

## Media Release

June 11, 2010

### For Immediate Release:

#### ***Ground Breaking Exhibition at the Southampton Art School & Gallery will Honour a Canadian Aboriginal Art Legend with Important Ties to the Southampton Art School!***

In 1957, A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer, Alex Colville and Lawren P. Harris banded together to create the Southampton School of Fine Arts, in partnership with the Southampton Arts Society. That very same year, a 16 year old Aboriginal artist from the Rama First Nation was sent to this school on a scholarship provided by Orillia's Voices of Women. It was his first exposure to professional fine arts training. Just ten years later, that young man was honoured by Canada with the Centennial Medal for his artistic achievements. In his tragically short life, he went on to become one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal artists. This man was **Arthur Shilling** (1941-1986).

In the fall of 2009, Arthur Shilling's sons, artists **Bewabon and Travis Shilling**, honoured their father's life by visiting the very place where his famous career first took root – The Southampton Art School, formerly the Southampton School of Fine Arts. In a matter of hours, the planning of the most important exhibition ever to be offered by this historic organization was well underway.

**August 6 – September 6, 2010, the Southampton Arts Society in partnership with the Shilling family will bring the public a one of a kind multi-generational exhibit - *The Shilling Experience: Past and Present*.**

This exhibition promises to showcase an extensive body of work that is beyond compare, including paintings by Arthur Shilling that have never before been viewed by the public. This collection will be exhibited side by side with the work of Arthur's sons, contemporary artists Bewabon and Travis Shilling.

*This exhibition is free to the public. The gala opening is Friday, August 6 from 7-9 pm.* The Shilling family will be present for the gala, which welcomes the Shilling family and the Wabano Kwe Ojibwe drummers. To honour Aboriginal contributions, the exhibition will close with Miino Bimaadiziwin (An Honourable Life), an outdoor celebration honouring Aboriginal contributions held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 from 10 am – 4 pm

*The Shilling Experience: Past and Present* will be the premier event of the year in Saugeen Shores, while attracting the interest of the widespread tourist population of the famed recreational haven of Bruce County, Ontario. The exhibition will also continue to honour the mandate of the Southampton Arts Society, which has been dedicated to celebrating the joy of creativity and developing artistic talent since 1957.

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