



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS, TAKE TIME TO WORK ON YOUR ART!

The Winnipeg River Arts Council continues to grow but we still need your help. If you know any people or organizations involved in the arts, please encourage them to join us. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO HEAR FROM TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS WHO ARE TEACHING STUDENTS TO SING, PLAY INSTRUMENTS, WRITE, ACT, DRAW, PAINT AND DANCE. We need members to establish ourselves as a legitimate arts organization. And we want to hear from you – input, ideas, and suggestions for programs or partnerships. Let us know about your upcoming arts events or activities. You can share, connect, instruct, or promote! Make arts come alive in EASTMAN!

INSIDE:

Local arts events

Featured artist

EMCA celebrates year of the songbird

Summer art shows

And much more!!

Calling all artists and artisans in the Eastman region! Now is the time to get out your supplies: pencils, brushes, cameras, clays or fibers. **The Eastman Judged Art Exhibition for 2013 has been awarded to Pinawa** with Pinawa Art 211 taking the organizational reins. This is the fifth time Pinawa has held the exhibit since 1983 and celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2013. What better way to honour this event and support the visual arts in our region than by displaying your works in the Pinawa Community Centre.

The entry fee is set at \$15 for your first entry, \$10 for the second entry and \$5.00 if you have a third piece for the judges' consideration. Each item on display will be critiqued by a professional artist from the Manitoba Arts Council. Categories for the Eastman Judged Art Exhibition will include: Visual Arts (painting, print making, mixed media and photography), Fibre Arts, Sculpture and Pottery, and Jewellery. Each category will be eligible for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award, with a "People's Choice" award presented on the final day of the exhibition. Pinawa Art 211 will host workshops, school tours and a special Opening Ceremony, Awards Presentation and Reception for the artists, dignitaries and other invited guests. The Eastman Judged Art Exhibition will open to the public June 12- 15, 2013. For further information please contact Brenda McKenzie, Chairperson: 2013 Eastman Judged Art Exhibition at: ejamckenzie@gmail.com.

WRAC Contact Information

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JANUARY ARTS EVENTS

On Sunday, January 13, at 2:00 pm, Brenda McKenzie, an artist and writer from Pinawa will be signing copies of her book, *Loving You*, at McNally Robinson Bookstore in the Atrium. This bookstore is found in Winnipeg at the Grant Park Shopping mall.

On Friday, January 18, EMCA presents another concert in Pinawa, with a pianist and string quartet

On Saturday, January 26, Dustin Harder and the Dusty Roads Band will be in Lac du Bonnet for a concert of blues, rock, folk, funk, jazz and reggae fusion music. Opening for Dusty Roads will be Lac du Bonnet Trio featuring Jodie Wentz, Matt Toews and Cody Rey Valentonis. Watch for future Fire n Water concerts in LDB.

LAC DU BONNET LIBRARY NEWS

On December 18, Provencher MP Vic Toews visited the Lac du Bonnet Library bearing a much appreciated gift. The Library received funding of \$5,617.00 from the Community Infrastructure Improvement program so they can fix up the ceiling and paint the entire space. A group of supporters and patrons attended to celebrate the announcement, including local MLA Wayne Ewasko, LDB Mayor Greg Short, board secretary Cathie Brereton, head librarian Vicki Short, and other library staff. Coffee and snacks were served to the crowd after the dignitaries spoke. During the brief speeches, Vicky Short noted how grateful the library was to receive these additional funds which will allow the library to better serve the community. Board Secretary welcomed the crowd and the politicians, reminding everyone how important the library is to the community and explaining how she and her husband were “bookoholics” who relied on the library to entertain and instruct them on a regular basis.

MEMBER NEWS - WRAC ART CLASSES

After two Pinawa residents expressed an interest in a drawing class, local artist Mary Louise Chown, based in River Hills, agreed to run a class for up to 8 students. Mary Louise, BA, BEd, BFA, is a qualified art instructor with years of art instruction experience. The classes begin in late January or early February, 1:00pm -3:30 PM (day TBA). The 10 sessions will be held in Pinawa (location TBA). Cost per student \$80 plus basic drawing supplies suggested by the instructor.

Course Content - Introduction to Drawing: Another way to express yourself!

Age is no barrier for learning to draw. Anyone can learn, if taught some very basic skills. Students will explore interesting subjects and develop an understanding of composition, form, light and shadow. Drawing skills will enhance your painting or photography, or if you have never made any art before, drawing will bring appreciation for the environment, stress reduction, and a calming meditative experience.

RURAL YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2013

Once again, ACI (Creative Manitoba) has asked that WRAC and the Eastman region be included in their Rural Youth Mentorship Program. This year, the mentor will be Anita Drabyk from Pinawa, a photographer, editor, writer, and visual artist. Two Pinawa youth will be mentored in hopes they will become professional photographers. The students will be meeting and working with Anita from January until May, learning as much as possible from her about the art of photography.

Ukrainian History, Dance and Song Featured in Lac du Bonnet Historical Society's Wine and Cheese Fundraiser

On December 7th, 2013, a capacity crowd filled the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre to enjoy a special event called "Brightstone –Our Ukrainian Heritage" organized by the LdB Historical Society. President Kathy Willis welcomed everyone and encouraged people to check out the displays which featured pictures, documents, and writings about Brightstone pioneers. Also displayed were baskets of pysanky, the intricately decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs. Tracy Rossier, a local artist/instructor, explained her love of pysanky and told about the history and art of these eggs.

Rosemary Todaschuk, and her sister Charlene who had just arrived from Montreal, dressed in traditional costumes, sang well-known Ukrainian songs and Christmas favourites. During the intermission, the audience enjoyed a spread of garlic sausage, vegetables, smoked fish, and other delicacies, and sampled various wines and Ukrainian beer. After a short speech by Wally Stoyko, a teacher who taught at Brightstone in 1949, the lively Mohutniy Ensemble, also in traditional costumes, performed a series of dances, with the requisite kicks, jumps, spins, and other difficult moves. The evening concluded with draws from a huge silent auction.



Mohutniy Ensemble Dancers at Lac du Bonnet Historical Society event

EMAC ART EXTRAVAGANZA

This second art event will be held in Pinawa in mid-July. Contact Vivian Thompson at thomsv@granite.mb.ca for more information.

Amazing art from amazing Eastman artists!

ARTS NEWS AND EVENTS

**NEW AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE*

*at The Winnipeg Public Library
October 2012 to March 2013*

FREE CONSULTATIONS ON YOUR
MANUSCRIPTS -INCLUDING
RURAL WRITERS

***MANITOBA WRITERS GUILD IN DIALOGUE READING SERIES**

at Winnipeg Free Press News Café
See Manitoba Writers' Guild website
for lineup

**DEADLINES FOR MAC ARTS TRAVEL
GRANTS: Feb. 15, May 1, Sept.1 –see
Manitoba Arts Council website for
details.**

AMYC APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 11, 2013

POWerview STUDENTS WILL TAKE HIGH ROAD (REALLY HIGH ROAD - BY AIRPLANE) TO SCOTLAND

In June, Powerview drama students will travel to the island of Lismore, Scotland as part of a cultural exchange. This trip will happen after the May visit to Powerview by Sadie Dixon-Spain and the Walking Theatre Company who will work with Powerview students on a play about the fur trade and its legacy. Along with their performances in Scotland, students will sing, hear stories, taste local treats, fish, tour the countryside, make felt, build rafts, visit beaches, explore caves, and meet a rescue dog. Further information regarding this trip can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Kovachik or Mrs. Magnan at the school.



HELP WANTED

WRAC has two vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you want to make a difference in Eastman arts development, please join our board. We are also looking for volunteers to join Programs and Partnerships Committee. With this group, you can meet interesting people and make amazing arts events, workshops and programs happen. Share your time, skills and expertise, and help raise the arts profile in Northeastern Manitoba.

EMCA'S "YEAR OF THE SONGBIRD" SEASON CONTINUES into 2013

JANUARY 18 SHOW

Gregory Tchaidaze & Cecilia String Quartette – Russina pianist with Canadian quartette –solo and chamber music

FEBRUARY 22 SHOW

Peter Karp and Sue Foley, award-winning singer and songwriters perform exciting music with blues, jazz, folk and flamenco influences.

MARCH 15 SHOW

Destino, a lively crossover group with Joey (tenor) Rosemary (violin) Roy (piano) and Terance (singer) perform pop and classic favourites!

SHOWS START AT 8:00 PM

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS: *LAC DU BONNET LIBRARY WILL HOST A FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013 FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.*ALLARD LIBRARY HOSTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL CRECHE DISPLAY, WITH HUNDREDS OF VISITORS ATTENDING PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Train in Whitemouth!

On December 5, 2012, people from all across Eastman gathered to welcome CPR holiday train and watch The Brothers Dube, Miss Emily and Santa perform. As a result of this event, Whitemouth Lions presented \$1319 and 613 pounds of food to Beausejour Food Bank, and \$1319 and 556 pounds of food to Lac du Bonnet Food Bank.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

As WRAC continues to develop and gain more members, it becomes increasingly important to provide a central communication link within the region to tie artists, arts organizations and arts enthusiasts together. **WRAC will distribute a monthly newsletter that you will receive via email (or mail if preferred)**

The WRAC newsletter provides a venue for members to share their news. If you have an arts related event, program, product, service or any other opportunity you'd like fellow members to know about, please email your information to Donna Besel, Communications Subcommittee Chair, at dab3@mymts.net by the third Friday of each month.

ACI MANITOBA ANNOUNCES NEW AMYC COURSE – TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 5, 2013 TO APRIL 30, 2013

If you are a self-employed artist with an existing arts practice and you'd like to improve your business, promotion, marketing, communication and financial skills, this course, "The Art of Managing Your Career," is for you! For several years, ACI Manitoba has offered the series of classes to over 150 artists of all kinds, to help them learn how to support themselves with their art. The instructor, Heather Bishop toured as a singer/songwriter for decades, received an Order of Canada for her humanitarian work, taught women in trades, and instructed musicians in piano, voice, and guitar. She also graduated with a Degree in Fine Arts and produces amazing visual art. Check ACI website for details and application form. Deadline for application is January 11, 2013.

DECEMBER FEATURED ARTIST

For December, Winnipeg River Arts Council featured Pinawa artist/author, **Brenda McKenzie**. After a Christmas gift of a paint-by-number kit sparked her interest in painting, McKenzie's Grade 9 art teacher, John Eisler, encouraged her to take youth classes at Winnipeg Art Gallery. Later, she enrolled in University of Manitoba's Faculty of Interior Design, where she learned about design, composition, value work, and colour, under the tutelage of Grant Marshall and Harry Adaskin.

In 1971, newly married, McKenzie arrived in Pinawa, took art lessons with Vivian Thomson, and learned water colour and oil painting techniques. Presently, her repertoire also includes graphite work, pen and ink, and mixed media - using inks, coloured pencil and water-based media. When Thomson retired from the Whiteshell School District, McKenzie replaced her in the school's art program.

Five decades after that first kit, McKenzie continues to produce landscapes but recent creations include portraits and still life. She sells her work at Eastern Manitoba Artists' Collective and Pinawa Art 211 shows. It is displayed at the Cre8ery Gallery (Winnipeg) and Gwen Fox Gallery (Selkirk). The Parish of St. Francis (Pinawa) commissioned her to do a painting of their new church, displayed at Sobering Funeral Chapel (Beausejour). Recently, she illustrated a local author's cookbook and has started pencil drawings for a book on World War II London.

After McKenzie retired in 2004, she wrote a novel, Loving You, based on her family's experience of Alzheimer's disease and the resulting three year wait for her mother-in-law's placement. The book can be purchased at "Uniquely Pinawa" (Pinawa), Ingham's Pharmacy (Lac du Bonnet), Pharmasave (Beausejour), Blaines Books, Movies and Music Store (Selkirk Plaza Mall), and McNally Robinson and Coles in Kildonan Place and City Centre (Winnipeg).

Recently, McKenzie volunteered to coordinate the 2013 Eastman Judged Art Exhibition. This event will be hosted by Pinawa Art 211 at the Pinawa Community Centre, June 12-15, 2013, and will showcase hundreds of artistic entries from throughout the Eastman region. To enter or learn more, contact ejaemckenzie@gmail.com.

