



*Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts*

# WRAC NEWS

**IT'S SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY! TIME TO KICK BACK, SING A SONG, PAINT A PICTURE, WRITE A STORY. OR DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE A NEW THING.**

**PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT WRAC. TELL US ABOUT YOUR 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](#)

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- Featured artist
- PINAWA ART GALLERY GRAND OPENING
- EMJAE COMING SOON
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**READ ALL ABOUT IT:** WRAC board has produced a new brochure with help from local graphic artist, Candace Kekish from The Clipper. The 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. CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR AN ELECTRONIC VERSION! WATCH FOR IT IN LOCAL VENUES! PICK ONE UP! GIVE ONE TO YOUR FRIENDS!

**DESPERATELY SEEKING ARTISTS:** WRAC is looking for artists who'd like to get paid to instruct/demonstrate their specific art at summer festivals or other events. Basically, what we envision would be a bunch of tables set up in a tent or other space where children and adults could try a simple form of the artist's art. For example, a potter could use quick-drying clay to demonstrate how to make a small pot or figure, a visual artist could show how to draw faces, a banjo player could teach how a banjo works, a photographer could make a box camera, or a poet could lead a group in haiku making. You get the picture. Please contact us at above contact info. But no chain saw carvers, please!

**COMING SOON June 12-15 2013 Eastman Judged Art Exhibition:** Pinawa's Art 211 will be hosting this event at the Pinawa Community Centre. This is the fifth time for Pinawa since 1983, as the town celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Entry fees: \$15 for first entry, \$10 for second entry, \$5.00 if you have a third piece for the judges' consideration. Each item will be critiqued by a professional artist under the auspices of the Manitoba Arts Council. Categories: Visual Arts (painting, print making, mixed media and photography), Fibre Arts, Sculpture and Pottery, Jewellery. Each category will be eligible for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place award, with a "People's Choice" award presented on the final day. 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](mailto:ejamckenzie@gmail.com).

## PINAWA ART GALLERY OPENS IN W.B. LEWIS CENTRE

On the weekend of May 2 - 4, Pinawa Art 211 held their grand opening for the new art gallery, located at 24 Aberdeen Avenue. At present, fourteen associate members are exhibiting in the gallery, where they hope to provide an ongoing venue for visual artists in the region to show and sell their work. Local artists can purchase an associate membership for \$30.00 and can display their art, instruct classes and deliver workshops. The gallery will be staffed by volunteer associate members and new art will be displayed as new artists are featured. Art 211 members will also be showcasing art at their annual exhibition/sale, July 19 - 20, in conjunction with the town's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Come and check out the art! Contact Arlene Bohn [arlenebohn1@hotmail.com](mailto:arlenebohn1@hotmail.com) or Joye Platford [joyezart@gmail.com](mailto:joyezart@gmail.com)



Clockwise from above: gallery display, WRAC member Shirley Kurian and her photos, gallery display, WRAC member Janice Charko and her fabric art



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

AUGUST LONG WEEKEND

LAC du BONNET COMMUNITY CENTRE

MUSICAL ACTS

ARTISANS' SQUARE

CHILDREN'S PERFORMERS



VICKIE SHORT, HEAD LIBRARIAN AT LAC DU BONNET LIBRARY, AND DEBBIE WOODFINE, WHO WILL BE RELOCATING TO WINNIPEG TO WORK AND ATTEND SCHOOL AS TEACHER/LIBRARIAN

On Friday, May 3, the Lac du Bonnet Library staff held their spring tea to thank all the volunteers and say farewell to Deb Woodfine, the special events coordinator and assistant librarian. Along with her work at the library, Deb volunteered with Fire & Water board and LDB Trails Association, working to develop the local Trans Canada Trail section. She will be missed by library patrons and many others. Johanna Sokal will be taking over Deb's duties which included: summer reading program, author nights, family literacy events, spring teas, fall supper, and other programs.

**\*\*\*\*\*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](mailto:dab3@mymts). WRAC newsletter links artists, arts organizations, schools and libraries in the region and promotes art happenings. Please send us your arts news. \*\*\*\*\***

**NEW EMPLOYEE** - As you may know, at the beginning of April, WRAC hired part-time staff, Debbie Majeau from Pine Falls/ Powerview to help enhance and advance arts in Eastman. As WRAC'S PROGRAM COODINATOR, Debbie has been working hard to get people in the region working together to make things happen. We encourage artists and arts organizations with any ideas they want to develop/promote to get in touch with Debbie. In the next while, she will be travelling around and talking to people. She has also set up a FACEBOOK page so you can have a look and see what WRAC has been doing lately. [email:info@winnipegriverarts.com](mailto:info@winnipegriverarts.com)  
[phone:\(204\)340-0889](tel:(204)340-0889)



## WINNIPEG RIVER ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The WRAC board invites all members and all interested people to our annual general meeting on June 10 at 7:00 pm, in the Lac du Bonnet Pioneer Club. Come find out about the progress and plans of your regional arts council. Meet the board and our new employee, Debbie Majeau. We will have coffee, tea, juice and snacks for you and we guarantee the meeting will not go on too long. Help select or appoint board members. Give us ideas, feedback, suggestions and encouragement. Learn about the duties and goals of our subcommittees and join one, if you feel so inclined, and if you want to help grow and connect the arts community in Eastman. And we promise – you will not have to join the board (unless you really, really want to do that.)

### REGIONAL ARTS EVENTS:

- In May, Ecole Powerview School drama students hosted of Scottish guests (Sadie Dixon-Spain and the Walking Theatre Company) and worked on a play about the fur trade and its legacy. In June, students will travel to the island of Lismore, Scotland for drama workshops, storytelling, travel to local beaches and caves, and other activities. Teachers Mrs. Kovachik and Mrs. Magnan organized this cultural exchange.
- On May 22, Lac du Bonnet Legion held a coffee house, hosted by Vickie Short, featuring various local musicians. Pioneer Club Kitchen Band, fiddler Roland Volmering, LdB high school bands, Betty Dancyt on piano, and guitar/vocal duo Grant Prosser and Alana Short performed. About 70 people showed up to enjoy the music. They hope to make this an annual event.
- Until June 7, Stan Lesk, well-known Manitoba actor and *Artists in the Schools* instructor, will be helping Whitemouth students increase their improvisation/drama skills. Lesk has worked in *Artists in the Schools* program for 25 years.
- On June 13 at 7:00 pm, Lac du Bonnet Regional Library and Centennial School present “Artists off the Avenue – An Authors’ Evening.” Children’s author Andreas Oertel has been working with 17 students during the school’s “Writer in Residence” program and the children will read from the anthologies they have created.
- Juno award winning performer, Fred Penner, will entertain at Pinawa’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday picnic which starts at 4:00 pm. on July 18. After that, local musicians will perform, wrapping up the evening with a giant sing-along.
- Allard Regional Library is offering classes on “Photography for Everyday Life” in June. Also, *Through the Lens Photo Club* has started up on May 23. Members meet in various shooting locations on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. Call Cyndie Mitchell at 204-345-6034 or email at [ttljbug@gmail.com](mailto:ttljbug@gmail.com)
- **LOVE THOSE BOOKS:** Summer reading programs for interested children will start soon at regional libraries. Check your local library for full details. Kids like to catch up on their reading over the summer!
- Regional recreation directors are presently looking for instructors for fall programs. If you want to teach your art, contact your local rec office and they will help you arrange some classes.
- EMAC ART EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in Pinawa in mid-July. Contact: Vivian Thompson ([thomsv@granite.mb.ca](mailto:thomsv@granite.mb.ca)).
- WRAC is looking for our next featured artist. We do this every month and it helps people learn about local artists. If you’d like your art practice to be showcased in local newspapers, contact Donna Besel (204-345-8513 or [dab3@mymts.net](mailto:dab3@mymts.net)) and submit your bio and a photo. If you don’t know how to write one, she will help you. She would especially like to hear from musicians and music teachers. **LET US TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR ART!**





For the month of May, Winnipeg River Arts Council featured an artist who works with glass, Claudia Chomichuk. Her fascination started as a casual hobby more than thirty years ago. One winter, after taking a stained glass evening course she decided to create a large leaded window panel for her house. She set up a small studio space in her basement and continued to experiment with stained glass whenever she had spare time. When she retired from teaching, she and her husband moved from Winnipeg to their cottage at Hillside Beach in the Rural Municipality of Alexander. The cottage required extensive renovations to convert it to a full-time residence, which created a unique opportunity for Claudia to design her own studio space and spend more time on her designs. Her studio, Purple Pelican Art Glass Studio, occupies the second level of their home. It is here that she hosts a public Open House every two years - and opens her studio to visitors by appointment at other times.

Chomichuk never passes up an opportunity to take classes to upgrade her skills - both in Winnipeg and in Arizona where she spends her winters. Her repertoire now includes fused glass as well. Her work incorporates a full range of styles and techniques: traditional stained glass, three-dimensional leaded glass, fused glass bowls and panels, glass mosaics and creations that contain combinations of these techniques. Her original designs are inspired by her love of her natural world. Lake Winnipeg is prominent in her life and its influence can be seen in many of her works. She spent her childhood on the west shore of the lake and now resides on the east shore. The aspen and pine forests that surround her residence and the flower gardens that she nurtures also influence her work. Her work is sold from her own studio, a local gift shop (Carol's on Leon) and three galleries in Winnipeg (Pulse, Glitz, and Fleet). She does commission work as well. Her work can be viewed on her website: [www.purplepelicanartglass.com](http://www.purplepelicanartglass.com)