

galleryGAB

NEWSLETTER of the AGH VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE
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AGH Volunteer
Committee
Executive

Editor
Bill Manson
locke@interlynx.net



In this edition...

Getting to Know More of You

It's not too late
to donate

Welcome to this eighth edition of *galleryGAB*, **your** AGH Volunteer Committee 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. We welcome your comments.

chairGAB

by Bill Manson



Congratulations, volunteers! In 2011, probationary and active members of the AGH Volunteer Committee logged over 7600 volunteer hours in support of the Gallery. This is a record.

Have you ever thought about why we volunteer? There may be a number of personal reasons that we give of our time and talents. One common reason certainly is that we have a keen interest in something, and believe that we want to contribute personally to the promotion and advancement of that interest. Those of us who volunteer at the Art Gallery of Hamilton obviously have an interest in the arts, and whether or not we have a formal arts background, we want to support the programmes of the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

One of the official objectives of the AGH is to make the Gallery a "great

place to work". To that end staff, in collaboration with members of the Volunteer Committee Executive, have developed volunteer training programs and operating manuals designed to assist volunteers in understanding the nature and expectations of the volunteer placements.

Recently we were required to sign a waiver, in effect signifying that we each take personal responsibility for working in accordance with AGH policies and protocols as set out in these operating and training manuals. The Gallery, for its part through these policies and protocols, is committed to providing a safe and secure working environment for all volunteers.

Is the Gallery truly a "great place to work"? Most of our volunteer placements are "front-line", and involve interacting with the public to provide the most pleasant AGH experience possible. Such interactions should also be as stimulating and fulfilling for us as for visitors to the Gallery. Sometimes, unfortunately, this may not be the case. I urge any of you who encounter problems in doing your volunteer job safely and securely -- and

hopefully pleasurably -- to discuss the situation with your staff supervisor and / or Volunteer Committee liaison person. Where no VC liaison is currently in place, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I trust that you found the recent accessibility training as enjoyable and informative as I did. We can all now feel more secure in dealings with visitors and others with disabilities, aware of strategies and approaches that ensure all our visitors can enjoy the Gallery with dignity.

If you have any suggestions about making your volunteer role safer, more secure, more fulfilling, or more stimulating, talk to your liaison and/or supervisor and, again, please do let me know. I really would appreciate your sharing any ideas for making the Art gallery of Hamilton a "greater place to work". My e-mail address is locke@interlynx.net

Cheers -- and thank you all for a great volunteer 2011 at the AGH.

commGAB

by Ann Manson



Volunteer Committee
Looking Back In Time Part 3

AGH Art Rental and Sales

Last November saw the AGH Tanenbaum Pavilion transformed into a vibrant showcase for the Fall Art Sale. This event is held twice a year, and draws hundreds of visitors to the Gallery. But art rental is available to members and corporate clients through *Shop at AGH* all year, and showcases a wonderful diversity of original art. These works may also be purchased.



The concept of art rental and sales had its birth back in 1955 when three members of the Women's Volunteer Committee met informally to discuss an idea they thought would benefit the Gallery and the community. A small number of institutions in Canada had already established picture rental loan systems for works of art by Canadian artists, and Ruth McCuaig, Kate Steiner and Janet Barber believed such a programme should be established in Hamilton through the Gallery.

As a result, a larger committee was established and the ladies applied themselves to organizing the project with their characteristic zeal. Every detail and aspect had to be developed -- from transportation logistics, to cataloguing, to insurance to designing and making bags to protect the pictures. The latter involved the committee members spending hours sewing bags from yards of donated scarlet fabric and stenciling "Picture Loan, Women's Committee" on each bag by hand.

Many Canadian artists were contacted for their work, among them a new up-and-coming group known as

"Painter's Eleven", of which Jack Bush and Harold Town, now art icons, were members.

I wonder what members of the founding committee would think if they had strolled through the recent Fall Art Sale or saw the new Art Rental and Sales web site, www.aghartsales.com on which many of the current works may be viewed. I think they would be delighted.

recruitGAB

by Hinda Levine



We welcome several provisional volunteers who have come "on board" recently here at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Two new volunteers have joined the Shop at AGH. **Shelagh Hagan**, who says that she is a "great shopper", works at BMO as a mortgage specialist. **Cecile DeMedeiros**, who moved to Hamilton from France and is working at ArcelorMittal Dofasco in R&D, is a project manager there in organic coating.

At the Front Desk, we have **Bob Demers** whose background is in mechanical engineering. He worked at Siemens as a production controller for many years.

Ariel Bader-Shamai is helping Christine Braun with the Super Auction for the upcoming Art for the 100th. Ariel is completing a B.A. in Art History and Communication at McMaster University. She first joined us as a volunteer for the WFF 2011, and will also be volunteering for Special Events.

There are three new volunteers who will be helping with Film & Performance. **Jonathan Garfield**, who has 3 diplomas from Trebas and a post-grad degree in film from Sheridan, previously volunteered for the WFF 2010. **Robert Dmochewicz** comes to us from Warsaw with experience managing the largest cineplex in Poland. **Tim Rose** joined the Gallery after volunteering for the WFF 2011. Tim owns a furniture studio where he makes custom furniture.

Several new volunteers have been recruited to Special Events. **Jennifer Lang** is a primary school teacher who recently volunteered for the Abu Dhabi Film Festival. **Hanna Chang** has joined us formally, after volunteering on several occasions at the Gallery's art sale. She also won a volunteer award at the recent AGM. **Cecilia Barros**, who speaks Portuguese fluently, works as an office coordinator for a tax company in Burlington. **Jeanette Janzen** has a Masters degree from York University in Art History and Curatorial Studies, as well as a BFA from

the University of Windsor. **Megan Press** worked here over the summer as a development assistant, during which time she developed the Shop at AGH manual. Megan has a MFA from the University of Victoria, and is currently working at the Mississauga Arts Centre as the Studio Arts Administrator and Program assistant. **Jenny Tieu** was as a summer YMCA student at the Gallery, and is completing high school at Sir John A. MacDonald Secondary School. **Monica Julian** volunteered at the AGH previously. She returned to Hamilton recently after graduating from Wilfred Laurier, with a degree in communications.

Welcome to all of you. We are glad that you have joined us as volunteers. Hopefully, you will find your experience volunteering here at the AGH both rewarding and fulfilling.

Finally, congratulations to the following individuals have been promoted from provisional to active members of the Volunteer Committee: **Patrick Church, Janine DeBackere, Katie Edwards, Amanda Lera, Louise Sylvia MacNeil, Loretto Mahony, Franca Marazia, Jessica Martin, Kristine Matthews, Cynthia Meyer, Neal Miller, Erin O'Neil, Mike Schumacher, Sarah Sienna, Gaylan Stanley, Norica Stein, Jacqueline Swain, and Laura Wiebe.**

Welcome aboard to all of you!

Thank You Volunteers for Style and the City, 2011

Amanda Lera
Brian Winer
Carly Hoey
Carol Stanton
Caroline Cheng
Cheryl Petkoff
Delaram Mahabadi
Gay Stanley
Hanna Chang
Inna Janes
Janine De Backere
Jean Carey
Jeanette Janzen
Jennifer de Alwis
Jennifer Lang
Jennifer Lang
Jessica Shute
Joyce Schumacher
Kristine Matthews
Megan Press
Melissa Height
Nadiya Khyzha
Owen Caine
Patrick Church
Somayeh Mousavi Asl
Trevor Roach

staffGAB

by Marilyn Hollick



Gloria Pilot has recently joined the AGH team as interim Membership and Audience Development Manager.

Born and raised in the north end of Hamilton to immigrant Italian parents, she enjoyed growing up being surrounded by the richness of Hamilton's Italian community.

Upon graduation from the University of Guelph (1983) in Applied Nutrition, she approached the Fortino's supermarket corporation with an idea to promote her new skills. She was hired to provide educational nutritional classes, cooking classes, and ideas on how to use newly introduced exotic foods and unique products.

Her career took her in many directions including customer-service, public-relations, organizing special events such as their Heart Fund dinner, and managing specialty areas such as the Cigar Shop and the Household Products Boutique. She mentions that she even learned how to smoke a cigar. As Fortinos grew and was purchased by the Loblaw's Corporation, her responsibilities also grew to include advertising, marketing, and heading a team to respond to customer satisfaction. This intense career took her on a 20 year journey.

With a growing family (two young adult children), she found herself needing a break. After a brief rest time, she decided to donate her skills and passion to the Good Shepherd Centre helping with special events and fund-raising. The fund-raising allowed her to see the other side of the coin. Instead of providing the funds, she was now in an effort to collect funds.



Coming to the AGH was an unexpected opportunity. As the interim Membership and Audience Development Manager, she hopes to have a positive impact in increasing both corporate and

individual memberships. She is very impressed with the calibre of expertise, passion, and dedication of the AGH team.

Her hobbies include cooking Italian, entertaining friends and family and skiing. Gloria has walked a very interesting path during her career.

On that note, check out her shoes !!!!!

mediaGAB

by Glen Doe



I would like to introduce you to **Brian Winer**, a fairly new member of the Film and Performance team.



Brian writes: "I think that perhaps as a young child, whose parents were deeply involved in volunteer work, the idea of volunteerism became a very natural and vital part of my life. From my teen years onwards I have tried to share in various ways, the good fortune which should and can be a part of being a Canadian and a Hamiltonian.

I was born in Hamilton and educated here, initially planning to pursue a career in journalism. Circumstances dictated that rather than with a pen and paper, I would find work at National Steel Car in 1971. After a short while, I became interested in the skilled trades and spent 40 years at NSC in the maintenance department, specializing in hydraulic and pneumatic machinery. During this time, I married Jan and now have two daughters and three grandchildren. Along with spending time taking a seemingly infinite number of technically oriented courses at McMaster and Mohawk College, I made time for a 25 year stint in the Dundas Pipes and Drums as a piper, a credit union volunteer, and a wide assortment of other community involvements.

Upon retirement, I decided to become more involved in the Arts community of Hamilton. The Art Gallery of Hamilton at that moment, literally, was holding the International Film Festival, and I was thrilled to be accepted as a volunteer. This led to an ongoing involvement with Special Events with the encouragement of Susan Kordalewski. More recently, I became a member of Film and Performance, which I shall particularly enjoy having a lifelong interest in film.

Given my "blue collar" background, I admittedly wondered how I'd fit into an Art Gallery environment. All such thoughts have disappeared – the staff and other volunteers at the AGH have been so welcoming and supportive of me and passionate of their work, I feel comfortable and proud to be a small part of it."

secGAB

by Gary Duncan



For the year 2011, volunteers contributed **7635** hours to the AGH. This was a huge increase over the 5116 hours reported in 2010 mainly due to improved reporting and additional hours for special events such as the World Film Festival. The training shown for the past year was mainly for the "Customer Service Standard Training" requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Thanks to all volunteers for reporting their hours and for their hard work.

Volunteer Category	Hours
Education	2040
Visitor Services	791
Shop	621
Film Series	392
Volunteer Executive	557
Membership	59
Library	747
Special Projects 100	164
Special Projects	1641
Administration	309
Training (AO3DA)	314
Total	7635

CONGRATULATIONS!
Susan Kordalewski
on your appointment as
AGH Human Resources Manager



- a true test of individual concentration and stamina - but she modestly claims not to have won any accolades. With her husband, Rickie is an avid bridge player and golfer, enjoying hiking with their beloved five-year-old border collie Skip, canoeing and cross-country skiing. Did I mention that she is also an amazing cook? And she loves art, reading, and gardening.

Rickie brings to her volunteer work as a docent the variety of skills honed in her life. I am happy to have met such an interesting personality and to have the opportunity to become a friend of Rickie at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Creating a Digital Retrospective to Celebrate the AGH 100th

In 2008, volunteer docents **Bill** and **Ann Manson** proposed that they would be willing to research and write a history of the Art Gallery of Hamilton and its permanent collection to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Gallery in 1914.

Bill, a local historian and founder of *Footsteps in Time*, had for some time been involved in various volunteer projects dealing with the Gallery's history. A published author, he was also aware of the escalating costs of publishing a traditional fine art book, especially one that would feature the many significant and iconic artworks housed in the permanent collection.



Bill also wanted the retrospective to appeal to a broad audience of all backgrounds and ages, in a format that would be current and affordable. Therefore, they proposed that the retrospective be in a digital format on DVD, one that could be viewed on computers, TVs, and other electronic devices.

To facilitate this sort of production, they called upon **Graham Crawford**, the owner of *Hamilton History*

+*Heritage*, Hamilton's only "storefront digital museum". Graham generously volunteered to turn the Manson's research and writing into a digital audio-visual program that could then be produced on DVD.



The Gallery welcomed this volunteer project, and agreed to provide digital images of important works from the permanent collection, to edit the research and writing, and to produce and market the DVD.

Over the past 3 years, the Mansons have been doing the research and writing, and the "script" for the digital programme is now complete. Currently plans are afoot to record the musical and narrative sound tracks using local actors who have also volunteered their time and talents.

Graham Crawford has completed the visuals for two sections of the 5-part retrospective:

- The Blair Bruce Legacy*
- The History of the Gallery*
- Hamilton Artists in the Collection*
- The Canadian Collection*
- The European Collection*

This retrospective when completed in 2013 will celebrate the AGH and its permanent collection during its centennial year in 2014.



Now retired from a busy schedule of teaching English as a Second Language, Rickie still works in her husband Jack's busy accounting practice - so no tours at tax-time! The mother of three daughters, she is a loving grandmother to five grandchildren. When extolling with such passionate fondness of the youngest, Olivia in B.C., I begin to suspect she is a kindred spirit!

Rickie's life-experiences include planning for the corporate branch of the tourism industry; she especially loves Kenya. Rickie was a keen Laser boat racer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

the
Annual General Meeting
of the Volunteer Committee
will be held on
Sunday, June 3, 2012
at 2 p.m.
Details of the program to follow...



UPDATE *Art for the 100th*

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE !

Recognizing all those who have responded thus far with pledges for *Art for the 100th*:

Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous
 Irene Bailey Charles F. Brown Jean Carey Betty Carlyle Frances & John Cloke Dr. & Mrs. J.R. Cranston Glen Doe
 Mrs. J.J. Dravis Gary Duncan Margaret Fong Barbara Freeman Alexandra Gall P. Joan Gallagher Marion Harrison
 Marilyn Hollick Joan Jennings Rudin Knights Bev Lafferty Sylvia & Fred Laidman Hinda Levine Ann Manson Bill Manson
 Maureen McKeating Elizabeth O'Malley Anita Peng Elvira Peterson Joyce Philp Jane Smith Miriam Stanbury
 Elise de Stein Geoff & Brendea Stephenson Linda Taillon Frances J. Waters Gary Wells Mary C. Wigle

We invite all new volunteers to join us in this project. Our goal by the end of 2013 is to fund the purchase of a work of art for the Gallery's permanent collection. No contribution is too small. Donation forms can be found in the Volunteer Log at the Gallery's the front desk or on the *Art for the 100th* link on the Volunteer Page of the AGH web site.

Donors, please mark your calendars for our first **Donor Appreciation Night, Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6-8 PM.** The program will include tours of the vaults and current exhibitions. More info to come.

a **GABflash** from the past ...

with the Gallery's Centennial quickly approaching, in the next few editions we will be featuring some images from the past of people and things that have significantly impacted its colourful heritage. (Answers in the next edition.)



Who are these people?

Why are they significant?

Can you identify the work and artist to the right?



gallertGAB's other feature columnists will be back next edition

specialGAB

by Maureen McKeating



shopGAB

by Geoff Stephenson



guestGAB

by Jean Carey

