



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

WRAC Contact Information

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Bernice Phillip's art on saws

- **TELL US ABOUT YOUR ARTS EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES.**
- **CONNECT, INSTRUCT OR PROMOTE!**
- **MAKE ARTS COME ALIVE IN EASTMAN!**
- **LIBRARIES/SCHOOLS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

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OFFICE SPACE FOR WRAC: Jennifer Hudson Stewart has set up office in Winnipeg River Community Futures building in Lac du Bonnet (between RBC and Sunova). She's there on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 12:00. (See contact info to set up an appointment). If you have business cards, brochures or samples of your art that you'd like to display, you can leave them there.

EMCA Season Continues in 2015

Exciting line-up includes:

MARCH 20 – Cadence

APRIL 24 – Suzie Vinnick

All concerts start at 8:00 P.M.

Pinawa Community Centre/ High School Gym

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Please email info@winnipegriverarts.com for regional promotion of your arts news and shows.

Do you live in the Town of Lac du Bonnet or Victoria Beach area? WRAC is looking for a BOARD MEMBER from either community. Contact WRAC office .

ART EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY ALLARD: Myrtle Lalor is a familiar name to long-time residents from the Powerview-Pine Falls area. She was a poet and musician, avid gardener, and founder of the first library in this region. Last, but far from least, she was an accomplished painter whose watercolours of the Winnipeg River in its early days bring to life a time that many of us never had an opportunity to know. The St. Georges Historical Society will be holding an Art Exhibit to honour Mrs. Lalor and feature her work. The Bibliothèque Allard Library will be home to a number of her paintings for a couple of weeks, launched by a reception on the evening of **March 20th from 7:00-9:00pm**. We are eager to share these glimpses of our countryside as it was many years ago, and look forward to seeing many of you at the library for the showing. Apparently Mrs. Lalor gave a number of her paintings as gifts to people over the years. Do you have one of these paintings in your home (or know someone who does)? Would you be willing to loan it to the museum for the period of the art exhibit so everyone can see it? If so, please contact Diane Dubé (367-9970), Don MacLellan (367-2627), or Lorie Finkbeiner (367-2738).

Recently, the Eastman arts community was saddened to learn of the passing of Claudia Chomichuk, a talented artist and WRAC member, who worked on her amazing glass creations in her beautiful studio, Purple Pelican Art Glass Studio, at Hillside Beach in the RM of Alexander. WRAC offers sincerest condolences to her family.

MTC TOURING SHOW: On February 14, WRAC presented Manitoba Theatre Centre's touring play, "Armstrong's War" in Pinawa, and the audience responded to this thought-provoking performance. **Justin Otto**, a graduate of Lac du Bonnet Senior School in 2009, played Michael Armstrong. His parents live in Pinawa. This was a unique opportunity to see a professional production, supported by MTC's amazing touring crew. Kenzie Neufeld, visiting Gail Davey's granddaughter in Lac du Bonnet, won the lap quilt, made and donated for the raffle by Karen Munn, WRAC's treasurer. Gail says, "Both girls talked about the play for two days." Vickie Short, librarian at Lac du Bonnet Library, won the 50/50 draw. The play attracted 109 people and recruited a small army of volunteers who showed up from across the region to help set up and pack up (3 students from Whitemouth School, 3 students from Powerview School, 5 students from Pinawa Senior School, 5 adults from Pinawa Players, 1 adult from Lac du Bonnet, and 2 adults from St. Georges). WRAC also thanks Barrie Burnett and Rich Hamon from Pinawa for technical advice. WRAC is already looking forward to next year's show.

St-Georges Historical Society Exhibit of Myrtle Lalor Art

This organization is planning an exhibit of the art of Myrtle Lalor (see above) and they are looking for portable walls on casters if possible, gridwall panels and tabletop easels. Some of the paintings are 24" x 28" and have glass fronts so they are heavy. If you have display stands, etc that you would be willing to lend for this exhibit, please contact Diane Dubé at 204.367.9970 or cdc@granite.mb.ca

Save the Date - April 23/15

Lac du Bonnet Library invites people to their third annual **Celebrating Stories** evening. It will feature two authors: Dana Wood with her book, *Mama, I'm Not Gone*, and local Lac du Bonnet resident, Michelle Grimmelt and her book *The Aura of the North*. Singer-songwriter Cohen Sieg will also entertain with his guitar. Watch for the posters and more info!

PINAWA ART GALLERY: Gallery hours are Thursday - Saturday from 11:00 - 3:00 PM. No admission charged and all items are for sale. The Gallery can process VISA or MasterCard charges for larger items. If you've never visited before, it is located in the Lewis Business Centre on Aberdeen Avenue.

VISUAL ARTISTS - PLEASE NOTE: For this year only, two important art organizations in Eastern Manitoba will join for an art extravaganza in Lac du Bonnet. The Eastman Judged Art Exhibition 2015 will be held in Lac du Bonnet in conjunction with the annual "Fire and Water" festival. Pinawa Art 211 members will also be in place with their annual show and sale to complement the Judged Art event. The concurrent events will be July 30 - Aug. 02. Pinawa Art 211 will not be part of the annual Pinawa birthday celebrations for 2015 because of this co-joined event in Lac du Bonnet but welcome guests to their other initiative, The Pinawa Art Gallery in the W. B. Lewis Centre, Aberdeen Avenue.

Check out WRAC website for lots of info: newsletters, artists' profiles, by-laws, sponsors, and links to great arts related sites!



Photo from previous Eastman Judged Art Exhibition in Pinawa

Cabin fever spawns creativity for Eastman Judged Art Exhibition: Although we might feel like a nation of shut-ins right now, there is lots of activity going on behind opaque, frost covered windows. Artists and artisans are busy retaining their spirit and sanity working in the media of their choice. The isolation of our province, its weather and its cultural diversity has generated a unique talent pool of creative individuals. The existence of talent is certainly not absent from the Eastman region and an opportunity to showcase the eclectic work of its artists and artisans is coming up this summer at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre on the long weekend of July 31st to August 2nd. The event is the **Eastman Judged Art Exhibition**, co-sponsored by **Fire & Water Music and Arts Festival** and **Winnipeg River Arts Council**. All artists from the Eastman Region are invited to participate. Categories for entry are **painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, fibre arts, mixed media and digital art**. Three professional judges will be adjudicating the work and providing constructive feedback. Honorary awards will be also be generated for each category.

WRAC
Featured
Artist for
FEBRUARY
2015-
BERNICE
PHILLIPS



For this month, Winnipeg River Arts Council featured Bernice Phillips, a visual artist from Powerview-Pine Falls. Although she has lived there for thirty-nine years, she still feels inspired by the beauty of the river and surrounding forests. Phillips grew up in Rivers, Manitoba, but moved to the area in grade ten. After marriage, she lived in Toronto for two years, but returned to be closer to her family and nature.

Phillips paints mostly with acrylics, on various surfaces, and likes to decorate useable objects such as glass blocks and furniture. She also learned how to use water colours and airbrush, and paints murals on walls of all kinds. Like many artists, she took up painting after attending a workshop. Since then, she has taken many classes and gone on to instruct other artists. She notes two workshops which especially influenced her, one with Nancy Lou Ateah from Victoria Beach, and another with Roberta Laliberte from Powerview-Pine Falls.

Phillips likes experimenting, and reads to learn more about brushes, paint and other products. She says, “I look at growing things, to see how they’re put together. I try to replicate that.”

In 2013, she exhibited her work at Eastman Judged Art Exhibition in Pinawa. During March, her paintings will be displayed at Gwen Fox Gallery in Selkirk, which will also showcase the art of her sister, Emily De Groot. Phillips used to sell her work, along with forty other artists, at the Artists’ Coop near Grand Beach. She also served on the Winnipeg River Arts Council board.

For twelve years, Phillips sold local artists’ work in her store, “Through the Arbour,” in downtown Pine Falls. This store also carried coffee, chocolates, handicrafts, health foods and herbal products. Her husband, Jon Phillips, does massage therapy in a room in the back and proudly shows visitors examples of his wife’s art.

Recently, Phillips downsized her business but the store is still open and the massage therapy continues. She says, “I am grateful; my family has always supported my art. It means a lot to me.”

ART OF MANAGING YOUR CAREER COMING TO EASTMAN

ACI (Creative Manitoba) has asked Winnipeg River Arts Council to partner in running The Art of Managing Your Career course in the Winnipeg River region during the upcoming spring.

Several local artists have already expressed interest in taking this course but WRAC needs to guarantee 10 - 15 participants to make it worthwhile to run it in the area.

This is a course for self-employed artists, developed by artists and cultural workers. ACI has run The Art of Managing Your Career for four years now and over 200 Manitoban artists have graduated! The course costs \$200 for ACI members.

Instructor is **Heather Bishop**. She is a musician, visual artist, social activist and teacher and has been awarded the Order of Canada, Order of Manitoba, and the YM/YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. She is known, first and foremost, as a talented singer/songwriter who has toured the world for several decades.

AMYC will help you to:

- Envision and develop a career strategy
- Create a business plan Market and promote your work
- Manage a project
- Manage your financial affairs
- Manage legal matters
- Communicate effectively
- Develop effective business skills

Who is the course designed for? The course is open to anyone with an existing arts practice including actors, craftspeople, dancers, filmmakers, musicians, new media content creators, visual artists and writers. If you are a self-employed artist, or looking to increase the portion of your employment derived from your art, then this course is for you.

Dates have not yet been finalized. You can contact **Jennifer Hudson Stewart** to let her know if you are interested. Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com Phone: (204) 340-0889

You can also check out the ACI website for more detailed information about The Art of Managing Your Career. Or, if you have any further questions about the course, please email **Alicia** at alicia@creativemanitoba.ca

FYI: Applications will require a completed form, resume, and an updated portfolio to showcase your work.