

ST. THOMAS-ELGIN PUBLIC ART CENTRE
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Cover Image:
McDougall, Clark
Talbot Street 1964, 1964
Oil and enamel on board
91.4 x 110.9 cm

Gift of the University Women's Club in 1969. This artwork symbolizes the ongoing commitment to celebrating and promoting local talent. Clark's work embodies the vibrant spirit and creativity of our community, and we are honoured to preserve and showcase it for future generations.

MISSION

The mission of the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is to encourage and promote an appreciation for and support the practice of the visual arts in St. Thomas and Elgin County through a variety of exhibitions and educational programs and through the preservation of a permanent collection.

The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is a highly valued and respected art centre that is a focal point for the St. Thomas and Elgin community. The Art Centre is dedicated to fostering a welcoming, enriching and engaging environment of art and creativity, inspire, challenge and educate its audiences.

www.stepac.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Suzanne Baehr President
Bethany Green Acting Vice President
Meaghan Vreman Treasurer
Neil Hubert Secretary
Jenny Couse
Dang Ho
Bethany Green
Steven McLarty Payson
Sue Fortin Smith
John Allen
Andrew Snetsinger
Jane Armstrong
Dominique Giguère
(County of Elgin Rep.)
Tara McCaulley
(City of St. Thomas Rep.)

STEPAC TEAM

Laura Woermke Executive Director / Curator
Sherri Howard Program Director
Kait Ouellette Assistant
Teagan Butler Instructor *Preschool Picasso*
Brittany Cliff (Temporary) Administration Assistant
Ashely Lester Summer Student Gallery Attendant
Nathan Dennis Summer Student Instructor/special projects
Kiera Batzold Summer Art Program Instructor
Wilma Pineau Summer Art Program Instructor Assistant
Julianne Bryans Instructor / Part time Gallery Assistant
Amie Steven Gallery Attendant / Gift Shop

Committees

Acquisitions Committee

Chair Bethany Green
Steven McLarty Payson
Kevin Morrell
Laura Woermke

Fundraising Committee

Ciabh McEvenue
Andrew Snetsinger
Bethany Green
Sherri Howard
Laura Woermke
Finance Committee
Chair Suzanne Baehr
Treasurer Meaghan Vreman
Laura Woermke

Membership Committee

Chair Sue Fortin Smith
Laura Woermke

Human Resource Committee

Chair Suzanne Baehr
Dang Ho
Megan Vreman

Sponsorship Committee

Laura Woermke
Dang Ho

Volunteers

Makena DeVries
Will Yoon
Aabel Aldo
Trent Hoff

Olivia Hoff
Chloe Crosby
Bethany Green
Andrew Snetsinger
Suzanne Baehr
Jon Hayes
John Allen
Jake Ouelette
Steven McLarty Payson
Jenny Couse
Danni Dowson
Delilah Robinson
Camryn Sibley
Mark Cosens
Mike Pineau
Tara McCaulley
Kevin Morrell
Avery Payne
Josee Coutu
Mollie Potter
Emmi Coburn
Neil Hubert
Meaghan Vreman
Ardythe Anderson

Total Volunteer Hours: 627.5

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support from the City of St. Thomas, the County of Elgin, donors, members and supporters. With your support you provide us with the opportunity to be creative, responsive and entertaining.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant community that surrounds us and the unwavering support we receive. This past year has been a transformative journey, marked by creativity, collaboration, and resilience.

We have successfully hosted a diverse array of exhibitions that showcased the incredible talent of local and regional artists. From thought-provoking contemporary installations to engaging community-driven projects, each exhibition has provided a platform for dialogue and reflection, enriching our cultural landscape.

One of the highlights of this year was the historic gift of artwork by local artist Clark McDougall to our permanent collection. This significant addition not only honours Clark's artistic vision but also emphasizes our commitment to preserving and celebrating the rich artistic heritage of our community. We are excited to share this piece with you and to continue fostering an appreciation for local art.

In addition to our exhibitions, we have expanded our educational programs, offering workshops, classes, and partnerships initiatives that engage individuals of all ages. Our goal is to inspire creativity and provide meaningful opportunities for learning and connection. We believe that art should be accessible to everyone, and we are dedicated to breaking down barriers to participation. A very special thank you to Sherri Howard, our Program Director for her dedication and remarkable vision.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission to encourage and promote an appreciation for and support the practice of the visual arts in St. Thomas and Elgin County through a variety of exhibitions and educational programs and through the preservation of a permanent collection and supporting artists and enriching our community through the power of art. Your continued support and engagement are vital to our success, and we invite you to join us on this journey as we explore new avenues of creativity and collaboration.

Thank you for being an integral part of the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre family. Together, we will continue to celebrate the transformative power of art and its ability to connect us all.

Warm regards,



Laura Woermke
Executive Director

Clark McDougall
"From William St. Thomas Smith, nd
Watercolour on paper, 24"x32"
Signed lower left

Provenance: Artwork was gifted to John Roscoe and Helen Ferguson as a wedding gift c. 1954. It has been in their collection until it was gifted to the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre in 2024.



12.75% INCREASE **8247**
VISITORS

580
TOURS/OFFSITE/
COMMUNITY

642
CHILDREN
PROGRAMS

399
RENTALS

125
ADULT PROGRAMS

2085
OPENINGS/
EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS



As we look back on the past exhibitions of 2024 at the Public Art Centre, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible talent and creativity that graced our walls. This year, we had the privilege of showcasing a diverse range of artists whose works sparked meaningful conversations and inspired our community.

From groundbreaking solo exhibitions that highlighted the innovative practices of emerging local artists to thought-provoking group shows that explored personal and social themes, each exhibition contributed to a vibrant tapestry of artistic expression. We witnessed powerful narratives unfold through various mediums, engaging audiences and encouraging dialogue around the role of art in our lives.

Reflecting on our recent Great Beginnings exhibition in the spring of 2024, we are filled with pride and admiration for the remarkable talent displayed by our elementary and secondary students. This biannual event provided a vibrant platform for young artists to showcase their creativity and unique perspectives, capturing the attention and hearts of all who attended.

The exhibition featured an inspiring array of artwork, from paintings and drawings to mixed media and sculpture, each piece telling its own story and reflecting the diverse experiences of our students. It was truly a joy to witness the enthusiasm and passion of the young artists as they shared their creative journeys with family, friends, and the community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the students, teachers, and families who contributed to making this exhibition a success. Your support and dedication to the arts are invaluable. Thank you also to our community for coming out to celebrate the creativity of our youth. Together, we continue to inspire and nurture the next generation of artists! We look forward to future exhibitions where we can once again celebrate the incredible talent of our students.

We also celebrated collaborative projects that brought together artists and community members, fostering connections and a deeper appreciation for the arts. Through workshops, artist receptions, and interactive events, we created spaces for learning and engagement, reinforcing our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity in the arts.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in experiencing and supporting these exhibitions. Your enthusiasm and participation have been vital to our success, and we look forward to continuing this journey of exploration and creativity together in the years to come!



**Gravure: An Exhibition of French Canadian Printmakers
January 13 to February 17, 2024
Gallery One & Two**

This exhibition celebrates the rich tradition of printmaking in French Canadian art and showcases the talent and creativity of these printmakers.

Printmaking is a versatile and expressive medium that allows artists to create multiple copies of their artwork. It encompasses various techniques, including etching, engraving, lithography, and screen printing. French Canadian printmakers have made significant contributions to the field, with their unique styles and innovative approaches. In this exhibition, you will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of prints created by French Canadian artists. Each artwork tells a story, captures a moment, or conveys an emotion through intricate details and skilled craftsmanship.



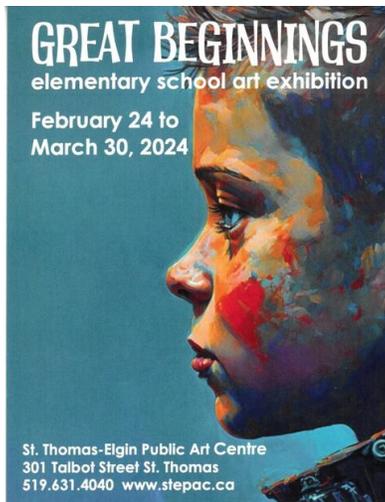
Vive la Couleur: A Selection of French Canadian Painters from the Permanent Collection

Gallery Three

January 13 to February 17, 2024

The artistic landscape of Canada is a rich tapestry of diverse influences, with French Canadian painters playing a significant role in shaping its cultural identity. These artists, with their unique perspectives and styles, have contributed significantly to the global art scene, leaving an indelible mark on the world of art. Vive la Couleur: A Selection of French Canadian Artists from the Permanent Collection includes artists: Pierre Gendron, Lois Jacques, Marcel Barbeau and Jean Guy Mongeau.

Le paysage artistique du Canada est une riche mosaïque d'influences diverses, et les peintres canadiens-français ont joué un rôle important dans la formation de son identité culturelle. Ces artistes, avec leurs perspectives et leurs styles uniques, ont contribué de manière significative à la scène artistique mondiale, laissant une marque indélébile sur le monde de l'art. Vive la Couleur : Une sélection d'artistes canadiens-français de la collection permanente comprend les artistes suivants : Pierre Gendron, Lois Jacques, Marcel Barbeau et Jean Guy Mongeau.



Great Beginnings Elementary Exhibition

Gallery One & Two

February 24 to March 23, 2024

Great Beginnings Secondary Exhibition

Gallery One & Two

April 6 to May 4, 2024

The "Great Beginnings" student art exhibitions are where we celebrate the creativity and talent of our young artists. These exhibitions showcase the incredible artworks created by students from St. Thomas and Elgin County, providing them with a platform to share their artistic expressions with the community. The Great Beginnings Exhibitions are a testament to the importance of arts education and its positive impact on students' development. Through their artworks, students explore their imagination, develop their artistic skills, and express their unique perspectives on the world.

Displaying student artwork is essential for fostering creativity, confidence, and a sense of community among young artists. It serves as a powerful acknowledgment of their hard work, imagination, and unique perspectives, allowing them to share their voices and stories with a wider audience.

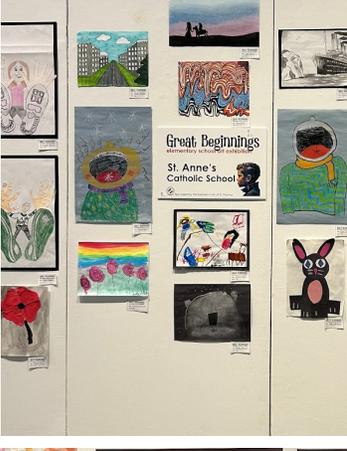
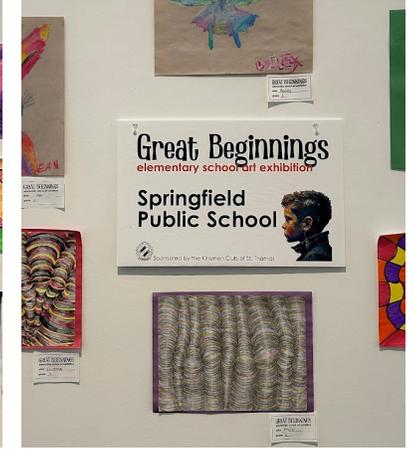
When students see their artwork on display, it validates their efforts and encourages them to continue exploring their artistic talents. This recognition can significantly boost their self-esteem and inspire them to pursue their passions, whether in the arts or other fields. Furthermore, showcasing student artwork promotes a culture of appreciation for creativity within our community. It highlights the importance of artistic expression and reinforces the idea that everyone's perspective matters.

Moreover, exhibitions provide opportunities for dialogue and connection, bringing together students, families, educators, and community members. This engagement fosters a deeper understanding of the creative process and encourages collaboration among young artists. By creating spaces for students to exhibit their work, we cultivate an environment that values creativity and innovation, ultimately enriching our community as a whole.

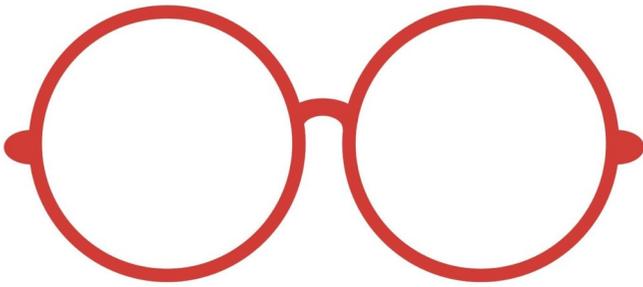
In essence, displaying student artwork is not just about showcasing talent; it is about celebrating the creativity that resides in our youth and nurturing a culture that cherishes artistic expression for generations to come.

Participants: Arthur Voaden Secondary School, West Elgin HS, East Elgin HS, St. Joseph's HS, and Parkside Colligate.





Great Beginnings 2024



**In View of the Artist
Annual Juried Exhibition
May 11 to June 15, 2024**

Gallery One & Two

Opening Reception Saturday May 11, 2024 from 1-3pm

This juried exhibition exhibited original two dimensional works of art that celebrated the artist behind the work, what the artist saw and created, "in their view", real or imagined. This means anything goes.

We were thrilled about the success of the annual juried group exhibition, "In View of the Artist." This year's showcase

brought together a remarkable array of talent, featuring diverse artworks that captivated and inspired our community.

Through a competitive selection process, we highlighted the unique perspectives and creative expressions of artists from various backgrounds, each contributing their own narrative to the collective experience. The exhibition encompassed a wide range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media, allowing visitors to engage with the rich tapestry of ideas and emotions that define contemporary art. "In View of the Artist" not only celebrated the artists' exceptional work but also fostered meaningful conversations around the themes and inspirations behind their creations. We are grateful to everyone who participated, from the talented artists to the enthusiastic viewers who supported this exhibition. Thank you for making this exhibition a memorable celebration of creativity and artistic expression in our community! We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.

Thank you to the Downtown Development Board for sponsoring this important exhibition.



Recent Acquisitions

Selections for the Permanent Collection 2023

May 11 to June 15, 2024

Gallery Three

Gallery Three hosted "Recent Acquisitions" an exhibition showcasing the latest acquisitions to our permanent collection for 2023, featuring the exceptional work of local and regional artists. This exhibition not only highlights the incredible talent within our community but also enriches our collection with diverse voices and perspectives. Each piece tells a unique story and represents the vibrant artistic spirit of our area.

The exhibition featured a 21-part series by Jean Spence, titled the London/St. Thomas/Port Stanley Connection, and an oil on board work depicting a Birch Tree by local artist Lila Knowles.

We extend our gratitude to the artists whose work has been added to our collection and the donors who made it possible. We look forward to sharing these remarkable artworks with visitors for years to come!

Image: Jean Spence, *Port Stanley Connection*, 2005, oil on board



Nick Johnson

cornfield cosmography

June 22 to August 10, 2024

Gallery One & Two

Artist Statement "Almost all of my drawings since the 1980's, not counting the stones, have been done in cornfields, or rather, on the edges of cornfields. That is to say, up until 2007, the perspective represented in the drawings was usually that of someone looking at the cornfield from outside. But beginning in that year I moved fully into the cornfield, looking for openings where I could be surrounded, where there was nothing but the ground I sat on, and the sun, and

the corn, in motion from any breeze, growing into the sky on all sides. From that time forward, the prevailing perspective of my drawings, as in these Cornfield Cosmography drawings, became that of someone looking from the centre outward to the horizon in all directions. In the drawings, the cornfield becomes the whole world as it takes on the sun and the sun moves around it. This leaves the cornfield in many of the drawings looking like a bristling planet or island in the sky. Implicitly, at the centre of this configuration, there is an outward-gazing person, and a few of the drawings focus on that figure."



**Raegan Little
Made in Canada
June 22 to August 10, 2024
Gallery Three**

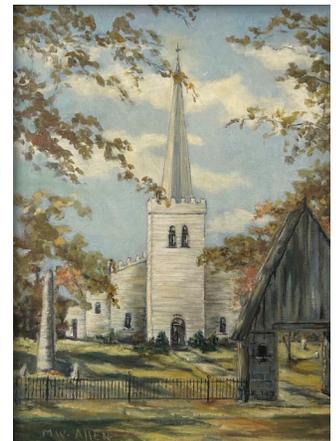
Raegan Little is a multidisciplinary artist based in Waterloo, Ontario, currently focusing primarily on ceramic sculpture. After years of practicing law and raising three children, she took a leap of faith, returning to school to pursue her honours fine arts degree from the University of Waterloo (2022). She continually experiments with different mediums, and her love of reading, words, junk food (and occasional cocktails) often spills into her artwork. Raegan's goal is to spread happiness, light and humour into every piece she creates.



**Legacy of Faith: A Bicentennial Celebration of Old St. Thomas Church
A Collaboration with our Community
August 17 to September 14, 2024
Gallery One and Two**

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the rich history and beauty of the Old St. Thomas Church, as we celebrate its 200th anniversary through a stunning exhibition of historic artwork that captures the essence and spirit of this beloved landmark. Artworks in this exhibition have been graciously loaned to the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre from members of our community, the Elgin County Museum and from the Public Art Centres' permanent collection. A special thank you to Rev. Nick Wells for his collaboration on this project.

Maxine Allen, *Old St. Thomas Church and Lych Gate*, 1976, Oil on canvas, on permanent Loan from the Elgin County Museum



**The Old St. Thomas Church
Summer Student Workshops
August 17 to September 14, 2024
Gallery Three**

We were delighted to present the "The Old St. Thomas Church Summer Student Workshops", an exhibition showcasing the creativity and talent of our summer students and the participates in the summer workshops. This vibrant exhibition highlighted the innovative artworks produced during the workshops, where students explored various mediums and techniques under the guidance of our skilled instructors. The displayed pieces not only captured the unique perspectives of the young artists but also celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the



EDUCATION



The Public Art Centre offers curriculum based tours and hands-on art activities free of charge to the schools in our community. We continue to update our programs to better reflect the Ontario Arts Curriculum, incorporating aspects of both the creative process and the critical analysis process, as well as offering students a more active, participatory experience.

Students encounter original artworks with a tour led by our Program Director, Sherri Howard that complement and enhance classroom learning and are based on the Ontario Curriculum. They take time to look carefully, ask questions, and develop their own interpretations.

Through open-ended discussion, students discover that art can possess multiple layers of meaning. Their shared endeavor - in which all voices are valued - becomes a powerful learning experience that will be memorable and meaningful.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students taking part in tours at these grade levels will play an active role in learning about the choices an artist makes when creating art. They will be encouraged to generate questions, ideas and opinions about the exhibitions and the importance of art in expressing ideas and feelings. Special attention will be given to the use of the elements and principles of art both in the work of professional artists and the work that they create. In the hands-on section students will create work, appropriate to each grade level, that emphasizes both the elements and principles of art.

Grade 7 & 8 Tours at the grade 7/8 level place a strong emphasis on the use of the elements and principles of art and recognizing how an artist has used these to create a successful composition. Using this information students will complete an art critique based on the exhibition. In the hands-on section students will look at examples from, and create art inspired by an artist from the Public Art Centre's permanent collection.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



CLASSES / WORKSHOPS

Art classes provide a vital platform for individuals of all ages to explore their creativity, express themselves freely, and connect with others in a meaningful way. For adults, art classes offer a therapeutic outlet for stress relief and self-discovery, fostering personal growth and well-being. Teens benefit from art classes by honing their artistic skills, boosting their confidence, and providing a positive and constructive way to channel their emotions. Children, on the other hand, develop essential cognitive and motor skills through art classes, while also cultivating a sense of imagination and creativity that will serve them well throughout their lives. Overall, art classes play a crucial role in nurturing artistic talent, fostering personal development, and building a sense of community among individu-



PA Day Workshop

Friday Jan 19, 2024

9:00am-3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Sherri Howard

April 27 to May 18, 2024

Grades 4-8

Instructor Julianne Bryans

Elementary Expressions

February 3-24 (Saturdays)

Grades JK-4

Instructor Wilma Pineau

Summer Art Camps Week One

July 8 to 12, 2024

9:00am to 3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Kiera Batzold, Jeevan Wilma Pineau

Drawing Illustrating

Exotic Animals

February 3-24 (Saturdays)

Grades 4-8 Instructor

Julianne Bryans

Summer Art Camps Week Two

July 15 to 19, 2024

9:00am to 3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Kiera Batzold, Wilma Pineau

March Break Camps Daily

March 11-15, 2024

Grades JK-4

Instructors Sherri Howard & Wilma Pineau

The Art of Lettering

March 12 & 13, 2024

Grades 5 and up

Instructor: Julianne Bryans

Summer Art Camps Week Three

July 22 to 26, 2024

9:00am to 3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Kiera Batzold, Wilma Pineau

Fable, Myth & Legend

March 14, 2024

Grade 5 and up

Instructor: Julianne Bryans

Old St. Thomas Church Workshop

July 24, 2024

10:00am to 2:00pm

Instructor Nate Dennis Julianne Bryans

Elementary Expressions

April 27 to May 18, 2024

Grades JK-4

Instructors Kiera Batzold, Wilma Pineau

Character Creations

Old St. Thomas Church Workshop

July 30, 2024

10:00am to 2:00pm

Instructor Nate Dennis

Old St. Thomas Church Workshop

August 6 & 7, 2024

10:00am to 2:00pm

Instructor Nate Dennis Julianne Bryans

Summer Art Camps Week Four

August 12 to 16, 2024

9:00am to 3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Kiera Batzold, Wilma Pineau

Dungeons and Dragons Drawing

August 13 to 16

1:00 to 3:00pm

Instructor Julianne Bryans

Summer Art Camps Week Five

August 19 to 23, 2024

9:00am to 3:30pm

Grades JK-4

Instructor Kiera Batzold, Wilma Pineau

Preschool Picassos

October 9 to 30, 2024

18 months to age 3

10:30-11:30am

Instructor Kait Ouellette

PA Day Workshop

Friday October 11, 2024
9:00am-3:30pm
Grades JK-4
Instructor Sherri Howard

Elementary Expressions

October 19 to Nov 9 (Saturdays)
Grades JK-4
Instructor Wilma Pineau

Drawing

October 19 to Nov 16, 2024
Grades 4-8
Instructor Wilma Pineau

PA Day Workshop

November 15, 2024
Grades JK to 4
Instructor Sherri Howard

Adult Workshops

Life Drawing

Feb 6 to 27, 2024
Self Directed

Miniature Landscape and Botanical Paintings

Saturday March 2, 2024
9:00am to 4:00pm
Instructor: Angela Hardy Fine Art

Eat Drink Create

Nov 29, 2024
Instructors Sherri Howard
Laura Woermke
Kait Ouellette



FREE Programs

Drop-In Acoustic Jam

In 2024, the participants and audience were immersed in the melodic tapestry woven by spontaneous musicians as they gather for the drop-in acoustic jam session in the main gallery space. The air is filled with the harmonious strumming of guitars and the gentle plucking of strings, which created a symphony that resonated through the walls. The gallery space transformed into a musical oasis where creativity flowed freely and as did the boundaries between performer and audience.

Jan 27, March 23, April 20, May 4.

Drop in 2025 as this exciting public program will continue!

CMHA Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services Community Homes for Opportunity Seasonal Programs (Four Weeks each)

We believe in the transformative power of art as a means of fostering mental well-being. Our free art

programs are designed to support the Canadian Mental Health Association by providing individuals with a creative outlet to express themselves, build connections, and promote healing. Through these programs, we aim to enhance the overall well-being of the participants and our community. Together, we are committed to nurturing mental health and inspiring resilience through art.

Community Living (Community Access Program)

This session of our free art education programs is dedicated to promoting mental health and well-being by providing a creative outlet for self-expression and healing. Through sessional art activities, participants explored the materials while building connections with others. We believe that art has the power to inspire, uplift, and transform lives, making it an essential tool in supporting mental health in our community.



"Eat Drink Create," is a multi-art workshop event designed to inspire and engage artists of all levels! This immersive experience invites participants to explore various art forms, all while enjoying delicious refreshments and the company of fellow art enthusiasts.

Throughout the event, instructors guided participants through hands-on workshops, providing step-by-step instructions and encouragement as they unleash their creativity.

A selection of light bites and beverages were enjoyed as they worked on various projects, fostering a relaxed and social atmosphere.

ART EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

The partnership between the Thames Valley District School Board and the Public Art Centre exemplifies a shared commitment to fostering art education and making it accessible to all students in the community. Through this collaboration, a range of innovative programs and resources are offered free of charge, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to engage with the arts, regardless of their background. This dedication to inclusivity not only enriches students' educational experiences but also nurtures their creativity and self-expression. By providing access to workshops, exhibitions, and mentorship from local artists, the partnership empowers students to explore their artistic potential and appreciate the transformative power of art in their lives. Together, they are cultivating a vibrant cultural landscape that inspires the next generation of artists and art enthusiasts.



About the Specialist High Skills Major

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized high school program that allows students to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and focus their learning on a specific economic sector at the same time.

On April 10, 2024, a group of students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major at Parkside had the unique opportunity to collaborate with local

professional artist Angela Hardy. This immersive experience allowed them to explore new artistic techniques and mediums under the guidance of this seasoned professional. Throughout the program, Angela inspired the students to push their creative boundaries and develop their individual artistic voices. Through this hands-on workshop and discussions about contemporary art practices, the students not only honed their technical skills but also gained invaluable

insights into the art world. This partnership between the Thames Valley District School Board and the Public Art Centre enriched their understanding of art as a dynamic form of expression, preparing them for future endeavors in the creative industry.



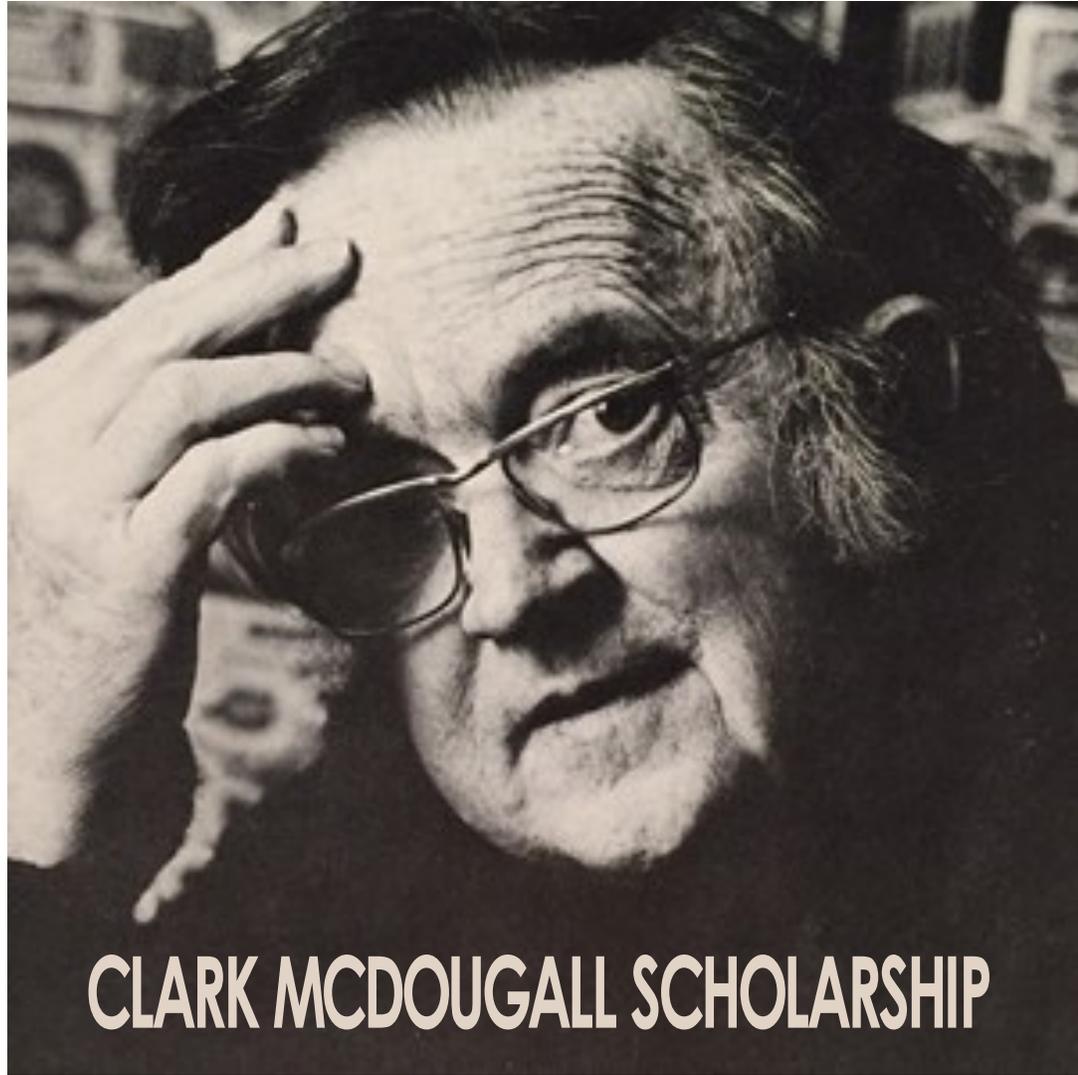
Students from Eva Circe-Cote had an exciting day as they toured the captivating exhibition "Gravure," where they delved into the intricate world of printmaking. Guided by Sherri Howard, the students explored a variety of print techniques showcased in the exhibition, gaining a deeper appreciation for the artistry and craftsmanship behind each piece. Following the tour, they engaged in a hands-on activity that explored Neurographic. The day culminated in an engaging printmaking demonstration, where they observed printmaking in action. This immersive experience not only enhanced their understanding of printmaking but also ignited their passion for creating art.



Each year, graduating Secondary School students from St. Thomas-Elgin, studying art at college or university, are invited to apply for the Clark McDougall scholarships.

There is such a wealth of young talent in our community! Andie McGugan and Lance Annett, both graduates of St. Joseph's High-school received the scholarship this year.

Congratulations Andie and Lance and best of luck in university. Thank you to Diane Dobson, Eric Lemon, and Ron Milton for their expertise, and involvement with the McDougall Scholarships.



Partnerships/Programs/Outreach Education / School programs

- St. Anne's Catholic School
- Locke's Public School
- Mount Salem Christian School
- Parkside Colligate Institute
- Arthur Voaden Secondary School
- Éva Circé-Côté French Immersion Public School
- Monsignor Morrison Public School
- Elgin Court Public School
- Parkside Colligate Institute SHSM
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau Public School
- Southold Public School
- Mitchell Hepburn Public School
- Locke's Public School

Partnerships and Special Programs

- Rogers Broadcasting
- Economic Development Board
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Parkside Colligate Institute
- Elgin County Studio Tour Artists
- Downtown Development Board Pumpkin Prowl
- London & St. Thomas Association of Realtors
- Downtown Development Board Light Up Talbot Young Entrepreneurs Initiative Chambers of Commerce
- Historical Society
- Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas

COMMUNITY



At the Public Art Centre, we are committed to fostering collaboration and community impact. We recognize the invaluable work that non-profit organizations do to address various social issues and improve the lives of those they serve. To support these efforts, we are proud to offer our space for other non-profits to utilize in furthering their missions. By providing a welcoming and resource-rich environment, we aim to empower these organizations to host events, meetings, and initiatives that align with their goals, ultimately enhancing our collective ability to create positive change in the community. Together, we can amplify our efforts and make a greater difference.

**Discovery Week Health Recruiter-City of St Thomas & County of Elgin
Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 6:00 – 9:30pm**

Picture a room with eager health professionals, their hands adorned with brushes and palettes instead of stethoscopes and pens. The air was alive with the sound of laughter and the scent of creativity, as these professionals delved into the world of art. With each stroke of the brush, they discovered a different side of themselves, tapping into a well of creativity that had long been dormant. The art activity became a journey of self-discovery, a way for these professionals to explore new perspectives. As they immersed themselves in the world of art, they found a new way to connect and communicate, bridging the gap between the analytical world of healthcare and the expressive realm of art. The activity was lead by our Program Director and educator, Sherri Howard.



◆ Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Art of Recovery event last night St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre! #mentalhealthawareness #brea... See more

**Somerset Recovery
May 31, 2024**

Through our experience, strength and hope we continue to carry a powerful message within communities. Celebrating music & the arts, focusing on community resources and programs supporting mental health & addiction.



**Pollinator Week
June 17-23, 2024**

Pollinator week is an annual celebration in support of pollinators health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnerships. The Public Art Centre participated in this partnership with Railways City Tourism.



**Legacy of Faith: A Bicentennial Celebration of Old St. Thomas Church
A Collaboration with our Community**

Artworks in this exhibition have been graciously loaned to the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre from members of our community, the Elgin County Museum the Old St. Thomas Church, from the Public Art Centres' permanent collection and new creations by our young artists. A special thank you to Rev. Nick Wells for his collaboration on this project.



At the Public Art Centre, we are proud to support local service clubs, businesses and organizations, by offering our space for their meetings and events. We believe in the vital role these organizations play in our community and are committed to fostering collaboration and connection. By providing a welcoming environment, we aim to help service clubs further their missions and strengthen their impact, creating a positive ripple effect throughout our community.



ST. THOMAS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On February 29, 2024, the Young Entrepreneurs' Initiative, known as the YEI, hosted one of their popular networking events at the public art centre. The St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce responded to a gap in representation identified in the community and brought YEI on as a sub-committee of the Chamber.



On November 6, the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas hosted their Annual General Meeting at the public Art Centre. It is our honour to support this caring community service club.



The Downtown Development Board hosted their Annual General Meeting with over 50 downtown services and businesses in attendance.



New to the community, the Elgin County Studio Tour members began their new initiative at the Public Art Centre by hosting their inaugural meeting on May 3, 2024.



The **Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)** is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 6,600 members and 94 Clubs across Canada. Founded in 1919, CFUW works to improve the status of women by promoting public education, human rights, social justice, and peace in Canada and abroad. It encourages women's involvement in professional, economic, and political life, and provides scholarships to Canadian women and girls for advanced degrees and research. November 14, 2024



We also welcomed the St. Thomas Elgin Medical Association, the London & St. Thomas Association of Realtors and the Elgin Historical Society to the Public Art Centre in 2024.



ART TREES AND TRAILS

This project has brought historic and contemporary artwork from the Art Centre's permanent collection to our beautiful local trails and Elevated Park through the installation of attractive signs that features high quality reproductions of many of our landmark paintings. The "Art, Trees & Trails" project has been generously funded with \$115,000 by the Estate of Donna Vera Evans Bushell. Art has an incredible ability to unify. Supporting the mission of the Public Art Centre, especially "encouraging the appreciation for and supporting the practice of the visual arts in St. Thomas and Elgin County", the "Art, Trees & Trails" project will allow us to engage with the community outside the walls of the Public Art Centre, promote art education, and add to our visual environment in places where community members and visitors explore nature.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

BETWEEN THE BOARDS



Between the Boards

A combined effort occurs Between the Boards as the light streams through the gaps. It is not a space that separates two things but a connection of the two that affects and encompasses both.



Many artists return to locations continually to try to capture the subtle changes in the landscape. In doing so, they document these settings and nuances and record the ever-changing and sometimes disappearing surroundings. Clark McDougall was one such artist, and the interior barn paintings he created are, in part, the inspiration for this project. Works created will be part of the Between the Boards exhibition at the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre from **April 12 - June 7, 2025.**



On August 10th, 2024, the Public Art Centre hosted, Between the Boards, an En Plein Air painting event at the picturesque Begg family barn, generously provided by Ian Begg. This special project aimed to engage local artists and community members in a creative outdoor experience, encouraging appreciation for both the visual arts and our beautiful rural landscapes.

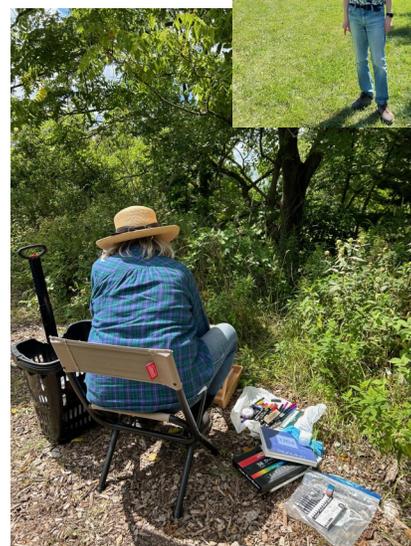
The event attracted 26 participants, including local artists and students and a few curious observers. The air was filled with music with musician Mike Pineau. The day fostered a sense of community, with artists sharing their work and in-

spiring one another throughout the day. Many attendees expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with fellow artists and explore their creative talents in such a unique setting.

We are grateful for the additional support received through a generous employment donation from Ian Begg, which allowed us to hire a summer student. This student played a vital role in organizing the event, assisting with logistics, and ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all participants. Their contribution not only enhanced the overall experience but also provided valuable work experience in the arts and event management.



Between the Boards, at Ian Begg's family barn was a resounding success, bringing together the community in celebration of art and nature. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ian Begg for graciously hosting the event.



FUNDRAISING / EVENTS

Print and Poster Sale

Gallery Three

February 24 to May 4, 2024

The Public Art Centre hosted a print and poster sale in Gallery Three. The sale featured a charming and varied selection of images and artists. Proceeds of this event supported the Public Art Centre's mission.



Redtail Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

Saturday May 18, 2024

In the clubhouse of the Redtail Golf Club

4-7:30pm SOLD OUT

The Redtail Cocktail Party fundraising event aimed at raising funds to support the Public Art Centre's efforts in providing engaging exhibitions and educational programs to the community.

During the event, guests had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while mingling with fellow art enthusiasts and supporters. The silent auction featured a wide range of unique and valuable items, including artwork, experiences, and more.



Annual Fall Art Auction

Friday November 1, 2024

7:00pm

Our Annual Art Auction, a vibrant celebration of creativity supported by talented local and regional artists, dedicated collectors, and generous donors was held on Friday, November 1. This event showcased a diverse array of artwork, highlighting the incredible talent within our community and beyond. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and participants, whose contributions made this event possible. Your support not only enriches our artistic landscape but also helps us promote and sustain the visual arts in our community.



Halloween Revival 2024

Friday October 25, 2024

On behalf of the public art centre, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Revival Studio and Arable Communications for hosting "Halloween Revival 2024", fundraising event. Their generosity and support have made a significant impact in our mission this year. The event was a resounding success, thanks to their dedication and commitment. Your efforts in organizing and hosting the event allowed us to raise much-needed funds to continue our exhibitions and programs. The Halloween-themed activities, decorations, and entertainment created a fun and memorable experience for all attendees. We are incredibly grateful to them and everyone that attended, making the Halloween fundraising event a success. Your commitment to the Public Art Centre is commendable, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.



Gift Shop / Appraisal Service

Shop local! Our gift shop features many local artists and artisans. Support your community and discover unique treasures by shopping local artists! By choosing to purchase from local creators, you not only acquire one-of-a-kind artwork but also contribute to the growth and sustainability of your local economy. Local artists pour their passion and creativity into their work, offering diverse styles and mediums that reflect the spirit of our community. Whether you're looking for paintings, sculptures, handcrafted jewelry, or textiles, shopping local ensures that your investment directly benefits the artists and their craft.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new appraisal service, designed to provide accurate and professional evaluations of artwork. This service aims to assist artists, collectors, and enthusiasts in understanding the value of their pieces, whether for insurance purposes, estate planning, or personal knowledge.

ACQUISITIONS 2024

In 2024, the focus on acquisitions highlights a commitment to supporting and exhibiting artists from the local and regional community. By acquiring artworks created by local and regional artists, cultural institutions and organizations not only contribute to the growth and recognition of these artists but also celebrate the unique artistic expressions that reflect the cultural identity and diversity of the region. This focus on local and regional artwork acquisitions can help foster a sense of pride and connection within the community, promote the visibility of our artists, and enrich the cultural landscape with authentic and meaningful artistic contributions.



Grooving in the Park By Tibor Nyilasi
\$3400.00
oil on canvas
20 x 24 inches
circa 1980's
Signed
Condition: Excellent
Provenance: From the estate of Tibor Nyilasi, Donna Nyilasi



Evening at Home by Tibor Nyilasi
\$2300.00
watercolour
30 x 22 inches painting size
1975
Condition: Excellent
Provenance: From the estate of Tibor Nyilasi, Donna Nyilasi



Raegan Little
\$2000.00
Shaw's Ice Cream
Ceramic
2024
Condition: Excellent
Provenance: Gift of Sharon Little
(exhibited at the Public Art Centre August/September 2024)



Brian Jones
\$4800.00
Untitled, 1986
Watercolour on paper
21.5" x 29"
Condition: Excellent
From Private Collection (Gift in-kind)



Clark McDougall
"From William St. Thomas Smith, nd
Watercolour on paper, 24"x32"
Signed lower left
\$3200.00
Provenance: Artwork was gifted to the donor's grandmother (Helen) as a wedding gift c. 1954.

MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL

John Allen
Jane Armstrong
Jane Atkinson White
Robin Baratta
Benjamin Belanger
Brad Boug
Mike Brouse
Elizabeth Bourque
Peter Bloch-Hansen
Gwen Card
Larry Cooke
Kit and Jerry Cutting
Michael Czupryna
Christ Dancy
Mike Dennis
Mark Elms
Bill Foster
Patrica Fryer
Lois Fuchs
Sue Garrington
Cheryl Kaufman
Don Ferguson
Lisa Gerrard
Robin Grindley
Melaine Goldsmith
Cathy Groulx
Richard Haddon
Cherie Hall
Kim Harrison
Susan Hampson
Pat Hartwell Mclean
Cathy Hedley
Dang Ho
Joseph Hubbard
Marion Hummel
Brenda Hunniford
Jolie Intjavong
Heather Jackson
Debra Jackson-Jones
Nancy Johnson
Mary Intven Wallace
Dennis Kalichuk
Barbara Landstreet
David & Sandra Marr
Shannon Martin
Brian Masschaele
Dawn Massiah
Sandi McCabe
Pat McCaig
Gail McNaughton
Kathy McNeil
Janet Medlyn
Judy Mennill
Kathleen O'Dea
Deb Packer
Marcia Pensa-Snelgrove

Alice Price Vermeulen
Cheryl Radford
Elizabeth Raven
Deborah Rogers
Kim Shouldice
Cela Sloan
Rosemary Sloom
Michelle Stewart
Denise Sutherland
Susan Tantan
Suzette Terry
Patrick Thibert
Pat Thorton
Meaghan Vreman
Susan Wells
Harry Wilkinson
Pat White

FAMILY

Janet Farley Brodie
Gary & Elaine Clark
John McMahon and Catherine
Craig
Diane & Steve Dobson
Carol & Wally Ewaskiw
Bethany Green
Joel Keenleyside
Dan and Katie Kelly
Michael & Dana Lindsay
Brian & Kathy Lyle
Brian Lynch
S'ine Maule
Linda Maskell and Christopher Pe-
reira
Kevin Morrell
Dan & Lynne Peterson
Andrew Snetsinger
Jeff & Susanna Suchak

CONTRIBUTING

Fred & Ardythe Anderson
Philip & Janet Ballantyne
Amanda Caldwell Wraith
Pat & Bob Curtis
Darrell & Joan Dennis
Lynn Disbrowe
Dawn Docker
Sue Fortin Smith
Ted Gilchrist
Barb & Bruce Green
Eileen Grimley
Kathy Hagerman
Bob & Maryanne Heath

Rita and Jim Herbert
Neil Hubert
Allan & Kim Hughson
Dagny & Mary Beth Ingolfsrud
Donald & Gillian Lawrence
Johnnene Maddison

SUSTAINING

Elizabeth Kusinski
Katherine Nicli
Steven McLarty-Payson
Rowena Spersrud
Tony Stacpoole & Pat Baker
Patricia Thornton
Wendy & Dan Tippin
Steve Wookey & Breeda Kevany
Catherine & Andres Villar
Fanny Yeager

SUPPORTING

Agnes Berko
Jeff Strong & Jenny Couse
Joanne Ferguson
Joyc Ferguson
Jack & Louise Ferriman
Sine B. Herold
Joan & Matt Janes
Patricia Johnson
Wayne & Maxine Kentner
Gary & Carolyne McLeod
Ian Tripp
Malcolm & Monique Wood

SPONSORING

Ciabh McEvenue
Joanne Ferguson
Sharon Little
Sally Martyn
Catherine Elliot Shaw

SUSTAINING

Suzanne Baehr
Betty Burrell-Beaudry
Ian Begg
Carl & Debra Bagshaw
Brian & Mary Ellen Bolt
Elgin Contracting and Restoration
Ltd.
Brenda Fuhrman
Candy McManiman
St. Thomas Downtown Develop-
ment Board

DONORS AND GRANTS

Sponsors

Arable Communications / Revival Studio
Aylmer Express
Suzanne Baehr
Ferguson Dimeo Lawyers
Doug Tarry Limited
Elgin Contracting and Restoration
Geerlinks Home Hardware
Graham Scott Enns
Kenny Insurance Broker
Kettle Creek Landscaping
Locke Insurance
Railway City Tourism

Annual Giving

Glen White Investments Ltd.

Special Programs

The Estate of Giles Alexander Hume
Ian Begg

General Donations

Arable Communications / Revival Studio
Clifford Barwick
Ian Begg
Downtown Development Board
Elizabeth Kusinski
Serge Lavoie
Sharron Little
Candy McManiman
Tony Stacpoole / Pat Baker

Gifts In-Kind

Ronnie Alter
Arable Communications / Revival Studio
Art and Soul Café
Ascend Franchise Solutions
Suzanne Baehr
Agnes Berko
Blyth Festival
Betty Burrell Beaudry
Emmi Coburn
Jim Coburn
Chris Coecho
Estate of Barabara Corbet

John Curtis
Diane Dobson
Downtown Development Board
Drayton Entertainment
Elgin Theatre Guild
Richard Fisher
Ted Fraser
Robin Grindley
Mary Harris
Mary Intven Wallace
Estate of John Smallbridge
Jean Johnson
Reta and Bill Lilley
Reagan Little
Ellen Luft
Tara McCaulley
Sonia McComb
Sandra McKenzie
Steven McLarty Payson
Beth McLellan
Sherry Mikelic
Ron Milton
Minerva Gallery
Donna Nyilasi
Oxford Builders Supplies
Gerald Pedros
Mike Pineau
Port Stanley Festival Theatre
John Sanders
Shaw Festival theatre
Catherine Elliot Shaw
Smith and Associates
Cliffon Somerville
Rowena Spersrud
St. Thomas Curling Club
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Steelhead Food Co.
Streamliners Espresso Bar
Studio Style Ladies Apparel
Suzette Terry
The Clay Oven
The Windjammer Inn
Patrick Thibert
Jens Thielsen
Union Golf Course
Virginia Van Pelt
Randy Wallace
Edith Ward

Malcolm and Monique Wood
Richard Zawadzki

In Memory of Ben Veel

Jan Row

Inspire a Student

Centennial Sports Club
Elgin Contracting and Restoration
Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas
Elizabeth Kusinski
Lions Club of Port Stanley
Lions Club of St. Thomas
Optimist Club of St. Thomas Bingo
Williams Funeral Home
Malcolm and Monique Wood

Clark McDougall Scholarship Fund

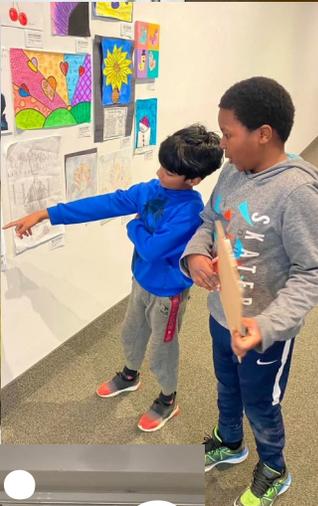
Sifton Properties

Public Programs

Port Stanley Artist Guild

Grants

City of St. Thomas
Elgin County
Turnberry Fund
Howard and Alice Williams Fund
within the Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation
Museum Assistance Program
Canada Summer Jobs



inclusive



The Old St. Thomas Church
Summer Student Workshops

