

# ARTS CONNECTION

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

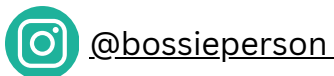
## NEW YEAR...NEW LOGO

In our previous Arts Connection issue (October-December 2023), we explained ODAC's history.

Our original logo was reflecting its vision of a strong united creative community working together to enhance the culture in our area. It was designed by local artist Rodney Frost in 2007 and represented the many disciplines of art.

Now, in 2024, we decided it was time to revamp our logo with a simplified type-based design, giving it a more modern and elegant look. Thank you to local artist Anne Douris, for designing our new logo.

Find her on [Instagram](#) or her [Website](#)



THEN



NOW



THIS ISSUE

NEW YEAR NEW LOGO

STORIES OF  
MNJIKANING

OPERA HOUSE  
EXHIBIT

ARTS IMMERSION FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH

SALES SALES SALES

MARCH EVENTS

COMMUNITY  
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# STORIES OF MNJIKANING, THE FISH WEIRS

Chippewas of Rama First Nation Elder Mark Douglas tells stories of Mnjikaning, the ancient fish weirs at the narrows between Lakes Couchiching and Simcoe, Ontario. Mnjikaning is a place of power, of gathering, healing and abundance, once known across Turtle Island, and at one time almost forgotten. Mark has been sharing these stories of Mnjikaning since 1993.

The stories given here are part of a longer webinar called Giiwniikewag miinwaa Giimkaajigaazowag / Lost, Forgotten and Found presented by Storytelling Orillia for World Storytelling Day in March of 2022.

The full webinar includes more music by teacher and storyteller Fay Mackenzie, and Nanaboozhoo stories she tells that centre on the Mnjikaning area.



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## OPERA HOUSE EXHIBIT

WANT TO SHOWCASE A PIECE OF YOUR WORK AT THE OPERA HOUSE?

Keep your eyes open for an email "**Call to Artists**" that will go out before each show with all the information you require. This venue can accommodate large pieces.

Installation for the Opera House will be Wednesday morning's at 11:00AM.

### 2024 DATES:

May 1

September 4

November 6



Orillia Impressions (SOLD)  
Jen Minor

↙ The 'Melody in Blue' exhibition requires art pieces to have a minimum size of 20" on any side.

# ARTS IMMERSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Individuals engaged in mental health services often find community integration to be one of the most significant barriers to recovery. OSMH and ODAC discussed that (initially) up to 35 consumers of mental health services expressed interest in applying art as a means of community integration. ODAC members were polled and fifteen (as of this writing) expressed strong interest in mentoring in their personal artistic genres.

The project will explore the application of community-based art activity as a route to assimilating individuals experiencing mental health challenges. The focus population may also include persons in marginalized groups as we find appropriate application. Throughout the three-year project period, there will be opportunities to showcase the works of the participants. There will also be demonstrations and exploration of how to market one's artwork.

The target population is adult members and future members of a peer support program in Orillia who have expressed a desire to explore and expand their artistic interests. The target cohort is comprised of individuals with a variety of mental health presentations – from mild to severe. Each, however, has begun to use artistic expression in a variety of ways. The level of skill reaches from novice to masterful but remains a solo activity.

The project will explore how involvement with members of the arts community can facilitate integration of the individual into the mainstream.

Arts Immersion for Mental Health and Marginalized Persons is funded by a grant from United Way of Simcoe-Muskoka

The project will make use of community-based artists, musicians, sculptors, fabric artists, etc. as remunerated mentors for individuals being served in the community outreach program.

- ODAC
- The Meeting Place
- OSMH-Community Mental Health
- Creative Nomad Studios
- Georgian College



Community Collaborative Project:  
Arts Immersion for Mental Health  
Orillia and Area and North Simcoe

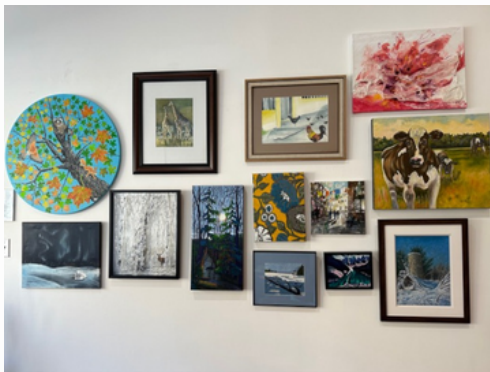


# SALES, AND SALES AND SALES - OH MY!

So far 2024 has been fortuitous for art sales at **two** of ODAC's exhibition spaces!

## HIBERNATION ARTS

Hibernation Arts has had three artworks sell from the ODAC wall, in their February and March exhibitions.



## OPERA HOUSE

The Opera House has had four sales from the Green Room exhibition.



It's too soon to tell if this is a trend, but we can certainly hope!

Currently, there is a call for the April wall at Hibernation Arts. We are still in the trial period for that exhibition, to determine if it will continue to be feasible for ODAC to move forward with it.

Show your support for the wall by submitting artwork for it!

Thank you to Deby Melillo for all your support to revitalize the Exhibit!



# MARCH EVENTS



**Orillia & District Arts Council** was thrilled to join forces with **Couchiching Craft Brewing Co** and the **City of Orillia** to present **two** events in March to keep the community entertained!

Perhaps known as St. Pattie's Eve...

Couchiching Craft Brewery and ODAC partnered to showcase the brilliance of local musicians. An ad hoc compilation known collectively as The Brant Street Players, set up shop at Molly's Kitchen (CCB) for the evening of song, stories, and outrageous Celtic tunes.

Dancing was not optional, nor clapping, stomping, and jigging.

**Featuring:**

**Jessica Martin: Fiddle, Vocals**

**Katrina Gilbert: Fiddle**

**Lorna Bolden: Fiddle**

**Alan Cooper: Fiddle**

**Kathryn Gillett: Recorder, Vocals, Bodhrán**

**Sophie Cooper: Mandolin**

**Bryan Sutton: Concertina**

**Margaret Pomeroy: Guitar**

**Barbara Rae MacMillan: Step Dancing**



# MARCH EVENTS



ODAC and Couchiching Craft Brewery coordinated these winter break events with support from the City of Orillia programming fund. The audiences got a chance to experience two distinct cultural elements – Caribbean and Irish influenced. In bringing these cultural treats to Orillia, ODAC is demonstrating the importance of celebrating our widening cultural heritage as our City grows and becomes more diverse.

Arts and community are inseparable. More events, activities, and opportunities await, as ODAC moves into its new mission to serve an expanding Orillia. We welcome partnerships like that of Couchiching Craft Brewery and others as we move further into the 21st Century.

## Featuring:

**Marcus Walker (guitar)**

**Neil Morris (bass)**

**Donn Dixon (drums)**

**Greg Devine (keys)**

The SS Orillia cruised into town and docked at The Couchiching Craft Brewery for an evening of onshore entertainment. The Jelly Donuts provided the Reggae rhythms and, again, dancing was not optional, but yet somehow no one did the Limbo!?



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

# COMING SOON

In 2023, ODAC offered 6 different Summer Park workshops at local parks through the community.

This year for 2024, we want to hear from **YOU!**

## WHAT

What kind of programming do you want to see?

A concert?  
Children's painting?

## WHAT

Where should we do this workshop? A local park in your neighbourhood?

## WHEN

What time do you want these workshops?

3:00PM?  
5:00PM?

## STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHEN THE CONSULTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE!

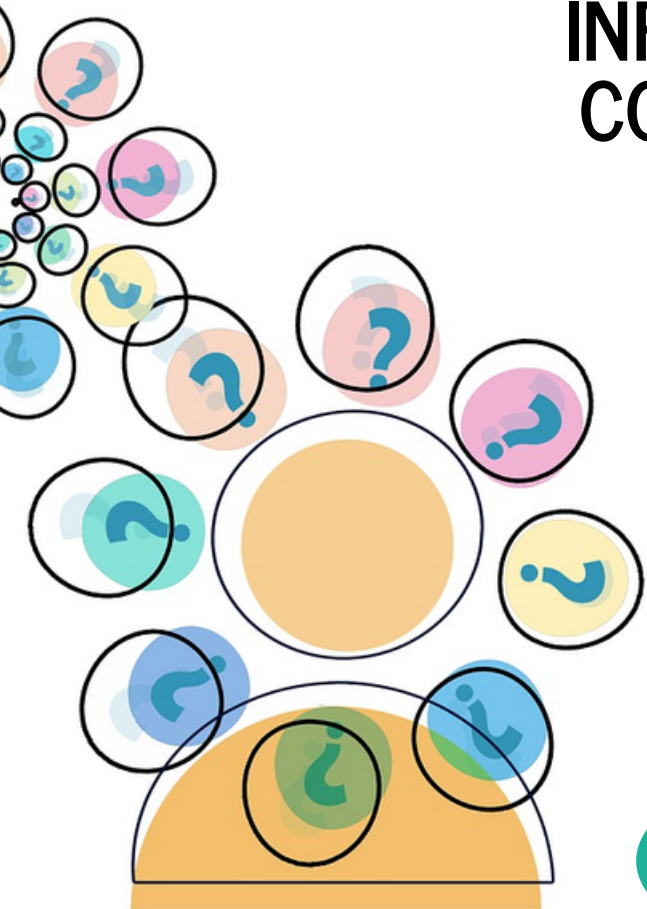
**DID WE MENTION THERE ARE PRIZES FOR GIVING YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS?**

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date and find out when the consultation is!



[odaccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:odaccommunications@gmail.com)

Email us with any thoughts or ideas!





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



# FRANCY FORTE

A wedding and family photographer by trade for over two decades, Francy turned their passion to making original artwork in 2020 during the pandemic when their business was interrupted, and continues to look forward and growing their art career.

Through a time of loss they found new opportunity to explore the joy and continued passion within the creative processes of painting with encaustic. Using their photography as inspiration and oftentimes a base for their encaustic artwork has created a harmonious blend of their past and present.

Utilizing the age-old archival medium with new techniques to create modern works of art that invoke curiosity from collectors. Each art work is comprised from the finest encaustic medium, archival materials and substrates, resulting in beautiful textures and layers that are tactile and truly need to be appreciated in person.

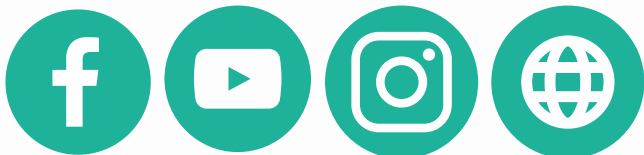
Newsletter Cover Page By Francy Forte

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## FIND US ON SOCIALS



MEET THE MEMBERS OF ODAC

