



Elora Centre for the Arts and Aboyne Rural Hospice to Launch “Vibrant Visions” Speaker Series This Fall

August 6, 2024

Three-part series will shine a light on creativity and the arts in health and wellness spaces — from enriching the lives of children with disabilities and caregivers to innovative approaches to end-of-life care



Julia Hanigsberg, president and CEO of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Canada’s largest paediatric hospital serving children and youth with disabilities, will speak at the first event on Sept. 22

This fall, the [Elora Centre for the Arts](#) and [Aboyne Rural Hospice](#) are teaming up to launch a new speaker series that will shine a light on creativity and the arts in health and wellness spaces.

Vibrant Visions: Bridging Arts, Community & Wellness is a three-part speaker series that will explore community- and arts-based approaches to health and wellness — from enriching the lives of children with disabilities and caregivers to innovative approaches to end-of-life care.

The first event, **The Creativity Connection: How Art Contributes to Meaningful and Healthy Futures for Children with Disabilities and Developmental Differences**, takes place on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 2-4 pm, at the Elora Centre for the Arts.

[Julia Hanigsberg](#), president and CEO of [Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital](#), is the featured speaker.

A four-time “[Canada’s 100 Most Powerful Women](#)” honouree and member of the WXN Hall of Fame, Julia leads Canada’s largest paediatric rehabilitation hospital serving children and youth with disabilities and complex medical needs.

She has spent her career in government, post-secondary education and healthcare as a champion for cultural transformation, innovation, excellence and social justice.

At the Sept. 22 event, Julia will be discussing the many ways that participation in the arts can contribute to meaningful and healthy futures for children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences — including but not limited to neuromotor and neuromuscular conditions, acquired brain injury and autism.

Parents, educators, caregivers, clinicians, wellness professionals, youth and young adults with lived experience, and anyone interested in learning more about the power of art are welcome and encouraged to attend.

“The power of creativity and the arts to both inspire and heal is an integral part of what the Arts Centre offers to our community, and that’s what this speaker series is all about,” said **Sheila Koop**, volunteer chair of the [Capital Campaign](#) at the Elora Centre for the Arts.

“We are so pleased to be collaborating with the Aboyne Rural Hospice, showing the ways in which our roles in the community overlap, and the contribution that the arts make to all stages of life.”

“We are excited to collaborate with the Elora Centre for the Arts on the Vibrant Visions speaker series,” said **Dr. Clarissa Burke**, a member of [Aboyne Rural Hospice](#)’s Board of Directors.

“These connections are crucial in supporting individuals at the end of life, their caregivers and the bereaved. Hospice care seeks to address every aspect of the end-of-life experience — physical, psychological, social and spiritual — and therapeutic arts have proven beneficial across all these dimensions.”

Tickets for each event in the series are \$30 each (\$20 for students), or \$75 to attend all three events, and can be purchased at [ecfta.ca](#).

Upcoming events in the series will look at the role of the arts in other health and wellness settings, including caregivers and older adults/end-of-life care (dates to be announced soon).

All proceeds will support local arts programming through the Elora Centre for the Arts and help bring a much-needed hospice to our area through Aboyne Rural Hospice.

For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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About the Elora Centre for the Arts

The [Elora Centre for the Arts](#) is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to igniting creativity, fostering connection and building community through the arts.

Whether it's the making of art or appreciating the work of others, we believe that creativity is for everyone, and that participation in the arts is integral to the well-being of our communities.

As an arts and culture hub for Wellington County, we attract more than 16,000 visitors annually, offering exhibitions, performances, community events, summer camps, office and studio space for local artists and arts groups, and a range of programs and services for all ages.

Find yourself at the Centre: eloracentreforthearts.ca

About Aboyne Rural Hospice

[Aboyne Rural Hospice](#) is a community-driven initiative to establish a new residential hospice for rural Wellington County. Our vision is to create a 10-bed hospice that offers compassionate end-of-life care in a welcoming, home-like environment, nestled within the natural beauty of Wellington County, and closer to home for our rural residents.

We are actively fundraising to build this hospice on the two-acre parcel of land generously donated by Wellington County. The dream of a local hospice has been years in the making, and the need to build new hospice beds has never been more urgent.

Every day, local residents with life-limiting illnesses, along with their caregivers and loved ones, hope that our community can bring this essential end-of-life option to fruition. We are deeply grateful for the support we've received from our community and remain committed to realizing this vital project.

Learn more: aboyneruralhospice.org