



rideau lakes  
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

*The Paint-In*

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association

Spring 2026

BOOK NOW

## RLAA offers a full line-up of workshops

By *Chris Dickson*  
Workshop Coordinator

RLAA members have a choice of workshops this year. Here is a list of those confirmed to date. All are at the North Crosby Hall.

April 18 & 19, Judy Hollinger will be leading a workshop on portraiture. This workshop will give us lots of opportunity to practise both in charcoal and paint, with the objective of producing one finished portrait from a reference photo.

The cost is \$150 for members and \$200 for non-members.

On May 2nd, Barb Sohn will give us all the gift of an inexpensive one-day workshop. This class is designed to introduce students to some techniques of Barb's intuitive approach to interpreting landscape and water in acrylic paints. Because Barb is gifting this workshop to

the RLAA the cost for the day is just \$35. and is for members only. This workshop is now fully booked.

On June 6 & 7, we welcome Tori Smyth from Tri-Art for a two-day workshop where participants will learn and experiment with Tri-Arts full selection of mediums while they paint spring florals.

Tori is currently the Education Director for Art Noise in Kingston, and works closely with Tri-Art Manufacturing, handling a lot of its outreach education. She tells us she is thoroughly enamoured with Tri-Art's acrylic paints and acrylic mediums and uses them for Art Noise's education programming, and in her own personal practice.

During this workshop with Tori, participants will get an introduction to some of Tri-Art's acrylic paint lines and its acrylic mediums, and learn how they

can use these mediums in their own practice and to level up their acrylic-painting skills.

Working with Tori's personal style of painting, participants will start with some floral inspiration to create a painting through the weekend, using acrylic paints and acrylic mediums to experiment with colours, textures, and more. The cost is \$150 for members and \$200 for non-members.

Those who would like to sign up for any or all of these workshops, please email [artbychrisdickson@gmail.com](mailto:artbychrisdickson@gmail.com) first, then e-transfer the fee to [RLAA.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:RLAA.treasurer@gmail.com) to reserve their spot.

Registration is limited so don't delay!

### President's Message

*"A truly decent person"*

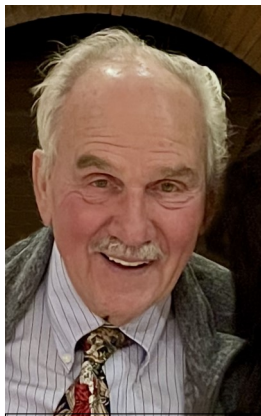
As I write my president's entry to this newsletter I am still so very sad about the passing of Ron Veh in March.

A RLAA regular at meetings and paint-ins, Ron who was a truly decent person.

He will be missed by so many people. He was a gifted artist and was always cheerful and helpful.

A celebration of Ron's life will be held in the Family Centre of the Blair & Son Funeral

Home, 15 Gore Street West, Perth on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (For more detail see page 4.)



Ron Veh  
(Blair & Son website)

We are hopefully going to see an end to this long winter that has interfered with many of our paint-ins and even saw the cancellation of one of our monthly meetings. We look forward to the spring and return of our summer members including our past-president, Sherry Rogers.

There are some exciting workshops coming up this year which Chris Dickson will be outlining at our meetings (see above).

Also, it's just five months before our primary summer show, *Paint The Summer*. We will soon be starting preparation for that.

Deborah Jodoin  
RLAA President

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Briefly

# A new gallery is opening in Westport

A new art gallery opens later this spring in the Village of Westport.

Operated by a new RLAA member Susan Peters, it is called Harbourside Gallery, and is close to the corner of Main and Rideau streets.

Susan notes there is a gallery and a store, in a bright space dedicated to showcasing original artwork — especially that of local artists.

“The building is still being renovated and we don’t get the keys until the end of March. We are just in the process of getting signage for the outside. Once we are moved in we’ll come up with an opening date, probably late May.”

Being located on the waterfront with

expansive harbour-facing windows and abundant natural light, the gallery is designed to let artwork shine and to welcome visitors.

The exhibition space features approximately 44 linear feet of wall space plus a dedicated studio area, making it ideal for diverse media.

In addition to curated and themed exhibitions and solo shows, Harbourside Gallery plans to support painting events, workshops, artist-led demonstrations, at the gallery and in the area.

“To help build and connect with our creative community, we have launched an Artist Registry,” says Susan. There is a growing list of local artists who are

interested in exhibiting in future shows and events, collaborating on programming, or offering workshops at the gallery.

“Whether you’re an emerging artist beginning your exhibition journey, or an established creator with a body of work you want to share, we’d love to learn more about you. Before we officially open I thought we could have a drop in for local artists.”

For more information visit the gallery’s website: [www.harboursidegallery.com](http://www.harboursidegallery.com) and click Artist Registry on the menu.

## Who’s interested in a one-day pop-up art sale in early August?

The owners of the Perth General Store on Rogers Road are willing to host a one-day pop-up art show on Saturday, August 8 and have invited RLAA artists to participate. To assess the level of interest about this opportunity a presentation will be made at the April 10 RLAA general meeting.

Full details about this event are being determined and participants will be informed as they are decided.

As of press time for this newsletter, here is some information, to be

confirmed.

There appears to be room for from six to 15 artists, who will be responsible for providing their own tent, grids etc.

There will be no cost to the artists who participate but if they would like the store to conduct the sale, there would be a 10% commission charge.

Part of the parking lot will be blocked off for the set-up. The Perth General Store will advertise the event on its social media pages. Food and drinks will be available for sale inside the store.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## When Diane met Sarah

As a new RLAA member, I was still meeting new people at my first Christmas Potluck Lunch, and that included Sarah Hale.

I was tongue-tied as I didn’t know she was a member and I already had one of her art pieces. But I finally told her and she was curious about what piece it was. I described the piece that featured children skating on an ice rink.

A lifelong friend had found it in Haliburton and picked it up for me because, as a child, she and her brothers had skated in our back yard rink in the 60’s. I loved it because of all the childhood memories it represented to me. As Sarah and I talked about how she made it, she also told me it was from her early series of ice rinks, and that

now she had discovered a way to achieve more of her artistic vision. It was so interesting and I was so happy to meet her.

Later, when we all picked an anonymously wrapped gift from an RLAA artist, I was thrilled to unwrap one of Sarah’s new pieces. In fact, I nearly cried because the friend who had given me that first piece by Sarah was also the friend who nudged me towards taking up watercolours that began my journey to joining the RLAA.

I texted her when I got home and she was also thrilled and wanted to know all about Sarah. Memories, art, friendship, picking up a paintbrush, and joining RLAA had come full circle!

*Diane Strickland*

## Events

**May 8 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.  
[www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com).

Speaker: Joanne Kells.

**June 12 :** RLAA general meeting and picnic, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com).

**Speaker: Gary Barnett on websites (originally planned for March).**

**July 10 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.  
[www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Update on *Paint The Summer*.

**August 14 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.  
[www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Members’ flea market/swap sale of art supplies.

**August 22-23:** *Paint The Summer*, Westport Arena.

**September 11 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Speaker: Linda Coulter, fabric artist.

**October 9 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Speaker to be determined.

**November 13 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Art rodeo.

**December 11 :** RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). Christmas lunch and gift exchange.

# Traditional versus water-mixable oils

By Barb Rielly and Sue Gibson

Oil paint is oil paint, right? Well, yes and no. This article comes as a response to the many times that people have asked what the difference is between traditional oil paints (TO) and water-mixable oil paints (WMO), and to try to correct some of the common misunderstandings. We hope that this article will help you understand what makes oil paints so wonderful and what form of oil paint works best for you.

## LUMINOSITY

Let us say right off the start that we love our oil paints. Oil paints have a luminosity that is a joy. The colour you apply is the colour you get for years to come. We love the way oils can be blended and buffed, glazed and highlighted and the sheer beauty of what we can produce with these glorious paints.

Yes, patience is a must when working with oils because curing (drying) can take quite a while and impatience can end in frustration. Thin over thick and fat over lean apply to all oil paints and are ignored at your peril. Even though Susan works in traditional oils and Barb works in water-mixable oils both our works are real oil paintings. As the two of us talked about writing this article it became clear that our types of oils have more in common than their differences.

Both types of paints are available at art stores all over, though there are far more manufacturers of traditional than water-mixable oils, which can be a little harder to get and may have fewer colours. Both come in a range of price and quality points; oils can be a bit pricey but they go a long way. All paints are made of pigments in a binding agent, in this case usually

linseed\* or safflower oil. Both use additives to change how the paint behaves. Curing time is roughly similar. Touch-dry varnish (Susan loves Gamvar) works with both, as do later-stage spray varnishes (Golden Archival Spray Varnish for Barb). Paint clean-up with traditional oils can use solvents or one can clean brushes first with vegetable oil, followed by soap and water. Cleanup with water-mixable oils is soap and water. So far oil is oil.

## THE DIFFERENCE

So what's the difference? Water-mixable manufacturers alter a molecule in the linseed oil binder which makes the oil water-soluble; this single difference drives all other aspects of their use. Traditional oils have been around for over 500 years and have a proven durability. Water-mixable oils came on the scene in the

late 1990s so they can't yet make such a claim (but Barb is optimistic). Both oil types use a range of additives\*\*\* that change how the paint behaves, for example, extending or shortening open time, altering gloss, increasing depth, and glazing. Traditional oils use solvents to thin, and oils to fatten — many of these products are petroleum-based and were quite toxic in the past, but today there are far less toxic options.

Water mixable oils can use water\*\* as thinner but they require additives made specifically to work with the modified linseed oil. There are a few additives that both can use and there is, for both, a workable range of non-toxic additives out there for those with chemical sensitivities.

Experience shows you can mix and

match water-mixable paints and additives with no issues (so far). Can you mix traditional oils with water-mixable oils? You can add a bit of one to the other in a pinch but no amount of

When Life Hands You Lemons (Barb Rielly)



Pelican's Silent Echo (Sue Gibson)

water-mixable oils will make traditional oils water soluble and frankly the mix can be sticky and messy.

So which type to choose? Where you paint, chemical sensitivities, and what you want to spend might influence your selection. Oils take patience and they take time and nothing really speeds that up a whole lot. Every medium has its positives and its negatives but for us the drawbacks of oils are far outweighed by the joy they give us and the satisfaction we take in our results.

We know you have more questions but we have to watch the word count. Why not borrow some from a friend and give them a try!

\*Just a note: Barb has tried wax-based W/M oils as well but has not included them in this discussion.

\*\* Water works as a thinner with WMO but the mix will be cloudy until the water evaporates- usually within hours.

\*\*\*Barb has put together a list of common additives and uses with which the authors are familiar (email [brielliart@gmail.com](mailto:brielliart@gmail.com) for a copy).

# Ron Veh's celebration of life set for April 25 in Perth

*(The following is taken from the Blair & Son Funeral Home website.)*

It is with great sadness that the family of Ron (Rainer) Veh, 83, announce his sudden passing at the Ottawa Heart Institute on March 15, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne of 53 years, and his children Erika Susan Veh (Mark Knodell), Peter Leonhard Frederik Veh (Elizabeth Doan), and Christopher Rainer Veh (Krystal Viau), as well as his sister Ulrike Veh (Guy Spence). Ron was pre-deceased by his brother Rolf Veh, and his parents Leo and Margot Veh. Ron was a proud and loving father and wonderful Opa to his six grandchildren.

Ron was born in Stuttgart, Germany and came with his family to Toronto, Canada in 1957. After completing business and drafting courses, along with evening classes at the Ontario School of Art, he began his career with the T. Eaton Company in Toronto, where he met his future wife Suzanne (Bodtger).

In the mid 1970's, Ron and Suzanne moved to the town of Russell, Ontario where Ron developed a successful career as a Designer and Building Contractor. He worked throughout the Ottawa area, specializing in the renovation of older homes in established neighbourhoods.

They spent 39 wonderful years in Russell, raising their family and making life-long friends. Ron had a deep appreciation for the outdoors and family life. He enjoyed cottage living, winter skiing and summer boating and swimming. A passionate artist, he pursued painting throughout his life and continued taking occasional courses at the Ottawa School of Art.

In retirement, Ron and Suzanne moved to a lakefront home in Sharbot Lake and in 2019 they moved to Perth. He remained active in the local arts community as a member of the Rideau Lakes Artist Association and his paintings can be found in local venues throughout the area.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Blair & Son Funeral Home in Perth. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Ron's life will be held in the Family Centre of the Blair & Son Funeral Home, 15 Gore Street West, Perth on Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be a "Sharing of Memories" at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Ottawa Heart Institute would be appreciated.

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## Briefly...

### New source for art supplies in Perth

The Conscious Canvas Gallery in Perth is now offering art supplies in addition to its other services.

The gallery is located at 40A North Street, Perth, just down the street from Images.

There is a wide selection of acrylic/oil/watercolour paint, wood panels, canvases, paper/pad substrates, mediums, markers, and more, sourced from the Art Factory in Renfrew.

For more information visit:  
[www.consciouscanvascollective.com](http://www.consciouscanvascollective.com).

### Update your web pictures

The RLAA's website coordinator Jessica Godin reminds members that they are entitled to their own page on our website with up to five images and an artist statement or bio. Contact her at [jessicalynnegodin@gmail.com](mailto:jessicalynnegodin@gmail.com)

### New venues coordinator

Shaun Seaman is stepping down as RLAA venues coordinator. Donna McPhail will be taking over this position.

## The fine print

*The Paint-In is the official newsletter of the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association.*

*RLAA activities include pastels, oils, watercolours, acrylics, and other mediums.*

*We hold our monthly meetings (except February) at the North Crosby Hall, south of Westport. For an up-to-date monthly meeting and paint-in schedule please check our website at [www.rideaulakesartists.com](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com). To submit articles or information on workshops, seminars etc., please contact newsletter editor Ben Bennett at [bbc@rideau.net](mailto:bbc@rideau.net).*

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