



# ACACIA

Collingwood Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Informer & Advisor Vol.3 No. 1  
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## What's inside...

Collingwood Arts & Culture Awards

13th Season for Steven Thomas

Tour of Historic Homes

Anke & Rick Lex

Mural Symposium

## Putting Culture on the Map

The Towns of Collingwood, The Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach and Clearview Township are taking on an ambitious project to put culture on the map. Called *The South Georgian Bay Cultural Mapping Project*, the Steering Committee, made up of representatives from each of the four communities, is aiming to create a foundation of local cultural data that can continue to be developed and broadened over time.

"It's very exciting to be initiating a regional cultural mapping project", says Steering Committee member and ACAC Chair, Catherine Campbell. "This is something that the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee has planned to undertake for quite some time and a regional approach strengthens the project outcomes and encourages us to think regionally when it comes to attracting cultural tourism."

Cultural mapping is considered a foundation of municipal cultural planning and is the process of systematically identifying and recording local cultural assets and making them better known to the community and to visitors. These assets come in two forms. The first is *tangible assets* of all kinds – non-profit cultural groups, for-profit cultural businesses or creative cultural industries, cultural heritage, natural heritage, festivals and events, spaces and facilities, and more. The second is *intangible assets* – important stories of people,

places and events that have shaped the unique identity of the community.

All over the world, creativity and culture are more and more being seen as powerful tools to renew local economies. Leading cultural mapping and cultural planning practitioner and project consultant Dr. Greg Baeker says, "I had the pleasure of speaking at the Georgian Triangle Development Institute's annual conference in 2008 to talk about the power of cultural mapping as a local economic development tool. To see this project realized and cultural mapping being undertaken as part of the larger economic development strategy is very exciting and puts the *South Georgian Bay Cultural Mapping Project* in the forefront of cultural mapping practices in Ontario."

*The South Georgian Bay Cultural Mapping Project* is a component of a Regional Economic Development Strategy funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade through its Communities in Transition Initiative.

Project consultant, Greg Baeker will conduct community workshops to introduce the project and present preliminary maps and findings.

To RSVP for the workshop or for more information, contact Tanya Mazza at [tmazza@collingwood.ca](mailto:tmazza@collingwood.ca) or (705) 445-7450 ext. 234. To view the website that is underway for this exciting project, visit [www.georgianbaymappingculture.com](http://www.georgianbaymappingculture.com)



## Putting Culture on the Map

South Georgian Bay Cultural Mapping Project

### Community Workshop Dates and Locations:

Date	Time	Venue
June 9	9:00 am–11:00 am	Wasaga Beach, Wasaga Beach Town Hall, Classroom
June 9	6:30 pm–8:30 pm	The Blue Mountains, Beaver Valley Community Center, Thornbury
June 10	9:00 am–11:00 am	Collingwood, Collingwood Public Library, Meeting Room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.
June 10	6:30 pm–8:30 pm	Clearview Township Council Chambers, Stayner

## Tap our resources

### Books and Magazines

#### ***Re-discovering the Wealth of Places***

by Greg Baeker

#### ***A Handbook for Cultural Trustees***

by Marion A. Paquet

#### ***Toward Greater Self Reliance Handbook***

by Centre for Cultural Management, University of Waterloo

#### ***Making the Case for Culture***

published by the Creative City Network of Canada

#### ***Ontario in the Creative Age***

published by the Martin Prosperity Institute

#### ***Public Art by the Book***

edited by Barbara Goldstein

#### ***Cultural Planning for Creative Communities***

by Gord Hume

#### ***Boards That Make a Difference***

by John Carver

#### ***The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability:***

#### ***Culture's Essential Role in Public Planning***

by Jon Hawkes

#### ***Human Resources Management: Recruiting the Right People***

published by Cultural Careers Council Ontario

#### ***Working with Volunteer Boards***

published by The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

#### ***Mural Production: A Resource Handbook***

published by Mural Routes

#### ***Advancing Philanthropy Magazine***

published by the Association of Fundraising Professionals

ARTnews magazine

### Web Resources

[www.muralroutes.com](http://www.muralroutes.com)

[www.creativecity.ca](http://www.creativecity.ca)

[www.imaginecanada.ca](http://www.imaginecanada.ca)

**ACACIA** is published by the Town of Collingwood Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

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## Message from the ACAC

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee has been hard at work on new initiatives to celebrate and promote Collingwood's rich arts and culture.

### Arts and Culture Awards

The Committee is pleased to announce that Town Council has established the Collingwood Arts and Culture Awards. At a Council meeting on Monday, May 10, the awards program was unanimously approved by Council following a presentation by ACAC chair, Catherine Campbell. "The purpose of the Collingwood Arts and Culture Awards is to celebrate excellence in arts and culture, honour extraordinary achievement, and encourage young artists", explains Catherine Campbell. A maximum of three awards will be given out each year, commencing in 2011, including 1 adult, 1 organization/group and 1 youth.

### An Original Commission for the Arts and Culture Award

"The ACAC is particularly pleased that the award will be a commissioned wearable art lapel pin", says Margaret Adolphe, member of the committee. "We're aiming to post a call to artists this spring for the design and creation of the art pin and open the nominations for the inaugural 2011 Collingwood Arts and Culture Awards in the fall."

### Mural Symposium

Collingwood will be host to the 13th National Mural Symposium this November 5-7, 2010. It's organized by Mural Routes, a not for profit organization based in Scarborough, dedicated to the promotion of wall art as a public art form for the general benefit of communities and artists. The conference is held annually in a different community that has public murals, of which Collingwood has five. Restoration of the downtown murals took place last summer and the ACAC consulted with Mural Routes on the project. The conference theme is "If Walls Could Speak" and will feature a keynote address by Jon Pounds, Executive Director of the Chicago Public Art Group.

## Steven Thomas is "on the boards" for his 13th season at Theatre Collingwood

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee salutes Steven Thomas, hard at work preparing for his 13<sup>th</sup> season as Artistic Director of Theatre Collingwood. Incorporated in 1984, Theatre Collingwood continues to offer professional theatre to residents and tourists and three amazing productions are on tap for Theatre Collingwood's 2010 season of "Fantasy, Fame and Deadly Games".

Leading the way is Norm Foster's "The Love List" (July 12-17), about a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to a gypsy dating service that triggers unexpected and hilarious results. "Sweet Dreams: A Tribute to Patsy Cline" starring Leisa Way (August 16-21), celebrates the memory and musical soul of legendary country music icon Patsy Cline. Topping up the season is the suspense-thriller "Sleuth" by Anthony Shaffer (September 13-18), a cat-and-mouse game of intrigue and excitement between an eccentric mystery novelist and his wife's lover.

Theatre Collingwood is offering groups of 10 or more together, a \$5 discount off each ticket. Board member Janet Fairbridge explains, "If you're looking for something fun to do with 9 friends this summer or if you are an employer who would like to offer a different type of incentive to your staff or you're planning a social outing for clients, Theatre Collingwood is perfect for you." Visit [www.theatrecollingwood.com](http://www.theatrecollingwood.com) or call (705) 445-2200.



Theatre Collingwood Team  
Back: Mary Beth Sharpe, Steven Thomas,  
Front: Irene Thomas, Marian Russell, Monica Wilson  
Photo: Bryan Davies

## CDHS set for Tour of Historic Homes

An opportunity to visit some of Collingwood's historic and architecturally interesting homes

Every two years since the late 1970's, the Collingwood and District Historical Society holds a "Tour of Historic and Architecturally Interesting Homes". Traditionally this tour is held on the last Saturday in May and this year will be held on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from ten o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon.



133 Maple Street, one of the homes on the tour

This year's tour includes a home that was built in 1881 and is presently occupied by the granddaughter of the builder and original owner who recently undertook a major restoration and renovation project with the house. While retaining many of the home's original details a great deal of work has been done to improve and enhance the architectural integrity of the building's interior and exterior. The house contains a number of unique features that are certain to attract the visitor's interest and admiration. A second house, built in the early twentieth century for a family that lived in it for almost sixty years is being lovingly restored by its present owners after going through a long period of abuse and neglect. Its main staircase, striking living room mantle, and original wallpaper in the entrance hall, along with other details, are fine examples of the "Arts and Crafts" style that flourished at the time the house was being constructed, while the exterior has been dramatically restored to its Edwardian origins. Both of these homes have attracted considerable interest from townspeople and visitors alike.

As always, the tour includes a home of more recent construction and this year's representative in the category of "contemporary" construction is a delightful example of the heritage style home that is being built in the older sections of Collingwood. In 2005, the present owners undertook a program of work in the house that has resulted in an interesting and eclectic blend of traditional and contemporary furnishings and design that welcome the visitor with warmth and graciousness.

Two of the homes on this year's tour have received Collingwood's "Heritage Designation" and consequently are considered important and significant buildings within our community. The first, a house within a house, has an Italianate exterior of brick from the 1870/1880 period

that encloses an earlier building of frame construction from the 1860's. The interior of the house today is a wealth of magnificent detail; marble fireplaces, elaborate ceiling moldings and ornate detail in doors and windows strongly reflect the Italianate features of the exterior. This ambience is enhanced by period furnishings and interior decoration. The second of these houses, a noticeable feature on a street of large and prominent homes, was built in the 1860's using a unique "plank on plank" method of construction. The building took on much of its present appearance in 1889 when it became the home of one of Collingwood's most prominent families and a centre of the town's social life. The interior structure and architectural details are reflective of both these periods of construction that together with the generous dimensions of the rooms is evidence of a way of life that has long passed.

The last of the six houses on this year's tour of "Historic and Architecturally Significant Homes" can be considered one of Collingwood's great mansions. Built in 1882, this house is distinguished by its size and exterior appearance, the magnificence of its architectural detail and its dramatic interior space. Open to the public for the first time in its long and eventful existence this house has undergone many changes; it is remarkable that so much of its original detail remains. Its present owners are dedicated to restoring the house to its former glory and the opportunity to visit this home is not to be missed.

The income from this event enables the Collingwood and District Historical Society to carry out its mandate of support within the community it serves. Tickets are available from The Crow's Nest, 239 Hurontario Street; Saunders Office Pro, 57 Hurontario Street, Collingwood; or Pharma Save, 45 Arthur Street, Thornbury, at \$15.00 each.



231 Ontario Street, one of the homes on the tour

## Anke and Rick Lex:

### Contributing to Collingwood's Cultural Infrastructure

In major cities across Canada, cultural facilities are being developed to support growing cultural communities. There is also much activity in small centres, including Collingwood. The new Collingwood Public Library stands as an anchor facility for culture and next door The Tremont is a shining example of a cultural-creative space. From the perspective of nurturing and sustaining creativity, the Creative City Network of Canada describes this kind of "behind-the-scenes" space as essential to encouraging creativity.

While visiting Mexico, Tremont owners Anke and Rick Lex were inspired by the Casa de la Cultura in Oaxaca. The "House of Culture", like The Tremont, is an example of an adaptive reuse space – a space designed and built for one purpose but readapted for a new or different, in this case arts and culture use. A former convent, the Casa de la Cultura today invites visitors to enjoy performances and workshops in dance, film, arts and crafts. "Rick and I loved the energy of the space, the array of cultural activities, heritage dance and art classes", explained Anke Lex. "It had a soul, a connection to its place and history."



*Revitalizing The Tremont, Spring 2010*

In re-adapting the Tremont, Rick and Anke have strived to maintain the building's storied history as a former hotel serving guests visiting Collingwood by rail. The façade has been meticulously restored and the main floor will house the Bay School of Art as well as a café. On the second floor, nine vintage doors with windows will open to creative spaces/studios and the third floor will have four apartments. "We believe there is need for this kind of multi-use creative space in Collingwood," says Anke.

Affordable and flexible artist studio and living spaces is a major issue across Canada. Creative live/work or studio complexes are being developed in many locations abroad in various combinations and scales and are gradually emerging in communities across Canada. An example is the Artscape Wychwood Barns in Toronto which transformed the historic



*Shadow of The Tremont sign, a reminder of days past*

Wychwood TTC streetcar repair barns into a multifaceted art, community and environment centre. 401 Richmond, which also provided some interest for Anke and Rick, is one of Toronto's key arts centres. Formerly the Macdonald Manufacturing Company the building was saved from the wrecking ball by the Zeidler Family and it has become a showcase for a vibrant blending of business and the arts and a centre for over 140 artists and entrepreneurs.

What once provided visitors and residents with some respite and replenishment, now the "new" Tremont is poised to energize, inspire and encourage creativity. Anke plans to have her studio in The Tremont and her kiln shed outside on the south terrace. As for Rick says Anke with a smile, "For now Rick's office is in my studio, when the Tremont is finished, then we'll see."



*West side of The Tremont with the cafe and terrace*