

LAKEHEAD VISUAL ARTS

50th ANNIVERSARY



1953 ~ 2003

Thanks for 50 Great Years

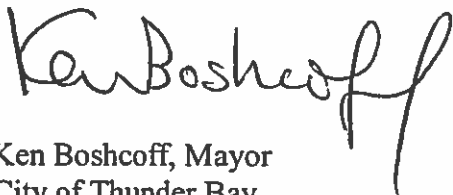
On behalf of City Council and the citizens of Thunder Bay, congratulations to Lakehead Visual Arts on your 50th Anniversary this June.

Lakehead Visual Arts provides a wonderful opportunity for residents and tourists alike to experience the incredible talent of many of our local artists, while also providing an excellent vehicle for artists to showcase their art.

In 1967, Lakehead Visual Arts settled into its permanent home in the Marina Gallery, where it has continued to flourish and provide an attractive compliment to the natural beauty of Marina Park.

Congratulations to the participating artists and organizers, and best wishes for many more years of success!

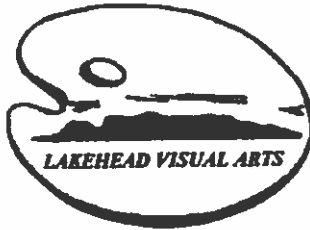
Yours sincerely,



Ken Boshcoff, Mayor
City of Thunder Bay

LAKEHEAD VISUAL ARTS

*P.O. Box 29061, 1186 Memorial Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 5K0*



A Message From the Chair of the Committee

50th Anniversary of Lakehead Visual Arts

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to express the thanks of the members of Lakehead Visual Arts and the citizens of Thunder Bay, who, by their support and interest, have encouraged each member to endeavor to upgrade the standing of Art over the past 50 years.

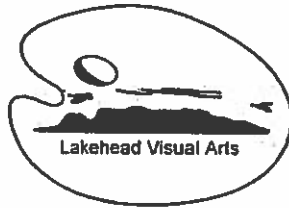
Art is the language understood by all ages, all nationalities and people from all walks of life.

To be commended for the organization of our 50th year, our co-ordinators are: Gladys Postans, Phyllis Callaghan, Biljana Baker, Brian Holden, Alison Kendall, Marilyn Morton, Marilyn Boyle, and our executive officers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Cramb".

Elizabeth Cramb

2003



History

Lakehead Visual Arts officially came into being in 1970 when the Lakehead Society of Fine Arts decided to change its name to better reflect its place in the community. The origins of LVA, however, date back to the Port Arthur and Fort William Art Clubs, which were formed in 1951-53 and later joined forces to become the Lakehead Society of Fine Arts. From the 1940s to the 1970s, these groups were the main source of art activity in the twin cities.

When the City of Thunder Bay allowed the club to use the old CPR freight office as an art centre, it was a dream come true for the struggling, hard-working artists who desired a "home" of their own. For almost 30 years they had held meetings and classes under professional artists, first in libraries and private homes, and later in basements of schools and churches.

In the early years, fund raising events and patrons supported the club as it grew and developed. Juried annual art shows took place at the Prince Arthur Hotel. Courses in sculpture, pottery, silk screening, printing, lithography, painting and drawing were given by professional-out-of town artists and lively monthly meetings were held.

In recent years, despite the dramatic growth of other art groups, LVA has continued to thrive and to carry on its mission of encouraging and stimulating interest, awareness and understanding of visual art in the local community. Through LVA sponsored workshops conducted by professional artists such as Jack Reid, Anthony Thorn, Zoltan Szabo, Gordon Perrier and Gordon McKenzie, artists continue to grow, develop and contribute to the rich fabric of art in Thunder Bay.

Lakehead Visual Arts has a membership ranging from beginners to professional artists and art teachers. Some of the outstanding artists who have exhibited at the LVA Gallery are now known at national and international levels. Susan Ross, renowned local artist, for example, arranged to hold Daphne Odjig's first exhibit at the Marina Gallery. LVA was also instrumental in organizing a 1971 exhibit of William Kurelek's paintings. Noel Ducharme took part in summer galleries at the Marina Gallery as well.

With the assistance of the City of Thunder Bay and a strong volunteer membership, LVA has operated and maintained the Marina Gallery since 1969. During the summers, many visitors from around the world stop in to view the artwork and ask questions about the area. Throughout the rest of the year meetings are held at the 55+ Centre and art exhibits take place at available venues throughout the city.

The CPR Freight Shed (LVA Marina Gallery)

The CPR station and the freight shed were built in the first decade of the 20th century. Judging from old photos at the Thunder Bay Museum, the freight shed was probably constructed around 1905. It was an important building during the railroad era that began in 1875, when the sod was turned at Fort William for the transcontinental railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway line to Winnipeg was completed in 1882 and the full line coast to coast in 1885 (*A Brief Chronological History of Railways in Thunder Bay*, by Tory Tronrud). Anything related to shipping and receiving by the Canadian Pacific Railway at the Lakehead would have passed through this little building from the early 1900s until the 1960s. In 1976, the grand old CPR station was demolished as the great railway era came to an end. From 1969 until the present day, the CPR freight shed has served as a summer art gallery for the Lakehead Visual Arts Club, for workshops, and for group and solo exhibitions. LVA and the City of Thunder Bay have enjoyed a long history of working together to maintain an art presence in the Marina Park. The city has allowed the artists to use the building, and in return, the artists have contributed to repairs and maintenance and have operated the gallery each summer from late June until Labour Day.





From Top clockwise: 1. Marina Park Thunder Bay 2. Presentation of painting by Lynn Lindsay (on the left) to the Honourable James T. Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario 3. General meetings held at 55+ Centre 4. Entrance to building (old freight shed for Canadian National & Canadian Pacific Railways) 5. Lieutenant Governor's visit June 2003 6. The Lakehead Visual Arts summer gallery

Lakehead Visual Arts would like to thank...



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