

Amanda Cashin: Photographer and Tour Co-founder

By Deirdre Dwyer

Earlier this fall, I drove down Highway 207 to attend the Surfside Studio Tour. "Sweeping dunes, vast salt marshes and crashing waves will greet you" as you drive this route," says the Surfside brochure. The talented photographer Amanda Cashin is one of the organizers of this Tour that included twenty-five artists at sixteen locations!



In Three Fathom Harbour, Cashin displayed her distinctive, colourful photographs and cards, with pottery from Muddy Squirrel Studios and yarns from Three Fathom Fibre Arts. The Eastern Shore is blessed to have so many wonderful artists and crafters.

Cashin grew up on the Eastern Shore in Charlos Cove, near Guysborough, with the ocean nearby. "I spent a lot of time in boats and on beaches with my dad when I was little and the ocean is home to me," Cashin told me in an interview. She later lived in Halifax, but

when she chose to leave the city, she decided on Lawrencetown. It "just felt like the place I belonged," she said. "I can't imagine living where I couldn't see the ocean every day."

From elementary into high school, Cashin loved writing short stories and essays. When she was about 9 years old, she wished she had a camera because she would look at things and frame them in interesting compositions. "I didn't get my first camera until I was 15," she said, and "didn't start selling any of my photos until about 13 years ago" in 2011.

When I ask Cashin about her influences, she said that her mother and sister were very creative, always working on sewing, knitting, or needlework projects. Her main influence for photography, though, was magazines images. She was "inspired by the photographers who were able to help people see things – outside their day-to-day view – images that make the viewer take a second to think about what they are seeing." When people recognize that new viewpoint in her own work, Cashin says that is her "biggest compliment."

On a recent trip to Kenya, Africa, Cashin affirmed things about herself as a photographer. One day she and 5 or 6 photographers "were taking pictures of a famous elephant in Amboseli." For her, it wasn't about capturing the elephant but noticing small details and textures. "I came away with a photo that shows how the elephant's back mirrored the shape and texture of Mount Kilimanjaro in the background. I like to make people think about what they are viewing. I will always photograph a dramatic sky, or lupins in July, but my favorite images are the ones with a pattern, interesting line, or shadow."

Cashin considers her photography a hobby.

Her first sale was in 2011 when, she says, "someone took a chance on me!" Since then, she's been selling her work in different galleries and shops.



Cashin tells me about starting the Surfside Studio Tour in 2018 with David Amos and a small committee. She refers to the incredible amount of creativity in the area and showcasing the talented people who live there.

Cashin was a vendor at this year's Seaside Christmas at 500 West Lawrencetown Road. She also has work in a show ("Squared Away") at the Truro Farmers Market from December 3 to 6th. She writes her Lifting Anchor blog, another passion.

You can find Cashin's work on Facebook (Amanda Cashin Photography), on Instagram (amanda.cashin), and on her Website (amandacashinphotography.zenfolio.com).



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Have a Merry Christmas and safe, happy New Year!

HALIFAX

HRM & NS PROPERTY TAX PROGRAMS

The municipality has a variety of programs to aid homeowners with their property tax obligations. There are various options for payment plans, property tax rebates, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date). A homeowner with a LIC (Local Improvement Charge) can also apply for a deferral of these charges. It is important that you know what choices exist. Some of these programs are available to homeowners with a combined household income of \$34,000 or less a year. Deadline to apply is December 31. The application form can be found at www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-halifax/AffordableAccessApplicationForm_2.pdf.

Furthermore, seniors should know that there is a NS Provincial Property Tax Rebate for Seniors Program. This program is for those who have been received the Guaranteed Income Supplement in January of the application year. Criteria requires you to have paid your property taxes from the prior year in full. A receipt from HRM showing property taxes are paid in full is required. Applicants to this program can receive a rebate on half of their taxes paid to a maximum of \$800. More details about this provincial program can be found by calling (902) 424-5200 or 211 or toll-free at 1-800-670-4357 or by visiting <https://novascotia.ca/sns/access/individuals/consumer-awareness/property-tax-rebate-for-seniors.asp>. The deadline to apply is also December 31. Application form can be downloaded from <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2-1781/property-tax-rebate-seniors-application-form-en.pdf>.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NS

There are many groups, individuals, and organizations whose purpose is beneficial to the community but who are not registered as charities or qualified donees with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA). Charities and non-charities often partner to increase their community impact. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is an action centre for philanthropy. The CFNS plays a crucial role in helping people give back to their community in meaningful ways by connecting individuals, families and companies with causes that inspire them. CFNS pool resources, knowledge, and expertise, working with others for even greater impact.

If you're interested in working with CFNS to grow your charity, honour a loved one, or simply give back to your community, call 902-490-9916, email info@cfns-fcne.ca, or visit their website <https://cfns-fcne.ca/> to learn more about the opportunities they provide. For example, there is the Eastern Shore Community Fund that provides an opportunity to help organizations that are vital to building stronger, more inclusive Eastern Shore communities, visit <https://cfns-fcne.ca/easternshorecommunityfund/>.

You can also support the various CFNS campaigns directly through CanadaHelps at www.canadahelps.org/en/explore/campaigns/region/AC/. Your contribution will help them continue to build strong, vibrant, and diverse communities throughout Nova Scotia. For another example, there is the Eastern Shore Heritage Preservation Fund www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/community-foundation-of-nova-scotia/campaign/eastern-shore-heritage-preservation-fund/.

DISTRICT 2 COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNIQUE

DECEMBER 2023 — ISSUE #313 — PEACE ON EARTH

INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - DEC. 10

We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. Human rights are inherent to all human beings, no matter our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Learn what your human rights are, as well as your responsibilities. It has now been 75 years since the United Nations made the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Learn more at www.standup4humanrights.org.

PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS STUDY

The municipality is seeking public input on the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study. The study will help improve the municipality's understanding of professional art venue operations, identify challenges facing existing art venues, identify the needs of the local arts and culture community and inform the municipality's long-term approach to supporting, renewing and investing in professional arts venues.

As part of the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study's engagement program, Happy Cities, the firm conducting the study, is seeking feedback from users of performing and arts venues on their experience with these facilities. Happy Cities is also releasing a second survey to collect input from Indigenous peoples and artists. There are two surveys available: a Public Survey and an Indigenous Residents Survey. Take them by visiting the following links:

<https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/embeds/projects/39370/survey-tools/42633>

<https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/embeds/projects/39370/survey-tools/42631>

The surveys will remain open until Friday, December 15. The Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study is expected to be completed by June 2024, and may lead to the creation of a Professional Arts Venues Plan.

HRM COUNCIL VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

The municipality has introduced virtual public participation for in-person meetings held in Council Chambers. This came into effect as of November 14. This option will be available for any meetings taking place in Halifax City Hall Council Chamber where there is an opportunity for the public to speak, including during meetings of Budget Committee. This is in addition to a livestream of all meetings, which is available on the municipality's YouTube channel. Those who wish to participate virtually must register in advance by 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. For more information, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports> or email: clerks@halifax.ca or call 311 or 902-490-4210.

HFXGO TRANSIT MOBILE PHONE APP

HRM has launched a new Halifax Transit mobile fare payment application, allowing customers to purchase and use fare products from the convenience of their smartphones. The app is provided by Masabi smart ticketing and fare payment solutions, HFXGO is a Halifax Transit branded version of Masabi's JustRide app, which has been implemented by transit agencies of all

sizes worldwide. HFXGO is now available at the Apps Store for iOS and Google/Android devices. Users of the app simply need to purchase their desired ticket or pass, activate the ticket or pass, and show it to the Transit Operator or ferry security staff just prior to boarding. Passengers can still purchase paper tickets and passes or use cash fare. This project involves two phases, phase 1 being the mobile app, and phase 2 being the installation of onboard validators. For more information, visit www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit/fares-tickets-passes/hfxgo.

HRM TO APPOINT ESLS ARCHITECT

Back in August, HRM issued a RFP "Request For Proposals" #23-182 for Design Consulting Services for the Eastern Shore Life Styles Centre, to replace the old Lions Centre in Sheet Harbour. 13 architectural firms submitted bids for consideration. After careful review, one firm is being recommended to do the work. HRM will soon be announcing the award winner. Residents will have the opportunity to review and share their thoughts on the design concept through multiple in-person public engagements sessions that will take place in early 2024. Construction is expected to break ground in the Spring of 2025. More details can be found at www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/recreation-centres-your-community/sheet-harbour-recreation.

AFFORDABLE EVENT INSURANCE

Organizers of community events have had to either scale back or cancel events because they couldn't afford appropriate insurance. To address this issue, the municipality reached out to its insurance broker; AON Risk Solutions, to create the Citizen Event Insurance Program (CEIP) which provides affordable access to a \$2-million commercial general liability policy with additional coverage for event organizers. Community groups or associations can also purchase insurance through this program for liability coverage of annual activities, operations and programming. For more information about the CEIP and how to purchase this insurance option, visit <https://halifax.instantriskcoverage.com> or contact AON Risk Solutions directly by calling 1-800-517-1390.

GOODWILL & PEACE ON EARTH

My wife Susan and I want to wish everyone the very best this holiday season. During this joyful time of year there are many types of spiritual and cultural celebrations: Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukkah, Al Hijra, and Kwanza. The message of 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All' is universal. Have yourself a blessed time with family, friends and neighbours. May we all strive to have peace, tranquillity and harmony in our daily lives. Remember those who may be less fortunate or are experiencing hardship and despair. Please give to your local food bank or give the gift of life and donate blood. May we all be blessed with good health and happiness throughout the New Year ahead!



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Gaetz Brook Legion Branch 161 Remembrance Day Luncheon



Greeting Visitors

Following the Remembrance Day Service at the Porters Lake Cenotaph, a delicious and plentiful lunch was served by the Gaetz Brook Legion.

President Dean Olsen made a point to greet visitors who came to share the event.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and the music provided by Bruce Carpenter and Friends.

A sad morning ending in an enjoyable time.

See you next year!



Music
Dancing
Eating



Lest We Forget



Letter to the Editor

Where will it end?

The Girl Guides of Canada fear that joining a Santa Claus parade would be seen as “promoting religious practices,” which could lead to “unintentionally turning away future members who don’t share those beliefs.”

I am a bit confused by this statement. Is this going to be all chapters of Girl Guides across Canada?

The Girl Guides are wanting to be more inclusive, so they have decided not to participate in Christmas Parades. So in being inclusive and not participating in Christmas Parades does this mean they are excluding Christmas and Christianity? It is understandable that one would wonder what it is they are truly trying to say. Or are they being inclusive of other things and exclusive to Christianity?

Can members who are not Christian just not participate? Seems like a solution. The girls wanting to participate can still do so. After all these years, it seems the correct thing to do.

Why not have a class for them to learn the basics of other religions, so they are not in the dark about other religions. Ignorance can be harmful. Could be a

badge to earn.

Christmas Parades have been going on for years. It is a part of what makes up Canada. Everyone – Christians, followers of other religions, even atheists enjoy these parades. The same as they enjoy going around and seeing all the decorated businesses and homes. I remember a Chinese woman who was interviewed years ago, being asked if she celebrated Christmas. Her answer says it all. “Maybe not the same as Christians, I got a tree with lights and decorations and it is beautiful, I love it. I also love the decorated stores and homes. So beautiful, for all of us to enjoy.”

We welcome others fleeing their own war-torn countries who pick Canada as the place to live. They wanted a safe place. Please don’t change the practices of Canada or we could end up being like the countries that many people have fled from over the past many years. Keep Canada, Canada — a good country to be a part of for everyone.

We cannot keep changing everything because someone doesn’t like it. Everyone seems to be offended so easily now. We

have to be strong and keep our country a country we have been proud of for many years.

Being “politically correct” is starting to be a very annoying subject.

Sandra Beazley
Musquodoboit Harbour



Wreathes and poppies at the Oyster Pond
Cenotaph on Remembrance Day