

President's Message

Since my inauguration into the PineRidge Arts Council in 1994 when our membership totalled a mere 33, this totally voluntarily administrated organization, through dedication and passion has blossomed to a membership of over 350. What fun it has been to be a part of this artistic group of people and I look forward to even more exciting developments in the future. Here is a brief synopsis of what we have been up to over the past year.

Membership for 2007/08: 350 including 74 groups representing over 3000 people.

Newspaper: Our run increased to 2700 and every two months we mail out approximately 1900 ArtScenes. Another 800 copies are distributed at various locations in Durham Region and beyond.

Website: Mary Cook is our Webmistress and does a fabulous job keeping our site up to date and our members informed. Check us out at pineridgearts.org

Activities During the Past Year:

- Organized our *9th Juried Art Show* in Ajax resulting in 180 entries. Presented \$4,375 in awards to 19 winning artists.
- Partnered with the City of Pickering for the 11th annual *Artfest on the Esplanade*.
- *Art in Public Places* exhibitions at McLean Community Centre, the Ontario Power Generation Information Centre, Pickering Chiropractic Health Centre and Dentristry on Liverpool.
- Held another successful AGM/Arts Event at Papps. Featured guests were *Members of the Daughters of Temperance* from the Backwoods Players of Pickering Museum Village.
- Were able to give back to the community by sponsoring over \$6,000 to local projects and events – to name a few:
 - Pickering Museum Village Foundation "Rubber Duckie RACE"
 - Durham West Arts Centre
 - Durham Philharmonic Choir
 - City of Pickering "Against the Wall"
 - Durham Youth Orchestra
 - Ajax Creative Arts
 - Visual Arts Centre, Clarington.

- Partnered with Herongate Barn Theatre and the Pickering Green Festival for *Muzic and Arts Night*. Twelve PRAC artists exhibited their work.
- Assisted Ontario Power Generation in obtaining artists for their summer interactive family program *Tuesdays on the Trail*.
- Worked with the Pickering Museum Village and PMV Foundation, carving and judging pumpkins for their *Fall Family Festival*.
- Supplied two judges for the Town of Ajax/Blacks *Photography Contest*.
- Supplied judges for the Chartwell Senior's Housing REIT *Senior Star* competitions.

We Wish to Thank:

- The City of Pickering for our monthly meeting space at the Recreation Complex.
- The Town of Ajax for the use of the McLean Community Centre during our Juried Art Exhibition.
- Our Art in Public Places exhibition venues.
- Our special donors and sponsors who support PRAC throughout the year.
- Our hardworking executive, committee people and volunteers whose aforementioned dedication and passion make our Arts Council flourish.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Schnippering, President