

Écrit par Sylvia Bullard

## The Community Art Lab

There are many different reasons for wanting to be more active or to get involved in your community: to help others, to overcome a loss, to learn something new or to meet new people. Opportunities to volunteer your time abound. Maybe you are not in a position to volunteer, so why not take advantage of some community happenings to connect with people. How can this be done right here in Lennoxville? The Community Art Laboratory located at Bishop's below the Foreman Art Gallery, gathers individuals from the community - whether students, artists, researchers and members of the general population - and via public events, and works towards stimulating an increased understanding of the visual and media arts in the City of Sherbrooke. The mission of The Community Art Lab is to position itself on the cutting edge between art, education, and community development

with the goal of exploring how these worlds collide and interact with one another. They do this in the form of discussion groups, film screenings, workshops (tailor-made for different audiences), and events (such as performances).

As an example, The Community Art Lab had a table on Canada Day at Parc Jacques-Cartier (at Les Lacs des Nations) where they conducted a small activity for all ages (young and old). Questions asked to the community such as "What would you do for your neighbours (or community) if you had \$50 to spend on towards the arts and culture?" They folded paper cranes in the symbol of peace and community all day on Canada Day and started conversations about what the needs of the community are. They really want to hear what the community needs/wants/dreams and how they can contribute to this.

There are some exciting summer activities planned. They will be having a Summer Art Camp from July 5 to August 13, 2010 that will be offering diverse and fun activities for children ages 9 to 12. The idea of the summer camp is to link the creative activities of the camp to bigger social issues such as the environment, recycling, community, and identity. All of the great programs offered are bilingual and adaptable to every age group. Each week explores new themes and new projects. It should be noted that there is no cut-off date for registration.

There is also a garden project and exhibition 2010 by London Ontario artist Ron Benner that addresses notions of monoculture and industrial agriculture versus more traditional and natural ways of growing plants. Composed of open pollinated varieties of corn, flowers from the Americas and photographs,

the project occupies the front lawn of Bishop's University. There will be a Harvest Day September 19 at Ron Benner's garden on the campus grounds where the corn from the garden will be roasted. Ron Benner will give an artist talk, and there will be music and small activities for children. The event is meant to be a celebration and an opportunity to discuss community practices in agriculture and gardening. Inside the gallery, images are accepted from the community gardens from all summer long that will be hung on display as part of the exhibition.

Enjoy your summer by getting involved in some of these fascinating activities!

For any additional information contact:

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