



April 1998

# Art Centre News

The Old School House - a public gallery and learning centre

## Cheers!

A tenth birthday is not usually a watershed in the life of a human being, but in the life of an institution, birthday number 10 is something special.

Any institution which has survived ten years and kept operating all during that time may be said to have come of age - or more simply, to have made it. Cheers!

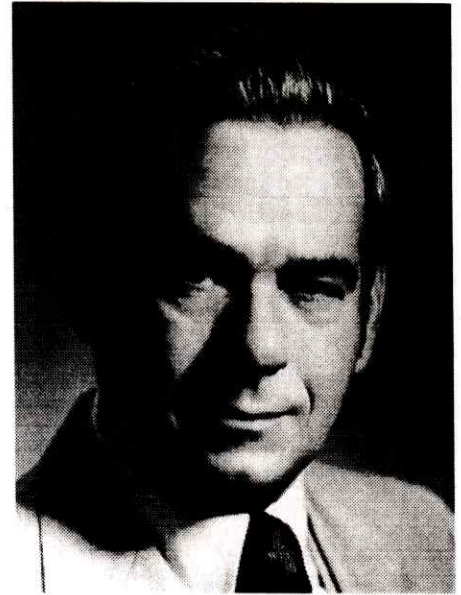
The story of TOSH is the story of a handful of key leaders supported by about 200 volunteers, donors and artists. Together, out of an old school they have created a vital art centre, which has become as well, a valuable local attraction.

It was in 1985 that people began talking about establishing an art centre in the vacant old school house on Fern Road. District 69 Arts Council did not think the idea practical. But Qualicum's Alderman Al Greir pursued his dream. He persuaded the local Chamber of Commerce to conduct a feasibility study on making over the old school house, and Town Council to permit the project to go ahead. Town Council agreed, only provided that \$75,000 could be

raised for it within 90 days.

A committee, headed by Bob Nicol, succeeded in raising the money. What is striking about the story of TOSH is the generosity of its supporters, who gave time, talent, money and expertise, without stint. A few used their political influence, too. Perry Perry, managed to acquire official charity status for TOSH. MLA Stan Hagan used his influence to help TOSH get a Lotto B.C. grant. About the middle of 1987 it was time to start work on the building. The founding committee chose volunteer Tom McIver, a retired professional engineer, to supervise construction. Tom investigated the building, and reported that the old building could not possibly be set right by week-end volunteer help. It would need six men, working five days a week, for nine months. One can imagine the consternation that followed.

The problem was solved when the warden of Brannen Lake Minimum Security prison agreed to supply inmates to do the work. And so with six workers, bussed in daily from the prison, Tom began the long job of



Tom McIver

reconstruction.

The windows were all broken. The foundations under the floor had washed away, and had to be filled in. The floor had to be broken up, and a new floor laid. A new staircase, and furnace had to be installed, plaster and lath removed, a washroom relocated, the building jacked up and painted. Tom worked six days a week from June to the end of February.

His achievement in human terms was as impressive as what he accomplished in the building. He inspired the inmates with enthusiasm for the task. To the amazement of their guard, the lads were eager each morning to get to work.

Tom McIver is often given credit for making TOSH possible. He doesn't agree with this assessment. He points out that a couple of hundred volunteers gave time, money and talents to get TOSH started. It was truly a community effort.

We can mention only a few of those workers in this story, but on our tenth anniversary we can pause to thank them all for what they did to make TOSH possible.

*Members and Friends are Invited  
to  
Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration  
at  
The Old School House, Fern Road  
on  
April 18, beginning at 7p.m.*

*Live entertainment - Finger foods  
B.C. Wines - Other refreshments  
Admission by donation.*



## New at The Galleries

### Upcoming Exhibits

"Reaching To the River" in the Brown Gallery, April 13 - May 2

A collection of works by the Campbell River Chapter of the Federation of Artists.

This is the second exhibit by the group at the Old School House, the first being shown in 1995. In the exhibit there are works by Edna Wood in oils and mixed media, Marlys Robinson in ink and watercolour and other water colours and mixed media by Carole Goodwin, Gail Rankin, Wilma Richardson, Mary Peake, Ray Ludford, Doris Ritchie, Joan O'Ryan and Sally Chard.

The talent of these artists is evident in their use of tonalism to achieve the almost ethereal quality of light and shade in many of the works. This is a "For Sale" show. Anyone wishing to add to their collection should definitely visit this exhibit.

-Bryan Kanarens

## Colour it Green

Larry Aguilar and "friends" - potters Sandy Richardson, Jane Hamilton-Khaan, Cheryl Rimmer and Linda Reid will be exhibiting in the Dorothy Francis Gallery from April 14 - May 2nd. They call their show "Celebration of Celadon". Celadon is a green glaze which originated in China more than a thousand years ago. Celadon glaze may produce a colour all the way from a pale turquoise blue-green to a near-black mossy green. Larry tells us that the hue depends a lot on the kind of clay body to which the glaze is applied. So expect to see quite a variety of shades of green in this exhibition. The potters say that the show will emphasize useful household items although no doubt there will also be some purely decorative ones.



*Yvonne Hooper*

## Yvonne Hooper Lives On

Long-time member and former director, Yvonne Hooper recently purchased a life insurance policy naming the Old School House as beneficiary. Upon presenting the policy to Bob Mewburn at the Annual General Meeting, she said, "The good news is that when I die the Old School House will get \$10,000; the bad news is that I intend to live for a very long time." This confluence of good and bad news threw the meeting into disarray. A small faction crying "Off with her head! Insurance now!" was quelled before serious harm could be done. A shaken Yvonne was sufficiently restored to receive a toast in her honour: "to our sovereign lady of planned giving, long life and good health".

Eight years ago Yvonne and her husband Len opened Bahari Bed and Breakfast overlooking the Straits of Georgia. Both very quickly became involved in community affairs.

Yvonne is a member of the Parksville-Qualicum Chamber of Commerce, and also of the Tourist Association, and has worked on several promotions for these associations.

She also has been an enthusiastic worker for Tosh. She has convened the very successful Art Afternoon, and two Victorian Teas. She has used her sewing skills to make banners, Japanese gift cloths, and curtains for the Old School House.

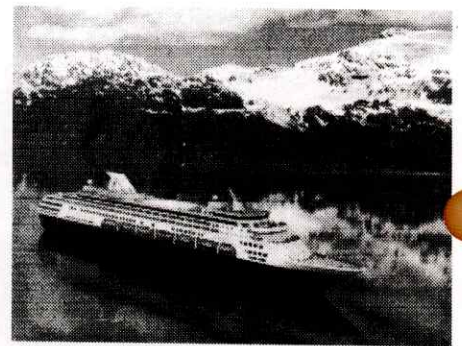
Yvonne is both a doer and a donor. Her example should encourage other members to think about the advantages of planned giving, i.e. giving in such a way as to maximize the benefit and minimize the donor's cost.

-Bob Mewburn

## Let's Go A-Cruising

The Old School House is well on its way to success in its partnership venture with Cruise Ship Centres, headed up by Larry McDowall, who is also one of our members.

On Sunday, March 1st, we jointly hosted a presentation describing a week-long Alaskan cruise on Sept. 17th on the world famous Nieuw Amsterdam.



Because of our partnership, very attractive fares are offered.

Even experienced cruise people were surprised that six couples signed on the spot. When we reach 15 cabins (15 couples) special additional benefits fall into place for the passengers, and for the Old School House. It won't take long! Of special interest is that Pauline Pike, our popular resident artist and teacher will be on board. Each day she plans to paint and to coach others who wish to paint or sketch. What an opportunity! We'd love to welcome you aboard, and we have another ace up our sleeve. On a first-come, first-served basis, the next booking for a cabin will be rewarded with a \$200.00 voucher.

Contact Bryan Kanarens (752-6133) or Larry or Donna at Cruise Ship Centres (248-5800)

- Hugh Carter



## From The Editor

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 25th. There was good news to report, yet we could only muster a Quorum to hear the glad tidings. AGM'S are often poorly attended. They are usually pleasant enough, and can be interesting. But because they deal with the nitty gritty of how organizations work, they tend to be earnest and serious in mood, rather than jolly. And jolly is what people like best.

Given our problem of poor attendance, should we perhaps consider a more light-hearted approach to future meetings? Offer balloons at the door? Or a welcoming glass or two of sherry to start the thing off?

Our AGM ran smoothly and briskly. President Bob Mewburn reported on the past year. As always Tosh had relied on its wonderful volunteers, but now could also afford the help of a few part-time paid workers, and a manager in charge of operations.

Manager Bryan Kanarens told of his ambitions for TOSH--an upbeat message.

Treasurer Marlyn Swail had little to say, having already distributed copies of the 1997 financial report, which said it all. The good news is that we are in the black. Financially 1997 was our best year so far.

We said good-bye to two directors, and presto! we elected five more. Director Hugh Carter then challenged us. Our town is evolving and changing. Do we want Tosh to change too? If so, how? Something to think about. Next, a financial planner described the kind of giving that many charities are encouraging. The idea is for the donor to make a bequest in his will to the charity of his choice, or to sign over a life insurance policy. The financial planner claimed that this would result in great tax benefits. Then one of our members rose to present a life insurance policy which she had signed over to Tosh.

Members, you missed all this by not attending the AGM. Don't be absent next year. Make it priority to come. Of course we will do what we can about the balloons and sherry.

### Show Your Creativity

To add fun to Tosh's 10th Anniversary Party.  
We invite you to design, construct  
and dare to wear a 10th anniversary fashion  
creation in aluminum (tin foil).

Prizes for the most original creation---  
the best headpiece, historical style,  
best boutonniere, best jewellery design-  
also for the most chic, most unusual, best  
imitation and best "earwear design".

-Deanne Pilchak

## Your Board of Directors and what they do

Hugh Carter-Chair  
Fundraising Committee

Marjorie Gueho-Chair,  
Shop Committee

Jason Marlow-Representative,  
Resident Artist

Marlyn Swail, Treasurer

Dixie Deans-Member,  
Exhibitions committee

Deborah Maddocks - Qualicum  
Beach, Chamber of Commerce

Darlene Kellett, Parksville  
Chamber of Commerce

Deanne Pilchak, Chair  
of Volunteers

Nancy Kruyt-Chair  
Exhibition committee

Bob Mewburn- Director at  
Large

Dave Sheppard & Ruth  
MacKenzie, Co-Chairs  
Membership Committee

Bryan Stafford-Smith, Chair,  
Education Committee

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Bryan Kanarens - Manager



Daphne Kellett, Editor  
Arts Center News  
We welcome letters and items  
of interest about the development  
of arts in this area.



## Summer Classes at TOSH

Here's a list of summer classes to be held at Tosh. Those interested may obtain more information by calling 752-6133 for more details, or by dropping by during April to pick up a brochure. Early registration is advised.

### Fabric Arts

Textile design with photographs  
Louise Slobodan - June 13. \$65  
Includes supplies  
Create Layered and Textured Fabric  
Jane Garcia - June 10. \$55 plus \$3.50 lab fee.  
Landscapes with Fabric - Dale MacEwan - June 27 & 28 - \$115

### Wood and Willow

Make your own Willow Chair - Simon Yan - May 23 - \$120 All materials provided.

### Turn West 98

Woodworking Symposium Bonnie Klein, Jason Marlow & Frank Sudol - August 8 & 9 - \$275 - Includes lunch each day & welcoming reception.

### Painting Workshops

Price for the painting workshops include GST, welcoming reception and lunch each day. Ask at Tosh office for detailed brochure

Sketching and Painting for Fun - Pauline Pike - June 15-19 - \$365

The Pleasure of Painting - Oil and Acrylic - Kiff Holland - June 8-11 - \$375

Through Other Eyes - Watercolour - Joyce Kamikura - June 22-26 - \$400

Name that Colour - Acrylic Muriel Patterson - July 6-10 \$325

Painting with Light and Colour - Water Colour - Wendy Robson - July 27-31 - \$365

Colour and Light - Oil and Acrylics Bruce Cryer - July 25 & 26 - \$135

### Children's Classes

There will be a full schedule for summer classes for children covering a variety of mediums and crafts. Call Cheryl at 752 6133, or pick up a brochure at the office.

## TOSH History Available

Brad Wylie, former Tosh president, and author of the Qualicum Beach History, has written a 22-page history of how the old school building was saved and restructured into an art gallery. This was written primarily for volunteers, and is available in photo-copy form to volunteers only. It is available in the gift shop for \$1.00 plus taxes. A Cerlox bound version is available to Tosh members for \$2.95, plus taxes, and to non-members for \$4.95 plus taxes.

- Deanne Pilchak

## Seriously Speaking

Insurance premiums paid on the insurance policy naming a charity as beneficiary are treated like a charitable donation. The after-cost tax of the premiums may be as little as 50% of the amount paid, depending on the donor's marginal rate. The benefit to the charity, the sum insured, is potentially far greater than the total of the premiums paid. For more information about this method of planned giving, call Don Irvine of Imperial Life financial at 752 7138, or any financial planner familiar with insurance products.

-Bob Mewburn

## The Art of Golf - A June Event

Who: Anyone who wants to have A Great Day  
Why: FUNdraising for TOSH  
When: Saturday, June 13, 1998 (tee off at 12:30pm)  
Where: Memorial Golf Course, Qualicum  
What: 18 Hole Scramble

Join the FUNdraising. For only \$49 you will have a round of golf, a fabulous dinner, superb prizes, and all the while you will be supporting TOSH. What could be better, you may ask?...Well...if you are lucky/skilled enough to get a hole-in-one, you could be sailing off into the night on a dream cruise. Entry forms will be available on April 15 at TOSH and at Memorial Golf Course. There are a limited number of entries available (75), so DO NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!!

Cut off date is June 8, 1998.

Get in the swing, and join in the ART OF GOLF!

There will be 15 teams, five players on each team, and Shotgun start at 12:30pm. Registration begins at 11:45.

-Joey Legate

*Thanks to our Partners in Art:*

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