



# **Creative arts that brighten our entire community**

Presentation to Town of Saugeen  
Shores – Municipal Council

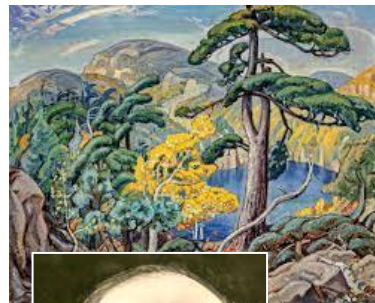
Monday, October 28, 2024

# 67 years of service to Southampton and area

- **Founded in 1957**
- **Bert Henderson**
  - Started the Southampton School of Fine Arts
  - Taught 40 students in the school's first year
  - Thanks to his legacy, thousands have enjoyed arts courses in the school over 67 years
- Original advisory board included three members of the **Group of Seven** and painter Alex Colville (right)



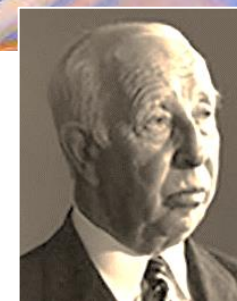
Southampton Art School founder Bert Henderson (above), and one of his paintings



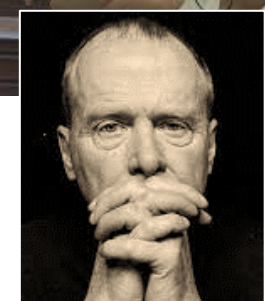
Arthur Lismer



Lawren Harris



A.Y. Jackson



Alex Colville

# Excellent use of Town facilities



## Beautiful gallery in former Town Hall

- Opened in 1999, celebrating 25 years
- More than 12,000 visitors in 2024
- Attracts tourists and residents alike
- Free admission
- Visually engaging
- Showcasing talent by as many as 40 local and regional artists
- A new exhibit every month, to showcase a local or visiting artist
- Regular public events
  - Meet-the-artist receptions
  - Live demonstrations of art
  - Chamber After Five
  - Service Club meetings and tours
- All items sold are unique, hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind



# Excellent use of Town facilities

## Bustling art school on Albert Street

- More than 120 courses a year, May to October
- 575 children and 396 adult students in 2024
- Courses run from one day to one week
- In many forms of creative expression:
  - Wood carving
  - Drawing
  - Photography
  - Painting
  - Creative writing
  - Sculpting
  - Much more
  - Stained glass
- Classes also held at schools, churches and other venues in Port Elgin and across Saugeen Shores



**Fall Wonders with  
Jennifer Hayden**

Ages 4 - 6  
9 am - 3 pm  
October 25th



**Fall Landscapes with  
Karen Brioux**

Ages 7 - 10  
9 am - 3 pm  
October 25th



**Windows & Doors with  
Kim Vanderburgt**

Ages 8 - 12  
9 am - 3 pm  
October 25th



# Southampton Arts is everywhere – and for everyone



## Paint nights

- Arranged by request for groups such as family, friends or your co-workers
- Celebrate your Girls Weekend with a fun activity



## ARTBike

- Appears around town in summer, at fairs and special events
- Live art experiences for tourists, families, children



## Bursaries

- Enabling more children to attend art camps in summer
- Sponsor a child – \$200 pays for a week-long course and all art supplies
- Developing a new donations program for this in 2025

# Southampton Arts has many fans

## Post-course surveys:

“This was my first experience at South Hampton and it was EXCELLENT; looking forward to more!”

– Student in 2024  
*Painting with Felt* class

“Workshop exceeded my expectations! Great instructor, great workshop!”

– Student in 2024 Intro to Impressionist Painting class

## Facebook:



**southampton\_edna** We love to “find” the ArtCart - every week! Ellie does a great job explaining to the kids!

11w Reply



**uniquepiecessaublebeach** Looks like some beautiful pieces.. can not wait to visit.

## Arts community:

“We all rely on Southampton Arts Centre for a vibrant arts sector here.”

– Chair, Shoreline Artists group

## Business community:

“Every year, I have guests at this motel who come to Southampton just for the Art School!”

– Manager, Super 8, at Chamber After Five

## Philanthropist:

“This gallery is the most beautiful place in Southampton.”

– Major donor to SAC

# Great plans for 2025

## Gallery

- **Exhibit space:** New layout in 2025
  - Closing to refresh the space in January and February (as in past years)
  - Opening again March through December, with longer hours in summer
- **Jury process:** Launching soon to select new 2025-26 exhibiting artists:
  - Emphasis on local talent – possibly 40+ artists in all media
  - Artists based in Bruce, Grey and surrounding area
- **Gift store:** Expansion of the popular retail area, with more local artisans offering wider range of items – jewellery, cards, prints

## Art School

- Expanding venues and classroom space, to meet high demand
  - Especially for children's courses, as many in 2024 were sold out
- Aiming to keep classes affordable for all, with discounts for family packages
- Currently signing up instructors
- New catalogue available in the New Year

## Imagine – a major Arts Festival!

- Imagine a town-wide, weekend-long arts celebration in August 2025
- In the planning stages. Seeking an OTF grant

# Request for Town Support

- Southampton Arts is not-for-profit, registered charity
- We are requesting support from the Town of Saugeen Shores:
  - An operating subsidy \$100,000 a year, in 2025, and annually in the coming years
  - A continued waiver of rent, aligned with the Town's community-benefit rationale
- Reliable municipal support would ensure a continued presence for the art school, gallery and our events and programs, benefitting the entire community
- We rely as much as possible on volunteers, but must pay a small core staff
- We are currently counting the pennies:
  - In September, we forecast a year-end deficit in 2024, but currently cannot borrow
  - We are acting in Q4 to conserve cash flow by reducing operating hours
  - We continue to seek sponsorships, donations and memberships
- Galleries in other communities have not survived without municipal support
  - Galleries closed permanently in Hamilton, Kawarthas, Haliburton, Peterborough
  - Owen Sound supports the Tom Thompson Art Gallery
  - Bruce County supports the museum in Southampton
  - Saugeen Shores is a stronger supporter of recreational and sports activities
- ***Southampton Arts is a gem in our community, with a proud history – a benefit to residents, families and our tourist economy. Please help us to ensure a bright future***





**Thank you!**

Questions?