

Minto Arts Council- Update

Good Evening Mayor Bridge and members of Council, it is my great pleasure to address you this evening and provide for you a brief update on the activities of the Minto Arts Council. My name is Juliane vonWesterholt and I am the current President of the Minto Arts Council and with me to briefly speak this evening is Ms. Eleanor Butt, our Vice President.

I have been a member of the Minto Arts Council for about 2 years and I joined because I wanted to bring works of art to our community and raise awareness of the role the arts play in our society. The Minto Arts Council is a non- profit, volunteer directed organization that is designed to promote and encourage participation and enjoyment of the arts.

Who are we?

There are 12 members that sit and volunteer their time to make “art” happen in this community.

Our Members all come from very diverse backgrounds with one common interest....the promotion of the arts for the Minto Community. Our members are:

Juliane vonWesterholt (President);
Eleanor Butt (Vice President);
Belinda Wick-Graham (Past President);

And our Directors:

Wesley Bates;
Gord Duff;
Judy Tuck;
Lisa Hager;
Kimberly Kool;
Heather Watterworth; and,
Raissa Rogers

We are visible in this community and participate in many community events to promote the arts and support our mission. There are a number of events that are either hosted or supported by the Minto Arts Council to bring the arts to the community and to give back to our town. Here is a list of some of

the activities that we have been proud to be involved in or to have taken the lead on.

Art Exhibits

In 2016-2017 we had 10 art exhibits (not including juried show) in the last two years and looking forward we will have approximately 10 more shows lined up for the 2018-2019 work program from artists that are local as well as some who have had international exhibits. These artists include well known and established acclaimed artists, as well as artists that are just starting out such as our local students.

Each show has an opening night reception with press releases and refreshments where the community has the opportunity to meet and greet the artists and even purchase art for their collections if they wish. Including the juried show, we had approximately 744 visitors to the Minto Arts Gallery. This is something that this small community can really celebrate and be proud of!

We encourage you attend the next opening reception on October 1st, at 1:00pm for the Karen Cheeseman and Anthony Moore which is taking place on the weekend of Cultural Week.

Juried Show

Three years ago our first juried show was held with 9 participants. We were ecstatic to host our third annual juried show which after only a couple of years has now grown to 20 artists with over 50 pieces of art works on display. The artists were not only local artists within Wellington County but also artists from Grey and Bruce counties, Stratford, St. Mary's, Thornbury, Kitchener-Waterloo, and the GTA!!! Last year the attendance for this show alone was 289 persons, with similar numbers this year!!!

It has been my honour and pleasure to bring this show to our community and to get the Minto Gallery on the map! I am pleased to tell you that through the connections made at this show we are receiving numerous requests for shows for artists from all over southern Ontario! We look forward to continue making this a very successful event each year!

Basement Cafe

Besides the visual arts, the Minto Arts Council is also actively promoting the music arts in our community with the Basement Cafes that are held 3 to

4 times a year and features new artists as well as some established musical artists including: Stan Chang, Sara Godfrey, Katherine Wheatley, the husband wife duo the Mac Queens, Juno winner Lyndon John X, just to name a few..

The music genres include Blues, Folk, Reggae and Country, so if you love music and enjoy sweet baked goods come and join us at our next show featuring Juanita Wilkins and Thorn & Roses on October 14, 2017 at 8:00pm

Movie Theatre

One of our members has revived the **old movie theatre** in our downtown core and is passionate about showing movies with her numerous theme nights. We are excited to have this commitment to bringing quality films including classics to our community.

Community Activity and Involvement

Old Post Clock Tower Fundraising

The Minto Arts Council continued to assist with the fundraising efforts for the Old Post Clock Tower restorations. Our members felt that this was an important community feature that needed restoration and through our charitable works were able to issue tax receipts for all the contributors to the worthy community project, which we can now all hear throughout our downtown.

Archie Award

Another example of where the Minto Arts Council is very community minded is the Archie Award. Each year a student from each of our elementary schools is chosen to receive the Archie Award along with a \$25.00 prize for their work in studying art and to encourage their potential in this field. This is but one small way we give back to our community. Last year's winners were Emily Marriott at Palmerston Public and Christina Maxwell at Minto Clifford.

Bursary and Scholarship

Each year the Minto Arts Council also provides a \$250.00 scholarship to a Norwell High School student wishing to study art in a post-secondary setting. This is awarded at the graduation ceremony at Commencement in the fall. Last year's recipient was Jacob Bieman.

Other Community Involvement

Minto Arts Council is actively involved in numerous community events such as the Harriston-Minto as well as the Palmerston Fall Fairs and the Harriston Garden Festival. This year we also participated in the Clifford Homecoming events highlighting art work displaying “Mills” in the area. We are also active participants on committees, forums and workshops such as the Cultural Roundtable. As a new event this year we partnered with Minto Youth Action council to create a Children’s Art Program to engage our youth in the community.

Future Art Events

We are looking to host many more events that bring the arts to our community such as Art in the Park, Children’s Art activities, Painting en Plein Air just to name a few so stay tuned...

In summary, we are community minded, support our local activities, partner with others, raise awareness about the arts, support our educational establishments, and build relationships with young and old. The Minto Arts Council provides a venue to mentor and continue to raise awareness throughout our community and beyond, by bringing art to this community! We are now being sought from artists beyond our community and we are on the map...people want to show in our gallery! These are exciting times for our little community.

Fundraising- Silent Auction (Eleanor Butt)

A recap of how we support ourselves.

This is our main fundraising event and this supports our activities. We did very well with this fundraiser as we raised \$6,359.00. we are well supported by the community and we always appreciate the community’s involvement in this event.

Thank you for your continuous support of our gallery.