

Free exhibit celebrates Halton Hills' Chinese sister city

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As part of the upcoming Wenjiang Festival, the Helson Gallery in Georgetown is holding a special exhibition.

The exhibit, titled Celebrating Artists of Wenjiang China, is currently underway and will run through Oct. 29.

The Wenjiang Festival - a week-long cultural celebration running Oct. 23-28 - will highlight Wenjiang's culture, arts, cuisine and games.

"I hope everyone will take the opportunity to learn more about the art and culture of Wenjiang through this unique exhibition. What a milestone for us to bring art from so far away to the people of Halton Hills," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Halton Hills council

signed a sister city agreement with Chengdu City in the Wenjiang district of China in June 2016.

"Mayor Rick Bonnette and Secretary Dao Ming of Wenjiang District signed a historic agreement that would establish friendly co-operative relations between Halton Hills and Wenjiang District, Chengdu City, in the People's Republic of China.

In other words, the Town of Halton Hills and Wenjiang are now "sister cities"; separated by miles, but together in spirit of mutual respect, friendship and co-operation," wrote Halton Hills on its website following the agreement.

In addition to the gallery exhibition, the Wenjiang Festival will feature a performing arts showcase featuring folk dance and Sichuan Opera; workshops and demonstrations of calligraphy and painting; demonstrations, sampling menus and classes in Sichuan cooking; and activities presented by the regional Chinese Canadian community.

There will also be full-day hockey event organized by the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council, featuring friendly exhibition games with players from China and Halton Hills squaring off as part of the Georgetown Hockey Celebrations.

The Helson Gallery is located at the Cultural Centre at 9 Church St. in Georgetown.

The gallery is open from 1-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Admission is free.

Visit haltonhills.ca/SisterCity/festival.php for more information.

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