

# THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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## Artists know how to throw a party

**JEFF MAHONEY**

The Hamilton Spectator

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They may not have the biggest bread roll, financially speaking, but this city's artists are rapidly establishing themselves as some of Hamilton's best partiers and party-givers.

The recent Hands-on Hamilton Art Party was no exception. It was a galloping good fling, bright with imagination and high feeling, live music and live, made-on-the-spot art.

There was dancing, and the evening's conjurers even patented their own cocktail, called The Printmaker.

But the best cocktail was the party itself -- the blended walks of life (not just the arts but medicine, politics, business, law and more) and the cross-seasoning of social milieus (high and low, rags to riches), all stirred together in the resinous setting of the Westside Concert Theatre on King Street, one of our favourite places.

The event, hosted by CHCH's Donna Skelly, built most of its fundraising around a silent auction of some spectacular art work, much of it print-based by such artists as Christina Sealey, Tor Lukasik-Foss, Patti Beckett, Julio Ferrer, Stephanie Vegh and Ingrid Mayrhofer, all of whom were in attendance.

There were also works by many others, including Fiona Kinsella, Catherine Gibbon, Dave Hind, Judy Major-Girardin, Jane Adeney and Floyd Elzinga, who may or may not have been there (I didn't see them, but it was a good crowd in and out so I might've missed 'em). There was also a work by the late Conrad Furey.

The money raised (the goal was \$15,000) is destined to support the arts education and community outreach efforts of The Print Studio and the Hamilton Printmakers Arts Association.

"Prints? How hard can that be to do?" joked Hamilton employment lawyer (and Spec columnist) Ed Canning, who was there with wife Julie Bergshoeff. But it didn't take him long to put in a bid on one of the Pigott building that caught his eye. Did he get it? We'll never tell.

Among others at the event were Terry Cooke; Colina Maxwell, one of The Print Studio founders; her husband, surgical oncologist Dr. Marko Simunovic; the irrepressible Julie Shea; Robin Barker; Bob Daniels of Earls Court Gallery; surgeon Ned Gagic and artist wife Patricia Gagic; insurance man Dave Bliss and Kate Bliss, one of the organizers of the evening; surgeon Ken Sanders; surgical oncologist Nancy Baxter from Toronto; and Loren Lieberman, owner of the Westside Concert Theatre.

Musical entertainment was provided by Tiny Bill Cody and the Liquormen and also by Pumps, with DJ duties handled by DJ Chris Briscoe.

You heard it here first. Check out the YouTube video by searching steelROCK. It's a homegrown teen drama parody, done by a group of Hamilton guys from the Delta Secondary School area.

Promising material from Zach Heisey, Jeff Low, John Smith, Cameron Heres, Riley Mitchison, Ty McCallion and Jade Hazell.

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