

Rotary's Art in the Park returns to Mike Weir Park

by Dena Kent-Esbjerg

This year can go on record as being one of the most exciting summers for our community. Finally, this year Rotary Art in the Park will be back!

Art in the Park was introduced to our community some 40 years ago by Gallery in the Grove. Dedicated volunteers from the gallery started the process with 10 exhibitors at Wildwood Park in the Grove. Under the steady leadership of the Gallery the event became one of the area's premier community events. Art in the Park is recognized today as one of the most successful art shows in Southwestern Ontario.

In 2010 the gallery was unable to continue sponsorship and the Rotary Club of Sarnia Bluewaterland entered into an agreement with them to take over the event. In 2019 the event grew to 114 exhibitors. The location was changed to Mike Weir Park to accommodate growth and simplify parking needs for exhibitors and the public.

The exhibitors' original creations cover a wide range of mediums including jewelry, fabric arts, painting, photography, garden art, metal sculpture, pottery, glass art, wood, gourmet foods, crafts and musical instruments. The artists are primarily from southwestern Ontario but there are several who will travel from further distances.

The Gallery in the Grove tent area is excited to offer face painting, henna art and art activities for children to enjoy.

"It is unfortunate that COVID became a major factor in our planning," says Peter Fitzsimons, co-chair for Art In The Park, "and we had to cancel for 2020 and 2021. Many exhibitors and the public were disappointed at the time but we are delighted to say that we are back on track for 2022."

Fitzsimons says that entrance to the event will continue to be by voluntary donation. He continues to say that Art in the Park has been one of Rotary's most successful fundraisers in the past and they are grateful that the community has always, and will continue to be supportive.

Delicious food will be available by food vendors such as Curb-side Grill, Sitara Indian food, Yoghurtz and coffee specialist Ground-up Roastery.

Rotary Art in the Park is a wonderful opportunity to meet up



Peter Fitzsimons, Co-Chair

with friends and family in the open air, and Mike Weir Park is the perfect location for the event. Traditionally it has always been a great opportunity to acquire unique gifts for Christmas.

In 2019 The Rotary Club of Bluewaterland estimated that in excess of 5,000 people attended the event during the day and they are looking forward to perhaps exceeding those numbers this year.

Art In The Park will be held on Saturday Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mike Weir Park in Bright's Grove.