

Arts & Culture Wall of Fame – 2013 Inductees

Keith Campbell

Keith Campbell was born in 1947 in Hamilton, Ontario. He moved, to Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 1951 where he lived until 1967.

In 1970, Keith graduated from Sheridan College School of Design where he attained a three year diploma in Glass and Ceramics. He was the first graduate of Glass in Canada. Since graduating Keith has worked as a ceramics and glass instructor at several Colleges including Mohawk, St. Clair, Sheridan, George Brown, and Canadore. Notably he developed the Ceramics Program for George Brown and developed the Ceramic Technician Program & Fine Craft and Design Program at Canadore.

Keith has had a longstanding relationship with Canadore College. In 1977, he was part of the original group who created a northern Ontario summer school “Artsperience” and continued his work with the program for over 25 years. He was a Professor/Artist in Residence from 2004 to 2009 and a full time Studio Artist since 2009.

Campbell has had numerous solo exhibitions and has shown his works in 280 exhibitions nationally and internationally. Keith’s work is included in the permanent collections of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Archives of Ontario, the National Museum of Civilization, and the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery. In 1997, he created works specifically for Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s visit to North Bay. In 2000, he created a Scholarship at Canadore College, with the proceeds he earned from the sale of pieces designed for the Queen’s visit.

Keith has received 53 awards and honors including the Governor General's Award in 1993 (Canada's 125th Commemorative Medal), The John Mather Medal for his contributions to Craft in Ontario, the presentation of an Eagle Feather by the Ojibwa First Nations, and the bestowment of Artist in Residence Emeritus from Canadore College.

James Kerr

James Kerr, an artist and art educator for over 20 years, has taught at Niagara Falls Art Gallery, the Pumphouse, Rodman Hall, Rose City Seniors Centre, and Pelham Art Club. He founded and participates in “Art by the Lighthouse” in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham’s Annual Art Show and Sale, and is Past President of the Parkway Artists Guild.

Originally from Toronto, Kerr moved to the Niagara Region over 30 years ago. Jim’s parents encouraged him in his artistic endeavours and gave him his first paint set when he was 11.

Jim was first a commercial artist. He is skilled in pencil, pen and ink, and acrylic, but he is most passionate about watercolour. He loves teaching and shares his expertise in these media.

A key figure in Niagara’s local arts scene, Jim Kerr was asked to create a pen-and-ink drawing of the historic Decew House in Thorold to commemorate the role it played in the war, as a destination of Laura Secord in her

June 1813 journey to warn of an American attack. The drawing was used to produce a postcard of the site during celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812.

While Kerr works in a range of media, his pieces are most notable for their vibrant colours and often depict the region's beautiful landscapes.

His work is in private and corporate collections, and has been exhibited throughout Ontario – including the Jordan Art Gallery, the Pumphouse Arts Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Artists' Loft in Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Log Cabin in Fonthill, and the Posh Gallery in Port Carling. Jim has been given a lifetime membership to the Parkway Artists Guild.

Kevin Lafferty

Kevin Lafferty was born in Rockaway, New York in 1966. His family moved to Niagara Falls in the fall of 1970. Kevin attended Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School and graduated from Saint Paul Catholic High School in 1984.

Kevin developed an interest in filmmaking from an early age, and produced and directed Super-8 home movies with his friends as a teenager. After receiving a degree in Film Studies from Carleton University in Ottawa in 1987, Kevin moved to Toronto and began working as a television production assistant. By the end of the 90's Kevin was producing for Toronto-based Alliance Communications.

Since that time he has amassed an extensive resume of film and television production credits, including many well-known Disney productions and numerous high-profile television series.

Kevin has produced television series and movies for major international distributors and broadcasters such as Disney, NBC, CBS, ABC, CBC, CTV, Global, ABC Family, Warner Brothers Television, USA Network, MTV, the Syfy Network, Showtime, and New Line Cinema.

Frequently recognized for his accomplishments, Kevin was awarded the Andrew Carnegie Medal for "Jump In" in 2008. In 2010, he received an Emmy Award for his work on "Wizards of Waverly Place: The Movie".

George A. Seibel

Born in Kitchener, Ontario in 1919, George A. Seibel spent most of his life in Niagara Falls, where he developed an early passion for the beauty and history of the Niagara Gorge and the Falls. In his teens, George began to gather and record the history and culture of Niagara.

With his wife Olive and their seven children, George managed an active upholstery business and began the community work that would fuel his own passions and those of the many who benefitted from his various publishing projects. A Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, George Seibel is best known for his deep involvement in Niagara's history and culture.

In 1961, Seibel launched the Kiwanis Tour Map; with more than three million copies sold, this has been an important fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Stamford. As the Club's Centennial Chair, Seibel led production of Niagara Falls, Canada published in 1967, 1968, and 1978. He helped gain Provincial Charter in 1975 for the "Niagara Falls Heritage Foundation," and in 1985, he proposed and authored Ontario's Niagara Parks to commemorate the Niagara Parks Commission's 100th anniversary.

George Seibel was the first Official Historian of the City of Niagara Falls and later appointed (in 1984) as the Official Historian for the Niagara Parks Commission. Together George and Olive Seibel authored and edited The Niagara Portage Road – 200 years 1790-1990 which was published by the City of Niagara Falls. In 1991 he published Bridges Over the Niagara Gorge to mark the 50th anniversary of the building of the Rainbow Bridge.

George felt driven to record the stories of Niagara's past, for locals young and old; his publications can be found in libraries around the world.

Derek Tidd

Derek Tidd was born in 1924 in Dover, England and moved to Canada in 1956. His wife arrived in 1957 with their 3 children. They later had a 4th child in Canada. Derek and his wife moved to Niagara Falls in 1990.

Derek has always been highly active in the arts. After serving 3 years with the Royal Navy during World War II, he joined a local Amateur Dramatic Society in Ashford where he lived. Later he volunteered with the Tudor Players. When a second location was opened, he was offered a job as Stage Manager and he worked there for two and a half years.

When Derek came to Canada he worked for the Globe and Mail in Toronto. There, Derek and some coworkers discovered that they had a mutual interest in theatre. Together they formed a company they called the Globe Players. Their first play was Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" which they performed in Hart House in Toronto. While living in Toronto he also obtained an agent and worked part time as an extra in film.

After moving to Niagara Falls he continued his involvement in the arts. In 1995, Derek was appointed as the first official Town Crier for the City of Niagara Falls and continues to deliver official announcements. Derek also leads parades and opens many City events. He has competed in World Town Crier Competitions in Canada and the U.S.

In 2010, Derek was asked to play the leading role in the movie "Black Noise" and was awarded the Diploma of Honor for Best Actor at the Annual Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran.

Derek is also very involved in heritage. He is past President of the Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region, a position that he held for three years, and an active member of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Task Force, attending meetings and providing his cry at multiple events.

Tony Urquhart

Award winning artist Anthony (Tony) Morse Urquhart was born in Niagara Falls in 1934 and lived here for 26 years. He has had a varied and successful arts career spanning almost 60 years. Many of his paintings were inspired by landscapes of the Niagara Region. In 1965 he painted 13 murals for the Skylon Tower and in 1969 he created a bas relief of Niagara Falls with six daredevils for Queen's Park, Toronto.

In the 1950's and 60's, Urquhart was recognized as one of Canada's pioneer abstract artists, having had his first show at the progressive Isaacs Gallery in Toronto when he still a student. From 1960 to 1965 he was the first artist in residence and curator of the McIntosh Gallery at the University of Western Ontario. As curator, he launched the works of Greg Curnoe, Walter Redinger, Ed Zelenak, and John B. Boyle. He spent the next 27 years of his teaching career as a professor of Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo.

Urquhart makes frequent trips to Europe looking for a different visual experience which inspired his opening box sculpture series. Tony also works as a book illustrator with authors including, Michael Ondaatje, Matt Cohen, Louis Dudek, Rohinton Mistry, and his wife Jane Urquhart as well. His work is in most Canadian Public Galleries including the Art Gallery of Ontario and the National Gallery of Canada. He also has work in several international galleries including New York's Museum of Modern Art; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England; The Hirshhorn Collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Along with Jack Chambers and Kim Ondaatje he was a founding member of Canadian Artists Representation (CAR/FAC), which established a fee structure for museum and gallery exhibitions. Tony was named to the Order of Canada in 1995 and later won a Governor General's Award in Visual Arts in 2009.

Niagara Concerts

For almost four decades, Niagara Concerts has fulfilled a unique cultural need in the City of Niagara Falls and surrounding area. Niagara Concerts is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to bringing the arts to the community at affordable prices.

In 1947, a group of residents from the Niagara area created the Greater Niagara Community Concert Association, an organization with a mandate to present professional concerts in Niagara Falls. The Association was a licensee of Columbia Artists in New York, and concerts were chosen from a list presented by Columbia.

In 1975, the Board of Directors approved a motion to become independent of Columbia and changed their name to Niagara Concerts. The concert series began to reflect more Canadian talent and a larger selection of entertainment. Today, Niagara Concerts' annual series promotes Canadian and International artists, ranging from classical, pop, jazz, and contemporary music to dance and other creative art forms.

In 2004, Niagara Concerts was awarded the Stamford Collegiate Alumni Association Award in Memory of Barbara Frum.

Niagara Concerts has completed two large projects funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Through their efforts, over \$50,000 has been spent on improvements to the Niagara Centre for the Arts. In addition, Niagara Concerts gives back to the community annually through the Ann Speedie Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund was established for high school students to further their education in the Arts.

Niagara Concerts is keeping the arts alive through the sustained efforts of their dedicated volunteers on their Board of Directors, patrons, sponsors, and through the continued support of the membership.