

# Latcham Gallery has record attendance in June

By Kate Gilderdale  
Stouffville This Month

As staff and volunteers at The Latcham Gallery prepare for a special 25th anniversary exhibition in September, the gallery itself is attracting a growing audience from both inside and outside the community.

Founded in 1979, The Latcham Gallery has exhibited works by some of Ontario's best known professional artists as well as others just starting out. Every year, the gallery also hosts a special exhibition of works by students at Stouffville District Secondary School and displays a selection of artwork created at local public schools. In June, a

record 1,450 people visited the gallery.

Art classes and programs are offered throughout the year, ranging in scope from summer art camps and life drawing classes to book making workshops. For the upcoming exhibition, gallery members were asked to contribute their special memories from over the years.

"Some people talked about an exhibition they particularly remembered, some just one specific work, and others remembered meeting an artist and having a one on one conversation," said gallery director Roz Pritchard. From the many contributions, "We have

put together an exhibition that looks at the gallery's history. It has representations from almost every year and covers the different kinds of exhibitions that we have done with local artists as well as artists from across the country, some of whom have gone on to show their work internationally," said Ms. Pritchard.

Volunteers and staff have managed to keep the gallery alive and thriving despite severe budgetary restrictions, she noted. "Volunteers have just been amazing, they've always been there and staff has always worked way beyond the call of duty. We have been able to do amazing things, particularly with the

exhibitions and some of the artists we've managed to attract."

When people come into the gallery for the first time, "There's a magic that happens. They are

surprised and moved by what they see." That magic is what has kept long-time volunteer Marg Brock coming back to the gallery time after time. "There's so much variety; you never

know what you're going to see," she said. "(The staff) are so dedicated to making this work and they do a wonderful job. The town should be proud of what they have achieved."



A lack of electricity didn't dampen Rob Reid's enthusiasm at last year's Moonlight and Madness, which had the misfortune to be scheduled on the night of the big blackout. Rob, owner of Reid's Antiques and Consignment, made excellent use of his generator to produce snow cones and help cool off his sweltering customers. This year's event, power outages permitting, takes place downtown August 26.

## Museum Heritage Camp for kids

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is offering a Summer Heritage program from Aug. 3 to 6 for students 8-14 years of age. Participants can choose morning or afternoon sessions.

"Children will explore a

variety of heritage activities and crafts and will complete several projects to take home," explained museum curator Dorie Billich. Activities will include painted and quilted pot holders, lightable paper lanterns

and the basics of authentic rug hooking.

The cost is \$60 for the four-day session (\$48 for members) and includes a light snack each day. Pre-registration is required. To register or for information call 1-888-290-0337.

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