

March 4, 2021

Greetings to all our ECFTA members and friends! With glimpses of warmer weather, it feels as though spring is preparing to come. We are happy to be able to share lots of sunny news with you.

FREE Satellite Learning & Art Stations for Students during COVID recovery



Over January and February, our wonderfully adaptable staff converted our two galleries and the Casson classroom into socially distanced work spaces for high school and college/university students. The rooms are lovely and bright. Tea, hot chocolate and snacks are available and retired teachers are on site when help is needed. It has been inspiring to see the young people in our community come and work in their spread-out spaces, and the take a break to go and work on a mural, or draw or make one of the projects designed by our Program Assistant Alura Sutherland. It has been a bright light for our student's mental health, as well as our own!

Our thanks to the funding from the Centre Wellington Community Foundation, the Guelph Community Foundation, the Good Foundation, our Giving Tuesday donors and donations from our community - your support allows this to be a free program!

For more information please [visit our website](#).

Supportive Arts for young adults with (dis)abilities continues despite COVID restrictions



This program, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Grow Grant, continues to run and we adapt to COVID restrictions as necessary. We were back to "in person" workshops this week at the Live and Learn Centre in Guelph, but for the last month have been running live on-line sessions with our participants during lockdown. The "Doodle and Noodle" team of Judy Anderson and Stephanie Toohill have adapted the program for virtual engagement and done an amazing job.

For more information about our Supportive Arts program please [visit our website](#)

Re-Opening the Gallery & Artisan Shop



Currently, we have an exciting exhibition scheduled to launch on March 25th in the Minarovich gallery, entitled "Epiphany" by artist Yangyang Pan. The exhibition is a fusion of cultural reflections on the Canadian landscape. Coming from away, Yangyang Pan unpacks her paint box to interpret the Canadian landscape from a different perspective. With a bird's eye view of the new, yet old earth around her, she challenges the Canadian Shield and honours the St. Lawrence Lowlands. It is an immigrant immersion. Her paintings, with their exuberance and wild colours, develop and evolve as an intuitive reaction to her beautiful surroundings. The resulting work is an interplay of memories and her present, bringing together the ethereal and the physicality of the land around her, but also reflecting her inner emotional landscape. Pan's paintings pulse with life, and reveal a marriage of cultural connections and energy flow of the senses, creating a fusion of eastern and western traditions. The exhibition pushes the relationship between form and colour to create a visual sensation of energy, emotion and reality: epiphany.

For more information and updates please [visit our website](#)

The **Artisan Shop** is scheduled to re-open at the end of March / early April. Please stay tuned for details.

Fundraising, Relief Programs and Grants

Our grant writer, Molly Kleiker, and our Executive Director, Lianne Carter have worked very hard to find grants that will support our programming and capital projects. The Board has also continued to request capital funding for our heritage building repairs during the Centre Wellington budget discussions. For a year with so many challenges, we feel that the ECFTA has done an excellent job of adapting and making use of the various funds that help to sustain us while we have not been able to run regular programs and special fundraising events.

GIVING TUESDAY

\$2,000 was raised in November for our Satellite Learning & Art Stations for Students - thank you for running this mini-campaign Lianne!

CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY

This funding enabled us to re-hire our staff in September so that we could keep operations going and develop new plans around the COVID restrictions.

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

This Ontario small business support grant allowed for energy cost rebates and property tax rebates - a huge thanks to Molly for applying for these quickly. ECFTA received the energy cost and property rebates and a \$20,000 small business grant for operations.

TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON CAPITAL GRANT (FOR OUR HERITAGE BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE)

Due to other budgetary concerns for the Township, ECFTA reduced our request to \$20,000 for 2021. We were granted \$17,000 and our very generous Councillor, Ian McCrae, personally donated the \$3,000 balance so that we could realize our full request. He has advocated for ECFTA, he has visited the Centre on numerous occasions including our AGMs, he has met with Lianne Carter and various Board members in order to better understand our strategies and operations. So a big thank you to Ian McCrae and the Township for their continued support!

RT04 TOURISM AND COVID RECOVERY GRANTS

We applied for, and were successful in receiving various Covid-recovery funding from RT04 to help cover the cost of a permanent/seasonal tent in our yard for community use, the cost of PPE equipment, and the cost for a professional grade air purifier for our public spaces.

WELLINGTON WATERLOO COMMUNITY FUTURES CONSULTING FUNDING

\$2,000 was granted to ECFTA to cover the costs of an in-depth consultation for Fundraising Strategy and Tools. We are delighted to have engaged Julia Grady, Executive Director of 10Carden Street for this project.

CW McDONALD LEGACY FUND UPDATE

As you may recall, \$100,000 was awarded to Riverfest & ECFTA to conduct a feasibility study. We have submitted a request for reallocation of these funds. Given the current need for outdoor spaces where communities can gather, we would like to use these funds for an outdoor bandshell on our property. This request is currently before the Community Services Advisory Committee.

CANADA CULTURAL SPACES FUND UPDATE

We have been working on this for a long time! The massive application for this Federal Capital Grant was submitted during the last week of February. The application is for \$675K in matching funds, using the ECFTA McDonald Fund of \$380K and other funding as the base funds. If granted, this will enable us to move ahead with the full expansion plan that incorporates accessible washrooms, an accessible entrance and atrium, an enhanced servery and storage space. Molly, Lianne and Matt Ladner did an amazing job of pulling this grant application together. And, if we get this funding, stay tune for an exciting ECFTA Capital Campaign!

Board Development

Succession planning has been on the top of the Board's agenda over the last year. The Board approved a transition plan in November, 2020 which laid out a timeline for director retirements, replacement of the current executive, and the recruitment of new Board members. By the AGM of November 2021 it is our intention to present a new executive and several new Board members. We currently have 12 out of a maximum of 14 director positions filled. It has been wonderful to work with such a great group of skilled individuals, all of whom lend their talents to ECFTA in various ways. We anticipate a smooth transition with at least 6 months for the new executive to settle into their positions with guidance from those of us who have been involved over the last 5 years.

*We welcome anyone who might be interested in a Board position with ECFTA. **Our updated Recruitment Guide can be found [on our website.](#)***

The Rosler Piano

We are delighted to announce that the piano is going back to its original home, the original Albarda house on Princess St. The new owners, the Agostino family, have arranged for all the necessary work in order to get the piano into condition for home use. Their talented daughter, a graduate of the Uof T School of Music, will use it as her practice piano. ECFTA continues to be very grateful to the Albarda family for the years when the piano was housed here. When we contacted Elske Albarda's daughter to let her know about the repatriation of the piano, she replied: *I am absolutely delighted to hear about the piano. I hope it will give the new owners many years of joy, as it did Mother.*

And if you've made it this far...!!!

It has been such a year of adapting and being open to whatever needs to happen. Lianne Carter's leadership and our staff's wonderful collaboration have brought us through a very difficult year. Thanks to them all ... they are the people who make ECFTA tick!

Lianne, Judy, Sonia, Molly – you are such a dynamic team and our community is very lucky to have you at the helm of the Arts Centre.

Our best wishes go out to you all, particularly those families and individuals who have been faced with extra challenges over these Covid months. As the vaccinations "roll out" we all look forward to a life where we are healthy, safe and can be together.

Sheila Koop & Matt Ladner
Co Chair, ECFTA