



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

September 2014

WRAC NEWSLETTER



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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!



Art can grow like sunflowers!

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12th Annual Rural & Northern Art Show
 September 6-28, 2014 – Assiniboine Park Pavilion Gallery
 in Winnipeg Opening Reception: Sept. 7, 2014 at 4:00pm

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:
 *Help us connect Eastman artists and arts organizations.
 * If you know about any arts events, programs, services or opportunities, email info@winnipegriverarts.com.
 *Artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries - Please send us your arts news!

WRAC would like to welcome **Jennifer Hudson Stewart** as administrator. In September, she will set up office in Winnipeg River Community Futures building in Lac du Bonnet, for two half-days per week. Jennifer looks forward to meeting and promoting local artists and organizations.

Rural Youth Mentorship - For the fifth year in a row, WRAC plans to work with ACI (Creative Manitoba) to help organize a rural youth mentorship in our region. This program seeks to help rural youth (ages 16 to 24) explore the possibilities of a career as a professional artist. From January to May, the two young people who are selected will work with a rural professional artist. Nine young artists in this region (Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa, Powerview-Pine Falls) have been mentored in writing and photography. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in mentoring or being mentored, check out the ACI website for mentor and youth guidelines and application forms. Then contact WRAC.

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 Board meets once a month on second Monday (4:00 – 6:00 pm)

**4P FESTIVAL COMING TO POWERVIEW-
PINE FALLS ON LABOUR DAY WEEKEND
WITH EXCITING NEW EVENT - *YOUTH AND
ADULT TALENT SHOW***

Saturday, August 30, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

@Sunova Arena

Winnipeg River Arts Council has partnered with 4P to present a fabulous youth and adult talent show. Come show off your talent or simply watch the talented artists perform. Big \$\$\$\$ prizes will be awarded for best talent. Make sure to check out Edgewater Recreation Commission website for the schedule of other fun and friendly events – kids' entertainment, dinner with Patsy Cline Tribute, sports competitions, parade, fireworks, social, pancake breakfast, market square, beer gardens, fish fry, family movie night, BBQ, bands, Gospel music, fishing derby, Lego competition and much, much more.



**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 and award-winning 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.

More Great News!

Karen Munn, WRAC board member (treasurer) and avid quilter from Pinawa, has donated her time and talents to create a "LOVE QUILT" which will awarded to a lucky raffle ticket buyer. Tickets can be purchased from Karen in her quilting shop at Lewis Centre in Pinawa, from WRAC board members and at various venues throughout the region. Tickets can be purchased right up until February 14 and prize-winning ticket will be drawn at MTC TOURING PRODUCTION in Pinawa!!!!



NEWS FROM HAGIOS PRESS IN REGINA REGARDING BOOK BY MANITOBA AUTHOR

Forthcoming Strike Fire New Author: Donna Besel grew up in the Whiteshell Provincial Park and now lives on the Winnipeg River near Lac du Bonnet. Her writing has garnered recognition from *Prairie Fire*, the CBC Literary Awards, and first place in This Magazine's "Great Canadian Literary Hunt." She leads creative writing workshops for children and adults, and instructs in the Artists in the Schools program in communities all over Manitoba. Besel's story collection, *Lessons from a Nude Man*, will appear in the Strike Fire New Authors Series in spring of 2015.



WRAC FEATURED ARTIST FOR AUGUST – PAUL LUSSIER

Sculptor Paul Lussier was born into a creative St. Boniface family. At a young age, he and his siblings spent hours playing with plasticene. They created anything their imaginations could conjure - towns and forts and fantastic creatures.

They also spent many days at his aunt and uncle's home. His uncle was a famous St Boniface architect (Etienne Gaboury) and his aunt was a reputable potter. Their house was filled with sculptures and modern art. This exposure encouraged Lussier to enter an art contest at school. He went to a construction site, gathered clay, created an old man in Québec city's "artisanat" style and placed second in the contest.

Lussier left Winnipeg to teach at Powerview School where he met gifted art teacher, Sister Pauline Ménard. He took her pottery classes and discovered he liked working on the wheel but his real inspiration lay in formed structures.

Later on, he took an "attelier" with Saskatchewan sculptor Joe Fafard whose colourful caricatures led him into the style he loves today.

After thirty-one years of teaching, he retired and then decided to refocus on his artistic side. He took a course at Winnipeg Art Gallery with Nancy Litchfield-Hutchison, a ceramic instructor with over thirty years of experience. She taught him different techniques, emphasized putting emotions into clay and encouraged him to take time on details.

He has exhibited his sculptures at St. Boniface Cultural Centre and, in August of 2014, he participated in the ArtWave show in Lac du Bonnet. He's currently doing a project inspired by photos of John Paskievich (*The North End*) and also enjoys sculpting local people.

Lussier says, "Even though I prefer doing older people, I am fascinated by the human form. I like to capture certain emotions in the clay ... a look of struggle and despair, yet hope... a look of joy at seeing a friend. I hope to continue to do sculptures that capture our humanness."