

Seacoast Trail Arts Association

The Seacoast Trail Arts Association of the Eastern Shore was founded in 2006 and is registered with the Registry of Joint Stocks. This group was formed from a desire to celebrate, foster and promote the talent from the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. This association is unique due to its diversity of crafts and fine art. Examples of members' arts and crafts include: Dream catchers, Fabric art, Jewellery, Painting – watercolor, oil, acrylic, silk, pastel, scratchboard, Photography, Rug hooking, Stained glass, Quilting – traditional, quilt art, Wood sculpture, bowls, furniture and Wood relief carving and Folk art.

Our main goal is to promote Eastern Shore artists and artisans and support their future development. There have been several groups developed during the past two years, including a painting group and a quilting group. The association also sponsors several workshops during the year. Also, there have been presentations at the end of our regular meetings. There has been an Open House each year to provide an opportunity for the communities to view the artists at work. Each year we hold an art exhibition and sale in Sheet Harbour during the third weekend in August to showcase the talent in our communities. This has been a very successful event.

The STAA supports the development of young artists and provide an annual bursary for a graduating student at Duncan MacMillan High School who will be pursuing a career in Visual arts.

Art Park

One of our goals is the promotion of the local Art Park and to provide funding for projects. The Art Park was conceived as a space to house both community art and sculpture created by individual artists and art collectives, and is part of the Seacoast Trail Art Association (STAA).

The park is located beside West River Falls in the village of Sheet Harbour on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. The park stretches along the river and into a mixed wood forest. It is open year round and is not fenced. The park is host to many items including carved benches, fairy doors, a shelter hut and several carved sculptures. In 2007, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, the **Honourable MayAnn E. Francis** visited the Art Park and signed a shingle on the Shelter Hut. She wrote “**Barriers are meant to cross over, not to stop you.**”

The Shelter Hut

The SEA sponsored Julie Adamson Miller's shelter hut project. The shelter was created to showcase the individuals that make up the community surrounding

and including Sheet Harbour through the mediums of art and architecture. Built by more than 450 community members, the shelter acts as a welcome to those who visit and live in the villages on the Eastern Shore. Each decorated shingle allows a glimpse into the spirit of the individuals that make up our community.

Chain Saw Sculpture

The Seaside Exhibition of the Arts commissioned Arthur Turner to create a sculpture in the park. He chose to represent the logging industry of the Eastern Shore. He has dedicated his 16 foot chain saw sculpture in memory of Mike McInnis, who was a scaler who measured the wood brought in by truckers for Scott's Pulp Mill.

Benches

Three benches have been added to the permanent collection of the Art Park. Carvers Anne Keddy and John Nickerson helped students from various schools create these benches.

Clothes pin sculpture

This wooden sculpture was made by George Child and commemorates the once successful clothes pin factory in Lewiston Lake, near Sheet Harbour.

There are also fairy doors hidden in the trees, and decorated fish signs along the paths. The Art Park is open year round and is not fenced.

For more information about the Seacoast Trail Arts Association go to their website at www.seacoasttrailartsassoc.com.