

**Canadian Heritage Community Anniversaries
Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage**

**Trinity Theatre
Paisley Artscape Society**

Paisley 150: Celebrating Our Heritage Through Art

Local arts organizations, Trinity Theatre and Paisley Artscape Society are partnering to celebrate our “Artistic River Village” 150th anniversary. We will use an inclusive, intergenerational, inter-arts approach to draw together local artists, artisans, musicians, storytellers, filmmakers, performers and community members to honour the history and heritage of this beautiful village situated on the confluence of the Saugeen and Teeswater Rivers.

The proposed weekend for this event is July 12-14, 2024, wrapped around the annual Artists on the River (AOTR) event.

A Community Play will be developed by Trinity, presenting the history of Paisley through the lens of the community’s infrastructures, i.e. civics, heritage, education, commerce, health, environment, faith and the arts. The play will be developed through a community-based process of research, interviews, conversations, meetings, workshops, with Paisley residents, local stakeholder groups, and community organizations (Treasure Chest Museum, Rotary, Legion, Chamber, Agricultural Society, etc.) The play will be presented in different styles and venues over the three days, and will be accompanied by an animated Paisley walking tour, musical performances, storytelling, etc. A set will be created for this community play comprised of a series of mural panels depicting heritage moments of the past 150 years. At the conclusion of the performance of the community play, these mural panels will then be mounted on the Thompson Building, replacing the murals currently on this gallery wall.

AOTR will be augmented and enhanced by the inclusion of heritage artisans demonstrating wood turning, forging, quilting, spinning, weaving, etc., and indigenous arts such as quill boxes, beadwork, etc. The Treasure Chest Museum will be invited to hold a period tea party at the AOTR site. There will also be a Community Mural project during AOTR that will involve community members participating in the creation of a mural (using a paint-by-number technique with participants each getting to paint a colour designated by a number) on the walls of the pump house located on Water Street. The theme of this mural will be the history of the river.

The implied needs from the municipality (in this first draft proposal) for the July 12-14 events, for which we will need in-kind dollar figures:

- Approval to paint pumphouse, or attach panels
- Road closure, signage for AOTR
- Liability for hanging murals, performances in town square, in front of community centre, inside arena, along the dykes, etc.
- Use of community centre for marshalling actors, volunteers, etc.
- Hanging banners on lamp posts
- Use of sound equipment, etc.
- Use of 8x8 tents
- Use of town hall, community center, arena for indoor performances