

On Thursday December 15th, 2011, the Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC) held its 8th Annual General Meeting.

Unfortunately, copious Yule-tide events kept many members from attending – a clear indication that September is a better month for an AGM (notwithstanding last December's balmy weather).

Outgoing Chair, Edward Falkenberg, gave a short overview of the genesis and development of DWAC, placing major emphasis on DWAC's mandate for Durham Region residents:

- Education (in all visual, literary and performing arts)
- Arts Classes
- Presentation of students' work (to further stimulate the general public's interest in local students and practitioners of all the arts)
- Presentation of Durham Region's visual, literary and performing artists' work – bringing the artists 'out of the studio' into the public domain

Going into the future, DWAC has developed recurring, strong programs, such as the two-day **DWAC Studio Tour** that opens up the studios of participating artists in Durham Region to all visitors. The next edition of the Studio Tour – organized by Steven Frank – will take place in the weekend of **April 28-29, 2012**.

For more information, check out www.dwac.ca.

During the 2011 summer and fall, DWAC participated in the Pickering Farmers Market with a DWAC booth, partnering with Pickering Town Centre, and hosting two or three artists every week.

In the coming year, this initiative will be further strengthened – in Pickering and elsewhere in Durham Region – increasing DWAC's public image and presence in the community to promote the arts.

An important change in 2011, boosting DWAC's public presence came when DWAC took over the ownership and management of the Pickering Potters' Studio – now the DWAC Pottery and Art Studio – at the Pickering Recreation Complex. While continuing the pottery classes and pottery studio facilities (the Pickering Potters' Guild continues its presence in the DWAC Pottery and Art Studio), DWAC is now also offering a growing range of (advanced) visual arts classes at the Pickering Recreation Complex, moving into the next phase of the DWAC mandate while coming into closer contact with large sections of the Durham Region public.

As the DWAC Treasurer confirmed in his annual report, we are on the right track: in its first year of operation, the DWAC Pottery and Art Studio was able to break even.

In keeping with this new impetus, DWAC participated at the First Durham Tourism Summit & Durham Art of Transition Creative Awards event, held on November 25th, 2011 at the UOIT/Durham College Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre.

Incidentally, out-going DWAC Chair, Edward Falkenberg, designed the Durham Art of Transition Creative Awards (DATCA) sculpture. For more information, check out www.artoftransition.ca.

Judge David Stone, the Chair of the Durham West Arts Centre Foundation – the “bricks & mortar” side of DWAC – filled the membership in on the exciting developments of the past year.

Webb Management Services Inc. of New York City performed a Feasibility and Business Case Assessment for an Arts Centre in Pickering, and concluded the need as well as the feasibility of the facility.

This positive outcome authored by one of North America’s leading consultants, opens up the next phase: the Capital Feasibility Study, which will determine the final phase of building the Durham West Arts Centre.

To sum up: DWAC is entering an exciting and crucial year with many new developments waiting to be unveiled.

All members of the new DWAC Board of Directors are open to any suggestions you wish to make, or help you wish to contribute:

Chair: Pieter Uiterlinden

Past Chair: Edward Falkenberg

Vice Chair: Robert W. Jackson

Treasurer: David R. Green

Secretary: Emma Goldhawk

Members: Steven Frank, Marjorie B. Green, Bonnie M. Jackson, Lauren Hong, Suzanne Regimbal,
Julie J. Rutishauser

Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts on the promotion of all the arts in Durham Region with us!