President's Message 2013

I'm delighted to report that our membership has steadily increased and now stands at over 400. Our totally volunteer administrated organization through dedication, passion and expansive communication, has truly blossomed and fulfilled our mandate to develop widespread appreciation and support for the arts in our community.

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.

In the fall of 2012, Karen Bigelow and Mary Cook submitted a grant request to Enbridge Pipelines Inc. As a result we were delighted and honoured to welcome Mr. Ken Hall, Senior Advisor for Public Affairs for Enbridge, when he presented us with a cheque for $10,000. These funds were slated to sponsor Mask Magic at the 2013 Artfest on the Esplanade and future PRAC initiatives.

In 2012 we were very excited to celebrate our Second Year Anniversary of the SilverStone Gallery on Liverpool Road. Under the patronage of the Peterkin family, Director Gary Faulkner and Publicist Mary Cook, our Gallery continues to be successful.

SILVERSTONE GALLERY

Our Gallery continues to promote our local artists and is gaining in popularity every year. In April 2012 we welcomed exhibitions by *Ashburn Art Circle, Wild at Heart Studio Tour* and were a stop on the *DWAC Spring Studio Tour.* In September we introduced *Photography in the Gallery* and in October *Au Naturel*. We wound up the year with *Allan's Artists,* an exhibition of artists profiled by Allan O'Marra in News Advertiser. February and March brought eight *SOLO Exhibitions* to the gallery. Our *Sunday on the Porch* series was another success and we partnered with six other businesses in the Nautical Village for *Culture Days* and *Hallowe'en in the Village.*

ARTSCENE PUBLICATION

Our run is 2500 and every two months we mail out approximately 1900 and another 800 copies are distributed at various locations in Durham Region and beyond.

WEBSITE

Webmistress Mary Cook does a fabulous job keeping our sites up to date and our members informed. Memberships and Juried Art Show entries can be made on-line with payments through PayPal. Check us out at pineridgearts.org and silverstonegallery.org

FACEBOOK

Allan O'Marra and Mary Cook keep everyone informed with entries and YouTube presentations on Facebook. We have a NEW facebook page for the gallery and PRAC facebook.com/SilverStoneGallery

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR

• Were able to give thousands of dollars back to the community by sponsoring member's projects and events – to name a few: * *Ajax Youth Juried Art Show* * *Ajax Creative Arts Spring & Fall Shows* * *Ajax Creative Arts Juried Art Show* * *Ajax Pickering Board of Trade* * *Artfest on the Esplanade* * *Art of Transition* * *Big Brothers & Big Sisters* * *Dunbarton-Fairport United Church Spring Art Show* * *Durham Philharmonic Choir* * *Durham West Arts Centre Foundation* * *Eastside Harmony Chorus* * *Music by the Bay* * *Oshawa Art Assoc. Fall Festival* * *Pickering Museum Village Spring Opening* * *Pickering Rotary Music Festival* * *Pickering Teen Art Show* * *SilverStone Gallery* * *Station Gallery* * *Town of Ajax Staff Golf Tournament* * *Wild At Heart Studio Tour*

• Partnered with the City of Pickering for the 16th annual *Artfest on the Esplanade* where we once again executed our popular hands-on youth event "Drawing With An Artist" with our Coordinator Janice McHaffie and helpers Michael Jack, Merle Gonsalvez and Jayshree Daya.

• *Art in Public Places* exhibitions were regularly maintained at: * McLean Community Centre * Ontario Power Generation Information Centre * Reeds Florists * Dentistry on Liverpool * Body and Wellness Family Chiropractic Centre * Debbie's Cafe

• Held another successful *AGM/Arts Event* at the Info Centre of Ontario Power Generation in Pickering, where once again our Silent Auction, our Artful Draw raffle (thanks to artwork donated by Machiel Scholte), our art exhibition and our featured performers the *Eastside Harmony Chorus,* made a fun and artful evening for all.

• Cathy Schnippering spoke and Gwen Williams demonstrated portraiture at *Pickering's Cultural Directory* launch.

• Supplied judges for two City of Pickering art events: Maureen Killam and Janice McHaffie for their *Teen Art Exhibition* and Robert Hinves, Anja Knuuttila and Gwen Williams for the *In Your Words and Expressions* contest.

• Janice McHaffie coordinated and juried the Ajax *SPARK Children's Juried Art Show*. Helping her jury was Esther Forde and Don Hightower.

• Mary Cook, Gary Faulkner and Cathy Schnippering spoke about the SilverStone Gallery on Rogers Daytime show.

• Janice McHaffie again wove her magic with children at the Rosebank Public School Arts Night.

• Gwen Williams, Gary Faulkner and Bonnie Lusty donated their painted paddles to the Rouge Valley Healthy System's fundraising gala.

• Gary Faulkner and Cathy Schnippering initiated PRAC's second *Flash Mob* event before Christmas at the Pickering Town Centre. Our "Random Act of

Culture" wowed the shoppers when over 45 choristers sang *O Holy Night* and *Holly Jolly Christmas.*

• Resulting from the cancellation of our *14th Annual Juried Art Show* at the McLean Community Centre in Ajax, we appointed a new Chairperson, Karen Bigelow for our 2013 show.

WE WISH TO THANK

- Ontario Power Generation, Pickering Nuclear for their generous hospitality in hosting our AGM venue and refreshments.
- The Backwoods Players for being our featured AGM performers this year.
- 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 for all our Art Exhibitions.
- The Peterkin family and the Silverstone Paddle Company for their patronage of our new SilverStone Gallery.
- Gary Faulkner for curating and administration of the SilverStone Gallery
- Mary Cook for her unceasing efforts in publicity and organization, both for PRAC and the SilverStone Gallery
- Our *Art in Public Places* exhibition venues.
- Our special donors, advertisers and sponsors who support PRAC throughout the year.
- Artist Cheryl Ingram for donating her "Ciel Feu" for our Artful Draw
- Our hardworking executive, committee people and volunteers whose aforementioned dedication and passion make our Arts Council flourish.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Schnippering, President