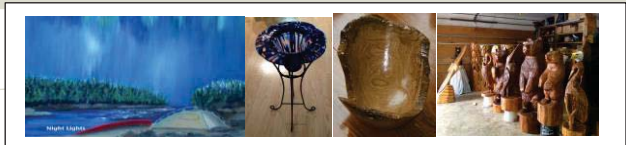




Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

October 2014

WRAC NEWSLETTER



WRAC Contact Information
 Box 1199, Lac du Bonnet, MB, R0E 1A0
 Website: winnipegriverarts.com
 Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com
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- 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! Or forward the newsletter to anyone you think might be interested!



Sing your own fall song!!!

INSIDE:

1. EMCA 2014-2015 season begins
2. Feb. 14, 2015 – MTC Show
3. Love Quilt Raffle - in support of MTC Show
4. Rural Youth Mentorship
5. Featured arts organization
6. WRAC administrator
7. Board vacancies
8. Elections are coming

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!

NEW OFFICE & NEW ADMINISTRATOR!

WRAC welcomes **Jennifer Hudson Stewart** as new administrator. She has set up her office in Winnipeg River Community Futures building in Lac du Bonnet (between RBC and Sunova). She will be there on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 12:00. Please drop by if you are in town. (See contact info above)

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)



EMCA CONCERTS

NOV.7 – David James & Big River

DEC. 12- Borealis

JAN. 23 – Dan Frechette & Laurel Thomsen

FEB. 20 – Del Barber & The Profiteers

MARCH 20 – Cadence

APRIL 24 – Suzie Vinnick

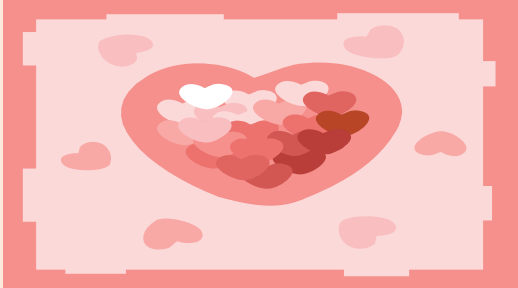
Eastern Manitoba Concert Association season has already started. On September 26, the two sisters of **Ennis** brought their sparkling humour and Celtic harmonies to Pinawa. But don't despair, you can still get subscription tickets for the rest of the season, or just buy tickets for individual concerts. All concerts start at 8:00 pm and are held on Fridays at the Community Centre (which often doubles as the Pinawa Senior School gym). For tickets, call Cathy at 204-753-2767 or Colin at 204-753-8295. For more detailed information about each of the above listed artists and the subscription prices, you can visit website: www.emcaconcerts.com

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!!!!



Local writer, **Donna Besel**, will be leading creative writing workshops for students in Winnipeg at George Waters School (October 6-20) and in Lac du Bonnet at Centennial School (November 14 - 27). She will also be doing a writing workshop at the Mamingwey Burn Survivors' Conference in Winnipeg on October 25.

IMPORTANT: As you know, elections are coming soon in the rural municipalities of Alexander and Lac du Bonnet, and in the communities of Pinawa, Powerview-Pine Falls and Lac du Bonnet. If you participate in any kind of arts practice as an artist, belong to an arts organization, or simply want to see more arts events and instruction in the region, be sure to ask your local politicians how they plan to support the arts in the Winnipeg River corridor. WRAC would like the politicians to know that local people really care about the arts!

WINNIPEG RIVER ARTS COUNCIL'S FEATURED ARTS ORGANIZATION FOR SEPTEMBER: EASTERN MANITOBA CONCERT ASSOCIATION

For over four decades, the Eastern Manitoba Concert Association (EMCA) has presented professional entertainment, providing a venue for talented artists and enriching cultural life in Eastman.

The idea originated in the laundry room of a Pinawa apartment block. In 1971, two young mothers, Yvonne Oldaker (ballet tutor/examiner) and Joyce Hart (formerly with Winnipeg Art Gallery) met while folding diapers. Both lamented the loss of their previous artsy lifestyles. To fill this gap, they decided to hire artists to perform in Pinawa. Neither had money, but they agreed to risk it.

The first concert, a quartet, was held in Kelsey House (now Wilderness Edge) and sold enough tickets to convince the women to continue. A second concert, at F.W. Gilbert School, featured Winnipeg dancers. A third event showcased George Swinton (artist and historian) and was allegedly held in Pinawa Public Library.

The EMCA formula is simple: quality concerts and a rewarding volunteer experience. It has hosted hundreds of Manitoban, Canadian and international artists. Winners of Junos, Prairie and East Coast Music Awards and even Grammy and Oscars have appeared on the Pinawa stage. Some examples: Buffy Ste. Marie, Leona Boyd, Ian Tyson, Stan Rogers, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Natalie McMaster.

With volunteer production and local sponsors, EMCA gives Eastern Manitobans A-list performances at affordable prices. Subscribers come from Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Whitemouth, Seven Sisters, Powerview-Pine Falls, Beausejour, Nopiming and Whiteshell Parks.

EMCA contributes to the local economy, buying equipment, advertising, printed material, agency services, rentals, meals and accommodation. It also donates music scholarships, in-school presentations, and lighting/ sound expertise to various groups. Non-profits can raise funds by supplying refreshments during intermissions.

Hundreds of volunteers from Pinawa and surrounding communities have joined the EMCA board, working on administration, publicity, advertising, membership, staging, lighting, sound, and artist liaison. EMCA also provides on-the-job training for presenting professional shows.

In short, EMCA adds value to cultural life in Eastman. After 41 years of attracting a faithful audience and paying its bills, EMCA is a favourite destination for performing artists across the country.