



Get out your art supplies.....

ART FOR A LIVING EARTH

With the theme of community resilience, the first TAS member show in 2012 will run from February into March.

There is something a little different for this show required aside from your art submissions. As a participating member of the show, you are asked to submit a *short paragraph* for each piece of art. This paragraph should list the works title as well as explain how it is connected to the theme of the show.

For further information or clarification, please e-mail to holly.lennox@gmail.com, or mail to Holly Lennox, 28 Broad St., Truro, NS, B2N 3G2.

Holly has written a summary to help you better understand the parameters of Living Earth and Community Resilience. Please refer to page 2 of this newsletter.

DEADLINES FOR THE FEBRUARY SHOW:

Written material: Due in no later than Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Drop off artwork: Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Opening Day: Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

* Note that exact times were not available when this newsletter was published. Please contact Holly Lennox for further information about the show.

Gary Saunders

A Matter of Light



McCarthy Gallery, NSCC Campus
36 Arthur St, Truro, NS 902-893-5385

Show runs from Dec 5 to Jan 30
Opening Reception Mon Dec 5, 7:00 PM

Gallery Hours Mon - Fri 8:30 - 4
All Are Welcome

TAS EXHIBITIONS 2012*

- January:** Gary Saunders show
"A Matter of Light"
- February:** Members Show
"Art for a Living Earth"
- April:** NSCC "Image Makers"
Show
- June:** Town of Truro Art
Acquisition Show
- July:** Folk Art Summer
- September:** Dawn Josey Show
- October:** Bruce Wood Show
- November:** Colchester County Art
Acquisition Show
- December:** O P E N

**subject to change/approvals*

TAS MEETINGS FOR 2012

Meetings are held at 7 pm at the NSCC Truro Campus in Room 224, unless otherwise stated.

JANUARY 11

MARCH 14

MAY 9

Mark your calendar!

Please Note: We break for the summer months and continue in September 2012.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

**Members dues will be raised to
\$25.00 per year
with reduced fees for students.**

**Dues will be due
ANNUALLY IN JANUARY**

Art for a Living Earth

In February and March of 2012 there will be a TAS group members show.

On November 9th Juliana Barnard joined members of the Truro Art Society to discuss the work of the Living Earth Council and what "resilience" means to her. At the end of the meeting I was asked to write something to share with those who were not able to attend. Here it is.

The Living Earth Council is a grass-roots organization (www.livingearthcouncil.ca) that is engaging the public in discussion about sustainable change, and promoting actions that will benefit the local environment. The group has four main areas of interest:

1. Healthy landscapes. Reducing the amount of pesticide and herbicide use. Encouraging the use of native species and sound soil practices.
2. Active Transport. LEC is helping to fund the Move On campaign for the Colchester region. (<http://moveoncolchester.blogspot.com>)
3. Energy. LEC initiated "Cool Truro", an annual event to encourage a reduction in electricity consumption. This year's Cool Truro launch took place on Saturday November 26th, with an environmental fair at NSCC, a bus trip to visit Efficiency NS Demonstration Homes, and a concert at the Marigold Centre. If you want to participate in the energy reduction competition, visit www.cooltruro.ca.
4. Food. LEC in collaboration with USC Canada, the Truro Farmers' Market and St. Andrews United Church, has sponsored Foody Friday and Seedy Saturday events. These weekend events early in the spring are devoted to celebrating and raising awareness about local food, seed sharing, and food issues.

Juliana spoke about resilience, an ecological term. She has taught science in school and has always been impressed by photosynthesis, where plants take the inputs of carbon dioxide, water, and light to create glucose and oxygen (a waste). Then humans and other animals come along and eat the plants to use the stored glucose, and breathe the oxygen, creating carbon dioxide (a waste), water, and energy. It is a remarkable cycle where the waste of the plants (oxygen) is a basic necessity for

animal life, and the waste of the animals (carbon dioxide) is a basic necessity for plant life.

She also spoke about the 12 principles of Permaculture (permanent agriculture). Last spring LEC had a guest speaker from Big Sky Permaculture in Alberta (www.bigskypermaculture.ca) in Alberta. The following books were recommended:

Bill Mollison, *Introduction To Permaculture*
Dave Jacke and Eric Toensmeier, *Edible Forest Gardens*, vols. 1 & 2.

The following permaculture principles were developed by David Holmgren, and are also described in Rob Hopkins' *The Transition Handbook: from oil dependency to local resilience* (p.138-139):

1. Observe and Interact
2. Catch and Store Energy
3. Obtain a Yield
4. Apply Self-regulation and Accept Feedback
5. Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services
6. Produce No Waste
7. Design from Patterns to Details
8. Integrate Rather Than Segregate
9. Use Small and Slow Solutions
10. Use and Value Diversity
11. Use Edges and Value the Marginal
12. Creatively Use and Respond to Change

David Holmgren started the Transition Town movement in Totnes England (www.transitionnetwork.org). His definition of resilience is a community's "ability to not collapse at first sight of oil or food shortages, and to their ability to respond with adaptability to disturbance." (p.55, *The Transition Handbook*). He sees a difference between a sustainable community and a resilient one. The sustainable community develops a recycling program for plastic, but a resilient community reduces its use of plastic and finds new uses for waste plastic that don't require a lot of processing. After all, there is an order to the three Rs: first reduce, second reuse, and lastly recycle. A resilient community tries to develop new skills and increase its self-reliance. It also gives priority to the local over the imported.

Holmgren also describes the three ingredients of a resilient system (p.55-57).

1. Diversity has to do with the number of elements that make up the system and the number of connections between them: people, businesses, institutions, and food sources. People making small changes are more likely to meet local needs and conditions than any large top-down change.
2. Modularity is about how a system's elements are linked. A network of small modules is less vulnerable to disruptions than a wide network.
3. Tightness of Feedback is about how quickly and strongly the parts of a system react to change elsewhere in the system. A tight feedback loop brings the consequences of our actions closer to home, instead of being far away and out of sight.

Youtube has several movies on the Transition Town movement: "Transition Town: What's it all about?" "Transition Towns: an interview with Rob Hopkins"

I continued speaking after Juliana finished her presentation. I challenge you, the members of TAS, to be as creative as possible for the February show.

1. Try to make art with any material that would normally be thrown out. Previous generations made quilts using old blankets and scraps of fabric. Rug-hooking is similar. Can you make something from bottle tops, CDs, or old hardware?
2. you able to make art with natural materials?
3. If you want to paint, please depict your vision of what the future could look like if our community works at building its resilience. Will people grow more of their own food, like the Victory gardens of WWII? Will they use their bikes more, possibly on well-developed bike paths or lanes? Will they purchase well-made long-lasting products rather than the most inexpensive, soon to be thrown out products? Will they start their own businesses?...

Written by Holly Lennox