

# Art From Trees exhibit opens at South of 60

By Heather Sutherland, Barry's Bay This Week  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:20:46 EDT PM



This plate of poplar, poplar branches and soapstone inlay by Jim Sprague is just one of the great pieces part of the Art From Trees exhibition at South of 60 Arts Centre in Barry's Bay. The show runs Sept. 6-Oct. 12.

The amazing artistic possibilities of using tree materials are very evident in the new Art From Trees exhibition at South of 60 Arts Centre.

The multi-artist, juried exhibition features 16 diverse pieces including anything from wood inlays to hand-carved furniture.

"It's so diverse," says Danielle Paul, acting curator. "The techniques used are very, very different."

Paul explains the only criteria for the exhibition is that the work needed to be made from materials derived from trees. This accounts for the varied works of art on display.

All the artists are from the Ottawa and Madawaska Valleys, with many of them coming right from the Barry's Bay, Killaloe and Combermere areas.

"There is a lot of local art," Paul says, "which is what we wanted. We wanted to celebrate artists of the Madawaska Valley and show wood is not dead here."

This is not the first time South of 60 has run this exhibition, with the last one done in 2009.

Paul says it's good to bring it back because there are always new artists, and artists who've been involved before are often doing new things.

"It's nice to check in with an artist who's exhibited before and see what they're doing because it's never static," Paul says.

There are also other reasons besides checking in with previous artists to come see the show.

"First and foremost, [people should come] for pride in what our people produce," Paul says. "And for our enjoyment. We need to boost our own craftsmen and artists."

She continues, "If you come to a show like this and talk about it, it raises [the artists'] profiles and the profile of Madawaska Valley. There's nothing like having a home-grown fan club."

Paul notes her thanks to Re/Max for sponsoring the exhibition.

"We're always pleased when we can put on a really good show and [local businesses] can be associated with it," she says.

Art From Trees opened Sept. 6 and runs through until Oct. 12 in the upstairs gallery. It is available for viewing Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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