



A Message from our Co-Chairs

Summer greetings to all our ECFTA people. We'd like to share some exciting news and update you on the plans for the Centre over the next few months.

Fergus-Elora Artist Jane Bowen

Our past Administrator, Jane Bowen (formerly Jane Longman), has been awarded an art commission by the City of Brantford.

The Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant and the City of Brantford are pleased to announce that Elora-Fergus based artist Jane Bowen, has been selected to complete the City Hall Public Art Project. The artwork will be located on the indoor entranceway of Brantford's new City Hall (60 Dalhousie St., Brantford, ON), scheduled to open in 2021.

We are very happy for Jane and look forward to a trip to Brantford to see her piece once it is installed!

A gift from local artist Don Sinclair

We are so appreciative of the large donation of art supplies, equipment and materials from local artist, Don Sinclair.

In addition to art supplies for our workshop, Don also donated a few of his original art pieces. They are now hanging throughout the building. So wonderful to have the paintings of a celebrated local artist in our collection to share with the community. Our heartfelt appreciation to both Don and Inge for their generosity and support of the Centre.

Satellite Gallery at the Elora Mill

Updated artwork on display throughout the Elora Mill

We continue to ensure that the original local art collection at The Elora Mill is refreshed. A number of pieces were replaced just before COVID. Photos of the work can be seen on the ECFTA Instagram and Facebook pages. The upper dining room now features the work of Elora artists Carolyn Sharp and Rachel Albano. The spa entry way has been re-designed by the Mill's interior designer and features the work of Laurie Skantzios. Other artists that continue to be featured are Sherry Czekus and photographer Dan Dunlop. Congratulations to all of these wonderful artists! All pieces are for sale through ECFTA.



ECFTA Re-Opening Plans

Our plans to re-open the Centre in the Fall are now underway

As many of you will know, the Board and Staff of ECFTA, had to cancel plans for summer camps this year, based on the decisions of other camps in Centre Wellington, and on our lack of capacity to deliver a program that would have adhered to provincial guidelines. Given the loss of summer revenue, it was not affordable to simply keep our galleries and artisan shop open. We have also been keeping in mind the childcare challenges for our staff.

Our plans to reopen the Centre in the fall are now underway! We are fortunate to have received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow grant which will allow us to restart the wonderful Supportive Arts program that we have been piloting for the last 3 years. As of August, Lianne Carter will be working with staff to develop the program and plans for growth, incorporating the public health COVID guidelines. In addition to the program plans, we anticipate renovations which will include widening doorways and the construction of one accessible washroom.

ECFTA Interim Strategic Plan

An overview of planning and next steps

We have based our COVID planning on the advice of public health officials and a rolling 90-day financial forecast. Our Board is meeting in early August to look at the next 3 month period, particularly the rehiring of staff and the question of programs and exhibitions given the current climate. Our discussion will revolve around the recommendations from our staff who are carefully reviewing what they have been able to achieve over the past two years, and what is reasonable to accomplish in the coming year. Our ECFTA Strategic Planning will also include consideration of the capital projects we had been planning based on the revenue from the MacDonald Fund and the Centre Wellington Capital Grant 2020. We still await news from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the funds that we hoped would complement our MacDonald Fund capital and allow us to move forward with a new and enlarged atrium entrance and 4 accessible washrooms.



Much planning in a time of so much uncertainty. Thanks to our wonderful staff who have been so patient and adaptable. Thanks to our volunteer Board. And thanks to all of you, our ECFTA community! We look forward to seeing you in the fall and will send word of our official REOPENING once details are in place.

Be well,

Sheila Koop

Matt Ladner

CoChairs, ECFTA Board of Directors
