

Soak up latest Latcham show

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Members of IRIS explore the idea of fluidity through photographs, sculptures, paintings and mixed media art in the Latcham Gallery's latest show, opening Feb. 24.

In the show by Laura Hair, Holly McClellan, Ruth Read, Margaret Rodgers, Janice Taylor-Prebble, Sally Thurlow and Wendy Wallace, water is portrayed as an endangered yet vital natural resource.

The opening reception for the show, entitled Fluid, is from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 24. Everyone is welcome to meet the artists. The exhibition continues until April 7.

The artists are from Durham Region and are part of IRIS, a collective which was formed in 1996. It aims to raise levels of access for women in the arts and allow the artists to share ideas and offer mutual support.

IRIS is a member of CARFAC (Canadian Artists' Representation Le Front Des Artistes Canadiens), the national voice of Canada's professional visual artists, and The Red Head Gallery.

The seven artists make philosophical, artistic and conceptual observations about the complexity of the relationship between human beings and the environment. Some of the works deal directly with issues surrounding water, while others portray the theme in

more abstract terms.

A catalogue is available with essays by Maralynn Cherry and Ola Wlusek, curator of the Latcham Gallery.

The Latcham Gallery is a public art gallery at 6240 Main St. in Stouffville.

The gallery's hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays.

Call 905-640-8954 or e-mail to curator@latchamgallery.ca

Calling all bookworms

While you'll have to wait until the end of March to get good bargains at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library's giant book sale, you can donate materials now.

The library is looking for hardcover and softcover books, videos and DVDs in good condition.

The only donations that the library can't use are old encyclopedias and textbooks, magazines and copies of Readers' Digest.

This year, all books and materials will be new to the public, the library's CEO Carolyn Nordheimer said. Nothing has been held over from last year's sale.

The 2006 sale, which was held in the multi-purpose room in the Lebovic Leisure Centre, brought in around \$11,500. The library board wants this year's sale to surpass \$12,000.

New this year is an early bird sale that replaces the collectors' hour.

For \$15, you get the pick of the pristine crop of books and materials from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on March 28. While the sale officially starts the next day at 10 a.m., a new seniors' hour lets anyone 60 years of age and over browse through the books and materials at their leisure from 9 to 10 a.m.

The book sale runs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 29 and 30; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 31 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1.

Helping to transport books and shelves, arrange books, refill shelves and handle the cash box are volunteers including students from Stouffville District Secondary School, local service clubs, the town's volunteer firefighters and local residents, some of whom come back year after year.

"Although (the book sale) is run under the auspices of the library board it depends on support from everyone in the community," Ms Nordheimer said.

Funds raised go to such things as prizes for the summer reading program, to pay a co-ordinator for the program in case grant monies aren't forthcoming, next year's March Break program and to have a sound system for the multi-purpose room at the leisure centre.

To donate to the book sale, call Ms Nordheimer at 905-642-7323 for pick-up or to make arrangements to deliver the materials.

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Think You've Heard It All?

by **Lorraine Kennedy Vosu**
Clinical Director/Owner
M.A., Reg. CASLPO Aud(O) Audiologist

FUTURE UNDERSTANDING OF HEARING LOSS

The National Institute on Aging has embarrassed because they think provided a grant to University of Michigan Health System researchers for three studies designed to uncover the causes of age-related hearing loss and possible preventive measures. This is welcome news to anyone concerned about hearing loss and its potential to induce a sense of isolation and depression in the elderly. An estimated 44% of people suffer from significant hearing loss by the time they reach age 69. Sixty-six percent experience damaged hearing by age 79 and 90% by age 80. The studies will investigate the potential effects of antioxidants on the inner ear; the role of stress pathways in hearing loss; and genetic, cellular, and hormonal factors that affect hearing as we age.

millions of people in the United States have hearing difficulty. Research is underway to pinpoint the variables that affect hearing. Exposure to everyday noises - loud music, traffic, a hair dryer - can have a cumulative effect of compromising your hearing. If you think you or a loved one suffers from hearing loss, please call us to schedule a hearing evaluation. Our staff is composed of some of the country's most trusted and experienced audiologists. We perform hearing assessments for all ages - from newborns to geriatric.

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