

The Bay Studio Tour 2018: Preview

By KATE DEWEY, BLUEWATER DUNES

This year the Bay Studio Tour, which takes place from September 29 to 30, features 32 artists primarily from the Township of Tiny and Penetanguishene.

Their work will be displayed at various locations. They create visual arts in all media. Among them: sculpture, painting, pottery, photography, textiles, jewellery, glass, and Aboriginal art.

Watch for the annual tour guide, featuring a map, artist bios, images and contact information, which will be available this summer in many locations. Alternatively, visit the studio tour website: www.thebaystudiotour.com.

Here are profiles of three artists: Christine Marshall, and Kathryn and Brian Lovelady.



Romantic wildlife

As "Canada's First Lady of Wildlife Art," Christine Marshall defines her painting genre as romantic realism. Through her bold, vibrant, yet sensitive style we are invited to share an emotional interlude with wild flora and fauna found in locations around the world.

Her works have been displayed in solo shows throughout North America and overseas, including the Biodome in Montreal and Ontario House in London, UK. Her work and passion for nature conservation have been featured in many of publications, TV documentaries, radio programs, and films.

Her interpretation of hugging Koala Bears, inspired by a trip to Australia, invites us into their home in a eucalyptus tree. Dramatic close-ups of mushrooms and challenging gazes of owls and wolves reflect her awareness of the range of Canada's natural environment.

The Romance of Nature, her "volume of life," was printed in a limited edition of 300, leatherbound and housed in a cherrywood case. The introduction was written by A.J. Casson, Group of Seven artist.

Her studio gallery is close to Lafontaine Beach, at 16 Desroches Trail, and is open by appointment; 705-533-2731. Check out her website: www.wildlifegallery.ca.



Moonstar Lodge

Moonstar Lodge is a studio and gallery displaying the artisanal works of Kathryn and Brian Lovelady. Both are of aboriginal heritage.

Kathryn's hand crafted textiles include wearable art. Quilted items and aboriginal prayer shawls in a beautiful array of fibres and varied hues are displayed.

Her sparkling and intriguing jewellery includes custom made pieces and gems with healing qualities. Her artworks include feather fans, rattles, prayers and talking sticks.

Brian focuses mainly on woodcraft. God boxes, feather and smudge kit containers, drums, urns, cutting boards, and hand-turned bowls are available.

Brian and Kathryn are both healers and shamans. She is also an Aboriginal interfaith minister. Their lodge is a healing and spiritual centre.

The studio and gallery, located at 302 Lafontaine Road West, are open by appointment: 705-533-2520. Website: www.moonstarlodge.com.

Bringing the Lafontaine Beach Park Master Plan to Life

By CHUCK STRADLING

The Lafontaine Beach Park was once one of the most popular beaches in Tiny Township, with cars lined up and down the 16th Concession on summer weekends. As water levels decreased, the park was not properly maintained, and the beach became less attractive.

In 2010, the township council of the day retained a consulting firm, Genus Locii Ecological Landscapes Inc., to develop a master beach plan, which was presented to and received by Council on March 14, 2011. Council quickly decided that, to progress with the master plan, improvements to the beach area were necessary, and retained a second consultant to assess water quality and determine what shoreline improvements were required.

That study was completed, and after an extensive review of the options and required approvals and permits, the final recommendation was presented to Tiny Council in July 2014. The recommendation was to remove and cap one of the rock groynes — low walls extending out into the water — and use the leftover material to increase the overall beach size. But then in 2015, water levels started to rise and the water quality issues went away, leaving the door open to continue with the Lafontaine Beach Park Master Plan.

The plan envisions an ecology park geared to habitat protection, passive recreation and environmental education. The plan recognizes the park's potential as a recreational community greenspace and designates a number of recreational zones, interconnected by a network of paths and trails designed to offer more services and improve the park's overall public appeal.

One of the first priorities of the Lafontaine Area Shoreline Homeowners Association (LASHA), which

was formed in November 2015, was to get the master plan off the shelf and moving. LASHA represents both beachfront and off beach homeowners between the 18th Concession and Trillium Lane, and came into being as a result of a Tiny Township Council five-year strategic plan to encourage community involvement. Before the formation of LASHA, this shoreline area had no association representing it.

In May 2016, LASHA wrote to Council requesting that implementation of the Master Plan be accelerated. In June 2016, Council established the Lafontaine Beach Park Master Plan Steering Committee (LAMP).

On January 24, 2017 the first LAMP Committee meeting was held in Tiny Council chambers, with the following members:

- Chuck Stradling, chair (LASHA President)
- Don Nowak, vice chair (LASHA Director)
- LASHA member Bruce Hain
- Councillor Richard Hinton, representing Council
- Dick Wesselo, representing the Accessibility Committee
- Councillor Cindy Hastings, representing the Parks & Recreation Committee
- Director Tim Leitch, representing Public Works
- Emma Mills, Parks & Recreation, recording secretary

In October the township, in cooperation with LASHA volunteers, carried out a beach cleanup removing non-native weeds and transplanting native grasses. This was followed by the installation of a fully accessible playground. A further \$75,000 has been approved for a shade pavilion and two bocce courts scheduled to be installed this spring.



Tamara Zwicker, RDH

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