



## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR NEWS

It was a great pleasure to attend the first Inland Oceans Arts Alliance Evening in Moosehorn on September 18<sup>th</sup>, the wonderful Flin Flon Arts Council's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and a visit with Viscount Cultural Council in Neepawa on October 28<sup>th</sup>. I was moved by how deeply rooted the Arts were in these communities and by everyone's dedication. I very much look forward to meeting more members as the year moves along.

**The 2008 Manitoba Showcase Contact**, which was held in Portage la Prairie on October 17-19, was a great success thanks to both the William Glesby Centre and the Portage & District Arts Council who hosted the event; and to everyone who assisted with the planning and preparations. The members who attended much appreciated the Workshops facilitated by experts in their respective fields, the Visual Arts exhibit, and the Showcases. They had the opportunity to meet the performers and artists in the Contact Room. It was a great time to meet friends and colleagues from around the province and to network. During the event, members also had the opportunity to take a tour to Long Plain First Nation and then enjoyed having Ian Ross as their Guest Speaker at one of their dinners; who interjected writings from his character 'Joe from Winnipeg'. All left the event reenergized.

During the October 18<sup>th</sup> AGM in Portage la Prairie, it was announced that the *2009 Manitoba Showcase Contact will be held in Neepawa* and hosted by the Viscount Cultural Council. The winner for the draw for members that had sent in their 2008 Manitoba Showcase Evaluations is Carberry Plains Arts Council. The winner receives a free registration for the 2009 Showcase Contact.

I would like to say thank you to Dana Kletke for everything she has done for the Visual Arts Department during her time with us, and wish her much success as she begins her new chapter as Co-Director for MAWA. Our search for a new Visual Arts Coordinator received a great response and I am pleased to announce that Bree Bergen has accepted the position. The Manitoba Arts Network and the Visual Arts Committee will benefit from her experience and enthusiasm. Originally from the Interlake region, Bree is a painter, illustrator and crafter, and received her interdisciplinary BFA from NSCAD University in Halifax in 2003 and worked as an artist-educator and as an artist-in-residence in Toronto. She has delivered educational programs at the Manitoba Children's Museum, worked with youth in the Yukon and taught art classes at WAG, the Canadian Mennonite University's Community School and elsewhere.

You will note that we have compiled the past three separate e-Newsletters (Administration Director, Performing Arts and Visual Arts) into one. As the year progresses we will assess the effectiveness of the new format.

### **Directories**

The 2008/09 Manitoba Performing Arts Directory and the Manitoba Presenters Directory are now on-line on our website at [www.communityarts.mb.ca](http://www.communityarts.mb.ca).

Printed copies, with improved coil binding and design, are available at Manitoba Arts Network office (for order or pick-up) for \$20.00 each plus \$7.00 postage and handling.

## VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM NEWS

- *Artmarks: A Manitoba Bookmark Project* still has 3 bookings available in the upcoming year. This exhibition continues to receive terrific feedback and we look forward to having it tour to 2010.
- The *Visual Artist Directory* is currently under reconstruction and will be available in the new year. There will be a call put out to artists who would like to be included—get a head start in letting your local art community know! Also, if you have had a great experience with a local artist's exhibition and/or workshop, from an artist currently listed in the directory or not, please email or call and tell me about it.
- There is an upcoming Visual Arts Committee meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 10:30 am, in Portage La Prairie. Looking forward to meeting everyone and hearing your ideas for future programming!

## PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM NEWS

- *Showcase* once again was quite the show with performances ranging from classical to hip hop and everything in between; and of course the impromptu ukulele number! Based on our booking meeting we should have at least 4 tours for the south and 5 for the north. Keep an eye on your email inboxes as I will be sending out various notices in the coming weeks.
- *Southern Touring* is moving ahead with tours for The Essentials, and Everything Fitz. A tour is in the works for Canadian Idol alum Jaydee Bixby in addition to the potential showcase tours. Our next committee meeting will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am at the William Glesby Theatre.
- *Northern Tours* include Everything Fitz and potential tours in the works for Doc Walker and Jaydee Bixby as well as tours from showcase. Our next committee meeting will be held via conference call December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm.