

Arts By The Pond — Plein Air Paint Out 2026 FAQs

Welcome to the FAQ section for the Arts By The Pond Plein Air Paint Out 2026! Here you'll find everything you need for a joyful, successful day of outdoor painting. We can't wait to see you set up your easel and capture the beauty of Hillsburgh alongside your creative community.

General Information

What is the Arts By The Pond Plein Air Paint Out?

This is a one-day plein air (outdoor) painting event for artists of all skill levels. Join us to capture the scenic beauty of Hillsburgh in a competitive or non-competitive environment, surrounded by nature, live music, and creative community spirit.

When and where does the event take place?

- **Date:** Saturday, September 19, 2026
- **Time:**
 - Registration opens at 12:00 p.m.
 - Painting begins at 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Wellington County Library, 9 Station Street, Hillsburgh, ON

What's the cost to participate?

- **Competitive Entry** (eligible for prizes): \$30
- **Non-Competitive Painting Session** (for fun only): Free

Who can participate?

Everyone is welcome, whatever your skill level! Beginners, hobbyists, and professionals all belong here. Artists under 18 may take part, but a supervising adult must stay with them throughout the day.

Registration and Event Day

Do I need to pre-register?

Pre-registration is strongly recommended to secure your spot, but walk-ins are welcome on the day of the event.

How can I register?

Register online or sign up on-site at the registration desk on event day. Please arrive early to complete check-in.

What do I need to do upon arrival?

- Check in at the registration table to receive your event materials and your official verification card.
- Have your painting surfaces stamped before painting begins. Only stamped surfaces qualify for judging, so all participants must have their surfaces stamped before the start signal.

What's the schedule for September 19, 2026?

- **12:00 p.m.:** Registration opens and painting begins
- **3:00 p.m.:** Submit completed artwork for judging (one entry per participant)
- **Before 5:00 p.m.:** Winners announced and artwork displayed

Important Rule:

You're welcome to walk around and scout possible locations, but no preliminary sketching or setting up of equipment is allowed before the signal to begin at 12:00 p.m. We all start together at noon.

Is parking available?

Parking at the library is limited. Street parking is available nearby, and you'll find additional parking in town on Trafalgar Road. Look for signs directing you to suitable spots.

Materials and Equipment

What should I bring?

- Your painting supplies (easels, brushes, paints, canvas, and any point-of-sale needs if you plan to sell)
- Outdoor essentials like sunscreen, a hat, and an umbrella in case of sun or rain
- Optional comfort items such as chairs, mats, or a water bottle

Are there restrictions on painting materials or size?

- Painting surfaces must not exceed **12" x 16"** in any orientation unless pre-approved by the event organizers.
- Dirty brush water must be disposed of at designated cleaning stations, not in public wash areas.

Where are participants allowed to paint?

Artists can paint anywhere on the Wellington County Library grounds in Hillsburgh.

A quick reminder:

Participants are fully responsible for the safety of their materials and for their own personal comfort throughout the day.

Competition Details

What prizes are available?

- **1st Place:** \$150
- **2nd Place:** \$125
- **3rd Place:** \$100
- **Honourable Mention:** \$75
- **People's Choice Award:** \$75

What's the judging process?

- Submit one completed artwork at the registration desk by 3:00 p.m. to qualify.
- Make sure your piece includes the official verification card provided at check-in.
- Judges evaluate pieces based on originality, technique, and interpretation of the surroundings.
- Winners are announced before 5:00 p.m.

How does the People's Choice Award work?

Visitors can cast their votes at the main Plein Air event tent by placing ballots in the designated voting box. The winner is announced along with the other awards.

Please note:

All submitted artwork must be original and created entirely on-site during the event to qualify.

On-Site Facilities and Policies

What facilities will be available on-site?

- Washrooms and drinking water
- A café and licensed bar offering beverages and snacks
- Designated cleaning stations for brushes and painting tools

What happens if it rains?

The event proceeds rain or shine! Bring weather-resistant supplies or a small tent or umbrella to stay protected.

Are there rules for cleaning up?

Yes. All painting materials must be cleaned at the provided cleaning stations. Please do not use the library sinks or handwash stations. Proper disposal of materials keeps the space safe and clean for everyone.

Post-Event Details

What happens to the artwork?

- Artists retain all rights to their work. Event organizers may use photographs of pieces or winners for future promotions, with appropriate credit.
- The People's Choice Award winner and select works may be displayed at future community events.

When should I collect my work?

All artists must collect their artwork by 5:00 p.m. on the event day.

Terms and Conditions

By participating in this event, you agree to the following:

- Your artwork may be photographed for promotional purposes.
- All artwork must be original and created entirely on-site during the allotted event time.
- You are fully responsible for your materials, comfort, and safety throughout the day.
- Participants must follow all venue rules and host policies, including proper disposal of materials. Violations could result in disqualification or removal.

A full copy of the terms is available at registration and online. Please review it before registering.

For any other questions, feel free to reach out to **melissa@overhere.ca**. We look forward to seeing you at the pond for the Arts By The Pond Plein Air Paint Out 2026!