OVATION

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA ARTS AWARDS NEWS

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Phil Ponting *Chair*
Alberta Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards

The aim of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Foundation is to raise the profile of Alberta's vibrant arts community, to honor its leaders, celebrate their achievements, support promising talent and inspire even greater creativity.

Laureates of our Distinguished Artist Awards include the who's who of arts in Canada. While they call Alberta home, they are nationally and internationally recognized arts leaders. And as you'll see in this issue of Ovation, the Alberta communities who have hosted these awards since their inception in 2005 have experienced a legacy of exciting cultural growth.

Between now and February 15, 2013, we ask Albertans to nominate the artist or group of artists they feel exemplify excellence and have had significant impact on Alberta's cultural scene. And we look forward to honouring up to three of these individuals, at an exciting gala in June, in Red Deer, our 2013 host city.

We're also issuing the call to Alberta cities to bid for the opportunity to host the 2015 Distinguished Artist Awards Gala. The successful bid will include a plan for a community festival, which will build the next arts legacy.

As we look to an exciting future, I would like to thank Susan L. Green, who has led the Foundation as chair for five years. In her role with the Foundation and in her many other community roles, she truly exemplifies excellence. We're grateful for her leadership and grateful she will remain with us on the board so we continue to benefit from her wise counsel.

Nominate someone for the 2013 Distinguished Artist Award

Learn more about submitting a community bid to host the 2015 Awards Gala

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION

Red Deer gears up for 2013 awards gala

Red Deer Symphony Orchestra Music Director Claude LaPalme

The City of Red Deer turns a robust 100 years old next year and to celebrate, they're hosting the 2013 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards Gala.

It's hard to imagine a more fitting choice. Red Deer was recognized as Canada's first Cultural Capital in 2003 by Heritage Canada. It's home to a professional symphony orchestra and a champion of arts in public spaces.

Red Deer **Mayor Morris Flewwelling**, the driving force behind their successful bid, eagerly awaits June 2013 to show more Albertans the vibrant cultural centre at the heart of the province.

"It is an opportunity to showcase our arts and culture programs and facilities," says Mayor Flewwelling. "The audience is Alberta wide, and we are a central and easily accessible location. I'm looking for huge participation by Red Deerians and Albertans.

"It's good for the awards to be presented at various mid-sized communities to carry the message of arts excellence and the roots of that excellence."

Melody McKnight, executive director (and oboist) for the Red Deer Symphony and a member of the planning committee, says the symphony will play a distinctive role in making the gala one-of–a-kind. The Red Deer Symphony's Choir Kids program gives school choirs the chance to choose music, have it orchestrated by the symphony's music director, **Claude LaPalme**, and, after months of rehearsals, the chance to perform with full orchestral accompaniment.

To perform at the gala, "Students from the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Annie L. Gaetz School have been selected," says McKnight. And they are already in rehearsal.

City Councillor **Dianne Wyntjes** says the symphony performance at the gala is just one event in a full week of arts activities. "We will be incorporating our art walks and a wide range of other events in a festival entitled Rooted in the Arts," she says.

At the end of the day, says Mayor Flewwelling, "The legacy of the event will be a strengthening of the art and culture fabric of the community by initiating scholarships and annual events that will begin with the awards gala and will be carried on into the future.

"Whenever there is a real focus on any aspect of our community, that sector is strengthened and encouraged for further growth and development," he says.

The legacy continues for the first city to bid for the awards

Lloydminster continues the awards legacy with the annual Arts Without Borders Festival

The City of Lloydminster won the first bid to host the gala, with a plan to host an arts festival. The recipients honoured at their gala dinner included author, **Greg Hollingshead**; theatre ensemble, **One Yellow Rabbit**; and musicians and educators, **Isobel** and **Tom Rolston**.

Foundation member **Terri Madill**, who helped organize the gala and *Arts Without Borders Festival*, says hosting resulted in "a renewed enthusiasm in our arts community, an increase in support from local business and media, a new interest in the arts by the general public and a growing awareness among city officials of the importance of a vibrant arts component in Lloydminster."

Lloydminster **Mayor Jeff Mulligan** agrees. "The success of that event in our city created a greater awareness of the arts that continues to this day. Our community now hosts an annual "Mayor Arts Award" that recognizes all types of art achievements by local citizens," says Mulligan. "And we have seen a steady increase in the number of local events and art festivals that are being organized both from public groups and private individuals in our region. We are proud to have a vibrant, dynamic arts community that continues to inspire our residents."

The *Arts Without Borders Festival* is now an annual celebration in the city. It includes Writers Ink, a thriving writers group, a juried art show and Lloydminster Reads, an evening of discussion with a distinguished author.

A proud tradition of hosting

John Murrell

Douglas Cardinal

2005 **The Banff Centre** hosts the first Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards gala dinner, honouring the inaugural recipients, architect **Douglas Cardinal** and playwright **John Murrell**.

2007 Lloydminster becomes the first city to successfully bid for the honour of hosting the Distinguished Artist Awards Gala. (see page 3)

2009 The City of Grande Prairie hosts the awards that honour **Joan Stebbins**, curator and gallery director, and author **Rudy Wiebe**. The Iskoteo Arts Festival included the grand opening of the Montrose Cultural Centre, Wordspinners, a writing event, the Clem & Muriel Collins Writing Contest and the *Vigil and Angels* and *East Meets West* art exhibits.

2011 The City of St. Albert hosts the gala, which honoured the late **Robert Kroetsch**, writer and critic, and visual artist **Jane Ash Poitras**. Highlights of their local festival, ArtiCulture, included the Live, Work and Play Art Exhibit, the first collaborative exhibition presented by the City of St. Albert, Art Gallery of St. Albert, St. Albert Place Visual Arts Council and the Visual Art Studio Association.

2013 The City of Red Deer plans an extraordinary celebration. (see page 2).

2015 Your community could be hosting the 2015 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards Gala. *Learn more submitting a community bid to host the 2015 Awards Gala.*

Speaking of honours...

While they are usually the driving force to ensure others get accolades, five individuals who make the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards possible recently took a turn receiving instead.

Susan L. Green, past chair, **Phil Ponting**, chair, and board members **Glen Buick** and **Bob McPhee** each received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Our long-time supporter and the designer of our award medals, **Wei Yew**, is an award recipient as well.

The awards honour, which commemorates Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, recognizes Canadians who have made significant contributions and achievements. All five or our recipients have made major contributions to the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards and to the broader local and international arts and philanthropic communities. Congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

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