

Synergy

Volume 1; Issue 1; October 2008

Inspiring unity, joy and opportunity through the arts

The newsletter of Lake of the Woods Arts Collective

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How many artists does it take?

By Kim Ratusk, LOWAC co-chair

Here we are – Lake of the Woods Arts Collective (LOWAC) – only month number three and growing by leaps and bounds! Meetings (How could I ever have said that I detest them?) are a big 'Grow-fest' of ideas for future projects and goals, that just seem to expand and morph, and multiply exponentially with each person's input. Being part of this process is stimulating, inspiring...and actually quite fun. During September's meeting, I turned to the fellow next to me and asked: "Is it just me revving on high, or is the energy in this room THAT palpable." Of course, he chose number two.

So, it is just natural that our vision statement, created the beginning of September, with the help of a dear friend of Kenora, Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw, reflects what I see each and every meeting.

"Inspiring unity, joy and opportunity through the arts" was the Board's choice of vision statement.

It cannot be any clearer than this, in the sense of all that has happened in our little city since July 31 (the date of our first meeting).

Putting it out there to the attendees – many of whom were total strangers – and seeing this little seedling sprout has inspired all three of these things.

Inspiration flows through us all at each meeting. I see people – artists and non-artists alike – wanting to participate in the creative process – making art, making projects, making things happen. And I don't know about you, but I take much of that home with me, and put it into my own work...Recycling at its finest.

People are overjoyed at the possibility – at the hope – that this little Collective has nurtured. The joy of creation is something that we all know and love...and want to share with Kenora. Upcoming art shows, theatrical events, and music festivals – just thinking of these things actually happening here gives me a great deal of joy.

Unity – the coming together of our people: it has been my greatest pleasure to meet so many new artists, seeing new and diverse faces around the meeting tables. I have lived in Kenora a long time, and have not met many of those jumping aboard.

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*Come and see
what the buzz is
about!*

Lake of the Woods Arts
Collective
(LOWAC) Meeting

Oct. 9, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Kenora Association for
Community Living (KACL)
next to Real Canadian Wholesale Club



Photo by Cory McCrindle

Artists gather in Kim Ratuski's herb garden to sprout a expanded role for the arts in the Lake of the Woods area.

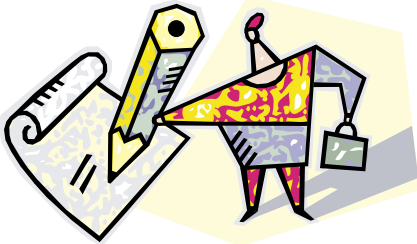
Synergy

is the newsletter of the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective, and is published every other month. The next issue will be January. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 15.

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

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

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How many artists

Continued from Pg. 1

and it's great to be working together on this.

Yes, Kenora is noticing..."This is what we are meant to be doing," people comment..."Kenora is finally going to come into its own"...And it IS.

It's sort of like feting a favorite cousin with a big coming out party...the plans, the lists, the lavish attention to detail, the enlisting of talent and clout, the fun, the bonding...and, of course, the air of anticipation.

Editor's Note

Building a space for the arts

By Elsie Neufeld

Here is the first issue of Synergy, the newsletter of the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective. When first proposed, many ideas of what this newsletter can and should be flew through my mind. In the dark of night I still see a magnificent publication full of interesting and exciting news from the Lake of the Woods arts community. This issue is a humble but glorious beginning of something new and dynamic which, I hope, reflects and supports LOWAC's work to creating a united, joyful and dynamic arts community.

Synergy is the name of this newsletter because that is what this whole "movement" is about.

Synergy, as defined by the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, is: "1) the interaction or co-operation of two or more drugs, agents, organizations, etc., to produce an effect that exceeds or enhances the sum of their individual effects. 2) increased

Become a Member of LOWAC

By Lee Ann Hawkins, co-chair

We are asking for membership fees to seed the start-up costs of the collective and to help fulfill the goals the collective members set.

Benefits associated with membership at this point include:

- "Synergy" (electronically delivered) – the arts newsletter being published by LOWAC which includes upcoming events and other relevant information for and from the arts community
- networking opportunities with artists and those involved in the arts community
- information and notices on events/ job opportunities
- inclusion in the Artist's Directory
- visibility as an artist through LOWAC
- a vote at collective meetings

It's all SO exciting, so hopeful, so possible. There is a feel to this thing that is amazingly reverent, yet at the same time so very natural – just like coming home.

Naturally, with some of the most interesting, creative artists from all disciplines throwing energy, talent, experience and wisdom behind ANYTHING, it has got to succeed. And, as the Art City WISH LIST wends it way to the bottom of page one, you can bet your tutu that each and every thing scribbled down amidst the discussions will be attended to. They are that good.

effectiveness, achievement, etc. produced by combined action, co-operation, etc. 3) instance of this."

I don't think the purpose of LOWAC and this newsletter can be explained any better.

One long-term vision LOWAC has is to eventually have a building which will be a type of clearinghouse for the local arts. A centre where artists can meet, hold workshops, access information, network and perform/present.

Until that art space is realized, it is hoped this newsletter will serve that purpose. This first issue is a humble beginning, but with a dedicated few volunteers, it can grow into so much more. If you're interested in being a correspondent for your art, or if something is happening you think artists should know about, or if you simply have an idea for a feature, contact me. With a combined effort, this newsletter can grow into something so much more.

Future benefits, as they become available, will include tangibles such as access to a LOWAC facility, web visibility, school credits/scholarships and more...

Membership fees are:

- Member - \$50
- Student - \$25
- Member-at-Large (those "non-artists" that would like to support the initiative) - \$25

If you want to take advantage of LOWAC membership, please send your fees to k LOWAC

P. O. Box 10002

Kenora ON P9N 4T1

If you would like more information free to email me at hawk@kmts.ca. Come see what we're all about before becoming a member, the next LOWAC meeting on Oct. 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Kenora Assoc. for Community Living (KACL) next to Real Canadian Wholesale Club.

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Meet the Board

The Co-chairs

Kim Ratuski

***Passion, enthusiasm
and optimism lead to success***

A multi-media visual artist, I work mostly in textiles, collage and acrylics. I have exhibited and sold my work locally, and across Canada.

I am also a writer, teacher, community volunteer, and single parent of three wonderful teens. Over the last 12 years, I have served on many Parent Council Boards, worked on the Children's Concert Series (now Sunday Smiles), and created a variety of projects for community youth (Project Priority Peace/Global Community).

I believe that wisdom can be found in the words of our youth, if we would only listen....and, on the other end of the spectrum, too often we ignore the gifts that our community elders offer.

Last year, I co-coordinated 'Forms of Hope', an exhibit and silent auction which raised \$25,000 for a new fund I designed and now administer for the Oncology department. (Baskets of Hope).

I am currently writing an educational book on teaching elementary curriculum through art, and this fall, I will begin my studies for my Masters in Counseling in Art Therapy. I design and offer workshops from my studio on spirituality and creativity/healing.

Art fosters healing on so many levels. It serves as a medium for expression, communication, connection. It transcends race, age, and economics. It draws people together, breaks down boundaries, and nurtures understanding, tolerance and compassion. It is the salve we need to heal the rifts within our own lives, our community. It is a way to create a healthy, thriving environment, and this, in my opinion, is what Kenora needs now.

My personal philosophy:

Passion, enthusiasm and optimism are essential to success. Each experience we have and every person we meet is an opportunity for learning. Creativity is as important to the soul as food is to the body.

Lee Ann Hawkins

***The Arts offer a bright future
for everyone***

I am a self taught, multi media, visual artist, who has experimented with a variety of materials. At present I am exploring collage, pastels, and continuing to work with acrylics - a favourite.

I am a mother of three teenagers, help with my husband's new business, and am a volunteer. I attended University of Winnipeg Education Faculty, have my Floral Design diploma and am currently work at Pykerman's Nursery. I have sold my jewelry in stores and am currently selling it at the local Farmer's Market.

I was involved with the Forms of Hope, proudly contributing a series of five pieces for the show, entitled *I am Women, Windows into the Soul - Intuition, Inspiration, Instinct, Intelligence, and Inheritance*. I also happily contributed to the Creatorium's Intention Cards.

In the past twelve years I have been involved in the Kenora District School Board's Parent Councils at Pine Grove, Lakewood, and Beaver Brae. Most of these years I have served as chair or co-chair. As well, I have sat on the Kenora District School Board Area Council and the Lake of the Woods Historical Society. I am also involved with the Beaver Brae Touchdown Club supporting our local football team.

For 11 years I have run a seasonal program at the primary level involving approximately 150 to 200 children in which they can express their creativity and make several precious treasures.

Personally I have a passion for colour, humour, words, whimsy, and all things odd. Losing myself in something creative nurtures my soul.

I believe building a solid foundation in the arts will provide the Lake of the Woods area with a brighter future for young artists, for established artists, and for the area as a whole, creating a healthy, vibrant community.



Kim Ratuski and Lee Ann Hawkins were elected LOWAC co-chairs at the first collective meeting July 31.
Photo by Cory McCrindle

In each issue of Synergy we will introduce you to the Lake of the Woods Arts Collective board and other artists who are LOWAC.

LOWAC finds vision statement but a logo remains elusive

By Lee Ann Hawkins

Approximately 25 artists attended the second LOWAC meeting, Sept. 8, at St Thomas Aquinas High School library. During the meeting the vision and mission statements were unveiled.

Our vision statement was birthed with the help of an experienced mid-wife Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw, an experience group fascilitator. We were very privileged to have had her help with the process.

Membership fees were also discussed at the meeting. It was decided that fees would be set at \$50 for artists and \$25 for students and members-at-large (people who support the arts but are not artists themselves). The initial fees will go towards insurance and incorporation as a non-profit group. This is vital step for LOWAC.

We were introduced to the representatives from the musical arts - Laura, Jordan, and David. These three people have a heavy agenda set up for the next year with the possibility of a world CLASS event in 2010. Recognizing the need to foster local talent

the group is also planning visits to the schools and some mentoring programs are a possibility.

Meetings are underway for the other disciplines and we are anxiously waiting to hear their plans.

We reviewed the logo entries. Although some initial entries hold potential, we tabled the elusive logo again. The criteria had been narrowed and defined.

The logo must translate to black and white as well as colour. It must work as a letterhead as well as poster size. It should be simple yet distinct enough to represent artists in many disciplines. Not an easy bill to fill. We are hoping for some creative ideas.

An exciting suggestion was put forward that LOWAC provide workshops as part of its role. These might

include "How to market yourself as an artist" or "The Artist's Way". Look for these in the future.

The meeting itself was well attended, went smoothly, and accomplished a lot. The next meeting is set for Oct.9 at 6:30 pm at Confederation College. See you there!



TryLight Theatre News

New ideas and shows in the works

By Gord Day-Janz

We always have something on the backburner at TryLight. Right now we are working on our production of The Music Man.

About 6 months ago the TryLight Board approved the exploration of bringing summer professional theatre to Kenora. We have had some discussions about that and also have a couple of ideas. One is to

do small scale dinner theatre in the winter months and in that way get a feel for what the appetite for professional theatre is in Kenora without having to spend large amounts of money to do it.

Here is a list of what we will be bringing to stage over the course of the next year.

November 21-29, 2008 - The Music Man.
Nov 21, 22, 28,29 will be dinner theatre.
Anyone wanting more information on the

dinner theatre should get in touch with Mike Aiken.

Spring of 2009 - Jasper Station - A small cast musical that takes place at the train station in Jasper, Alberta. Norman Foster wrote this wonderful little play. It is definitely Canadian.

Fall of 2009 - A Musical version of It's a Wonderful Life. TryLight did this show about ten years ago to sold out audiences.

LOWAC directors and representatives

As well as the executive members, LOWAC has several committes and branches working behind the scenes.

Youth Representative: Cypress Friend

Summer Resident Liason: Pippi Johnson

Fundraising: Marion McKay/Kim Ratuski

City Liason: Rory McMillan

Dance: Shannon Creedon

Theatre: Gord Day-Janz

Graphic Design: Mike Newton

CAHEP: Community Arts and Heritage Education Project:

Andy Simons

Lindy Henderson

Kim Ratuski

Kenora Commission on Public Art:
Creating an artistic plan for the final phase of the BIG Spruce

Kim Ratuski

Pippi Johnson

Cory McCrindle

"I love acting. It is so much more real than life." Oscar Wilde

Letters

Thanks for an arts connection

I wanted to thank Kim for including me in the mail-out. I had the good fortune to chat with a member at the Wednesday market just before the first meeting and she

invited me to attend. Another thank-you...

A bit about myself... my husband and I recently bought our cottage in Clearwater Bay and plan to relocate from Edmonton to Winnipeg in the near future.

Eventually we want to live full time in our cottage. All in time...

As for the interest in the committee... I enjoy watercolor painting. I paint for pure enjoyment and either keep the pictures or give them away to friends and family. I have a long way to go to reach the level of skill I am sure many of you are at, but I am excited to meet people and have the time and place to start up the creative part of me again.

I too believe that Kenora has so much beauty and potential to be known as an artistic centre... arts in all forms. We are thrilled to be a part of the Kenora area and hope to meet all of you in the near future.

Cynthia Keith



Music producer offers support

Hi Folks

I'm a long time seasonal resident from Winnipeg whose roots in your area go a long way back.

I spend a great deal of time on the lake and have long believed there's a promising future for the Kenora district and that the arts could play a huge role in things.

I'm a music producer with 11 Junos to my work and have been involved nationally with various arts groups from coast to coast and have long believed the arts could well be something to benefit the area as no other industry could. I would be more than happy to lend my support and experience to any initiative you folks might have in mind. My goal is to move my production business to the area and would love to assist in strengthening whatever you folks are embarking upon.

Sincerely- Dan Donahue

Visual artists making plans

By Irene McCuaig

The Visual Artist branch of LOWAC met at Lakewood School on Thursday, Sept. 24.

A number of ideas were suggested during the meeting, including participating in this year's Festival of Trees; an art project (2x2xU) to celebrate the end of the Big Spruce this summer; an Open Studio art event in which the public would be invited to visit artist's studios; a Scarecrows in the Schools event in the fall of 2009 and a possible Festival of Lanterns.

Members are also interested in organizing trips to take part in art activities and lessons in places other than Kenora.

It promises to be an exciting year for LOWAC and for its visual artists. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be, contact Irene at mccuaire@voyageur.ca.



Kenora Studio IX art weekend

Seven art friends enjoyed an art weekend retreat weekend at Andy Lake resort and Conference Centre (close to Kenora, ON).

Friday set the tone for rest and relaxation as we settled into our spacious log cabin by the lake. Following a potluck supper, we soaked in the hot tub on the deck, then looked at books and enjoyed the warmth of the fireplace while listening to delicate harp music played by Esme Boone.

On Saturday, we voluntarily participated in four scheduled learning sessions presented by members. Esme Boone covered some aspects of colour theory, Rose Wiley demonstrated ink and watercolour techniques, and Pat Schwartz

displayed exercises and tips for painting on synthetic yupo paper. Marielle Benson shared information on ten days of courses taken at the Winnipeg Art gallery Studio this August on mixed media, drawing, monoprints, and painting. She demonstrated a few monoprint techniques from the course using watercolour or water-based oil paints on Plexiglass.

Our weekend was enhanced by nature walks and delicious home-cooked meals provided by our hostess Judy Bechard in a beautiful log and fireplace dining room, for Saturday supper and Sunday brunch. A great weekend - thanks to Rose for organizing it!

Art for a Dog's Life

Chris Madison from "It's a Dog's Life", the organization that arranges fostering for abandoned dogs until they can be placed in forever homes, has approached LOWAC to contribute artwork to a fundraising auction they are planning. It sounds like there would be substantial publicity for participating artists and artwork need

not be framed. If you are interested in donating a painting, please contact Chris Madison at 807 543 2222.



Opportunity offered

Upcoming weekend workshop classes for adults at WAG Studio:

Stencil printmaking

Sat. Nov. 15

Abstract painting:

Sat. and Sun. Dec. 13 and 14

Drawing Portraits:

Sat. and Sun. Dec. 13 and 14

Call 1-204-789-1766 for more information.

Wanted

Someone interested in carrying on Pippi's mentoring work at the Fellowship Centre. Pippi has been facilitating drop-in drawing sessions at the Fellowship Centre during September. She is hoping someone will continue her work while she is away for the winter. If interested, contact Henry Hildebrand at the Fellowship Centre.

LOWAC's Arts Calendar

Oct. 9, 2008

Book Release Party, at Ho-Joe's, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend!!! For more information: Calvin Harasemchuk calvinharasemchuk@yahoo.ca

Scott Nolan and Sheena Grobb – Live!

Best Western Lakeside Inn and Convention Centre. Doors open at 7:30PM. Show starts at 8:00PM. Tickets: \$10 Advance and \$13 Door. Advance tickets available at Boardan-yone and Northern Sounds and Systems

Lake of the Woods Arts Collective (LOWAC) meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Confederation College. Everyone welcome.



Oct. 20, 2008

Writers of the Woods meeting, 7:30pm at the Keewatin Masonic Lodge, 102 Wharf Street.

Oct. 25 10 am- 9 pm, set-up Friday evening

Art Show and Sale

Notre Dame Parish Hall

\$15 per table (14 tables)

Contact Connie Chepil 468 8074 or Marielle Benson at 468 5629

There will be a \$2 admission charge for the public as this is a fundraiser for the church roof. For more information contact Marielle Benson – 468 5629

Oct. 15

Juno Award winning harpist, Gianetta Baril with flutist, Dortehea Belanger at Knox United Church at 8 p.m. \$15 Adult/ \$10 Student. Tickets available at Johnson's Pharmacy, Ho Joe's, Blue Heron, Sunset Gallery.

Oct. 15

Doc Maclean and Michael Pickett, Acoustic Blues Tour

Lakeside Inn

8 pm

Contact Jeff Rasmussen.for more information.

Nov.14 & 15, 2008

Souththunderbird Live at Kenora Shooter's Bar at 10 p.m.

November 21-29

TryLight Theatre - The Music Man.