

# Grapevine



## President's Message

I wrote these words just after Christmas in Canmore, Alberta. The town is nestled just inside the Rockies west of Calgary, next to Banff National Park. We were there to meet our new grandson who arrived earlier than expected. I left Creemore December 5 on the run and with the Big Snow right on my heels. Thank goodness for Creemore.com's photo gallery which kept us abreast of the ever deepening snow drifts.

Being in Canmore for a few weeks has given me an interesting perspective on the Creemore area, 3,000 kilometers to the east. Both towns have a distinctive founding history (mills and farms for Creemore, coal mining and the CPR for Canmore), both have adapted to enormous change (brewing, arts and retirement life-styles for Creemore, Olympic proving grounds, outdoor adventuring and being a Calgary resort for Canmore), and each has it's own advantages and their opposite. Canmore has the mountains and a vibrant Alberta economy, but a highly transient population, sky-high housing costs, and a lot of young families who need public services. Creemore has a far more manageable growth rate, a more established and diverse population, but faces far greater environmental and political challenges than Canmore does.

The end result of these musings? I am not sure! I do know however, that I am glad that I live in the Purple Hills, that in those hills we have done a better job of preserving our heritage and supporting the arts than most places.

In short, I also wish every reader a happy, fulfilling and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Jim McPherson

## Mark Your Calendars

March 26, 5 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting & Dinner Station on the Green

May 28, 6 p.m.  
Lobster Dinner Station on the Green

## Calling All Members

Recap is up and running for the 30 per cent of our membership who have not renewed their membership yet this year. Yes, that means you. So don't put it off another moment. Go to [www.phahs.ca](http://www.phahs.ca) and click on the membership button or fill in the form enclosed and send a cheque to PHAHS, 10 Caroline Street East, Creemore, Ontario, L0M 1G0.

The fee structure is simple: \$25 for a single, \$40 for a family, \$100 for a benefactor membership or \$200 for a special patron membership. As always it's a great way to spend your money. You'll be helping to promote arts and heritage in our wonderful community through school scholarships, music and art programs, the fall studio tour, tea and history lectures and much more.

## Welcome New Members

Welcome three new PHAHS members David and Anne Logan of Collingwood, Bob and Marlene McLean of Creemore and Marilyn Chenier of Creemore

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# Artist's Profile: David Bruce Johnson



In 1987, after waiting half a life-time, David Bruce Johnson realized that his artistic vocation was as a carver. By 1997, he had won numerous awards at competitions in Canada and the U.S. including the Ward Foundation World Wildfowl Carving Competition, the International Wood Carvers Congress, Canadian Wildlife Carving Competition, and the Canadian Carving Competition. At the start of the new millennium, David decided to pursue his artwork full-time.

"I thoroughly enjoy the creative process; that is, when starting a new piece, I don't need or even want to know what it will look like when it is finished. By giving myself permission to respond to opportunities, I always achieve a much better result. I am also

keenly interested in the question 'What is art?' I believe that to qualify as 'art', the piece should inspire a reaction from the viewer. The viewer should be challenged to ask 'What does this mean? Or what is it?' As soon as a question is posed, there is dialogue that only happens with true art. It must be more than just a pretty object. Fortunately, both wood and stone are media which allow me to be creative and which challenge me to produce 'art'. My life-long ambition is to have a piece of my artwork in Canada's National Art Gallery."

In 2007, David, and his wife Tracey, moved to Creemore where he has become actively involved with the Purple Hills Studio Tour and the Mad and Noisy Gallery.



## A Day of Wine and Horses

On Tuesday November 9, 2010, 23 Purple Hills members and guests attended a wine tasting in the Tanbark Club at the Royal Winter Fair. Sommelier Jamie Drummond did a superb job conducting the wine tasting, which featured award-winning Ontario wines from the Winter Fair wine competition. After the tasting everyone grabbed a quick dinner before attending the evening horse show.

## Ho, Ho, Ho



The Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society created a very different float for this year's parade.

On a Sunday a few weeks before the parade we invited children to join us in the painting of the float. Peter Adams and Suzanne Steeves arranged for about 15 children (aged 5-8) to spend two hours painting in the workshop at Maplestone Gallery. It was great fun thanks to Cheryl MacLaurin and her friend Paola who both have lots of experience working with children!

The float consisted of several wooden cutouts of the (purple) hills and the village created by Peter with his trusty jigsaw. Other elements included balloons, pictures painted by local children, and a



"heritage" barn-like structure at the back of the float. Murray Lackie provided his workshop free of charge so that Peter, David Johnson and Tom Caswell could assemble the float the week before the parade.

Sherri Black fashioned 20 wonderful elf hats from purple felt which she donated to the cause for the kids riding on the float to wear. It was a very cold day with lots of snow but all the kids were good sports as they passed out candies along Mill Street. And our President proudly pulled the wagon with his heritage tractor.

Thanks to Peter Adams, Suzanne Steeves and Cheryl MacLaurin for all their efforts pulling this off.

## Vote First, Schmooze Later

This year, for the first time the Annual General Meeting will be held in the spring, on Saturday, March 26, instead of in the fall as we have usually done. We urge all members to come out and participate in the elections of directors who will serve for the upcoming year. We will also be filling the executive positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. As well, the Treasurer will present financial statements of the financial operations of the PHAHS for the fiscal year ending October 31 2010.

The business portion of the meeting promises to be very brief so that we can get down to the real reason for coming out and that is to socialize with other friends and members. There will be a casual dinner of homemade chicken potpie and raisin/cranberry/chocolate pudding. The \$25 per person price includes dinner and wine. You can order your tickets by mail using the enclosed form or you can register and pay through PayPal via the Purple Hills website ([www.phahs.ca](http://www.phahs.ca)).

The doors at Station on the Green open at 5 p.m. March 26, 10 Caroline St. East, Creemore.

## PHAHS Bulletin Board

**Feb. 10 – 23.**

Selected Mad and Noisy artists will be exhibiting their work at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel on Queen Street West. There will be an opening reception from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, February 11.

This exhibit is made possible by the Gallery's Trillium Grant. It should be a great opportunity not only to expose our local artists to a wider audience but also to publicize the gallery and the village of Creemore.



## The Streets Where You Live

With the Mad River behind you, stand at the end of Mill Street. According to the original village plan, you are at Creemore's centre. Behind you, across the bridge, were to be Nalty and Webster Streets, and further west: Ann, Alice, and William – streets never developed or (like the bridge), years ago washed away. On this north side of the river, however, planned streets were all constructed. To your right (east): George street. Ahead (north): Mill street, crossed east-west by Edward, Elizabeth, Caroline, Francis, and Wellington. Parallel to Mill: on the east, Jane and Mary; on the west, Langtry, Collingwood, and Sarah.

All these names belonged to real people. Our area's first real estate agent, William Nalty, convinced Edward Webster to come to Creemore to erect a mill. Edward planned the village, its street names honouring Webster family history.\* Brother George operated the mill; William and Alice were their parents. Sisters were Jane and Sarah, who became Nalty's wife. Elizabeth Ann was Edward's first wife; Francis, Elizabeth, Caroline, and Wellington their children. Mary was Edward's second wife. The couple were married by the first Anglican minister, Rev. John Langtry. In time all the planned lots were bought; homes and businesses were built.

Today, Mill Street starts at no mill; Collingwood Street no longer goes to Collingwood, but their names reflect their past. One street name changed when Clearview decreed that Stayner and Creemore could not both have Jane streets. Ours was re-christened Library. All other original streets retain their given names – reminders that our village began, and continues, as a human community.

\* Thanks to Webster family descendants and local historian Helen Blackburn.

– Chris Raible

# Upcoming Shows



## February 5 – 28

New Members Show  
Furniture by Brett Lundy,  
Photography by Brian Barrer, Mixed media by Jordan Menicucci, Paintings by Sue Belcher, Pauline Bradshaw and Peer Miehm.

## March 5 – 28

Member Artists  
Group Show  
Things We Have Lost

## April 2 – 25

New Works by oil painter John Anderson and sculptor Katherine Beatty

## April 30 – May 23

New Work by oil painter Peter Dillman

## May 27 – 30

Graduating Stayner Collegiate Institute Student Artists Show

## June 4 – 27

Hot Hot Hot  
Mixed media by Kai Liis McInnis and glasswork by Eleanor Brownridge

## July 2 – 18

New Work by acrylic artist Tanya Zaryski

## July 23 – August 7

Flight Patterns  
Mixed media by Caroline Routh and sculpture by Jim Harkness

For more information call 705-466-5555



## February 4 – March 4

"Red is Best." Artists in a variety of media interpret our February theme with a single work.  
Opening Reception  
Friday February 4,  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

## March 5 – April 1

Graeme Hughson. Works in acrylic that use colour, texture and style to depict dynamic landscapes.  
Opening Reception  
Saturday March 5,  
2 – 4 pm

## April 2 – May 6

Michael Bowness  
Original acrylic birch bark paintings and prints  
Opening Reception  
Saturday April 2,  
2 – 4 pm



## February 5 – March 4

Group show with new work from various local artists

## March 5 to April 30

"Lyrical" Art inspired by music

## April (to be confirmed)

A special selection of mosaics with proceeds going to Doctors without Borders



### Masthead

Art Director: Anita Lauer  
Managing Editor: SueAnn Wickwire  
Editor: Cecily Ross  
Contributing editors: Chris Raible

### Board of Directors

President - Jim McPherson  
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Past President – Paul Vorstermans

### Other Board Members

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Miriam Vince David Bruce Johnson