



Winnipeg River Regional Arts Council Press Release

Date: February 8, 2012

The Winnipeg River Arts Council Inc. (WRAC) is now ready to enhance quality of life in north eastern Manitoba by advancing arts and culture throughout the region. Political leaders and interested individuals have worked for several years to make this dream a reality. The dream evolved from concept (2009) to an incorporated non-profit organization with a Board of Directors (2011) and will begin delivering arts services and programming in 2012. Arts councils provide opportunities to experience literary, visual, and performing arts, and also support the development of artists and arts organizations. The Winnipeg River corridor needed a regional arts council. And now it has one!

WRAC looks forward to serving residents, visitors, artists and arts groups within the Winnipeg River corridor (east of Highway 11 and north of Highway 317). The region is culturally diverse and home to many talented artists and arts organizations that provide opportunities for arts and culture. WRAC's regional structure will help community arts organizations, schools and recreation services work together to plan larger regional arts initiatives by facilitating the sharing of resources, information and talents. WRAC seeks to contribute to economic grow by promoting the region's arts and cultural assets to residents and tourists.

WRAC's support for development came from a variety of partners including the Town of Powerview/ Pine Falls, Town and Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, Rural Municipality of Alexander, Local Government District of Pinawa, Winnipeg River Community Adjustment Committee, Community Futures Winnipeg River, Manitou Rapids Arts Council, Data Helps, and Sveinson Design.

WRAC invites all artists, arts organizations or individuals interested in the arts to support the Winnipeg River Arts Council by

- providing ideas and input through the inventory/needs assessment which will be conducted this spring
- becoming a member (individual, family, or organization)
- volunteering for committee work related to arts programming, fundraising, communications or governance.

Get involved and help enhance art and culture in our communities and region.

For more information, or to express your interest, please contact Don MacLellan, President at 204-367-2627 (dsmaclellan@mymts.net) or Donna Besel, Secretary at 204-345-8513 (dab3@mymts.net).

WRAC

ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2012

News



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This newsletter is for you! The Winnipeg River Arts Council has worked hard to get our new organization established and we thank you for your support. We are very excited about our progress so far and also very excited about this first newsletter. But 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. We want to grow a strong arts community in our region.



**SAMPLES OF GREEN
WATER ART DISPLAYS**

Building a Regional Arts Coalition

**Can you imagine a region that is widely known and sought for its rich and diverse arts/culture?
Where people of all ages are enthused and involved in arts activities?
Where talents are found and developed? Where creativity is celebrated and embraced?
Where people and groups join together to continually enhance the arts in numerous ways?**

The WRAC Board of Directors sees this vision and needs your help if you see it too. The new regional arts council creates a structure for arts enthusiasts to come together. What is accomplished through this structure will depend on the combined ideas and actions of our membership. Please help build our regional arts coalition by...

- Recruiting more WRAC members. Share our informational brochure and website with others.
- Joining a subcommittee or becoming a board member.
- If you are an artist or part of an arts organization, complete our survey so we can learn about your strengths, challenges, and activities.

More info on all the above can be accessed at www.winnipegriverarts.com.

***Working together for a creative north eastern Manitoba.
We have the assets. Let's put them together and market what we have.***

WRAC Contact Information

Box 1199, Lac du Bonnet, MB, ROE 1A0

Website: winnipegriverarts.com Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com

Phone: (204) 340-0889



Proposal Writing Workshop

*Take your project from idea to reality.
Sharpen your grant writing skills.*

Workshop Logistics

Where: Lac du Bonnet (location TBA)

When: 6:00 -9:30 pm on Thursday, October 11, 2012

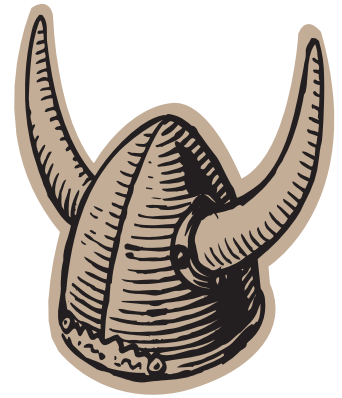
Facilitator: Sharalyn Reitlo, Community Futures Winnipeg River

Cost: \$25 (members) \$35 (nonmembers)

Understand the key elements associated with planning and funding a project. Topics include:

- Overview information about funding agencies and proposals
- 4 stages of proposal writing
- Sources of project funding
- How to find and match funders for your project

STORY TELLING CONCERT & WORKSHOP



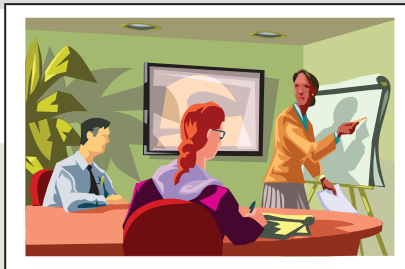
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members, arts enthusiasts and interested people encouraged to attend

Monday, September 24, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

Pioneer Club @ 32 Park Avenue in Lac du Bonnet

Informational meeting, idea sharing, board elections, refreshments & networking



Norse and Celtic Tales

A storytelling concert for adults

Performing Artists: Mary Louise Chown, Tom Roche

When: Nov 3

Where: Pinawa Lutheran Church

Cost: \$12/ticket for WRAC members; \$15 for nonmembers

For tickets, contact Irene Friesen, 204-753-2699, wolfston@mts.net

FOR INFO ON THESE ACTIVITIES CONTACT WRAC

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Storytelling Workshop

Use active listening skills to hear the stories of elders and learn techniques for telling their life stories. The workshop draws on Mary Louise Chown's recent book, *Now I Know the World is Round: Stories at the End of Life*. This workshop benefits persons involved in eldercare, palliative care and spiritual care.

Maximum – 8 participants

Facilitator: Mary Louise Chown

When: Nov 5, 12, 19 from 2:00 - 4:30pm

Where: Pinawa Lutheran Church

Cost: \$60 for WRAC members; \$75 for non-members.

Pre-register by October 27th. Contact Irene Friesen, 204-753-2699, wolfston@mts.net

Featured Member

Joye Platford



Joye Platford is a visual artist whose work was recently exhibited at the Green Water Art Show in Lac du Bonnet. Platford grew up in Pinawa, and has always done some sort of art or creating. If you give her markers, crayons, clay, paper, scissors, paint and glue, she is one happy person. She did art all the way through to grade twelve. After graduation, she studied to be a teacher. She taught in Winnipeg and later moved to Montreal to study theology and became a Presbyterian Minister. She has always taken art classes on the side because they filled her creative spirit. She has lived in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and Saskatchewan and has always found a community of artists to have classes and share in creative pursuits.

In 2009, she was diagnosed with colo-rectal cancer and returned to Manitoba. When she was sick, she found strength with her family and her faith. She also found strength and comfort in making art. After visiting the oncologist for the first time, she went to the art store and bought a big splurge of art supplies. She didn't make any great works of art while she was sick but she doodled, painted and did pottery and it helped her face her struggles. She is better now – two years since she finished her cancer treatments!

Platford is fascinated with the connection between the creation of art and the human spirit. For her, making art is like another language, and it is like prayer. People say sometimes to her, "I can't do art." And she says, "Yes, you can you just have to start." She did an art and prayer class with Pinawa Christian Fellowship (PCF) last spring. **She is going to offer another class this fall, "Art and Spirit," on Monday night for youth and Tuesday night for adults. The class will begin on September 17, \$25 for five weeks at the PCF office in the Lewis Center in Pinawa. Email joyezart@gmail.com if interested.**

Platford is looking forward to continued good health, the fall , and to being part of a creative community of artists in the Winnipeg River Arts Council.

FUTURE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

As WRAC continues to develop and gain more members, it becomes increasing 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) on the fourth Friday of each month.**

Within the WRAC newsletter is opportunity for news from you the members to be included. 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, by the 3rd Friday of each month at dab3@mymts.net.

Arts Information and Resources

Manitoba Arts Council Upcoming Grant Deadlines:

September 15

- Craft
- Playwrights
- Theatre Production
- Dance Creation /Production

September 20

- Creation /Production in Visual Arts – A,B,C

September 25

- Aboriginal Arts Creative Development
- Aboriginal Arts Mentorship Training & Development

ARTS AND CULTURE DAY AT THE LEG

Thursday, November 1, 2012

The Manitoba Arts and Cultural Alliance (MACA) is looking for artists, arts organization reps, arts educators, supporters and patrons of all ages to speak with MLAs and Ministers about ways the provincial government can help the creative sector flourish.

Interested in participating? Contact MACA by September 7 to express interest. Attendance at delegates' orientation on October 30 is mandatory.

Contact

Email: day@manitobaartsandculturalalliance.com
Phone: 1-866-802-1104 or 204-827-2787

Artist Development Workshop

When: September 22, 9am – 4pm

Where: Pinawa (location TBA)

Facilitator: Bev Pike, [MAWA](#) mentor who recently delivered a similar workshop for [ACI Manitoba](#)

Cost: \$20 if you register by Sept 12th; \$30 after Sept 13th. Make cheque payable to Winnipeg River Arts Council.

Register: Contact Joye Platford, Box 653, Pinawa R0E 1L0, 204-753-8471, joyezart@gmail.com.

This workshop helps visual artists qualify for funding as “professional artists” in school and community programs

- ❖ Learn how to write an artist statement
- ❖ Learn how to write an artist CV
- ❖ Learn how to submit named photographs of your artwork in the required size and resolution
- ❖ Learn how to prepare your submission for grant applications

Other topics may include:

- How to document artwork
- How to apply to galleries for exhibitions
- How to work with a group to create and mount a gallery exhibition
- How to develop a lesson plan for “Artist in the Schools”
- Explore the idea of producing a “body of work”

**Writers and performing artists welcome to attend
Workshop funding provided by Manitoba Arts Council**

WRAC Partners to Host Green Water Art Show



PEOPLE'S CHOICE 1ST JOAN CHASE



SAMPLES OF ART DISPLAYS



PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2ND ARLENE BOHN

Recently, WRAC partnered with Pinawa Art 211 and Fire 'n Water Music festival to present an art exhibit for local artists. All three organizations thank Manitoba Arts Council for funding and support for this regional show, held in the Lac du Bonnet Pioneer Club during the August long weekend. The busy week-end began on the Friday night when WRAC hosted a wine and cheese reception for artists, board members, and invited guests. President Don MacLellan welcomed the audience. Irene Friesen spoke on behalf of Pinawa Art 211 and Sheldon Sveinson delivered a message from Fire 'n Water. Networking among artists ensued while music by Norm Vezina was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday and Sunday, crowds poured into the “gallery” to enjoy and purchase the diverse high-quality paintings, drawings, quilts, pottery, fabric art, and photography on display. Pamphlets with information about the artists, their “green water” theme piece, and their text interpretation of “green water” were also available. Leona Brown, a well-known water colorist, led a workshop for adults and another for children. Walter Keller, a wood carver from Elma, worked his chain saw and chisels on a large tree trunk outside the Pioneer Club and also led a woodcarving workshop.

Art viewers voted on their two favorite pieces from a collection which included one art sample from each artist, tied to the theme of “green water.” Joan Chase from Otter Falls won first place in the “People's Choice” Awards for her water color entitled “Camouflaged.” Arlene Bohn took second prize for her triptych entitled “Ice Tag.” Congratulations and thanks to each artists that took the time and effort to present their work at this show. Thanks also to all the many volunteers who organized, set up, fed, made coffee, and cleaned up.

WRAC

News

VOL 1, #5

SEPTEMBER 2012



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INSIDE:

- WRAC Proposal Writing Workshop
- Featured Member – Shirley Kurian
- WRAC Annual General Meeting
- EMCA Celebrates Year of the Songbird

Building a Regional Arts Coalition

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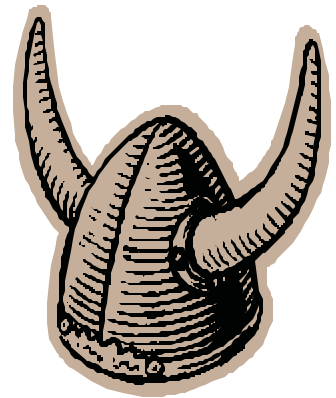
Workshop Logistics

Where: Lac du Bonnet Centennial School
When: 6:00 -9:30 pm on Thurs, October 11, 2012
Facilitator: Sharalyn Reitlo, Community Futures Winnipeg River 204-213-0110 reitlo@cfwr.mb.c
Cost: \$25 (members) \$35 (nonmembers)

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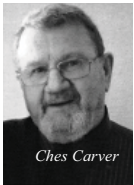
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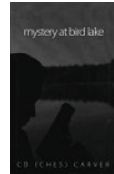
For tickets, contact Irene Friesen, 204-753-2699, wolfston@mts.net



Ches Carver

Canadian Libray Month

October is Canadian Library Month. To celebrate, Lac du Bonnet Regional Library is hosting a local author – Ches Carver! Ches will be at the library Thursday, October 4th from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. to talk to us a little about himself and his two books "The Mystery at Bird Lake" and "Murky Water." Ches was born, raised, and educated in the Maritimes. At 17 he left home and joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He later joined the St. James-Assiniboia Police Force, eventually moving on to starting his own security and investigation business. He and his wife Dorothy are now retired and living in Lac du Bonnet. He will have copies of his books for sale. Come by to have him sign your copy! Doors open at 7:00. Hope to see you there!



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Featured Member

Shirley Kurian



The Winnipeg River Arts Council's September featured artist is Shirley Kurian, a photographer who has lived in Lac du Bonnet area for the past 10 years and works as a hairstylist in Shirley's Hair Salon. She loves living on the Lee River where the constantly changing natural environment provides opportunities for great shots. Just as she enjoys helping her clients look and feel great, she enjoys finding beauty in her surroundings. She says, "I love to take photographs! The outdoors is my inspiration, and photography is my passion and obsession." Her other passions include travel, gardening, walking, hiking, and kayaking.

For as long as she can remember, Kurian has liked taking pictures. She says, "My goal is to share what I see, through my lens." She photographs anything and everything that catches her eye. Recently, she exhibited her work at the Green Water Art Show, held in Lac du Bonnet on the August long weekend, where visitors responded with great enthusiasm to her pictures. She uses her camera to create unique images, aided by the changing light at dusk and dawn, and seeks to capture the abstract shapes, colours and muted tones she discovers around her. From her stunning photos, she creates framed prints and also makes her pictures into greeting cards. Her work can be found for sale at her own hair salon, Daisy Dew Drop in Lac du Bonnet, and the PCDC store in the Pinawa mall.

Kurian does not have formal training but has taught herself, refining her work through trial and error. However, she has taken photography workshops and courses, reads *Photography Magazine*, and finds plenty of information on the internet. She believes photography is the one thing that connects us to everything in the world. Her motto – "Find Beauty in All Things" is reflected in her art, and in many other parts of her life.

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Arts Information and Resources

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October 1

- Touring Grant for Individuals/Small Ensembles
- Touring Directory

October 15

- Travel/Professional Development Grant

November 5

- Film/Video Grants (Script Development, Project, Production)

Manitoba Arts News

CREATIVE FUTURE CONFERENCE

Featuring Jann Arden and Sagkeeng's Finest
Winnipeg, October 1-2

JOAN THOMAS, NEW AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE AT THE WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 2012 to March 2013

MANITOBA ARTS NETWORK SHOWCASE CONTACT

October 11-14, 2012,
Virden, MB

MANITOBA WRITERS GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Winnipeg, October 20, 2012

MANITOBA WRITERS GUILD IN DIALOGUE READING SERIES

Starts October 22 at Winnipeg Free Press News Café

ARTS AND CULTURE DAY AT THE LEG

Thursday, November 1, 2012



The Travelling Mabels open the EMCA Season

EMCA Celebrates “The Year of the Songbird”

With a slate of performers rich in female artists, the Eastern Manitoba Concert Association has chosen as its theme “The Year of the Songbird”.

On Oct. 5 the season starts with the Travelling Mabels, 3 women who come together for an evening of delightful country harmony.

In November, Oh My Darling, a quartet of women, entertains with a unique brand of old time sounds of Appalachia, a Southern twang, Franco-folk and some funk inspired bass lines.

The Christmas show, by Evie and Jeff Sawatzky, accompanied by a 4-piece band, will entertain with timeless holiday favourites

In January, Russian pianist Georgy Tchaidze and the Canadian Cecilia String Quartet, present a program of solo and chamber music.

In February critically acclaimed U.S. singer/songwriter Peter Karp and Canadian Juno award winner Sue Foley will present an exciting and moving evening of folk, jazz, flamenco and blues.

In March, Destino, a 3 men and one woman group, presents an evening of music that draws from the past and from the present- today’s pop and yesterday’s classics.

The season closes in April with Trio Bembe transporting us to Cuba, Brazil and Chile for an evening of Latin World Music.



Annual General Meeting

September 24, 2012

The Winnipeg River Arts Council Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, September 24. After the call to order and the introduction of the new Administrator, Don Norman, the Board shared a moment of silence in honor of former Board member, Ron Drabyk, who passed away on May 21.

The meeting then moved on to the committee reports. Board president, Don Maclellan gave the President’s Annual Achievement report. Then, outgoing board member, and board treasurer Leslie Wakeman presented the financial Report and Donna Besel presented both the Program and Partnerships Subcommittee report and the Communications Subcommittee report.

Some minor adjustments were made to the organization’s constitution and those changes were approved.

The board received some resignations for the upcoming year. Jill Whitford, Irene Friesen and Leslie Wakeman, will all be missed and without their contributions, the WRAC would not have been able to achieve all it did in the past year. Katherine Jones will be coming on as a new board member.

The board will not be having a regular meeting in October but will resume regular monthly meetings in November.



Asham Stompers

High-energy jig and square dance group
Lac du Bonnet Community Centre
Friday, October 12th

Doors open at 7:15, first show starts at 8
Cost: Ages 18+ \$15; Ages 17- \$10

Ticket Locations

LdB: Ingham Pharmacy, Co-op Gas Bar, Community Centre, Pioneer Club
Beausejour: Co-op Gas Bar and Co-op Grocery

Pine Falls: Shell Gas Station

Pinawa: Solo Market

Whitmouth: First Stop Grocers

Tickets available at the door

Rush Seating No Reservations

Info: 345-6737

Pinawa Players Dinner Theatre

November 22, 23 and 24 at the Pinawa Community Centre (performance only November 21). For more information call 204-753-2389

or visit www.pinawaplayers.com

PathMakers: Women Strengthening Community

Provides women with tools and knowledge to grow their leadership and mentoring skills. We offer support for crafting strategies that include women in directing change in their workplaces and communities. The program will run from October 16, 2012 – March 5, 2013. Sessions will be held every 2 weeks on Tuesdays, 4:30 – 8:30pm.



Draw for Quilted Wall Hanging

Pinawa Art 211 is holding a draw for a quilted wall hanging by local artist Maureen Carefoot. Maureen recently moved to Kelowna, BC, but just prior to moving she donated this attractive display to Pinawa Art 211. The draw is being held on October 8, and tickets can be purchased at the Co-op in Pinawa, the Solo store in Pinawa, or by calling Irene Friesen at 204-753-2699



Enhancing North Eastern Manitoba by Advancing Arts

WRAC NEWS

FALL IS FOR ART! IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR TO SETTLE IN AND ENJOY!

The Winnipeg River Arts Council has worked hard to get our new organization established and we are very excited about our progress so far. But 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. HELP US grow a strong arts community in our region. WRAC is working for you!

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?

One comment we have often encountered as we make connections and build awareness of the local arts scene is “Oh, I don’t really consider myself an “artist.” Some might think WRAC exists only for visual artists, that is, people who paint or sketch or sculpt. They don’t realize many others can be “artists” in the broadest sense of the word. If, when you describe yourself, you can insert “writer, potter, dancer, carver, videographer, knitter, quilter, musician, knife maker, photographer,” or any other art form identifiers you can think of, then you can call yourself an “artist.” Try it; you will be surprised how it feels.

Best of all, you don’t have to be a “professional,”(meaning you get paid to make art), to call yourself an “artist”. You can be working at any level, for fun, for relaxation, for decoration, for stress relief, for learning, or for hopes it might develop into something bigger. We want to help you at all these levels, with instruction, support, promotion, marketing, assistance with finding grants, connections with professional organizations, and introductions to other artists with whom you can learn and grow.

Also, you may have friends who make art and they also may need to be told they can call themselves “artists.” For example, the talented quilter friend you have gotten together with for years to stitch and visit with, the teenager next door who loves to make funny videos for YouTube, your work colleague who takes incredible nature photos, the teacher who puts on amazing plays and musicals for her school, these are all “artists.”

So let them know they are “artists” and let them know about WRAC.

INSIDE:

- Story Telling Magic
- Author Visits
- Writing Workshop
- EMCA Celebrates Year of the Songbird
- and much more!!

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Storytelling Concert

On November 2 at 7:30 pm, a sold out audience of 43 people assembled in Lutheran Church in Pinawa for an evening of spellbinding Celtic and Norse stories. The ambiance in the room had been carefully altered to set the mood, with soft chairs, plenty of candles, ornate rug, and lush fabrics spread over furniture. After a call to assemble by Tom Roche, and a warm welcome from event organizer Irene Friesen, Esme Boone played her harps and sang Celtic ballads, Mary Louise Chown told Norse stories of great gods and great loves, and Tom Roche captivated the crowd with vivid tales of long ago days. The audience, ranging in age from teenage to seniors, listened with rapt attention to every word and note. During the break, home baking and delicious teas were served. WRAC thanks the story tellers for their great skills and good humour, and event organizers, Irene Friesen and Karla Haugen for a truly fascinating evening. Audience members said they would love another storytelling concert.

Lac du Bonnet Library News

On November 2, patrons met in the library to listen to writer Ches Carver read from his work. He read a piece called "Contentment," describing his outlook on life in at his riverside home, published in *Experience Lac du Bonnet*. He also read from his two self-published books called Murky Water and Mystery at Bird Lake. After the reading, Ches answered questions and library guests enjoyed his wife Dorothy's delicious cookies and some coffee and other beverages. Ches has his books for sale in various locations around town.

On November 21, the library once again invites people to listen to a local author. Brenda McKenzie from Pinawa will be sharing excerpts from her book, *Loving You*, a novel about a retired couple trying to find help for a family member dealing with dementia.

Member News - Minnedosa Creative Writing Workshop

On November 24, Donna Besel will lead a creative writing workshop in Minnedosa, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Cost is \$60.00 per person. Number of participants will be limited to eight. Workshop will be held at Fairmont Bed and Breakfast, owned by Susan Proven, who has offered to provide overnight accommodations and meals for out-of-town guests. On November 25, the group will host a pot-luck lunch and discuss Donna Besel's published writing. Anyone interested can contact her (phone 1-204-345-8513 or email dab3@mymts.net) for more details, and transportation, if needed.

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!

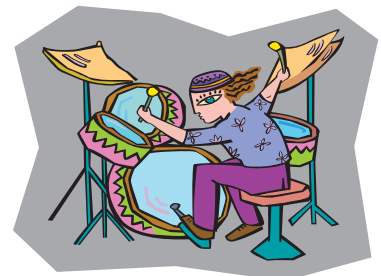
Powerview high school drama class presents “Grease” from Monday, November 19th to Saturday, November 24. Monday to Friday shows (evening) will open doors at 5:15 and curtain call is 6:00. Saturday matinee will open doors at 1:15 and curtain call is 2:00. Tickets will be sold at school office and cost \$8.00. Three casts will play in many roles and each group does an incredible job of bringing their characters to life. Come see Sandy and Danny fall in love, watch the Greasers be cool and enjoy teenage fun from the fifties.

**Please note: script contains adult content. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today.



CLASSIC ROCK BAND PLAYING IN PINE FALLS

On November 17, Red Rock, a local band will play a WRAC fundraising concert at the Legion. Tickets cost \$10.00. Come out and hear some live music with your friends! Contact Don MacLellan, WRAC President, at 204 367-2627 for more info.



ARTS NEWS AND EVENTS

JOAN THOMAS

NEW AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE AT
THE WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY
October 2012 to March 2013

THEATRE SEASON STARTS!

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre
Warehouse Theatre
Manitoba Theatre for Young People
Prairie Theatre Exchange
Theatre Projects
Jewish Theatre

MANITOBA WRITERS GUILD IN DIALOGUE READING SERIES

at Winnipeg Free Press News Café, see
Manitoba Writers' Guild website for lineup

ARTS AND CULTURE DAY AT THE LEG

Thursday, November 13, 2012

WINNIPEG ART GALLERY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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. Magnost at the school.



HELP WANTED

As of the September 24 Annual General meeting, WRAC has three vacancies on the board. If you want to make a difference in the arts development of Eastman, please join our board. WRAC also needs volunteers to join the fun subcommittee of **Programs and Partnerships**. With this group, you can meet interesting people and make amazing arts events, workshop and instruction happen. If you would like to make a difference in the future of the arts in Eastman, please share your skills and expertise. Help make partnerships and programs happen! Call Don at 367-2627 for more information or to express your interest in either of these roles.

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.



This is the November view of the big rock outside the windows, on the south wall of Library Allard in St. Georges. What a great place to sit and read!

Pinawa Players Dinner Theatre

November 22, 23 and 24 at the Pinawa Community Centre (performance only November 21).

For more information call 204-753-2389 or visit www.pinawaplayers.com

STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!

On October 12th, the high energy Asham Stompers entertained a crowd at Lac du Bonnet Community Centre. They danced the traditional Aboriginal dances of the Red River, a combination of square dance and jigging. They have performed all over, from Dauphin's Countryfest to the 2010 Winter Olympics and they always look as if they're having a lot of fun. Be sure to check them out if they come again.

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, by the third Friday of each month at dab3@mts.net.



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

Box 1199, Lac du Bonnet, MB, R0E 1A0

Website: winnipegriverarts.com Email: info@winnipegriverarts.com

Phone: (204) 340-0889

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
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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!

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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.

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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.

