

galleryGAB

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NEWSLETTER of the AGH VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE
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In this first edition...

Why We Volunteer:
“Getting to Know You”

Proposal for Volunteer
recognition of AGH’s Centennial:
“Art for the 100th”

Welcome to the first edition of *galleryGAB* your AGH Volunteer newsletter.

We hope that news and views about your fellow volunteers will be of interest to you and that you will contribute to future editions with your own news and views.

execGAB

by Maureen McKeating



As volunteers, we are all members of the Volunteer Committee of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Volunteer Committee Executive liaises with AGH staff and is accountable to the AGH Board of Directors. There is a liaison representative on the Executive for each of the volunteer areas, and a Chair, Vice-chair, Past-Chair, Secretary, and Recruitment Chair. We meet monthly to work on your behalf and to provide for the volunteer needs of the AGH.

Many are not aware that a Volunteer Committee Executive even exists. Have a look at page 7 of your Volunteer Handbook and you can read about the duties of the Executive as well as the

numerous volunteer roles that we have at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Volunteers have a long history at the AGH. Initially, we were called the Women’s Volunteer Committee. From 1950 onwards, the volunteers raised money in order to purchase artworks for the Gallery. If you look at many of the pieces in the AGH permanent collection you will see that they were purchased with funds donated by volunteers. Over the last few years, volunteers have also donated money to help maintain some of the art. This project was called Adopt an Artwork. All of you were very generous.

Now the AGH is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary. We are looking back to the 1950’s and the activities of the Women’s Volunteer Committee and in an effort to link past and present

volunteers and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary we would like to purchase a work of art for the Gallery. This is a large project and one that will be done over the next 3 or 4 years. A sub-committee has been struck to work on this project. **Ann Manson** is chair of this committee, and the members are **Rudin Knights, Ellen Irving, Margaret Fong**, and myself. We will get further information out to you soon. Your thoughts and feedback on the fundraising project are important.

Please be in touch. I am available to you through email at

mmckeating@cogeco.ca

or through the Volunteer Telephone Line at 905-527-6610 ext. 400.

I hope you enjoy this premier edition of *galleryGAB*.

shopGAB

by Geoff Stephenson



Shop@AGH Volunteers receive orientation and training before they start helping in the Shop. This ensures they are aware of the various tasks that they are called upon to handle – cleaning display shelves, unpacking deliveries, attaching price labels, organizing storage, hanging art in the bays, as well as helping customers. Volunteer shifts in the Shop are of 3 or 3.5 hours duration and there are some 60 shifts in each month.

As a retired civil engineer coming to Canada from South Africa, I was encouraged by a former docent to volunteer at AGH, and in 2005, took the docent training course in preparation for the re-opening of the Gallery. This met two of my personal needs – to meet new people in a new environment, and to learn about art.

I also contacted Carole Gardner who is Director of Retail Operations and responsible for the Shop. I was able to contribute to the setting-up of the Shop prior to its opening.

Since that time I have spent almost every Wednesday afternoon in the Shop and find the contact with customers, artists, staff, and other volunteers to be most rewarding. It has led to me filling the role of Secretary to the Volunteer Committee for two years, and now I act as the Liaison Member for the Shop.

In future columns I hope to introduce you to some of our Shop volunteers and their activities.

recruitGAB

by Elise de Stein



The Recruitment Sub-Committee works closely with staff members and with the Volunteer Committee Liaisons to identify volunteer requirements and to ensure that these requirements are met. Our responsibilities include advertising, responding to enquiries, interviewing, checking references and assigning volunteers to appropriate positions based on their interests and skills. In addition, we keep the application form, the information about the police check requirement and the volunteer website up to date, and report regularly to the Volunteer Committee on our activities.

I started as a volunteer in the Shop@AGH in 2001, while I was still working full-time as a Librarian at McMaster University, and about a year later began serving as Secretary of the Volunteer Committee. On my retirement in 2006, I became Chair of the Recruitment Sub-Committee, still occasionally volunteering in the Shop.

Away from the Art Gallery, I keep busy with reading, gardening, hiking, cross-country skiing, travel, and my two grandchildren. I am also an active member of Grandmothers of Hope, one of the grandmother groups in Hamilton which supports the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Meeting all the interesting new volunteers and hearing about their varying backgrounds has been great fun. In future columns I hope to introduce you briefly to some of our newest volunteers.

eduGAB

by Marilyn Hollick



Knowledge of the art world shared with the public, the education system and with each other, coupled with enthusiasm and dedication, is an excellent description of our Art Gallery of Hamilton Docent volunteers.

Over the past exciting year, we have provided approximately 85 touring hours per month, show-casing our AGH collections and on-loan touring treasures. In preparation, the group has been provided with private curatorial tours, specialized guest speaker lectures, and off-site educational opportunities. Individual docents, have shared their expertise on the *Group of Seven* (Dave Barry and Ann Manson), *Drawing in the Renaissance* (Michael Collins), *Perspective Drawing* (Gary Duncan), *William Blair Bruce's Phantom Hunter* (Maureen McKeating), *Sculptori Italiani* (Bill Manson), and the *History of the AGH* (Bill Manson). Impressive!

Over the next year, it is my plan to provide communication channels among the Docent / Library volunteers, the AGH educator Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, and the Volunteer Committee Executive.



Docent Helen Hadden happily at work

What famous Canadian Artist said this? (Answer in the next edition.)

Art is not an amusement, nor a distraction, nor is it, as many men maintain, an escape from life. On the contrary, it is a high training of the soul, essential to the souls' growth, to its enfoldment.

Volunteers take on many roles. Here volunteer Rudin Knights leads a discussion among a group of new Canadians at a Citizenship Court held at here at AGH.



photos courtesy Mike Lalich



photos
courtesy
Mike Lalich



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2009 AGH VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS



Clockwise from top left -- Joanne Stanojevich: Certificate of Recognition Gary Duncan: The Don Pether Award for Excellence Sylvia Laidman: The Ann & Bill Manson Docent of the Year Award Geoff Stephenson: Don Pether Award for Excellence Rudin Knights: Certificate of Recognition Gary Wells: Certificate of Recognition Other Volunteer Award Winners -- David Barry Owen Caine Ellen Irving Peter Rice Marilyn Ronald Cathy Yantsis



mediaGAB

by Valerie Cousens

Media Volunteers are the front-line workers at AGH film nights and other media events. They set up and take down the events, as well as acting as hosts and performing other administrative duties around the events. Volunteers are excited about working on the upcoming multi-venue AGH *Festitalia* Film Festival September 23rd - 27th, featuring international and Canadian films and short films by local filmmakers.

tourismGAB

by Jean Carey

Tourism Ambassador Volunteers work under the AGH Marketing Manager to provide front line services and information to visitors to the Gallery. These individuals who staff the Tourism Desk possess a good knowledge of the AGH and of places of interest and tourist attractions in Hamilton and surrounding area. They are also available to accompany Docents on large adult group tours, and to work at First Friday and other special events at the Gallery.



officeGAB

by Gary Duncan

Office Volunteers assist the AGH Membership and Audience Development Manager, Jocelyn McKeown, in daily clerical duties and at audience development events. Currently there is no Office Liaison volunteer representing this group on the Volunteer Committee Executive. Any volunteers interested in working in this area and taking on the Office Liaison role are invited to make their interest known to Jocelyn McKeown and Maureen McKeating



Your AGH Volunteer Committee Executive 2009-2010

All volunteers at the Art Gallery of Hamilton form the Volunteer Committee, which is a committee of the AGH responsible to the Gallery. Each May at its Annual General Meeting, the Volunteer Committee appoints an Executive for the upcoming year. The current Executive of the AGH Volunteer Committee are:

Maureen McKeating Chairperson / Representative on the AGH Board of Directors

Bill Manson Vice-Chairperson / Orientation Chairperson

Gary Duncan Secretary

Elise de Stein Recruitment Chairperson

Rudin Knights Past-Chairperson

As well, 4 Liaison members currently sit on the Volunteer Committee Executive:

Marilyn Hollick

Geoff Stephenson

Valerie Cousens

Jean Carey

Docent / Library Liaison working with AGH Educator Laurie Kilgour-Walsh

Shop@AGH Liaison working with AGH Shop Manager Carol Gardiner

Media Liaison working with AGH Film/Performance/Special Events Coordinator Annette Paiement

Tourism Ambassador Liaison working with AGH Marketing Manager Vince Franco.

staffGAB

by Bill Manson



A retired educator, I joined the AGH as a docent in 2004. From 2005 to 2009, I was Docent Liaison on the Volunteer Committee Executive, and am currently the Vice-Chair of the Committee. I really enjoy my docent work, the challenge of learning the constantly changing exhibitions at AGH, and the joy of bringing the art to the patrons and the patrons to the art. Being a local historian, I also enjoy leading Hamilton heritage walking tours for the Gallery.

This particular column is designed to introduce volunteers to the AGH staff and the work they do, and to acquaint the volunteers with staff activities that may be of interest to them.

To begin, I would like to welcome our new Curator of Contemporary Art, Melissa Bennett. Melissa is replacing **Sara Knelman** who is off on a scholarship to study for her PhD in London England. **Melissa Bennett** earned her Master of Arts in Art History, along with a Graduate Diploma in Curatorial Studies, at York University in 2007. Previously, she majored in Photography for her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University. Her most recent curatorial projects have been her work as curator of the national touring exhibition *Photography on the Periphery* and as co-curator of the exhibition *Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby: Recent Works*. Other work has included editing and contributing essays to several *Gallery 44* publications, and teaching contemporary art history at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Janine Belzak, our Art Rental and Sales Consultant, left the AGH at the end of August. In September, Janine will be joining St. Joseph's Foundation as Special Events Manager. **Alana Traficante** has replaced Janine. Alana joined the AGH in 2008 as Retail Administrator in Shop@AGH. Prior to coming here, Alana worked as Retail Administrator at *Milli* in Hamilton and as Manager / Administrator at *Terraware* in Dundas. She also completed internships with the McMaster Museum of Art and Kinsman Robinson Galleries in Toronto where she was involved in art sales and the installation of shows. Alana holds a B.A in Art History from the University of Toronto and a Post-Diploma Certificate in Museum Management and Curatorship from Sir Sandford Fleming College.