



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

WE LOVE, LOVE, LOVE OUR ARTS AND OUR ARTISTS!

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

Eastman Judged Art Exhibition

Crowdfunding Workshop

And much more!!

Calling all artists and artisans in the Eastman region.

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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FEBRUARY ARTS EVENT

Pinawa 50th Winter Gala was held on February 2 and 3, with family outdoor activities, board games, kick sledding with dogs, town photo, and a community meal. On the Saturday night, Pinawa's Got Talent showcased Pinawa's many talented musicians, singers and other performers, and ended the evening with the lively "Sagkeeng's Finest" to delight the crowds. Event attendees made donations to a Silver Dollar Collection going to the new Personal Care Home.

LAC DU BONNET LIBRARY NEWS –

LdB Library hosted a Family Literacy Night on January 29, complete with fun and games, book draws, jokes and plenty of activities for kids of all ages! Refreshments and snacks were provided for everyone.

The library is now accepting bids of a copy of *Logs & Lines from the Winnipeg River – A History of the Lac du Bonnet Area*. The closing date for bids has been extended to March 15.

Job opportunity: Snow removal on an as needed basis. Contact the library for more details.

RURAL YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2013

ACI (Creative Manitoba) asked WRAC and the Eastman region to be included in their Rural Youth Mentorship Program. This year's mentor will be Anita Drabyk from Pinawa, a photographer, editor, writer, and visual artist. Students from Pinawa Secondary School, Hannah Voth, Marissa Buell and Madi Melnick, will be mentored for several hours each month, to explore possible careers as 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.

EMAC ART EXTRAVAGANZA Another 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!**

MEMBER NEWS - WRAC ART CLASSES

Local artist Mary Louise Chown, from River Hills, has agreed to run art classes in Pinawa. Mary Louise, BA, BEd, BFA, is a qualified art instructor with years of art instruction experience. Classes started on January 28th and will last for 10 sessions.



EMCA'S "YEAR OF THE SONGBIRD" SEASON CONTINUES

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, in Pinawa Community Centre

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

Powerview drama students will travel to the island of Lismore, Scotland as part of a culture/theatre exchange. This trip will happen after the May visit to Powerview by Sadie Dixon-Spain and the Walking Theatre Company who will work with students on a play about the fur trade and its legacy. Further information can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Kovachik or Mrs. Magnan. The students hosted a very profitable Robbie Burns dinner to raise funds.

ARTS NEWS AND EVENTS

1. *MANITOBA WRITERS GUILD IN DIALOGUE READING SERIES

Winnipeg Free Press News Café

See Manitoba Writers' Guild website for lineup

2. FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

FEBRUARY 15-24- fiddling, dancing singing, featuring: Serena Ryder, Imaginary Cities, Don Amero and many other performers and fun activities!

3. LAKE WINNIPEG WRITERS

Annual "Write on the Lake" Creative writing contest - Deadline February 14

4. WINNIPEG RIVER REC DISTRICT

Winter brochure includes instruction in musical theatre, dance, art for kids, traditional painting, video making, and pysanky egg decorating. Check it out! Meet new people and learn some new skills!



HURRAY ! As of our January meeting, WRAC now has a full 10 member board of directors. However, in the future, we may need board replacements so keep WRAC in mind if you want to make a big difference in Eastman arts development.

HELP WANTED: WRAC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE. If you want to MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE AND PLAN AMAZING ARTS EVENTS, this is the place for you!

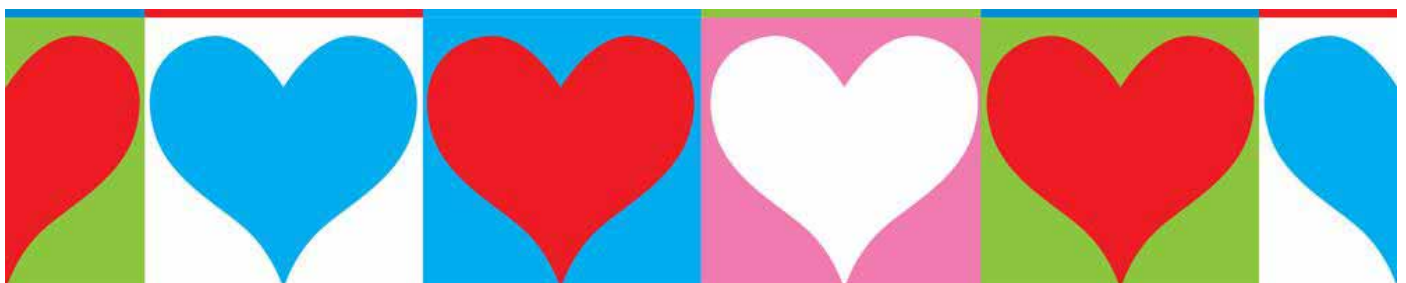
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS –Help us connect artists and arts organizations in Eastman. If you know about any arts related events, programs, products, services or opportunities, please email Donna Besel, Communications Chair, at dab3@mymts.

As WRAC grows, we can use this newsletter to link artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries in the region and promote all the many great art happenings. Please send us your arts news.

February 15, 1:00-2:00 Late Lunch Show: Introduction to Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding through websites such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo have become popular options for artists to raise money to help produce CD's, books, and tours. But how do you get started? This workshop is a starter kit for artists interested in pursuing crowdfunding. It will cover the steps to take to help make your crowdfunding campaign a success, from how to choose a crowdfunding service, how to decide how much to ask for, how to decide what benefits you should offer supporters.

You can participate in this workshop by video conference at the Canada/ Manitoba Business Centre, Provincial Building, 20 first Street, Beausejour. Call Judy Kamaraus at 204-268-6094 or email judy.kamaraus@gov.mb.ca two days in advance if you want to learn more about this exciting new way to raise money for your artistic projects.





January Featured WRAC Artist

Meet featured artist Mary Louise Chown, a visual artist, storyteller, and musician who recently moved with her husband to a farm just outside River Hills. Delighted to discover a large arts community in the North Eastman area, she has already participated in a successful storytelling concert held in Pinawa last November and sponsored by WRAC.

Although born in Toronto, Chown considers herself a prairie chicken, having lived most of her life in Winnipeg. She heard many stories in her own extended family, and is most familiar with the folktales of the British Isles and Northern Europe. Chown also plays hammered dulcimer, guitar and percussion with “The Fine Companions” folk music band. She often includes music and song in her stories, inviting audiences of all ages to participate.

Chown has performed at storytelling festivals in Toronto, Ottawa, Whitehorse, Edmonton, Vancouver, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and the Winnipeg International Children’s Festivals. She also has worked with the Manitoba Arts Council as a visiting artist in schools across Manitoba. Her week-long residencies paired storytelling with art making for students of all ages. She designed a storytelling and music concert series called “The Magic of One”, which had a successful six year run in Winnipeg. Her video installation ”The Skin of This Planet” was recently exhibited at the University of Winnipeg Art Gallery and at St. Boniface Hospital and won an award from ArtWorks in Edmonton, Alberta. Her paintings and prints have been exhibited at group and juried shows inWinnipeg, Ottawa, the Internet, and Barcelona, Spain.

Gathering people together to share their stories is an important part of her work and has taken her into group homes for young offenders, adult survivor groups, classes for seniors and more recently, as a visiting artist in Winnipeg hospitals, telling stories, listening to stories and playing music. She has been invited to talk about this work so often that she finally wrote and published her first book about her experiences in healthcare. The book, titled NOW I KNOW THE WORLD IS ROUND: Stories At the End of Life, has gone into second printing, and is available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, or from Chown directly.