

## Where we're at with "inside Artscape"?

**Inside Artscape** is an open studio style tour of all Artscape properties which is scheduled for October 1 - 3, 1999 beginning with an opening night party/salon/exhibit at 60 Atlantic Ave. and culminating with two days of open studio tours.

- A small registration fee of \$20 is helping to offset costs of promotion of the event. We encourage you to register by calling Sharlene at ext 21 or dropping by the office to pick up a registration form (deadline for registration, September 2).
- Volunteers are still needed and we are particularly interested in hearing from any of our tenants who would like to perform at the Opening Night Party!!!
- Special thanks to all of you who have taken the time to register and to the individuals who have been working on the organizing committees.

*Stay tuned...*

...much more news in a couple of weeks or call Susan extension 26.

# A R T S C A P E

NEWSLETTER  
Summer 1999

## Hard at Work!



Artscape board members caught cavorting on a water taxi on their way to a board meeting (from left to right President Jini Stolk, Heidi McKenzie, Claire Hopkinson and Rose Jacobson).

**It's been too long** since Artscape published its last newsletter. We are working on ideas for a catchy name and a flashy design... but, we couldn't wait to let our tenants know what is happening in the office, in each of our buildings and at our exciting new project on Toronto Islands. Please let us know what you think. As you may be aware, there are some new people on the scene here who would love to get to know you better. Feel free to drop into the office to say hello or invite us to your next show, performance, BBQ, or yard sale. Hope you are having a festive summer!

*Best regards from the staff of Artscape*

July 1999

## What's going on in the Artscape office?

*Staff changes at Artscape over the past year have given us a great opportunity to look at how we are serving our tenants as well as how we can manage our time and resources to allow for the development of exciting new projects like the Gibraltar Point Centre. We have already had some very positive feedback on our new staff positions and structure and are always interested to hear more. The Tenants Association at 900 Queen inspired us to provide you with the following new staff list which explains who does what:*

### **Executive Director, Tim Jones . . . . .Telephone extension: 24**

Tim joined Artscape in May 1998 after serving as a Canada Council Theatre Officer for two years and the General Manager of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for 8 years. In addition to his Artscape responsibilities, Tim has a part-time gig running an organizational development program for the Theatre Section of The Canada Council. For more than a decade, he has been an outspoken advocate for the arts as past president of the Toronto Theatre Alliance, founding member and Co-chair of ArtsVote and a member of the Ontario Arts Report Steering Committee. As Executive Director, Tim is responsible for overseeing the staff and all aspects of Artscape's vision, mission, operations and development.

### **Business Manager, Jelica Vrana . . . . .Telephone extension: 22**

Jelica has been firmly rooted at Artscape since her early days as a volunteer when she arrived in Canada from Sarajevo. In her homeland, Jelica worked as Manager of Public Relations, Advertising and Promotions in the office of the Organizing Committee for the XIV Winter Olympics. With a new title as Business Manager, Jelica now deals with all aspects of book-keeping and financial management. She is the person to talk to about anything to do with your rent at Artscape.

### **Property Manager, Robert Plitt . . . . .Telephone extension: 23**

Robert Plitt is a visual artist/jack-of-all-trades who received a MFA in painting from Rijks Akademie in Amsterdam. Robert brings greatly appreciated technical knowledge of buildings to Artscape's team which he has gleaned as a partner in a Toronto-based design/build collective and Director of Farm Operations for Caravan Farm Theatre. The new role of Property Manager was created so that tenants would have one person they could call whether they had a question about their lease or a problem which needs Artscape's attention. Artscape's Superintendents and Caretakers report to Robert.

### **Partnerships and Community Relations Officer**

#### **Susan Serran . . . . .Telephone extension: 26**

Susan Serran has been a prominent arts community leader in Toronto for the past 20 years including roles as Artistic Producer of Theatre Passe Muraille and Co-chair of ArtsVote. Susan joined Artscape on a short-term contract in February 1999 as the project coordinator for the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts. Susan's new role as Partnerships and Community Relations Officer has been designed to allow Artscape to build a higher profile within and outside the arts community and develop strategic partnerships with people and organizations who can help us create more work and live/work spaces.

### **96 Spadina Avenue**

- Negotiations are underway for a new lease at 96 Spadina which expires in December 2000. Owners Mort Rapp and Mr Katz have indicated a strong interest to renew, as well as a need for more money. They are interested in exploring ideas which would give a higher profile to Artscape and improvements to the corridors/washrooms/stairs etc. Unfortunately, there is not currently any additional space in the building apart from the rooftop about which they are open to ideas. Our number one goal in the negotiations will be to secure the lowest possible rental rate so that studios continue to be affordable. We are hoping to have an extended lease in place by this fall.

### **60 Atlantic Avenue**

- Artscape has expanded its office space to accommodate new staff members and a common meeting room. The room is available free of charge to Artscape tenants for meetings. Please call Sharlene to book the meeting room.
- This summer we are determined to put some fresh paint on the exterior doors at 60 Atlantic. We would love to explore what can be done with the exterior of the front and back loading doors in the way of murals. Let us know if you have any ideas.
- Please bear with us as we continue to investigate the source of the roof leak opposite unit 217 which has caused problems on all floors. Rob has made several attempts to seal the roof after each time there has been a heavy rainfall.

### **179 Richmond Street, The Music Gallery**

- Congratulations to the Music Gallery for having secured property tax exempt status.

## **Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts**

- The transformation of the old Island Public/Natural Science School has begun. For this project, Artscape has hired its own crew of carpenters, painters and other tradespeople who will undertake \$110,000 worth of work this summer thanks to the generous support of the Trillium Foundation.
- Artscape has received a strong initial demand for space for the Gibraltar Point Centre. The Tenant Selection Committee will meet in July 1999 to review the applications and the first tenants may move in as early as September 1999.
- Artscape is working in partnership with arts service organizations to develop an artists' residency program. Artists in one month residencies will have one of 14 private bedrooms, a work studio, and shared access to kitchen and laundry facilities. Artscape is currently accepting applications for one-month residencies for the fall of 1999.

**Catherine Heard:** Ms. Heard is an accomplished artist whose work has been exhibited throughout Canada, Europe, the US and Mexico. Her solo shows include *Siamese Twins* (Niagara Artists' Centre, Gallery 44), *Dialogue* (The Power Plant & Kunstforeningen, Copenhagen), *Anatomical Permutations* (Internacional Cervantino, Mexico). Catherine has given guest lectures at the University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, University of the Arts, Philadelphia and at the Opica Gallery in Montreal. She is an Artscape tenant at 900 Queen Street West.

**Paulette Pelletier-Kelly:** Paulette owns and operates *CultureWorks* which provides business management services for arts organizations, individual artists and community organizations. She is the former Executive Director of the Ontario Crafts Council and the Periodical Writers Association of Canada. In the late 80s she ran Art Place Trust, a renovated brewery in London, England that housed about 25 artists' studios, a gallery and a dance company.

**Lupe Rodriguez:** Lupe has been working professionally as an artist for the past 20 years, focusing on the techniques of painting, drawing and photography in a variety of media. She has exhibited extensively throughout Canada, both in public and commercial galleries including: The Art Gallery of Ontario, The Justina Barnicke Gallery, and The Leo Kamen Gallery. Ms. Rodriguez has received numerous awards and has executed a number of commissions in Canada and abroad including for the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Toronto Sun Building in Toronto.

## What's up with our buildings?

### 1313 Queen Street West

- When 1313 tenants talk about the return of the flies they're not talking about a bad sci-fi flick. Joseph is on the scene again this year to put an end to what seems to be a favorite fly nesting ground.
- At long last we are fixing the clock at 1313. We hope to have it working in the near future.
- Artscape is working with the Parkdale Liberty Economic Development Committee to explore ways to improve lighting and signage around 1313.
- Permission has been granted to the Community Board to create secure storage space in the basement of 1313 for the archives for Somalia Immigrant Aid.

### 900/910 Queen Street West

- Kudos to Catherine Heard for discovering the source of a leak into the basement which otherwise might have led to a major rip up of the beautiful garden.
- Robert has now lined-up the three quotes required for an exploration of what is wrong with the freight elevator. The exploration itself will cost about \$4000 and we're hoping that the price tag for repairs will not exceed \$15,000. If it does, this matter will be discussed at the September meeting of the board of directors.
- Due to changes required by the Ministry of Housing, Artscape is required to sign new leases with all of its live/work tenants at 900 Queen. The new lease has been circulated to the tenants association for comments before July 25, 1999.
- Leslie Coles has submitted a notice of termination creating the second ever vacancy at 900 Queen Street. The vacancy will be filled by September 01.

### Administrative Assistant, Sharlene Creedon . . . . .Telephone extension: 21

Sharlene may have served you a beer at Mezzrows in Parkdale or sold you a ticket to a show at Buddies where she was Front of House Manager for four years. She is the sultry new voice on Artscape's answering machine and the person most likely to help you figure out who you need to talk to when you don't know where to turn. Her position has been created this year (previously filled by Moynan King) to provide support to the rest of the staff who are balancing their time between managing our current portfolio of properties and developing new projects.

### Superintendent, Joseph Lammirato . . . . .Pager number 424-9246 (for serious emergencies only)

Joseph is an artist, and a tenant at 900 Queen who also has a work studio at 96 Spadina. As superintendent, Joseph oversees the maintenance and repair of Artscape properties at 60 Atlantic Ave., 900, 910, and 1313 Queen Street West. Joseph carries a pager which should be used for the kinds of emergencies for which you would also call 911. Because Joseph gets around so much, many of our tenants talk to Joseph directly about problems they are experiencing with our buildings. The best way to track Joseph down, however, is to call the office and speak to Sharlene or Robert.

### Relief Superintendent, Robert Chandler

Rob is an artist and tenant who has worked for Artscape since the opening of 60 Atlantic in 1991. He is currently serving on the board of CARFAC/CARO. As Relief Superintendent, Rob fills in when Joseph is not available. He also works part-time handling cleaning and maintenance at 60 Atlantic Ave.

### Garetaker, Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts, Jimmy Jones

Jimmy is a story-teller who grew up on Toronto Islands. He went to school at the Island School, his kids also went there, and now his grandchildren study at the new school. For 17 years before his retirement, Jimmy was the school's Chief Caretaker. When the building was threatened with demolition, Jimmy and other Islanders jumped into action. His passion to make the Gibraltar Point Centre shine is so strong, he's come out of retirement to make it happen.

### Garetaker, Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts, Chris Wilson

Chris is a musician, gardener, former caretaker, and jack-of-all-trades who has lived on the Island for the past few years. Also a member of the committee of feisty Islanders who saved the old school, Chris has been working to generate interest in the Centre on and off the Island. When the 'Caretaker Wanted' signs were posted for the new Centre, Jimmy and Chris applied as a team. We are thrilled to welcome them to Artscape.

Office phone: (416) 392-1038  
Office facsimile: (416) 392-1059

## Who's new on the Artscape board?

**Jane Steenberg** is an accomplished visual artist who has been an Artscape tenant since 1992. She has been artist-in-residence through the James Baird Gallery in St. John's as well as a visiting guest artist in Pouch Cove, Newfoundland. Her work has been exhibited at various venues including two Artscape shows at Area Gallery (401 Richmond), a solo show entitled *Lands and Waters* at the Inverlynn Gallery, in a group show *Table of Dogs* at Seneca College and at A Space with *Birthtales*.

**Frank R. Lewinberg** received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of the Witwatersand and a Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1996 to 1971 he worked as an architect in France and England. He joined the planning staff of the City of Toronto in 1973, where he was responsible for initiating the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood redevelopment. In 1981, he founded the firm now known as Urban Strategies Inc., a Toronto-based planning and urban design firm offering services to public and private clients in Canada, the US, the Caribbean and Europe.

**Kathleen Sharpe** has over 20 years of experience as a senior manager and administrator in government and in the cultural sector. Most recently Kathleen was the Director of the Culture Division of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, a post she held from 1991 until amalgamation of the municipality into the megacity of Toronto. Her leadership led to the adoption by Metro Council of the Municipality's first comprehensive cultural policy, *Metro's Culture Plan*, in 1994. Prior to that post, Kathleen held positions as Information Officer for the Ontario College of Art and Design; and Assistant Director of Communications for the Banff Centre. Currently, Kathleen is Director of the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, principal of SharpeCulture and an associate with Net Gain Partners. She holds directorships with Arts Toronto, the Ontario Crafts Council and Toronto Artscape Inc.

Board members re-elected include: Jini Stolk – President, Bob Widdowson – Treasurer, P.J. Taylor – Secretary, and Directors: Bonnie Alter, Robin Fraser, Clair Hopkinson, Rose Jacobson, Councillor David Miller, and Greg Stephens.

The board and staff of Artscape would like to especially thank retiring members Jack MacKenzie, Martin Silva, and Heidi McKenzie for their contributions.

## Who's been appointed to Gibraltar Point?

The Board of Toronto Artscape is pleased to announce the appointment of the following individuals to the inaugural Tenant Selection Committee and Advisory Council for the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts.

The Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts is Toronto Artscape's newest facility. Located on Toronto Islands near Hanlan's Point at the former site of the Island Public and Natural Science School, the 30,000 square foot building will house a combination of individual artist and non-profit arts organization studios, a retreat centre and artist residency programmes.

The Advisory Council will play a key role in developing the vision for the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts. In addition to advising on policy and operations of the arts centre, the Advisory Council will select all arts program and service providers and monitor the impact of the operation on the Toronto Island community. The Tenant Selection Committee will be charged with the selection of long-term tenants which will include both individual artists and non-profit arts organizations. The term of office for both the Advisory Council and the Tenant Selection Committee will be one year commencing in July 1999.

## Gibraltar Point Advisory Counsel

**Elizabeth Amer:** Prior to serving as City Councillor for Ward 5 from 1988 – 1994, Ms. Amer was the Managing Editor of The Canadian Forum and Healthsharing. She is a long time resident of Toronto Islands who has contributed countless hours to her community in a variety of ways including serving as co-chair of the Toronto Island Residents Association and being the founding president of Friends of the Toronto Public Library.

**Nalo Hopkinson:** Ms. Hopkinson is a writer, performer, community activist and former arts officer at the Toronto Arts Council. In addition to being selected for the New York Public Library's prestigious Annual Recommendation Publication, her 1998 novel *Brown Girl in the Ring* was shortlisted for the Philip K. Dick Award, The James Tiptree Junior Award and the Nebula Award. A selection of her published and broadcast short stories include: "Midnight Robber" in Exile Magazine, "Slow Cold Chick" for CBC Radio One's Festival of Fiction, and "A Habit of Waste" in the anthology *Northern Suns*.

**Kathleen Sharpe:** Artscape board representative (please see bio under Who's New on Artscape's Board?).

**Jane Steenberg:** Artscape board representative (please see bio under Who's New on Artscape's Board?).

**Julie Stone:** Currently the Administrator of Mariposa In The Schools Ms. Stone has an impressive and long career in the field of Arts in Education which includes a host of roles at the Art Gallery of Ontario first as an Education Officer for Special Projects and ultimately Department Head for Education, Outreach and Public Programs from 1989 – 1996. In addition to receiving a Masters of Education from the Ontario Institute For Studies in Education she holds an Honours B.A. in Art History from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario and a B. A. in Fine Art and English from the University of Guelph.

*\*Still to be announced are two ex-officio members representing the City of Toronto Parks and Culture Departments.*

## Gibraltar Point Tenant Selection Committee

**Gerard Gauci:** Gerard graduated with honours from the Ontario College of Art and since then has worked primarily as a painter, but also as an illustrator, theatre designer and art educator. His work has been seen in a number of exhibitions at the O'Keefe Centre, Goethe Institute, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and most recently at the Leo Kamen Gallery. His illustrations have appeared in most major magazines and on book jackets for Canadian, American and European publishers. He continues to design sets and props for Opera Atelier and his artwork has won several awards in Canada and the US. Gerard is an Artscape Tenant at 60 Atlantic Avenue.

**Donna Gilmour:** Ms. Gilmour was a member of the original committee to Save The Old Island Public/Natural Science School Building. In addition to being employed by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Donna is renowned for her community volunteer work which includes participation in a wide number of organizations including the Friends of the Library Committee (Parkdale Public Library), the Parkdale Community Health Centre and the Masaryk Hall Community Centre Board.