



Cultural Round Table

County Culture: It's more than you think!

Cultural Round Table
Shire Hall, Picton
Oct 8th– 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Present:

Monica Alyea, Councillor, County of Prince Edward, Jean Anne Carroll – County of Prince Edward, EDO, Judith Zelmanovits, Museum Advisory Committee, Ian Balsillie - Prince Edward Round Table on Environment and Economy, Jeff and Tracy Keary – Art House Gallery (Rednersville Church), Peta Hall – Potter, Sarah Phillips – Festival Players, Wendy Lane - County of Prince Edward, Recreation, Parks and Culture.

Minutes:

1. **Culture Crawl** – Jean Anne showed the video of this summer's Culture Crawl. Will be posted online soon.
2. **10,000 Villages** – Lynne Donovan of St. Andrews in Picton forwarded a note re the new 10,000 Village shop opening in Picton next April. Ten Thousand Villages is a franchise operated by the Mennonite Central Committee that provides artisans in the developing world with a fair price for their labour. Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Picton have bought the building and have been given the go ahead by Ten Thousand Villages Canada. While the store is primarily volunteer based, we will seek to hire a store manager in the new year. In the meantime, we are gearing up for a Festival Sale from November 21-December 6 which will feature 50,000 dollars worth of merchandise. The store is almost ready to go. For more information call Lynne at 613-476-1167.
3. **Employment Opps** – Enterprise Quinte and Festival Players both have been advertising positions that are not getting many applicants. Group commented that the pay rate for the positions was quite low, and the time required if we were interested in young people was too much for students to be able to give. Suggested posting on Durham, St Lawrence and Queen's college sites. Workinculture.ca also suggested.
4. **Street Smarts** – Villages and Hamlets Conference - an informative one-day conference with speakers who are experts in practical ideas, organizing and funding for rural communities PLUS plus local activists who are already at work protecting and improving County villages and hamlets. Oct. 25th: 9 to 4:30, Sophiasburgh Town Hall, Demorestville Lunch provided by the Womens Institute JACK KLEIN AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT LUNCH The conference is FREE to all interested Prince Edward County residents. Please register by Friday, Oct. 17th. Call Lynne Ellis at 613-476-3880 or lellis@pecounty.on.ca
5. **Rednersville Church** – The church now has a name – the “Art House Gallery”. Jeff and Tracy Keary held their first concert and about 45 friends and neighbours attended. The Dan Bone Trio played. Venue “performed” excellently – the acoustics are great, and can based on the set up for this event they have proved they can seat 150. Will continue to do shows and to foster the idea of the space as a community cultural centre. Will promote shows etc via leaflet drop from now on.
6. **Leafleting/Flyer drops** – a few members noted that doing a flyer drop to your area through the post office is a very cost effective way of getting the word out close to home.

7. **Festival Players Fundraiser** – Sarah Phillips let us know re a fundraising reception happening at the Empire Theatre in Belleville on Nov 29th. The singing group the Nylons are hold a concert that night (Tickets \$38 from the Empire). The Festival Players will host an exclusive “after party” (only 100 “golden tickets” avail!) with delicious nibbles and your chance to meet the Nylons. Tickets \$35. Buy your ticket early to be eligible to win a limo ride to the show. The Empire Theatre Box Office at 613-969-0099.
8. **Muesums** – Judith Zelmanovits let us know that the Museums are now closed or closing. The last 2 big museum events for the season are Pumpkinfest at the Wellington Heritage Museum on Oct 18th, and the Hallowe’en Hullabaloo: A Victorian Hallowe’en on Oct 25th at Macaulay House. Part of Pumpkinfest is the Pancake Breakfast that is run as a fundraiser by the Friends of the Museum. The museums now have their own newsletter – The County Muse that Jennifer Lyons produces monthly.
9. **Ontario Library Week** – Ian Balsillie shared that Library week will run Oct 19th – 25th. This event was developed by library partners from across the country to help raise public awareness of the valuable role that libraries play in the lives of Canadians. Look for the pamphlet. Nice article on the Picton Carnegie Library. In Watershed magazine this month.
10. **Archives** – Ian Balsillie - The archives are in the process of being moved. Once they are moved and contents are digitized archival information will be more accessible to the public.
11. **Milford 200** – Monica Aleya shared that they are planning their first memorial day service as part of the Milford 200 celebrations. They are looking for a trumpet player from the county to participate, or possibly a bagpipe player. The Shantyman Concert will be held on Nov 8th. Tickets \$15. Features among others Mark Despault and accomplished step dancer Janice Lambert.
12. **Cultural Capitals** – Wendy Lane let us know that the Treasury Board of Canada has not approved the program to move forward yet. There will be no further update till after Christmas. Another federal program that Wendy has also been investigating, Cultural Spaces, has announced that funding will end March 2010. These Federal Culture programs are being affected by government policy towards cultural activity.
13. **Festival Players 2008 Season.** – Sarah Phillips gave an update on how the FP did in their 2008 season. They had about the same turnout as the year before, but they also had more performances. Within the community they had a very positive response – everyone is asking what the plans are for next year. In the off season they are very focused on fundraising, and also on recruiting new board members. Hopefully by the end of Nov. the 2009 Season will be finalized. Sarah was asked if she felt that there was competition for audience in the 2008 season – she didn’t think so other than between their own shows. Everyone in the group who had been to one of the shows was very complimentary, in particular to Salt Water Moon.
14. **Peta Hall** – Peta gave an update on the Bloomfield Public Art Project, the project that will make Bloomfield the Sculptural Capital of the County. Pieces have been selected and there will be an announcement soon.
15. **Peta Hall** – Peta also let us know that she is returning to Ghana this winter. She is working with an NGO out of the U.S. and will be meeting with the Canadian High Commission there. The project this year is to work with the women there to make clothing for toddlers, which will be brought back and sold over the internet. The project needs money to allow for the purchase of Ghanaian fabric and sewing machines, and to provide seed money to the women starting off. Other things that would help, and that Peta can take with her, are sewing notions – *good quality* (don’t forget these are for toddlers clothing): pins, pin cushions, needles, buttons, thread, zippers. Monica suggested that a village to village one time gift to this project might be possible. Peta will also work with a clay co-operative that is 4 generations deep.
16. **Next Meeting** – Next meeting will be a Culture Crawl in the Rednersville area. (separate notes to follow)