



Twenty-five years ago, on a cold January day the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library moved into its current location on Third Street. Come out on Tuesday January 26th at 6 pm for Family Literacy night and stay for the celebration starting at 7:30pm with musicians the Janzen Boys.

WRAC News

January 2016

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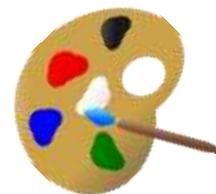
Art and Eats

An evening of painting and eating

Sunday January 10 at 1:30

Cost \$35

To register, call or text 204-459-0355 or email
joyzart@gmail.com.



Rural Youth Mentorship

On January 6, 2016, three students from Lac du Bonnet Senior School will start a five month creative writing mentorship with author Donna Besel. The students are Megan Locke, Kailey Hansen, and Kathleen Harland. This program is organized by Winnipeg River Arts Council in partnership with ACI (Creative Manitoba). Funded by ACI, the mentorship program develops the skills of rural youth, aged 16- 24, who have shown an interest in pursuing a career in the arts. This is the sixth year in a row that WRAC has offered the program. During the mentorship, participants meet for artistic discussions and complete projects. Past mentorships have included youth from Pinawa, Powerview-Pine Falls, and Lac du Bonnet, mentored in photography, visual arts, and writing. Please contact WRAC if you are interested in being a mentor or know of suitable youth.

Artists in the Schools

From January 11 to 15, the students at Centennial School in Lac du Bonnet will participate in creative writing workshops with author Donna Besel. This residency is sponsored by Manitoba Arts Council, through their Artists in the Schools Program. The focus will be on creating stories based on the Seven Teachings of the Anishinaabe, using animals as characters in their stories.

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.

Brad Paisley

WRAC

Featured Artist of the Month

Erika Uustalu-Nicholson

For this month, WRAC features Erika Uustalu-Nicholson, who creates both fabric and visual art. Born to Estonian parents who came to Thunder Bay, Ontario, after World War II, she says, "From an early age, my family instilled in me an appreciation of nature and art."

Upon graduating from high school, she was accepted at both the Ontario College of Art and the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba. She could not decide which school to attend until a close friend was also accepted at the U of M. This led her to venture out west.

She says, "One doesn't realize the life-changing enormity of our youthful decisions until much later."



But Uustalu-Nicholson doesn't regret her decision. She has enjoyed a satisfying career as an art teacher in the Interlake and Winnipeg School Divisions. She raised her family in Manitoba and exhibited her art, predominantly drawings and paintings, over the past several decades at various galleries and venues.

Upon retirement, she moved, with her husband Archie, to the Lac du Bonnet area. Through various fishing trips, they had come to know the region. They live along the Pinawa Channel where they enjoy the inspiration of nature and close friendships with neighbours.

Currently, Uustalu-Nicholson is associated with various creative individuals and groups including WRAC, Pinawa Art 211, Gwen Fox and Wayne Arthur Galleries, the Prairie Edge Rug Hookers, and the GAWMYS (Good Art Won't Match Your Sofa) artists. In 2015, she helped organize and participated in the Eastman Judged Art Exhibition in Lac du Bonnet, and received awards in the Drawing and Fibre categories.

Uustalu-Nicholson sums up her artistic passion with these words, "Art has been my study, my career and my therapy during my whole life. Over the years, my work has evolved and changed in media and style but the underlying currents and subjects have remained quite the same - the world of nature and the many facets of the human condition - both inner and global."





Iceland Performing Arts Residency

The Iceland Performing Arts Residency supports professional Manitoban performing artists to undertake a one-month residency in Skagaströnd Iceland, at the **Nes Artist Residency**. The Nes Artist Residency is one of the larger artist residences in Iceland and is located in Skagaströnd a small town in the northwest. Nes hosts between 90-120 international artists per year.

Nes is a multidisciplinary process-based residency that aims to provide opportunities for global artistic exchange, as well as an immersive space for creation/development of projects. Due to the intimate relationship between Nes and the community of Skagaströnd Nes also places an emphasis on community engagement and collaboration.

Artists are expected to speak about their work at an artist presentation following arrival and to share their work at an open studio at the end of their residency. There will also be opportunities to engage in other programmed events held by Nes, including a community pot-luck dinner.

Residence accommodation is a private bedroom in a shared house with other artists. Studio space is a designated work space in an open-plan shared studio. For dance artists, a private dance studio is available. For more information contact a program consultant | 204 945-2237 | info@artscouncil.mb.ca

The Deep Bay Artists' Residency

Riding Mountain National Park of Canada

The Manitoba Arts Council recently awarded a two week creative writing residency to WRAC member Donna Besel, as part of the Deep Bay Artists' Residency program. She will be offering workshops and readings in Riding Mountain Park and surrounding areas during August 22 - September 4, 2016. WRAC extends congratulations to this local author, as the Deep Bay residency program attracts hundreds of applications from artists all over Manitoba.

If you can breathe you can meditate! Introduction to Meditation

Mary Louise has been practicing meditation for the last 12 years. She has attended retreats in Canada and Germany and is currently studying with a Winnipeg based teacher.

Where: Classes held at Whitemouth
School library

When: Mondays, 4 sessions running from
January 18 - February 8. 7:30-8:30 pm.

Cost: Free or donations accepted!

**To register please contact Mary Louise
Chown**

Office: 204 348-

7540 **Email:** mlchown@shaw.ca



PHOTO CANVAS by Shirley Kurian
QUILTED WALL HANGING by Karen Munn
POTTERY BOWL by Kathryn Jones

Draw date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at RMTIC Production
at Lac du Bonnet Community Centre

Tickets: \$2⁰⁰ each OR 3/\$5⁰⁰

Lottery License 2015-14
Clipper Publishing Corp.

Only 500 tickets printed

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Tickets available from;

WRAC Board members

WRAC office – 4 Park Ave, Lac du Bonnet

Karen's Market & Quilt Shop – Pinawa

Ingham Pharmacy – Lac du Bonnet

2016 READING CHALLENGE



- a book published this year
- a book you can finish in a day
- a book you've been meaning to read
- a book recommended by your local librarian or bookseller
- a book you should have read in school
- a book chosen for you by your spouse, partner, sibling, child, or BFF
- a book published before you were born
- a book that was banned at some point
- a book you previously abandoned
- a book you own but have never read
- a book that intimidates you
- a book you've already read at least once



Let's take this challenge local!

Find books written by Manitoba authors or the set in Manitoba, or have some connection to our province.



What is going on at the library?

Lac du Bonnet Regional Library;

Family Literacy Night – **Tuesday, January 26th 6pm**

A fun evening for the whole family. Followed by 25th Anniversary celebration of the library's Third Street location, starting at **7:30pm** with entertainment by the Janzen Boys.



Library Allard;

During the month of January the library is having a Superhero "Guess Who"? Literacy characters game! Come in with the family and take part in this fun activity. Ask at the circulation desk.

Author Andreas Oertel, who was born in Germany, but lived most of his life in Canada, will be at Library Allard on **Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016**, in the afternoon, to talk to students from both École Powerview School and École St. Georges about his Shenanigans series. These readings are open to the public as well. For more details call Jen @ 204-367-8443.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7pm

Lac du Bonnet Community Centre
Tickets \$20, \$25 for Non WRAC members

Available at

Ingham Pharmacy, Lac du Bonnet
Karen's Market & Quilt Shop, Pinawa
Pine Pharmacy, Pine Falls
WRAC Office, 4 Park, Lac du Bonnet