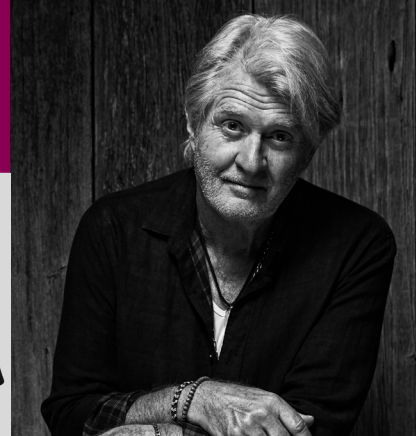


2022-23 SEASON

FRONT & CENTRE



Proud to be part of our community.

Tim Hortons®




©Tim Hortons, 2022

Welcome HOME

Welcome to the FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton's 2022- 2023 season; our 10th season! After being closed for two years, we are so glad to be back. Whether it's your first visit, or you're a returning patron, this venue is home to a variety of performances, cultural events, art exhibitions, and studio art programs.

Our state-of-the art Mattamy Theatre has exceptional acoustics, and with only 500 seats, every vantage point is a good one. This makes seeing legendary performers like Tom Cochrane and Jann Arden an up-close and personal experience.

This season includes a wide selection of musical performances, tribute acts, concerts, theatre, family shows, films, and festivals presented by the community. Many of this year's events are listed in the centerfold of this program, but be sure to check our website and follow us as we continue to add new shows.

 @firstontarioartscentre

 CentrefortheArtsMilton

We are also excited to welcome Kim Ingram, our new Manager of Cultural Services. Kim has an extensive background working in the arts and culture sector including positions such as; Director, Visitor

Experience at Harbourfront Centre, Manager, Venues with the TO2015 Pan Am Games, Front of House Manager at Massey Hall, Event Manager at Exhibition Place and Patron Services Coordinator at The Young Centre for the Performing Arts. As a graduate of the BFA Acting program from the University of Windsor, Kim has dedicated much of her personal and professional life to arts and culture and is very passionate about the impact and role it plays in enriching people's lives. Kim looks forward to welcoming audiences back to the FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton.

The happenings at the Centre are a testament to the year-round work of our dedicated staff, community organizers and volunteers who want to ensure that you have a great experience. We encourage you to reach out to a staff onsite or through our website if there is anything we can do to make your time here more enjoyable. We recognize the importance of coming together to experience arts and culture here at home in Milton, and thank you for your support. Enjoy the 10th season!



Kim Ingram

Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that the land we gather on is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

We recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people.

We also acknowledge the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who live on these lands today.

We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.

10th season reflection

In 2009, Milton Council approved the construction of the Milton Centre of the Arts thanks to a \$16.2 million investment from the Building Canada Fund - Communities Component. This \$39.3 million project was funded through federal and provincial grants dedicated to community infrastructure projects.



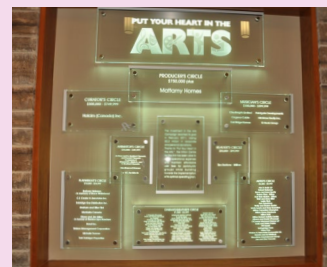
2010 Groundbreaking



2010 Structural framework



February 2011:
"Put Your Heart in the Arts" fundraising campaign reached its goal of raising \$2.2 million to support initial Centre operations.



Sept. 23, 2011:
Premiere performance by Jeffrey Siegel on the Steinway Concert Grand, in the Mattamy Theatre.



Jan. 20, 2012:
Official opening in Cogeco Escarpment Hall and MinMaxx Hall. Since then, the Centre has presented hundreds of shows and programs, and hosted over 50 community groups.



2013 First Mayor's Gala "Broadway on Main"



2014 Culture Days



2011 Hard Hat Tour of the Centre



Summer 2011:
Public openings for Chudleigh's Box Office, Holcim Gallery's first exhibition by the Fine Arts Society of Milton and the first arts summer camp in the Tim Hortons Children's Art Studio and Robert Bateman Art Studio.



Chudleigh's Box Office Birthday Party



2014 Arts Programs



2014 Mayor's Gala "Viva Las Vegas"



2009

2010

2011 Inaugural season

2012

2013

2014

10th season reflection (continued)

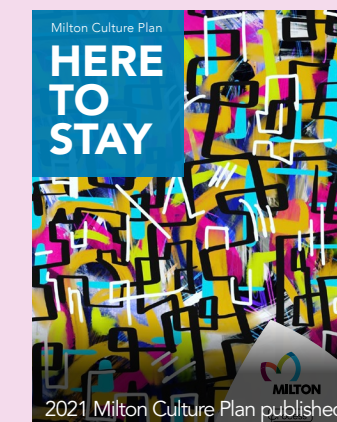
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CELEBRATING 10 SEASONS

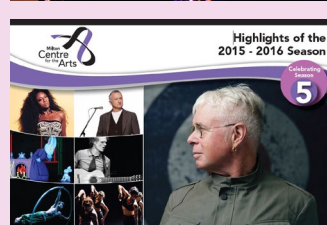
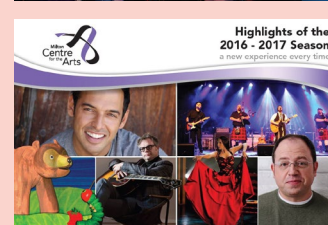
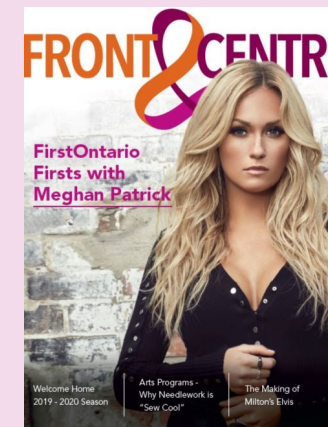
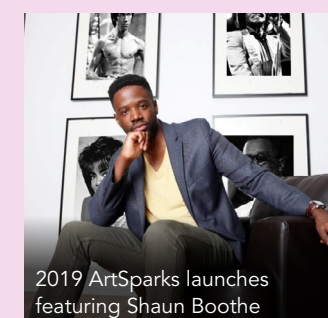
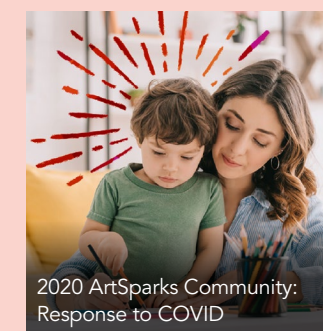
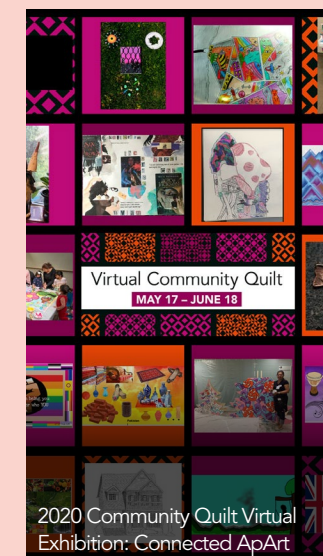
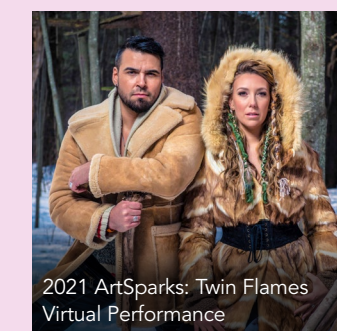
We look forward to welcoming people back for our 10th season. We are excited to relaunch our volunteer program. Thousands of hours, and hundreds of shows have been supported since opening in 2011. Without the dedication and support of our volunteers, we could not have made it this far.



2021: Council endorses Milton's first ever Culture Plan



2021 FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton declared a Halton Region vaccination site.



2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022 Re-opening

About the centre

Where our community experiences the arts.

The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton provides experiences that foster an appreciation of the arts, from our community and beyond, through education, engagement, and exposure. This interdisciplinary arts venue builds and supports cultural vitality in the Town of Milton creating partnerships between the Town and the arts community. The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton prides itself in providing professional support to community-based arts groups and artists.

Rent the centre

Looking to rent space for an event, meeting or private function? The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton features performance and rehearsal space, an art gallery, studio space and meeting rooms. Contact arts@milton.ca for more information.

Advertise with us

The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton offers a variety of options for businesses and organizations interested in promoting their products and services while gaining more visibility in the community. To learn more contact arts@milton.ca.

Sign up for encore

encore

As a member of Encore you'll receive exclusive offers including presale announcements, ticket offers, VIP experiences, contests and more.

[Sign up here](#)

Volunteer with us

As a volunteer, you'll meet new people, learn new skills, help our audience members at events, and maybe take in a few performances.

Community arts reflection

We recognize how deeply impacted our local arts community has been by the pandemic over the last couple of years. This brought many changes to our lives, and with its uncertainty, it altered our daily routines, added financial pressures and social isolation. Specifically, the financial impact on local arts and culture organizations, as well as part-time and casual arts workers and artists who have had significantly reduced or limited work opportunities.

A [Statistics Canada report](#) on the "Financial impacts of the pandemic on the culture, arts, entertainment and recreation industries in 2020" reported that, "The pandemic created a difficult environment for businesses in the culture, arts, entertainment and recreation sectors," as "operating revenue fell in all industries, with most losing more than half of their operating revenue in 2020." This led to as many as one in four cultural workers reconsidering their careers and changing jobs.

The report also noted that, "Many performing arts industries were among the last to reopen, and it may take significant time before audiences, visitors and tourists return and companies can resume operating at the same scale as before the pandemic."

With this in mind, your engagement with cultural Milton Community Groups is needed and appreciated. Please be sure to support the following community groups returning this season including: Arts Milton, Milton Concert Band, The Milton Players Theatre Group, Brightside Players Inc., The Milton Philharmonic Orchestra, Milton Community Theatre, Milton Film Festival and the Fine Arts Society of Milton.

Buy tickets

Online: [FirstOntarioArtsCentreMilton.ca](https://www.firstontarioartscentre.com/milton)

By phone: 905-878-6000 or toll free 1-866-257-0004

At the Chudleigh's Box Office:
1010 Main Street East, Milton, ON L9T 6H7

Box office hours

Ticket fees: Price includes all fees and taxes.

Group Sales: Planning a corporate event, tour, fundraiser, or a night out with friends and family? We are here to help. To learn more about discounts for groups of 20 or more, contact arts@milton.ca or 905-875-5399 ext. 4902.

To learn more about safety measures [visit our website](#).
The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton is owned and operated by the Town of Milton.



2022-2023

Season

10

September

Sept. 24

Culture Days
Arts Milton

October



Tom Cochrane

Oct. 2

Tom Cochrane & Red Rider
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton



Johnny Reid

Oct. 15

Love Someone - An Intimate
Evening with Johnny Reid
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Oct. 21

Gord Downie & Chanie
Wenjack Benefit Concert
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Oct. 22

The Northern Happiness Tour:
The Pursuit of Happiness and
The Northern Pikes
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Oct. 23

Milton Philharmonic Orchestra

Oct. 26

The Lovettes starring in
Leaders of the Pack
Paquette Productions

Oct. 29-30

Massed Band Performance
Canadian Band Association & Milton
Concert Band

November

Nov. 3

The Mush Hole
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Nov. 5

Lunch at Allen's
Shantero Productions

Nov. 4-6, 10-12

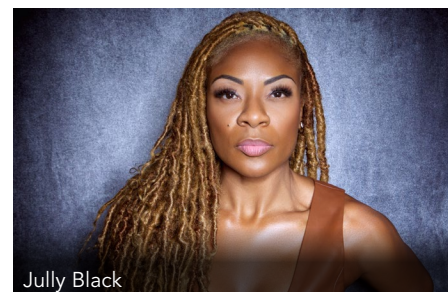
Clue On Stage
The Milton Players Theatre Group

Nov. 10

Menopause the Musical
Live Nation

Nov. 12

Choir! Choir! Choir! Epic 80's
Singalong!
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton



Jully Black

Nov. 18

Jully Black
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Nov. 25-27

The Nutcracker Holiday
Spectacular
The Dance Class

December

Dec. 1-4

Peter Pan: A British Pantomime
Brightside Players Inc.

Dec. 2

A Christmas Spectacular
Paquette Productions

Dec. 3

Gloria! Magnificat!...& More.
Milton Choirsters

Dec. 6

O Christmas Tea: A British
Comedy
James & Jamesy

Dec. 10

Songs of the Season
Milton Concert Band

Dec. 11

A Swingin' Christmas
Toronto All-Star Big Band

Dec. 17

Milton Philharmonic Orchestra

Dec. 18

Elvis - The Wonderful World of
Christmas
TVB Productions

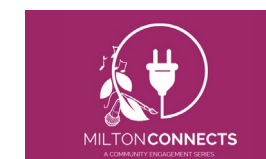
Dec. 29-30

Rudolph the Red-nosed
Reindeer Jr.
Milton Community Theatre

Monthly



Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 15, Dec. 7,
Jan. 4, March 1, April 12
Milton Film Forum



Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan.
12, Feb. 16, Mar. 9
Milton Connects Series

January

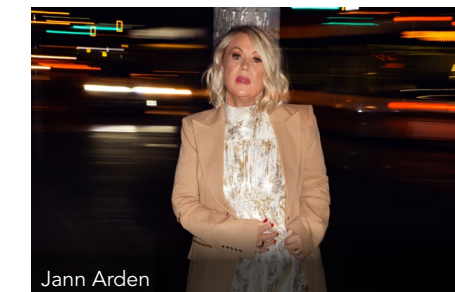
Jan. 19

Ali Hassan: Does This Taste
Funny?
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Jan. 27-29

Milton Film Festival

February



Jann Arden

Feb. 3

An Evening with Jann Arden
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

Feb. 3-5, 9-11

Steel Magnolias
The Milton Players Theatre Group

Feb. 9-12

Disney Newsies Jr.
Milton Youth Theatre Productions

Feb. 23

An Evening with Leahy
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

March

March 22

Ron James
Shantero Productions

April

April 5

The Ugly Duckling
FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton

May

May 5

All Star Concert
Milton Music Teachers' Association

May 5-7, 11-13

The Foursome
The Milton Players Theatre Group

May 6

Milton Philharmonic Orchestra

May 7

Spring Concert
Milton Concert Band

May 13

TVB Productions

May 25-28

Seussical Jr.
Milton Youth Theatre Productions

Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14,
Jan. 11, Feb. 15, March 8,
April 12, May 10
Laurier Lecture Series



Tom Cochrane

Oct. 2, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Over the course of a long and illustrious career now spanning more than 40 years, the pride of Lynn Lake, Manitoba has covered more terrain than the Franklin expedition. From early beginnings as a folk-based singer/songwriter playing the coffeehouses of Toronto's famed Yorkville scene in the early '70s, Tom became the driving force in adventurous rockers Red Rider prior to achieving massive international success (over six million copies sold worldwide and diamond-sales status at home) with breakthrough 1991 album *Mad Mad World* and its anthemic hit "Life Is A Highway."

Tom Cochrane is recipient of eight Juno Awards plus multiple songwriter awards from SOCAN, CAPAC, and ASCAP. Cochrane is a GRAMMY nominee, a member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and the Canadian Music Industry Hall Of Fame. He holds an honorary doctorate, has a place on Canada's Walk of Fame, and has been honoured with both the Order of Manitoba and the Order of Canada. He is recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal and is a former Honorary Air Force Colonel in the 409 squadron. Cochrane has also been tireless in his philanthropic works for decades, working with War Child, Waterkeeper Alliance, Amnesty International, Médecins Sans Frontières, Make Poverty History, World Animal Protection, The United Way, Tree Canada, Unison and Tempo, to name a few. He has and continues to lend his support to several other causes, including helping spearhead the Canada for Asia initiative, entertaining our troops in Afghanistan, and raising money for Parkinson's research. He was a performer at Live 8, and in both *Tears Are Not Enough* and *Young Artists for Haiti*.

Love Someone - An Intimate Evening with Johnny Reid

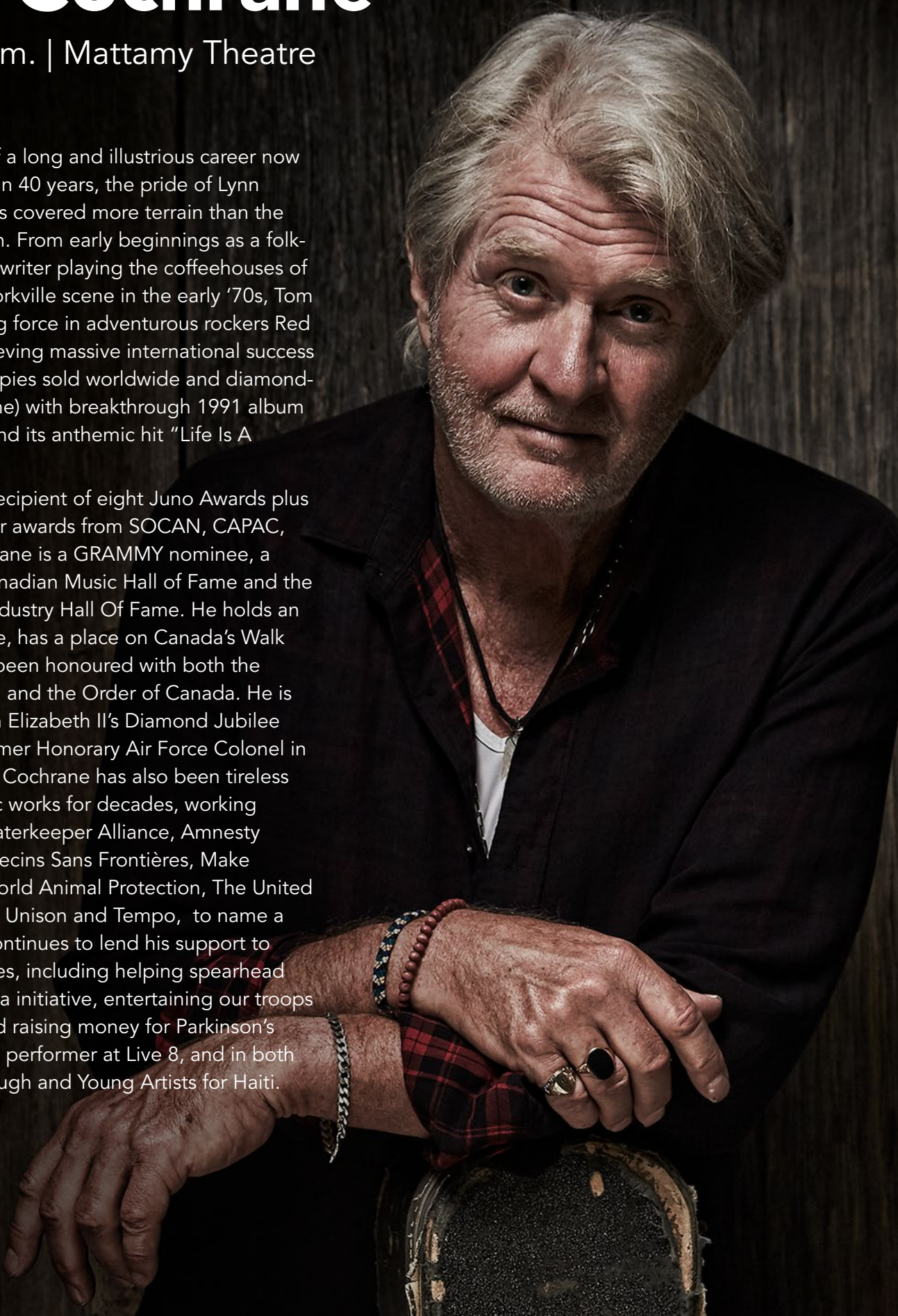
Oct. 15, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Since arriving on the music scene two decades ago, critically acclaimed singer songwriter, Johnny Reid has captured the hearts of fans and audiences around the world. Born and raised in Lanark, Scotland, the blue collared soul singer is widely known for his lyrical honesty and musical ability, as demonstrated by album sales totaling over 1 million units, countless awards and multiple sold out national arena tours.

"From a young age, I listened to all kinds of music," Reid says. "My mother was a big fan of Stax and Detroit soul. My father was a big fan of all music as long as it told a story. I have taken the instrumentation, performance, and energy of soul and annexed that with storytelling of things that really matter in this world: family, love, and friendship."

Having released seven best-selling albums and 2 multi-platinum certified DVDs, Reid's massive success has caught the attention of famed artists such as Joe Cocker, for whom he penned the platinum-selling single "Fire It Up" and famed producer Bob Ezrin (Lou Reed, Kiss, Pink Floyd, Peter Dinklage), whom he shares a recording partnership with.

Connecting with audiences of all ages, Reid thrives as a performer and songwriter sharing his stories and songs around the world with incalculable influence. He's a modern day working class hero with long standing collective appeal – one that captures the hearts of many one song at a time.



The Northern Happiness Tour: The Pursuit of Happiness and The Northern Pikes

Presented by FirstOntario Credit Union

Oct. 22, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

TPOH (The Pursuit of Happiness)

Edmonton native Moe Berg watched his father play in country bands while he grew up. His teens and early 20s he pursued his musical ambitions with area bands and hooked up with drummer Dave Gilby in 1985. They moved to Toronto, met Saskatoon native Johnny Sinclair and the idea of TPOH began to take shape. By 1986 they had added Winnipeg-born sisters Tam and Tasha Amabile for backing vocals. A song that Berg had written in the summer of 1985, "I'm An Adult Now", was a constant audience favourite. WEA Canada picked up the single and distributed it across the country. Such was the band's independent success that they received Juno nominations in 1987 for Most Promising Group and Best Video. TPOH went into the studio and the result was 1988's full-length debut, Love Junk. The album eventually went platinum in Canada (100,000 copies) and sold over 100,000 copies in the States. This was followed-up by One-Sided Story (1990), The Downward Road (1993), Where's The Bone (1995) and The Wonderful World Of... (1996).

The Northern Pikes

Iconic Canadian rock band The Northern Pikes are defying the odds, returning with a brand-new studio album, Forest Of Love. It's the group's first new release since 2003, and the first to feature new group member Kevin Kane (The Grapes Of Wrath). He joins founding members Jay Semko, Bryan Potvin and Don Schmid, the gang responsible for classic hits She Ain't Pretty, Teenland, Things I Do For Money, Wait For Me, Hopes Go Astray, Girl With A Problem, Kiss Me You Fool, Believe and more.

In other words, the hits are back, the Pikes are back. Well, they've never really been away of course, their music and videos constantly heard as Canadian classics, and the band have been keeping their fans happy with short tours and festival gigs through the 2000s. Things started heating up again in 2017 when Universal Music reissued the group's classic debut, 1987's Big Blue Sky album in a special 30th Anniversary (Super-Sized) edition.



An Evening with Jann Arden

Feb. 3, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Jann Arden is a multi-platinum, award-winning singer, songwriter, actor and author. Arden has released 15 albums with 19 top ten singles. Her most recent project, Descendant was released in Jan. 2022 and features a 15-song collection representing the last 18 months of Arden's life and headspace. A bold, beautiful, and empowering sound of Jann Arden, Descendant signifies a return to form for the multifaceted artist, reflecting on where she came from and where she is headed.

Arden's accolades include 8 JUNO Awards including Female Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year, 10 SOCAN Awards and 4 Western Canadian Music Awards to name a few. In 2020, she was announced as an inductee into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Arden has also been inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, has a Star on Canada's Walk of Fame and has been awarded the Order of Canada.

Arden has written five books, the most recent being her new memoir IF I KNEW THEN: Finding Wisdom in Failure and Power in Aging, released Oct. 2020. Arden's CTV hit original comedy series JANN premiered in 2019. With Arden serving as co-creator and star of the show where she played a fictionalized version of herself.

Whether she is captivating audiences with her heartfelt music, entertaining them with her quick wit or sharing her written word in a boldly honest voice – Arden is a Canadian original – a brilliant multi-dimensional talent.



Legacy:

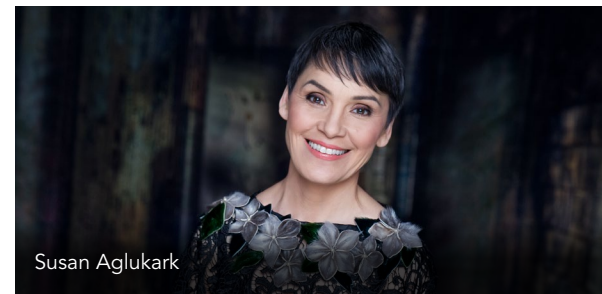
*In Support of The Gord Downie
& Chanie Wenjack Fund*

Oct. 21, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Inspired by Chanie's story and Gord's call to build a better Canada, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund aims to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous. The Fund's goal is to improve the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, and connections between all peoples in Canada. This performance benefits the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund and features Indigenous artists including:

Susan Aglukark

Inuk singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark is one of Canada's most unique artists and a leading voice in Canadian music. Her awards include: 3 Juno Awards, several Juno nominations, the first-ever Aboriginal Achievement Award in Arts & Entertainment, the Canadian Country Music Association's Vista Rising Star Award and several other CCMA nominations.



Tom Wilson

Canadian music legend, famed storyteller and visual artist. His extensive career and tireless efforts as a musician has bestowed upon him numerous nominations and awards from the Hamilton Music Awards to the Polaris Prize to the Juno Awards, including certified gold and platinum records. His memoir, Beautiful Scars has become a national bestseller.



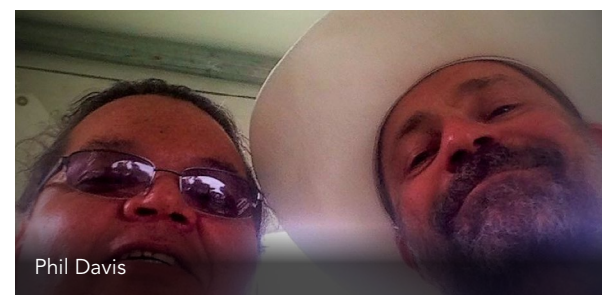
The Poets

The band is based in Moose Factory/Moosone in northern Ontario. They first got their start in 2018 at a local community arts and music festival called The Gathering Of Our People. Band members include guitarists Clint Hamilton, Rob Carter, bassist Jon Kapashesit, drummer Paul Chakasim and rounding it off is lead singer Vic Linklater.



Phil Davis

Phil is Mohawk/Cayuga of the Haudenosaunee peoples, whose family on both sides originate from Six Nations. He is a member of the Little Creek Singers, a Pow Wow group that was nominated at the 2018 CBC Indigenous Music Awards for Best Pow Wow Traditional Album and fronts a blues, jazz, rock, RnB soulful music group Ol' Child.



The Mush Hole

ArtSparks Nov. 2-3 | Public performance Nov. 3

WARNING: Mature and potentially triggering scenes involving residential schools and representation of sexual and physical abuse.

The Mush Hole performance pays respect to the many Survivors, acknowledging the lives and spirits of generations of Indigenous youth who "served time" at the Mohawk Institute residential school. It is about their survival, resilience and was created in close connection to Survivors, their writings, interviews and Survivor Series Talks.

The Mush Hole incorporates the bricks and mortar, the grounds of the Mohawk Institute, transporting audiences into the environment of the residential

school, to rooms such as the Boy's Playroom, solitary confinement under the staircase cubby hole and laundry room. The storyline follows 2 generations of Survivors demonstrating the intergenerational effects, representing the long history of the residential school.

Sign up for:



The ArtSparks program provides all children in Milton grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to attend and experience a performance at the FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton, free of charge.

Show how much you value future generations and education in Milton by becoming a donor. Details at milton.ca/ArtSparks

Watch for the ArtSparks 2022-23 show dates to be announced on our website fall 2022.



Jully Black

Nov. 18, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Jully Black is 'Canada's Queen of R&B/Soul' and a true Canadian icon. She has been named as one of 'The 25 Greatest Canadian Singers Ever' (CBC Music) and is a platinum-selling recording artist and performer; a Juno Award, Gemini Award, Toronto Theatre Critics Award and Dora Mavor Moore Award recipient, a celebrated morning television host, Canada's Walk of Fame inductee, television and musical stage actress of resolute faith and conviction.



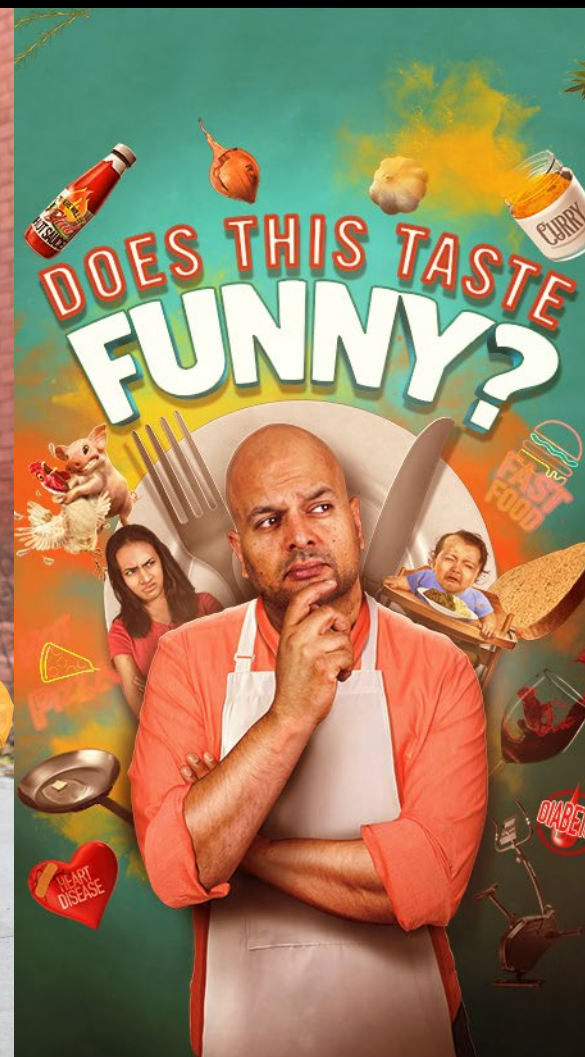
CHOIR!CHOIR!CHOIR!

Epic 80's Singalong

Nov. 12, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Choir! Choir! Choir! is a Toronto-based singing group led by creative directors Nobu Adilman and Daveed Goldman. The duo takes a non-traditional approach; there are no auditions, and the audience is the choir. Show up and they'll teach you an original arrangement to a song you love. Founded in 2011, the group has performed with renowned artists such as Patti Smith, David Byrne, Rick Astley, Tegan and Sara, and Rufus Wainwright, and onstage at New York's Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall with the likes of Debbie Harry and The Flaming Lips.

Choir! Choir! Choir! exists to celebrate music and push the boundaries between practice and performance, artist and audience, offering therapeutic benefits with the ultimate side effect: a powerful community.



Ali Hassan

Jan. 19, 8 p.m. | MinMaxx Hall

Ali Hassan's career plans started off as simply as anyone's: become a chef, get a food show on television, get a second food show on television, be the face of the network and have oven mitts with his face on them. But sometimes things get in the way of your dreams: like your parents' disappointment, your family of four children and your successful comedy career.

This show is a hilarious exposition of Ali's journey in and out of the culinary world in which he spent 12 years. Think Eat, Pray, Love.... minus the Prayer.

Ali Hassan is a Stand-up Comic and Actor who has performed for audiences across Canada and internationally.

Ali is the host of the CBC Radio stand-up comedy show Laugh Out Loud. Ali is also starring in the latest hit CBC sitcom, Run The Burbs, and for the past six consecutive years, he has hosted Canada Reads - the annual battle of the books celebrating the best of Canadian literature.

An Evening with Leahy

Feb. 23, 8 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Leahy are incredibly diverse, an 11-strong (with six in the current “core” touring band), multi-generational ensemble that encompasses the young and experienced; men and women; and mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers. Their eclectic music combines elements of the aforementioned folk, traditional, Celtic, and roots music within contemporary arrangements - influenced by classical, pop and rock music – into a progressive sound of their own. For Leahy there are no boundaries as they continue to evolve – the band’s genuine love of such a diverse range of music fuels their uncompromising creativity. Refusing to be bound to the conventions of any one genre, defying easy definition, they’ve forged a truly unique reputation.



Milton Film Forum

Monthly in September to April (except February) at 7:30 p.m.
Ticket: \$10 | Full-season package (7 films): \$63



Organized by local volunteers and coordinated through Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Milton Film Forum is proud to provide you with access to the latest independent, international and Canadian films. Enjoy an intimate and interactive movie-going experience, with refreshments, discussion and the occasional special guest from the film's crew or cast.

Milton Film Forum gratefully acknowledges their partnership with Film Circuit, a division of TIFF, and its sponsors and supporters.

Sept. 7	Oct. 5	Nov. 16	Dec. 7
Jan. 4	March 1	April 12	

Presented in partnership with: **tiff** | **FILM CIRCUIT**

The Ugly Duckling

April 5, 7 p.m. | Mattamy Theatre

Lightwire Theatre brings a classic tale to the modern stage in an unforgettable theatrical experience. Lined with electroluminescent wire, the beloved story of The Ugly Duckling plays out on stage through a cutting-edge blend of puppetry, technology and dance.

With dazzling visuals, poignant choreography and the creative use of music ranging from classical to pop, this production brings this story into a new and brilliant light.

Based in New Orleans, Lightwire Theatre continues to create and deliver innovative theatrical experiences to audiences worldwide including: Hong Kong, Estonia, Canada, Belarus, China, Abu Dhabi, and as finalists on My TF1's, The Best Le Meilleur Artiste in Paris.



Laurier Lecture Series

Monthly October - May, 7 p.m. | Free to attend

Wilfrid Laurier University, the Town of Milton and the Milton Public Library are pleased to present the 2022-23 Laurier Milton Lecture Series.

The Laurier Milton Lecture Series provides a wonderful opportunity to engage in a public dialogue with citizens of Milton on a broad array of important topics. We are pleased that the presentations represent the current research and analysis of members of different faculties, departments and programs.

Oct. 12	Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan.11
Feb. 15	March 8	April 12	May 10

[Register now](#)



ENGAGE AND Inspire



Through ArtSparks powered by FirstOntario, opportunities to engage with and be inspired by culture and the arts have been made available to children in Milton.

Studies have shown that children who are exposed to and participate in arts and cultural activities achieve higher intellectual and emotional success. With this in mind, the donors behind the program hope to create richer life experiences for young participants, through free programming. As a result of their efforts, children will be able to participate in diverse arts programming each year, which includes music, dance, theatre, and visual arts programs.

Support this program

A number of giving options are available for all levels of the community fundraising campaign for individuals, families, and corporations. For further information on how you can support the fundraising campaign, visit [our website](#).

2014

The Town of Milton established a dedicated fund with the Community Foundation of Halton North. Donations are deposited into an endowment fund, with the annual income supporting Arts Centre initiatives.

2016

A \$2 million fundraising campaign is launched in support of the program.

2017

FirstOntario Credit Union makes a \$1 million commitment to the program, a major milestone.

2018

The Arts Centre continues to fundraise the remaining \$1 million required to complete the campaign, with generous support from local arts advocates.

2019

In May 2019, the program became available to all Grade 8 students in Milton with a multimedia presentation by Shaun Boothe.



2020

In 2020, during the pandemic, the program featured ArtSparks Community, supporting local artists and performers.



2021

In 2021, the program featured multi-award winning, chart-topping Indigenous folk artists Twin Flames virtually to over 1,100 students.



2022

In 2022, the program featured Notorious Cree (James Jones) via virtual performance to over 1,200 students.



2023

Watch for our announcement to come.

Arts programs

"Imagination and creativity are foundational for us all as they form the basis of how we learn, enrich our lives, develop new ideas and meet life's challenges."

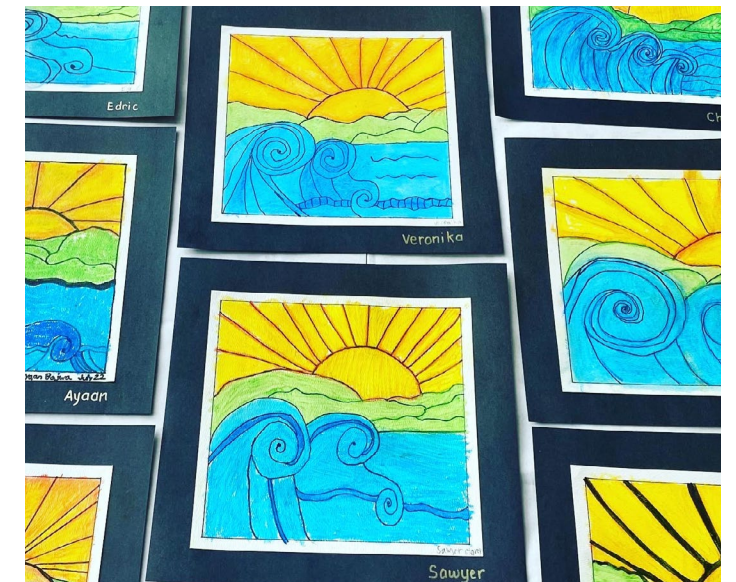
-Canadian Network for Imagination and Creativity

The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton is built on land formerly occupied by hydro buildings, and the place continues to buzz with energy as a community hub that fosters creativity and connection.

Creative sparks are not only evident in the world class performances presented at the Centre but also in the diversity of programs offered in the spacious studios on the second floor. The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton offers a variety of performance and visual arts classes in a fun and welcoming environment. Our **instructors** provide inclusive classes for all artistic abilities.

Register and learn more

- Parent & Tot
- Pre-School programs
- Child & youth programs
- Adult programs
- Family programs
- Camps & school breaks



School/group programs

Bring your class, camp, or group to the FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton for an art workshop. Our school programs will expand critical and creative thinking and are tailored to meet curriculum requirements at each grade level.

S.T.E.A.M. programs

We provide programs that focus on curriculum for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math:

- Artful Music Makers
- Constellation Watercolour Paintings
- Geometry in Art Collages
- Clay Motivated by Living Things
- Understanding Natural Resources in Paper Making

Exploring the world programs

Our exploring the world programs introduce students to a variety of cultures, global communities, and geographic regions:

- Ted Harrison Watercolour and Collage
- Ancient Asian Shadow Puppets
- Egyptian Self-Portrait Printmaking
- Ancient Architecture Inspired Clay

Communication and media literacy programs

Our communication and media literacy programs look at how art is represented in the media and the influence it has on broader cultures:

- Andy Warhol Media Printmaking
- James Rizzi Oil Resist Drawings

Register and learn more



Arts Milton

Article written by Dr. Auleen Carson (Arts Milton President)

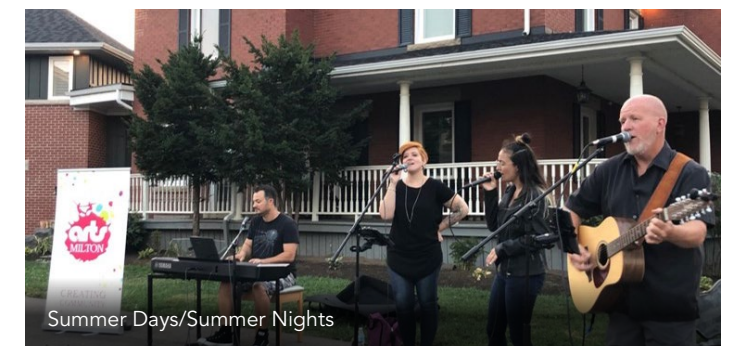
Arts Milton provides arts and culture programming that celebrates, showcases, and supports local artists and culture groups with the overall goal of "Creating Community with the Arts".

Our focus on recognizing the diversity of our artistic and cultural community is reflected in our programs which include:

- **Crafting Culture**, an online celebration of all forms of arts and culture held during the month of January,
- **The Friendship Project**, connecting newcomers to Canada with host families to participate in arts and culture activities and develop connections and friendships, and
- **Summer Days/Summer Nights**, a performing arts series in July/August hosted in neighborhoods throughout Milton.
- **Culture Days** in Milton (Sept. 23 to Oct. 16, 2022) is organized each year by Arts Milton with events taking place throughout the community and online. You can enjoy a full day of free Culture Days programs for all ages on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022 at the FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton.

Arts Milton is pleased to welcome newly hired Arts Milton Program Coordinator, Drew Brown. Drew's knowledge of arts and culture comes through first hand experience as an arts entrepreneur for close to 20 years, and as an award winning musician, songwriter and producer who has worked on a range of events, from small performances to large arts festivals and multi-city performing arts tours.

To learn more about Arts Milton, including our volunteer opportunities at events such as Culture Days, or to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, visit artsmilton.com.



Milton's Culture Plan: Here to Stay

Milton's first-ever local [culture plan](#) was passed unanimously by Council at its meeting on July 19, 2021. Milton's ten-year plan, "Here to Stay", is a roadmap for the future of the Town's cultural policies and investments.

The plan allows the Town to better understand its role in growing and supporting culture within the community.

"Milton is home to a culturally diverse and inclusive community," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "With culture at the centre of community building and development, the culture plan is a path forward and provides a framework to integrate cultural planning into Town projects."

The plan comes after months of equitable, collaborative and creative public consultation. Through this cultural planning process, community members and stakeholders defined culture as the expression of Milton's diverse identities through Milton's people, places, stories and beliefs.

The culture plan features five strategic avenues of action that enhance Milton as a Place of Possibility:

1. Foster a resilient and collaborative cultural sector
2. Celebrate and share Milton's diversity
3. Support Indigenous cultural resurgence
4. Strengthen culture-led economic and social development
5. Expand investment in cultural infrastructure, including places and spaces

For more information about the culture plan and its strategic directions and detailed actions, read the full plan [here](#).



Cover Art: Omar Hopkinson

Holcim Gallery

The FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton displays artwork throughout the year in the Holcim Gallery. [Visit our website](#) to see updated information regarding future exhibitions.

- Shine presented by Town of Milton Visual Arts Camps
- Artist Barbara Ariss-Stroh-Wasser
- Exclusively inclusive: Using Art to Rethink Us vs Them presented by Arts Milton, Town of Milton, and Red T Media (This is exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Grant Program)
- Fine Arts Society of Milton

Rent the Holcim Gallery

Would you like to host a gallery show? [Apply for an exhibition in the Holcim Gallery](#) and create your own art exhibition.

2011: Inaugural Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) show

Public Art Milton

Public art projects enhance the community by encouraging engagement with the Town, enhancing our relationship to the spaces we share and contributing to the identity and character of civic facilities and neighbourhoods.

The Town of Milton has continued to see a growing commitment by local artists in the creation of public artworks.

A number of community-led artworks were conceived of and facilitated by professional artists who live and work in Milton, and all were helped along by many community members.

With the help of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) staff, an interactive public art map for Milton has been developed. The public art map both celebrates the contributions made by the community, and provides a window into the cultural landscape of Milton— past, and present.

Visit the public art map at milton.ca/PublicArt



Our Milton Connects series has launched in response to the avenues of action outlined in the Culture Plan. Starting in Fall 2022, this free monthly program aims to celebrate and share Milton's diversity, highlight local arts and culture organizations, and provide a platform for creativity, social interaction, and community connection. Please visit [our website](#) for opportunities to participate.

JR Marr, Pflag Halton mural, 2019. Photo: Sarah Arfan