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*Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts*

# WRAC NEWS

## WRAC Contact Information

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- please help spread the news about **WRAC**
- connect, instruct, promote
- make arts come alive in Eastman
- arts organizations, libraries and schools - please add WRAC news to your newsletters and print out WRAC newsletter for members, students and library patrons to enjoy!



Pinawa Art Gallery

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Glass artist Claudia Chomichuk from Hillside Beach will be holding an Open House in her studio on Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To view Claudia's new work and learn more about her art, visit her website [www.purplepelicanartglass.com](http://www.purplepelicanartglass.com)

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

- \*Help us connect Eastman artists and arts organizations.
- \* If you know about any arts related events, programs, products, services or opportunities, email [info@winnipegriverarts.com](mailto:info@winnipegriverarts.com).
- \*Artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries - Please send us your arts news!

**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 communities. Contact [info@winnipegriverarts.com](mailto:info@winnipegriverarts.com). Board meets once a month on second Monday (4:00 – 6:00 pm)**

## PHOTO EXHIBIT COMING TO LDB

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**.

## 2014 “Celebrating Stories” in Eastman Libraries

In partnership with Manitoba Writers’ Guild, special presentations called “Celebrating Stories” were held in Pinawa Public Library, Lac Du Bonnet Regional Library and Allard Regional Library. Each event included a reading by the Winnipeg Millennium Library’s 2013-2014 writer-in-residence, Meira Cook, question and answer session, and time for socializing. In Lac du Bonnet, Mary Louise Chown, a well-known story-teller from River Hills, told a captivating story from the North and read from her book, *Now I know the World is Round*, a collection of stories she told and heard while working in hospitals. Young singer-songwriter, Cohen Sieg from Whitemouth, entertained the audience with his catchy lyrics and fine guitar playing.

Meira Cook’s novel, *The House on Sugarbush Road*, won last year’s McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award. It is set in post-apartheid Johannesburg, South Africa, shortly after the 1994 election of Nelson Mandela. Ms. Cook worked as a journalist there and immigrated to Canada in the early 1990’s. Four books of her poetry have been published and her poems have also appeared in various magazines and literary journals. She has also published a novella and a book of essays. She captivated the audiences in all three libraries with her stories about South Africa, various writing projects and adjustment to life in snowy Canada. Check out your local library for her excellent book!

Lac du Bonnet Library welcomed help from the local Royal Bank’s “A Day of Service” crew who set up the chairs, prepared food trays and served beverages. These women pick community events to support and they really go all out to make the chosen event a success. Best of all, they marched out during the break with a novelty cheque for \$1000.00 to donate to the library! This cheque was a giant surprise to the audience of about thirty people (and the library staff).



Meira Cook



Cohen Sieg



Head Lac du Bonnet librarian Vicky Short with Cohen Sieg, Mary Louise Chown and Meira Cook

**Helaine Becker, children's author, visits Pinawa on Thurs. May 8, 2014, 2:15 p.m. in the Community Centre**  
Best known as the author of *A Porcupine in a Pine Tree*, Helaine is a New York native who has lived in Toronto for more than 20 years. She writes best-selling children's and YA fiction, non-fiction and verse. She is one of the authors on tour across Canada as part of Canadian Children's Book week and we appreciate the sponsorship of the TD Canadian Children's Book Centre in bringing her to Pinawa. Although Helaine's presentation is intended for kids, these author visits are always a lot of fun and the public in general is most welcome and encouraged to attend. Please join us for a great afternoon. Visit <http://www.bookweek.ca/book-week/2014> for more info on TD Canadian Children's Book Week and who's touring where. Before coming to Pinawa, Helaine is doing a presentation at Centennial School in LdB and might possibly be doing one in Powerview earlier in the morning.



WRAC  
FEATURED  
ARTIST FOR  
APRIL  
KATHRYN  
JONES



For April, the Winnipeg River Arts Council featured artist Kathryn Jones, a potter who lives along the shores of Pinawa Bay. After finding a pottery lesson in Winnipeg Leisure Guide in 2000, she has worked with clay ever since. She says, “I had a high stress finance job and I needed something to help me relax. After my first class, I knew that I would do this for the rest of my life.”

In 2003, still working full time and taking pottery lessons, Jones, along with her husband James, purchased 2.5 acres of untouched Canadian Shield where they spent the next few years building their dream log home. Because they were so busy, splitting their time between Winnipeg and “the lake,” pottery took a backseat for a while.

It wasn't until 2006, when they moved to their cabin fulltime, that she could again focus on pottery. Although Jones says, “I couldn't make a matching set of mugs if my life depended on it,” this is where her passion for her craft really flourished. In 2011, she seized the opportunity to purchase another piece of property and a run-down business. The couple renovated the building into a gift shop and Jones filled it with unique pieces from Canadian artists and artisans, and gourmet food. The seasonal business she now owns and operates is called Cottage Country Co. With time and luck, she hopes to include a studio, where she can create and share with others the fun and beauty of clay. Today, you can find her at 20 Hard Rock Road, off highway 11, outside of Lac du Bonnet. She says, “This address strikes me as kind of ironic, given my love of clay.” The business is open from mid to late April until just before Christmas and she is always looking for work from talented local artists to showcase in her store. She invites everyone, tourists and locals, artists and lovers of good food, to stop by for a visit.

On May 2 – 4, Pinawa Players will host provincial drama festival at Pinawa Community Centre. Fourteen community theatre groups from across Manitoba will perform and compete. Public is welcome to attend and can purchase day or weekend pass. Come out and enjoy some great community theatre on Friday night, and all day Saturday and Sunday.



### AUGUST LONG MINI-QUILT CHALLENGE

*Submit your 12"X12" mini-quilt for a chance to win 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> prize!*

Fee to enter: \$12.50 1<sup>st</sup> entry & \$10.00 each additional mini-quilt

Drop off entries by July 2<sup>nd</sup> to:

Karen's Market & Quilt Shop,  
#S20-24 Aberdeen Ave Pinawa

OR

What's on Second, 76-2<sup>nd</sup> St Lac du Bonnet

Full details & entry forms at [www.firewater.ca](http://www.firewater.ca)

### Great News! Winnipeg River Arts Council will host another Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's Regional Tour Performance – "Armstrong's War" on Saturday February 14, 2015, at Pinawa Community Centre

Plan now for next year's Valentine Day and take your loved one (or loved ones) out for a special evening.

"Armstrong's War" was written by well-known Canadian playwright Colleen Murphy.

**Here's a summary:** Corporal Michael Armstrong is recuperating in a rehab hospital when he's ambushed by an optimistic 12-year-old Girl Guide in a wheelchair. Halley's mission is to earn her Community Service badge by reading to a wounded soldier. In spite of himself, Michael becomes engaged in their sessions. When he gets up the courage to share an explosive story from his time in Afghanistan, the unlikely allies show each other how to stand tall.

**Here's a review:** "Funny, thought-provoking, heartfelt"  
– The Vancouver Sun

## A Touch of Red – just think of the possibilities!!

ArtWave will be happening again on Saturday and Sunday of the August long weekend in Lac du Bonnet!! This is the second ArtWave Visual Art Show to be part of the Fire & Water Festival weekend and it will be bigger and better than the last. This year there is a theme – **A Touch of Red** - each artist is invited to submit one entry with the Touch of Red theme. Entries will be displayed and a people's choice award will be given. Last year the People's Choice award (won by Gary Holden of Steinbach) consisted of the glory of winning... this year there will be a fabulous if modest prize to go with the glory!! So, start the creative juices flowing!! Application forms will be available soon. Also, this year artist can set up a booth to sell their work if they choose. There will be no cost for the space, however, if you cannot beg, borrow or steal your own grids, we will try to find some for you for a modest rental fee on a first come, first serve basis. Same for tables. More to come on this. Part of the ArtWave production will be 2 workshops to be held in the Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet vicinity. More will be coming about these workshops as well.

If you want to signify your intention to enter a piece into the Touch of Red display and/or to request a booth space, feel free to email me now. You will have priority! Send your email to [artwave2014@hotmail.com](mailto:artwave2014@hotmail.com)