

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





the lawrence house.


MISSION STATEMENT

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts is a community based, independent, not-for-profit, charitable organization committed to encouraging the creation and appreciation of the visual, performing and literary arts in Sarnia-Lambton.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ANCESTRAL LANDS

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

(left) Aamjiwnaang First Nation Pow Wow, June 2022

 *Leann Cotton*

editorial

in this issue

*“Whether you succeed or not is irrelevant, there is no such thing.
Making your unknown known is the important thing.”
– Georgia O’Keeffe*

Welcome to June, a month of warm weather leading us into the hot and hazy days of summer that lies ahead. Lawn parties, patios, classic cars, gardens planted, tended, and cared for.

This month, The Lawrence House hosts the Niswi Ishkoden Niibiing/Three Fires by the Water exhibit, kicking off our summer season of music on the lawn.

As a student at Lansdowne Public School, one of my favourite teachers was Mrs. Henry. We learned the art of beadwork, crafting, and language from this wonderful lady, so the Three Fires by the Water Show holds a special place in the fondest of my school memories.

In July and August, The Art House will host Summer Art Camps for young artists ages 6-12, soon the sound of children learning about and creating art within the walls of this Queen Anne house will brighten our July and August with their energy and enthusiasm for all things creative!

Savour the moments,

Leann Coffon
Editor in Chief



05	CONTRIBUTORS
06	EVENT CALENDAR
07-08	SPRING ART FAIR - BAXTER PARK
09-10	THREE FIRES BY THE WATER
11-14	ARTIST SPOTLIGHT - JOHN WILLIAMS
15-16	ARTIST SPOTLIGHT - JEFFREY (RED) GEORGE
17-20	JUNE EVENTS SCHEDULE
21-22	2026 MEMBERSHIP
23-24	MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

(left) Detail

Title - “As Above, So Below”
Artist - Jill Joseph



ON THE COVER

Title - “Mother Earth”
Artist - Jeffrey “Red” George

(right) Detail

Title - “Moonlight Mushrooms”
Artist - Jill Joseph



contributors

Editor in Chief

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Vice Chair

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Literary Reps

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Performing Arts

Anne Stoesser

John Pilat

Treasurer

Andrew Bovell

Gift Shop Committee

Peg Kivi

City Of Sarnia Rep

Claudio Montanaro

Volunteer Coordinator

Deb Scragg

Dedication

To all of the artists who show up every day to create something beautiful.



JANUARY	01	FEBRUARY	02	MARCH	03	APRIL	04
Gift Shop Sale (Ends January 18th)		Floyd Gibson Annual Members Juried Exhibition		Main Gallery - Fibre Art Turret Room - Members Show		Lambton College Arts Collective Photography & Pottery Show	
MAY	05	JUNE	06	JULY	07	AUGUST	08
High School Art Show		Three Fires by the Water		Main Gallery - Rabia Rizvi Turret Room - Sydney McKichan		"The Art Life" Texture & Colour Members Show (Intake August 1 - August 2)	
SEPTEMBER	09	OCTOBER	10	NOVEMBER	11	DECEMBER	12
The Lawrence House Volunteers Show (Intake August 29 - August 30)		Main Gallery - Sarnia Artists Workshop Turret Room - Peg Kivi (Intake September 25 - September 26)		"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It" Members Extended Gift Shop (Intake October 31 - November 1)		"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It" Members Extended Gift Shop (Intake October 31 - November 1)	

Spring Art Fair at Baxter Park, 2026

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!

 **Jale Fancy**



Three Fires By The Water.

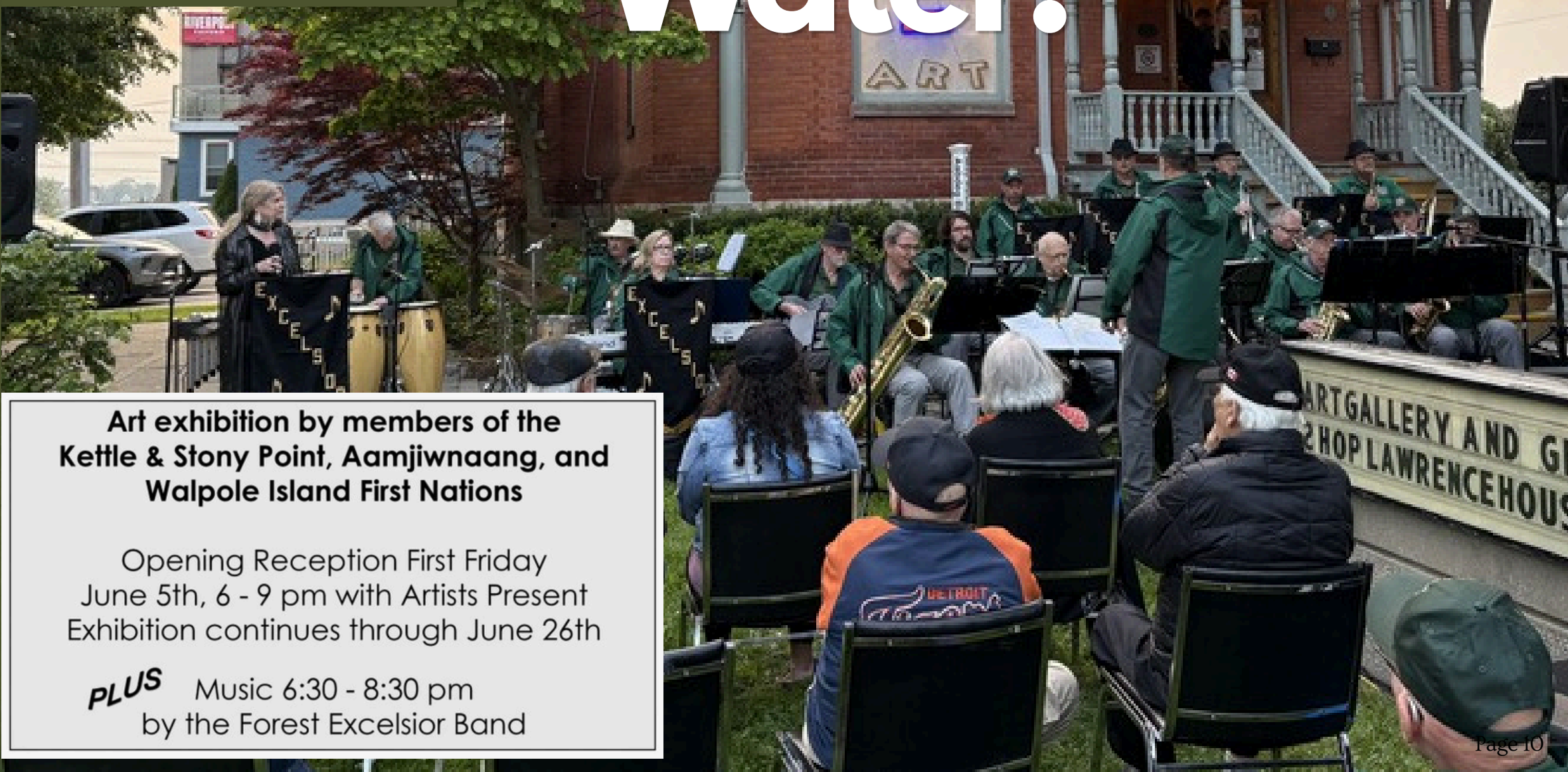


Annual First Nations Festival on the Lawn

June 7 noon -4:00

Music and Artist Booths

Lawrence House Centre for the Arts



Art exhibition by members of the Kettle & Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang, and Walpole Island First Nations

Opening Reception First Friday June 5th, 6 - 9 pm with Artists Present
Exhibition continues through June 26th

PLUS Music 6:30 - 8:30 pm by the Forest Excelsior Band



learn more about the Council of the Three Fires



John Williams
b. December 1973
Ojibway from
Aamjiwnaang First
Nation.

Shares the richness of the Ojibway culture through colorful artworks depicting life, storytelling, legends, and lore.

When not in the art studio, he spends his time holding paint sessions, mural work, commissions, and setting up as a vendor at the pow wows throughout the local circuit.

John is often accompanied by his son, Theo throughout his endeavors.

Email giibaaj@gmail.com

JOHN WILLIAMS
IN THE MEDIA...

Journeyman:
John Williams'
Mural

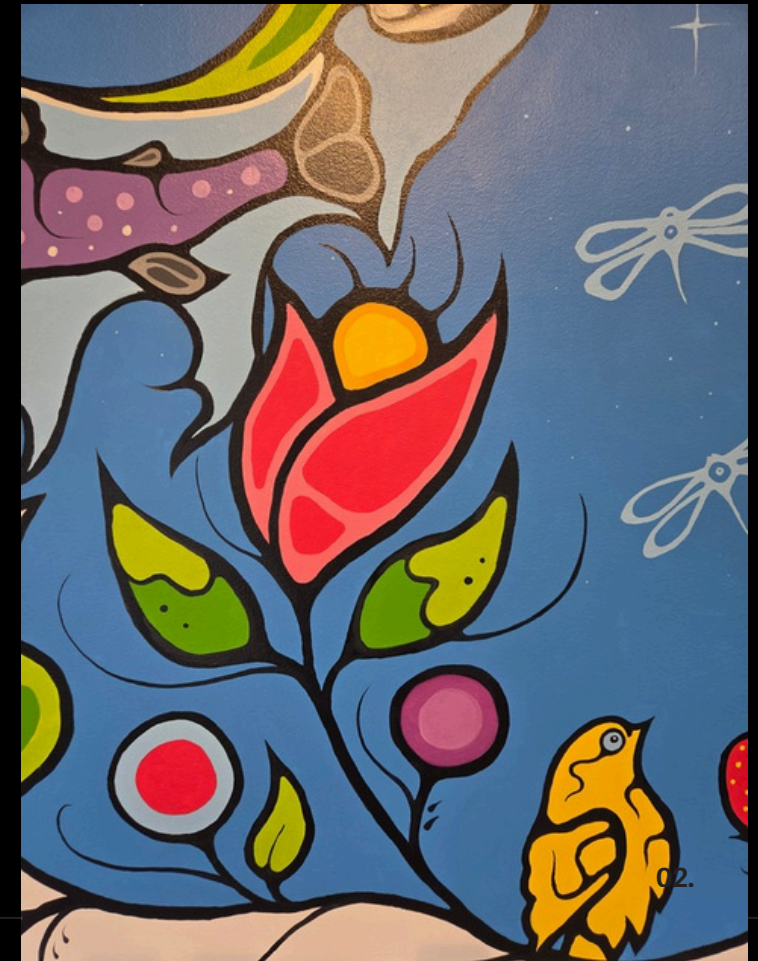
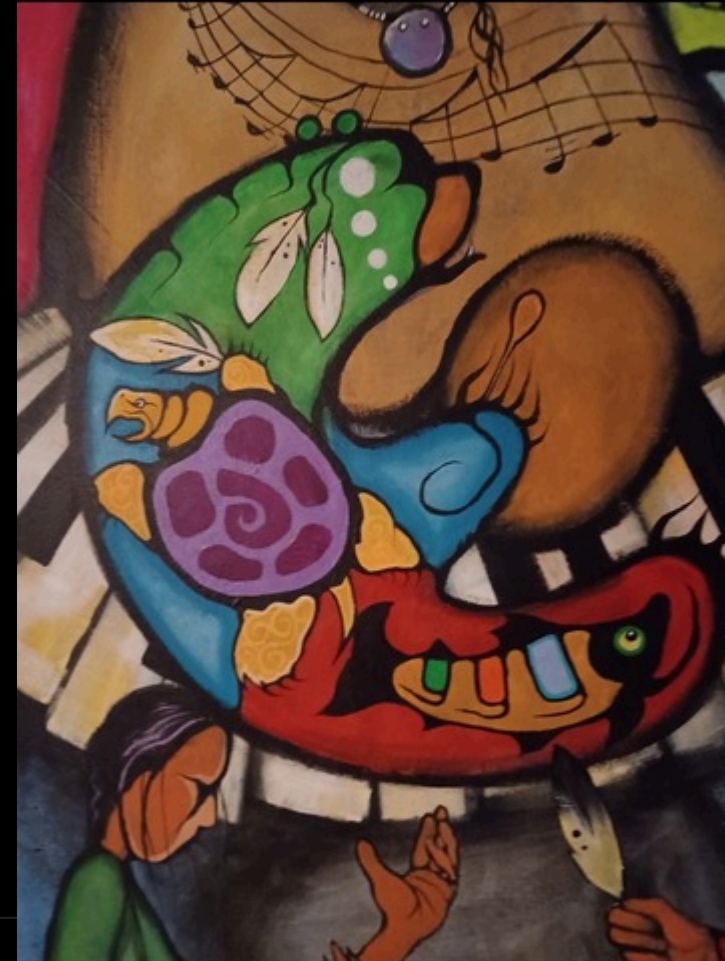
The Turtle
Island News

Tilbury Times
Reporter

The Sarnia
Observer

The Sarnia
Journal

Waterlution



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

My name is Jeffrey (Red) George (Ma-Mi-No-ga-boo) and I am an Ojibway artist. I was born in the year of 1980 and come from an artistic family. My mother, grandmother, uncle, brother and sister, and cousins are all artists (painters, sculptors, crafters, beaders, and musicians).



I had a difficult time in my early years, growing up on the lands of the First Nation of Kettle and Stony Point, situated along the shores of Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada. However, over the years, I have overcome a variety of challenges that have impacted me.



Raven Moon, painted on raw hide
Traditional Native hand drum, 16"x16" round



"Moose Strength"
embroidery 8"x10 1/2"

Jeffrey (Red) George

"My work reflects my culture and its blessings"



"Home by the Water"
acrylic on canvas, 11"x14"

INSPIRATION

"I saw a sketch one time when I was little. I must have been about 7-or-8 years old. It was a sketch of a native face, an Elder with long hair, with a separate a face on either side. There were feathers and circles and the way it was done, in the Native Style of drawing, sparked my interest . . . I too wanted to draw, not knowing then that it would also become therapeutic. It has helped me, in a positive manner, in overcoming some of my most difficult encounters in growing up; it has helped me to express my feelings and thoughts and has been a great outlet in helping me transform into a better person."





JUNE EVENTS SCHEDULE

1.

CALL FOR ARTISTS & MUSICIANS

Interested in a 5 Questions segment? Artist Spotlight? Contact us for your spot in an upcoming issue!

This is a great way to introduce yourself to fellow artists & musicians, in addition to giving our readers an insight into you and your art!

Contact Leann at leanncottonphotography@gmail.com

Open Stage hosted by Annette Dillon is on Vacation Until September

2.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL RIVERSPEAK

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

Phone: **519.466.2512**

Location: **Lawrence House Centre for the Arts
127 Christina St. South Sarnia, ON N7T 2M8**

All are invited to our Open House, Thursday, June 4th @ 7pm

3.

THE SARNIA PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

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. 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 1st Tuesday of each month.

Our final meeting of the season is June 2nd at 7:00 PM, however, we do offer summer excursions for our members. Visit our [website](#) for further information.

4.

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

5.

THE LAWRENCE HOUSE 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 - Art techniques - Local Interest - Artist Specific Books

JUNE EVENTS SCHEDULE



 Sarnia Photographic Club Presents

*“Photography gets more rewarding
when knowledge catches up to enthusiasm”.*

Richard Beland:

*Pro Photographer,
Program Director
Lambton College
Photography Program*



Photos by Dawn Riley



*Tuesday, June 2nd, Lawrence House
127 Christina St.s
7 pm live and on Zoom.
Guests welcome*



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.

[*Join or Renew for 2026*](#)



We are looking for a volunteer coordinator! If interested, please contact - The Lawrence House
Attn: Karen Schaw for details!

2026 MEMBERSHIP

BASIC

As a Basic 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.

PRICE: \$17.70 PLUS TAX

BRONZE

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.

PRICE: \$44.25 PLUS TAX

SILVER

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. ***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.**

PRICE: \$17.70 PLUS TAX

2026 MEMBER SERVICES

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts (LHCA) invites submissions to exhibit in the Turret Room (Gallery) to its members.

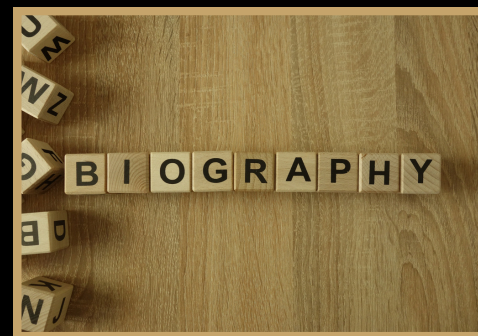
Exhibition opportunities of one month in duration are available. The LHCA welcomes proposals from artists of all disciplines and career levels. The call is open to all LHCA members who reside or work in Lambton County and who have not had a solo show at the gallery in the past 3 years.

Consideration is extended to both solo or two-person proposals.

Artist's creations are juried for their workmanship and creativity. We accept only high quality items that we feel will be received well by the public.

It is important to us that your items sell.

[Gallery Standards for The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts – The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts](#)



[Check out our Artist Bio page here!](#)



[Upload your Artist Bio today!](#)



[Upload your product submission form here!](#)



[Submission to Exhibit at The Lawrence House](#)

RENTALS

EVENT & WORKSHOP SPACES



STUDIO A



\$25.00 (3 hour block)

THE TURRET ROOM



\$25.00 (3 hour block)

Hi Everyone!

I'm Wilma Mehl, a pastel artist from the Sarnia area.

The Lambton County region is full of creative and artistic talent, and we're here to help showcase your art, and connect you with art-centric businesses.

I'm pleased to announce this newly-launched Instagram account, dedicated to supporting local artists, art-allied businesses, and art galleries. Featured artists will enjoy increased exposure and gallery opportunities.

We welcome all 2D media, including digital art and photography.

Feel free to reach out to us - simply click on our logo above to join our artistic community!

Don't forget to share, so we can give local artists a bigger platform!

ARTISTS OF LAMBTON COUNTY



Room Rental After Hours



Room Rental Entire House

THE LAWRENCE HOUSE AMENITIES INCLUDE:



- Accessible access with elevator
- Kitchenette
- Special Event Permits
- Wi-Fi/AV Equipment

The Lawrence House has a wide range of options for event rental.
Please contact us for all the details!



next month...

Rabia Rizvi
(Main Gallery)

&

Sydney
McKichan
(Turret Room)

Featured painting:

"Blewater Bridge"

oil on canvas

24" x 36"

Sydney McKichan

