

**University of Toronto**  
**University Arts Women's Club - University of Toronto Women's Association**

**NEWS & EVENTS**

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At our meeting on **October 20, 2022**, our President Patricia Nevins introduced our guest speaker, Brian Banks. His talk was entitled "The Rights of Nature: Can rivers and lakes be granted legal personhood?" Brian studied geography at the undergraduate and graduate levels, is a journalist, writer, and editor, and has deeply felt concerns for nature, conservation and the environment.

Brian spoke about the growing movement spreading through Indigenous communities in Canada to recognize the rights of rivers, lakes, and natural ecosystems to thrive and flourish. Rivers and lakes can be granted legal personhood. The Magpie River in Quebec is the first waterway in Canada to be granted this status and it strengthens protection for the river from future environmental threats such as damming or hydro development.

Kelsey Leonard is a professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. She is an Indigenous legal scholar and scientist, and an advocate for the rights of water. Brian spoke about her work and showed highlights of her 2019 TED Talk on why lakes and rivers should have the same rights as humans.

Worldwide, there are 33 natural entities recognized as having rights through judicial decisions. While legal recognition of nature's rights is gaining momentum, the success rate has been mixed. The concept is still new and legal costs to defend those rights are very high. As it continues to gain momentum, personhood and the rights of nature initiatives will continue to grow.

Bobbi Slater, our Treasurer, thanked Brian Banks for his talk.



**Brian Banks**

Writer and editor, and a regular contributor to ON Nature Magazine

At our second General Meeting of the season on **November 17, 2022**, the University Arts Women's Club-University of Toronto Women's Association (UAWC-UTWA) members and guests gathered at The Faculty Club, University of Toronto.

Our speaker was Eve Guinan, Accredited Conservator–Restorer and leader of EGD Glass Studio in Toronto. Her presentation was entitled “Spectacular Restoration: How 93 glorious stained glass windows hidden in Massey Hall were brought to light again.”

Christine McClymont, our Programme Coordinator, introduced Eve and conducted an informal seated interview with her. Eve, whose studio was one of those chosen to perform the restoration work, told fascinating stories about the process of restoring the stained glass windows at Massey Hall. The lovely pastel-coloured windows – including a set of portraits of classical musicians like Handel and Beethoven – had been shuttered behind plywood for decades, partly to keep street noise from disturbing the hall’s acoustics during concerts.

Over many months, the windows were painstakingly cleaned and repaired. The Hall re-opened in 2021 and the restored windows now form a beautiful display in a hallway protected by clear glass. As a special treat, Bobbi Slater projected a video made by the CBC that interviewed Eve and showed in intricate detail how the cleaning job was done.

Eve also told us about another of her important restoration projects, this one for York Memorial Collegiate Institute. A severe fire in 2019 had caused sections of the roof and walls to collapse, badly damaging the tall historical stained glass windows in the auditorium. To our surprise, Eve showed us her own Power Point photos of this project. She told us that she spent days picking up any re-usable bits of broken glass from the ground before starting the restoration.

She also brought videos of another of her latest projects. She and her studio have created a brand new stained glass window commissioned by the congregation in honour of a senior minister at Metropolitan United Church, a grand neo-Gothic style building in downtown Toronto. Unlike many church stained glass windows with religious themes, this one is a beautiful landscape reminiscent of Canada’s Group of Seven paintings. It has been installed in the church tower and can be viewed from indoors or outside.

After a brief Q & A period, Patricia Nevins, our President, thanked Eve for her fascinating work, and expressed appreciation for her talk on restoring stained glass windows.



**Eve Guinan**

Accredited Conservator-Restorer and Leader of  
EGD Glass Studio in Toronto

Those interested in joining UAWC/UTWA are invited to contact Linda Andrews, Membership Coordinator, at 416-485-4903 or [uawcutwa@gmail.com](mailto:uawcutwa@gmail.com)