

SUN Briefs

Artist's photos on display to March 19

The photography of Rory Mahony is on display until March 19 at the Thames Art Gallery.

Mahony's works feature mural-sized digital prints along with two video loops, one shown on a small monitor, and the other on the gallery wall.

Mahony has been a full-time faculty member of the visual communication program at Medicine Hat College where he teaches video photography.

He will be presenting a series of Pinhole Photography workshops March 6, 7, and 8 as part of Thames Art Gallery Visiting Artist Series.

Also featured is Diachronic, historical development of a subject, on the mezzanine of the gallery.

Diachronic features the works of Southwestern Ontario artists Christine D'Onofrio, Zeke Moores, Greg Forrest and Brandon Vicerd.

Mahony is expected to be on hand Sunday at 2 p.m. for an opening reception.

Tree planting workshops to be held on Saturday

A tree planting workshop will be held in Chatham Saturday morning at the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority administration building on Thames St.

It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The workshop will be one of four being held in the area. Others are to be held in Tilbury, Ridgetown and Blenheim.

The conservation authority planted 75,000 trees last year on private and public lands.

The workshops will provide information on best planting methods for trees and shrubs, available planting services, and species suitability for soil types and land situations.

Peace demonstration planned in Chatham

A global day of action for peace will be held March 18 in downtown Chatham, the Chatham-Kent Peace Coalition announced Wednesday.

Held on the third anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the coalition said the event is designed to "help people find ways to practise peace and non-violence in our community."

Organizer is Derry McKeever, who said Canada has one of the best-developed democracies in the world, "but we're far from perfect."

He said Canadians need to understand their nation's role in the war effort in the Middle East, and to know whether Canada is "contributing to or benefitting from war efforts."

Meanwhile, the coalition will be holding a peace poster workshop on March 9 at the CAW Hall, Merritt Ave. It begins at 6 p.m.

Kevany to speak at women's day event

Dr. Kathleen Kevany will be the guest speaker at the 13th annual International Women's Day event next Wednesday in Chatham.

The event, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Active Lifestyle Centre on Merritt Ave., is designed to draw attention to the accomplishments and struggles of women throughout the world.

The event is sponsored by the Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, CAW Local 127 women's committee and the women's committee of the local Public Service Alliance of Canada.

People are invited to bring photos of women who have inspired their lives.

International Women's Day was introduced in 1910 at the second International Conference of Socialist Women and was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1977.

For more information, call Michelle Schryer at the sexual assault crisis centre at 354-8908.

Girl, 9, pockets prize in Myles cookie contest

EMILY PAIGE
Chatham Sun

Buying three cookies with her own pocket money bought a winning ticket for a nine-year-old Chatham girl.

Hope Corrente is the winner of a necklace and earring set, donated by Affinity Distinctive Jewellers, for the cookie drive held for Myles McLellan in February.

"How fitting it is a girl named Hope won the draw," Jill Addy, fund-raising spokesperson, said yesterday.

Hope was a friend of Myles, and remembers swimming and playing games with the boy,

who died of cancer on Feb. 16.

She had saved money her father and grandmother had given her to buy the cookies.

Meanwhile, Addy said here are still some cookies waiting to be picked up at 549 Park Ave.

The cookies were mixed and baked at Buns Masters on Wellington St. in Chatham.

"They really stepped up to the plate," said Addy of Buns Masters, who took over the preparation stages when Myles passed.

One hundred and ten cookie orders were taken, bringing in \$1,200 that will be given to the McLellan family.

epaige@chathamsun.com



Emily Paige/Chatham Sun

Hope Corrente, 9, was the winner of the necklace and earring set donated by Affinity Distinctive Jewellers to the Myles McLellan cookie drive. With her is organizer Jill Addy.

New OSPCA contract still waiting to be signed

LARISSA BARLOW
Chatham Sun

Not much has changed at the OSPCA since the organization clinched a new contract from the municipality.

After Chatham-Kent councillors had originally voted to nix funding to the group in favour of a government-run facility, a public outcry had them revisiting their decision.

What became a heated debate between councillors and constituents—bombarding elected officials with calls and e-mails pleading to save the group—has now simmered down, with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals continuing its daily work.

Cathy Crawford, branch manager of the Chatham OS-

PCA, said their new contract has yet to be signed as it's still being reviewed by municipal legal teams, but she doesn't expect any glitches to arise.

"It's been business as usual. We haven't made any major changes because we don't have the contract from the municipality yet," she said yesterday.

"We're still pretty much the same as what we're always doing and providing the services we said we would."

OSPCA eager to begin

Crawford didn't have a timeline of when the contract would be ready to sign, but she said they're eager to get underway so they can get an additional vehicle and start looking at facility improvements or a new location altogether.

She said when their current building on Park Ave.

was constructed in 1974, it was set to handle 1,200 to 1,500 animals, but in 2005, they've handled about 4,500.

"We'd be interested looking at other municipal properties that may be available," Crawford said, or even privately owned facilities.

"We just know we're way too big for that small building."

She said the Sarnia-based OSPCA office recently underwent an upgrade that is similar to what Chatham will need, and it cost around \$400,000.

"When it comes time, we're going to have to go out and do a huge fundraising campaign to be able to really do some expansion," she said.

"We know that the public want us in the community and certainly council and administration have indicated we're a services that needs to be here."

Responsible Gambling Council coming to slots

LARISSA BARLOW
Chatham Sun

Gambling problems usually begin with a false belief in how gambling works.

"People who think they can control the way gambling works... it's like having a system to help you win," said Jon Kelly, CEO of the Responsible Gambling Council.

He said it can start with the mantra, "the longer I play, the more likely I'll win," or thinking that slot machine placements in a casino are indicative of their pay out.

"People have all kinds of ideas," he said.

That's why the council is setting up a stands throughout the province this month—including one outside

the Dresden Slots on Monday—to educate people on the myths of gambling and the roots of the problem.

"Problem gambling is a problem anywhere it exists and there's almost universal access to it," he said.

With the availability of casinos, slot machines, bingo halls and Internet gambling sites, the temptation to gamble and lose control is a very real problem in Ontario.

Kelly said 340,000 people in the province have a gambling problem, and one in 10 families have experienced it. He said only through education can the gambling cycle be broken.

"People understand it's much better to try and prevent a problem than try and cure it," he said.

Kelly and other gambling experts will be handing out

information packets, and talking with people about the problems associated with gambling.

It's part of an information blitz this month that also includes an advertising campaign and posters at 6,000 lottery outlets throughout Ontario.

The third year running the campaign, Kelly hopes to impress upon people some tips to avoid letting gambling get out of control.

"Decide how much you want to spend before you go out."

"If you've lost, leave. If you begin to think of winning your money back, then that's most likely going to get you more losses," he said.

"And be very careful about gambling when you're under stress."