

**Program Report for 2016  
Presented at the 2017 MERA**

This year, writing the program report comes with the sound of music. We have always enjoyed concerts at the Schoolhouse, but now our members are also making music! Last Spring Helen Mogford started a recorder class, and now she has two classes. Likewise Jennifer Noxon started a community choir group last fall and the numbers have greatly increased. For several years we have been looking for a ukulele teacher, and just after Christmas we found Faith Fewer in Perth, recently moved back from England and a very experienced music teacher.

MERA members are also dancing up a storm on Monday nights Dance for the Joy of it! and on alternate Thursday nights, the Dance Collective.

The Art Circle, under the guidance of Gloria Shoebriidge meets regularly and has an exhibition every summer. Wayne Stryde organizes the art exhibition which takes place every month in the main hall, The \$1,000 MERA Award of Excellence in Fine Arts and Fine Crafts will be given this year. The deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The children's Summer Arts Camp in July was held again this year under the leadership of Jo Bali. We also held a Beer, Cheese and Chocolate Tasting event with local artisanal food producers that everyone enjoyed. The popular Friday night suppers took a new turn and we had suppers celebrating the 150 years of Canadian Cuisine.

The program committee has been busy planning a special year for MERA's 20 year anniversary, The first event will take place shortly with a dinner for founders and former board members since the beginning of MERA. A Community Dinner, Dance and Parade is on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Fiberarts meets every Thursday, with workshops often held after lunch. Cathie Huffman again organized several workshops to make items for the Christmas fair. Nancy Sont has taken over from Cathie this year. The Garden Club under the guidance of Nancy Lanouette visited members gardens during the summer and share plants and ideas.

In October we had a very successful willow basketry workshop with Lena Rasmussen willow basket maker from Wainfleet near Niagara Falls.

Ankaret Dean