



The Arts Council of Muskoka's Twelve Days of Christmas 2008

On the first day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
A Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the second day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the third day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the fourth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the fifth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the sixth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the seventh day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the eighth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
8 New Committees
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the ninth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
9 Board Meetings
8 New Committees
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the tenth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
10 Board Members
9 Board Meetings
8 New Committees
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the eleventh day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
11 ACoM Updates
10 Board Members
9 Board Meetings
8 New Committees
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat

On the twelfth day of Xmas ACoM brought to me
12 ArtShare sessions
11 ACoM Updates
10 Board Members
9 Board Meetings
8 New Committees
The 7th Muskoka Chair Event
6 Gallery Space Project Venues
Five thousand dollars (for an arts directory!)
4 Meet 'n' Greets
3 Funding applications
2 Day-long Workshops
And a Muskokan column called Art Beat!

Dear arts supporters,

On behalf of the Arts Council of Muskoka, I'd like to wish you a wonderful year-end, and all the best for 2009. The Chinese have a saying, both a curse and a blessing, that goes, "May you live in interesting times." Well, I think it's fair to say that we've had just such a year here in Muskoka, and the same goes for the Arts Council.

And thank you to our many friends and co-conspirators, including Muskoka Tourism, Muskoka Arts & Crafts, Muskoka Enterprise Centre, Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, Bracebridge Arts Council, The Huntsville Festival of the Arts, Muskoka Futures, the Huntsville Art Crowd, the good folks at Wahta, Muskoka Heritage Foundation, Muskoka Lakes Museum, Metroland NorthMedia, and of course the Ontario Trillium Foundation. There are many, many others who have leant a hand, including many volunteers. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Looking ahead, here are **a few** of the initiatives we're working on for 2009;

- **Creative Intelligence for the Creative Economy:** an ambitious 15-month arts-in-education initiative with a budget of more than \$100,000 that is to launch (pending funding) in March or April. Check out the one-pager [here](#). This is a grassroots program in which partnerships are fundamental, so if you'd like to get involved, get in touch.
- **Arts Directory of Muskoka: Great news!** We learned late last week that our application to **Muskoka Futures** for \$5,000 to collect data from the arts community to assemble an inclusive, free **Arts Directory of Muskoka** was successful. **Thanks Muskoka Futures!** Thanks also to MAC, Muskoka Tourism, Huntsville Art Crowd, Muskoka Community Network, Steve Spencer of Web MasterMind and Councillor Margaret Casey for your support. This database will be built in collaboration with the arts community itself. It will be publicly available and will feed into the Creative Muskoka Initiative. Want to know more? Want to be included in the directory? [Email](#) or call (705) 645-5225 for more info.
- We have submitted a funding application with **OAC/Compass** for Jim Blake from Haliburton to work with our Strategic Advisory Committee to spearhead a **re-vamping of ACoM's structure, its programming and sustainability plan**. We'll find out in early spring if we're successful. Call or email me if you have suggestions for pulling this together or you'd like to help with the Strategic Advisory Committee. We've got this burgeoning creative economy, Muskoka is a Designated Arts Community, and now we've got the G8 coming. There is so much opportunity for the arts in Muskoka now. Let's pull together to make the most of it. We are indeed greater than the sum of our parts.
- **Muskoka Works:** a multi-disciplinary expression in art of how Muskoka Works, tentatively scheduled for late spring or early summer of 2009. Again, get in touch if you'd like to participate.
- 3rd annual **Walking in My Mother's Shoes, a multi-disciplinary tribute to mothers and an exploration of motherhood**. Much more ambitious this year, taking place at Red Leaves, and

with a larger budget, as we've put in a funding application for Canadian Heritage. (fingers crossed.)

- An ongoing series of professional development workshops. Please send along any suggestions you have. We want to assist you with your professional development in any way we can.
- A street-front arts centre. This is an exciting venture that we hope will be of benefit to the arts and larger communities. But it's early days yet. Hope you'll get involved.
- Community centres for the arts, using empty available space such as Duke House in Port Carling. Again, stay tuned for more.

In addition to the exciting aforementioned initiatives, there are some great opportunities for you and/or your friends to get involved with the Arts Council of Muskoka. These are **ongoing yet finite, do-able jobs, and they come with valuable training that is sure to come in handy later and/or in other capacities.**

- Board of directors. We have some key positions coming open at our AGM in February.
- membership processing
- website management
- assembling local arts events into a calendar/summary for use in the Muskokan newspaper column, the ACoM Update and the Arts Council's website
- Authoring our regular newspaper column; Muskoka Art Beat in the Muskokan
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Representing the arts community to the G8, one of the six Townships or the District
- Other committee work. We got lots.
- Other. We're all ears.
- Renew your membership! Or become a member if you aren't already. Anyone who wishes to support the arts in Muskoka can join ACoM. Here is the [membership form](#) to download.

Thanks again, have a great Christmas holiday and let's look forward to a healthy and exciting 2009 with a stable economy (I can dream, can't I?). Do not hesitate to contact the Arts Council to discuss any of the above.

Regards,

Your friends at the Arts Council of Muskoka

Mailing address: PO Box 283

Bracebridge, ON, P1L 1T6

(705) 644-0531

info@artscouncilofmuskoka.com

www.artscouncilofmuskoka.com