

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alex Colville Wolfville Gallery brings art to public space

Wolfville, NS – Wolfville’s most famous artist is finally being recognized with a permanent, public exhibit featuring reproductions of his iconic paintings. Now installed, the outdoor gallery will be officially opened on November 18 at 2pm with a small ceremony in front of the Post Office on Main Street.

The new showcase of Colville’s work is a passion project of the Town of Wolfville’s Art in Public Spaces initiative. Nine, large, high quality, framed reproductions are mounted on a brick wall facing the Town’s war memorial at the Post Office Park.

There are also panels highlighting Colville’s career as a war artist, educator, and world-renowned painter, working in a style often referred to as “magic realism.”

“I am so very excited this important part of Wolfville history has come to life in a truly impressive public art installation,” said Wolfville Mayor, Wendy Donovan. “Situated adjacent to the Mona Parsons installations, and the Wolfville Cenotaph, it enhances and amplifies the depth of talent and contribution Wolfville residents bring to our community, the Province and our Country.”

Colville created most of his iconic images while a resident of Wolfville, where he served for a time as Chancellor at Acadia University. Some of his most well-known images, such as *Horse and Train*, and *To Prince Edward Island* are on display, supplemented by several other images capturing daily life in familiar local landscapes.

Lynda Macdonald owns Harvest Gallery on Main Street. She has represented Colville’s work for 19 years. She worked on the project.

“It is so thrilling to see this project realized after so many years and so many iterations. It was the right time, place and set of circumstances and the dedication of a small group of passionate individuals that brought it to life,” Macdonald said.

Since 2014, Wolfville’s Town Council has been setting aside funds to support projects of this nature and the new outdoor gallery will help viewers re-remember the work of Colville while inspiring a whole new generation of Canadian art enthusiasts.

“The gallery project pays long overdue homage to an internationally celebrated artist who made his home in Wolfville for forty years,” says working group member and Town Councillor,

Wendy Elliott. “He painted many of his iconic images here, and they resonate with residents and celebrate our local landscapes. Colville was a genuine fixture in Wolfville, and many remember him fondly, routinely picking up his mail at the Post Office, where his exhibit is now installed.”

Steven Slipp acted as the designer on the project that features images printed on aluminium composite panels. The images are clear coated for UV protection and graffiti resistance. The frames are powder-coated steel, bolted securely on the brick wall, with permission and support from building owner, Joe Rafih.

The Alex Colville Wolfville Gallery will be officially opened at an event on Saturday, November 18 at 2 pm. Colville family members will attend, and join the opening of the Gallery project. There will be a reception afterwards at Harvest Gallery, 462 Main Street. Everyone is welcome.

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For Additional Information Contact:

Wendy Donovan, Mayor
Town of Wolfville
Telephone: (902) 542-5767
Email: wdonovan@wolfville.ca

Barb Shaw, Communications and Special Projects
Town of Wolfville
Telephone: (902) 679-9124
Email: bshaw@wolfville.ca