Executive Director’s Report

The Past Year:
I would like to thank the members of the Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, the numerous volunteers, the City of Brantford, the Board of Directors and the many corporations, local businesses and foundations that support Glenhyrst for one of the best years in recent history. I am so thankful to have been warmly received into the community and to have had a chance to add my professional contributions to this great success.

The continued growth this past year was rewarding because we are now better able to fulfill Glenhyrst’s vision that creativity is an essential part of a healthy, vibrant society. Due to this financial success, we are able to offer the community more creative events and educational programs in the upcoming year. The gallery closed the financial year with a surplus of around $23,000 above expenses that eradicated most debt, while upgrading the technology and increasing staff.

As an executive director, and with the gallery team, we have worked towards increasing capacity and developing sustainability, because the core-operating budget needs to be based on a strong foundation of reliable income. For this reason, we have aimed to diversify the sources of income, while increasing financial efficiency.

Exhibitions:
As a curator, I was very excited to see the high calibre of artists exhibiting at Glenhyrst. The past years’ exhibitions began with a solo show by Xiaojing Yan, entitled New Growth, while in the Community Gallery, Paris artist Karen Piovaty, displayed her exhibition that confronted the difficult issues of abuse. The Promise of Painting, guest curated by Bryce Kanbara, followed with works by Ian McLean, Cristina Zanella, and Robert Achtemichuk, with Jack Jackowetz in the Community Gallery.

The third exhibit in the fiscal year was Narrative Transformations that showcased sculptures by Jane Hook and paintings by Elizabeth Barrett Milner and Fausta Facciponti. In the Community Gallery, Brantford artist Kim DiFrancesco displayed her recent paintings.

The next exhibit was an important one in the Glenhyrst year, The School Art Exhibition, entitled Expressions. For this show the local schools selected over 200 pieces by local talented students. The result was stunning and we are eagerly awaiting the next school exhibit in 2013 when a $5,000.00 grant from the City of Brantford will allow us to create a School Art Exhibition Catalogue with a colour picture of every participating students’ creation!
Following the school exhibit, I selected landscapes from the Permanent Collection that traced the development of Canadian Landscape painting from the mid nineteenth century to the present day. In the future, the annual exhibition of the Permanent Collection will be moved to the Autumn so that the local schools can include tours of the display in the school curriculum since it offers interpretation both artistically as well as historically.
The last exhibition in the fiscal year ending October 31st was a collection of bold sculptural statements by Norfolk artist, Jonas Stonkus, entitled *Artifacts, Shields and Power Rods*. In the Community Gallery, Brantford artist Robert Crosby created a display of his paintings Maritime scenes.

For the upcoming year, my aim as curator is to provide the general public and the artistic community with opportunities to view local, regional and national level artists at Glenhyrst. By doing so I would like to allow all in the community to benefit from viewing a diverse range of artists and artistic viewpoints. I seek to build upon the professional reputation of Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, because when we raise the artistic reputation of the gallery, we also raise the reputation of every artist who has shown here. As a community gallery, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant is dedicated to assisting in the careers of the local community artists.

**Education Program:**

This year has also be stellar year for the gallery as we fulfill the mission to encourage appreciation, enjoyment and education in the visual arts. The Summer Art Camp in 2012 broke records for attendance, after we extended the hours to full day for all ages and broadened the age range to include 3 and 4 year olds. The program was so full that we used the Youth Education Gallery in the main building and we still had to turn campers away. Next summer we plan to use the Community Gallery for the camp, because we feel that there is no better use for the gallery than to inspire young minds in the pursuit of creativity. And once again, the *Stephen Smith and Dorothy Woltz Foundation* has very kindly donated $1000 to the Summer Art Camp, giving kind support to our efforts to offer quality art education to local youth and helping campers who might otherwise not be able to attend.

The Youth Education Gallery has proven to be well appreciated by the young in the community. Many parents enjoy being able to leave their children creating art while they view the current exhibit. This is especially true on the Fun Day Sundays that take place on the last Sunday of every month. This is an opportunity for families, often multi-generational, to have a guided tour of the exhibit and then return to the Youth Education Gallery where the staff lead the children in art activities based upon the current exhibition.

The School Education Program (Art Reach and Gallery Tours/Workshops) has gone through many changes this year. The whole program has been restructured to include two new art instructors trained in visual arts and museum curriculum planning, as well as contract work by a curriculum specialist to design lesson plans for teachers. These are posted on our website for local teachers, in the hopes that this will enrich their gallery visits and help with the work load of developing specially designed lesson plans.

And it is with great excitement that we announce that a 2012 grant application has resulted in a *$2,000 grant* from *The Lorne and Elsie Hankinson Charitable Foundation Trust* to assist schools with the prohibitive cost of school buses. We are happy to say that the late winter and spring tours are already busy being booked.
**Taste of Glenhyrst:**
The Taste of Glenhyrst 2012 was a resounding success, with Board Member, Angela Henri...que, at the helm of a devoted team of volunteers and staff. Even her daughter Maddie made a stunning contribution with a professional quality video to promote the event. This major annual fundraiser benefitted from a $40,000 Celebrate Ontario Grant that helped to further establish the event as a key event in the Brantford calendar and a successful source of funds for the gallery. The event also attracted key corporations and businesses as sponsors, with RBC as the lead sponsor for the event. Even torrential rains could not dampen the fun for over 400 guests at Glenhyrst!

**Family Events and Fundraisers:**
*Family Arts Day 2012*, was one of the most exciting in recent years. Board Member Katherine Newsome worked with yet another team of talented volunteers, as well as the staff to create a wonderfully art focused family day for the whole community to share. Mayor Friel contributed his time and culinary talents for the barbeque. This event attracted an enthusiastic crowd despite the rain clouds and the result was fun, art and funds for the gallery.

Glenhyrst has also been fortunate to add several new fundraisers and family events to the annual calendar. In 2012 we added a *Family Easter Egg Hunt* which drew in a crowd of eager children and many families who were coming to the gallery for the very first time. And thanks go out to Board Member Adam Szabluk, who acted as corporate fundraiser for that event.

A Fall Fundraiser was added to the year’s programs in 2012 in the form of our first *Family Halloween Haunt*, one of the last events of the fiscal year and what a way to end the year. Over one hundred hauntes attended the event as Glenhyrst was skillfully transformed by yet another team of spirited volunteers.

These three events, *Family Arts Day, Family Easter Egg Hunt and the Family Haunted Halloween* will be even more exciting in 2013 thanks to a *Brant Community Foundation Grant* that was applied for in 2012.

Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant will also be adding yet another Family event to the annual calendar for 2013 because to the generous response to our 2012 grant application to the *City of Brantford for the Culture Innovation Grant: Earth Day Celebrations 2013*. This four-day event will take place in April and includes education as well as many of the sister arts: a 7x7@7, musical performances, literary readings, artists' talks and youth workshops.

**Glenhyrst Presents and other Partnerships:**
Glenhyrst not only benefits from the assistance of creative volunteers, but also from many partnerships in the community, such as the Classical Guitar Society of Brantford, Brantford Poetry Society, Canadian Artists Representation of Ontario, Economic Development and Tourism, City of Brantford, Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford Artist Website, Brant Museum and Gallery Association and the Ontario Association of Art Galleries. The new Glenhyrst Presents provided an opportunity to work with other groups and societies to offer some of the sister arts in the gallery and on the grounds. Thank you to our partners.
Staff:
The gallery is pleased to announce that with a 2012 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and greater capacity and sustainability, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant has been able to more than double the staff for the upcoming and promising year, 2013.

Staff 2012:
Marcia Lea, Executive Director and Curator, M.F.A., OCT, B.ed. (Full-time)
Michelle Madison, Gallery Coordinator, B.A. (Full-time)
Brian Pickering (Part-time)

Additional Staff as of Feb 28, 2013:
Ana Olson, Dipl. Marketing (Full-time)
Norm Moore, B.A., Dipl. Theatre Tech. and Prod., (Part-time)
Deandra Mercer, OCT., B.F.A., B.ed. (Part-time)
Kayla Pegg, B.A. Art History and History. (Part-time)