The song is about a man who’s too busy to help out a homeless man he meets at a train station. Both the song and the film were big crowd pleasers and particularly poignant.



Just as popular with the near capacity audience was a skit by Ben Holmes and Braden Chetwynd about two possums contemplating the meaning of their existence as potential road kill.

Lorraine Chapman and Alison Stanton read humorous pieces. Mike Hartigan read an original poem about a windy day. George Thorburn of Basement Theatre led a couple of theatre exercises that brought a couple of enthusiastic kids out of the audience to participate.

A couple of couples took the stage to play and sing. Chett and Lisa

Buchanan performed some original material while Terridean and Warren MacNeil entertained with a couple of songs.

Amanda Pedro performed a song with her two children and finished off the evening with a duet accompanied by Bill Smith on piano.

The tables groaned under the weight of the many desserts and the tea and coffee flowed like water.



# SCAC Records Supports Three More Music Projects

Three new CDs received funding through the Arts Council's SCAC Records program.

The granting jury awarded \$500 each to the three projects.

Allan Crosby and Alex Buchanan have formed a new duo called "Same Day Delivery." They have written and recorded rough tracks for over 20 songs.

Among those that will likely make the cut to the dozen or so needed for the album are songs like "Righteous Road," "Long Time to Stick Around," "Sorry for Invading" and the bluesy "Ragged Island Rooster."

"Our songs are in the style of the band Little Feat," says Alex.

Chett Buchanan is working on his first solo recording of all original songs, some of which he wrote as a teenager. His songs include "My Foolish Moon," "Sway Me Slow," "Big Heart" and "Fooled Yourself

Again."

The third project is by Killick, the local folk foursome led by Pat Melanson that includes Chett Buchanan, Alex Buchanan and Sean McClure.

Their songs include Alex Bu-

chanan's "My Once and For All." Pat Melanson's song, "Goin' Down to Boston," is a lively pub song. Sean McClure's quirky, catchy "Man From Key Largo" will be a real treat and a bit of a departure for Killick.

Pat Melanson's humorous take on a fanatical hunter's last wishes called "Camo Casket" is sure to become a single off the album.

All three projects are well under way at HarbourTone Productions in Shelburne.

The Arts Council's SCAC Records program offers Shelburne County musicians the opportunity to apply for funding to support recording projects. Each year, the Council sets aside \$1500 and accepts applications for a portion of that funding.

The Council calls on a standing committee of three local musicians to review the applications and recommend to the SCAC Board of Directors which projects to fund and how much funding each should receive.

To apply, visit the SCAC website and follow the directions on the SCAC Records page.



Allan Crosby (above) and Alex Buchanan are teaming up on a new CD.



Chett Buchanan received SCAC Records funding for a solo project. He's also part of Killick,

## BIG Opportunity for Students Entering Arts Programs

### The Peter Oliver Scholarship Skips a Year—Bigger Award for 2015

The Peter Oliver Scholarship for students entering post secondary arts programs was not awarded in 2014. The Arts Council received no applications from eligible students, either from any of the three county high schools or from graduates of earlier years.

In past years, the Arts Council has awarded two and as many as three scholarships. Whenever SCAC awards more than one scholarship, the amount for each student is of course reduced.

In years when the scholarship is not awarded, the amount of the prize is carried forward to the next year. This means that in 2015, the scholarship should be worth more than it ever has.

Funding for the Peter Oliver Scholarship comes from three sources. First, the Arts Council holds annual "Musings," a variety show concept created by Peter Oliver himself to raise funds for of community causes. Now, the Arts Council presents Musings to raise funds for the

scholarship presented in Peter's memory.

The second source of funding for the scholarship is the endowment fund established about three years ago. The endowment was established with funds from Musings, private donations and from an arts award won by the Council. The funds are invested through the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. Last year, the investment earned about \$380 for the scholarship. For the 2015 scholarship, this amount will be added to interest earned this year.

The third source of funding for the scholarship is the Arts Council itself. Most years, the Council matches the amount available to be awarded to the winners,

usually doubling the value of the scholarship.

The endowment fund is worth over \$10,000. Council is very pleased with its efforts to build an investment of this size to provide significant funds in the form of

interest earned for this scholarship to remember Peter Oliver's unique and valuable contribution to the community. The Council is now discussing whether or not the investment is of sufficient size.

If Musings is no longer required to build the scholarship endowment, Council could use it to build its other investment, the Shelburne County Arts Endowment Fund, the interest from which is put towards other Council projects.



## Rebecca Tudor's Decade

At the 2014 AGM in April, Rebecca Tudor stepped aside from her position as Chair of the Council. She served in that position since May 11, 2004.

In her ten-year service, Rebecca guided the Council through many changes and the development of major pro-



Tudor receiving parting gift, a photo by Lisa Buchanan

grams.

For example, she was one of the creators of the Arts Archive, an on-going project to document the arts history of Shelburne County. To establish and develop the archive, she attended a number of training sessions to learn about documenting and preserving artefacts.

To move the project forward, Rebecca secured funding to hire Kim Truchan on a year-long contract to build the archive and find a permanent home for it—the Shelburne County Museum.

Under Rebecca's leadership, the Council developed a granting program to provide funding for artists and

community projects. The Council created a visiting author program, recording and publishing programs, a scholarship, a commissioning program, won a \$10,000 awards for making Shelburne County a leading arts community and created two endowment funds using the prize money.

Her firm, gentle leadership style meant that meetings—including the annual brainstorming sessions—were always as fun as they were constructive. She continues to serve on the board.



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### SCAC is ...

Chair - George Harding  
Vice Chair - Holly Renaud  
Treasurer - Gloria Hanief  
Secretary - Kate Turner

#### Board Members

Lisa Buchanan  
Susan Hoover  
Vicki Huskison  
Hazel Keddy  
Janet Moore  
Kathleen Tudor  
Rebecca Tudor

Executive Director-Darcy Rhyno



Communities, Culture and Heritage

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

## Memberships 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 archives 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**

**ONLY  
\$10**

## Kim Truchan Remembered

Kim Truchan's death in August saddened us at SCAC. Kim joined the board in 2007 and stepped down in 2012 for health reasons. She enlivened our meetings and our organization with her ideas and her enthusiasm for them and for local culture.

She initiated a number of programs. When we began to work on our arts archive, Kim became the administrator for a year. During her time working on this project, she found the lovely little

story, *The Rock Before the Door*, written by Thomas Hopkins and illustrated by Jane Hopkins Poole. It took a number of years but SCAC was eventually able to publish a beautiful reproduction of the work. The publication of this little gem was a demonstration of the value and beauty Kim saw all around her in Shelburne County.

It was Kim's idea that the

Shelburne County Museum (for which she worked) partner with SCAC, the Osprey and the Shelburne County Genealogy Society to create Community Talks, a series of talks by writers and artists who discussed their craft with great passion.

One of the most memorable events in Kim's career as an artist in Shelburne County was her solo show at the Osprey which featured local fishing boat names, cleverly photographed and placed on plaques.

These plaques remain treasured by many members of the community.

Kim lived with cancer for the last three years of her life. She lived this time fully, always welcoming her friends for visits, wanting to hear what was happening in the arts scene in Shelburne County, especially what SCAC was up to. None of us will ever forget Kim, with her sweet smile, her rich imagination, her fiercely honest artistic vision and her love of her new home here in Shelburne County.