

Making Waves: Community Rallies Behind Arts Centre Expansion with ‘School of Fish’ Campaign

The Campaign: *The School of Fish*, a new community art installation featuring 75 individually sculpted metal fish, each representing a generous donor — whether an individual, family or group — who has supported the initiative. Created and donated by local artist **Mike Hintermeister**, the installation will be permanently displayed on the side of the MacDonald Pavilion at the **Elora Centre for the Arts**.

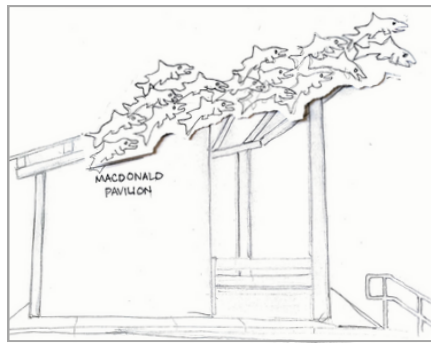
The Cause: To raise funds for the Arts Centre’s exciting new expansion, which will create a vital space for community gatherings, performances, exhibitions and more, and be fully accessible throughout. To date, 87% of the necessary funds have been raised, but the public’s help is needed to get to the finish line.

The Connection: This installation honours the rich history of the 1856 heritage schoolhouse that houses the Arts Centre, as well as its proximity to the Grand River. The image of fish swimming upstream symbolizes resilience and working together to build a strong foundation for future generations to thrive.

The Contribution: Each of the 75 fish represents a \$2,500 donation — payable as a **one-time gift** or in **monthly installments** of \$75 from now through December 2027. Donors will be recognized by name on a commemorative plaque displayed alongside the installation. Find out more: ecfta.ca/TheArtOfPossibility



Kris and Caleigh Butler were among the first to sign up for The School of Fish campaign: “We are thrilled to support the Elora Centre for the Arts expansion through the School of Fish installation. Art, creativity, expression and inspiration — these are the things at the heart of a thriving community, all of which are so effectively fostered by the Arts Centre. Our contribution is made with this in mind, and with the hope that the ECFTA may continue to have a strong and positive presence in our community for generations to come.”



Artist’s sketch of The School of Fish, to be installed at the Elora Centre for the Arts



A rendering of the planned 3,500-sq-foot addition to the Elora Centre for the Arts



its evolution into a first-class space for our community. I am proud of all that has been accomplished so far and look forward to seeing what the future holds after the expansion! I am honoured to support the Elora Centre for the Arts.”
~ *Deepti Celetti*

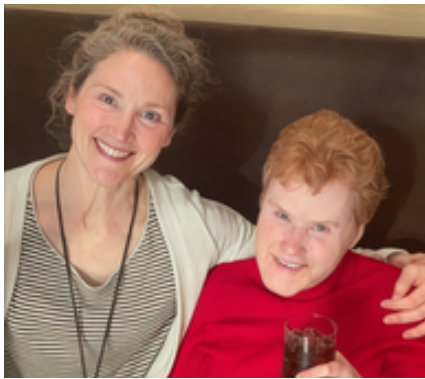


“The volunteers and staff have done such a remarkable job in breathing life into the Elora Centre for the Arts with all its year-round programming for children and adults alike. We are so fortunate as a community to be able to access such a facility in our own backyard. All of this to be further enhanced by what will be a handsome, accessible space for performances and gatherings. Thank you for all that you are doing for us.”
~ *Shirley & Deryk Smith*

“Supporting *The School of Fish* campaign is especially meaningful to our family because of our personal connection to the building. Terry attended school there when it was a traditional school, and Chloe went to Montessori there in 2002-03. It is wonderful to see this space evolving into a hub for creativity and connection. The Elora Centre for the Arts plays such an important role in inspiring our community, and we are proud to support its continued growth.”
~ *Melissa Seagrove*



“The Elora Centre for the Arts is the only arts centre in Centre Wellington that offers programming for young children, teens, adults, as well as folks with (dis)abilities. It is a safe place for community members to drop in to browse our amazing Artisan Shop, reflect on the latest artwork displayed in our gallery, or just have a conversation with other community members. As a co-chair of this wonderful facility for the past few years, I have seen firsthand



“I support the Arts Centre for many reasons. One aspect that particularly resonates with me is the focus on making art accessible for people of all abilities. My sister Jane has a developmental delay that makes participation in many activities challenging, but art is a great unifier. Anyone can both create and appreciate art at some level. And the new facility will make the ECFTA so much more accessible for those with physical disabilities. Kudos to the great folks at the ECFTA who support all people in exploring their creative side!”
~ *Kate Anderson*

together to learn, express themselves, and connect.
~ *Molly Kleiker and Stuart Reed*



“With all the crazy turmoil in the world, every time I see a post of the Sparrow’s Nest or the all-abilities art classes, my heart soars.” ~ *Resa Lent*



“We were excited to be part of *The School of Fish*, partly to celebrate three generations of our family teaching and learning in this special building, but also because we believe the Arts Centre serves a vital purpose in the community now. We all need a space for gathering, for creating and exploration, and we are thrilled to see the Centre growing to fulfill its potential as an accessible, welcoming place. What a community treasure the Centre is!”
~ *Nancy Fischer and Wyonna Pepler*



“The Arts Centre is basically our family’s second home. *The School of Fish* captures what we love about it and the role it plays at the heart of our community: a space where people come

Want to leave your mark and be part of The School of Fish?
Make your pledge today!

Contact the Arts Centre to find out more:

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-  (519) 846-9698
-  ecfta.ca/TheArtOfPossibility