

# NEWS

IN CLAY



Vol. 31, No. 4



Fish story  
Chris Snedden  
Stoneware  
Cone 6, electric

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**DARLENE PRATT**

The Grand Opening of London Clay Art Centre is set for the evening of Saturday, June 21! The invitations have been sent out and we are seeing many responses.

Starting from 5-6 pm with tours of the building for those who haven't yet had the pleasure, the event will transition into a reception in the store area from 6-7 and include mention of the concurrent opening of the bi-ennial exhibition and an introduction to the jurors, as well as the official ceremony to unveil heritage designation from the City of London for the front façade. Next, everyone will be escorted upstairs for the more formal part of the evening, which includes honouring and recognizing the many funders and contributors who made LCAC possible. And, pieces from the exhibition will be displayed upstairs, available to be viewed by our many esteemed guests.

If you haven't RSVP'd already, please respond to [info@londonpottersguild.org](mailto:info@londonpottersguild.org) to help us get a handle on the approximate number of people so we can plan the amount of food, wine, and beer. We hope as many as possible of LPG members and their guests are able to join us and express their appreciation to the organizations and individuals who donated toward the \$1.5 million we have raised since 2008 for capital expenses. The building of LCAC has been a collaborative effort; one that has brought together the significant talents and determination of many people who gave of their time and expertise to help achieve our lofty goal.

Once the Grand Opening has passed, our focus will turn back toward the needs of LPG members, and strengthening our programming and processes at London Clay Art Centre.

I never cease to be amazed at the amount of work we achieve on a weekly, monthly and annual basis through the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers and few staff. Every board meeting is packed with robust discussions about the great things we are

doing, as well as ways to streamline processes while maintaining the same community feel we have always had.

As we work toward establishing London Clay Art Centre as a world-renowned arts facility, we should pause to reflect on the journey we have already taken together and honour ourselves for what we have built and continue to improve.

The Old East Village neighbourhood, the City of London, southwestern Ontario and beyond will benefit from the legacy of LCAC for generations to come. Bravo!

Darlene

## **STUDIO POTTER PROGRAM**

**ELLY PAKALINIS**

In April, Kaitlyn McGill capably led two workshops; **Photographing Your Work**, a free workshop that she generously offered to run, and **Surface Designs**, run on Apr. 27. Many thanks Kaitlyn!

The final workshop, **Throwing Covered Teapots & Jars**, of David Moynihan's **Throwing Series**, ran May 24 & 25. The workshop was full, and participants, as always, enjoyed a day filled with interesting demos, along with David's helpful hints and time saving techniques. Thanks to David for a great weekend!

Beth Turnbull-Morrish kicked off June with a great workshop, **Harnessing Your Creativity & Developing Your Own Style**. This hands on workshop had us experiencing various techniques and exercises mainly based in using your sketch pad as a tool of self discovery. I never realized a sketch book could be so creative and stimulating, and be interestingly used for so much more than drawing! The half day session fly by so quickly that there was a unanimous request from enthusiastic participants for this session to be run as a full day workshop! Thanks Beth!

It will be a summer full of other interesting internal workshops. July 6 has Sandy Harquail leading us with a workshop on **Creating Large Forms Using Extruded Coils**. Check on the LCAC website for details! (*Note: This workshop is presently available for registration*). On July 27, Chris Snedden is presenting **Basic Raku**, continuing

with **Copper Matte & Gold Lustre** on Aug 10 and **Foil Saggars & Horsehair Raku** on Aug. 17. Finishing off the summer with a bang, there is the week long **Tricks, Tips & Techniques for Throwing** with David Moynihan, running Aug 18-22. Also being held that week are David's 4 separate **Open Studio** workshops, running 6-10 pm, on Aug. 18-21. These will give participants a chance to choose what they wish to work on, with David giving one on one support from person to person.

Autumn is well covered with Gene Timpany holding a **Naked Raku** session on Sept. 7, **Water Colours** with David Moynihan on Oct. 5, and **Slip Trailing** with Jenn Gerardi on Oct. 26.

No workshops will be held in Nov or Dec due to the busy sales and festive season.

As always, workshops will be available for online registration ([www.londonpottersguild.org](http://www.londonpottersguild.org)), or through Cheryl (434-1664) approximately one month prior to the date they will be held. Be sure to check your email for future notices about these fantastic workshops!

## SALE REPORT

**TERESA AINSWORTH**

For a number of reasons, including the TVDSB bookings, the Hamilton Sale and the Studio Tour, the Spring Sale was held on the Mothers' Day weekend. There were some grumbles about this, but in fact this sale set a record (just under \$29,000 in gross sales not including HST). The previous highest grossing spring sale was last year (\$26,800). A survey sent out right after the sale, asking Guild members to chose their preferred dates for the spring and fall sales was overwhelmingly in favour of a spring sale on the Mother's Day weekend. Most people either didn't care when the fall sale was held or were split between the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend and the last weekend in November. **Therefore, the sale committee has decided that in future the spring sale will be held on the Mother's Day weekend and the fall sale on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in November.**

A Quick summary of sales for comparison:

	No. attendees	Total sales	No. Potters
Fall 2012	1633	\$44,000	64
Spring 2013	Not counted	\$26,802	42
Fall 2013	702	\$35,408	63
Spring 2014	729	\$28,627	49

Note that the sales and number of attendees for the 2013 fall sale were down substantially from the previous year due to the winter storm that weekend. This is one of the reasons the Sale committee decided to go with the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in November in the hopes that this might reduce the possibility of a severe winter storm during the sale weekend.

The Sale Committee thanks all those who participated in the sale and all the helpers. Judy and Bob Riseling and Karen Bailey generously took time to load and haul hundreds of pounds of paper, bags, cash registers, signs etc. to and from the sale even though they weren't in the sale. When you see them, give them a big thank you. David Moynihan helped with the storage of all the sale items – thank you David. And finally, a big thank you to all the sale participants, who cooperated, helped set up and tear down, and were there when we needed them. *Muchos gracias.*

The Sale Committee: Nancy Friedrich, Pat Ball, Judy Sparkes, Cathy Roberts, Tammy Ward, Sandra Paterson Ana Mattos, and Teresa Ainsworth.

## FUSION

**TERESA AINSWORTH**

This is not the official Fusion Report, but just my impressions of it. Personally, I thought this was the best Fusion I have attended – both presenters were my kind of potters – throwing, altering carving and genuinely nice, funny and generous and approachable people. Porcelain too – my favourite clay. The dinner was good, the games fun, and the people great. I even met a potter from Sault St. Marie who taught at Beal High School in the late 1980s. The two presenters, Jennifer McCurdy from Massachusetts USA and Katherine Koop from Winnipeg, were really inspiring to me. Look for more carved and altered pots going through the kilns in the near future!

Just to make you sorry you didn't attend, here are a few photos of their work.

### Jennifer McCurdy



### Katherine Koop



# STUDIO POTTER PROGRAM

## ELLY PAKALNIS

Our Reclaim session with Jordan Scott was well attended and now we have some more enlightened members on the reclaiming of clay process.

The next session is Kiln Loading and Firing with Chris Snedden for Sunday, June 28th at 12- 3 p.m. Participants will learn how to load and unload a kiln, how to set the kiln for bisque or glaze firings, and how to maintain the kiln shelves. With more knowledgeable members assisting with the kiln loading and unloading as well as firings, this helps substantially in the studio running smoothly.

Registration for the Kiln Loading session can be done by either signing up on the Registration sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Kiln Room or emailing Elly ([ellyp2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ellyp2003@yahoo.com)). Please note that there is a maximum of 10 registrants for this session.

Also upcoming:

Glaze Making Session, Sunday, July 27th, 12 - 3 p.m.

Reclaim Session, Sunday, August 31st, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Western Fair

#### 1. COMPETITIONS:

This is an information notice only. Many of you may not know that the Western Fair has a competition for pottery – both functional and non-functional. There are even prizes - 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner gets \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner \$50 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winner \$25 in all of these categories. Last year there were very few entries and the Fair is trying to increase participation in all its competitions.

There is complete information on all of the competitions and prizes as well as entry fees, dates and entry forms etc. at this website:

[http://www.westernfairdistrict.com/the\\_fair/things\\_to\\_do/community\\_showcase](http://www.westernfairdistrict.com/the_fair/things_to_do/community_showcase)

The relevant section is on page 14 of the brochure under the heading of:

**Clay Arts, Sculpture & Woodworking – (CSW)**

#### ENTRY FEE: \$5 per entry

1. POTTERY: Functional
2. POTTERY: Decorative
3. WOODWORKING: Functional
4. WOODWORKING: Carvings
5. SCULPTURES

Of course, you can enter in any or all of the competitions – from fibre arts, dance, photography, flower/plant arrangements or whatever catches your fancy.

#### 2: COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

The Western Fair offers community not-for-profit groups like the LPG a space to demonstrate and incorporate children's activities. Last year, the LPG offered children a chance to make a sculpture/animal/toy etc. with self-hardening clay to take home. We also set up a wheel and did throwing demonstrations, handed out class and LPG brochures and answered lots of questions. We will be doing the same thing this September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until about 9 pm. So, we will need lots of volunteers. Shifts are about 4 hours long and are a lot of fun. There were times when we had line-ups for chairs (we had about 20 seats) and some very amazing creations were made.

So... put this in your schedule – September 6<sup>th</sup> (a Saturday). Note that if you participate, you get a free entry into the Fair, so when your shift is done – you are free to go and eat cotton candy, go on rides and generally become a kid again.

### Imagery on Clay—Workshop with Chris Snedden at Pinecroft Centre for the Arts

8122 Rogers Road South, Aylmer, ON.

(519) 773-3435

E-mail: [pinecroft@amtelecom.net](mailto:pinecroft@amtelecom.net)

Date: July 5th 2014, \$85 plus HST

The use of slip transfers on clay work can be an interesting way of creating narrative to tell a story, make a statement or simply create a mood. It is a dialogue between the ancient art of pottery making and evoking an emotional response in the user.

**Bio:** Chris Snedden has been a potter for over 30 years in the London area. He began his studies after high school at Bealart. He went on to study at Georgian College in Barrie and has since worked in almost every facet of the pottery business, from building electric kilns, teaching courses and workshops, and producing giftware and ceramic artwork

for the international market. Chris has also been involved in a number of private commissions for everything from liturgical pieces to commemorative plaques and recognition awards. Currently, Chris is Director of Artistic Programming at the London Clay Art Centre, is a Ceramics Professor at Lambton College in Sarnia, and serves as Director of Education and Programming for Fusion, The Ontario Clay and Glass Association. His work continues to be shown at festivals and galleries across Ontario and he continues to teach, give workshops, and develop his award winning work.

**Workshop Description:** For the past number of years Chris has taught both one and two day workshops focused on image transfer onto clay using slips and underglazes. Participants bring some leather hard pieces to the workshop and we explore the use of monoprint, block print, and silk-screen prints on the work. In combination with more traditional slip decorating techniques, this gives richness and depth to their surfaces and allows them to explore the use of narrative on their pieces. Chris has figured out a down and dirty, cheap and easy way of making photo silkscreens that can be used by anyone to create highly detailed images, or custom logos, on clay pieces.

**Date: July 5th 2014**

**Cost is \$85 plus HST**

## **Everything Old is New Again**

June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 25th

Join us for the opening of the London Potters Guild Biennial exhibition. It will be run in conjunction with the Gala opening June 21st.

**6:00 reception**

**7:30 Program**

Opening remarks by our Jurors to follow.

## **EXECUTIVE LISTING**

### **Chair**

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prattdarlene4@gmail.com

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### **Secretary**

Robin Chacko

### **Treasurer**

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*London Potters Guild*  
*Seize the Clay Campaign*  
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