

LaSalle Post Features Celebrating Homegrown Talent

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LASALLE POST

LaSalle celebrates local art

Arts exhibitors pack the Vollmer Centre for Windsor Endowment for the Arts event

By Bob Stewart

Art is unique, personal, highly collectible and it makes a great Christmas gift.

This holiday season, the Windsor Endowment for the Arts (WEA) put 45 local artists under one roof to give long-time appreciators and first-time art buyers alike the chance to choose from some of the best works Essex County has to offer.

Celebrating Homegrown Talent was held at the Vollmer Centre and was the brain child of WEA board member and event organizer Julie Bell and the Town of LaSalle's director of culture and recreation Terry Fink.

"WEA's primary focus with this event was to spread the awareness of local arts and the awards and grants that WEA offers into Essex County," Bell said. "There's a rich and vibrant arts and culture community right here in Essex County. People will go out of town to see and purchase art because they don't know what's here," she said.

LaSalle's Dale Charles toured the 45 booths set up throughout the Vollmer Centre on Nov. 27, the second day of the two-day event. Charles purchased a bracelet and a pair of earrings from local jewellery designer Greg

DeHetre.

"I love coming to art shows and this venue is great," said Charles. "I usually have to leave town to find stuff I like, so I'm really happy LaSalle hosted an up-scale event like this."

The exhibits, which included, among other things, paintings, photography, clothing and fabric arts, performing arts and musical theatre groups, collage, literature, pottery, jewellery and a both dedicated to arts students from Sandwich Secondary School, were selected by a three-person jury.

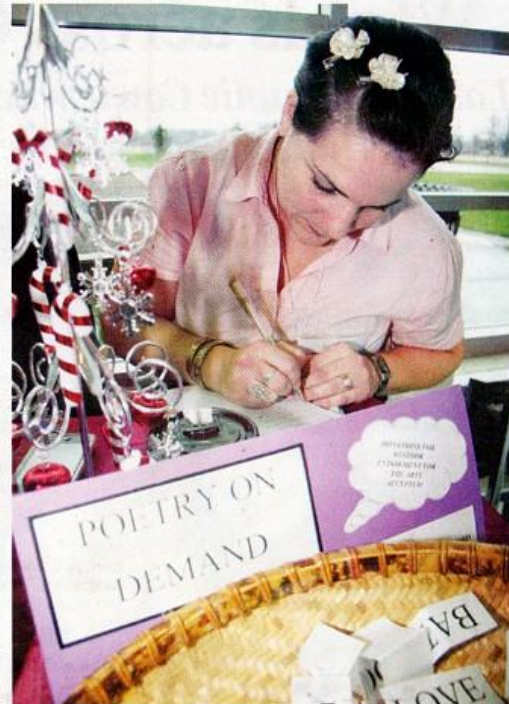
Bell and WEA president Carolyn Rourke both credit Fink with wanting to bring arts and culture into the Vollmer Centre.

"Terry (Fink) is working to showcase arts and culture in an sports and recreation centre because he believes in making it a true community facility," said Rourke.

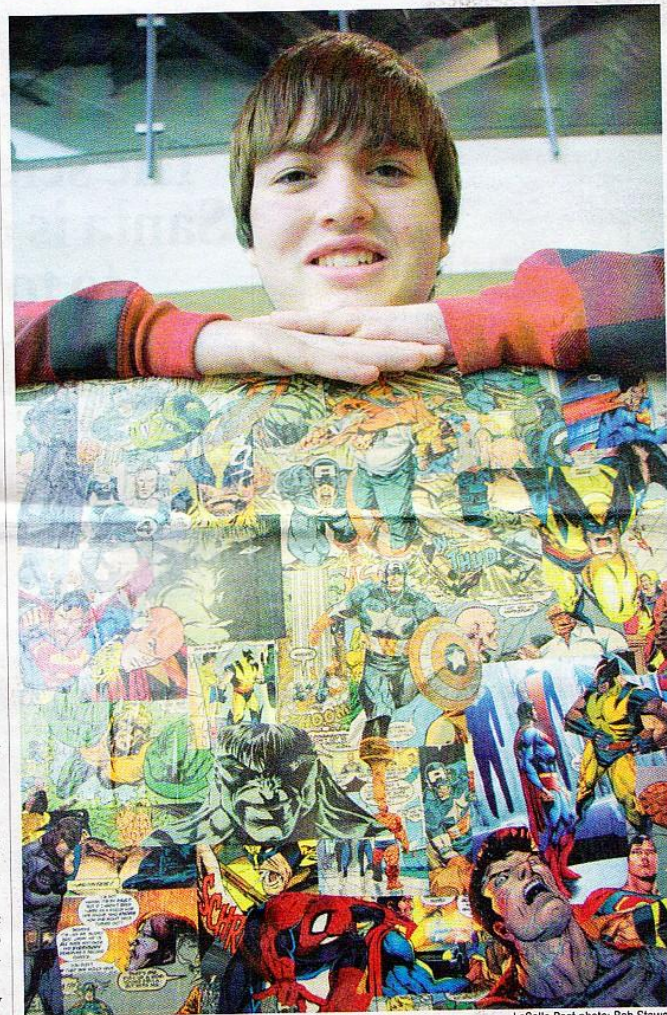
The weekend event began with WEA's Annual General Meeting on the night of Nov. 25. During the meeting WEA unveiled plans for the 2012 awards and grants program, which includes the new Elizabeth Havelock Grant in the Arts for mid-career artists.

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WRITE ME A POEM! Vanessa Shields, author of the memoir *Laughing Through A Second Pregnancy* (Black Moss Press) writes a customized poem for a visitor to a literary arts at WEA's Celebrating Homegrown Talent event at the Vollmer Centre. Shields, and poets Penny-Anne Beaudoin, Mary Ann Mulhern and Robert Earl Stewart asked passer's by to select three words from a basket. Participants were then asked to free associate three additional words. From those six words, a one-page poem was written, for free.



LaSalle Post photo: Bob Stewart



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COMIC COLLAGE: Chris Couloufis, 15, with one of his canvas-mounted comic book collages. Couloufis was one of more than 45 local artists featured at the Windsor Endowment for the Arts Celebrating Local Talent event at the Vollmer Centre. See full story on page 4.

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Rourke said the Elizabeth Havelock Grant is named for the late Elizabeth Havelock "in her memory as a strong advocate of the arts."

The Elizabeth Havelock Grant joins the Arts Infrastructure and Emerging Artists grants and the Community Arts, Literary Arts, Performing Arts and Visual Arts leadership awards on WEA's annual grants and awards docket.

Applications for the WEA Grants will be accepted from Feb. 1-March 14, 2012.

CARTUNE: Young musicians from the Spirit of Windsor Marching Band gather around the CarTunes sculpture that WEA donated to the Vollmer Centre during the Celebrating Homegrown Talent event. The fiberglass sculpture was decorated by artist Danuta Siniarska, with help from the general public.

LaSalle Post photo:
Bob Stewart

