



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

AS HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES, REMEMBER AND SHARE CREATIVE GIFTS

The Winnipeg River Arts Council is growing but we need your help. If you know any people involved in the arts, please encourage them to join our organization. Who doesn't know someone who sings or dances or draws? You get the picture! 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
- Xmas Magic
- Featured artists
- EMCA celebrates year of the songbird
- Summer art shows
- And much more!!

PINAWA TO HOST ART EXHIBITION IN 2013

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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DECEMBER LOCAL ARTS EVENTS

- ✓ **December 7th** - Rosemarie Todaschuk and the Mohutniy Ensemble will entertain a crowd at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre with an evening of lively Ukrainian songs and dancing. This wine and cheese fundraising event begins at 7:00pm and is hosted by the Lac du Bonnet Historical society.
- ✓ **December 5-8** - Haystack Productions presents THE REAL LIFE AND ADVENTURES Of SANTA CLAUS in Beausejour at 7:00pm. Pinawa and Lac du Bonnet youth appear in this whimsical comedy.
- ✓ **December 31st** - News Years' Gala, at Lac du Bonnet Community Centre, to raise funds for proposed new Personal Care Home. Dance the night away with live band, Al Andrusco Trio. Call LDB Town Office at 204-345-8693 for tickets.

LAC DU BONNET LIBRARY NEWS

On November 22, patrons met in the library to listen to Pinawa writer Brenda Mackenzie read from her novel, Loving You. The story describes the experiences of a retired couple when their mother develops dementia. After Brenda read an excerpt, she led a question and answer session with the audience. The library had also invited Jackie Dokken from the Alzheimer Society to offer advice and answer questions, and speak about her professional experiences with people who have this illness. Coffee and snacks were served after the presentations

On November 29, the library staff encouraged kids (of all ages?) to attend in their sleepwear. They welcomed them to Pajama Night with fun stories read by fun guest readers and plenty of snacks and drinks. Then they sent them home to bed.

MEMBER NEWS

Check out the November/December issue of THIS magazine.

The national publication, voted "best magazine in Canada" in 2011, published a short memoir called "Fare Well" written by Donna Besel, a writer from Lac du Bonnet. Her 2500 word piece won first place in their 16th annual Great Canadian Literary Hunt (nonfiction category.) In the past, the contest has been won by some of Canada's most well-known writers, such as Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje. This award proves Eastman can compete with Canada's best artists. (Just like Sagkeeng's Finest!)

RURAL YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2013

Once again, ACI (Creative Manitoba) has asked that Eastman be included in their Rural Youth Mentorship Program. This year, the mentor will be Anita Drabek from Pinawa, a photographer, editor, writer, and visual artist. Pinawa youth, ages 16-24, interested in becoming professional artists, interested specifically in photography or water colour painting, and interested in working on their art, can contact Winnipeg River Arts Council, who will be administering this program. Please see ACI website for guidelines.

TELL ME MORE! TELL ME MORE!

Powerview High School drama class presented “Grease” from Monday, November 19th to Saturday, November 24. The cast included 55 performers, with several roles being alternated on different nights, as three casts played in many roles. Each group did an incredible job of bringing their characters to life, and every performance was sold out, with waiting lists for each night. Congratulations to all the actors who got up on the stage, and sang their hearts out, and danced while singing (very difficult, by the way) and sang some more. Directors were Bonnie Borlase, Tanya Magnan, Carolyn Whitford, supported by a group of over thirty volunteers group including stage crew, other teachers, school staff and parents.



**Sabryna
Johannson and
Foxx Dube**

Two of the
many “Grease”
Performers

ROCK BAND IN PINE FALLS

On November 17, Red Rock, a local band played a WRAC fundraising concert at the Legion. Thanks to all the organizers and audience who came out.



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

*WINNIPEG ART GALLERY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

*PLUS -Lots of Xmas themed
concerts and events all across the
province –pick one and enjoy the
sounds and sights of Christmas!

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 the arts development of Eastman, please join our board. WRAC is also looking for volunteers to join the Programs and Partnerships Committee. With this group, you can meet interesting people and make amazing arts events, workshops and programs happen. Sharing your time, skills and expertise will increase the arts profile in North Eastern Manitoba.

EMCA'S "YEAR OF THE SONGBIRD" SEASON CONTINUES WITH XMAS SHOW

On Friday, December 7, you can enjoy a "holiday classic" concert with Evie and Jeff Sawatsky. These talented singers will perform vocal treats for the whole family, accompanied by a four piece band.



JANUARY SHOW

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

Pinawa Players Dinner Theatre

Local residents enjoyed four nights of scandal and laughter (Nov. 21-24) when Pinawa Players presented an off-beat mystery called "Sin, Sex and the CIA."

We look forward to more plays from this group.

Christmas train returns to Whitemouth!

On December 5, people from all across Eastman are invited to hear musical performances from well-known and talented bands such as Doc Walker and several others. Bring your Christmas spirit and non-perishable food for the regional food banks. Please note- this show goes on, even if it's a little chilly so dress for the weather.

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.

Winnipeg Folk Festival: 40th Memory Project Needs Your Memories

Were you at the inaugural festival in 1974? Do you have a special festival tradition? Is there a special moment that lives in your memory? Share your stories through photos, video, audio or text by submitting to 40thmemoryproject.winnipegfolkfestival.ca! Whether you have been attending for just a few years or for generations, we would love to have you participate. As the 40th Memory Project forum fills with your submissions, we hope that you will remember - or discover - the incredible history of the Winnipeg Folk Festival and feel the warm festival glow. For more information, visit <http://www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca/>

#1 FEATURED ARTIST

For October, Winnipeg River Arts Council featured **Irene Friesen**, a potter, writer and gardener from Pinawa. She is also President of Pinawa ART 211 - an association of visual artists in Pinawa and area, and a member of Winnipeg River Arts Council. As a potter, Friesen creates functional and decorative works from wheel thrown porcelain with incised designs, influenced by totem art and the prehistoric pottery of Old Europe. Her love of nature, in the guise of Mother Earth, infuses her work. As much as possible, she uses environmentally friendly methods in her pottery production process. For 30 years, Friesen has honed her artistic skills, working with potters in various communities. While in Winnipeg, she learned from master potter, Kathy Koop, at Stoneware Gallery. Now Friesen teaches emerging potters in North Eastman how to create wheel thrown pottery.

In 2011, she participated as one of six artists in the "Art in the Forest" event. In recent years, she has exhibited at Eastman Juried Exhibitions, EMAC Art Shows, the Forks and Green Water Art Show. Prior to moving to Pinawa in 2007, she sold her work out of Winnipeg's Medea Gallery and Gallery 659. Each year, Friesen holds spring and fall sales in her Pinawa home, the "round house" at 1 Lisgar Place. Upcoming sale on November 10 will feature "bowls, bowls, bowls." She also sells her work at Lac du Bonnet Christmas Craft Sale and Pinawa Market. As a gardener, she incorporates nature's designs and sculptures in her Terra Mandala Meditation Garden, which draws up to 400 visitors from all over the world every year. As a writer, Friesen has published several books based on the oral history method, as well as numerous articles and technical publications. Her other passion is train travel. She has travelled on Trans-Siberian Railway, Trans Mongolian Railway, Pacific Coastliner, and Deutsche Bahn, as well as Via Rail.



Irene Friesen, president of ART 211, welcomes artists, volunteers, family and friends to GREEN WATER ART SHOW in AUGUST OF 2012

#2 FEATURED ARTIST

For November, WRAC featured **Charles Niedermayer**, from Powerview, a multi-talented artist who creates custom knives, carves wood, does taxidermy and makes jewelry. He also handcrafts paddles, snowshoes and various outdoor equipment. Now retired, Niedermayer worked as a power engineer at the Pine Falls mill but he always created his many artistic projects in between shifts and on weekends. And, although he recently turned eighty-four, he continues to make beautiful works of art.

His great love of the outdoors led him to knife making. In 1970, he made his first knife and when friends saw his creations, they wanted to buy them. When asked, he smiles and says he is self-taught, but took one metal heat-treating course, by correspondence. He also read books and magazines, and asked steel companies lots of questions. First he made his own grinder and then bought a professional unit. Then he collected tools such as a band saw and drill press. By the early 1980's, he had established a knife making business.

Niedermayer knives have been exhibited at knife shows in Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary, and at gun shows in Winnipeg. He has sold them to customers from all across Canada, Africa, Scotland, Germany, New Zealand, and United States. Hunters in the Arctic especially love his knives. All sales are generated by word-of-mouth. Despite no advertisements, he still can't keep up with requests, which new owners seek as exquisite gifts or as collectors' items. His customers do not quibble at his prices, because they can instantly see the amount of work which has gone into each creation.

Niedermayer crafts his knife handles from various materials: deer, elk and moose antlers, ivory, bison horn, metals, jawbones of bear and timber wolf, and exotic woods and shells from all over the world. He shapes and heat treats his blades in the summer, making a few copies of the popular styles. He also handcrafts the sheaths, cutting leather, hand sewing, decorating the outer surfaces with stencils and etchings, and installing plastic inserts so the knives are protected and don't slip out. He also makes knives for chefs, for which he creates special wooden sheaths. His wife Christine has an impressive collection of kitchen knives, kept in a wooden rack on a pantry door.

