

Synergy

The newsletter of Lake of the Woods Arts Collective

Volume 2; Issue 1; September 2009



Inspiring unity, joy and opportunity through the arts

Our First Anniversary

Looking Back, Looking Forward

By Kim Kahoot, Co-chair

As it is for many people, September is my 'New Year'. While the kiddies are heading back to school, I look in my rear-view mirror, change gears, set the compass and GO! Resolutions, intentions and goals fly from me like nobody's business. I am in renew mode. The slate is blank. I've got a big, white chalk and I am just itching to use it.

A wise woman once told me you have to first know where you have been to get where you are going. (This is where rear view mirrors can come in pretty handy.) Looking back at the lessons learned, the connections made and accomplishments celebrated can suggest a great road map for the future.

I've been doing some New Year's pondering with this same principle for LOWAC. What do we need to change? What did we learn? How's our road map looking?

A glance behind, and I am thinking what many of you have said: There is a riptide of momentum carving its name into our town. Its name is ART.

LOWAC has spent most of the summer keeping art in the forefront of Kenora's mind. May was our Mother's Day "50 for \$50" fundraiser, then in June our new website, www.lowac.ca, hit cyberspace,

thanks to the good folks at LOWBIC. June was "creating month", getting ready for all the exhibits and studio tour.

I don't even think I can give you an accurate recounting of the whirlwind-that-was-July, it's that much of a blur: Artisan's tents, Farmer's Market, 2x2 4 u (the traveling show that never seemed to end), Studio Tour, artist's parties...

The month ended quite fantastically with many of the Studio Tour artists gathering in my garden, toasting the great success the Tour reaped. Here's the skinny on our week-end: Our receipt books reflected many sales, and our guest books were inscribed with lots of great, enthusiastic words from people near and far. I had visitors from as far away as Colorado, Wisconsin and BC. I was pleased to see so many locals visit to

see what I do and how I do it.

I was even more pleased to see some kids in my work space. One encounter will forever be imprinted on my brain. The cutest seven year old EVER enters, nonchalantly announcing she is an artist—has been for a while—and she will be visiting all the studios. Mom patiently nods head and smiles, while we check out how I organize my stuff, how I use my machines, and what drives me to create what I make. This from a SEVEN-year-old. I am smiling as I write this. Emily Carr, look out.

Which brings me to August: SOAR summer art camp for underfunded youth (another good thing that needs to be done annually), and then, dear-God-in-Heaven, AT LAST! REST! But wait—the phone is ringing.

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Photo by Cory McCrindle

It was a cool and rainy summer, but artists came out anyway to show that talent is in abundance in Kenora and area.

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is the newsletter of the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective.

Please send submissions to Elsie Neufeld by email at eneufeld@kmts.ca. For more information either email, or phone her at 548-8455.

Synergy reserves the right to edit articles for length, grammar, etc.

Synergy: Increased effectiveness, achievement, etc., produced by combined action, co-operation, etc.

Contact Us



The LOWAC Executive

Co-chairs:

Lee Ann Hawkins

Email: hawk@kmts.ca

Kim Kahoot Ratuski

Email: kratuski@hotmail.com

Vice-chair & Newsletter Editor:

Elsie Neufeld

Email: eneufeld@kmts.ca

Secretary:

Holly Friesen

Email: holly_friesen@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Vacant

PR/ Events:

Cory McCrindle

Email: nexcorey@live.ca

Mailing Address

LOWAC

P.O. Box 10002

Harbour Postal Outlet

Kenora ON P9N 1T4

Membership:

Member - \$50

Student - \$25

Member-at-Large ("non-artists" who want to support LOWAC) - \$25

Organizations - \$100

Please send fees along with postal address, telephone number and email address to postal address above.

LOWAC's first year in review

(Continued from page 1)

It's the nice folks on Coney Island wanting to pat us on the back for making the Arts a focus in this town. What? A music festival? In two weeks? A benefit for us? Sure, we can scare up some extra volunteers—and performers—no problem...

What happened in the next week or so was quite something. What a rally!! Again, our wonderful volunteers made things happen.

Ferg Devins, the O'Flaherty clan, Bill and Deb Wallace and their gang of Winnipeg musicians, LOWAC, and countless others pooled energy, resources, talent and time to create a super community event. And during all the fun, while bands played, people danced, and Cory MC'ed, they raised about \$1200 for us. We built some great connections for our music department and we sold some 2x2 4 u pieces of art while they were hung at Coney. What a great time! What a great memory!

I am writing this in a 'free' moment between getting my two young men ready to go away to university, in between dental appointments, housing contractors, daughter's back-to-school shopping, school schedule-changing, and hockey tryouts. I would not be anywhere else. I love this. I am writing this between work and visitors. The dog needs more skunk shampoo. Most likely we will have takeout again tonight. The laundry and gardening can wait another day. I won't even begin to tell you about LeeAnn, my favorite co-chair, who is winding down the "Summer of Two Concussions", whiplash, and enough to keep two average guys busy for a year... and then there's Holly, and Cory, and Irene, and Elsie--and all the



their very busy lives, and not hit the WALL. There are other angels out there who have made a difference to our visual arts department—transporting and hanging art, posting posters, helping with events. Fewer than ten people did all these things all summer long, for the joy of just doing it. I shake my head in wonder.

And, I have to be honest. I worry. We are growing so fast. People are coming to us with ideas and opportunities for exhibits, workshops, and funding. There is more education for youth to do, and more work in finding us a 'home'. There is a website to maintain, and members with whom to communicate. There are projects to organize, a community to build, and reports to write. Yikes! It's all so much. And we are so small.

I look at these obstacles and understand (especially through summer's experience) that maybe baby steps are needed until we get people (read: VOLUNTEERS) in place for taking these things on.

French poet André Chénier said: "L'obstacle nous fait grands." Obstacles make us great. Whether or not our obstacles make us great depends on us.

My autumn read on the LOWAC rear-view mirror is this: We need more *us* to challenge the obstacles of time, energy, manpower, and talent. We need more *us* to pull together a town still reeling from the closure of a large industry. We need more *us* to create a space where our kids can be creative and busy. We need more *us* to make this a place they want to come home to and rear their families. Art helps accomplish all this and more. We just need the *us*.

Please think about where you could help out in the *us* department. We need a treasurer, a volunteer coordinator, we need help with communications (any graphic artists out there?) and with workshop planning. You will find the experience very rewarding—and, yes, even fun.

I encourage you to come out to our AGM in October. Help *us* with our goal setting. Take part in the building.

Us needs you.

Happy New Year!

Something's happenin' here

New vibes set in motion at Coney Island Music Festival #1

Article and photo by Cory McCrindle

Forty years ago, the world experienced the Woodstock music festival, and the changes have been felt in society and the arts ever since.

On August 9, Coney Island had its own music festival. Sure it was on a much smaller scale—the crowd was much closer to half a thousand than half a million people—but there were some similarities. For one, a relatively small group of individuals beat the odds to come together and pull off something that turned out to be a microcosm of the peace, love and music experienced on a patch of green in 1969 in upstate New York. Same for Coney Island. Second, we also got the rain!

The Coney Island Music Festival came about when summer island residents Bill and Deb Wallace and Ferg Devins wanted to have a concert and make it a fundraiser for the Kenora area. Luckily—and I cannot stress enough how blessed we feel to be part of the event—the group chose the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective (LOWAC) as the recipient of the money raised through raffles and donations. From a musical and entertainment perspective, the

festival was nothing short of historic. Winnipeg musicians Bill Wallace and Greg Leskiw, who at various times both once played with The Guess Who, were joined by Bill's wife Deb, Deon Wysocki, Glen McCabe and Stevo Bernaki. Local performers included Kenora musical icon Pat Brett, Jon Thompson, Darcy Ura and hip hop crew The Freestylin' Junkies. No one brought their egos. EVERYONE had a blast. And the one word that kept coming up was "fun".

Members of the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective displayed art, sold raffle tickets, answered questions about the Collective, and one fortunate member even got to MC the show. And let me tell you, I had a blast doing it! It was so much fun being on stage with people I so admired growing up. For my money the Guess Who is Canadian music royalty, although when I mentioned that notion on stage in front of Greg Leskiw, he made some joke, deflecting that honour towards Rush. It was also a pleasure experiencing the other musicians, smiling to myself when I watched Jon Thompson's ongoing (and highly successful in my estimation) battle to overcome his discomfort playing to crowds, and getting to see Pat Brett, a

man who truly personifies life in this area treat the crowd as old friends and have them embrace him right back.

The irony was not lost on me as the rain started to come down. I could practically hear the Woodstock "NO RAIN, NO RAIN" chant in my head as I watched the crowd scramble for cover. And just like during that long ago festival, no one left. Instead, perhaps the true essence of this day came through. Greg Leskiw picked up his guitar and led the audience in a sing along in the bandstand. There was good natured conversation and smiles as the spirit of the event brought back memories of Woodstock. Our hippie forefathers would have been proud. In fact, I'm pretty sure a few of them were there! We had truly shared peace, love and music right here on Coney Island. It was magical!

In the end, a good time was had by all, the thirst for a second Coney Island Musical was palpable, and LOWAC made some money to help run some of our programs. But more was accomplished on that island on that Sunday. Bill, Deb and Ferg pulled off a great festival—one the heavens themselves could not dampen – and for at least one day we all recaptured that Age of Aquarius vibe from 40 years ago.



From left to right: Darcy Ura, Deon Wysocki, Bill Wallace, Greg Leskiw and Deb Wallace rock Coney Island and raise funds for LOWAC.

Visual artists chalk up a productive year

By Irene McCuaig,

Visual Arts Committee co-chair

What a year it's been for the visual artists. We've had our first Open Studio Tour, our first 2x2 outdoor exhibit, our first 50 for 50, we've been regular attendees of the Farmers' Market and we displayed/contributed art and time to the Coney Island Music Festival. We've learned about and supported our artist selves through study of "The Artist's Way" and we've met with our war brides for the Lake of the Woods Museum's exhibit, Of

Love and War, which runs from Oct.13- Nov 14, 2009. And through it all, we've been awed by the talent and enthusiasm of the community.

The First Annual LOWAC Studio Tour was held July 25-26 and was a huge success, drawing visitors from across the country. There are definitely things we can change and improve on for next year, but artists and visitors alike had nothing but supportive comments about the event. For me the most inspiring part of the event was Monday when we

toured each other's studios. The quality and diversity of work produced by LOWAC artists is wonderful (painters, ceramists, quilters, clothing designer, photographers, glass artists, jewelry designers, and textile printing). I am so proud to be part of this dynamic group...and proud that we have LOWAC to pull us together and give us a stronger face in the community.

Again, comments were all favourable for the 2x2 exhibit which placed artwork outdoors for the public to enjoy during the month of July. Artwork was then taken to the Coney Island Music Festival where many of the 2x2's were sold and raffled. We thank the Coney Island Festival coordinators for choosing LOWAC as recipient of funds raised. It's wonderful to know that the LOWAC's vision of an arts-based Kenora is shared by others and that they are willing to contribute financial support to our endeavours.

Coming up? LOWAC visual artists' meeting, Sept. 8, 6:30, Lakewood School. We're heading into our 2nd year and will be planning the year's activities.

Of Love and War: Kenora's War Brides Oct 13-Nov 14, LOW Museum. This exhibit commemorates our war brides through the combined efforts of the war bride, the museum staff and a local artist.



2x2 4 U, artworks produced on 2 ft square pieces of plywood, brought art into the elements this year. About 20 artists produced pieces for the project.



Art as an expression of pain sought for a conference

Patti MacDonell, a local physiotherapist, is hoping to gather pieces of artwork related to expressing pain. It is part of a world-wide show to be highlighted at a conference in Nottingham England

They are interested in submission of any type of art media, including video, still photography, dance, or music.

The pieces can be mailed or submitted electronically, and must be submitted with a one page explanation of the piece and something about the way you use

art to relate to the pain state.

More details are on the website:
<http://www.noi2010.com/art.html>

As an adjunct to this, Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw will lead a Transformative Mindfulness workshop in February 2010

focused on transforming emotional, mental or physical pain. We will use expressive painting to access unhealed past perspectives of an experience or confusion which lend themselves to sickness later.

Contact Patti on 466-7915 or at patti@bodyworkclinic.ca for more information.



Dryden Arts Association invites miniature art

The Dryden Artists Association is inviting artists to enter their 2009 Big Idea Miniature Art juried exhibition.

Art works and entry forms are due in Oct. 12, 2009.

You can print a copy from www.drydenartistsassociation.ca

Artwork to be no larger than 5"x7". Outer dimensions of the hanging work (including mat and frame) must not exceed 8"x10". Sculptures are not to exceed 5"x5"x7".

There is lots more information. If you are unable to access the website, contact Irene McCuaig at mccuaig@kmts.ca

Year One of LOWAC's mission

“LOWAC inspires unity, joy and opportunity by connecting arts and enriching community.”



↑ Kris Goold opened the doors of Fragile Glass to host LOWAC's first multi-discipline art event.

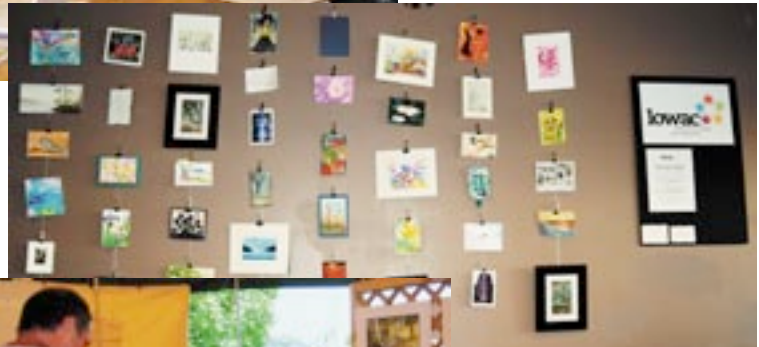


↑ Volunteers gathered to put final touches to LOWAC's Christmas Tree. It raised \$550 for LOW Community Foundation



← Meetings, meetings, meetings. And always with smiles.

← Andy Simons, Lindy Henderson and Kim Kahoot were on hand to thank the Moffatt Family Foundation/ Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation for fully supporting the SOAR program in August.



↑ Small art —50 by 50 Mother's Day sale

← Lots and lots of art — Artisan's Event in Keewatin .

↓ Art that flowed in to the landscape— 2x2 4 U.



A logo found to reflect our nature ↓



www.lowac.ca ← A LOWAC Website to keep everyone connected and informed

Photos by Cory McCrindle and Elsie Neufeld

LOWAC's Website up and active

See our new website, www.lowac.ca.
Check out our members' pages,
browse their art, and see our past
events. Our meetings and workshops
are listed there too, on the calendar.

Find us on Facebook

Lake of the Woods Arts Collective events
are now posted on Facebook.

Check out all the discussions, events and
upcoming meeting dates on our page!

How to do this:

1. Sign into Facebook (you must have
your own account)
2. Go to their search engine.
3. Type in "Lake of the Woods Arts
Collective".
4. Go to the Discussion Board, and
if you wish, let us know what you
think, what you are doing, send us
your pictures and your event poster
JPGs....

Tables for artists at Farmers' Market

LOWAC has been given two tables at the
Farmers' Market this summer and we're
looking for artists to fill them. There is
no charge to the artist and it's a great
opportunity to self-promote and make
people aware of LOWAC. Irene McCuaig is
maintaining a master list. Please contact
her at mccuaig@voyageur.ca if you would
like to take part.

Get Involved

LOWAC has three volunteer
positions open:

- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Membership coordinator

To volunteer, or for more
information, please contact Kim
Kahoot at kratuski@hotmail.com
or 543-3103

Stepping Out

A Calendar of Arts Events



September 18, Friday — Sounds of the Solar System

Sounds of the Solar System: Crystal Bowl and Planet Gong Concert with David Hickey of Crystal Journey and the art of Eden Martin. David Hickey has been performing throughout Canada and the United States for over six years. With hundreds of shows to date, and six CDs released, he continues to blaze a trail for his unique blend of improvised music with sonically pure and powerful, all acoustic instrumentation.

He is joined by artist-painter Eden Martin providing an expressive colour interpretation of the music.

Friday, September 18, Knox United Church
Corner of 2nd Street South and 5th Ave. South
Kenora ON

7:30 p.m.
\$20

Proceeds to the Agape Table.

Tickets available at HoJoe's, Kenora Massage and Wellness Centre and at the door.
CDs and merchandise will be available. www.crystaljourney.ca

Until October 7 — Farmers' Market

Each Wednesday at the Farmers' Market, LOWAC will host a table featuring two area artists. The artists will display and sell their work. Some might even work onsite. Artwork from glass to fabric to watercolour, acrylic and oil to pottery will be displayed over the course of the summer. There are still a few Wednesdays available for artists to participate. Please contact Irene at mccuaig@kmts.ca if you have not yet signed up and would like to.

Oct. 1 deadline for entry in artist/heritage directory

Pippi Johnson is compiling information for an arts/heritage directory for Kenora and area. The aim is to include all artists, LOWAC members and non-members.

It is important that you and/or your organization be included. Pippi needs all of the information compiled by Oct 1 and ready for publishing.

The information will be published this winter by CAHEP and be made available to teachers, newcomers, community leaders etc.

Please contact Pippi at pippijohnson@hotmail.com if you have not yet received an email form.

CAHEP offers artists workshops in November

CAHEP (Thunder Bay) has offered to come to Kenora, possibly in November to do workshops with local visual artists, to prep them for working in the schools/education system/camps.

Some things that will be addressed: building your education portfolio, police checks, partnering with teachers. Those interested can email Kenora CAHEP chair, Kim Kahoot at kratuski@hotmail.com.