



THE LAWRENCE HOUSE

C E N T R E F O R T H E A R T S

Now showing...

The Annual Floyd Gibson Show

FEBRUARY 2026

ISSUE 2



2025 Floyd Gibson Awards



Daisy Fresh
"Chicken Chapel"
oil



Louise Quaid
"Shattered Past"
watercolour



Rozanne Leystra
"Joy"
watercolour

2026 Membership

You may renew it in person at the House Wednesday to Sunday 11:00-4:00 or you may renew online at the link below.

The memberships run from December to December.

The Lawrence House is an all volunteer run Art Centre. Membership fees help with the cost of running the House, covering office supplies, computers, security, First Friday Events, concerts and so much more.

The benefits of being a Member are many regardless of which Membership level you purchase.

Bronze Membership 2026
\$44.25 + tax

The Bronze Membership is for artists who wish to show and sell their art at the Lawrence House either in the Gift Shop or in one of our five Member Shows through the year. Bronze members also may apply to have a solo exhibition. All the benefits of being a Friend Member also applies to the Bronze Members.

Silver Membership 2026
\$17.70 + tax

The Silver Membership is for artists or anyone who wishes to volunteer their time at the House. It is a great way to meet other artists and art lovers and to keep in touch with local art events. If we didn't have Volunteers, the Lawrence House would not be able to stay open. There are many different ways to volunteer; the day to day running of the gift shop, special events, hanging exhibitions, computer work, Shopify updating, greeting customers and giving them information on the House, the Library and more. The only requirement for the Silver is that you commit to 3 shifts a month especially if you are in the Gift Shop so that you are comfortable with sales and the Shopify system.

Basic Membership 2026
\$17.70 + tax

As a Friend Member you are included in our mailing list which keeps you up to date on our House Concerts, First Friday events and our Exhibitions. You are able to rent a room at the House if you are having a special event and you have access to our online library.



RENEW OR JOIN FOR 2026

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, PLEASE CONTACT
KAREN SCHAW FOR DETAILS!



GALLERY SCHEDULE 2026

GALLERY STANDARDS FOR THE LAWRENCE HOUSE CENTRE FOR THE
ARTS



January

Gift Shop Sale
ends January 18th

February

Floyd Gibson Annual
Members Juried Exhibition

March

Main Gallery - Fibre Art
Turret Room - Members Show
Intake February 28 - March 1

April

Lambton College Arts Collective
Photography & Pottery Show
Intake March 28 - March 29

May

High School Art Show

June

Three Fires by the Water
Intake May 30 - May 31

July

Main Gallery - Rabia Rizvi
Turret Room - Sydney McKichan

August

"The Art Life" Texture & Colour
Members Show
Intake August 1 - August 2

September

The Lawrence House
Volunteers Show
Intake August 29 - August 30

October

Main Gallery - Sarnia Artists Workshop
Turret Room - Peg Kivi
Intake September 25 - September 26

November

"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It"
Members Extended Gift Shop
Intake October 31 - November 1

December

"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It"
Members Extended Gift Shop
Intake October 31 - November 1



What's On

House Concerts



Blackmore Murphy
Hines Feb 20

The Lawrence House
Centre for the Arts

\$12³⁹



Fáilte Concert March 15
2:00pm

The Lawrence House
Centre for the Arts

\$12³⁹



Cabin Fever Friday
March 27

The Lawrence House
Centre for the Arts

\$12³⁹

Join our House Concerts in the Turret Room, with great acoustics and a seating capacity of 40 people! Tickets are \$12.39 (\$14 including HST). Held on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM or Friday evenings at 7 PM, these 2 hour concerts feature talented local musicians with a focus on original compositions, jazz and classical music performing for an appreciative audience. Visit our online gift shop to find the current ticket listings:



<https://shop.lawrencehouse.ca/collections/house-concerts>

Meeting Times: Thursdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Phone: 519.466.2512

Location: Lawrence House Centre for the Arts

also on Zoom (hybrid club) 127 Christina St. South Sarnia, ON N7T 2M8 Canada

Membership Restriction: None; the club is open to all interested parties.

Online Attendance is allowed

[Toastmasters International Riverspeak](#)



The Sarnia Photographic Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in photography. We come together to share our work, listen to speakers, and go on outings, all with the goal of making impactful images. Come Join Us! Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings to find out more about the club and its activities before joining.



Main Meeting

We meet in the Turret Room of the Lawrence House on the first Tuesday of each month, September through June at 7:00 PM Note: Some meetings are on Zoom only.

Mid-Month Meeting

A second meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month. These meetings are less formal and more interactive in nature. Content of the meetings is decided as the year progresses based on members' interests and suggestions. Mid-month meetings may consist of technique demonstrations, photo show-and-tell, narrated audiovisual shows, and more.

Sarnia Photo Club



What's On

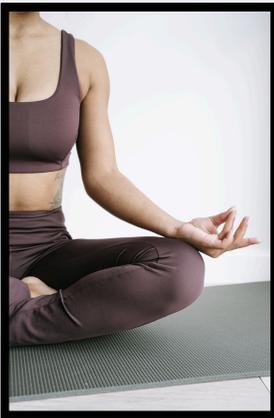


Call for Artists & Musicians

Interested in a 5 Questions segment? Contact us for your spot in an upcoming issue! This is a great way to meet fellow artists & musicians, in addition to giving our readers an insight into you and your art!

Contact Leann at

leanncottonphotography@gmail.com



SUNDAY YOGA

Hi, my name is Monica Gillis. My yoga journey began over 20 years ago when I first came to the mat to manage arthritis and support recovery from running injuries. What started as a physical practice quickly became a passion. During a life transition, I was inspired to deepen my practice and completed my 200-hour teacher training in 2020, becoming a Registered Yoga Teacher

We would love you to join us Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or want more information, please reach out to butterflyrisingyogaandwellness@gmail.com



WELCOME TO THE LAWRENCE HOUSE LENDING LIBRARY

With a wide range of topics available, books can be enjoyed in The Heritage Room. All current Lawrence House members have generous sign-out privileges. This library has been developed with the generous donations of pre-loved books on art, technique, and many more relevant subjects. Of note, we are also growing our local interest/history section in order to offer these specialized books to people looking for Sarnia-Lambton historical information. Book donations are always welcome, thank you to all who've donated books over the years.

- Canadian Art History
- Art History
- Artist-specific books
- Art Techniques
- Local Interest

[VISIT OUR ONLINE LIBRARY](#)





**New! Introduction to Watercolour
Spring Session Level 1
Taught by professional watercolour artist Cathy Earle**

Whether you have experience or not I will take you through step by step from learning how to mix all of your own colours with just three tubes of paint, to achieving a 3 dimensional painting by adding the proper values to your painting.

Each class you will learn how to paint something new using this special mixing method.

Over this **6-week** session you will gain confidence and learn how to paint still-lives, flowers, landscapes and more. Learning many techniques including washes, layering colour, how to compose a painting and achieving depth and realism.

At the beginning of each class I will do a demonstration to show you how to get started. Then I will give one on one instruction to each student throughout the class as needed.

**When: Sundays March 8th- April 19th 1 pm- 3:30 pm
excluding Easter April 5th**

Where: Lawrence House Basement Art Studio

127 Christina St. S Sarnia

Cost: \$270.00 for 6-week course

*Art supplies' not included; supply list provided upon registration
Please email me to register with payment to hold your place in class.*

I accept e-transfer to CATEARLE60@GMAIL.COM or cash.

Week 1 March 8th Sunday

Creating a value Scale, learning how to mix your paints to achieve all your colours needed to create paintings with depth. This is a very important class. Please do not miss this one!

Week 2 March 15th Sunday

Simple Still life to put into practice how to paint using your new mixing skills to create a three dimensional object. You will also start to learn about composition and making a painting more interesting by how you compose it on the paper.

Week 3 March 21th Saturday

Learning how to paint a still life with flowers, which I will bring into class. You will continue to learn about composition and planning it out before you start to paint.

Week 4 March 29th Sunday

Learning to paint a Landscape with sky, clouds and land. You will learn about horizon lines and perspective and how to achieve depth in your painting as well as an easy way to paint sky and clouds

Week 5 April 11th Saturday

Learn how to paint a sunset going down over the water with clouds.

Week 6 April 19th Sunday

Learn how to paint birds and foliage. You will learn a simple way to achieve the shape of the bird.

<https://www.cathyearle.com/>



Facebook: @learntheartofwatercolour | Instagram: cathy_earle_art





IRIS KIPPERT

5 QUESTIONS WITH... CATHY EARLE

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST
OCAD, OSA, CSPWC, CFS



JULIA EARLE

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE ART IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHAT INSPIRED ME TO PURSUE ART- SINCE I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, I REALIZED THAT DRAWING AND PAINTING WAS SOMETHING THAT I WAS GOOD AT. WHEN I WAS DRAWING A CAT OR A RABBIT, THE KIDS IN MY CLASS WOULD OOH AND AWE AT MY ARTWORK AND IT MADE ME FEEL PROUD OF MYSELF. I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED TO PAINT AND DRAW AND ALL I WANTED TO BE WAS AN ARTIST.

HOW CAN YOUNG ARTISTS FIND THEIR UNIQUE STYLE?

I THINK EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE STYLE WHETHER THEY REALIZE IT OR NOT. YOU JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT KIND OF SUBJECT MATTER THAT YOU LIKE TO DRAW OR PAINT AND KEEP PAINTING EVERY DAY. GET INSPIRED, GO TO ART GALLERIES AND LOOK ONLINE FOR ARTISTS THAT DO SIMILAR WORK AND TRY TO BE AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER THAN THEM. ASPIRE TO GET BETTER AND BETTER!

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST?

I HAVE HAD MANY JOBS IN MY LIFETIME DOING LOTS OF THINGS I DIDNT ENJOY. I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST. I AM DOING WHAT I LOVE! THAT IS VERY REWARDING! IT IS ALSO REWARDING KNOWING THAT I AM SPREADING JOY WITH MY ART . I LOVE TO SEE MY PAINTINGS HANGING IN SOMEONES HOME TO MAKE NEW MEMORIES WITH THAT FAMILY. I AM VERY PROUD TO BE AN ARTIST. I LOVE TEACHING AS WELL!

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF TURNING ART INTO A CAREER?

I WOULD SAY THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE MAKING A LIVING AS AN ARTIST AND BEING SELF EMPLOYED IS HAVING A CONSISTENT INCOME. THAT IS WHY I WEAR MANY HATS. SOMETIMES I AM VERY BUSY AND OTHER TIMES WHEN ONE AREA IS QUIET SOMETHING ELSE GETS BUSY. I TRY TO BE OPEN MINDED ABOUT ANY NEW PROJECTS. I MAKE A LIVING TEACHING AND SELLING MY ART, I DO COMMISSIONS AND I ALSO HANG ARTWORK FOR PEOPLE. I DO HOME COLOUR CONSULTATIONS HELPING PEOPLE CHOOSE PAINT COLOURS.

WHAT'S ONE MISTAKE YOU MADE THAT TAUGHT YOU A VALUABLE LESSON?

YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PUBLICLY HANG YOUR ARTWORK. I HAVE HAD MY PAINTINGS DAMAGED HANGING IN STORES AND GALLERIES. ITS IMPORTANT TO BE SELECTIVE ABOUT WHERE YOU HANG YOUR WORK. MOST PLACES DO NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ARTWORK OR FOR DAMAGE. THAT WAS A VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED.



CATHYEARLE.COM



[CATHY_EARLE_ART](https://www.instagram.com/CATHY_EARLE_ART)



[CATHY EARLES ART](https://www.facebook.com/CATHY_EARLES_ART)



IRIS KIPPERT



Self portrait lino print

5 QUESTIONS WITH... SUSAN PERRY

PAINTER, MULTI MEDIA



One of my favourite colour prints (Canatara Park)

How did you develop your artistic skills?

Making art is an important part of my life. I have spent my whole life developing my artistic skills. I am an avid sketchbooker and try to draw daily.

How has your background influenced the type of art you create?

My post secondary education began with a year of Illustration at Sheridan College, followed by a year at Art Sake an uncredited school in Toronto (where I learned to enjoy making art for its own sake). I also studied art at the University of Guelph, where I did my first printmaking course and when I moved to this area, I attended classes at Western University and Lambton College. My interest in illustration has continued throughout my life and my work is representational.

How has your inspiration evolved over time?

Initially I focused on figurative work. I believe in the importance of figure drawing to hone my drawing skills. I have continued participating in and organizing figure drawing for decades for this reason. Gardening and caring for indoor plants is another of my passions, therefore, flowers and plants are often a subject of my work. I usually work from life rather than photography. I have developed my on-the-spot landscape drawing and painting skills to complement my enjoyment of being outdoors with working directly from life.

Has travel or exposure to other cultures influenced your art?

I am not well travelled, however, when I do, I make a point of sketching. My sketchbooks are my journals. I enjoy going to galleries and museums locally and when I travel. Visiting these institutions inspires me to scurry home and make art.

How do you decide which medium is best for each project?

I draw, I paint (watercolour, gouache and acrylic gouache) and I make relief prints. Making prints is a long process, from conception of a print to final stages could span months of time, therefore printmaking is a studio activity. I use watercolour and ink on location. I enjoy using a variety of media to continue learning through experimentation.

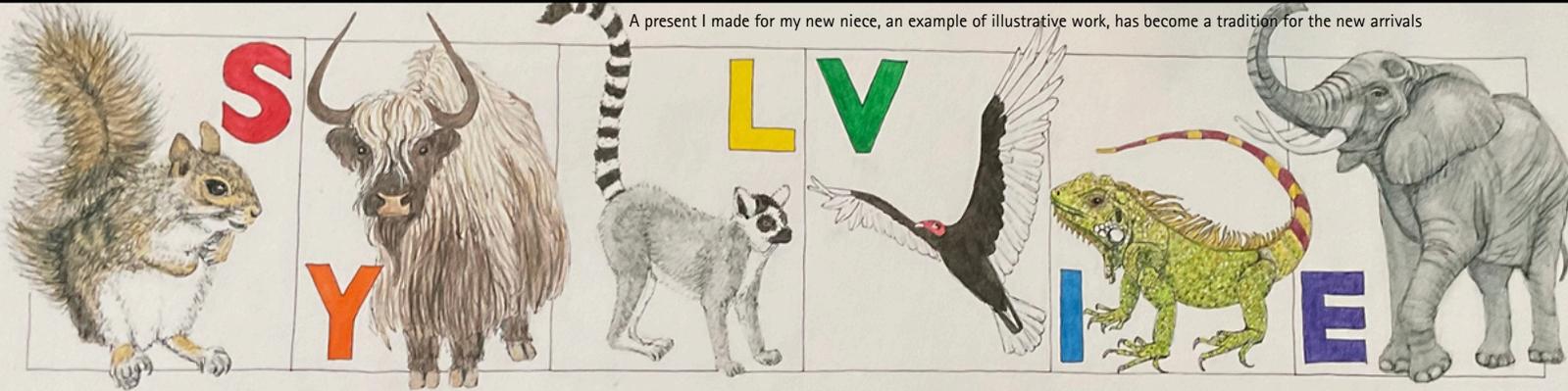


susanperryart



A sketchbook drawing of the turret room during Bill and Leonard's exhibition

A present I made for my new niece, an example of illustrative work, has become a tradition for the new arrivals



Open Stage

Second and Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Doors Open at 6:45 p.m.

Admission is free. Musicians, poets, storytellers, and writers are welcome to the microphone to perform in a quiet intimate setting.

The House piano and guitar are available for performers to use.

Audience members who enjoy music and words are welcome to listen!



Local

'Open Stage' to foster performing artists

Transplanted Ottawa performer Missy Burgess says she wants to establish a regular "open stage" in Sarnia to encourage new talent and strengthen the local cultural scene.

On April 11, she and Sarnia singer-songwriter John Pilat are launching The Open Stage at the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts.

Burgess, sister of the late tenor Michael Burgess, is an experienced folk, blues and jazz entertainer.

She's released three albums and has a long history of performing live in the Ottawa area.

Eighteen months ago, she moved to Sarnia to be close to her elderly mom.

"I'm enjoying Sarnia and I think a lot can happen here," she said.

"There are lots of talented people here who may need a supportive environment like the one we're planning."

The Open Stage will be held on the second and third Mondays of the month, available to anyone who wants to perform or listen to music, poetry, or storytelling.

"Come on down, do what-



ever you do on the stage," said Burgess.

"We want to provide an attentive audience for performers who have no experience or people with lots of experience who want to practice."

"There are lots of talented people here who may need a supportive environment like the one we're planning."

— Missy Burgess

She hopes The Open Stage will have a heavy emphasis on music and original material. The Lawrence House Turret Room is equipped with a house guitar, a piano, and a sound system.

"I got my chops going to open stages and I believe in the idea a lot," said Burgess.

Continued on 15



LOCAL PERFORMERS John Pilat and Missy Burgess are starting an Open Stage at The Lawrence House.

CATHY DOBSON The Journal



OUR 2016 INSTAGRAM THROWBACK

RENTALS

EVENT & WORKSHOP SPACES

THE LAWRENCE HOUSE AMENITIES INCLUDE;

- ACCESSIBLE ACCESS WITH ELEVATOR
- KITCHENETTE
- SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS
- WIFI/AV EQUIPMENT



Studio A

\$25.00 (three hour block)



The Turret Room

\$25.00 (three hour block)



Room Rental
After Hours



Room Rental
Entire House

THE LAWRENCE HOUSE
HAS A WIDE RANGE OF
OPTIONS FOR EVENT
RENTAL,

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR
ALL THE DETAILS!



from the archives...

❖ LANDMARKS ❖

THE STORIES BEHIND SARNIA-LAMBTON'S MOST INTERESTING SIGHTS



Outspoken sculptor's statue attracts attention in Sarnia

By **GEORGE MATHEWSON**
of The Observer

The bronze statue of a life-size boy and girl seated on a bench beside the Sarnia Library has turned the head of many passers-by.

That would please its creator. Lea Vivot, an outspoken sculptor based in Kleinburg, Ont., is noted as much for her flamboyance as her art-work. Her habit of leaving bronze benches in public places — usually by means of a crane in the dead of night — has led her to be called the blonde Zorro of Canadian public art.

When the Sarnia Library Board purchased The Secret Bench using an art acquisition fund and matching grant from the Ontario government in 1990, it was the first Vivot ever exhibited outside a major city.

"That's what makes me thrilled," she

told The Observer at the time. "Smaller cities take more time to care about every-day man."

She matched her feelings with action. The board paid \$75,000 of the \$150,000 appraised price and the artist forgave the rest.

Vivot has waged a guerrilla war against Ontario's art establishment. A year earlier she left another copy of The Secret Bench — there are seven — on the front steps of the National Library of Canada in Ottawa.

"Art belongs in the public," she said. "Sculpture must be taken off its pedestal and put out in the street, where people can experience it."

Ottawa officials were outraged and had it removed.

The same fate befell The Lovers' Bench. That work, featuring a naked man and woman groping each other as a

second naked woman looks on, was removed after it suddenly "arrived" at the corner of Toronto's Bay and Bloor streets in 1979.

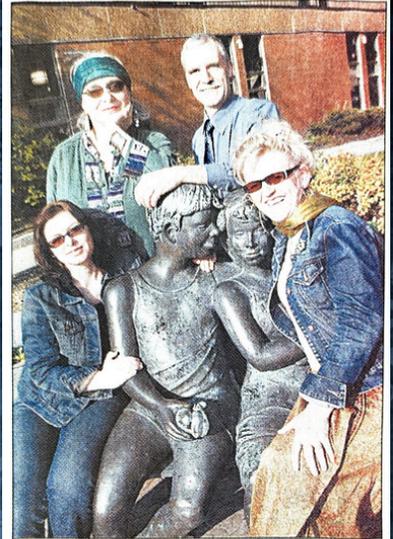
Vivot's disdain for the bureaucratic process has earned her the enmity of civic bylaw enforcement officers and other artists, who say she ignores the rules of public art selection. Critics have called her creations simple, shallow and sentimental.

But the general public seems to loves her work. Ottawa's Secret Bench was re-installed in 1994 after a fervent public outcry, and Sarnia's, which is personalized with inscriptions from local citizens, has proven a favored outdoor landmark.

Other Vivot sculptures stand in front of the United Nations, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and New York's Battery Park.

ARCHIVIST: DONNA POWERS-GARNER

GARDEN SCULPTING



GLENN OLGIVIE The Observer
Posing with the couple on the bench at the Sarnia Library are members of the Sarnia Lambton public sculpture committee. From left Deborah Durance, Ann Stirling, Brad Gray and Corinne Schieman. Absent was Vicki Comeau and Vatche Kuechecarian.

Artists beautify outdoors

By **TARA HAGAN**
for The Observer

A group of local artists are hoping to enhance the outdoor art scene through the creation of a sculpture garden.

"We see this as a long-term project that will create an arts destination for visitors to Sarnia-Lambton and local citizens alike," said Corinne Schieman, vice-chair of the Sarnia-Lambton public sculpture committee, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization.

Assembled just last year, the six-member committee has already raised \$7,600 through donations from local businesses, including Bluewater Power and MIG Engineering, and a grant from ArtsVest, a provincial grants program aimed at helping develop partnerships between business and arts organizations.

Committee member and Lawrence House director Ann Stirling said the ideal location for the garden would be adjacent to the proposed new Gallery Lambton.

She also said the group would like to see a garden created similar to the Donald Forester Sculpture Park in Guelph, Ont., which currently has 33 permanent sculptures by various artists.

"This really gives people an opportunity to enjoy our cultural heritage," said Stirling. "It will really beautify our city, and add a quality of life."

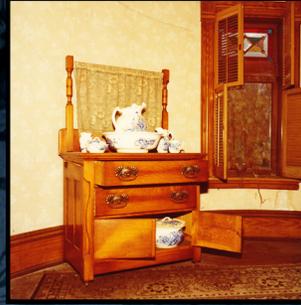
Currently under the Sarnia-Lambton Arts Council, the committee will issue a call for entries and have a sculpture added every two years.

The Sarnia-Lambton Public Sculpture Committee will have a booth set up at the Artwalk festival on June 2 and 3.



A look back...

Archivist: Donna Powers-Garner
Photographer: unknown



NEXT MONTH...

Main Gallery

The Lawrence House Centre
for the Arts

Fibre Art

*From Thought
To
Final Form*

Patti Cook
Cheryl Laakes
Sharon Fraser
Carol Karttunen
Cynthia Lescene
Karen Pasqualucci

March 6 - 27, 2026



The Turret Room

The Lawrence House Members Show

Intake February 28 - March 1

