

TRANSITIONS

An abstract painting with a dense, textured background of warm, earthy tones (browns, reds, oranges, yellows). Overlaid on this are dark, thin, branching lines that resemble bare tree branches or roots. Scattered throughout the composition are numerous small, colorful dots and circles in various colors including red, yellow, blue, green, white, and black. Some of these dots are arranged in concentric circles, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is one of organic complexity and vibrant energy.

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ABOUT TRANSITIONS

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the premier issue of *Transitions*, Durham Region's new quarterly zine dedicated to continue the momentum of the Art of Transition (AOT).

Through the Art of Transition's social networking campaign we learned that the community is more than passionate about Durham's transformation. Through the amazing feedback we've received, and from the participation online at www.artoftransition.ca, we are

encouraged by the sharing of information and ideas that is still taking place on our website and on social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

For those who couldn't join us on Nov. 12 at the Ajax Convention Centre, we hope you enjoy the highlights of the day packed into this 12-page publication. Also check out our *In Transition* profiles, highlighting the people and places that are changing Durham Region.

To help us bring the latest events and concert listings to the attention of Durham residents (and beyond) be sure to submit your free event listing online at www.durhamtourism.ca. While you're there, subscribe to the Durham Tourism e-newsletter.

Let's keep the transition alive – please submit your ideas, events, and articles for the next issue of *Transitions* by Friday, Feb. 12.

Jennifer Santos
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COVER ARTWORK BY SHERI GUNDRY, 2008.

Q: What was your inspiration behind this piece of artwork? This particular piece was inspired by a trip to northern Quebec. On our way, the landscape was filled with charred and smoldering forests from recent forest fires near Roberval. At one of our pit stops along the way, I was told a story about the seeds that were in the forest that only opened after they are exposed to extreme heat, and about the richness of the blackened soil, now filled with new nutrients from the fire.

Q: How does living in Durham Region contribute to this inspiration? I believe there is a "new breed of seeds" being brought forth in our region – and that one of the ways for that to be communicated to those around us is through the arts.

Q: What does the Art of Transition mean to you? I think that the effects and outworking of the shift in the times, in our economies, and particularly in our region will be positively influenced by how we are able to engage the creative spirit within us and the people around us.

THE ART OF TRANSITION:

THE NEXT STEP

MESSAGE FROM KERRI KING



I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our community leaders for being a part of the Art of Transition. What an amazing show of support and enthusiasm.

The day of the AOT symposium crested on a tsunami of interest and excitement. Our speakers all addressed how the arts and culture sector can be the heart and soul of a community, as well

as being a driving force in the economy. The research and theory they brought to us provided invaluable background to the work we have to do now.

It's obvious this message resonated with huge numbers of artists, business people, educators and political players. In the weeks following the event, comments, ideas and visions have continued to flow in from all of you. Thank you!

Creativity depends in large part on taking formerly separate ideas and combining them to make new and innovative solutions. Everyone who has engaged in dialogue with us since the event has had a unique insight or perspective to contribute. The task now is to take these particular ideas and synthesize them.

At the end of the symposium we developed an initial work plan. In the spirit and practice of creativity, we will be asking for your ongoing engagement, input and effort as we implement this plan. This zine has been developed to keep you informed of our challenges and achievements, as well as your opportunities to contribute.

You can always log on to www.artoftransition.ca and contribute your comments in a form that can inspire immediate dialogue and feedback.

With your help, we look forward to creating a cultural map that shows the roads leading to Durham Region's vibrant future!

Kerri King, Manager of Tourism
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Tourism Manager for Durham Region, Kerri King, with keynote speaker Dr. Richard Florida and Township of Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Chair of Durham Region's Finance & Administration Committee.

CONNECTING CREAT

“As a person who survives on creativity, I’m glad I came. My new initiative, the Durham International Festival subscribes to the spirit of this symposium.”

- Farley Flex, Plasma Management and Productions Inc.

“A key to developing a creative economy is inclusiveness. Specifically, it is imperative to consider the potential contributions to economic activity of both the arts as well as science, and the fact that the two may interrelate and complement each other. People involved in both areas of endeavour should be considered a valuable human resource.”

- Steve Edwards, Manager, Town of Whitby

“Thank you for all of the hard work that goes into an event of this calibre. I believe that the Art of Transition was a wild success, not just in terms of numbers and organization, but in terms of what it originally set out to accomplish. It brought together vastly different groups and players to collaborate on some very important issues pertaining to sustainable development of our economy and communities.”

- Chris Fortin, IBM

The Regional Municipality of Durham, Economic Development and Tourism Department hosted the Art of Transition symposium on Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Ajax Convention Centre.

The Art of Transition explored Durham Region’s creative communities and strategies on how to evolve the local economy by leveraging creative talents by taking into account the Region’s existing resources and labour force.

DR. RICHARD FLORIDA’S FOUR T’S

Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Florida often praised Durham Region for its vibrant community and potential to revitalize its economy. He cited four major factors in the future success of Durham.

1

TECHNOLOGY:

Investments in innovation and cutting-edge technology.

2

TALENT:

Innovators, thinkers and doers who contribute to the regional economy.

3

TOLERANCE:

Inclusiveness and active acceptance of people from all walks of life.

4

TERRITORY:

Unique features of regions that act as magnets for talent.

IVE MINDS

A group of people, including a woman with glasses in the foreground, are seated at a long desk in a dimly lit room, focused on their computer monitors. The scene is illuminated by the glow of the screens and ambient light, creating a professional and collaborative atmosphere.

Your Vision Cafe captured your Art of Transition ideas and event feedback on video.

A NEW VISION FOR D

The Art of Transition symposium included an interactive session moderated by Erik Lockhart of Queen's University, Executive Decision Centre. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit input from the audience on ideas that will assist Durham Region going forward in order to position itself for prosperity and success.

GENERAL THEMES INCLUDED:

1. Re-positioning of Durham Region – a stronger cultural identity for Durham Region.
2. Develop a creative think tank of community collaborators from a wide variety of stakeholders with a mandate to create partnerships and develop our creative economy.
3. Create a buzz in the downtown cores – revitalize the downtowns.
4. Youth retention – establish a plan to give youth employment opportunities in their own communities.
5. Inclusiveness strategy – support community diversity.
6. Marketing campaign – “Do Durham campaign.”
7. Establish an action group.
8. Undertake an integrated cultural plan.



(FROM LEFT): Break dancers, emcee Dan Carter; Township of Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Chair of Durham Region's Finance & Administration Committee; Wayne Conrad, Omachron Science Inc.; Ajax Convention Centre filled to capacity. (OPPOSITE PAGE): Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Florida speaks to attendees about creativity and the evolution of our economy.

URHAM REGION





PHOTO BY JOE FUDA

Cuff the Duke are among the many talented musicians coming out of Durham Region.

MUSIC IN TRANSITION

For a Region of over half a million people, Durham, while strong on musicians, is weak on music-related infrastructure. Fortunately it is in a period of transition. Culture is registering on the radar of those elected to office and the political will to facilitate such a transition is becoming apparent.

We live in a vast beautiful landscape with Lake Ontario to the south, the Oak Ridges Moraine halfway, extending to Lake Scugog and Lake Simcoe and into cottage country. It's a land that appeals to the sportsman and a land that inspires artists. Musicians have begun to sing its praises and it has become the keeper of the Canadian Sound, that folk and country rock tradition associated with these few acres of snow.

While a songwriter such as Timber Timbre of Brooklin will find his muse in the Purple Woods, Cuff The Duke can find her among the factories and suburban streets of Oshawa, and Evening Hymns can meet her on rambles around his hometown of Orono. These three acts are not only considered amongst the finest Durham has to offer, but among the best in Canada. Timber Timbre's self-titled release is on many Best of 2009 lists. Evening Hymns has been surprising critics

with his album Spirit Guides (which includes a five minute recording of a thunderstorm midway) and Wayne Petti of Cuff The Duke has been asked to join Canadian Walk of Famers Blue Rodeo as a vocalist on their current tour.

Durham is well known for the calibre of its talent – Feist has the Baird brothers of Oshawa in her band and the influential Broken Social Scene was co-founded by Brendan Canning of Ajax. Other stars are Sum 41, K-Os, Protest The Hero and of course Neil Young who spent a pivotal part of his youth in Pickering. It was among the fields, woods and distant train sounds of Taunton Road that Young first turned on to music.

But the key element common to too many of Durham Region's musicians, beyond their affection for the folk tradition, is that they all must be movin' on as the song goes. There is insufficient reason for them to reside in the area. There is little to no work in their field and with Toronto an hour's drive away at most they leave and contribute vastly to its position as the centre of the music industry in Canada. According to some studies Toronto is only second to Nashville in its music related infrastructure. In fact, many former Durham residents are the reason for this success.

Yet the proximity of Toronto is both a bane and a balm. Who wouldn't wish to stay where their inspiration is most potent. Who wouldn't rather travel trails instead of traffic jams. Who wouldn't choose to set up shop among such beauty as can be found here in Durham Region. No-one from Durham Region would choose to leave when they have the best of both worlds; a city on the doorstep and the great swaths of the untouched North as a backyard.

This is where the art of transition occurs for this Region. While music is ethereal the transition must be material in the form of support for venues, concert theatres, and studios. A concerted effort by Regional officials to include the area's artists in public events of all descriptions would set the stage.

Fortunately those folks have taken the first steps and we are now well on the road to fulfilling Durham's true potential.



**By Will McGuirk,
Durham Musicologist**

IN TRANSITION PROFILE: DEB RANKINE

THE FRIDGE WHISPERER



PHOTO BY JASONCHOWPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Looking for an inspiring example of Durham's Art of Transition in action? Look no further than the region's very own culinary genius, Deb Rankine.

A seasoned national food writer, personal chef, caterer and cooking school teacher, Rankine recently released her much anticipated cookbook, *The Fridge Whisperer: 50 Fast & Fabulous Family Faves* much to the relief of time-strapped parents and empty nesters everywhere. *The Fridge Whisperer: 50 Fast & Fabulous Family Faves* is chock full of nutritious, budget-friendly and easy-to-follow recipes designed to get people back into their kitchen and families back to their dinner table every night of the week.

A diehard foodie, Rankine's exotic culinary travels provide inspiration for the ethnic-themed cooking classes she teaches at professional cooking schools throughout Durham Region, Toronto's GTA, and on-air on Rogers TV's "Daytime."

As the proud winner of the Heart & Stroke Foundation's Durham Region Chef Challenge, Rankine is passionate about giving back to her community in healthful, inspiring new ways. This spring,

she will be participating in Durham Region's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and will have locally grown produce baskets delivered to her home every other week. The CSA program creates a positive domino effect straight out of the Art of Transition handbook: consumers support their local farmer while reaping the rewards of fresh, local produce and the farmer supports the local economy, causing an undeniable cascade effect for the local community. Follow Rankine as she blogs about her "scores" at www.thefridgewhisperer.com and creates signature recipes from the cornucopia of local offerings that will, ultimately, find their way online and into one of her upcoming Fridge Whisperer cookbooks.



**By Janet Boccone,
Second Glance Writing
Services**

RER



THE ART OF TRANSITION

CONNECTING CREATIVE MINDS IN DURHAM REGION

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