

# Media Release

## Paint Ontario Expands Show of the Year

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: April 18, 2024**

Two hundred original works of art will be unveiled Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Grand Bend, Ontario as Paint Ontario officially launches its 2024 show and sale. Hailed by artists and art lovers, as the province's most diversified collection and welcoming locale, this year's event has ramped up its display and presentation space. A new community partnership and investment has moved the paintings and sculpture pieces to the Grand Bend Legion Hall and into a space specially created for the event. In addition to the infrastructure improvements, gallery lighting has been installed as well as seating and visitors will have access to refreshments.

Teresa Marie Phillips – Executive Director of Paint Ontario says the organizers want visitors to be comfortable and to have the time and space they need to take it all in. Confident that the gallery space upgrades and larger location will shine an amazing light on the work of those chosen to showcase their talents, she says, "The jurors consider each submission carefully and their deliberations deliver an outstanding collection to view. The creativity shared reaches out to capture imaginations and we find people come with great anticipation, leave having been inspired and often decide to become the proud owner of their favourite piece.

Thirty-five percent of each sale is reinvested into the Grand Bend creative community with the remaining funds going directly to the artist. Winning artists also share \$13,000 in prize money donated by generous sponsors. The community engagement is significant as 50 volunteers work tirelessly to make the show experience memorable.

Ms. Phillips believes the 'opening night' sets the tone for the event as organizers and attendees make it a party-like atmosphere where every sale is marked by the ringing of a brass bell. "This is a celebration of art, artists and those who respect and connect with the inherent value of creativity." She adds, "the nearly three week long show is truly a cultural event and includes demonstration sessions with various artists, an Indigenous Story Tent, a Family Weekend and opportunities to find the artist that inhabits us all."

Detailed information about daily events, art demonstrations, winning artists, sponsors, and parking is all posted on the PaintOntario.com website. Daily passes are available as well as a multi-day pass and those wishing to attend the opening gala are advised to book online to avoid disappointment

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