



NEWSLETTER

Public Art Policy Launched

The Arts Council recently wrote and published the **SCAC Public Art Policy**. On November 24, the Arts Council launched the policy as a guide to developing its own public art program.

The policy is a comprehensive document that the Arts Council will use to bring more public art to the region. SCAC also invited others such as local municipalities to adapt the document for their own purposes.

The launch of the policy held at the Osprey in Shelburne included a "world café" session during which 25 participants (including several from four of Shelburne County's five municipal units) discussed issues at six tables.

Each participant spent ten minutes per table answering a specific question. Each discussion was hosted by a SCAC board member.

The questions encouraged input on the best sites, best artists and best ideas for public art in the area. Other topics included the best art in other places and the best ways to get a

public art program going.

During the event, a slideshow about public art, its benefits and issues around developing a pro-



gram ran in the background.

At the end of the evening, participants were asked to join a Public Art Working Group which SCAC will create and oversee.

Participants received hard copies of the Public Art Policy, which is also available for download on the SCAC website.

Staff member Darcy Rhyno wrote the policy after extensive research into the development and use of such policies across Canada and beyond. He's also been gathering examples of public art on his travels to cities, towns and rural areas with such programs. Many of his photos were

featured in the slide show.

Small Town. Big Art completed

In the fall of 2016, a project of the Whirligig and Weathervane Festival was completed when a sculpture by Brad Hall was installed on the waterfront near the Shelburne Harbour marina.

A wrapped bench of polished granite and a 25 foot high alumi-



Brad Hall at the unveiling of his sculpture.

num staff with flags was officially unveiled on September 17.

During the ceremony at the marina, members of SCAC (which supported the project), the Whirligig Festival, municipal representatives and Brad Hall himself spoke about the importance of the project and about the potential for more public art in the region.



2017

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Take Note

- Just \$10 gets you a membership good Jan to Dec. Yup, the price of three Tim Horton's Iced Capps supports local artists.
- We gave out over \$8000 in grants to local artists last year. Are you eligible?
- Are you a musician? We can make beautiful music together.
- Could you use the help of a mentor?
- Planning to study arts at university? Apply for our scholarship.

- Like us on Facebook.



Writer-in-Residence Leads to Publishing

SCAC hosted "Writers Read: Voices from Shelburne County" on December 1.

Seven emerging and professional writers read from recent work. Much of that work was developed with the assistance of SCAC's **Writer-in-Residence** E. Alex Pierce who has been working with some participants for several years.

"It's just grand to hear everyone read and see the new strength and poise that's building up," said E. Alex at the end

of the program.

SCAC board member Susan Hoover who has been working with the program said, "I was so impressed with how everyone's work has developed."

Shortly after the reading, one participant – Denise Reashore – received an acceptance letter from *Understorey Magazine* for her poem "Legacy," which she read at the event.

The poem references an earlier Arts Council project, the

Con't on Page 4



"Writers Read" group left to right Joan MacAdams, E. Alex Pierce, Denise Reashore, Don Bird, Eileen Sanderson, Kathleen Tudor, Mike Hartigan. Not pictured is Jana Traff. Sue Deschene photo.

Pirate Author Visits Schools

Kate Inglis visited three Shelburne County elementary schools in November as the guest of the Arts Council.

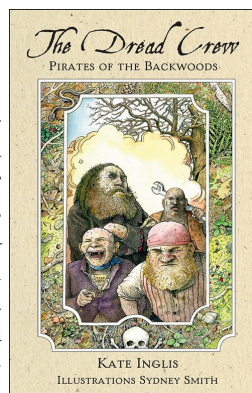
The three schools selected for this year's author visit were Evelyn Richardson in Shag Harbour, Lockeport Elementary and Hillcrest in Shelburne.

Kate is the author of two novels for young readers and a picture book for

even younger readers. *Dread Crew* is a kind of *Treasure Island* except it's about wood pirates – yes, pirates who roll across Nova Scotia in a land ship – and Eric, the young pirate tracker who discovers their shenanigans. *Flight of the Griffons* is the sequel in which young Missy Bullseye follows a pirate crew that takes to the air. Sydney Smith's wonderful illustrations grace both books.

And in the whimsical children's picture book *If I Were a Zombie*, Kate's young characters pretend what it's like to turn into all manner of monsters.

SCAC board member Michelle Blades



organized the visit and accompanied Kate to a school. she says Kate was a big hit with the kids. In the evening between school visits, SCAC arranged a workshop on creativity with Kate at Studio 138 in Shelburne. The author presented an interactive session of inspiring insight.

Each year the Arts Council enriches the lives of our children by placing an author in schools at no charge. Canada Council grants make author visits possible.

If I were a mummy
I'd drink slime smoothies
I'd stay up all night
I'd never get snoozy
I'd play brainball with all my best buds
None of my sleepovers would be boring duds
I'd use all the toilet paper in my house
My daily breakfast? Scrambled mouse!

Written by grade 2 & 3 students at Hillcrest
with the guidance of Kate Inglis

Jessica Jurgenliemk Earns Renamed Oliver Scholarship

In June, the Arts Council named Jessica Jurgenliemk of Shelburne the last winner of the Peter Oliver Scholarship, this time worth \$1000.

The Arts Council renamed the award the **Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship** to celebrate the couple's lifelong working relationship and their love for each other.

Jessica is studying music therapy at Acadia University. A gifted musician, Jessica wrote and recorded a full CD of her own songs when she was just 15 years old. She has performed with Basement Theatre, organized all-youth shows at the Osprey Arts Centre and taught music to young people, some in a program for the disabled.

The Arts Council believes that Jessica's

artistic abilities, her infectious enthusiasm and her work as a mentor to others makes her a great candidate for a scholarship named for the Olivers.

Joan Oliver died at home on June 17. In her obituary, Joan is described as "A force to be reckoned with, only standing at 4 foot 11."

Joan and her late husband Peter Oliver were involved in theatre and the arts all their lives. Peter worked as a professional actor and director. Peter and Joan worked hard to increase artistic activity in the community. Basement Theatre is the best known of

their projects.

Joan and Peter are considered important figures in the founding of British alternative and fringe theatre. They led a generation of actors, writers, directors and musicians who went on to become household names like Salman Rushdie, Athol Fugard, David Hare and Pierce Brosnan.

Several years ago, the Arts Council created the Scholarship to assist students entering post secondary education in the arts and to recognize the great contribution Peter made to local arts. Now Joan will be recognized as well.



Mentors Offer Workshops & Private Instruction

The Arts Council funded three projects under its new **Mentorship Program**.

The largest was a group mentorship with Rob Stork for a set of workshops on storytelling.

"The goal of the workshops was to identify the underlying structure inherent in all satisfying stories and to look for ways to apply that structure to each participant's projects," Rob said after the six-week series wrapped up in November.

Each session delved into storytel-

ling techniques which could be applied to novels, screenplays, memoirs, creative non-



Left to Right: Linda McNicol, Jason Smith, Tyler Peck, Mike Turney, Rob Stork, Sue Deschene, Glenn Cunningham, Marta Stork, Terry Hawkins, Alexander Riley. Sue Deschene photo.

fiction, video documentary and short stories. Participants learned about plot, character, dialogue, editing and marketing.

Rob praised the writers for sharing their ideas about their own writing process and evaluating one another's work.

"We've formed a writer's group with plans to meet monthly and to continue to push each other's stories further along," said Rob.

The other two mentorships established through the Arts Council provided two teenagers (one from Lockeport and one from **Con't P3**

Two Musical Groups Funded Through SCAC Records

Two musical groups received support from the **SCAC Records** program to help with the costs of recording CDs in 2016.

Little House of Lockeport is a four-piece group consisting of Cyril Meagher, Auri Frattura, Sean Meisner and Al Acker.

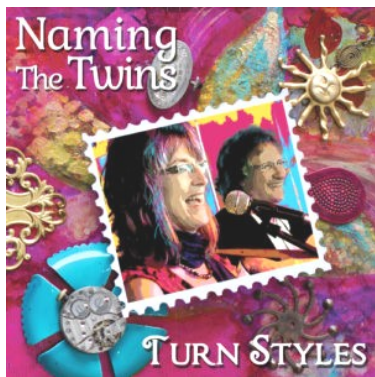
They got their name from jam sessions held Saturday nights in what is literally a little house in Lockeport. The group also hosts open mics in the summer at the Lockeport Beach Centre.

The group recorded two songs to accompany their application, "Late Night Romance" and "Understanding." The Arts Council awarded them \$750.

The second grant of \$1000 went to Naming the Twins to assist with their new recording

Turn Styles. The recording process took ten months and includes original as well as traditional material.

Song titles include the cleverly named "Too Far Gone for



Turn Styles is one of the two CD recording projects funded in 2016 through the SCAC Records program.

Closeups," "You're Right Everything's Wrong" and the second to last song on the CD "The Last Song."

The colourful cover features terrific design work by Alex Buchanan and equally excellent photography by Lisa Buchanan. *Turn Styles* is available locally and on-line.

Both projects were or are being recorded at Harbour-Tone Productions in Shelburne by Alex Buchanan.

Anyone can apply for SCAC Records assistance. There is no application form. Just send a letter explaining the project and the financial need accompanied by a sample of music. Deadlines are April 15 and September 15, annually.

Musings A Hit

This year's "A Musings" was the best attended in years. SCAC wishes to thank all those who supported the event by attending, making desserts and helping in other ways.

The theme for this year's Musings "A Tale of Two Oliver's" was a tribute to Joan Oliver who died in June and her late husband Peter.

Thanks to Ben Holmes for emceeing and to all the performers and presenters, including The Shelburne Madrigal Choir under co-directors Bill Smith and Linda Jeffrey, Kathleen Tudor who read from her book *Trouble in the Tropics* illustrated by Joan Oliver and musicians Julie Ferguson, Jessica Jurgenliemk (the latest Peter Oliver Scholarship winner) and Clayton Dawson, Amanda Pedro and Bill Smith.

Thanks to Braden Chetwynd (who won the Scholarship in 2015) for showing his most recent artwork, Rob and Marta Stork who showed the short film "Ghost Light" created during the Osprey's summer film camp, Mike Hartigan and Jana Traff for reading from their poetry and to Basement Theatre veterans Alison Stanton and Lorraine Chapman for performing excerpts from Peter Oliver's *It's a Greek Thing*.

This year's successful Musings was organized by SCAC board members Vicki Huskison, Michelle Blades and Sue Deschene. Musings grossed \$858 for the Peter and Joan Oliver Scholarship.

Community Grants Fund Videos & More

Last year, SCAC granted over \$3000 from its **Community Arts Program**. Two grants went to local musicians making videos for original songs.

Natalie Lynn will shoot a video for her song "Hope It Was Worth It," with River Point Films owned by Dillon Garland of Barrington. He won Video of the Year at Nova Scotia Music Week in 2014 for earlier work.

The song was co-written by Natalie, Laura Roy and Mo Kenney at the Gordie Sampson Songcamp. Some of the shooting and production took place at the Osprey and at HarbourTone Productions, both in Shelburne.

Natalie says the video is helping her gain interest from producers and other music industry professionals, including John

Mullane of Inflight Safety. To see a teaser for the video, visit her website at natalielynn.ca.

SCAC awarded Naming the Twins a grant to develop a video for their song "What new Lovers Do." Shooting begins in 2017.

Other grants went to Lockeport wildlife photographer Robert Turner to create a high quality portfolio of his photos, Vicki Huskison for supplies to make hand-crafted pens and the Shelburne Film Expo to assist with the costs of presenting their short film festival.

While the Arts

Council encourages anyone to submit applications by annual deadlines of March 15 and October 15, SCAC will consider applications that require timely responses. There is no application form. To request funding, write a letter to SCAC that explains the importance of the project and the financial need.



Mentors... con't

Shelburne) with instruction in visual arts and music.

The Arts Council paired the Lockeport teen with professional painter Lio Lo of Jordan Falls and paid for art supplies the student needed for the art lessons.

The Shelburne teenager was keen to learn

both drums and guitar. The Arts Council paired him with Lockeport guitarist Auri Frattura and with Murray Hagen of Shelburne to learn drums. Our House Youth Wellness Centre in Shelburne provided the space and the musical instruments for weekly sessions with each of these two mentors.

For privacy reasons, the Arts Council is

keeping the names of both teenagers confidential.

Anyone in need of arts instruction or with putting a portfolio of art together or preparing a grant application can contact the Arts Council to be paired with someone who can help. Simply write a letter to SCAC explaining the need for the training and the financial need.

Artist Profile: Peter Healy

The tenth and last drama camp production written and directed by Peter Healy will be staged at the Osprey Arts Centre in July 2017 following his famous two-week Drama Camp.

Peter is a retired schoolteacher, singer, songwriter, actor and director. He loves working with children, especially those 8 to 13 before puberty brings self-consciousness.

As a child Peter (better known by some as P.T.) was especially fond of the Little Rascals – child actors who could act before they could speak.

Peter began acting at age 8, but at Acadia University he was influenced by his teacher Evelyn Garbary to take theatre.

As a grade 8 teacher, Peter found he loved teaching and directing children. He has performed with every theatre group in Shelburne since the 1970s.

Being a kid at heart, he loves the foolishness of cartoons, the Goon Show, the Three Stooges, that kind of off-the-wall humour. It is from

these sources that his plays come. Most of the content is from Healy's past and he assumes that the audience of adults will get his references. In his last play, "Who is What?" Peter showed children that monsters are just as confused as the rest of us.



Whether the kids understand his intentions or not, Peter is sure they are able to quickly learn the basics of stagecraft while having a lot of fun.

Peter's greatest satisfaction is in helping kids "discipline themselves to shine on stage and while retaining their love of fun and their ability to get into mischief."

Peter finds the work physically demanding. He never talks down to kids or chastises them. Nothing kills an actor like scolding, so he calls on the patience he learned over a career of working with them.

Peter Healy is a treasure that many of Shelburne's children have come to love. We hope he continues to share his vision, his imagination and his enthusiasm with Shelburne's young people.



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SCAC is ...

Chair - Holly Renaud

Vice Chair - Cindy Hagen

Treasurer - vacant

Secretary - Kate Turner

Board Members

Michelle Blades

Susan Hoover

Sue Deschene

Suzy Atwood

Executive Director

Darcy Rhyno



Communities, Culture and Heritage

A Heart-Breaking Year for the Arts Council and the Community

It's been a difficult time this past year for the Arts Council and the arts community in Shelburne County. Two SCAC board and executive members—Gloria Hanief and Vicki Huskilson—and a former board member—Joan Oliver—died in 2016.

In the spring, the Arts Council's long-serving and much loved Treasurer Gloria Hanief died unexpectedly after an illness.

Gloria was a great supporter of the arts and a career teacher of English in Shelburne. Many, many former students expressed fondness for her in that role.

She served as Treasurer for the past six years and as a board member for several years prior. Bookkeeping was new to her, but she took it on as an important responsibility in the service of the arts in her community.

Gloria became known for the precision and even the colourfulness of her treasurer's reports. She took her responsibilities very seriously, but also with a sense of humour. Her wit, integrity and intelligence added spice, warmth and lightness to every

meeting she attended. SCAC has not managed to replace her.

In the summer, former board member Joan Oliver died after falling ill. Although she left the board in 2012 after serving for many years, Joan's contribution to the arts in her community was significant.

In addition to serving on the Arts Council, Joan and her husband Peter were the founders and for many years the leaders of Basement Theatre.

Joan also enjoyed volunteering at Heritage Hall. She developed relationships with many of those who worked there, offering free art lessons to some.

As an arts council member, Joan always brought her significant experience in the arts gained in Europe and the United States to the table, along with an uncompromising honesty and a fierce integrity.

Then in December, a car accident took the lives of Vicki Huskilson and her husband best known around Lockeport as Little Mac.

At the time, Vicki was sharing the Secretary position with another board member, a

job she was very good at and that she enjoyed.

Vicki might be best known as the owner of the lovely little Tides of Time Gallery and Gifts in Lockeport. She took great pride in the shop and in presenting so many works by so many local artists, many of whom she called friend.

Vicki was so dedicated to the artists in her community, she could almost be considered her own private arts council.

At meetings, Vicki always spoke generously of others. Her laugh was infectious, as was her enthusiasm and her utter belief in and respect for the artists of her community and for their work.

The board members and staff at the Arts Council miss their friends immensely for their warmth, their intelligence and wit, for their shared belief in the importance of the arts and their significant support for the arts through their own work and through their volunteer work with the Shelburne County Arts Council. 2016 has made us all the poorer for their passing.

Writer-In-Residence Leads to Publishing... con't

publishing of a book called *The Rock Before the Door* about a house in Barrington near Denise's own home.

In fact, so much quality writing has come out of this program, Susan and E. Alex are looking into publishing a book of work by the participants.

Eileen Sanderson is working on a mem-

oir about growing up Métis. Mike Hartigan read from his stories about life in 1950's Cape Breton. E. Alex Pierce read work by Jana Traff who could not attend the event.

Other writers read from on-going and published work, including Nan Kleins, Joan MacAdams Page, Kathleen Tudor, Don Bird and E. Alex Pierce herself.

