

**Lake of the Woods
Arts Community**

**Annual
Report
2016**





LOWAC DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This was another eventful year as we continued to present a variety of events.

Regretfully, this is my last year as President of LOWAC and I will be stepping down from the Board at this meeting - however I still intend to be active in LOWAC as a general member.

Here is a summary of our accomplishments this year. Please see the individual reports for more details.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOUR-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

Over several weeks in the spring, we completed our strategic plan for May 2016 to December 2019. We now have a map to lead us forward to achieving our vision for the future. Thank you to everyone who participated. You can review more details in my report on the Strategic Plan at the end of this report.

SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL:

Once again LOWAC, along with other community partners presented our third annual Summer Arts Fest. This included a "community paint-in" to decorate a rowing scull donated by the

Kenora Rowing Club, to be displayed when the Canada Games Rowing Event comes to Rabbit Lake in 2017.

CONEY ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Coney Island Music Festival continued to attract a lot of people and the weather cooperated once again (except for the wind!!) for this fun family music event. This event is a major fundraiser for LOWAC and this year was no exception, though numbers were down a bit due to the M.S Kenora being unavailable because of docking concerns.

FUN MONDAYS:

Our ever-popular Fun Mondays program was well attended throughout the year. Thank you LeeAnn Hawkins for once again taking this on.

WINTER CARNIVAL:

LOWAC continued their involvement with the Kenora Winter Carnival, sponsoring prizes for the Ice Sculptures that, as usual, were amazing.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS:

LOWAC worked with the Kenora District Festival of the Arts again this year by providing a \$100 award to an emerging visual artist and displayed a sign (free of charge) promoting it on the Tilley's sign.

STUDENTS' AWARDS:

As part of our mandate to help develop art in the community, for a second year we awarded one scholarship to a student from Beaver Brae and one from to a student from St Thomas Aquinas to continue their studies in Fine Arts.

RESIGNATIONS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Cher Stooke resigned this year. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well in her hometown in Manitoba.

FUTURE PLANS:

Our biggest Visual Arts plan for the coming year is another large and important Community Arts Event like the wildly successful Muskies on Main from three years ago. This will be combined with next year's opening of the Trans Canada Trail. That event is called **The Path of the Paddle and Oar**. LOWAC's accompanying juried art show is titled, **Dip, Dip and Swing**. We have already been lucky to receive some really good grants and are trying for more yet.

VISUAL ARTS REPORT

By Sue Straight—visual Arts Chair

It has been a busy year for LOWAC visual arts endeavors.

Regular programming included our **Fun Monday** sessions at St Thomas Aquinas School on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The fall of 2015 was devoted to completing our LOWAC entry into the Community Foundation **Festival of Trees**". Entitled "Aurora Borealis", our creation won the highest bid of the evening of well over \$1,200.00 for the Foundation. Purchased by Tara and Terry Douglas and Friends, the tree was then donated to the Nee Chee Friendship Centre. During the winter months our local members shared their talents and creativity with each other with workshops on watercolour techniques, felting, rug hooking, clay modeling, drumming and sacred circle dancing.

LOWAC once again supported the

Christmas Miracle Marathon with a donation of four art-supply baskets to be presented to young artists at Christmastime.



Dip, Dip and Swing: Irene McCuaig and Sue Straight were appointed as Co-Chairs to a new Indoor/Outdoor Art Exhibit titled "Dip, Dip and Swing". The exhibit is in celebration of the opening of the Trans Canada Trail waterway section of the trail from Thunder Bay to the Whiteshell Provincial Park in Manitoba in 2017 and the Canada Games Rowing event to be held in Kenora at the Kenora Rowing Club on Rabbit Lake in July of 2017.

A call to artists was extended to community and regional artists and to date quite a number of terrific entries have been received. Grants applied for and received so far include a Lake of the Woods Regional Foundation grant of \$5,000.00 and an Ontario Art Council grant of \$12,000.00. Other sources of funding such as sponsorships and other grants are presently being explored.

A free information session and a molding/casting workshop by the local sculptor Ralph Rogers was held



Photo by Irene McCuaig

at the Discovery Center on October 22. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Dip, Dip and Swing will be a juried art exhibit with art displayed in various outdoor and indoor locations between mid June and mid August 2017.

In the fall of 2015, after a very successful ArtsFest that summer, a grant application was submitted to the Canadian Heritage Fund to again support an **ArtsFest in 2016**. The grant of \$7,700.00 was awarded in spring of 2016. Patricia Niera of LOWAC agreed to chair a committee of ArtsFest partners: Kenora Association of Community Living (KACL) Arts Hub, City of Kenora, Harbourtown Biz and LOWAC. After much planning a very successful ArtsFest weekend 2016 was held on July 22, 23 and 24 (ArtsFest report is included below) which encompassed a Studio Tour, a Second Street Outdoor Music and Art Festival and the Coney Island Music Festival.

As part of ArtsFest and Dip, Dip and Swing, LOWAC and KACL Arts Hub

embarked on a collaborative community art project to paint a rowing scull donated by the Kenora Rowing Club. The scull was transported to the Wednesday Farmers Markets in July and then to ArtsFest where members of the public were invited to participate in painting vibrant colours to the outside of the scull. The project culminated with local artists Kelly Morrell and LeeAnn Hawkins tying together all the colours to create an impressive Lake of the Woods scene. The scull was unveiled to the public at the Northwest International Rowing Regatta banquet held in Kenora on August 20

The scull will be part of the Dip, Dip and Swing exhibit, being displayed at the Kenora Rowing Club in 2017 to celebrate the Canada Games Rowing Event.

“ConeyFest”, short for Coney Island Music Festival was held on Sunday, July 24. A team of volunteers set out for the island with assistance from Rod McKay and Ralph Rogers who donated their pontoon boats to haul all the paraphernalia over to the island. The day was a bit cloudy and very windy.

The M.S. Kenora, which had been scheduled to transport folks to the island, decided not to hazard the docking situation at the island this year and as a result of the weather and transport issues attendance was not as good as in previous years. A great musical program entertained the enthusiastic crowd. LOWAC again conducted an Art Auction and Kids’ Activity events which included Face Painting, Sand Castle building and Kids’ Art Activities. Due to the presence of a Bouncy Castle run by

another group, the Kids' Activity Table was not well utilized and should be assessed as to viability for next year. Face painting and the art auction were well supported by the festival goers.



Photo by Kim Kahoot

The City of Kenora has received funding for next year to upgrade the docking to support large vessel docking at the island so hopefully attendance will be great. So much also depends on a good day weather-wise.

The Coney Island Music Festival Board has decided to continue the festival next year but will be partnering with LOWAC; looking at different funding options and grants and some new partnerships to enhance both ConeyFest and ArtsFest

Kenora Winter Carnival held in March 2016 was again supported by LOWAC with judging of the Snow Sculpture Contest and providing the Cash Prizes to the winning entries.

All in all it has been a very successful

year on the visual arts scene and we are looking forward to bigger and better in 2017.

ARTSFEST REPORT

By Patricia Niera

Kenora celebrated a three-day festival, ArtsFest, on Friday July 22, Saturday July 23 and Sunday July 24. This third ArtsFest for LOWAC celebrated the wealth of artists in our community.

With the Studio Tour on July 22, artists opened their doors for the community to join them in celebrating the Arts by visiting them at work in their studio. This year we had 12 artists participating in the Studio Tour and some artists exhibited their work at the Old Armouries a well.

July 23rd was the Street Festival on Second Street. Fourteen artists joined the celebrations, displayed their wares and were engaged in creating their art. We had representation from various art mediums at the Street Festival: painters (acrylic and watercolour); paper-making; pottery; sculpture; harp-making; jewelry making, and glass mosaic.



Photo by Esmé Boone

The Street Festival had a great line-up of musicians who played throughout the day, adding glamour, joy, playfulness and simply stunning music!

The community and artists had the pleasure of being joined by youth and children from DanceWorks who demonstrated their love for dancing.



Photo by Esmé Boone

The Lake of the Wood Museum, an ArtsFest partner, joined in the celebration by giving a historical walking tour of the buildings on Second Street S "In This Place" with Braden Murray.

As part of ArtsFest the Community at Large was invited to collaborate and join LOWAC in painting a rowing scull

at the Matiowski Farmer's Market on July 6, July 13, July 20 and Saturday July 23rd. The painting of the rowing scull as part of ArtsFest was a success as it attracted many folks eager to paint on it. The rowing scull will be in display at the Canada Games next summer at the Rowing Club event on Rabbit Lake, This rowing scull will be hung on the side of the rowing club that is actually facing the athletes throughout the Canada Games.

The ArtsFest ended on the third day at the Coney Island Music Festival.



Photo by Lee Ann Hawkins

2016 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Irene McCuaig--Membership Chair

LOWAC started the 2015 year with a paid-up membership of 43. Our highest membership was approximately 92 several years ago. Because membership has declined over the years, LOWAC put more effort into contacting former members and making public the beneficial things that membership fees help us accomplish.

As of the beginning of October 2016, our membership had climbed to 68. Significantly, 51 of those memberships were paid between January and August 2016 so it seems our efforts were worthwhile. With our updated website up and running and our

increased use of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, the public should be more aware of the events we hold and how we contribute to the community. We have decided to do a mail-out campaign as well so members and lapsed members will receive an informational postcard about LOWAC along with a membership form.

Twenty-five of our members chose to use the PayPal option available on the LOWAC website.

Many thanks to Lil Anderson who helped with updating the membership and mail-out lists.

WEB SITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Erin McCuaig was hired to revamp our LOWAC Website. She has done a really great job here at www.lowac.ca where you will find all sorts of current information on LOWAC and local member artists. Don't forget that you can be part of this. You will also find the Report on our Strategic Plan, and I will have this annual report posted there later as well.

She also revamped our Facebook site, and regularly keeps it up to date, and has opened twitter and Instagram accounts as well, so we are finally out there. Kudos to Erin.



**2016 LOWAC Annual Report to
Membership re: Grants**

Grant	Amount	Purpose	Status
Canadian Heritage Local Festivals Grant 2015	\$7700	ArtsFest 2016	Received and final report done. THANK YOU, PATRICIA!
Canadian Heritage Local Festivals Grant 2016	\$20250	ArtsFest 2017	Application submitted
Ontario Arts Council 2016	\$12000	Dip, Dip and Swing Exhibit 2017	Received
Kenora and Regional Community Foundation	\$5000	Community involvement, Dip Dip and Swing Exhibit 2017	Received
Tourism Kenora Grant	\$1000	Dip, Dip and Swing Exhibit	Application re-submitted
Celebrate Ontario Grant		ArtsFest, Studio Tour and ConeyFest	Application underway in partnership with City and ConeyFest

Submitted by Irene McCuaig, LOWAC Director

FINANCIAL REPORT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE AGM

REPORT ON LOWAC STRATEGIC PLAN FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE



LOWAC FOUR YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN May 2016 to December 2019

By Esmé Boone—President.

*Excerpts taken from Lake of the Woods Arts Community
Strategic Planning Overall Report May 2016*

Strategic Planning Facilitated by:

Natasha Lovenuk Markham Regional Advisor Regional Services Branch, Dryden Office, Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Location: Dates:

Community Living Boardroom/Arts Hub

Friday, January 2^{Second}, 2016 Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 Wednesday, February 24th, 2016 Wednesday, March 2^{Second}, 2016

6pm to 9pm 9am to 2pm 6pm to 9pm 6pm to 9pm

Planning sessions were open to all LOWAC Members.

Final LOWAC Strategic Planning March 2015

Facilitated By: Natasha Lovenuk Markham - Regional Services Branch, Dryden Office 807 223 8682

Review of previous sessions and Action planning workshop with Board of LOWAC. Wednesday, March 2^{Second}, 2016

Attendees At That Final Meeting: Lil Anderson; Esmé Boone; Lee Anne Hawkins; Irene McCuaig; Linda Nault; Patricia Neira; Ralph Rogers; Cher Stooke; Sue Straight.

OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN

The facilitator, Natasha Lovenuk Markham was invited to carry out strategic planning for Lake of the Woods Arts Community (LOWAC). The intent of the plan is to revisit and build on the results of the 2011 planning process.

The strategic planning session was divided into 4 sessions:

1. Practical Vision Workshop
 - This provided the group with a practical picture of the desired future.
2. Underlying Obstacles Workshop
 - The group looked at the underlying obstacles or contradictions preventing the realization of the vision.
3. Strategic Directions Workshop
 - The group determined proposed strategies to deal with the underlying obstacles.
4. Action Planning
 - The group outlined the actions required to carry out the new directions.

Throughout the planning session participants were to keep in mind the following question; ***By the end of the year 2019, what is the recognizable condition that we want to have in place in this Organization?**

IDENTIFIED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS CLUSTERS

The Strategic Direction Clusters fell into these groupings:

- **Towards Effective, Consistent Communication.**
- **Towards Local Government Support of the Arts.**
- **Towards Engaging Youth in the Arts.**
- **Towards a Home for the Arts.**
- **Towards Expanded Participation and Information beyond Kenora and the LOW Area.**
- **Towards the Development and Implementation of a Board Training Plan.**
- **Towards Increasing Membership and Member Involvement.**
- **Towards Partnership with Other Groups.**
- **Towards the Efficient and Effective Use of (all) Membership.**
- **Towards Financial Sustainability.**

The Final Action Planning Workshop

The purpose of this workshop was to establish clear, step-by-step action plans for each strategic direction and to develop a coordinated overall action plan.

A Detailed Action Timeline has been created, with an implementing team established for each action. Costs were determined for implementation.

Action plans were distributed to members prior to their April 12th, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. Items that required clarification or were missing information were discussed and completed.

This Action Timeline is added to each monthly Board Agenda to review tasks that are due for that month and discussed with the implementation crew for that task. Anyone can request a copy of these plans be emailed to them. There will be one copy of each report available at the AGM for perusal.

Respectfully submitted
Esmé Boone