



ArtBeat

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<http://www.WestCarletonArtsSociety.ca>

President's Message

from Lis Allison

At the last meeting of the West Carleton Arts Society in May, we faced the fact that the group does not appear to be meeting its members' needs, and discussed some options about how to proceed in future. We have had very poor turnout at our meetings for several years now, and very little commitment from the members towards keeping the organization going. Clearly, a decision had to be made.

The decision is to let the WCAS go dormant.

We will maintain an electronic mailing list, and our website, but will not plan monthly meetings or put out a regular newsletter. We will not have a membership structure, or membership dues.

We will use our existing email list, plus the addresses of the artists in the Fall Show as our starting mailing list, and will send out eBulletins as these seem appropriate. This is a fast and cost effective way to notify you of coming events, members' shows, workshops, etc. If you are hosting a workshop, offering a class, or having a Show or other event you would like other artists in our area to know about, send a note to Catherine Gutsche or myself. This list will, we hope, become a communications network for artists. Of course, if you do not wish to be on this list, please let one of us know and we will take you off at once.

The current Exhibition and Sale is on track to be quite successful. We have a good location, a full complement of excellent artists and craft artists, publicity, advertising and signage in hand, and every reason to hope that the weather will for once be on our side. A decision about a possible Show in 2008 will be made after this one has taken place.

Our Mini-Conference last Spring was also a success, and we are starting to consider some ideas for another one this Spring. I have tossed out the notion of theming a day-long session on the subject of Colour, something I imagine we are all pretty interested in. A seminar like this can be a great learning experience and a wonderful networking opportunity. Feedback or other ideas will be welcome.

It is a bit sad for some of us to think that the WCAS will no longer be an active group in our community. People like Brenda Davies, who founded the group, MaryLou Jempson, Brenda Parr and many others all worked hard to make it 'go'. But needs and circumstances do change, and we must change with them. The former West Carleton Township has many artists and craft artists, giving it every potential for a vibrant arts community. I very much hope that a period of dormancy will give us the renewed strength and enthusiasm to take the challenge in a new direction in the future.

I sincerely thank everyone who has worked with me these past several years, and especially Pat Dubreuil, Catherine Gutsche, and Brenda Parr. I know it hasn't been easy keeping me afloat, but you did it.

Thank you!