

July 3, 2007

ARTISTS SOUGHT FOR PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is seeking visual artists to participate in the 2007 Thunder Bay Plein Air Festival this August.

Plein Air (pronounced *plen-air*) is a French term meaning “in the open.” Plein Air paintings are created outdoors right from the subject rather than being created in a studio. It also means “open air” and the Italian term is “alfresco.”

The festival will be comprised of two components. From August 13 to 17th artists will register and create Plein Air art within the Lakehead watershed, including the Authority’s Conservation Areas.

On August 18 and 19th, the artists will exhibit their creations and conduct demonstrations at Hazelwood Lake Centre. The public will have a chance to vote for their favourite piece of Plein Air art and to purchase works of art from participants.

Visual artists who are interested in participating are asked to apply no later than August 3rd. An application form is available at the LRCA office located at 130 Conservation Road or call 807-344-5857 to have one mailed. Registration is limited. The cost for artists is \$30 and includes admission to all Conservation Areas for the week; a welcome reception; artists BBQ and the opportunity to demonstrate skills and sell art to the public.

“The natural beauty surrounding the City of Thunder Bay is an inspiration to visual artists,” says LRCA Chairman Bill Bartley. “Landscapes, similar to those which have inspired the Group of Seven abound with sheer cliffs, cascading rivers, thundering waterfalls, rich green forests, and hundreds of species of birds and other animals.”

All of these wonders can be captured on canvas at local Conservation Areas.

The 2007 Plein Air Festival is made possible through the generous support of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Thunder Bay Ventures, Chronicle Journal and Lehto Rainbow Printers.