



rideau lakes  
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

*The Paint-In*

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association Newsletter

Winter 2023/24

MATERIALS CAN BE PROVIDED

## New year to bring lots of workshops

Happy New Year to all RLAA members and what a year is ahead of us.

The workshop schedule for the coming year is very exciting, notes workshop co-ordinator Deborah Jodoin, with many of our membership providing the expertise.

"We had David Gilmore do a workshop in October focusing on architectural rendering and painting with watercolour and ink. The workshop was very successful and so informative."

RLAA treasurer Riley Garner is lined up to lead a workshop in March. No dates or details are confirmed yet but the workshop will focus on using both acrylic and oil and working with both to experience their similarities and differences.

Later in the year, Aili Kurtis, who conducted a very successful workshop

last year on portraits, has agreed to come back and focus on painting with pastels. "Aili has probably forgotten more than I will ever know about pastels so I am signed up first on the list," notes Deborah.

### BARB AND MARGARET

In September, Barb Sohn will be back to do a workshop on "something different" and Margaret Martin has offered to do a workshop on interiors.

After travelling with Margaret to Ireland last year, Deborah says the few tips she gave her on photographing interiors have improved her photography skills.

Also on the agenda for 2024, Judy Hollinger will do a workshop focused on setting creativity free with mixed media.

If participants are not in a position to

supply their own materials the organizers will share materials with them.

"I encourage everyone to explore alternate mediums and methods and your chosen work will improve," says Deborah.

Workshop costs will be \$150 for members and \$200 for non- members.

## President's Message

*"The colour of springtime is flowers; the colour of winter is in our imagination."* Terri Guillemets

It seems strange to talk about winter coming from someone who leaves it every year, but I have always enjoyed the beauty of snow, light glistening and rainbows of colours through ice.

There are special colours we see in winter that dare our imagination to believe it possible and for artists it is that challenge to bring out this beauty.

I wish I had that ability, like so many of you do, to bring out that beauty on paper or canvas for us to enjoy and appreciate.

Winter gives us the time to slow down, to get caught up on those projects that we tried to squeeze in between

spring, summer and fall activities that seemed to occupy our lives.

There is also the hustle and bustle of Christmas that brings family and friends together to celebrate the season.

I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and happy holiday season and are looking forward to what challenges a new year can bring.

Enjoy the peace of winter; may it bring renewal and energy to your lives and inspiration to produce artwork that will be appreciated by our group and our many followers.

Take care.

**Sherry Rogers**  
RLAA President

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# ROB MALONEY'S ESSAY GIVES INSIGHT TO BC PAINTER'S LIFE

## How Toni Onley handled Canada's size

*(Editor's note: it is becoming clear that our group of artists is a treasure trove of experience and ideas and Rob Maloney is no exception. Challenged to provide some insight into what influences we have all enjoyed over the years, Rob shared a paper he wrote 30 years ago as part of his Fine Arts studies at St Lawrence College.*

*His in-depth analysis explores the history and work of artist Toni Onley, who was born in the UK but moved to Canada in 1948. Originally living in Brampton, he moved to Vancouver and then to Victoria in British Columbia. Onley found Canada's landscape a little different. Here are some extracts from Rob's paper. A link to the full text (unfortunately too big for our newsletter) can be found at the end of this article.*

The landscape of Canada, in this case rural Ontario, presented him (Onley) with a new challenge – how to paint it! His view of Canada “was that of an unpaintable immensity”.

He turned to Canadian artists for help, but he admitted that nothing in his background prepared him for painting in such an opaque way as the Group of Seven, though he admitted that he liked

the way Tom Thomson painted light and the way David Milne handled watercolours.”

Between 1951 and 1963 Onley taught and worked at a variety of jobs. In 1957 he had the opportunity to further his training in Mexico at the *Instituto Allende*. For Onley, the Mexican landscape was as foreign to him as the Canadian landscape of Ontario had been a few years earlier. This time however, he did not come to terms with the local landscape, and he proceeded to tear up many of the paintings he finished during this time.

He used the pieces of the torn-up paintings in collages as a form of abstract expressionism (which is defined as more of an attitude than a style with its proponents valuing “psychic self expression”).

The term had its origins in the 1920's as a description of Kandinsky's work. It stayed in vogue until the mid-1950's and was used to describe the works of many disparate painters with the common thread being the concept of self expression.

Many of the paintings of this type involve forms, action and colour. (Canadian examples include the work of Riopelle and Borduas.) Onley worked in this area of abstraction for

ten years, creating both collages and paintings. From examining Onley's landscapes, the elements of simplicity, spontaneity and asymmetry are obvious.

Whether these are a deliberate attempt to incorporate these elements into his work or whether this is simply the parallel of a technique, or more properly a point of view, is not clear.

*Rob Maloney has been an RLAA member since 2014 and was a long-time member of the South Grenville Guild of Fine Art. He is a regular attendee at the weekly paints-in.*

*His full essay can be found here: ([www.bbcperth.ca/robononley.pdf](http://www.bbcperth.ca/robononley.pdf)).*

## Events

**January 12:** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.

**January 20:** Meet the Artist—Manuel Mathieu, National Gallery of Canada. [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)

**NOTE: There is no RLAA meeting in February**

**February 3:** Meet the Artist—Marc Seguin, National Gallery of Canada. [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)

**February 10:** Meet the Artist—Aida Vosoughi, National Gallery of Canada. [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)

**February 24:** Meet the Artist—Patrick Coutu, National Gallery of Canada. [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)

**March 14:** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.

**March 16:** Meet the Artist—Marc-Antoine K. Phaneuf, National Gallery of Canada. [www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)

**April 11:** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.



Harrison Lake, BC. - Wallace Galleries, Calgary—<https://wallacegalleries.com>



## CONNECTING PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Van Gogh Path ensures a starry night

Imagine a place where technology and art are mixed to create an innovative place where cyclists can ride safely and be inspired at the same time.

The Van Gogh Path is the light-emitting bicycle route that glows at night. It is made of thousands of twinkling stones, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting.

Part of the Smart Highway Project, the Van Gogh Path is 600 metres long and is located in Eindhoven and Nuenen, the Netherlands, where the artist lived from 1883 to 1885.

### POTATO EATERS

It connects many sites from his life. Not only did he paint his first well-known work, *The Potato Eaters*, here; he also made paintings of the Opwettense and Collse windmills which the path runs between. It is part of a larger cycle touring route designed to include many Van Gogh-related sites. ([www.holland.com/global/tourism/get-](http://www.holland.com/global/tourism/get-inspired/current/van-gogh.htm)



[inspired/current/van-gogh.htm](http://www.holland.com/global/tourism/get-inspired/current/van-gogh.htm)).

Dutch artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde and his team connect people and technology in installations that improve daily life in urban environments, and aim to spark the

imagination and fight the climate crisis.

According to the group's website, "clean air, clean water, clean energy, and clean space" are their values, and "light is their language".

The Van Gogh Path celebrates this cultural heritage and connects it with innovation. The path charges during the day and glows at night.

### WONDER AND INSPIRATION

"It creates a place of wonder and inspiration, but is also an enhancement of public safety and local tourism."

The various initiatives under the Smart Highway banner are described as "interactive and sustainable roads of tomorrow by Mr. Roosegaarde and Heijmans Infrastructure.

For more information visit [www.studioroosegaarde.net/info](http://www.studioroosegaarde.net/info).

## French artist's cardboard castle

A huge building made entirely from cardboard boxes popped up briefly last August in Newcastle city centre, UK. Designed by French visual artist Olivier Grossetête, the towering building, which was erected without any machinery, was part of the new Novum Summer Festival and designed to be quickly taken down after the festival ended. The structure, was 14 metres tall and was built outside the city's civic centre. The installation was one of a number of art events in the festival, which was making its debut in the city. Hundreds of volunteers, including children, helped to make more than 1,500 parts over several days. (BBC photo)



# Baileys' drawings appear in *Colored Pencil* magazine - twice!

Last year, RLAA members Brian and Leane Bailey had their artwork selected to be published in Ann Kullberg's *Colored Pencil* magazine "CP Hidden Treasures 7", after entering a contest to find the top coloured pencil artists.

Leane's "Sadie" dog portrait and Brian's drawing entitled "Red-Tailed Hawk" were each selected for inclusion

in the magazine. And in the next issue they were included again.

They were thrilled to be selected a second time, with their "Chippy" and "Loons" featured in her next edition of *CP*

*Hidden Treasures 8*, published this past fall. See photos below. The magazine is available on Amazon. (Supplied photos)

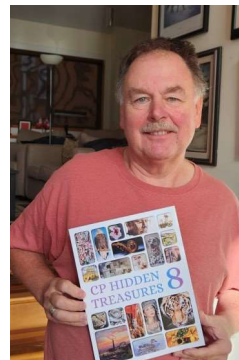
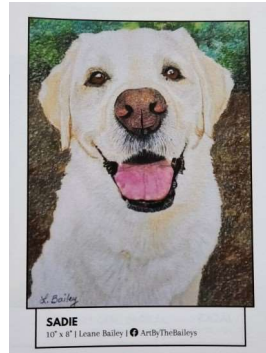
## Briefly...

### Permanent sign coming For Paint The Summer

The RLAA is getting a permanent sign at the Westport Arena to promote our annual Paint the Summer show. Fred Fowler advises the new sign will cost \$300 per year. He will be chairing a meeting in January for PTS 2024.

### We now have 92 members

RLAA Membership Coordinator Kay Wallace reports that two new members have signed up, bringing the total membership up to 92. A very warm welcome to Carol Huff Winter and Kim Fournier.



## The fine print

### Learn more about

### RLAA activities at our website:

**[www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com)**

(past newsletters can be found at:  
**[www.rideaulakesartists.com/newsletters](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com/newsletters)**)

**...and our Facebook page:**

**[www.facebook.com/rideaulakesartists/](https://www.facebook.com/rideaulakesartists/)**

***The Paint-In** is the official newsletter of the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association. Our activities include oils, watercolours, acrylics, and other mediums. We hold our monthly meetings at the North Crosby Hall, south of Westport. They are scheduled on the second Friday of each month at 1p.m., except for the month of February when no general meeting is held. For an up-to-date monthly meeting and paint-in schedule please check our website at [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com).*

### Advertising

*Business card ad (3.5 ins by 2 ins)  
- \$25 for one year*

*Display ad (3 ins by 6 ins) - \$50 for one year.*

*If you have workshops, seminars etc., that you would like to advertise in this newsletter we have a one-time cost of \$10 per ad. To submit articles to the Paint-In, or for more information on advertising, please contact newsletter editor Ben Bennett at [bbc@rideau.net](mailto:bbc@rideau.net).*



# Out and About

## THE GALLERY GALS

During the months of November and December, the Streve gallery in downtown Perth hosted three local artists: RLAA members Donna McPhail, seen top right; Claire Jacobs, middle right, and Kristi Bird, bottom right. The trio called themselves “The Gallery Gals” and they had an equally original name for the art show itself, calling it: “A Conspiracy of Creativity”.



## Fall art show at Heritage House

A total of 48 paintings from 17 area artists participated in the annual fall art show at the Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls. Here, Heritage Interpreter Ayden Tucker-Cormier adjusts two paintings from Brockville artist Brenda Clarke.

*(Photo by Ben Bennett)*