

ARTS CONNECTION

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023



WELCOME TO ARTS CONNECTION

Welcome everyone to Orillia District Arts Council (ODAC) **new** newsletter. This newsletter, Arts Connection will be released every 3 months, and each newsletter will contain a variety of art showcases from members, our successful events, workshops and programs, as well as community events.

We hope members see themselves in pictures throughout the newsletters, are excited to see what we have been up to and what is up and coming.

We also value our artists community voice. Therefore, if there is something you want to be included in the Arts Connection newsletter or happening at ODAC - don't be shy!

As always, your Board of Directors is here for you.



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ODAC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

ODAC is a recipient of the Federal Government Community Services Recovery Fund of \$28,000.00. All of the funds will be put towards a local Consultant to work with the ODAC Board members to undertake the research and consultation to provide a Strategic Plan to assist ODAC in financial sustainability to provide services to the arts community and enhancing programs it can bring to Orillia. ODAC, as a non profit organization depends solely on successful applications for government and private grants which leaves very little funding with which to operate.

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH OUTDOOR ART

Orillia has the somewhat unique status as both a tourist destination and a bedroom community. It is likely that the "bedroom" element will prevail in the next decade. How do we retain the ambience of our city while embracing this inevitable change to semi-urban status?



Mural Art Philadelphia



Chemainus, BC

I spent a lot of time in Philadelphia over the years. One thing that emerged in that city was murals. **Mural Art Philadelphia** started decorating large facades at some point in the 1990s. There were a lot of empty or marginally used factory buildings, warehouses, unsightly commercial structures, and just messy graffiti magnets. What replaced these was a dedicated effort to give voice to artists from all social strata and styles. The street kids with spray cans and the fine artists with graphic backgrounds were encouraged to work together to design and install murals. Many are rather large. All carry a message. In Orillia we have the capacity to enhance our structures and create a greater tourist draw.

Working within the old town as well as the newer sections, mural art can become the transformation many would like to see. It gives voice to those who are currently placing wall art around the city and those who want to develop a more unified, decolonized picture of The Sunshine City.

Chemainus, BC is famous for its murals. These are not simply historic reproductions of old photos, or representations of the colonizing peoples. These are works of art that engage the viewer and encourage discussion. They are an investment in the future of the city.

Cities from St. Louis to Oakland to Los Angeles to New York (and Berlin, Amsterdam, and Paris) are looking to employ the creativity of the many graffiti artists. The idea is to move beyond decorating subway cars to beautifying old buildings.

So – how about we in Orillia initiate a plan to have several murals in place within the next five years? It should not be difficult to locate likely sites, nor to convince the owners to permit the beautification of their buildings. What is needed is the will and encouragement to attack this with fervor. It's time to look into the future and bring out the creativity that is inherent in this town.

What can we do to get this moving? Art in Public Places can recommend. City staff can facilitate. Council can encourage through by-law amendments and inclusion in the Downtown Tomorrow plans. Let's see what the public thinks.

-Dennis Rizzo

Get into the conversation at ODAC on [Facebook](#).

HeARTS Program

After extensive planning and community input, HeARTS (Helping the Elderly through Arts) has implemented two sessions of 6 months each of programming. ODAC will begin a third session of the program in January 2024.

What you can find at the HeARTS program:

- Free programming
- Drop-in sessions that requires no registration.
- No previous skills required.
- Art activities that encourage creativity, increase self-esteem, support friendship and social inclusion!
- A movement and dance component that is a fun and gets you moving!
- Local musicians and special guests that provide a variety of performances that highlight local talent within the arts and culture sector!

For more information contact Sukhi Kaur, Activities Manager HeARTSorillia@gmail.com

SUMMER NIGHTS

The second season of The Orillia Summer Events ran in 6 City parks for 6 weeks in Summer 2023.



Photo from Charlotte and the Dirty Cowboys on June 21, 2023.



Photo from Children's Outdoor Art on August 30, 2023



Photo from Eat Your Art on July 5, 2023

Want to see Summer Nights in your local park in Summer 2024?

Let us know!

HIBERNATION ARTS

ODAC has been providing wall space at Hibernation Arts Gallery, at a nominal cost, to give our members the opportunity to display their work. It's a great opportunity for your work to get visibility, and pieces on display often sell. The ODAC wall is prominently positioned as one enters Hibernation Arts and our hanging committee makes sure the wall is attractively composed. Thanks to MJ Pollak and Lynn Stokes for their efforts.



The cost to hang is just **\$15.00 per month**, and there is a **25% commission** to Hibernation Arts, if your piece sells.



PEER TO PEER

The Visual Arts Committee for ODAC has been holding monthly 'Peer-to-Peer' sessions at Creative Nomad Studios. Our members, and artists from outside, hold hands-on workshops in their area of expertise.

Members of all disciplines are welcome, and non-members may attend for a \$5.00 fee.

As well as being highly informative, these sessions are a great chance to socialize with other members of the arts community. Refreshments are provided during breaks.

Peer to Peer is dependant on volunteers to coordinate these sessions. Without the support, these sessions will come to an end in 2024.

Join us for a fun demonstration of Gel Printing presented by Linda Gidora for our final Visual Arts meeting of 2023.
Thursday November 23, 7PM

Contact the ODAC Visual Arts Director
Maryjo.pollak@sympatico.ca

ORAH EVENT

Come together to celebrate the best and brightest from the sector.

November 22, 2023
Doors open at 6:00 PM
Creative Nomad Studios



2023 Award Categories:

- Education in Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Emerging Artist
- Heritage: Restoration, Renovation and Publication
- Event in Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Qennefer Browne Achievement Award

The awards were established to recognize the valuable contribution that educators, historians, and event organizers and supporters make to the vibrancy of our communities. For more information, click [here](#).

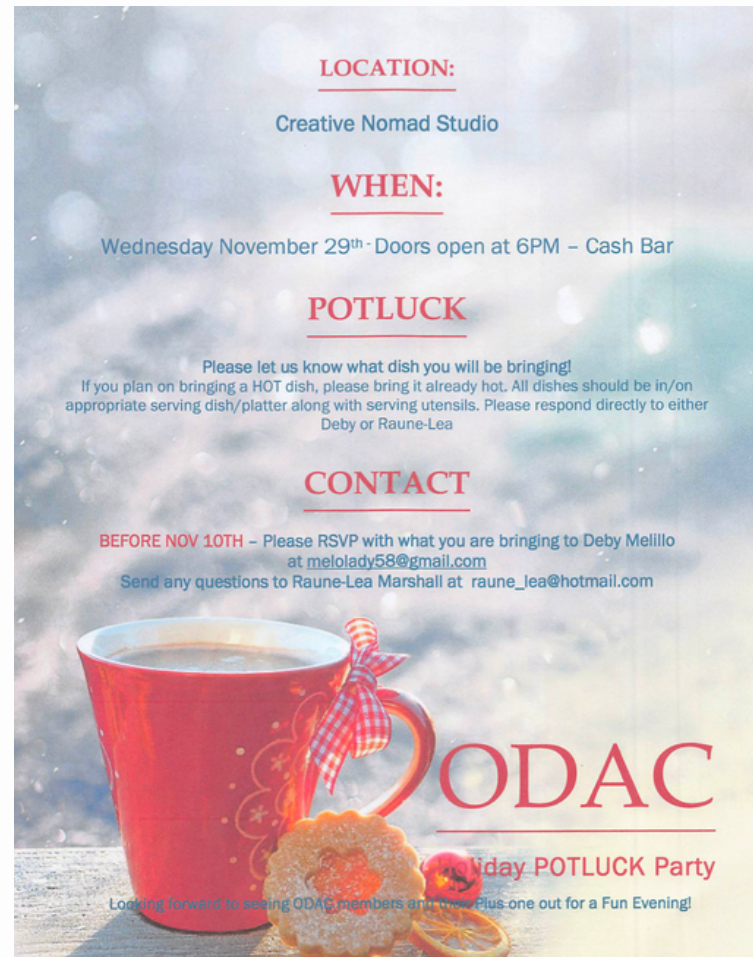
HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Join us for a night of mingling with fellow ODAC members.

REMINDER

Please RSVP with the dish you will be bringing to Deby Melillo at melolady58@gmail.com.

Do you have any questions?
Email Raune-Lea Marshall at raune_lea@hotmail.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ALINA HROMKO



I'm a professional photographer who came from Ukraine and specialize in newborns, portraits and family photographs.

My photography journey started in 2012. In 2016 my son was born and I started learning newborn photography and in 2018 my daughter filled up my portfolio.

Photography for me is not about pushing the button. Its about the energy exchange and capturing the beauty of people both inside and out. While taking pictures, I try to transfer the process into something that brings joy and lets people feel beautiful.

Newsletter Cover Page By Aline Hromko.

CONTACT ALINA:

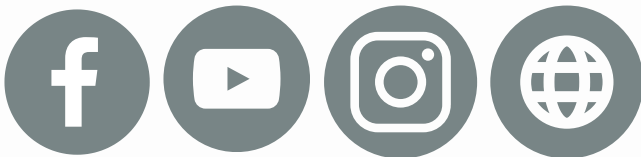
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MEET THE MEMBERS OF ODAC

