



172 South Drive  
Simcoe, ON  
N3Y 1G6

For Immediate Release

### **Record number of entries for Mark F. Sanders Visual Arts Competition**

**October 9, 2009 Simcoe-** the Norfolk County Fair and Norfolk ArtsCo are so excited to welcome Grant Sanders of Woodside Greens as the new sponsor of the Mark F. Sanders Visual Arts Competition. Grant's sponsorship of the event is in honour of his father who was an artist. Mr. Sanders painted in oils and acrylics and had a love for the Canadian landscape. In the fifty years that Mr. Sanders has painted, his work has graced walls around the world, including The United States, Europe and as far reaching as Japan. Mr. Sanders has left a legacy of paintings that will be treasured for generations to come.

The Winners of the Mark F. Sanders Visual Arts Competition at the Norfolk County Fair have been announced with Michael Barber, Simcoe winning first prize (\$3,000); John Jacques, Simcoe - Second (\$2,000) and Heide Bateman from Port Dover - third (\$1,000). This is the third win for Michael who claimed first prize in 2005 and second in 2007. Heide Bateman also placed third in 2006.

The number of artists who entered the competition is the most ever since it began in 2005 (when sponsored by John and Hazel Race). Fifty-four artists submitted one piece each, 39 were accepted into the show. This year also saw more sculptures submitted than ever before.

The judges chosen for this competition come highly qualified and are well known for their prestigious works of art.

Judge Otis Tamasauskas from Gananoque came to Canada as a young child, graduated with a BFA from the University of Windsor, and now teaches printmaking as an Assistant Professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Otis is one of Canada's most innovative printmakers, and has met with critical acclaim both in Canada and abroad. He is known for his large-scale expressive works on paper, where he combines different complicated print techniques.

Judge Lorayne (Rayne) Tunley from Beamsville felt four other artists deserved Honourable Mentions - - works by Garry Walker, Simcoe, John Walker, Delhi, Kathleen Pickard, Simcoe and Miia Virtasalmi, Simcoe. Rayne is an elected member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC), and has won major national awards. She is an honours graduate of the "Ontario College of Art", and has also studied at many art institutions such as the 'Banff School of Fine Art' Now, an established teacher of fine arts for over thirty years, Rayne has taught painting through a number of art organizations. Rayne is Art Director, President of Rayne

Productions Inc and Rayne Art Studio. She is highly involved in the fine arts and continues her professional involvement in her approach to her creative work in watercolors' and mixed media. Her work is exhibited nationally and internationally.

Sponsor Grant Sanders attended the Opening Reception on October 3 and had praise for the diversity and quality of the work being exhibited. A newcomer to the area, he said he was pleased to discover that Norfolk County has an abundance of creative artists.

The exhibition is co-ordinated by members of Norfolk ArtsCo, who also man shifts throughout the duration of the fair. Chairperson Lyn Tremblay stated, "This show just keeps getting better and better. I had many people at the Opening Reception (artists included) who came up to me and said, 'this is the best one yet'! It is obvious that perennial artists are striving to raise the bar each year and it is also nice to see artists who have never entered this competition also submitting their work, and getting accepted."

The artists work will be displayed in the Junior Farmer's Building (#1) throughout the fair from October 6-12, 2009.

*The Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show is in its 169<sup>th</sup> year, and is the fifth largest fair in Ontario, with over 120,000 visitors each year. This year's fair features agricultural displays, craft exhibits, food vendors, art demonstrations, talent competitions, midway rides and many special events. For more information on the fair and any of the scheduled events, please visit our website at [www.norfolkcountyfair.com](http://www.norfolkcountyfair.com) or by phone at (519) 426-7280)*

-30-

Wendy Brick  
[publicity@norfolkcountyfair.com](mailto:publicity@norfolkcountyfair.com)  
Tel: (519) 426-7280 x 224