

Summerville Art Festival returns after four-year absence

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A small community on the Kingston Peninsula will have its summer art festival return this August after a four-year absence.

Summerville, which has less than 250 residents, is hosting the third edition of the Summerville Art Festival that will kick off Aug. 19. Festival organizer Cindy Scott said the event will host 25 artists - from painters, to carvers, potters, a wood turner, and a silversmith - who will present their work.

Scott said they haven't had the festival play out since 2018. She said the 2019 festival was cancelled due to flooding, and for the last three years the festival was absent due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think we're ready to embrace each other again. I think we're ready to gather and to celebrate all the things that we

were not able to celebrate," said Scott. "I love Summerville, this is where I grew up. I am so happy to welcome so many artists and volunteers, and just the general population to come and see this beautiful community."

The festival will also be expanded this year, said Scott as they'll also host workshops and artist talks for the festival. She said the festival will also be hosting food vendors as well. In the days leading up to the festival, Scott said they'll host artists from both Canada and the United States to take in both New Brunswick's and Summerville's beauty along with their workshops. Alice Luu, a digital artist from San Francisco, will discuss her expertise in AI-generated art.

Scott said the festival itself is a celebration of art and community.

"One of the festival's highlights is a collaborative art piece that will be created

by both visiting and local artists," said Scott in a statement. "This artwork will incorporate reclaimed pieces of wood from the 103-year-old Milkish Creek covered bridge, capturing the spirit of Summerville while paying homage to the area's beauty and history. It's a true testament to the spirit of community and creativity that defines this event."

One of the volunteers for this year's festival was at one point a participating artist. Photographer Liane Thibodeau was one of the presenting artists in the previous two festivals and has made the transition to volunteer this year. Thibodeau has been a photographer since retiring 11 years ago. She said this year she wanted to participate in all of the festival.

"There's some pretty interesting things happening, but I think it's really exciting to see it coming back bigger and stronger than ever," said Thibodeau.



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