



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE  
AGM 2021**

**Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre  
September 30, 2021**

Today, September 30, 2021 is the first Day For Truth and Reconciliation. I encourage you each to consider what that means to you and to commit to learning about Canada's First Nations in the coming year.

Welcome to the **Annual General Meeting of Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre** for the year ending March 31, 2021.

First, I want to thank our President **Marguerite Easby**, for her support and sustained commitment to Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre through the pandemic. Whether chairing a meeting on Zoom or in person, Marguerite kept things moving along and on track, fulfilling her Board Chair responsibilities with style and grace. Her proofreading skills are unparalleled and it has been a pleasure working on Haliburton Art and Craft challenges with Marguerite, together with Kathy Longmore, Michelle and all the Volunteers.

**Janet Trull** is also retiring from the Board this year. I will never forget the fun we had creating Art Heaven for the first time, and the fabulous Friday night Trash N Treasures Preview, underlined by torrential rain the following day! I expect we will be seeing more from Janet as her writing career blossoms.

I'd like to thank the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario for providing COVID support to a small cultural organization like ours. With it both Michelle and I were able to continue to work, to open an online shop, do online programming and records review. It was great to have our jobs to go to when so many were struggling.

In spite of pandemic setbacks it was a good year. Over the summer we were able to present a sublime exhibition of new work by glass artist **Susan Rankin** titled "**Shadow Garden**" in the way it deserved - as slow art, with lots of space, an outdoor element and even timed viewings. The latter allowed small groups of friends to visit with the art without interruption. The idea of a public art gallery space being a place for contemplation has always appealed to me. It was magical to make it happen during an otherwise stressful period. We turned obstacles into possibilities.

**Fireworks (Ontario Clay and Glass Association Biennial)** was an education in the possibilities of clay, and glass, from some of the top artists in the Ontario craft movement. Unpacking the show was a treat, and I'd like to thank Lorrie Brandon for her help, (we even made an "unboxing" video!).

**The Annual Members' Salon "Connection"** was presented in online format with a virtual show and catalogue. Congratulations again to Renee Woltz for being voted The People's Choice of 2021! Continuing in the vein of local artist presentation we wowed audiences with **Gord Jones** watercolours this summer, and are now set to inject even more brilliant colour than usual into Fall with **John Lennard's "Local Colour"**.

Rails End Gallery has almost fully transitioned to being very much OPEN over the past 6 months. *I know many of you have been wondering what the 2022 Members' Salon Exhibition" theme will be. You are the first to know! It is "Point of View (POV)". Exhibition details will be in your next online UPDATE.*

To our Members, thank you for being with us. Your loyalty, donations, talent, goodwill and commitment to bringing art to life is what will take this organization to places we can only dream of today. I am so happy to be on board with you.

Artfully yours,

Laurie Jones

Executive Director/Curator