

# First-ever juried show on now at the Colborne Art Gallery

By Ray Yurkowski  
EMC News - Colborne - The Colborne Art Gallery launched its first-ever juried art show at an opening reception held last weekend. Fifty-five guest artists are featured in the exhibit, which will now become an annual event. "We're absolutely overjoyed with the response," said gallery marketing director Barbara Buntin. "In the art world, having juried shows is a way we can gather together a really unique group of work. You get some brand

new combinations of things we would never have seen together." "Artists are always looking for opportunities to exhibit so we posted our call for entries a number of places online," she added. "People have found us and responded." One piece was shipped to the local gallery from Stratford, Prince Edward Island, along with two from Quebec. The rest came from Ontario. "The real interesting thing is, for the first time in 16 years, none of our members

have work in this show," said Buntin, in her opening address. "None of our members were included in the process and we hired an outside juror to make the selections." James Campbell, executive director and curator of the Visual Arts Centre in Clarington, took on the challenge of reviewing 188 submitted works to select the collection for the show. As a result, the exhibit showcases a diverse range of mediums and styles. Buntin thanked and congratulated all of the artists who submitted their work.

it's in Colborne and not everybody knows about it. We were trying to raise awareness and this has raised our profile above and beyond our local community." Buntin gives high praise to municipal council for paving the way and supporting the gallery. "It makes all the difference," she said. "We're artists and our primary interest is doing our own work. Running a gallery is a secondary thing for us. It's challenging to do all the administrative work and having the support of the township is a lifesaver for us." The juried show is on from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday until August 18 at the Colborne Art Gallery, housed in the historic East Northumberland land registry office, at 51 King Street East.



Cramahe Township Mayor Marc Coombs congratulates best of show winner Judy Hopkins, of Baltimore, for her acrylic and crayon work, "Daffodils." Hopkins says she's "very flattered" to be singled out at the exhibit. "It's a really strong show and it's an honour to be recognized." Photo: Ray Yurkowski

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## County to turn Colborne ambulance station into 24/7 operation

By John Campbell  
BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT JULY 25/13

EMC News - Northumberland County - The Colborne ambulance station is adding a 12-hour shift so it can function around the clock with an additional eight paramedics, four of them full-time. Tarmo Uukkivi, chief of Northumberland County's emergency medical services, said in a report to county council July 17 that the extra staffing is needed because "there is a clear trend that current resources have been stretched beyond capacity in the face of increasing call volumes." Northumberland at present operates six ambulance stations, in Cobourg, Port Hope, Campbellford, Brighton, Colborne and Roseneath, but Colborne is the only one that doesn't have a crew onsite 24 hours a day. Last year, EMS responded to nearly 20,000 calls, a four-fold increase since 1996. Still, the service was able to respond to emergency calls in 16 minutes and 12 seconds or less 90 per cent of the time, in an

area measuring 1,906 square kilometres, Uukkivi said. But the response time is edging upward as call volumes increase because of the county's patient demographic, he stated, noting the county's aging population, the second oldest in the province, requires "more frequent use" of ambulances as well as more complex care. Other factors adding to the service's challenges include: frequent off-load delays (they occur when paramedics delivering a patient to an emergency department must wait until space can be found to receive the patient); a decline in the general health of the population, and a rise in obesity, leading to an increase in medical emergencies, and: more traffic on the roads resulting in more collisions and incidents that require ambulance responses. Also, Northumberland ambulances are having to respond to calls in neighbouring municipalities "with increasing frequency," as part of Ontario's "seamless coverage" in providing emergency services,

Uukkivi stated. Lastly, the five ambulances on duty between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in Northumberland have more distance to cover than the seven in use during the day, which can impede their ability to respond quickly to calls, which are also increasing in number overnight. County council had already set aside monies in its 2013 budget for additional staffing to be hired in the fourth fiscal quarter. In formally agreeing to make the Colborne ambulance station a 24-hour operation last week, the county will draw upon a "modest budget surplus" EMS has experienced as a result of receiving a larger-than-expected subsidy from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care last year. The four full-time and four part-time paramedics to be hired will increase the 2014 EMS staffing budget by \$652,000 in salaries, benefits and operational costs, but the amount will be reduced by 50 per cent with the ministry subsidy.