



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Oshawa, ON – June 9, 2016**

***The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition Announces the Competition Winners***

In partnership with the Oshawa Public Libraries (OPL) and Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres (OSCC), The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) is pleased to present artworks during *The 8th Annual Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition* as we celebrate Seniors month.

This June, we invited artists, ages 55+, to submit artworks that demonstrated their unique perspectives and reflections on memory and memories. This exhibition highlights our senior community during the month of June (Senior's Month) and engages gallery visitors on a topic that is both meaningful and accessible to all.

"We were blown away by the diversity and range of works submitted to this exhibition by 56 talented artists. It is very gratifying to get such a positive response from the community and to receive such interesting and dynamic work from participating artists. I'm so thrilled to see this partnership developing between the OSCC, OPL and the RMG," said the RMG's Manager of Public Programs and ArtReach, Leslie Menagh.

"The 2016 theme for Seniors month is 'Seniors Making a Difference.' The artists that submitted to this competition are truly making a difference by sharing their artistic skills and demonstrating that no matter the age you can still contribute to the culture of your community," remarked Colleen Zavrel, Program & Services Director for the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres.

"It was a joy and privilege to get a glimpse into the imaginations of so many talented artists at this year's competition. Visual arts are unique cultural and personal experiences that bind us together in community and humanity," commented Frances Newman, C.E.O. of the Oshawa Public Libraries.

On June 9 during the awards ceremony and opening reception, with the presence of the honorable Oshawa Mayor John Henry, prizes were presented to the winning artists. First prize went to Ron Baird, Second prize to Karen Buck-Mackintosh and third prize to Paul Guthenberg. The winners each received gift certificates to Curry's Art Supplies.

The jury included Margaret Rodgers, a visual artist and published writer, founder of the IRIS Group and former art teacher at Durham and Centennial Colleges, and Eric Sanguine a longtime supporter of the Oshawa Public Libraries, illustrator and art enthusiast.

We invite you to visit the exhibition and view all the artworks! It will be **on view until June 19 in Gallery A** at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, 72 Queen Street, Oshawa.

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**Media Contacts**

Sam Mogelonsky, Manager of Marketing and Communications, The RMG  
smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca | 905-576-3000 ex. 109 | www.rmg.on.ca

Dina Pen, Marketing Coordinator, Oshawa Public Libraries  
dpen@oshawalibrary.on.ca | 905-579-6111 ex. 5214 | www.oshawalibrary.on.ca

Colleen Zavrel, Program & Services Director, For Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres  
czavrel@oshawa.ca | 905-576-6712 ex. 2834 | www.oscc.ca

**The Robert McLaughlin Gallery**

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z3  
905-576-3000 | [communications@rmg.on.ca](mailto:communications@rmg.on.ca) | [rmg.on.ca](http://rmg.on.ca)

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Directions: 401 to Oshawa, exit Simcoe St, North to Bagot St. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation. Parking available. Accessible location.