

## For the Art & Culture Buff

People often wonder why so many artists, musicians, and highly skilled crafts people live in Sidney and on the Saanich Peninsula. Is it the beautiful environment, the laid-back lifestyle, or other factors that make the area such a haven for creative people? No one will ever know for sure, but the richness of the visual and performing arts is truly remarkable.

The Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula (CACSP) is the heart of the arts community. With a mission to encourage public awareness and appreciation of the cultural life on the Peninsula, CACSP offers and supports events throughout the year: the Spring and Fall Studio Tours, the Artisans Show, and the Sidney Fine Art Show are but three examples. The Community Arts Centre at Tulista Park is also home to rotating exhibits of local artists' dynamic work.

The Saanich Peninsula Arts and Crafts Society (SPAC) is another key arts organization. With almost 400 members, the Society's annual art show attracts visitors from far and wide.

The Mary Winspear Centre, a state of the art community centre, offers an extraordinary mix of cultural events throughout the year, showcasing music, dance, and theatre performers from around the world. The Centre also houses one of the most outstanding exhibits of First Nations and Canadian art from across Canada, a generous gift from the Bill and Margot Winspear family.



The high quality of visual work is also evident in many of Sidney's cafés, which give local artists a chance to show their work to wider audiences.

The Sidney waterfront offers a fascinating sculpture walk, displaying pieces selected from across North America. The Town also features four art galleries, an attractive historical museum and a cinema that plays first-run and lesser-known independent films.

*With so much on, there is never a dull moment in Sidney!*