

“The Elevator Speech” so named because typically you have one minute to communicate your message. Should you have 18 floors maybe you’ll get up to three minutes.

The Art Gallery of Northumberland (AGN) has had a 60-year period of successfully promoting the visual arts in Northumberland County. As you may be aware, the AGN was closed for a period and through the efforts of a few dedicated individuals it has reorganized and revitalized, with much work still to be done. It is indeed an exciting time for the AGN. 2018 has been a year of transition. We have a new chair and new directors who bring years of experience and skills and professional backgrounds that will benefit the AGN. The Town of Cobourg has provided much appreciated support in funding and guidance. We have put in place new systems and processes to ensure transparency. With input from our members and stakeholders including Northumberland residents, artists, businesses and volunteers we are developing a strategic plan to ensure we are providing the service our community wants and deserves for now and in the future.

What happened to the Port Hope Shop:

AGN is a non-profit charitable organization. The Port Hope Shop is now functioning well as an independent gallery featuring local artists. The Shop has our full support but we need to concentrate on our core mandates.

I’ve listed the mandate below as all should be able to articulate what that is. I don’t think we need to include the 5th point as that is internal:

- 1. be a repository for the visual arts, maintain and ensure due diligence and care for works of art held in trust for the citizens and residents of the County and beyond;
- 2. serve as a public exhibition centre for the visual arts, for instruction and appreciation of objects and examples of educational and cultural value, including artistic, historical and technological artifacts, objects, creations and similar items;
- 3. promote and encourage activities in the visual arts in the County;
- 4. serve as a resource centre in all matters related to the visual arts, and
- 5. seek and engage interested and committed individuals to act in specific and general capacities as Directors of the Board in collaboration with staff and volunteers in promoting the objectives of the Gallery.