

The ACCOB Newsletter

July 2020

Issue 3



Incorporated in 2016

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CALENDAR

July...

ACCOB Board meeting

August...

ACCOB Board meeting

September...

ACCOB Board meeting

October...

ACCOB Board meeting

**Please stay tuned for
future events**

The Arts & Culture Council of Burlington [ACCOB]

is a not-for-profit arts and cultural organization dedicated to creating a vibrant, diverse artistic and cultural community

EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Events which we hope help you as members:

- **Burlington Arts and Culture Fund** - The jury for the BACF was selected, however, due to COVID-19 and the declared state of emergency by the City the BACF process was put on hold.
- **Newsletter** - ACCOB started a quarterly newsletter in 2019. If members have anything to promote please send the information to info@artscultureburlington.ca by September 15, 2020.
- **Culture Days** – Due to COVID-19 we have been unable to plan for our Culture Days program. We are still giving consideration to what other options we may have to provide a presentation. Stay tuned for more information.
- **ACCOB Fundraiser** – ACCOB is a self reliant arts and culture council, receiving funds through membership and fundraising. For this reason, it is important that you renew your membership and tell others about membership. It is also important to attend fundraisers as the funds help us help you. ACCOB hopes to plan some fundraisers and workshops in the future. We would love to hear your ideas and would love for you to be involved either as a participant or as a volunteer! . Please contact us at info@artscultureburlington.ca.
- If you have some interest in being a volunteer or in being on our Board, please contact us. As a Board we meet once a month at the AGB and we also work on various things throughout the year. Please contact us at info@artscultureburlington.ca.



CERB has been extended by 8 weeks. It is now available to those who are eligible for a maximum of 6 eligibility periods (or 24 weeks total).

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) gives financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19.

If you are eligible, you can receive \$2,000 for a 4-week period (the same as \$500 a week).

If your situation continues past 4 weeks, you will need to apply for the CERB again. You may re-apply for up to a total of 24 weeks.

Please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en.html> for more information and how to apply.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Tim Park, ACCOB President**

We hope everyone is safe and healthy during these challenging times. Arts and culture have been key parts of keeping people occupied and entertained when we all have been asked to stay home and many local artists have done amazing things over the past few months. We realize that these have been challenging times for our sector and ACCOB has been trying to get as much information out to our members and the community about what programs and support are available. There are many things available for us to enjoy and we will touch on some local virtual events that are taking place right now.

- Brad Hails from the Killin' Time band does a weekly show on Saturday nights.
- Barra Fion presents Mike Stevenson every Saturday. Wednesdays feature Adam Cooke, a local favourite.
- Alfie Smith does at least one show a week from home.
- The Sound of Music Festival has featured many artists over the past month or so with the Sound of Music @Home series and they are presenting a virtual festival featuring an artist every day of the week starting on June 15th and ending with Big Sugar on June 18th.
- The Burlington Performing Arts Centre is presenting shows, readings and learning sessions on their BPAC@home series and the Live and Local Music Series will feature local artists from their homes.

Please support all of the local venues and restaurants that feature live entertainment if you are able. Many thanks to all of our talented local artists for being there for us all.

MEMBER MUSINGS

- **Chris McKhool, Sultans of String**

With my band Sultans of String I had been on the road for weeks at a time, and even when I was home, I was pre-occupied with planning the next tour. Ironically, despite my world as a touring artist crashing down around me, I have never been so busy or creative in my entire life. Like the Stephen Stills song “Love the One You’re With”, I have been creating and playing a ton of music with my educator wife and nine year old daughter since lockdown. Music is a big part of my life obviously, and so I have basically bent my family’s will to get them to play and perform with me, and we have turned our living room into a TV studio, broadcasting at <https://www.facebook.com/ChrisMcKhoolKidsMusic>.

We have been doing weekly live streams for families who are stuck at home isolating together. We sing songs, tell stories, use puppets and tell corny jokes. It is great for family bonding as we get to create it together and share with other families so we can go through isolation in solidarity together.



I have also been doing solo education concerts online, where we have the entire school body with us for a show, and are helping a few school with their year-end celebrations through multiple platforms including Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube Live, and Google Meets/Hangouts.

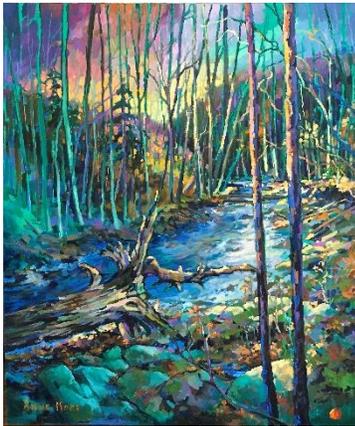
I never imagined I would be doing online concerts, but we must all adapt in this time. What is most exciting as a performer, is that even though I cannot be in the same room as my audience, I can now pull in a global audience and have people watching my concert from literally around the globe. That is pretty amazing! I do miss the real life interaction with people though and I cannot wait for that to return!

I feel it is super important for everyone, young and old alike, to be able to connect with others through this COVID-19 crisis. And people of all ages use art to help them to make sense of their world. So I think art is more important now than ever to help connect people and heal the pain inside we are all feeling, and to also celebrate joyous moments with others!

Here is a sample of what I have been up to! <https://youtu.be/I0KoDtIS1Vc>

- **Creating During COVID-19 by Anne More**

I am a Burlington artist and member of ACCOB. This time of isolation has caused my drop-in painting groups to connect in a different way. Paint More is made up of wonderful artists who have painted with me, many for fifteen years or so. This article will explain how we are able to stay in touch and still be creative and supportive during this challenging time. I have also included one of my works completed during the past few months.



Anne More

“This is an example of what I love to capture on canvas. The use of colour is exaggerated as it is important for me represent the peace and serenity that these walks provide. This time during isolation has afforded me more time to create and to explore these wonderful trails. “

The group drop-ins expanded over the years, resulting in friendships and a continuing chance to develop one's skills and trust amongst fellow artists.

The outbreak of COVID and the resulting restrictions meant that the weekly sessions had to stop...but not our creativity. One group has decided on a once a week ZOOM session at which time we share: our joys and frustrations, stories that have us weeping with laughter, new recipes as well as the opportunity for critique of pieces that we are working on. Members often email me with images of their work for suggestions and will then continue expressing themselves artistically in their own unique style. One of our members is a sixteen year old who brings forward a fresh and original approach.

The artists that are working with me are active with not only their art. They are involved with: gardening, creating new dishes, walking, hiking, writing or face-timing with family and friends. The result seems to be that each new day is approached in a positive manner. That is not to say that we don't have “down-times”. Having a supportive network, especially for those artists in retirement and later living homes that have more restrictions, affords a link to like-minded people. We laugh, we cry, we paint and move forward. Now I would like to share some of the pieces that some members of Paint More have completed during this time of restrictions along with their timely comments.



Donna Goodfellow

“During this crazy and upside down time keeping creative has kept me sane. Baking, knitting and painting have provided an outlet to reduce stress and keep my mind focused. I miss my painting group for their input and critiques, but zoom get-togethers keep us connected.”



Janette Block

“I have been spending hours walking with my wee dogs and photographing the beauty of nature’s canopy during this COVID pandemic. I took brush to canvas to capture one of spring’s first flowers. It is called “Spiritual Tulips” .”



Jackie Lutz

“Taking time to put finishing touches to paintings I worked on before the pandemic. Miss the great times and support that we have with our group. I am also taking long walks and cooking. This painting reminds me of the power of Mother Nature with what she is putting us through.”



Dorothy Burns

“The Covid 19 pandemic has caused a time of much reflection. I recently started a 12 x 36 painting of Datura flowers, like the one in the picture. I’ve kept busy with: various crafts, chatting with friends and trying to follow the protocols to keep safe and healthy, physically and emotionally.”



Sue Rae

“ I usually paint things I find attractive or interesting but thought that because of the virus I would throw caution to the winds and try something completely different...an abstract. Family, friends, painting & Zoom have helped in this difficult situation.



Denise McKay

“Since the COVIC virus has restricted my already restricted life at a retirement residence, I have gone deeper into my imagination and there I have found some odd (weird) societies that I am now portraying. It’s a non -ending journey it seems.



Penny Scott

“Our new world of social distancing has made me very appreciative of my life. During this time I have been painting, gardening and cooking...thinking of dinner every night is a creative challenge. Virtual visits via Face Time and Zoom have kept me connected to my painting group. We share many laughs and advice on what we are working on.”

I hope that as you read you are able to relate to their comments. This is your time, if you can, to take a chance delving into new creative adventures of all genres that will continue to develop and expand the unique Art and Culture of Burlington.

- **The #windowgallerychallenge, Vanessa Lokos**



As a Visual Artist in this bizarre time in history, some of us have been blessed with some extra studio time.

We do however miss our galleries, events and being together.

In recent years I have had the privilege, mainly through the Burlington Fine Arts Association, of bringing art out into the public. We have partnered with different venues throughout the region and have been exhibiting. I feel it is important for our community to see more original art and interact with artists. Although Covid 19 has caused us to postpone many shows we continue to exhibit on line through our BFAA website.

One of the most creative ways to stay connected with the public was suggested to me early on by my fellow artist friend and partner in coordinating many of The Hub exhibits in the Burlington Centre mall. Briar Emond began a movement on Instagram to place our art in a front window of our residence for those passing by, #windowgallerychallenge. I have been doing just that since the end of March. On occasion I have seen people stop and look and children be excited to see a new piece weekly. While working in my garden, I've even had a wonderful conversation with an art lover, at a distance of course!

So keep making art and finding new ways to share it. Feel free to place it in your window too!



GOTCHA (left)
by Vanessa Cress Lokos
18" x 24"
Oil

REMEMBERED (right)
by Vanessa Cress Lokos
30" x 24"
Oil



MAKE YOUR OWN PATH
by Briar Emond
4' x 4'
acrylic on raw canvas

- **Making a Positive Impact in COVID-19 Times, by Louis Tsai, HRCCA (Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association)**

During COVID-19 times when many things are not moving or moving well, there are many individuals and organizations taking initiatives to hopefully make positive impact in our local communities. Louis Tsai, one of our board members and director of HRCCA would like to bring us some updates. HRCCA (Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association) has been a supporter of ACCOB and had also participated in past Culture Day Events.



Hi Paul, thanks very much for the masks you sent! Be safe and stay healthy...

HRCCA MASK DRIVE UPDATES & FEEDBACKS

5,000 masks given out!

Thanks again to you and your associatin for the masks. That was very generous. You were like PPE Santa Claus today!

HRCCA (Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association) has been a supporter of ACCOB and had also participated in past Culture Day Events.

To help local doctors in Burlington and the surrounding Halton cities, HRCCA did a MASK DRIVE and gave out over 5,000 masks. That's done under the leadership of Burlington Doctors, Dr. Paul Wu & Dr. Jennifer Kwan. On May 31, a Zoom Webinar was held, open to the public, to discuss the "Mystery of Masks in

Canada's COVID19 Response". At this point, HRCCA is working with MASKS with LOVE, another volunteer organization to bring masks to those in needs. There are locations locally in Burlington where people can drop off donated materials. So, reusable cloth masks could be made by volunteers and distributed back to our local communities. For more information, please visit <http://hrcca.ca/>.

- **Aeris Körper**

Aeris Körper is a Canadian contemporary dance company based out of Burlington and Hamilton: www.aeriskorper.com

During this time, we've pivoted in our live performances, workshops and creation processes and directed them all online. We've taken part in several online showcases such as Hamilton Shows Up, In The Soil Multi Arts Festival and Muse Arts. We're finishing up a 6 week series of online technique classes for all levels of movers. We will be offering more classes coming up so keep an eye on the education portion of our website. In the meantime, we offer online weekday body wake ups at 8:30am on Facebook and Instagram live as a way to create routine in our days together and connect with our bodies. Join us at @aeriskorper on either platform for free! To get an inside view of what we do and how we create, we'll be streaming rehearsals and a performance as part of Hamilton Arts Week: June 11, 12, 15-19 from 3-5pm



with performance on the 19 from 7-8pm. Links will be posted daily on our bio on social media and our website. We'd love to see you and have your voice heard as we delve into the work called Dangerous Vacancies.

Come move or be moved with us at Aeris Körper! Be well and make art!

- **Free COVID Classes by Monica Schaefer**

When the pandemic hit and shut down the Art Gallery of Burlington, I was wondering how I could contribute to the members of the Burlington potters guild who had lost their studio space when the AGB closed down. I was thinking specifically of maybe 20 members some of whom I knew well, And others who had just joined the guild and were complete beginners, so I formed a closed group on Facebook for those people.

I started on March 24, with two, live, hour-long classes a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I really thought I would only be doing maybe eight or 10 of these, but June 4 was my 22nd episode!

Word seems to have gotten out as well! There are now 150+ members in the group and more are now being added almost daily it seems. We have viewers from Mexico, BC, a few in Illinois & Ohio, Sudbury, Ottawa, and several members of other Potters Guilds in the area like Branford, Peterborough and Waterloo. The response has been heartwarming, and very positive. The range of expertise of those watching is quite broad - from total beginners to accomplished potters and pottery teachers. It surprised me, to be honest, that some of the professional potters and instructors continue to tune in week after week. There are also non potter members who may just want a distraction or enjoy watching the process. Group members are able to make comments and ask questions during the demos, and even talk to each other via message while the demos are running. I think it's helping us all feel a little bit more connected during these trouble times.

I will continue to provide these demos until I run out of ideas and that shouldn't happen anytime soon... 😊

The group is hosted by my FB page "Monika Schaefer Art Studio", and is called Free Covid Classes by Monika Schaefer.

This is a photo of just some of the pieces made during the demos.



- **Social Distancing by Hayley Verrall (www.hayleyverrallmusic.com)**

If you are a live performer like me, I know you will share the pain of COVID-19. We thought it would only be for a couple weeks in the beginning. Although it meant missing my chance to go to Tennessee and sing at the Country Tonite Theater in front of industry professionals I decided to live with it.

But then a state of emergency was declared and the live performance cancellations for what is basically the rest of the year started rolling in. What initially shaped up to be an epic year circled the drain very quickly. It wasn't just the cancellation of bar, restaurant and festival gigs; a large part of my music life, my Singing for Smiles program, performing at nursing/retirement/LTC homes, was also gone.

The biggest quandary for me wasn't finances (the benefactors of my living accommodations might disagree) but how I could maintain my presence in the community and still be viewed as a professional local musician without performing.

I collaborated on some livestreamed shows and they were successful, leading me to rig up a temporary stage setting at home to do solo livestreams. My virtual performance services were suddenly in demand and I took part in fundraising concerts for Perth County Alzheimer's Society and Niagara Loves. I was contacted by March of Dimes and asked to do a virtual concert which was streamed to their facilities around the country. I also did outdoor courtyard performances at a few retirement/nursing homes using a wireless set up which allowed residents to watch and hear from their windows. I performed virtually for The Burlington Performing Arts Centre's Live & Local Roundup.

While I had to change my entire business model over the past three months the time has allowed me to diverge. I've tried some new things. I've met some new people. I've had more time to do radio interviews. I released two songs worldwide, one debuted this week at #13 on the Airplay Express Traditional Country Top 20 chart and the other one sits at #12 on the Airplay Express Country Top 40 chart. I've written some new songs and collaborated with several artists, am even going to record my next single next week.

One accomplishment reflective of the circumstances is a song I wrote called Social Distancing, which I sang at a Ward 3 virtual meeting at the request of Councillor Rory Nisan. The song talks about my experience during the pandemic and how my neighbourhood has chosen to support each other by getting out to socialize from their driveways every Friday night at 7 pm. I hope you'll check out Social Distancing at https://youtu.be/N3ENAxw_fwk !



- **Coming of Age During COVID-19 by Leah Verrall**

As a grade 12 student 2020 has been an especially difficult one. I lost my job, missed my prom, my graduation will be online only, my first trip to Europe has been cancelled, my first semester of university will be online, and I won't be able to live in residence in my first year as planned. Coming of age during COVID-19 has been rather anti-climactic!



Even though my grades beyond March 15 would not be counted unless they got better I persevered in my new reality, improved my grade point average and was able to secure one of only 200 spots in McMaster's competitive kinesiology program.

COVID-19 has been a blow to everyone. It was hard adjusting to online learning and being my own disciplinarian. It was hard not having a teacher readily available to ask questions or ask for help. It was hard not being able to see my friends every day. But I'm proud of what I accomplished and that I did it in spite of the obstacles that were presented to me.

Here is a painting of some lilies that I did early on during the pandemic to try and tell Spring to hurry up and arrive – please excuse the poor reproduction quality.

I did get to spend more time with my family, which was a plus. I got a break from my busy work/school schedule which was also a plus. Here is a painting I did some time ago inspired by my family's annual camping and outdoor adventures which will be missed this summer.



Happy summer to everyone! Stay healthy!

- **Koogle Theatre**

KooGLE Theatre has been getting creative since COVID shut down our rehearsals and performance venue for our student showcase that was to take place in May. We posted a few online acting activities for youth and some fun tap steps to learn. We compiled a video of past musical theatre student showcases to enjoy and some of our students took part in a virtual Sound of Music song to help lift spirits during this tough time. We are working on more virtual class options for the future until we can get back to live performance again. You can find some of the above mentioned videos on our youtube channel and on our Facebook page!

- **How I'm Spending time in Lockdown by Jordan Travis**

These unprecedented times are truly changing how we make music, but definitely not stopping me (or many others). After spending countless hours learning Zoom, I've been fortunate to get all the choruses I direct to get online and we have been rehearsing on Zoom ever since. It's not perfect, but it allows our community to continue to sing and be together virtually. Most recently, I've had the opportunity to bring together people from around the world in two Virtual InstaChoir projects. The first was Hallelujah and the second will be streamed on July 1st and features over 300 singers from around the world singing our national anthem in harmony.



Head over to www.facebook.com/jordantravismusic for more information and updates as well as www.youtube.com/jordantravis to see the premiere of O Canada on July 1st!

- **Stage Write**

The last time the Stage Write Burlington playwright group physically met the group was hit with a snowstorm. Their next meeting in March was pre-empted by the COVID-19 virus and the group tottered precariously on the edge of folding for the duration of the pandemic. Luckily, the playwright group took a huge leap of faith and threw themselves into the internet: they created their own website, Facebook group and produced a virtual play festival on their YouTube channel in May 2020.

Stage Write Burlington produced their second virtual play festival, "Virtually Yours 2.0," based upon the plays submitted to a play writing contest held by the group in early June. The contest challenged playwrights to write a short, one act play in less than a week. The play could be any genre but had to include three sound effects.

On June 15, 2020 Stage Write Burlington released the winning plays on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF1vgN4369uF4TQYEMSHSEw>. The plays were judged for a week by visitors to the site who 'liked' their favourite play. The top three plays were announced on June 22,

2020. The first virtual festival the Stage Write Burlington group hosted in May attracted over 2,500 people with over 800 views of the plays. The group is hoping to surpass those numbers with their latest venture.

When not seeking fame on the internet Stage Write Burlington is a collective group of Burlington and surrounding area playwrights who meet to encourage writing and the development of plays by local writers. When possible the members of Stage Write Burlington meet in person to provide feedback on each other's work, and when they cannot they conduct their meetings virtually. For more information please check out their website www.stagewriteburlington.ca or their Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/238312497197971>

OPPORTUNITIES & COLLABORATIONS

- **Publish your arts and culture events** – Post your upcoming events on the ACCOB website at <https://www.artscultureburlington.ca/events/> or email info@artscultureburlington.ca to post on FB.
- **Send us information** – If you have content for upcoming newsletters please email it to info@artscultureburlington.ca.
- **Website** - ACCOB has updated and improved its website. Please check www.artscultureburlington.ca for information about ACCOB, its board members and member events.

CALLING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Please send us interesting and relevant articles! Concerns?
Questions & Suggestions?
ACCOB is VOLUNTEER run and needs YOUR help!**

**Please send new contact info or e-mail changes
[Contact us](#)**