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Dundee Artisan Festival Receives \$5,000 Grant From Region Of Waterloo

Feature Thu, Jan 26th, 2023 *Veronica Reiner*



The Dundee Artisan Festival, based in New Dundee, recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund. The one-day festival will be coming back this year in May, and features local artisans and musicians to inspire craftsmanship, promote community togetherness and support small businesses.

This grant will cover a variety of costs associated with the event, including the rental of New Dundee Community Park, insurance, performing musicians, as well as a tent for Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School.

This is the second year in a row that the festival will be taking place. Rosemary Arthurs spearheaded the idea of the Dundee Artisan Festival, and is also the owner of Dundee Pottery.

“I’ve always wanted to run one, or have one, and last year we just had the perfect group of women that could get it off the ground,” said Arthurs, on how the festival started. “So I had the idea, they jumped on board with me, and it just worked.”

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“Some of them have moved on, but we’ve got another group of good people, and because it was done once, we have a good pattern to follow.”

Arthurs added that the festival did not receive a grant for last year’s event, and that she paid about \$2,000 out of pocket to make it happen.

“From my point of view, it’s not a money making endeavour as an event planning or anything - our goal is to engage the community and engage artists,” said Arthurs.

All of the artists featured are those who have taken the time and care to build their skill and demonstrate a caliber of expertise that recognizes the time honoured tradition and spirit of their craft.

The festival committee has already begun the planning process as of this month, and are currently accepting applications for this year’s event. Arthurs said that the process of applying is a little arduous, and that they are seeking a specific type of artist.

“I’m not saying that we don’t accept part time artists, but we really want vendors to have invested time and energy into their craft, and that they understand the historical significance of it, and pay it forward,” said Arthurs.

Some examples of artists featured last year include Love Bite Ceramics, Julia Masci Textiles, Tom’s Tyme Live Edge Wood Clocks, Rock Lake Weaving, Rachel Joy VanRooyen Handcrafted Jewelry, Stellar 25, Huckleberry Hives, Lamb to Loom, The Sage Soap Company, Natural Photography, The Paper Trail, and Harvest Moon Trading Company.

Arthurs said many of these vendors seem interested in returning, given their experience at last year’s show.

“I don’t think there was anybody who said they didn’t want to come back - they all felt like they had sold lots and that it was a good show,” said Arthurs. “And the food trucks - certainly some of them sold out, and they are interested in coming back. So from that point of view, I think it was a success.” Committee members for the Dundee Artisan Festival this year include Arthurs, Parma Ashworth, Tammy Funk, Joanne Poel and Shelley Ulmer. Special thanks goes to Esther Wheaton for help with music, Dianne Littleton for help with finances, and Carolyn Winsborough for obtaining the grant.

The Dundee Artisan Festival will take place at New Dundee Community Park on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information or to apply as a vendor, visit www.dundeeartisanfestival.ca.