

Art and science come together in the Watershed

The Villager News Desk

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FINCH - South Nation Conservation (SNC) and Bishops Mills Natural History Centre (BMNHC) are pleased to announce: Art and Science in the South Nation Watershed, a survey of local landscapes, with onsite paintings of scenes, plants, and animals.

This fall, husband-and-wife team, Dr. Fred Schueler and Aleta Karstad, will undertake an exploration of the South Nation Watershed to raise awareness of the need for conservation and increased knowledge of the watershed. The team will accomplish this goal through collection of scientific data and interpretive landscape paintings of the Watershed.

With 40 years of independently surveying the biology and environment of sites across Canada, and 12 years of working with the SNC, Aleta and Fred will use methods developed for their *Thirty Years Later Expedition* and document with daily paintings their visits to sites to monitor, test hypotheses about sites or species, and sample streams not yet included in their survey of freshwater mussels in the South Nation and its tributaries.

This survey is to be supported by the sale of paintings, which frees the team to visit the sites and phenomena they, local people, and the Conservation Authority consider to be important, without external constraints. Visit karstaddaily-paintings.blogspot.com to support the fieldwork by bidding on paintings in advance of the final event.

On Thursday, November 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., SNC will host an evening event to showcase the paintings and research. Fred and Aleta also plan to have their findings available as a published volume. A one-hour film in celebration of International Year of the Forest will also be screened.



Photo of a Painting By Aleta Karstad

Suggestions are needed for areas of special scientific and/or artistic interest, both aquatic and terrestrial, in the South Nation Watershed. Anyone wishing to have his or her favourite sites on the river or in the drainage basin considered for a visit, contact Fred at bkcldb@istar.ca or Aleta at karstad@pinicola.ca or by phone at 613-258-3107.