



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

WRAC Contact Information

Box 1199, Lac du Bonnet, MB, R0E 1A0
Website: winnipegriverarts.com
Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com
Phone: (204) 340-0889



- PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT WRAC.
- TELL US ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING ARTS EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES.
- CONNECT, INSTRUCT OR PROMOTE!
- MAKE ARTS COME ALIVE IN EASTMAN!
- LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

INSIDE:

1. Local arts events
2. Featured artist
3. EMCA season
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5. Opportunities and news for artists

EMCA Season Continues in 2014

Exciting line-up includes:

- *Tim Hus & the Rocky Mountain Two* – Country/Canadiana
February 28
- *Lizzy Hoyt* - Celtic
March 21
- *The Pelletier Family* - Country Jazz & More
April 25

* All concerts start at 8:00 P.M. in Pinawa Community Centre/ High School Gym at 8:00 PM

WRAC ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Retired high school Principal Gail Conrad Davey has agreed to work for WRAC. Gail and husband Don moved to Lac du Bonnet from North-western Ontario about thirteen years ago. Gail is looking forward to working with WRAC to support and grow the arts in Eastman. A big thank you goes out to Karen Munn for looking after WRAC business in the interim.

Do you live in the Town of Lac du Bonnet or Victoria Beach area?

WRAC is looking for a BOARD MEMBER from either of these two communities.

Contact info@winnipegriverarts.com
To let WRAC know you are interested.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Help us connect artists and arts organizations in Eastman. If you know about any arts related events, programs, products, services or opportunities, please email info@winnipegriverarts.com. WRAC newsletters link artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries in the region and promote art happenings. Please send us your arts news. *

WRAC is pleased to present Manitoba Theatre Centre's Regional Tour Performance of "Miracle on South Division Street"

- Mark your calendar for February 19, 2014 when WRAC will be bringing the Manitoba Theatre Centre regional tour presentation of "Miracle on South Division Street" to the Great Falls Community Club (perfect central location for Winnipeg River residents).
- Tickets are sure to sell out fast so don't delay! General public prices are \$25/person. WRAC members qualify for reduced ticket prices of \$20/person. (Students - \$20)
- Tickets for general sale will be available throughout our communities so keep your eyes open & tell your friends!
- Buses are being arranged so contact WRAC if you need a ride.

Miracle on
South Division
Street



In June of 2014, Lac du Bonnet Library will bring **Mike Grandmaison's Prairie and Beyond II** photography exhibit to their library for the whole month. The exhibit will be co-hosted with Winnipeg River Arts Council. Mike Grandmaison is a Manitoba photographer and he has published worldwide in magazines, calendars and books. Manitoba Arts Networks has produced two traveling exhibitions with custom printed photographs from Mike's recently published book **Mike Grandmaison's Prairie and Beyond**.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority seeks a proposal for an after school art project that would last 3 or 4 classes. They would provide art supplies, mentor costs, and snacks. The project would be aimed at youth 12-18 (or 6 -12) and take place from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The artist would be encouraged to speak about the meaning of art in his or her life. Some examples of possible projects: Australian aboriginal art, graffiti art, clay art, Aboriginal art (creation stories, beadwork, painting).

Contact: Orysia Klymkiw, MSW, RSW, Mental Health Promotion, Community Wellness and Chronic Disease Prevention, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, Office# 204-444-6148

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISUAL ARTISTS:

Interlake-Eastern RHA has walls in offices and facilities that would benefit from some local art, and their patients and clients could enjoy viewing artistic talent from our region. A group of IERHA staff and board members will review and select art for display. The RHA is prepared to rent pieces for 4-6 month period. Artist contact information will be posted with the pieces, so if people are interested, they can purchase the piece. **Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2014.** Anyone interested in submitting wall hanging artwork for consideration needs to:

1) Submit images of pieces via e-mail to kgaudry@ierha.ca or CD-ROMs can be mailed to Kelli Gaudy, 589-3rd Ave. South, Stonewall, MB ROC 2Z0. **Please ensure all pieces have a title that includes the artist's name and the artwork name (if one applies).**

2) Include a name, phone number and mailing address where we can contact you. Please also identify dimensions of any oversized pieces.

3) Identify a monthly rental fee (per piece if the fee varies from piece to piece).

4) We are requesting that artists be self-insured, the Interlake-Eastern RHA will not be responsible for insuring any art.

Artists of selected submissions will be notified by phone.

New Exhibition for Pinawa Art Gallery

Celebrating the New Year means a new look for the Pinawa Art Gallery. For the months of January/February a new exhibition titled “In the Abstract” focuses on non-representational form. An abstract image may represent the altered appearance of a recognizable object such as Georgina O’Keefe’s flowers, or an arrangement of forms in a mathematical sequence as seen in Mondrian’s coloured squares so popular in the 1960’s fabrics. It may be an arrangement of colours or the manipulation of an image to present it from a new perspective. The Gallery feature wall will give the viewer many examples of how the genre, “Abstract art”, has been interpreted by the Gallery artists. **The Pinawa Art Gallery is open every Friday from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. It is staffed by members of The Gallery so your host may be one of the artists on the feature wall.**



Winnipeg River Arts Council brings professional theatre to Eastman

Over the past couple of years, Winnipeg River Arts Council representatives have approached local artists, teachers, arts organizations and other interested individuals by phone, presentations, surveys and interviews, to let them know about the recently formed regional arts council. These people, who love and support the arts, often ask, “Why should we join the arts council? Why do we need one? Don’t we have enough arts organizations?”

First off, one can envision WRAC as an umbrella. This umbrella supports and includes all of the Eastman artists and arts organization. This umbrella seeks to connect, promote and build arts of all kinds, and bring arts instruction and expertise to our area. One example is **Miracle on South Division Street**, a family friendly comedy, put on by a group of professional actors who are touring the play from January until March. They will perform for audiences across Manitoba and Northwest Ontario, as part of RMTTC’s annual Regional Tour. This is a first time project for the Winnipeg River Arts Council and, if it succeeds, the arts council hopes to make it an annual event

WRAC Featured Artist
for January 2014
WALTER KELLER



In 1967, Walter Keller emigrated from Switzerland and he now lives in Elma. In 1996, after years as a logger, forester, forest fire fighter, log builder and log building instructor, he discovered chainsaw carving. Totally self-taught, he has been self-employed as an artist since 2000 and has been teaching chainsaw carving courses since 2009. Keller's various careers gave him an appreciation for his medium - the natural tree trunk. Incorporating the natural features of logs or driftwood into his pieces, he has progressed from chainsaw carver to wood sculptor, and combines the saw's bold strokes with the intricacies of hand tools.

Although he specializes in life-size forest animals, he sometimes sculpts free hand, to release the spirit of the wood into the world, creating whimsical creatures from stumps with intact roots, tree crowns, witch's brooms, and forked trunks.

His pieces vary, according to the wood's size and properties, and he even carves standing trunks. He scavenges from tree removal services, clear cut operations and land clearing sites.

In 2005, Keller's partner, Alexa Hoerster, took up carving. Together they expanded their repertoire, integrating wood sculpture into buildings. They now carve beams, fireplace mantles, doors, cabinets, stair cases, furniture, and bowls, with styles ranging from traditional to contemporary, fanciful to disciplined, filigree to monumental. Today, ninety-five percent of their work is commissioned, making it hard to find time to explore new subjects or techniques.

First Nations' art has influenced Keller's perception of nature. He finds inspiration in local forests and kayak trips throughout Manitoba, and from explorations across Canada and Europe. He takes frequent trips to Europe to reconnect with family and fulfill carving commissions.

Keller has demonstrated his techniques on occasions such as Canada Day, Red River Ex, various fairs, and competitions in Switzerland and Canada. A founding member of the Eastern Manitoba Artists Coop, he has exhibited work at the Manitoba Art Expo and Eastern Manitoba Art Exhibition. In 2004, he was featured in CTV's "Manitoba Moments." Recently, he was interviewed by a professional videographer for a TV program, showcasing Manitoba artists.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/79250953>

Keller's website is www.thetimberman.net-profiles.com