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Arts Alive medals will be cherished

By John Sommer
Arts Alive, formed in 1986, is a committee of volunteers dedicated to the encouragement and promotion of the arts in Halton Hills. The Classical Brunch, Second City and Local Talent Night are some of the annual events sponsored and initiated by Arts Alive.

Just recently, Arts Alive made a large contribution toward the restoration and protection of the stained-glass windows in the Art Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre in Georgetown.

In 1991, at the urging of the Halton Hills Herald, Arts Alive instituted a series of five art awards to be presented every five years to citizens of Halton Hills who have made outstanding contributions to the visual and performing arts in Halton Hills.

On Oct. 19, 1991, on the 10th anniversary of the Cultural Centre, the first presentations of the awards took place at the John Elliott Theatre.

Bronze medals cast by Georgetown company

At several Arts Alive meetings during 1992, the committee members discussed what kind of trophy should be given to the award winners of 1991 as well as the award winners in years to come. Eventually it was decided to give each winner a specially designed bronze medal, cast by Artcast Inc., the well-known art foundry on Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown.

This past January, Arts Alive conducted a contest to select a design for the medal. From many different designs by various artists and designers living in our region,

Ideas & the Arts

Arts Alive selected as winner of the contest Jane Gadoutsis of Glen Williams.

Ms. Gadoutsis graduated from the Ontario College of Art in 1978. She soon married and had three children and her art interests had to be put on hold for the benefit of her family. But when she read about the contest in the paper she decided to enter a design of her own. To her great joy, her design won the contest.

Next, Glynis Milligan, a sculptor and potter living and working in Ballinafad, was asked by Arts Alive to make a clay model of Jane Gadoutsis' drawn design. This clay model was taken to Artcast Inc., where the skilled staff of the foundry turned the model into very handsome bronze medals. These bronze medals are far removed from the ghastly, mass-produced trophies that are so often given as awards. Arts Alive is to be commended for this effort. The committee spent a great amount of thought and money on these awards and the result is a small work of art of lasting value every recipient can be proud of.

The 1991 Arts Alive Award winners will receive their medals this Sunday (tomorrow) at the Classical Brunch in Memory of Ralph Ussel, in the Art Gallery of the Cultural Centre in Georgetown, starting at 11 a.m.

This year, the Classical Brunch features the cellist Stephen Green and the pianist Yuri Meyrowitz. Tickets are available at the library and at Royal LePage. All the entries to the Arts Alive Award Contest will be on exhibition in the show-cases in the lobby of the Cultural Centre from this Sunday on.

Peter Jones remembered

When I heard about the terrible accident that killed Peter Jones on April 12 I thought of the many occasions in the '60's when Peter came to our house in search of a photograph to take. He was the photographer of The Georgetown Herald in those days. We were both young and bright then, and we engaged in, at times, pretty fierce arguments about art and related matters.

He was a man very much alive, with opinions at least as strong as mine, but often on the opposite end of the scale.

For instance, Peter loved the old Post Office building in downtown Georgetown, but I wasn't that keen about it 30 years ago. In the meantime, I too have come to believe that this building is special, and that it should be preserved at all cost.

Later, Peter Jones became a teacher of photography and passed on his expert knowledge of all aspects of the art of photography to countless pupils.

Excellent exhibition at Cultural Centre Gallery

A few years ago he put together an excellent exhibition of his photographs at the Gallery of the Cultural Centre in Georgetown that was one of the highlights of the '80's.

I have a hard time believing that this vital, inquisitive, and kind man is gone from us, and I hope that his community will remember his always.

John Sommer has been the director of Art Gallery Sol, located at 45 Charles St. in Georgetown since 1962.

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