

President's Message 2015

I'm delighted to report that our membership is holding at about 400. Over the past 25 years 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.

It is always an honour and lots of fun to be a part of the PRAC team 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.

NEWSPAPER: Our ArtScene run is 2700 and every two months we mail out approximately 1700 and the remainder are distributed by hand 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 and Photography Show entries can be made on-line with payments through PayPal. Check us out at pineridgearts.org | facebook.com/groups/pineridgearts and facebook.com/SilverStoneGallery

Activities During the Past Year:

Organized our **15th Annual Juried Art Show** at the McLean Community Centre in Ajax resulting in 178 entries. Our juror Sam Paonessa chose 64 works to exhibit and we were able to present \$4,800 in awards to 16 winning artists in both adult and youth categories. I was thrilled and honoured when the Council decided to continue naming the top \$1,000 award the "Lou Schnippering Award" and was even more delighted when my daughter Nancy was there to present this to the winning artist.

Held our first **Juried Photography Exhibition** with chairs Ann Hilborn and Peter Clute where we were thrilled to give away over \$2,600 in awards. This proved to be so popular we are doing it again on April 23 at the McLean Community Centre with this year's chairs Susan Brown and Brian Smallman.

In addition, we also gave over \$4000 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
* APBOT Boys & Girls Club * Artfest on the Esplanade * Art Guild of Scarborough * Durham Youth Orchestra * Durham Community Choir
* Music by the Bay * Oshawa Art Association Fall Festival * Pickering Rotary Music Festival * Pickering Teen Art Show * SPARK Children's Juried Art Show * Station Gallery

Partnered with the City of Pickering for the 16th annual Artfest on the Esplanade where thanks to the generosity of an Enbridge Pipelines grant and the expertise of our Youth Coordinator Janice McHaffie, we were able to present for the second year, our "Mask Magic" youth event. Once again this proved to be so popular we are going to repeat it on May 23, 2015.

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 and * Debbie's Boutique Cafe

Gwen Williams and Anja Knuuttila juried Pickering's "**In Your Words and Expressions**" contest for youth.

Held another successful AGM/Arts Event at the Info Centre of Ontario Power Generation in Pickering, where our Silent Auction, our Artful Draw raffle (thanks to artwork donated by Robert Hirves), our art exhibition and our featured performers the toe-tapping fiddle music of the Senior Moments, made a fun and artful evening for all.

Once again Janice McHaffie juried the "Pickering Teen Art Exhibition" and coordinated and Ajax SPARK Children's Juried Art Show. Helping her jury the Ajax show was Esther Forde and Don Hightower.

Through Janice McHaffie, PRAC sponsored "10,000 piece Pipe Cleaner Sculpture" an innovative Culture Days activity at Pickering Recreation Centre

WE WISH TO THANK:

Ontario Power Generation, Pickering Nuclear for their generous hospitality for once again hosting our AGM and for their continual support of the arts.

Donna Bennett and Brian Finley of the Westben Arts Festival Theatre 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.

Mary Cook for her unceasing efforts in publicity, photography, graphic artistry and organization.

Our Art in Public Places exhibition venues.

Our special donors, advertisers and sponsors who support PRAC throughout the year.

Artist Cheryl Bannister for donating her "Step Back In Time" for our Artful Draw

Our hardworking executive, committee people and volunteers whose
aforementioned dedication and passion make our Arts Council flourish.

~ and on a personal note: I wish to thank the PRAC executive and all my
friends for their love and support over the past two years. I am truly
blessed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Schnippering". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Catherine Schnippering, President