



EAC SUPPORT FOR THE ALBARDA GRAND PIANO At Elora Centre for the Arts



Through a timely private loan, the Rossler Grand Piano, bequeathed to the Centre by Elske Albarda has been upgraded and moved to the Minarovich Gallery.

After the piano was given to the Centre, friends and the community supported the rebuilding of the piano through \$5000 of private donations. These included a humidifying system and cover. Elora Piano Technician Greg Foard also donated his tunings and care to the piano for many years.

Renovations to the gallery and the Harris Room at the Centre in the spring of 2017 brought urgency to making the piano moveable, as well as repairing a leg of the instrument which had impeded its use for some time. EAC engaged Mark Edel of Mark's Piano Services, Guelph, to provide a dolly with heavy castors to fit under the legs to make the piano easily moveable, at the same time relocating the instrument to the Minarovich Gallery.

EAC plans to organize several music concerts this autumn to recuperate funds and repay the significant loan. At that time, the piano will be returned. Please watch for further notification of concerts and give us your support by attending.

We hope that the Albarda Piano will now be frequently used by the community for musical events. In fact, it can spur the formation of musical groups, musical evenings and recitals. There are few grand pianos accessible in public spaces, one other being EAC's Yamaha Grand Piano housed at the Wellington County Museum, enabling the Gallery Concert Series and other events.

31ST ANNUAL ELORA-FERGUS STUDIO TOUR

**Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24,
Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1: 10 am to 5 pm**

Year after year, the artists at the heart of the Elora Fergus Studio Tour keep raising the bar for originality.

The 2017 tour is no different, with a spectacular range of work from renowned painters like Barry McCarthy and Joel Masewich to marquetry expert Stephen Haigh to encaustic artist Supria Karmakar.

This free, self-guided tour brings together artists and art lovers over two fall weekends in late September and early October.

The historic township of Centre Wellington provides the scenic backdrop, with 36 artists showcasing original works, drawing on the beauty of the Grand River and surrounding landscapes as inspiration.

Among them are eight glass artists working in a variety of techniques including stained glass, mosaic, blown glass and glass painting. Given that glass is super-trendy now, there's never been a better time to enjoy the tour.

After a brief hiatus, Alma-based glass artist Jerre Davidson is delighted to be returning this year with new work inspired by her recent artist's residency in Scotland. She creates layered glass landscapes using glass powders and granules as well as sculptural kiln-castings using the age-old technique of lost wax casting in glass.

Davidson says the area has been a lure for artists since A. J. Casson visited and painted the Elora Mill in 1929. "2017 will be a special year," she says. "The variety of types of art and media is unparalleled in studio tours".

Kathi Kuti Harding, who creates one-of-a-kind, whimsical miniature sculptures from her studio just south of Fergus, is rightfully impressed by the calibre of artists this year, many of whom have pieces in collections around the world. She says the short time spent shuffling between studios will be well worth the effort: "Great art comes from the heart and soul," she says. "The Elora Fergus Studio Tour artists don't skimp in their efforts. I'm looking forward to being inspired. It's always thrilling to see what the artists have been creating during the last year, the favourite themes and new explorations."

New to the tour this year are Jane Burgess and Amelia Kraemer, (encaustic), Roxanna Matamoros and Stephen Cole (painting), Dianne Kennedy Cruttenden (weaving), and Melanie Schaffer (stained glass).

The official opening at the Elora Centre for the Arts on September 14th will showcase a piece from each artist, and visitors can also fill out a ballot to get \$250 off any work of art.

Visit www.elorafergusstudiotour.com for details and a tour map.

by Nancy Harper

PROFILE



DAVID CROSS

Blacksmith

Rio Bravo Ironworks

David loves having his own business and being his own taskmaster at Rio Bravo. His small shop behind the Shopper's Drug Mart on Geddes Street, Elora, contributes greatly to the variety and artistry of our village crafts as well as being primarily functional. David's focus on detail and design in the custom production of ironworks complements architecture, gardens, glass, sculpture, interior design and more. It broadens the scope of artists in other media with whom he works cooperatively and creatively.

In 1973 the art of the Blacksmith had declined almost to extinction. Since that time, with only 27 Blacksmiths participating in the vision, this traditional skill has expanded to 4000 strong through the inspiration and support of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA).

Who are Blacksmiths? ABANA define them: a blacksmith is one who shapes and forges iron with hammer and anvil. The artist-blacksmith does this to unite the functional with the aesthetic, realizing that the two are inseparable.

ABANA declares: "We the members of the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America do join in our resolve to perpetuate the noble art of blacksmithing. With hammer and anvil, we will forge for mankind a richer life. We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Born in Galt, along the waters of the Grand, David has always lived by a river. He attended high school at Southwood Collegiate and lived in Galt till 1993. He made a brief transition to El Paso, Texas, where he lived till 1996, travelling around, selling vinyl to car companies for upholstery, visiting plants in Mexico 3 days a week. But with two daughters entering high school, in 2002 he returned to Canada, working for Rio Bravo Service Corporation.

However, David always wanted to weld, and with ideas for metal furniture floating in his head,

and some time on his hands, he began to re-invent himself. He took a series of short courses with David Robertson, a blacksmith working at the forge in Walkerton, three days a week. These courses covered various techniques that led David to experiment with iron as a medium in his garage. He began to acquire the necessary tools- a forge, an anvil, hammers. To extend his skills he took a course in welding at Conestoga College. During this time he continued to explore blacksmithing as a livelihood, David looked for shop space around the Kitchener, Guelph and Fergus area. With serendipity on his side, he saw an ad in the paper for a small shop in Elora in 2009.

This was the space that was to become Rio Bravo Ironworks. When he opened the door and walked in, David knew it was ideal for his one-man business. It was centrally located and of adequate size in a village that valued individualized, hand made work, and where many old houses were being renovated. Owners here would value customized wrought iron work, and so his dream of independence became reality.

David Cross was now an independent artisan, his work intrinsic to the community and beyond. He began small, by making articles for sale: hooks and candle holders. Orders from older homes began to arrive and now represent a large part of his work. These may be architectural components like railings, furniture, supports for live edge wood tables or stands for sculptures and plants. He finds Elora a great and supportive community.

David belongs to the wider brethren of the forge: The Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America and the Ontario Blacksmiths' association, enjoying their conferences and publications. He has expanded his tools to include a propane forge, an oxy-acetaline torch for welding, a sand blaster for certain finishes and cleaning, punches, chisels, hammers, but his studio remains small and artisanal. For a short while he gave classes in metalwork and bronze casting but now his many commissions preclude teaching sessions.

The Elora Sculpture Project was a natural match for the artist of Rio Bravo Ironworks. David Cross was asked to be on the committee by Marty Van Vliet, and is now Chair of the growing annual Elora street exhibit, recently extended to Fergus. While he himself doesn't exhibit, he has entered shows in St. Andrews, Nova Scotia and in British Columbia. At present he has a commission to fulfill for the Fergus BIA, though the location and exact subject has not yet been decided. A further project is a large pseudo-grandfather clock to be undertaken with Marty of Mermaid Antiques as a humorous street object.

The resurgence of the "lost" art of blacksmithing is unmistakably evident, and craftsman David Cross brings those skills to our community in a very personal way.

Rio Bravo
89 GEDDES STREET, ELORA, ON
HAND FORGED HEIRLOOM
QUALITY LAMPS, HARDWARE AND
ACCESSORIES.
riobravo@wightman.ca

Interview by Beverley Cairns



You don't have to be an Artist to participate in our vibrant Arts Community!

Artists need support through organized exhibits, imaginative events, financial expertise, publicity, administrative skills, distribution of materials, commitment from the public.

You can be a strong member of the arts community by offering to volunteer with the Elora Arts Council as member of a committee or member of the EAC Board.

We welcome you! Please contact us at
eloraartscouncil@gmail.com

ELORA COMMUNITY THEATRE – 2017/2018

Elora Community Theatre's first show of the season takes you to Victorian London where Scrooge is counting his money. Little does he know he will soon be visited by the timely Ghosts and his life will never be the same. Directed by Deb Stanson and supported by a wonderful cast! December 1- 10th

This favourite Charles Dickens Christmas Classic *A Christmas Carol* is followed by *Inlaws, Outlaws and Other People* by Steve France, directed by Stan Jensen in February. (Feb. 2-11) The production offers a comic treasure that is sure to leave you in stitches.

Our Spring play May 4-13 is called *Is He Dead?* Directed by Acey Kaspar and Zoe Dunbar, it takes us back in time to 1846. This Mark Twain long lost comedy is full of zany characters, impossible situations and cross dressing! Presented at the Fergus Grand Theatre, tickets are available through the box office. **Enjoy the new look at the Fergus Grand Theatre, currently being renovated.**

ELORA POETRY CENTRE

September 30th at 4 p.m.

The Elora Poetry Centre & Gallery celebrates international "100 Thousand Poets for Change" day to promote peace, sustainability, and justice, featuring Canadian poet and artist, Bill Bissett, the "shaman of sound and performance,"

The evening features live music, finger food, and stimulating conversation. Admission by contribution. elorapoetrycentre.ca 519-846-2551.

GALLERY CONCERT SERIES-28th Season

The best bargain in town

2017-2018, 2pm

Live Music in the intimate setting of the Wellington County Museum's Exhibition Hall, refreshments, entry to all exhibits.

Tickets are available at the door, \$10. Youth under 16, \$1

November 5: Cantabile Strings: Barber's Adagio to Jazz of Peterson.

January 21: Rebecca McKay and James van der Heide, voice and piano

February 5: We 3-Eclecticity: Brad Moggach, Greg Stroh, Judith Douglas

March 25: Different Sides of Slide by Slide, our favourite trombone quartet

April 8: Venturi Winds Go Baroque

CHANGES AT THE GORGE CINEMA

John Chalmers and Deidra Whittaker, veteran independent cinema exhibitors who have been toiling in the movie trenches for over three decades, have made the difficult decision to take bows and leave the cinema. They write that owning The Gorge for all these years has been an enormous pleasure. And we at EAC have enjoyed every year of the decades, frequently sharing projects with The Gorge.

New residents to Elora, Julianna Cox and Payton Curtis, both film animators, have taken up the challenge with enthusiasm. Payton writes:

Julianna and I are pleased to announce that we have taken ownership of the Gorge Cinema here in Elora. I saw my first films at The Gorge, and subsequently have always tried to squeeze in a movie while back home for family visits. Julianna and I both have enjoyed careers in the animated film community, so taking stewardship of The Gorge just felt right.

John Chalmers & Deidra Whittaker have kept the doors open for over three decades against the toughest of odds. Namely the surge of the 'multiplex', and the demise of the independent cinema. No small feat! We, as many do, appreciate their efforts, energy and dedication to keeping good film rolling in Elora. I'm delighted that Julianna and I have been offered the chance to keep the projector humming. And we intend to, for many years to come. Here's to all the great films that have been played, and to the many that are sure to follow. See you at the movies! -Payton Curtis & Julianna Cox

The Elora Arts Council welcomes you with open arms!

CALENDAR

Elora Arts Council

Elora Fergus Studio Tour-36 Artists

Sept. 23, 24 & 30 and October 1, 10am to 5pm

Elora Centre for the Arts

75 Melville St, Elora

Elora Fergus Studio Tour Group Exhibition

Sept. 14-10 am-Oct. 10am-5pm.

Opening night Thursday Sept. 14, 7-9pm.

Elora Built: Old Beauty, New Focus

Solo Photography Exhibition by Daniel Dunlop
In the Harris Exchange Gallery, sponsored
by Honeychurch Lane. Sept 8th-Oct. 1st.

Opening reception; Sunday Sept. 10th, 1-3pm.

Fergus Grand Theatre

244 St. Andrews Street West, Fergus

Heather Rankin in Concert

Friday, October 13, 2017 8 pm & 10pm

The Great Canadian Songbook

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 8pm & 10pm -
Official re-opening of the refurbished theatre.

The Little Mermaid: A Family Musical

Thursday, Nov. 23, 7 pm-Friday, Nov. 24, 9 pm

Elora Community Theatre: December 1-10

A Christmas Carol: Dir Deb Stanson. Tickets
available through box office.

Wellington County Museum

Wellington Rd 18 between Elora and Fergus

Searching for William Ronald

September 23, 2017 to January 28, 2018

Exhibit Opening Reception: Sunday, October 1
1:00 to 3:00 pm Discover William Ronald, an
important and influential Canadian abstract
artist, a founding member of Painters Eleven in
1954. who grew up in Fergus during the 1930s.

Elora Festival and Singers

The Fall Festival Home Tour.

Saturday September 16: \$30

Six stunning locations in Elora and Fergus.

Maritime Tour Preview Concert

presented by Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

October 1, 3:30pm

\$50, \$35 (back row) and \$20 VoxTix

Church of the Holy Trinity

10 Trinity Square, Toronto

Shepherd's Pub, Mill St. W, Elora

Celtic Music Sessions, Friday Nights, 9-11pm.

Communiqué is the newsletter of the Elora
Arts Council. Sent to members by mail;
Next issue, January 2018
Editor: Beverley Cairns
www.artscouncil.elora.on.ca



**Annual Membership
Memberships are due a year
after you sign up.**

Application/Renewal

Please print. Make cheques payable to:
The Elora Arts Council,
P.O. Box 3092
Elora, ON., N0B 1S0

- Individual (\$20) Family (\$30)
 Groups (\$30)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No: _____

E-mail: _____

I am interested in working as a volunteer at EAC events, or being part of a committee.

These are my particular interests:

EAC's Annual General Meeting is in April

**ELORA ARTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
April 2017-April 2018**

- Chair: Barbara Lee
Vice Chair: Beverley Cairns
Secretary: Susan Thorning
Assistant Secretary: Louise Dench Beney
Treasurer: John McGill,
Membership: Patricia Reimer, Rachel Lauzon
Projects: Dorothy Collin

Meetings of the Board take place the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. Members are encouraged to come to meetings. For location, please phone 619 846-0556.

**Bring us your project proposals
BE ASSURED YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**INSIGHTS JURIED ART EXHIBITION WINNERS
Congratulations to all!**

<p>Insights Award Vigil: Steven Volpe, Orangeville</p> <p>Ellen Langlands Memorial Award Flight: Stephen Haigh, Elora</p> <p>Elora Arts Council Award (*awarded as a group) Mica Treasure Box Silk Cocoon Mica Treasure Box Fossilized Shark Vertebrae Mica Treasure Box Box Wasp Nest and Snake Skin Patrice Baker, Fergus</p> <p>Painting and Mixed Media W8171: Karin Silverston, Guelph</p>	<p>Fibre and Material Arts Award October: Val Ashbourne, Orangeville</p> <p>Photography Award Friends: Thomas King, Guelph</p> <p>3-Dimensional Arts Award Nest: Anita Granger, Fergus</p> <p>Works on Paper Award (*awarded as a group) sans titre*: Richard Pilon, Eden Mills</p> <p>People's Choice Award Painted Rocks II: Judy French, Elora</p>
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ELORA WRITERS' FESTIVAL & COMPETITION

<http://elorawritersfestival.blogspot.ca>

The Elora Writers Festival is looking at ways to expand its reach into local arts and tourism partnerships. With this vision in mind, we have moved the date of Festival 2018 (Sunday, May 6) to coincide with the weekend of the Elora Festival's Annual Book Sale. Stay tuned for announcements of more connections we're forging within the larger literary community and beyond. Watch for updates about Festival 2018 on our website.

Winners of the 2017 Elora Writers Festival Writing Contest were announced at our festival on Sunday, May 28, at Aboyne Hall, Wellington County Museum and Archives.

YOUTH category, sponsored by the Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington, the winners were:

- Juliet Zimmerman, age 12, of Eden Mills for *Timothy and Una*
Becca Swan, age 13, of Fergus for *The Forest*
Maria O'Dwyer, age 13, of Wellington North for *The Blue Caribou*

TEEN category, sponsored by the Elora Arts Council, the winners were:

- Candice Rubie, age 17 of Waterloo for *7 Minutes*
Eric Bernhardt, age 19 of Burlington for *Big Game*
Nora de Vos, age 14 of Guelph for *The Chase*

OPEN category, the winners were:

- Tammy Gilbert, of London, for *Late Spring*
Anastasia McEwen, of Fergus, for *A Chicken Says "Cluck"*
Mary Steer, of Waterdown, for *This is not a short story*

In celebration of Canada's 150 anniversary of Confederation, we asked writers to tell us about a memorable "Canadian moment" in their lives. In this special category, judged by Jean Mills and past EWF author Terry Fallis, the winner was: Kathy Robertson, of Kitchener, for *My Canadian Moment*