



April / 2008

**“We All Belong Art Sale & Auction”  
Hosted by Wabi Iron & Steel Corp.  
& Canadian Mental Health Association**

“We All Belong” these three words have so much meaning to all of us on this earth, especially today with all the ups and the downs we all face on a daily basis. Yes, I know we are all individuals and yet we all want the same thing; what is best for ourselves and our loved ones. At some point in our lives we will all face a mental health issue in one form or another. People today are so fearful of saying the words “Mental Illness” as though the moment those words are spoken out loud they would be locked up forever and that would be the end of their life as they know it. Today proper treatment and recovery is a lot more successful and one is not isolated from loved ones like the old days. The days of being locked up in an institution and treated like a number are long gone. One of the treatments offered today by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is called “recovery culture.”

Last year, Mr. Peter Birnie, President of Wabi Iron and Steel Corp. launched the idea of holding an annual art sale and auction. Thus the launching of “We All Belong Inc.” came to life. The proceeds raised from this event will go to The Cochrane Timiskaming branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) which is a charitable foundation and its main campaign goal is to educate the public on mental illness.

In order to raise money for this live art sale and auction one needed various works of art and to create art you need artists. In January of 2008, local artist were invited to Wabi Iron & Steel Corp’s boardroom and later taken to a storage area to browse through cast off forms of wooden molds and pieces of knurled metal shapes both large and small. These cast off were once used for the custom-designed apparatus manufactured by the New Liskeard foundry. Once the artists entered the area their creative energy soared. Over 30 artists selected either a metal piece or wooden mold or both to recycle and create what was to be called “WabiArt” masterpieces for the fund raising art/sale & auction coming up in May.



Below is artist Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki with items selected for her WabiArt and her completed WabiArt titled: “Help Me Be Me, Set Me Free, Let Me Soar”



Mixed Media on Masonite /Stretched Canvas.

The pieces, known as “WabiArt,” are being created at this moment by the artists taking part in this special event. As you can see from the photo on the left, my piece of steel was just that, a piece of steel and a wooden block. Later from that same piece of steel I saw a bird and my wooden mold to me represented something that was being kept inside of something and so I went with those thoughts. One evening while I was mulling the pieces over, a painting which I had done some years back came to mind. I had stored it away for a reason; I just didn’t know what at the time. I also recalled the presentation Mr. Drew Jacques, the intake manager at the New Liskeard CMHA office gave us regarding mental illness. Then I knew what I had to do with the painting and all fell into place after that. With the inclusion of a recycled knurled up piece of metal and a wooden mold the painting seemed to be complete. It now had a purpose, a new life; very much like those who recover from mental illness; they too have a new purpose in life.

The “We All Belong” Art Sale & Auction will be held in conjunction with the Wabi Iron & Steel Corp’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. There is a lot to celebrate; not only are they helping raise money to educate the public of mental health but they are also promoting the wealth of artistic people we have here in **Northern Ontario**.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

**Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>** Art Show & Wabi Open House 3: pm to 9: pm

**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>** Wabi Open House & BBQ 11: am to 3:30 pm and Live and Silent

**Auction** begins at 4: pm. See you there!

Artistmom \* Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki  
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To view all WabiArt created by local artist and other art for sale (which 25% of these sales are donated to CMHA) check out the website at:

<http://www.wabicorp.com/> and then click on We All Belong tab

If you would like to donate or need more info contact:

**Louise Gregoire** at: Tel: 705-647-4383 Ext. 216

P.O. Box 1510, 330 Broadwood Ave., New Liskeard, Ontario P0J 1P0

Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki signing off

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