

Culture Days at Cultural Centre includes Celebration fit for a Queen



By Jane Taylor

A celebration fit for a Queen, local artists launch their inspired exhibitions and a 'creative safari' - it's Culture Days at the Centre!

Culture Days is a pan-Canadian free celebration of the arts that takes place during the last weekend of September each year. Now participating for the fourth year, the Centre welcomes everyone to drop by on Saturday, September 26 between 1 - 4 p.m. to enjoy an afternoon of free activities.

On September 9, Queen Elizabeth II will become our longest reigning monarch. The Monarchist League of Canada (York Region Branch), in partnership with the Centre, has created 'Whether It Be Long Or Short?', a Community as Curator Heritage Exhibition of artifacts and photos highlighting Her Majesty's connection to Canada.

Enjoy a cup of tea and biscuit, watch the original Coronation film, have your picture 'taken with the Queen' in a photo-booth style setting. To help celebrate, Auroran Dorothy Gumersall will be costumed as the other beloved monarch, Queen Victoria, and will be receiving throughout the afternoon. Another great photo op!

Two gallery exhibitions will open this afternoon, both with an Aurora focus. Local Colour Aurora is a group of artists who have been working over the past two years to capture life in the area, either through plein air painting excursions, portrait sessions (you may have caught Auroran editor Brock Weir recently sitting for his portrait here during Doors Open Aurora) and personal interpretations.

'Paints the Town?', their resulting exhibition in the Meridian, Blue & Apple Suites Galleries, is a love letter to our town through these paintings.

Upstairs in the Great Hall, local photographer Ron Goodlin (some may know him from his dental practice) showcases his Tanzanian photographic safari, with a stunning collection of iconic animal photographs. Artists from both shows will be on hand this day to launch the shows. Ron will present a Walk & Talk about his experiences at 2.30 p.m.

Throughout the afternoon, enjoy a 'Family Creative Safari'; draw your portrait or landscape in chalk frames on the sidewalk outside, spend some time colouring - even adults can jump into the latest colouring craze - and enjoy a stop by the button machine to create your own souvenir of the afternoon. All events are free to the public, with volunteers and staff facilitating throughout the Centre.

Make this part of your full day of activities presented by members of the Aurora Cultural Roundtable! Look for your Culture Days Passport with information on all the stops, (thanks to our printing and media sponsors Prime Data and The Auroran) in the September 17 edition of this paper.