



ELORA FERGUS ARTS COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUÉ

PUBLISHED BY THE ELORA ARTS COUNCIL SINCE 1985

January 2023

Introducing our New Co-Chairs

Susan Thorning is a dedicated and accomplished professional with a lifelong passion for helping the elderly. Born and raised in Elora, she began her career at the Wellington County Museum before going on to manage an art therapy program at the Veterans' hospital in London. Her dedication to the elderly continued as she started one of the first Alzheimer Day programs in the province.

With a background in gerontology from the University of Toronto and a graduate diploma in not-for-profit management from York University, Susan rose through the ranks to become the CEO of a provincial health association. In 2012, she retired from this role but continues to be an advocate for home and community care organizations.

In her personal life, Susan's artistic side shines through with her love for fibre arts, painting in oils and watercolour, and since retiring to Elora, she has begun experimenting with monotype and other forms of printmaking. She is an active member of her community and has served as Secretary on the EFAC board for the past eight years. She is excited to work alongside Mary-Anne Dalkowski as Co-Chair of the EFAC.

Mary-Anne Dalkowski is a native of Ottawa, where she managed the publications section of the Canada Council for the Arts for 18 years.

Moving to Fergus in 1990 she first did freelance work for the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, producing exhibit catalogues and the newsletter. In 1992, what started as a freelance project developed into an executive marketing position with a global forest products company. She surprised herself with her success in the for-profit world and used the opportunity to extend her experience to product development, training and merchandising. The work had her travelling across Canada and internationally, with Fergus as a touch-down base.

Despite the constraints on her personal life, Mary-Anne has been a weaver, spinner, dyer and fibre artist for over 45 years. She has a home weaving studio and is an active member of a number of local and international weaving guilds and associations.

After her retirement she wanted to enjoy and support the community in which she lives, so she joined the Arts Council Board in 2018. Since then, she has seen the big difference that a few committed people can make and thinks she could not have a better Co-Chair than Susan.

2022-23 Arts Council Survey

The Elora Fergus Arts Council has launched a new survey to gather information from the creative community in Centre Wellington in order to make our strategies and initiatives more responsive. We want to start with you, our members, and get your input about your needs and challenges.

The survey is a follow-up to one we conducted during COVID, which has become outdated with the continuing impacts of the pandemic. Your responses will help shape discussions at the Arts Roundtable we hope to host sometime this year. At the close of the survey, you are invited to be part of the Roundtable if you want to be part of the process. The survey is anonymous and can be accessed on the Arts Council website www.elorafergusartscouncil.ca. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the survey and make your voice heard.

Also please share the link with your creative friends and associates. We want to hear from anyone involved in creative endeavours in Centre Wellington. That includes individual artists, makers, writers, musicians and performers, not-for-profit groups, charities, dance and arts schools, music and art teachers, and choirs, as well as creative businesses (such as galleries, graphic arts, culinary arts, architecture).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email elorafergusartscouncil@gmail.com.

Start Thinking BIG! for Culture Days 2023 September 22 to October 15

The Elora Fergus Arts Council and the Township of Centre Wellington are partnering to present Culture Days 2023, from September 22 to October 15. We are looking for projects that celebrate creativity and the arts in a BIG way. We invite artists, performers and all the creative community to host and participate in activities that live up to our reputation that arts and culture are BIG here. It's why people want to visit and why we want to live here.

The theme of our celebration is Make It BIG! Make is to perform, create and just make, together. BIG! is about doing it in a way that is larger than life, that anyone can't help but notice. We want to engage the entire community, no matter how you are involved: as a hobby, teaching, practicing, hosting, selling, promoting or enjoying the arts and creativity. Our definition of the arts and creativity is also very broad: visual arts, performance, photography, artisanal crafts, fibre arts, culinary and distilling or brewing arts and many more. The BIG idea is to connect our community through art and creativity.

How can you participate? Volunteer for one of the projects already taking shape, or come up with one of your own. Events must be free of charge or by donation and open to the community. Although projects may span the three weeks of Culture Days, we hope to concentrate events on the weekend of October 7-8. We want to have events for everyone, young and old, celebrating our community's creativity and art in all its forms.

The Township of Centre Wellington will begin accepting ideas soon. Keep an eye open for an *Ideas Submission* form under the Culture Days link at centrewellington.ca. And start planning your part in our BIG celebration!

PROFILE

Judith Douglas Musician

Judith Douglas lives in Puslinch Township, but she has been bringing chamber music to Centre Wellington for over two decades. Judith has played the French Horn in numerous symphony orchestras, jazz bands, wind ensembles, chamber groups, trios and duets. She is the founder of the Venturi Winds. She has encouraged, taught and mentored horn players. And she has somehow found the time to organize and perform in a series of chamber music concerts at the Wellington County Museum every year since the early 2000s.

Judith comes from a musical family. Her grandfather, a self-taught pianist, found work playing the background music for silent movies. Her English grandmother won a scholarship to study voice in Manchester. However lovely her mezzo-soprano voice, her parents thought it unfitting for a young, single woman to pursue a career that would require her to travel alone. Judith's grandmother performed only at a limited number of local venues. Judith's mother loved to sing and there was always music of all kinds in the household growing up.

Judith was drawn to music from an early age and maintains that it was the strong vocal music program in public school that positioned her for a lifetime of music. Attending high school at Centennial Collegiate in Guelph, she joined the instrumental music class and selected the unpopular French horn when she discovered she wouldn't have to share the instrument with other students. As luck would have it, her teacher, a horn player, provided free lessons and encouraged her to join the school band, which she did after only six weeks of lessons. Soon she was also playing in the Guelph Brass Band.

The early 1970s found Judith at the University of Waterloo studying math and computer science. This did not silence her horn. Serendipity stepped in, allowing her to continue her musical education and broaden her performance experience. She attended a summer youth music camp that introduced her to professional musicians and teachers, including the first horn of the Toronto Symphony. She found a summer job that paid her to play chamber music concerts for 12 weeks. She joined the Kitchener-Waterloo Youth Orchestra and then the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

In spite of the lure of a career in music, Judith decided to complete a degree in economics and finance and keep her horn as a side-hustle. She began giving lessons and found herself, with her beloved French horn in hand, playing in a number of musical ensembles in the Guelph-Kitchener area. The repertoires of these groups varied broadly, demonstrating the breath of Judith's musical interests. The Windjammers, a 40-piece wind orchestra with both brass and woodwinds, plays mostly jazz and popular tunes from the 1930s and 40s. This group performs several concerts each year to raise funds for local charities. The Wellington Winds, a full wind ensemble, tackles a challenging classical repertoire. Judith also formed, with some of her fellow Kitchener-Waterloo Orchestra musicians, a wind quintet called the Venturi Winds.

Once again serendipity opened a door for Judith in the early 2000s when she became acquainted with Fred Webb and Lorraine Drew-Brooks who had started chamber music concerts at the Wellington County Museum around 1990. Fred asked her, on short notice, to fill in for a player who could not make a concert. She has been part of the Gallery Concert Series ever since, initially as a musician and then assisting Fred with the organizing of the concerts as well as playing and finally taking on the empresario role on her own when Fred passed away.

A conversation with Judith is an education in music appreciation. As a horn player, Judith thinks that the wind instruments are underappreciated. We most frequently encounter them in college bands, a step down from symphonic music. She points out that the design of the French horn makes no sense. No sane person would design an instrument with a tiny mouthpiece, pipes as long as a trombone and an oversized bell that makes one think of a tuba. The horn cannot race around the notes, as it is inherently unstable. Yet the notes coming from the bell have a unique evanescent quality that captures the attention and imagination. The horn seldom plays the melody line, but adds depth and form to the music and it grabs the listener.

Judith is not bothered by the paucity of solo music for horn. She notes that all the composers who wrote for solo horn wrote for particular horn players that they knew well. There are solo works by Mozart, Schumann, Richard Strauss. Her favourite piece to play is the Brahms horn trio, which is scored for horn, violin and piano. It was written for Brahms' own father who was a horn player. Like all of Judith's favourite music, this piece is small and personal and pairs the horn with piano. These two instruments have, according to Judith, a particular affinity for one another.

Her love of the classical repertoire does not mean Judith's interest is limited to classical music. As she puts it, her tastes are ABC, "anything but country". She appreciates jazz, popular music, folk, the American songbook, and even music from movies. The determining factor is that the music must be "well crafted." By this she means the quality and originality of the arrangement and the balance of instruments. Her eclecticism allows her to easily reference Ravel, Debussy and John Williams in the same sentence.

By not making music her job, Judith feels that music has remained a continuing driving passion throughout her life. The French horn is seldom a solo instrument and that suits Judith perfectly. She is most passionate about the music that she makes with other people. For her, the goal is a performance that becomes a conversation among the instruments in which everyone is in agreement. Her greatest delight is to be in that special moment of creativity, of oneness, of joy.

Gallery Concert Series

Gallery Concerts, now in their 31st season, take place in the salon-like atmosphere of the Exhibition Hall of the Wellington County Museum. All concerts are on Sunday afternoons at 2 pm. Tickets are available at the door and include access to all Museum exhibits as well as after-concert coffee with the artists. Single ticket \$10; under 16 \$1.

January 22, *A Celebration of Bing Crosby*, Brad Halls
February 12, *Instrumental Songs of Love*, The Cantabile Strings
March 5, Greg Stroh, flute; Judy Douglas, horn; Brad Moggach, piano

The Gallery Music Group is a non-profit organization "For the Community, by the Community". For more information email judith.douglas@sympatico.ca.

Arts Council 2023 Art Talks

Held in the local libraries on wintry Sunday afternoons, the Arts Talks are an opportunity for local artists and performers to share their experiences, tales of development and interaction with mentors, audiences and clients. Their presentations add to our insight and appreciation of their art and creativity. \$10 at the door.

January 29, *The Joy of Making Music Together*

Judith Douglas is the organizer and a player of the French Horn in the Gallery Music Concerts at the Wellington County Museum since 1988. She will share her story, her passion for chamber music, and the joy of perfect moments in music. Fergus Library, 2 pm

February 26, *The Elora Community Theatre: From Page to Stage*

Take a peek behind the curtains of the Elora Community Theatre, active since 1972, with Deb Stanson and Dave Tanner. These talented and dedicated local leaders in community theatre will take us on a journey from play selection to closing bow. Elora Library, 2 pm

March 12, *A Life in Weaving*

Dianne Kennedy Cruttenden has been creating woven tapestries and clothing since 1970. Often spinning her own yarn and hand-dyeing it, she is known for her use of vibrant, saturated colour. She will tell her story with imagery and weavings. Fergus Library, 2 pm

Joint Talk of the Elora Adventurers and the Arts Council

Hosted jointly by the Elora Adventurers and the Elora Fergus Arts Council, Ryan Joyce will tell stories of his work as an acclaimed magician, producer and Centre Wellington resident who has travelled the world sharing the art of magic. It's a journey that began with humble beginnings at CWDHS and a small nine-city Ontario tour. Twenty years later, Ryan has performed over five thousand shows worldwide and is an official judge for the FISM World Championship of Magic. Thursday, March 9, 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the Elora Community Centre. \$5 at the door. eloraadventureclub.com for more information.

Insights Juried Exhibition of Fine Arts

Insights is an annual juried exhibition of fine art recognizing high levels of accomplishment and innovative approaches to artistic expression. Artists from Wellington County, Perth County, Huron County, Dufferin County, and the City of Guelph are welcome to submit artworks for consideration. A three-person panel of art professionals, educators and curators serve as jurors. The exhibition takes place at the Wellington County Museum and Archives, thanks to a long-standing partnership between the Elora Fergus Arts Council and the Museum. For more information, visit insightarts.ca.

Main exhibition: March 30 to June 11, 2023
Opening Gala: Thursday, March 30, 7 to 9 pm
Walk with Jurors: Sunday, April 2, 1:30 to 3 pm

Elora Plein Air Festival

Designed to promote the arts in the community and celebrate the beauty of our region, Elora en Plein Air is the most ambitious of the Arts Council's activities. The festival draws artists and art lovers from across Ontario and Canada as well as the US and is open to both amateur and professional artists. The outdoor painting will take place throughout Centre Wellington over three days, from May 18 to May 20, and include nocturne painting. The event will culminate in a juried show and sale on Sunday, May 21, with over \$3,000 in prizes to the artists. For more information, visit elorapleinair.ca.

Of Interest

Elora Art Walk Self-Guided Walking Tour

Pick up a map at the Elora Centre for the Arts or visit eloracentreforthearts.ca

Elora Centre for the Arts The Minarovitch Gallery

'Common Threads: A Printmaker's Portal'

– to January 22

Works by painter and printmaker Carolyn Riddell

Elora Community Theatre

Murder at the Howard Johnson's: A Comedy in Two Acts by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick. Fergus Grand Theatre, February 10-12 and 17-19

The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde. Fergus Grand Theatre, May 5-7 and 12-14

Fergus Grand Theatre

Green River Revival: CCR Tribute, January 28

Full Petty Fever musical tribute, February 4

SPSD Competitive Dance Showcase, February 20

The Knitting Pilgrim, Kirk Dunn interdisciplinary one-man show, February 25

The Liverpool 4 Beatles tribute, March 4

Adrian Sutherland, Attawapiskat singer and songwriter, March 11

Elton Sean: Early Elton Tribute, March 18

Sean McCann Sings the Great Big Songbook, March 24

The AC/DC Show musical tribute, March 25

The Little Mermaid musical theatre, March 31 and April 1

Moore Band Concert: British Invasion, April 5

National Tartan Day Concert, April 6

Sweetwood Mac musical tribute, April 23

The Derina Harvey Band Celtic Rock, April 28

Grace 2, Celebrating the Tragically Hip, April 2

We Walk the Line Johnny Cash musical tribute, May 20

Wellington County Museum & Archives

Quiet Moments to March 12

The Elora Gorge captured in the paintings of Barry McCarthy and the photography of John Connon

Application Deadlines

January 31

Applications from new and returning members of the **Elora Fergus Studio Tour**. For more information and application forms visit elorafergusstudiotour.com

March 17-18

Artists can deliver their works to the Wellington County Museum & Archives for the **Insights Juried Exhibition of Fine Arts, March 30 to June 11, 2023**. For Artist Submission Information, visit insightarts.ca

Art in Public Places

This program brings art into the everyday lives of community members, enriching exterior and interior spaces with the creativity and talent of our local artists. Arts Council artist members can apply to have their work showcased in the Township of Centre Wellington Council Chambers in Elora, in the Boardroom of the Sportsplex in Fergus, or in the Greg Oakes Law Office in Elora.

With the loss of Beverley Cairns, the guiding light and official installer for this program, the Arts Council is calling on member artists to step forward to show their work, to serve on an informal selection jury and/or as ready hands to help install exhibitions.

Greg Oakes Law Office in Elora (opposite the Elora Library)

As ever, our thanks to Greg Oakes for this opportunity

The Paintings of Marijean Harris

Marijean is an accomplished painter and graphic artist whose passion for the natural world is evident in her work. She studied painting and art history at university, followed by studies in graphic art. Since her retirement, she has focused on painting full-time and has developed a unique style of abstraction in her large-scale imagined landscapes. Her work is a true expression of her love for nature and her ability to capture the essence of the natural world in her art. Marijean lives in Fergus.

Boardroom of the Fergus Sportsplex

Coming soon: Cityscape paintings of Fergus donated to the Elora Fergus Arts Council.

Township of Centre Wellington Council Chamber

Coming soon: Traditional rug hooking art of the Riverside Ruggers will be on display through February and March.

Fergus Library / Elora Fergus Studio Tour

The Elora Fergus Studio Tour mounts a new exhibit of its members' work every two months in the Fergus Library. Currently on display are the paintings of Indrah Dosanjh and Rick Worthington, and the pottery of Claudia Colbert, Colibri Pottery.

Elora Sculpture Project 2023

An affiliate of the Arts Council, The Elora Sculpture Project is organizing the selection and installation of 18 sculptures throughout Elora and Fergus this year.

This community initiative, managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers, is seeking interested persons to join their committee. If you believe public art enhances a community and if you want to share that belief with others, they want to hear from you. They need individuals who can help with any of these activities: community engagement, sponsor relations, promotion of events and Call for Submissions, or assisting visiting artists with installations and orientation. If interested, email elorasculptureproject@gmail.com.



2023 Executive

Co Chairs:	Mary-Anne Dalkowski Susan Thorning
Secretary:	Susan Thorning
Past Chair:	Barbara Lee
Treasurer:	Linda Lane
Membership:	Linda Lane
Projects:	Elske de Groot Louise Dench Beney Indra Dosanjh Melanie Morel Claudia Lambert

Meetings of the Board take place once a month. Members are encouraged to bring forth project proposals and attend Zoom or in-person meetings. For dates and times of meetings, please email elorafergusartscouncil@gmail.com

We also welcome information about shows, performances or anything you would like to share with members.

The Elora Fergus Arts Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, its members, donors and event sponsors.

Email: elorafergusartscouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.elorafergusartscouncil.ca

Final Edition of Communiqué

Communiqué has been the newsletter of the Elora Fergus Arts Council, published regularly since 1985. This is the final print edition.

The need for quick, efficient and cost-effective communication has led the Arts Council Board to decide that news will be shared by email and more frequently. The tradition of *Profiles* will be continued, however, with three new interviews a year, to be shared with members by email and on the Arts Council website, and with posterity at the Wellington County Archives.