



The Palette



North Perth Arts and Cultural Council Newsletter

February 2011

Our Vision:

to increase awareness,
appreciation and support of
arts and culture in the
community of North Perth

Our Mission:

North Perth Arts and Culture
Council promotes and supports
arts and culture opportunities by:

- creating experiences for
the community to
appreciate
arts and culture
- providing educational
opportunities to further
assist the artist

Our Values:

Artistic expression,
Creativity, Individuality
Respect, Inspiration
Integrity, Collaboration,
Mentoring

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Vice-Chair
519.291.2583

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NPACC WEBSITE:

www.NorthPerthArts.ca

Email:

info@NorthPerthArts.ca

NPACC's 2011 Concert Series: featuring music reflective of North Perth's musical roots

The upcoming concert series offers three performances, encompassing traditional Celtic and Bluegrass music from Ireland, Scotland, and the Maritimes. All concerts will be presented at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall in Listowel. In hopes of providing a more suitable time for attendees, our concerts have been changed from Sunday afternoons to Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. See you there!

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Available in Listowel at: The Bookery, Chocolates on Main and Selinger's Music
Or call Pat at 519-291-3027. Do not call the church office.

The Irish Heritage Ensemble presents An Evening of Traditional Irish Music

Wednesday, March 9

Those whose Irish spirit has been ignited with our local Pad-dyfest festivities, will not want to miss this concert. Members include:

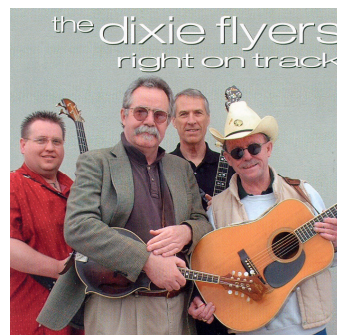
Pat Simmons, the product of a musical Irish immigrant family, known as 'a cornerstone of traditional music in Toronto', is a top-flight accordionist with several international recording, television and radio credits to his name.

Jason Pfeiffer, based in Kitchener, is an award winning Irish flute and whistler who has earned several recording credits. He has appeared internationally at festivals, pubs, coffee houses, folk clubs and concert halls. Jason's website: www.thetriskellstudio.com

Phillip McMahon is an accomplished teacher, banjo and mandolin player, hailing from Dublin, Ireland. He has performed with many of Ireland's well-known ceili bands and has enjoyed a musical and educational career spanning more than 30 years.

Also a **special surprise guest!**

Info from their website: www.celticweddingsandevents.com



The Dixie Flyers

Wednesday, June 15

Since the early 1970's this outstanding group from London, Ontario has been presenting their original bluegrass music, at concerts and festivals throughout North America. They have produced eight albums and performed on national radio programs. "...The Dixie Flyers serve up some strong harmony, some very solid instrumental work, and a laid-back maturity that most Canadian bluegrass bands can't deliver." - *County Music News*. Check them out at www.dixieflyers.ca

The Renaissance Singers present 'Celtic Legacy'

Opening: Listowel District Secondary School Chamber Choir and Triple Trio

Wednesday, November 16

This K-W area choir, under the direction of Gord Burnett, promises a concert featuring songs from Ireland, Scotland and the Canadian Maritimes. This group has toured internationally four times, singing in several prestigious locations, including Westminster Abbey and the cathedrals of Canterbury. The highly regarded chamber choir has four recordings to its credit, with plans for more in the near future.

Info from www.renaissancesingers.ca

Opening the concert will be our own Listowel District Secondary School Chamber Choir, along with the LDSS Triple Trio. Directed by Ruth Claessens, the choir and trio will also be presenting choral selections in the Celtic genre.

And further more...

NPACC presents **Linda Bester, two day watercolour workshop:**

April 30, May 1

9:30 to 4:00 p.m. daily

In the common room at Perth Meadows Seniors' Apartments, Listowel

Registration fee: \$130 early bird; \$150 after April 16

Limited registration

For more information call Brenda Kaufman at 519-291-4167



Be inspired to pick up your brush and paint with confidence! In this workshop, Linda will discuss shape, value, colour, and spatial design using the techniques of transparent watercolour. Linda explained, "In my common sense approach to creativity, students will get a clear understanding of the basic knowledge required, allowing them to simply tackle landscape, buildings, portraits, florals, etc., in a playful and spontaneous manner." Working from still life, photographs or sketches, your individual expressiveness will be encouraged allowing your own unique style to shine through. The workshop includes demonstrations and individual assistance.

Linda's passion for art is reflected in her enthusiastic approach to teaching. A popular instructor, she also accommodates artists at her retreat near Shallow Lake. Her affinity for vibrant colour and the play of light make her work a valued possession in private and corporate collections world wide.

A dedicated plein air painter, Linda has painted in many countries including France, Italy Portugal and Spain. For more information see her website: www.besterstudios.com.

Oopsie!

We neglected to take note of the two winners of the NPACC concert series tickets at ArtSense last October. If you were a winner, please contact Gary at 219-2583 and he'll see you get your tickets.



Summer Art Experience 2011

Save the date! August 15-19

Morning Sessions: Ages 7-10

Afternoon Sessions: Ages 11-15

Details and registration forms will be available on our web page in the spring.

Perth Arts Connect Art Trail Tour



Perth Arts Connect (PAC) is inviting Perth County artists to join the county wide Art Trail Tour taking place on October 1st and 2nd as part of our nation-wide Culture Days celebration. The Art Trail Tour is a first time event planned by PAC, of which NPACC is a member.

We encourage our artists to register so we have a good showing in North Perth, one of the locations listed on the tour. Registration is open to artists of all genres: visual, musical, literary, performing, culinary, media and fine arts.

For further info, call the NPACC rep Gary Moon at 519-291-2883, or the PAC rep, Sylvia Pietras-Gorczewski at 519-603-3723 or 1-888-366-0160.

Email spietras@visitperth.ca

**culture fête
days de la culture**



**September 30 - October 2nd
Celebrating Arts and Culture
from coast to coast**

Thanks to BftArtsVest and our corporate Emerging Arts Supporters for their commitment to ensuring that arts and culture remain a vibrant aspect of our community.

BftArtsVest

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Spinrite

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Changing Faces on NPACC Board

Farwells



Mark Robinson was an integral factor in helping NPACC become established back in 2006. Since then he has contributed vision and a readiness to lend a hand. Included in his many areas of expertise, is his ability to calculate the number of cups of grounds to dump in the coffee urns at our concerts. And that is a necessary skill!

Mark's life simply became too busy, with his family, charitable and volunteer commitments to be able to continue to devote the time he felt NPACC deserved. We are grateful for his gifts while he travelled this journey with us and wish him personal satisfaction as he spends more time out of country with Friends of the Orphans, a charitable organization close to his heart.

Chris Moon joined the NPACC board in May of 2009. He brought with him a much valued expertise in music production and business. In his short time on the council, Chris offered concrete suggestions to help establish policy for booking entertainment for our concerts.

When he accepted a more challenging position at Ideal Supply, Chris felt he wouldn't be able to juggle the time necessary to devote to his family, his job and the arts council. He regretfully resigned in the fall of 2010 but hopes to return in the future when he is 'more able to provide the attention and care the council deserves'. We wish Chris the best in all aspects of his life and career.



Welcome!



Antonie H. Los, an artist who works in acrylics, joined the board in January of this year with the intent to, "in any way I am able, aid in the growth of the cultural scene in my old hometown." Tony first arrived in Listowel, from Holland, in 1954. He spent his youth here until he moved to London Ontario to attend H.B. Beal High School as an art student. In 1970 he married his high school sweetheart, Diane Forman, and they struck out for Yellowknife, NWT, to work for the now defunct Pacific Western Airlines. He also worked as a carpenter and a provincially funded illustrator for 'PIK', a children's magazine and 'Inuit Tools', an information package for southern universities.

1973 brought a return to southern climes where Tony worked at the Bruce Nuclear Power Facility in Kincardine, until his retirement in 2005. Since most of his wife's family is from this area, they relocated to Listowel in June 2010.

Photo from Stratford Citizen

Tony devotes much volunteer time to Perth Arts Connect, helping to physically maintain Factory 163, as he sees it as a potential Cultural Centre for the county and surrounding area. We look forward to working with Tony in the years to come.

North Perth Chamber Call to Artists

Artisan House at Parkview Gardens
part of the
Home and Life Styles Show
May 13 and 14

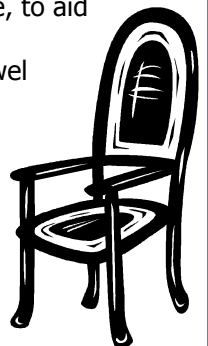
Artists are invited to register to display
their arts, crafts, photos, specialty foods
and hand crafted items

For booth pricing and to register
Contact The Chamber at 519-291-1551
info@npchamber.com

Paint a Chair to Support North Perth Library

Locals are invited to paint a chair, in their own unique style, to aid in a fundraising project for North Perth Library

- pick up a bent cane chair at North Perth Library, Listowel branch
- paint it and return to the library by April 1st
- the public will be invited to bid on the chairs in a silent auction at the library throughout the month of April
- silent auction ends April 30 with a Murder Mystery at the library
- visit the library and talk to the CEO, Tara Mendez, or call Tara at 529-291-4621 or Val Weber at 519-291-4724



Artist Spotlight

By Wendy vanLeeuwen

Sally Coxon



Local artist, Sally Coxon, loved to draw as a child growing up in St. Thomas, Ontario, but her dream didn't become a calling until after she was married and took some art courses in night school at LDSS and later at Conestoga College. She currently lives on a farm just outside of Milverton with her husband of 46 years. She is the proud parent of five children and grandparent of four.

Sally is a freehand artist who specializes in pet portraits done in oil pencil crayons, working from photos of the animal. "The smile on my clients faces when they see the finished portrait is what inspires me to keep doing it," she says. She has been an eager participant in the local arts scene, and participated in the Culture Days and Art Sense 2010, sponsored by NPACC. She also has three original pictures currently on display at Theatre 311.

Sally's other creative endeavours include silk flower arranging and scrapbooking. She recently took up watercolour painting, which she is finding a fun challenge. Sally is open to accepting commissions for pet portraits or other works of art, and has drawn crests, buildings, and family coats of arms for her clients. Anyone interested in purchasing a print of Sally Coxon's pictures or contacting her about a possible commission is welcome to call her at 519-595-4460.

NPACC Seeking Volunteers

who are interested in helping to increase awareness, appreciation and support of arts and culture in the community of North Perth

How might you help?

- Serve on the board of directors which meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Serve on a committee that meets as the need arises
 - Fundraising Committee
 - Artist Workshop Committee
 - Summer Art Program for Youth Committee
 - Concert Series Committee

If you are interested, please send an email to info@NorthPerthArts.ca or call 519-291-4167

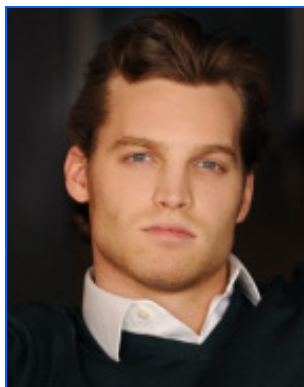
NPACC

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 2011
7:00 p.m. in the Hay Room,
North Perth Public Library,
Listowel Branch

Anyone interested in finding out more about NPACC, or wanting to become involved, is welcome to attend.

A Gemini!



Congrats to our hometown boy, Jared Keeso!

We couldn't be prouder! Most are aware that Jared Keeso won a Gemini award, last fall, for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a mini-series, for his part in the CBC two-part program, "Keep Your Head Up Kid: The Don Cherry Story."

We want to acknowledge his accomplishment here, as it exemplifies the incredible possibilities in store for those who share the same passion, dedication and determination as Jared. We encourage our young, aspiring artists to hold fast to their dreams as they set out on whatever paths their talents lead them.

Who's Doing What Now?

Kevin (John) McMillan



Kevin McMillan, born and raised in the Listowel area, has become a world renowned vocal performer and teacher with an impressive career. He has worked with some of the finest conductors in the world, performing over 750 concerts, both in Europe and with every major North American orchestra. Critics have praised his 'elegant lyric baritone voice and singularly remarkable interpretive skills'.

Kevin's interest in music began with piano lessons, and later evolved to singing in church and school choirs, including the Listowel District Secondary School Chorus under the direction of Gerald Fagan. In 1977, '79 and '80, Kevin successfully auditioned for the 40 member Ontario Youth Choir. This program still offers youth an opportunity to work with some of Canada's outstanding choral leaders in an exciting program of rehearsals, master classes and voice lessons.

After studying science and agriculture at the university of Guelph for two years, Kevin transferred to the University of Western Ontario in 1979 and began his vocal training with Martin Chambers, earning his B MUS in 1983. During the summers of 1980 through 1982, Kevin studied at the Britten-Pears School in England. A fall on his father's farm in 1980 left him with braces and crutches but didn't dampen his determination to pursue his career. He attended Julliard from 1983-1986, attaining his M MUS.

When he returned to Canada in 1987, Kevin started to gain attention by winning a prize in the CBC National Competition for Young Performers, and first prize in the Guelph Spring Festival's National Vocal Competition. He gave his New York recital debut in 1989 and has been performing internationally ever since.

To his credit, Kevin has fifteen recordings, a Grammy Award, a Gramophone Award and numerous Juno Award nominations.

Commenting on the Grammy Award received in 1992 Kevin noted, "...It was very nice for Maestro Blomstedt's excellent work on our *Carmina Burana* to be honoured. He is an extraordinary man, and one of the finest musicians I know. To be affiliated with such a wonderful project, and to be honoured with all involved, was a treat for me. Perhaps more importantly, that recording became quite famous, and as a result, I have sung *Carmina Burana* over 200 times around the planet since."

Many have studied under Kevin, and gone on to establish professional careers in North America and Europe. He has been offering private lessons since 1988. In 1998 he accepted the position of Adjunct Professor of Voice at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario which he held until 2009. He has adjudicated numerous music festivals and has served as the adjudicator for the Conservatory Canada Examinations since 2003. Kevin has taught master classes throughout Canada and the United States. In 2009 he joined the faculty of James Madison University School of Music, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, as Assistant Professor of Voice.

In advising students interested in pursuing a career in music, Kevin cautions, "There are a number of crucial elements that almost go without saying, but among them, 'talent' is cheaper than table salt. It's the discipline that is applied to that talent that makes all the difference. Above all, it is imperative that anyone who would consider such a path love the repertoire more than they love the idea of themselves performing it. When all of the grunt work feels fruitless, and the frustration level mounts, this is the only thing that will keep you going."

Kevin's biggest moment? "It is difficult to define the 'biggest' moment - maybe singing for 70,000 people during an open air concert in Berlin?.. But I think I would have to say that my Carnegie Hall debut was the 'pivotal' moment for me, personally... not because Carnegie Hall meant that much to me, but because my parents were able to be there at that early point in my career, and feel a sense of security that I had somehow 'arrived', and that I would survive on this odd life path I had chosen. That was a comfort to me."

Kevin's latest project was a performance, on January 29-30, 2011, to honour Schubert's birthday. He and his pianist colleague, Gabriel Dobner, performed all three of Schubert's great song cycles in one weekend, in the 'wonderful recital hall at the new Forbes Centre at James Madison University', where he now teaches. In anticipation of this event Kevin said, "To do them all at once will be a first for me, and I look forward to it very much."

Sources: Kevin McMillan interview; Kevin's website: www.kevinmcmillan.ca/;

The Canadian Encyclopedia/The Encyclopedia of Music in Canada:

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=U1ARTU0002312