

Mayor Marolyn Morrison ? Council is committed to having a vibrant arts community in town

Last spring, council received a presentation from the Caledon Arts Advisory Committee, outlining how it will connect with the artistic sector of our community, our artists, our arts organizations, theatre, dance, visual arts, literary arts ? in short, all of the art disciplines in our town.

Council is committed to a vibrant arts community. Fundamentally, it is integral to the quality of life, economic sustainability and long-term creative foundation of our town.

The Arts Advisory Committee is developing an up-to-date inventory of the individuals, groups, organizations, arts/culture associations and disciplines presently operating within the town. This inventory will ultimately become a valuable resource for consulting with the arts community to help establish programs, services and/or facilities that will sustain the arts and artists of Caledon.

Many of you may have seen the ?Looking for the Arts? posters, post cards and ads in the Town page of the local newspapers. These promotional materials were designed to encourage local artists to complete a brief online survey on the Town's website at www.caledon.ca/arts, something you can still do so if you haven't already. To date, we have had a terrific response with more than 70 individuals and groups responding to the survey.

The plan for the Arts Advisory Committee is to review your responses and suggestions and determine what the top issues are facing artists and arts groups in Caledon. Based on these top five or so ?priorities,? the Committee will prepare a follow-up questionnaire and poll the arts community once again to seek suggestions from the arts community to meet these priorities. Based on these results then, the Arts Advisory Committee prepare a report to council with recommendations based on your needs, the needs of Caledon's arts community. It will then be up to council to consider and prioritize these recommendations within overall Town priorities.

The Town of Caledon's Strategic Goals and Objectives promote culture, heritage and the arts. At the same time, they encourage a dynamic cultural community by inspiring residents to participate in the arts. I believe the work of the Arts Advisory Committee to open up lines of communication with the artists of Caledon will help us to increase and enhance the diversity of artistic experiences and programs in our town. Caledon is committed to encouraging local artists and performers to showcase their talent and these goals are supported by the work of our Arts Advisory Committee.

Once again, if you are a practising artist or are the official representative of an artistic group or association in Caledon, I urge you to take the time to complete the short questionnaire at www.caledon.ca/arts

As mentioned, a vibrant Arts community is essential to the quality of life, and the economic sustainability of our town. Please take a moment to support arts in Caledon by completing the survey

