

# Oakville Galleries curator honoured with award and grant

by **Julia Le**  
Oakville Beaver Staff

A passion for creating engagement opportunities between audiences, art and ideas has earned Jon Davies' recognition and some cash.

Davies, an associate curator at Oakville Galleries, received the Emerging Curator of Contemporary Canadian Art Award and a \$10,000 grant to help pursue his professional development from the Hnatyshyn Foundation and TD Bank Group.

A special ceremony was held to mark the occasion on Feb. 19 at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto.

Davies, who has been curating and writing about art and film for the last 10 years, said he's honoured to be the first recipient of the award, which was created this year to recognize a Canadian curator, under the age of 35, whose body of work has achieved a public presence and peer recognition.

"Art really has the power to transform people's lives in ways of thinking about the world and I guess I see my role as bringing together artists and audiences and making those encounters happen



Oakville Galleries Associate Curator Jon Davies, second to the left, is the inaugural recipient of the award for Emerging Curator of Contemporary Canadian Art. He is flanked by Gerda Hnatyshyn (from left to right), wife of the late Ramon Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th Governor General, and president of the Hnatyshyn Foundation, TD Bank Curator Pamela Meredith, and Gaëtane Verna, director of Toronto's Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. | **photo by Susan Wong**

where people can have these amazing experiences with an art work," said the 33-year-old, who graduated from York University in Toronto in 2006 with a Masters in film and video.

He added he's looking forward to using the \$10,000 grant towards a professional development trip to Australia to get a "better sense of what's happening in the arts in that

part of the world."

He plans to meet with friends and artists, visit contemporary art museums and do some research.

Davies has curated a number of contemporary art exhibitions for both Oakville Galleries and The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery over the years. They include *People Like Us: The Gossip of Colin Campbell* (2008), *Sonny Assu:*

*Possession, To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Belong?* (2011) and *Coming After* (2011-12).

He has also written for publications that include *C Magazine*, *Canadian Art* and *Journal of Curatorial Studies*.

A jury of arts professionals from across Canada selected Davies as the recipient because of his commitment to advancing contempo-

rary art discourses.

Judges also noted Davies' writing, which accompanied his exhibitions was mature, well-researched and reflects his passion and perspective.

"We were impressed with the extraordinary talent showcased by Davies and the many other submissions from young artists for this inaugural award," said Pamela Meredith, the Senior Curator with TD Bank Group. "As a long-time supporter of arts and culture, we are committed at TD to creating opportunities for young Canadian artists to embrace their passion of the arts and pursue a future in this field."

Davies noted in his career so far, he's particularly proud of his Colin Campbell exhibition at Oakville Galleries because it was his first big show out west.

He said it was an opportunity of a lifetime to provide a new perspective on the artist's body of work.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th Governor General, to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling and training, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society.

## Beauty & Spa

### Common beauty faux pas that women should avoid

Looking good and feeling healthy are top priorities for many women. In addition to spending hours researching the latest beauty regimens and spending thousands on products that make many promises, women could be engaging in a few habits that may be doing more harm than good. Here are some common beauty faux pas that women likely want to avoid in their beauty regimen.

\* Scrubbing skin: Dermatologists say the skin naturally sheds dead cells, so for most people it is unnecessary to use harsh exfoliants or scouring pads to rid the skin of dead cells.

\* Popping pimples: It can be quite difficult to resist popping a pimple that has sprouted in the middle of your face, but doing so can cause irritation and spread bacteria, and you may end up getting more blemishes as a result.

\* Wrapping wet hair in a towel turban: Gathering wet locks together and twisting them into a towel is a recipe for damage and breakage. Wet hair is more delicate than dry hair, and it can stretch or break more easily.

\* Failing to clean makeup tools: All of those brushes, wands and applicators need to be routinely washed with a mild cleanser and allowed to air dry. (MCC)

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