

Colborne Art Gallery



Tim Dignam is a founding member artist of the Colborne Art Gallery.



Former gallery artist Annie Young Nicholas talks with founding gallery artist and past member Betsy Downie.

Celebrating 10 years

It was a celebration, a reunion and art exhibit all in one. The opening of the Ten years of Colborne Gallery Artists drew past and present member artists, art lovers and community supporters to Colborne last Saturday afternoon.

The Colborne Art Gallery is the home of the Colborne Society of Artists. The Society was founded in the spring of 1977, in response to a unique opportunity.

The Historic Land Registry office was sold by the provincial government to the village of Colborne for the sum of \$8 on condition that it be maintained as a museum or library. Wilhelmina Kennedy, a local artist, proposed the building become an art gallery, a suggestion that was enthusiastically welcomed by Colborne Reeve George Boycott and then-village council.

Wilhelmina, a Dutch immigrant then living in neighbouring Cramahe Township, set about organizing a group

of local artists into a co-operative to be known as The Colborne Society of Artists, and the group now runs the Colborne Art Gallery.

The gallery has three rooms, all with high ceilings, lots of natural light, impressive wall and display space.

The Colborne Art Gallery has established a community of peers. The membership has often hosted exhibits by guest artists.

There are currently 20 members, with a wide variety of experience, working in different media. The artists open a new show every six weeks. At intervals, a member or visiting artist may present a solo show in one of the gallery's three rooms, in conjunction with the regular group shows.

Member artists are required to contribute manpower and some financial support for gallery undertakings. In fall and winter months, the gallery is open weekends, these past few years under the enthusiastic, friendly care of gallery administrator Yoka Jeronimus, sister of Wilhelmina Kennedy.

The gallery has recently received a welcome infusion of financial support from a Trillium grant. That money has resulted in the repair and re-pointing of exterior brickwork, a new front door, new roof, a new window and air conditioner and interior carpeting.

There are, at any one time, around 19 member artists. Some members move on, take sabbaticals, rejoin — but last Saturday's opening illustrated the camaraderie and mutual support central to the founding of the group continues.

In the front gallery are art works predominantly by past members of the gallery. Many of the works are on loan

from private collections. Throughout all three galleries paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, glasswork, wood work and sculptures capture the depth of talent in Northumberland County.

The anniversary exhibit is dedicated to Ruth Coleman Harding, a founding gallery member who passed away Jan. 14, 2008.

Hours of operation are: January to March, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; April to December, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

The current exhibit runs to April 27 at 51 King Street East, Colborne. Call 905-355-1798. e-mail: info@thecolborneartgallery.ca, website: www.thecolborneartgallery.ca.

Member artists 2008

Monica Becker, Alf Blything, Avril Bull-Jones, Barbara Buntin, Veronica Derry, Tim Dignam, Joyce Falconer, Judith Kreps Hawkins, Claud Heinecke, Sue Hawley, Kathie Lloyd, David Lyon, Terrie MacDonald, Jirina Marton, Annie MacDonald, Irene Osborne, Alison Seale, Alice Vander Vennen, Elizabeth Willoughby and Anne Wilson.

Colborne Art Gallery 2008 Exhibits

Mar 15-Apr. 27: Ten years of Colborne Gallery Artists

May 3-June 15: Susan McDonald

June 21-Aug. 3: Judith Kreps Hawkins

Aug. 9-Sept. 21: Tim Dignam

Sept. 27-Nov. 9: Alison Seale

Nov. 15-Dec. 21: Christmas show

PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN



Jillian Roos-Markowitz, left, and Rosemary Davis, artists from Cobourg, attended the opening.



Castleton artist John Stubbs, a founding member of the Colborne Art Gallery, with his work Mystic Passage.



Terrie MacDonald of Stirling has been a member artist of Colborne Art Gallery for the past three years.