

Update from Oakville Art Society regarding the Covid19 Pandemic

We are facing an unprecedented situation with the rapid spread of the Coronavirus during this pandemic. At the Oakville Arts Society we have been discussing how to best address the concerns of our members and students while striving to still offer our quality programming and facilities for your enjoyment.

All the official health authorities in our country are providing us with detailed recommendations on how best to limit the spread of this virus. In the Town of Oakville, Jane Clohecy, Acting CAO for the Town of Oakville has said “Although we have been advised that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is low in Halton, we are implementing preventative measures to protect our residents and reduce the spread of the virus. The situation with COVID-19 is evolving quickly. The health and well-being of our residents is our top priority.” Consequently many Town services and cultural offerings have been suspended or cancelled. Ontario schools have been closed for an additional 2 weeks after Spring Break.

This morning the Ontario Government announced we are in a State of Emergency and this mandates that we take certain steps. With all of this in mind and to do our best to help limit the spread of the virus OAS is taking the following immediate steps:

- The studios and office will be closed immediately and until further notice.
- Spring classes which were slated to commence on Monday, 6th April, will be reduced by 2 weeks, so the new start date is now Monday, 20th April and the sessions will run for only 6 weeks instead of the planned 8 weeks. Refunds for the 2 cancelled weeks will be issued in April.
- The workshops scheduled for late March and early April with Linda Kemp, Erna de Vries and Gloria Kingma have been rescheduled. Refunds will be given to any currently registered artists who are unable to attend the new dates. Please visit our website.
- The Friday Painters sessions are suspended until we re-open our premises.

If you need to contact us during this shutdown please first check our Facebook page and our website for updates. If you still have a question please send an email to our general mailbox (info@oakvilleartsociety.com) and someone will respond to you as soon as we can get to it. Our office staff will be working from home which reduces our efficiency so your patience during any delay would be greatly appreciated.

We know that, like us, you are focussed on keeping yourself and your family safe while balancing your daily life. We hope that these measures will help you to accomplish this difficult juggling act. These extraordinary circumstances are evolving rapidly and we will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Meanwhile - keep creating!

The Board of the Oakville Arts Society
17th March 2020