

Words, visual arts and a generous helping of snow combine for Dundas Art Walk



[Morgan Elliott](#)

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1 / 17 Tower Poetry Society president and editor-in-chief Fran Figge reads Ed Woods' poem Early Day during the Dundas Art Walk on Sunday. | Morgan Elliott photo

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Sunday afternoon marked the 39th annual Art Walk in Dundas, and not even the first snowfall of the year could keep fans of art and poetry away. The weather turned abruptly overnight,

blanketing the town in a wet, winter wonderland, but spirits remained high for the trek organized by the Carnegie Gallery and the Tower Poetry Society.

The Carnegie Gallery first launched the Art Walk as a way to bring together visual artists, poets and local businesses. "It is a collaboration between Carnegie Artist Members and poets from Tower Poetry Society and local businesses who lend us their window fronts to showcase these pairings of artwork and poems," explained Laura Brandreth, gallery administrator at the Carnegie Gallery.

The Tower Poetry Society is Canada's oldest continuously operating poetry group, established in 1951. "Here's to 75 years of promoting and publishing poetry," the Society says. The annual Art Walk is one of its signature events.

The Art Walk combines a guided walking tour with poetry readings. Participants stroll through downtown Dundas, viewing displays of art and poetry in local storefronts, before gathering at the Dundas Public Library for live readings.

Among those taking part were mother and daughter Nicole and Hannah Katherine. "We're Dundas locals and enjoy the arts," said Nicole. Hannah, who studies literature and history at the University of Toronto, added, "When I heard about the Art Walk, I was very excited and had to go."

Inside the Carnegie Gallery, poet Jim Tomkins kicked off the first readings; this was his 15th year participating in the event. Among the poems he read was *Cesily* by poet Liz Tessier, inspired by artist Christina Sealy's painting of the same name that was displayed inside the gallery.

Before the event, Tessier shared her thoughts about the piece. "Christina is a goddess. Her art speaks to me," she said. "This painting is really well done and evocative. The lighting and shadows are amazing. It feels like a photograph. Someone you'd like to talk with. It's intriguing."

After several poems were read inside the gallery, organizers decided that the slippery sidewalks made the full outdoor walk risky for some participants. The group split, with the majority heading to the Dundas Public Library for readings indoors, while a smaller, dedicated group braved the weather for the outdoor Art Walk. Leading the outdoor portion was Tower Poetry Society President and Editor-in-Chief Fran Figge along with Dundas poet and year-round volunteer Nicola Schneider. Schneider read her poem *Bird is the Word*, which was paired with Dan Shannon's *Ant Transfer* and displayed at Kevin Martin Jewellery.

Schneider, a Dundas resident who first attended the Art Walk in 2017, has since joined the Tower Poetry Society and become a regular participant. This year, she was responsible for assembling the printed booklets containing all of the poems and artwork. "It's important for poets to be published," she said. "I look forward to this event every year. I dabble as a visual artist and find this event inspiring."

This year’s Art Walk featured 16 artists and 14 poets. Despite the weather, Schneider noted, “It was a really good turnout.”

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