

Alberta House News

Alberta House Arts Center
217 Ferris Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

<https://saultareaartscouncil.org/>
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906.635.1312

Notes from the Chair

- Agatha Colbert

The Sault Area Arts Council continues to move forward on several fronts. Three additional members (Loni LeBlanc, Mike Kasprzak and Scott Laursen) have joined the SAAC Board of Directors, increasing our number to 15. In coming editions of the Newsletter each of the Board members will be introduced with brief descriptions of their backgrounds, their passions and why they wish to support the Sault Area Arts Center.

Alberta House is officially on the market. We have had some “nibbles” but no firm offers as yet. Potential buyers expressed an interest in developing this historic house into a Bed and Breakfast. The layout of the House, its location so near the Locks and the excellent parking make it ideal for this type of development. If Alberta House happens to sell at our listed price before we have a new building, we will rent temporary space for the gallery and shop in the interim.

We continue to explore downtown locations for our ideal new site. In addition to finding the ideal physical location and building, we are also making connections with other community nonprofits including the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission and the Soo Locks Children’s Museum. As the City of Sault Ste Marie starts “taking more care of itself”, the cultural draw becomes stronger. With more and more people having the opportunity to work remotely and live wherever they choose, the Upper Peninsula with all its natural beauty only needs a bit more by way of Arts and Culture to become a desirable location for an increasing number of young people.

Our shiny new, updated, user friendly website is about to be launched, along with our new logo and a new name: **The Sault Area Art Center - A Gathering Place**. The Historic Alberta House name will remain on the building, but our literature will carry the new name and logo.

Various committees of the Board are hard at work. The Business Plan committee is visiting other Art Galleries in the region and speaking with their Executive Directors about their organizations, making

Newton's Rainbow

Sir Isaac Newton studied prisms and light in the 1660s to identify **seven** visible **colors**.

connections and getting tips on what has and has not been successful for them. The Grants committee has completed the first step to becoming officially registered and eligible to apply for federal and state grants. We are researching a variety of government, corporate and private foundation grant opportunities. The Bylaw committee has completed its revisions and been approved by the Board. The Gallery committee is planning some very exciting shows in the coming year. Please see calendar below for more details.

Fund raising is ongoing. Instead of the Art Auction we had a sale of donated items at the Alberta House Gallery. During the month of July we made close to \$2000 from this sale, which is continuing through August in the main gallery. Some wonderful pieces of original art are still available. Our annual fund raising letter is being sent out now. In an effort to increase the number of possible donors we hand delivered the donor request letter to businesses on Ashmun and Portage Streets, which also gave us the chance to meet our neighbors. We are sending email letters to everyone on our digital mailing list. Our goal is to acquire funding to hire a part-time Executive Director in addition to obtaining moneys for regular building maintenance, utilities and office supplies. All and all there is a sense of optimism about the direction in which we are heading.

Calendar

New events to be posted on [SAAC Facebook](#)

AUG 1 - AUG 31 : GALLERY EXHIBIT AND SALE

ARTIST: RENÉ SHIMMON

There Be Dragons: Fun and whimsy in pen and ink.

Artist spotlight on page 5.

Alberta House Art Center 217 Ferris St; SSM

Wednesday - Saturday

11am - 4pm; contingent on volunteer availability. Call to confirm opening at (906) 635-1312

SEPT 1-SEPT 30 : GALLERY EXHIBIT AND SALE

ARTISTS: DEANNA LALONDE, SCOTT LAURSEN, ED GRAY

Paintings, Photography, and Pottery

Artist spotlights on pages 6 and 7.

Alberta House Art Center 217 Ferris St; SSM

Wednesday - Saturday

11am - 4pm; contingent on volunteer availability. Call to confirm opening at (906) 635-1312

SEPT 13 (TUESDAY) : SAAC BOARD MEETING

Alberta House Art Center 217 Ferris St; SSM

5pm - 7pm

**SEPT 17 (SATURDAY) : ANNUAL EVENT
SYLVAN CIRCLE TOUR**

See sylvancircle.ca for map and details

9am - 5pm

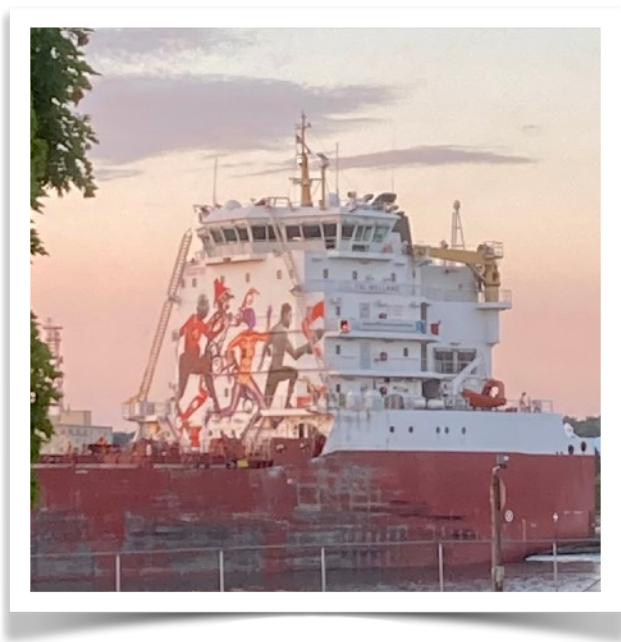
Admission : **Free**

Meet over fifty of the area’s finest artists and artisans at the 20 anniversary of the Sylvan Circle Artist & Artisan Tour. The tour is held at community and township halls along the picturesque countryside between Echo Bay and Bruce Mines, east of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. At each location you’ll find unique, one-of-a-kind creations, perfect for your home or special gift. Come, see, shop and discover!

Brochure: <http://sylvancircle.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Sylvan-Circle-20th-Anniversary-Brochure.pdf>

Out there, anywhere

Out for a walk on a Friday evening the Canadian Steamship Lines (CSL) Welland was waiting at the Soo Locks on an upbound journey. The mural "The Runners" was painted just this year. Spectacularly large art in motion. There is another massive mural entitled "The Sea Keeper" on the CSL St-Laurent.



The Runners
A fascinating short video was made on the making of this mural. It was painted in just 2 weeks in January, yes January at the port of Montreal. https://www.cslships.com/en/
The Sea Keeper
Details on the artists and how this was painted may be found here: https://www.cslships.com/en/our-company/sea-keeper

New Faces on the Board of Directors

This edition we introduce the Vice Chair **Robin Sorquist** and Board members **Ginny Johnson** and **Loni LeBlanc**.

Robin is a graduate from Central Michigan University with a BFA and attained her k-12 teaching certification from the University of North Carolina Pembroke. She was raised in the area and has returned after 20 years of exploration. Robin and her family reside in Brimley. She loves to create in all mediums and is thrilled to be a part of the local art community.

Ginny graduated from the University of Detroit with a BA and went on to earn her MFA at Wayne State University with an emphasis in print making. Ginny taught art in the Sault Ste. Marie Schools for 17 years and was a founding member of North Star Habitat for Humanity for which she served as President for 8 years and Fund Raising Chair for 20 years. As a potter she has exhibited in Sault Ste. Marie and she has done murals for the city. Ginny and her husband Ed recently moved to the Space Coast of Florida to live near their children and grandchildren. Having lived in the Sault for 30 years and Michigan for 75, Ginny stays active and committed to her first home.



Loni is a proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community. She works in the Grants Department for Bay Mills and also does medical billing and coding on the side. Loni serves on the Pow-wow committee for Bay Mills. Her favorite things to do are berry picking, reading, and hiking with her two dogs Roxanne and Otis. Loni's goals are to give back to her community and the surrounding areas.

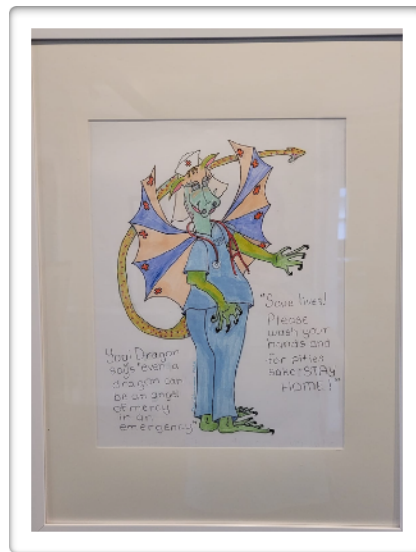
Photo credit: Scott Laursen

In the Gallery

Please see the calendar gallery event listing on page 6 for more details.



August Artist Spotlight René Shimmon



I have been making art and telling stories all my life. This show of Dragons came out as my response to COVID. I grew up in an Air Force family, graduated from Sault High and am now a retired labor and delivery registered nurse. I have 2 grown children, 3 grand children, and 3 great grand children.

More than 15 dragons, each with its own story. Originals and prints available.

Schedule a Gallery Event

Are you an artist looking for a gallery to have a show?
Contact the gallery coordinator to schedule.
olivecraiggallery@gmail.com

September Artist Spotlight: Photography

Scott Laursen



Scott Laursen is a fine art documentary photographer who holds a Masters of Fine Art degree from the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He spends time in both urban and rural environments documenting life and telling stories.

Laursen combines his loves for traditional film photography, digital, and alternative processes in his digital studio and darkroom. He has exhibited photography from the West Coast to the East Coast, and Internationally.

September Artist Spotlight: Pottery

Ed Gray

It's difficult to describe Ed and his work because he is many things and works in many materials. He is a potter and bead maker, and works extensively in copper. As an artist he is a purist, beginning with the rawest of materials and making all the components that comprise his art including the pit or kiln used to pit fire or smoke fire his pots.

Ed grew up on a fruit farm that had been in his family for 5 generations and which he was expected





to take over. Instead he embraced his ancestry on his mother's side -- Sami and Native American -- which drew him to creating art from earth's elements copper and clay.

All the colors Ed uses on his pots come from stones collected on the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Ed's clay work also takes the form of beads and pendants he uses to embellish other work. A primitive pit firing takes about 3 days to complete. All Ed's work is both labor and time intensive.

September Artist Spotlight: Paintings

Deanna LaLonde

Deanna LaLonde was born in Saginaw, Michigan and was raised in Caro, a small town in Michigan's Thumb area. She is a member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe's Mackinac Band with ancestral roots from Mackinac Island, St. Ignace and Cheboygan areas and Canada up to the Gaspé region. She is of the Crane Clan.

She came to the Sault Sainte Marie and Bay Mills area to teach Art and to learn more of the Anishinabek teachings, culture and language.

Deanna has been a teacher for 31 years, graduating from Harding University in Arkansas with a BS in Art. She has made her way from her first teaching position in Little Rock, Arkansas to Brimley and is currently teaching K-12 Art, painting when she has time. She has taught in Northern Virginia and in North Carolina, also. Along the way she served in the US Army on active duty training at the Presidio of Monterey's Defense Language Institute. She did reserves training including NCO certification at Ft. Meade, MD as a German linguist.





“My paintings come from experiences I have had with nature and wildlife either through dreams, actual encounters or a combination of both. I have had some type of personal connection to each of the animals in my paintings.”

“My style has developed as a result of my teaching experiences, my studies, and my continual spiritual journey through life.”

“When I paint, I am hoping to uplift my spirit and the spirit of the animal and it’s habitat. It’s good when for a moment or two, we can experience the beauty and power we have been gifted through nature.”

Deanna has one daughter, Jessica, currently studying for her Ph.D in engineering at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

From the Editor

- Tracy Muckelbauer

Have you come across an Art-O-Mat? This is a repurposed cigarette vending machine that now dispenses original pieces of Art. They are scattered about in the United States and according to the list of locations, there are 3 in Michigan; East Lansing, Brighton, and Allen Park. I happened upon one in Boulder, CO and will include a photo in the next issue. Be on the lookout and if you see one, please take a snap and send it to me. More details about the Art-o-mat project can be found here: <https://www.artomat.org>

Next issue I'm looking for an art related word that starts with **C**.

Any submissions may be sent to saultareaartscouncil@gmail.com with subject 'Newsletter'.

If you're interested in the science of color and Newton's Rainbow, visit the Smithsonian Libraries page at

<https://library.si.edu/exhibition/color-in-a-new-light/science>

Membership

Become a member or renew a membership

The Sault Area Arts Council (SAAC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the arts and to make the arts readily accessible to the people of the Sault Ste. Marie area. It operates entirely with volunteer labor and is funded entirely by private donations and proceeds from the Alberta House Arts Center.

Your membership:

- Helps create a network of people who share the same goal of promoting the arts.
- Supports the efforts of the Sault Area Arts Council, which includes owning and operating the Alberta House Arts Center, home to the Olive M. Craig Gallery and the Area Artisans Gift Shop.
- No entry fee in the Member's Gallery Exhibit

We invite you to become a member by filling in the form below and mailing in with your check.

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Yes, I would like to become a member or renew a membership with SAAC.

I enclose my check for \$25.00 in U.S. funds to the Sault Area Arts Council

Mail to:
Sault Area Arts Council
Alberta House Arts Center
217 Ferris Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI. 49783

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email: