



rideau lakes
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

The Paint-In

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association Newsletter

Winter 2024/2025

ALREADY BOOKED FOR NEXT YEAR

Golly. Holly Jolly brings in lots of lolly

Holly Jolly is back—and how!

The RLAA's holiday-themed Holly Jolly Art Show and Sale was held December 7th and 8th at the Perth Legion, selling almost 400 items, with a total value of almost \$13,000. And to top it off, the collection for the Table Community Food Centre brought in \$400 in cash and three boxfuls of non-perishable food items.

It was the first Holly Jolly show since the event was held at Algonquin College back in 2017.

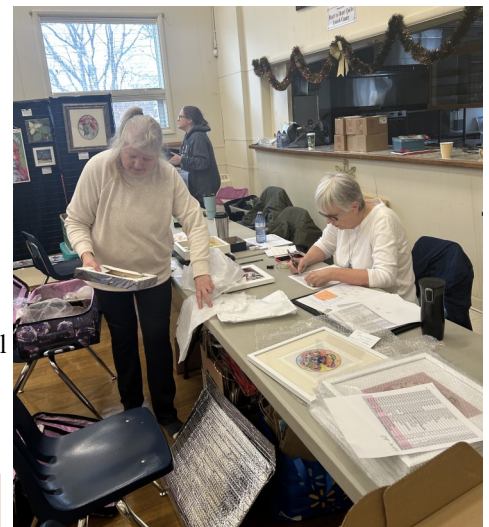
In all, 35 artists participated, offering a

wide range of art, including original paintings, limited-edition prints and cards, hand-made jewellery, pottery, textiles and other unique gifts. All items were priced under \$200.

About 400 local residents and visitors attended the show.

There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees and artists alike about the unique show set-up, which was "boutique style", as opposed to individual booths for each artist.

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Dayle VanAlstine and Barb Jordan busy themselves preparing for the Holly Jolly show at the Legion in Perth.

(Photo by Cathy Pruefer.)

President's Message

And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."

Rainer Maria Rilke

Welcome to 2025. As we bid goodbye to 2024 we could reflect on our many successes of the past year, as well as our tragic losses of members through the battle of age- related illnesses and sudden, unexpected deaths. Their presence will be sorely missed.

In turn, we celebrate an amazing *Holly Jolly* show in December; congratulations to the show committee members for all their tireless work and overcoming some unexpected difficulties.

It was enthusiastically embraced by the public and I think it exceeded the committee's expectations, a direct result of its efforts and the exceptional talent of this association.

We also experienced another amazing *Paint the Summer* show in August,

reflecting the varied styles and experience of our members and the enthusiasm of our guests.

Our Wednesday paint-ins have been so well attended that at times we almost ran out of tables and we hope this continues into the new year.

With these events behind us we look forward to a year of discovery, comradery, social events, exciting guests, workshops and shows.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and inspired 2025.

WITH SORROW

2024 was a sad year with the loss of four talented artists who contributed greatly to the success and longevity of the Association.

Jim Rowat and Hanna Olzewski, who some of you will not remember, were two of our founding members.

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Rob



Lots of sales, lots of folks at Holly Jolly 2024

Holly Jolly —continued from Page One

Holly Jolly's participating artists (and several family members) volunteered for various tasks throughout the show, rather than manning a booth for the two days.

Attendees were free to wander and view the art at their leisure, and could ask one of the volunteers walking the floor if they wanted help finding anything in particular.

The 2024 Holly Jolly committee comprised Chris Dixon, Jessica Godin,

Judy Hollinger, Barb Jordan, Margaret Martin, Cathy Pruefer and Dayle VanAlstine.

The committee has already booked the Perth Legion for the weekend of November 29-30, 2025.

(Photo by Barb Jordan,)

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

The lady with the mike in hand is Leanne Cusack, representing Lepine Apartments, seen here interviewing RLAA member Robin Laffier after the unveiling of this magnificent painting, which was commissioned for the company's new Cristina Apartments in Smiths Falls. Robin gave an interesting history of this particular train, and was pleased with the positive reaction from the 50-60 people who attended the October 29 event. After the unveiling, everyone was invited to view the new gallery of original paintings by RLAA members. The co-ordinators of the gallery, Susan Walters and Susan Leslie were thrilled with the exciting comments from all the visitors who took their time to view all the beautiful paintings. It was a wonderful gala evening sponsored by The Cristina Apartments in Smith Falls and very much enjoyed by all!

(Story by Susan Walters; photo by Deborah Jodoin.)



The fine print

***The Paint-In** is the official newsletter of the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association. The editor is Ben Bennett; senior correspondent: Deborah Jodoin. RLAA activities include 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. To submit articles or information on workshops, seminars etc., please contact newsletter editor Ben Bennett at bbc@rideau.net.

FUN AND GIFTS AT THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

About 50 RLAA artists and spouses enjoyed the Christmas lunch at North Crosby Hall in December. Carolyn Buchanan entertained the group with "a Christmas rap" and the gift exchange is always popular. See here pointing is Jewel Denison (a new RLAA member), and Lois Klatt, in red, looking on. *(Photos by Cathy Pruefer.)*

Paint-ins and workshops update

By Deborah Jodoin

We continue to gather on Wednesday afternoon and enjoy the warm, creative atmosphere of fellow artists.

We now have supplies available for folks to use which started with a generous donation from our recently deceased and much loved Rob Maloney.

We have also had a number of paintings sold to fellow Paint-in artists, like my purchase of Lydia' Robbins' painting (see inset) - her first sale!.

Workshops during the fall were interesting and much appreciated.

Judy Hollinger did a one-day creative workshop and on another occasion we had Claire Jacobs do a demonstration in the morning and in the afternoon we had two professional artists in to do critiques of paintings brought in by members.

For 2025 we will have a two-day workshop with Barb Jordan focusing on photography for artists and David Gilmore will be doing a workshop focusing on figurative studies in watercolour.

Details will be coming in soon.



(Supplied photo)

Events

January 10 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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(No RLAA meeting in February.)

March 14: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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April 11: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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May 9: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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June 13: RLAA summer picnic, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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July 11: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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August 8: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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September 12 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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October 10: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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November 14: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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December 12 : RLAA Christmas luncheon, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
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MORE MURALS BY THE BAILEYS



Leane and Brian Bailey recently finished this mural for North Frontenac Township. It's called "Look Mama!!", and will be installed along with four other artists' murals at boat launches in the township. The Baileys' mural will be located at their local Sunday Lake Boat Launch. This is the sixth mural the Baileys have done for the municipality, represented here by Councillor Stephanie Regent-LeSage, who was in charge of the 2024 Mural Project. It was done on 4' x 8' marine plywood in acrylic paints, and coated with four layers of varathane. *(Supplied photo.)*



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BOTH REGULARS AT THE PAINT-INS

Remembering Riley Garner and Rob Maloney

By Fred Fowler

A few years ago, one of our members, Riley Garner, stepped up and became the treasurer of the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association. This was about the time I was just stepping or about to step away from being the president, after six years. Also we were reviving Paint The Summer Art Show in the Village of Westport.

Both the RLAA and PTS were very demanding on anyone taking on the treasurer position. Riley looked after the RLAA and assisted with PTS finances.

What he did financially for the RLAA was beyond belief and all the reports, budget items and other things were laid out for all of us to easily understand.

When we needed more show equipment, he would arrange and get it to us at reasonable costs.

Riley also attended most of the weekly Paint-in's with his partner, Maureen O'Brien, both very talented artists.

President's report—continued from Page One

Both Jim and Hanna had been very active participants in many shows, were great supporters of our paint-ins, shows and workshops and were outstanding artists whose talent grew and thrived over the years.

While Jim had not been an active participant since COVID, his love for painting continued and he is fondly remembered as a gentle, enthusiastic and friendly member.

Hanna was very much an active member, even throughout her illness, and attended as many paint-ins as she was able over the past year.

Her joy of creation was so contagious, she always had a smile on her face and a friendly word of encouragement.

Riley Garner, our treasurer for the past few years; his sudden and tragic death shocked and saddened us all.

Riley had been a very active member, attending our paint-ins on a regular basis,

Riley would be working on two or more pieces at a time and would also stop to chat about what he was doing. The end product was another excellent master piece.

He didn't stop there.

At meetings and when other tasks came up, there was Riley. This thin guy about my age, lifting stuff and moving it about like it was nothing.

He would arrange for vehicles to move show equipment or put chairs and tables away.

PLEASANT LOOK

All the while he had a pleasant look on his face. I would ask "Are you OK with that?" He would wink and had a funny little smirk on his face. "Ya, we're good."

Sometimes one gets a feeling that's not always so. I learned a little about his health and that he had a few rough years. He was looking forward to an operation, getting it all straightened out, ... then he was gone.

and he worked very closely with Fred Fowler in all aspects of the *Paint the Summer* shows (see above). He was a very talented and accomplished artist with so much yet to offer.

Finally, Rob Maloney had been an inspiring member for many years, his artistic knowledge and ability so evident in his many, varied styles.

Even throughout his health struggles he found new and inventive ways to express his talent and encourage others.

These members showed the heart and soul upon which our association was founded and has grown through the years and their contributions will be appreciated and reflected in all those who were touched by their presence.

**Sherry Rogers,
RLAA President**

Over the past few years, I got to know him better and appreciated his contribution to the RLAA.

At Riley's Celebration of Life in November I learned he was well liked by many, many more people. I know why.

ROB MALONEY

Rob Maloney has been a member of the RLAA for a very long time.

In the past few years since Covid he has been regularly attending the Wednesday Paint-ins. His wife Cait would drop him off with all his painting material. Rob enjoyed the paint-ins and would do all sorts of free-flowing art.

He was a very dedicated artist and had all sorts of art material to work with.

But, Rob had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for a long time and it was difficult for him because he lost some of his motor skills.

But that didn't stop his spirit, he would carry on and paint what he could. Everyone enjoyed him at the paint-ins.

Every once in a while Cait would ask me to drop him home because she would not be able to pick him up from the paint-in on time.

HAVE A BEER

I gladly obliged. Rob and I would have a beer or two and chat about art or some of things he's done over the years until Cait got home. When she got home we would chat some more. I really enjoyed my visits with him and Cait.

Unfortunately, over the past few months, Rob's condition became worse and he had to be hospitalized. All of us at the paint-in missed him and were very worried about him.

Cait kept us up to date about Rob's condition. Finally his sickness took over and then he was gone.

Now there is a void at the paint-ins. We have one of his last paintings hanging on the wall and every now and then I'll look at it and wish I could have another beer with him.

(A celebration of Rob's life is planned for the spring.)