

Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

WHAT CREATIVE IDEAS WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLANT IN OUR REGION? MAY IS IDEAL FOR NEW SPROUTS TO GROW!

SEND US YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS OR PARTNERSHIPS. TELL US ABOUT UPCOMING ARTS EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES. CONNECT, INSTRUCT OR PROMOTE! MAKE ARTS COME ALIVE IN EASTMAN! LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

[WRAC Contact Information](#)

[Box 1199, Lac du Bonnet, MB, R0E 1A0](#)

[Website: winnipegriverarts.com](http://winnipegriverarts.com)

[Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com](mailto:info@winnipegriverarts.com) [Phone: \(204\) 340-0889](tel:(204)340-0889)



- Local arts events
- Featured artist
- Art classes in Pinawa
- PINAWA ART GALLERY GRAND OPENING
- And much more!!

WRAC NEWS:

- WRAC has hired part-time staff to help enhance and advance arts in Eastman. Debbie Majeau from Pine Falls/Powerview has agreed to work as WRAC'S PROGRAM COODINATOR. As of April 8, Debbie brings her great combination of ability to find funds for programs and her energy to get people working together to make things happen. We welcome Debbie and encourage local artist and arts organizations with any arts ideas they want to develop or promote to get in touch with WRAC at any of the above listed contact info.
- WRAC board has produced a new brochure with help from local graphic artist, Candace Kekish from The Clipper. New brochure will be distributed around WRAC country and beyond, in hopes of educating people about WRAC, attracting interest in local arts and inspiring new members to join. WATCH FOR IT IN LOCAL VENUES! PICK ONE UP! GIVE ONE TO YOUR FRIENDS!

RURAL YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2013

ACI (Creative Manitoba) and WRAC have partnered in the Eastman region for Rural Youth Mentorship Program. Mentor Anita Drabek from Pinawa (photographer, editor, writer, and visual artist) has been mentoring Pinawa Secondary School students Hannah Voth, Marissa Buell and Madi Melnick who want to explore possible careers as professional photographers. The students have been meeting and working with Anita since January and will continue until May, learning as much as possible from her about the art of photography.

WRAC Program Coordinator – Debbie Majeau

Debbie grew up on the edge of the Winnipeg River boundary and is now proudly living deep within the region. She has always had a love for arts and culture but nearest to her heart is building on all the strengths of our region and the amazing people in it. She is a very proud wife and mother who can't wait to hear from all of you. Please feel free to drop her a line.



*The Art Gallery is
OPEN
and you're invited to our
Grand Opening Days.*

*Check Your Calendar
May 02, 03, 04
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

*24 Aberdeen Avenue
(the Lewis Business Centre)*

An Initiative of Pinawa Art 211

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2013
FAMILY FEUD COMES TO LDB.

Location: Lac du Bonnet Community Centre

Time: 6:30-10:30pm

Cost: \$50 (table of 6), \$10 (individual) All ages welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALLISON AT 204-345-8816 OR VIA EMAIL AT wrrdcom@gmail.com

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT COOP, WRRD OFFICE AND INGHAM'S PHARMACY.



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FIRE & WATER MUSIC
FESTIVAL 2013 - check out
their website for details re:
upcoming events,
performers & quilt contest!

RELAY FOR LIFE - CALL FOR
PERFORMERS / MUSICIANS

North Eastman Relay for Life in Lac du Bonnet on June 1st is looking for any local musicians who would like some exposure and perhaps be interested in giving some time to contribute to this event.

At the Relay, teams register and generate sponsorships that are collected to be used to develop and/or enhance existing services to people battling cancer in our region. The event is a track walk which runs for 12 hours from 7pm until 7 am, recognizing that "cancer does not sleep, so neither will we."

The organizers plan activities and entertainment to keep the walkers awake and occupied while they take turns walking the track.

Contact event organizer Sandi Smith.
sandismith168@gmail.com



Picture of Donna Besel, Lac du Bonnet writer, after a reading at Flin Flon Public Library, with Winnipeg writers Chandra Mayor and Jordan Wheeler. All three writers appeared at Flin Flon literary events courtesy of Manitoba Arts and Manitoba Writers' Guild.

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. Enjoy learning from Mary Louise Chown, a qualified art instructor with several years' experience.

10 hours of instruction for \$80 (payable to Winnipeg River Arts Council)

Monday mornings, May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10.
Pinawa Lutheran Church

WRAC PLANNING MEETING

WRAC board met on April 8, 2013 for a planning meeting. We reviewed the results of the artist and arts organization survey, made proposals for events and programs for the upcoming year, and revisited previous planning documents for any changes.

Some items discussed from the planning documents included:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| *Strategic Plan | * Vision Statement |
| * Mission Statement | *Guiding Principles |
| * Strategic Goals | * Key Activities |
| * Measures or Indicators | *Budget |

HERE'S A LETTER ABOUT THE "CELEBRATING STORIES" EVENTS. THESE EASTMAN LIBRARY EVENTS RESULTED FROM PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL, MANITOBA WRITERS' GUILD AND WINNIPEG RIVER ARTS COUNCIL.

April 21, 2013

The Celebrating Stories event recently held at the Library Allard on April 3rd, 2013 in St. Georges was very enjoyable. It was great participating at this event in a musical capacity along with my longtime friend, Marcel Pitre. It appeared that those in attendance enjoyed both the authors' writings and the musical performance. This venue was great exposure for writers and musicians and the benefits to the community will be long lasting. Having music at "Celebrating Stories" gave, in my opinion, good balance to the evening. When doing our portion of the program, and prior to us playing, I gave a bit of background to the music, and the artist(s) who originally performed and recorded each piece. I received positive comments from many of those attending. I would be willing to take part in a similar event, if asked. My thanks to the Manitoba Writers Guild for providing us the opportunity to participate.

Thank-you. Rod Beaudry

MARCEL PITRE AND ROD BEAUDRY



MARCEL PITRE, SUE SORENSEN, ROD BEAUDRY





WRAC FEATURED ARTIST FOR APRIL: JIM NIEDERMAYER

Jim Niedermayer, from the Powerview area, loves to create art from logs. He took up chainsaw carving in 2009, after Pine Falls paper mill shut down. When he won first place in a 2013 competition in The Pas, the *Opasquia Times* interviewed him. He noted, "I had the opportunity to buy all the big wood that was available. Instead of having that wood destined to make paper, I decided to try and make something out of it."

Niedermayer learned how to carve on his own and still has his first bear to remind himself of progress. His father, a knife maker and woodcarver, had given him a book on the subject so he worked at it for about six months. But he already knew how to handle a chainsaw. As a harvester of wild rice from remote lakes, he learned how to make lumber on the spot, ripping logs into boards freehand. In 2010, Niedermayer travelled to a Pennsylvania rendezvous. Despite his apprehensions about not being "good enough," the other participants were surprised he had just started. He explains that his carvings look like caricatures. Although he works hard to get them to look more realistic and even studies anatomy, chainsaws tear into wood quickly, requiring great control to avoid slip-ups. Before he starts, he traces a rough design on the block of wood with chalk or felt marker. In competitions, carvers work non-stop. As Niedermayer said in his Pas interview, manipulating a chainsaw for four hours "is not an easy thing to do." He uses full safety gear - pants, glasses, ear protection, steel toe boots, gloves, and respirator mask.

All wood is salvaged and he prefers birch, highland spruce, cottonwood, and pine. He especially likes pine that has been submerged in water and he often drags big logs out of lakes. He uses three saws, ranging in size from 24" bar to 16" bar for fine details and paints his carvings with Sikens Oil to protect them. He creates bears, eagles, herons, otters, and other wild animals but also gets many requests for tiki bar creatures. Although he sells his carving mostly through word of mouth, he has a website: chainsawsculpture.ca where customers can view his work.

*******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. WRAC newsletter links artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries in the region and promotes art happenings. Please send us your arts news.**