

Judith & Norman Alix Provide \$1.5 Million & New Name to the New Art Gallery

Hearty applause rang throughout the Gallery, and guests were quickly on their feet to honour two long-time Sarnia residents, as Judith and Norman Alix, owners of Steeplejack Services unveiled a cheque for \$1.5 million for the new Art Gallery of

Lambton.

Guests were again on their feet when it was announced that the new gallery would be named the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery.

"We are humbled, honoured and grateful for this gift that Judith and Norman have provided to the community," said Lambton County Warden Steve Arnold. "The Alix's have shown great vision and confidence in this important project. The entire community now, and long into the future, will certainly be appreciative of their generosity."

"We have a keen appreciation for every aspect of this project," said Norman Alix. "We believe the art gallery project is already revitalizing

the downtown core, we appreciate that the building's historical façade will remain intact, and we are grateful that we can contribute to a permanent home for our community's impressive and priceless art collection."

To watch the announcement, visit www.lambtonshield.com.

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Below: Norman Alix, Lisa Daniels, Judith Alix and Bev MacDougall chat about the new Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery after the announcement.



Constructing a Community

While most people are bundled up and avoiding the outdoors, the workers on site at the new



Art Gallery of Lambton are facing the cold weather head on as they work to move forward building a community construction

project that has those passing by intrigued.

"We have a few regulars who are here at the gates every morning who are watching our progress," said Zach Glover,

a resident of Port Lambton and owner of Zach Glover Construction Limited. Having been on site for four months, assisting contractor

PCR in their work with excavating and concrete, Glover has had a good vantage point watching this project unfold.

"This project is different from our regular scope of work and it's definitely not your average project," said Glover. "The best part of this job is the challenge that is presented by trying to construct new, with old."



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Check out the NEW campaign website

www.artgallerylambton.ca

Word on the Street Up Close & Personal with Donors Marilyn & Leonard

Q: Hey Lisa! I hear the County's building a new art gallery downtown. That's great news for downtown Sarnia, and for our whole region, but where on Earth will everyone park? I think it will be difficult to find parking right outside the new gallery.
- Chevy Guy, Corunna, ON

A: Dear Chevy Guy: We think the construction of the new art gallery is great news too! What you might be noticing is that the downtown is coming to life. More people are coming downtown to visit shops, eat at restaurants, catch a play at the theatre, hear artist talks at the gallery, walk along the waterfront and participate in other special events like the monthly First Friday Walk About.

There are 510 free parking spaces and 24 free handicapped spaces available in the immediate vicinity of the new gallery. In surrounding parking lots there are an additional 673 regular and 12 handicapped parking spaces.

We have a beautiful downtown, with a stunning waterfront and unique eating, shopping and cultural opportunities. You can't help but get out of your vehicle and walk around to discover all of these opportunities!

So while it may not always be possible to park directly in front of the store or restaurant you want to visit...it is a GOOD sign that our community is thriving!

Do you have a question about the new art gallery for Curator - Supervisor, Lisa Daniels? Email it to lisa.daniels@county-lambton.on.ca.



Above: Jeff Burchill, donor and local business owner, with Lisa Daniels. To find out more about this story, visit www.artgallerylambton.ca

To some, the new art gallery will be a place to go on a rainy Saturday. To others, the new art gallery will be a place to bring family and friends from out of town. To many, the new art gallery will be an impressive space that holds our priceless public art collection.

But to long-time Gallery Lambton members Leonard Segall and Marilyn Mason, the new art gallery is about a lot more.

"This art gallery is going to contribute to the renewal of Sarnia," said Mason. "It is going to make art of national importance available to all of us without having to leave Lambton County, and it's going to allow the gallery to receive high profile travelling exhibitions put together by other galleries."

As for the use of the historical building - Segall loves the idea. "We're bringing a modern facility into a historic setting, in the same way that the gallery's collection allows important works of Canadian art by the Group of Seven and Tom Thompson to find relevance in a modern world." Segall and Mason were quick to start their donations in 2010 knowing that their donation, "continues a legacy stretching back to the 1920s when a group of dedicated women began collecting the amazing paintings that we see in the gallery today."



WHO: Marilyn Mason & Leonard Segall
PROFESSION: Marilyn - Registrar at King's College, UWO
Leonard - Chemical Engineer, Imperial Oil
FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART: Marilyn - Emily Carr's, *Broken but not Uprooted*
Leonard - Lawren Harris' *Mongoose Lake*

A Note from the Curator

Today, an art gallery serves as more than a place for the ongoing care of a significant art collection and the presentation of exhibitions. It is also a social forum where dialogue, debate,



Lisa Daniels, Gallery Lambton Curator, meets with Doris Couture-Rigert, Senior Conservator at the National Gallery of Canada (NGC) to discuss the new Art Gallery of Lambton and the requirements of the NGC 'On Tour' program.

innovation and the building of community can occur.

Art plays an essential role in building and sustaining a diverse community that is socially and economically healthy. Plans are underway for an exciting exhibition program in the new gallery that includes bringing exhibitions and works in from other major galleries from across the country, something we have not been able to do in our current location.



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