North Perth shows its culture once again during Culture Days

The last Saturday in September was the occasion of an expanded Culture Days display in the Anglican Church hall. This federally mandated programme is designed to engage the artistic community with the public by means of free and interactive initiatives in a wide, unlimited variety of disciplines.

New and returning artists exhibited drawings, water colour and other paintings, and photography, with several artists demonstrating their talents. A welcome new exhibit was the entry from the LDSS art students, which showed a large collection in various mediums – painting, drawing, masks, and carving. The many techniques were imaginative, abstract and colourful. A display of stained glass was featured in another exhibit with beautiful window panels and sun catchers.

The Creative Needle Club, first time exhibitors, added a large and brightly patterned display. There were several quilts shown of various types and sizes, as well as place mats, cushion covers, jackets, knitting, pot holders, and scarves. Lovely designs and colour combinations were made with meticulous skill.

Another new exhibitor was David Long with his display of beautiful wood carvings of birds, realistically painted. He also showed a set of whimsical carved figures, a miniature foursome of golfers.

Fred Haight and a few of his music students provided entertainment. The young guitar players showed great skill and competence, with Fred’s guitar added as backup. The North Perth Players added another new dimension to the Culture Days display. This amateur dramatic group exhibited colourful costumes and props, and made use of the church hall stage to rehearse scenes for an upcoming production.

An assortment of delicious sandwiches and sweets was provided by Joyce King for lunch, along with coffee, tea and cold drinks. Culture Days provides an opportunity for a wide variety of local depth and variety of artistic talent artists to show their work, to interact with each other and to learn from each other. The North Perth community can be proud of the depth and variety of artistic talent it has, and will hopefully continue to foster and encourage new artists in all mediums.

Art Squared proves to be a well contributed and received opportunity

Art Squared proves to be a well contributed and received opportunity. The North Perth Arts and Culture Council was highly successful in hosting its first annual Art2 Art Show. We were very honoured to highlight the exceptional talent of local artists. The quality and diversity of these submissions were impressive. Artists were encouraged to ‘think outside of the box’ and create a piece of 2-D art mounted on a 12 x 12 backing or a 3-D sculpture that could fit into one square foot. This creative objective allowed artists to explore any mediums and challenged them to consider their perspective into the art making process. We look forward to seeing more innovative creations in the upcoming 2015 Art Show. Be there or be square!
Artistic Director: Jason Wilson (piano, vocals)

A well-known, two-time Juno Award nominee, Toronto musician who has been described as "one of Toronto's music treasures." His Soldiers of Song about The Dumbells (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup. Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his books is Soldiers of Song of Toronto's music treasures. His 3-CD album "Lorne Brown – A Link in the Chain" was the Storytellers of Canada/Concert Artists du Canada Storysave CD of 2011. Lorne's original CD, "Lorne Brown: Singers, Storytellers, and the Legion Story" is a collection of Toronto's music treasures. His music has been described as "one of Toronto's music treasures." His Soldiers of Song about The Dumbells (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup. Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his books is Soldiers of Song of Toronto's music treasures.

Storyteller Lorne Brown is a singer of old songs and a teller of old tales. A co-founder of Storytelling Toronto, his 3-CD album "Lorne Brown: A Live in the Chair" was the Storytellers of Canada Storysave CD of 2011. Lorne's dad staged The Dumbells in France while on active duty as a stretcher-bearer in the Queen's Field Ambulance. The Dumbells have been a part of Lorne's family lore ever since.

The Dumbells were born in the midst of the First World War trenches near Vimy Ridge in France. They were the most popular of the concert parties designed to boost the morale of the Canadian troops, and were hugely successful. When the war ended, The Dumbells' popularity continued: they played to sold-out houses across Canada for over a decade. They were the first Canadian group to play Broadway. One by one The Dumbells passed away, and their legend faded. But there are many stories that show they gave to improve the morale of the men on the front lines.

Music Director: Dr. Jason Wilson (piano, vocals)

Author and scholar Dr. Jason Wilson (piano, vocals) is a well-known, two-time Juno Award nominee, Toronto musician who has been described as "one of Toronto's music treasures." His book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his books is "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup." Wilson's research has included works on Canadiana, his book, "Soldiers of Song: The Story of the Dumbells" (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) was published November 2012. Another of his books is "The Man Behind the Cup: A Biography of the Stanley Cup."
Becky Reesor produces a well received eclectic music series

Collaboration is a sought trait in today’s world and collaboration was the name of the game in a 3-part music series produced by Becky Reesor.

Supported in part by the North Perth Arts and Culture Council, the series included a variety of local and areas artists in three different music styles. Classic and Contemporary Keys showed off the piano skills of Reesor and her former teacher, Agnes Marie Henderson.

The concert shared a variety of performing talents including singer Kathleen Skinner, actress Jessica Hamilton, and visual artist Claudette Martinez. Rock, Country, and that Banjo Guy brought the Legion to life with upcoming sensation Karli June and her band. Becky showed a different side of her keyboarding skills with Sammy Duke and “G” Harvey.

The third concert in the series produced by Becky Reesor played to a capacity audience at Hardwood Haven B&B in Listowel. The musical trio made up of Tom Cummings on vibraphone, John Wiebe on guitar, and Becky Reesor on keyboard and vocals presented a variety of musical selections that appealed to the audience in the intimate atmosphere of the grand reception room.

The World Around Us encompasses the world of art, music, history and culture coming together from coast to coast. This year’s theme encouraged artists to share the world we live in and to communicate their perspective in a photograph.

The North Perth Arts and Culture Council was honoured to host our annual contest to celebrate the creative vitality of our communities. There were various age categories as well as youth alphabet art categories.

Winners included: Rob Leach, first in 20-plus; Chloe Hemingway, first, second and third in 12-and-under; and Keira Schaefer, first in student alphabet. Pictured here is Leach’s winning photo.

5th Annual Kitchen Ceilidh has toes tapping once again

Our annual Paddyfest Ceilidh had a last minute change of performers. Due to a family death, "Kettle’s On" were unable to entertain, but were able to put us in touch with Shane Cook and Brian Pickell as replacements.

Shane is a championship fiddler with a string of Canadian and American titles to his name, rated one of the top in the world. Brian is a composer and talented guitarist. Both are recording artists with international acclaim.

Together, these performers treated the audience to an informal, relaxed evening, as much like a jam session as a concert. Their music was from many sources and included compositions from both Brian and Shane, ancient Irish tunes, hornpipes and reels, as well as bluegrass, all with a Celtic flavour. Brian and Shane gave interesting and humorous background information about the music.

Shane’s amazing talent on the violin was complemented by Brian on guitar, banjo and vocals. For a couple of numbers, Shane’s feet provided percussion. Irish dancer Leslie Louvelle added another dimension to the entertainment with her graceful and spirited dancing. Leslie explained the difference between the soft shoe numbers that are supposed to be soundless, and the hard shoe dances that are to be as noisy as possible.

The enthusiastic audience, whose toes were tapping all evening, left with happy smiles.

5th Annual Amateur Photography Contest shows “The World Around Us”

The enthusiastic audience, whose toes were tapping all evening, left with happy smiles.