



October 26, 2007

Thank You From Temiskaming Artists' & Artisans' Studio Tours

Another Studio Tour has come and gone and this year the weather was perfect for taking in the tour. On behalf of all the Artists / Artisans, I would like to thank everyone who attended our tour. Some of us had free draws for various prizes; congratulations to all the lucky winners. We appreciate you taking the time to stop by to say hello and of course all your wonderful comments.

We would like to make the Annual Studio Tour / Sale the best that it can be and therefore in this month's column I decided I would like to ask for your thoughts and suggestions regarding the self guided studio tour. Please feel free to send me an E-mail:

paint@ntl.sympatico.ca with any ideas you may have for us to make it even better and easier for everyone. Please write in subject line of e-mail, Studio Tour, as I may delete the e-mail if I don't recognize the address.

For those of you who may not have heard of our tour; we are a non-profit group of artists and artisans in and around Temiskaming who have organized a Self Guided Studio Tour. Our brochures are distributed at local merchants and we ask the public who wish to take in the tour to please pick up a brochure from various businesses throughout the touring areas. The brochures contain a map / names of participants and directions to studios for both the North and South end of Temiskaming. At this time the studios in the South end; such as Temiskaming Shores, the attendance have been great for the artists / artisans as the traveling is not so distant between studios. Some of the studios have more than one participate sharing the space and displaying his or her wares and is a great advantage for the public. For the participating artists / artisans in the North end, such as Englehart area and up to Kenagami; attendance of visiting guests are much lower and this is disappointing to the artists / artisans who have worked so hard in preparing their studios. We don't know if it is due to the visitors not willing to travel the distance or that the advertising for that area is not getting out to the public. I know for a fact that there is always room for improvement when it comes to advertisement and this is one of the areas we need to work on. It is difficult when you are a non-profit group and funds are limited but we are looking at making some changes. The idea of all participating artists and artisans joining as a group under one roof has been discussed, which in my opinion would be a great way to showcase the Gold Mine of Professionals we have in Northern Ontario. (Read my column on "**Artists and Artisans Professionalism in Northern Ontario**" on my website Website: <http://www.ArtistMom.net>).

Elliot Lake has an annual studio tour and the artists/ artisans there have numerous locations such as Lion's Hall, Dunlop Lake Lodge, Laurentian Lodge, Civic Centre,

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church halls, etc. and each of these locations have several participants displaying/ selling their unique wares. I just recently attended the studio tours in Elliot Lake, Iron Bridge, Blind River and a few other places, I found it to be very informative as well as a pleasant way to spend a fall day. Each town had several places mapped out on the tour map and each location had large signs which made it easier to find. One example was the Laurentian Lodge which had displays such as Photography, Weavers, Potters, Painters and Jewelry Designers. The room was filled with smiling faces, people mingling with the artists and artisans asking questions on their techniques, making purchases, browsing from one display to the next, chatting with friends. Even had a bus load of seniors stop in while I was there and they had such a lovely time checking out all the wonderful treasures. I not only found unique treasures of my own but I also came across many fabulous fall scenes for my next painting sessions.

Now, this is where I need your input. Do you think it would be better to hold our tour as one group under one roof, perhaps somewhere in New Liskeard; which would be more central for both the North and South end of Temiskaming? Another option would be to have our tour at numerous business locations such as halls, arenas, Inns, etc. throughout Temiskaming and have several artists / artisans in each of these locations; similar idea as in Elliot Lake.

We are open to any ideas you may have; as I said we want to make next years' event better for everyone. Look forward to hearing from you.

By the way, please stop in at the Salon Des Arts at St. Michel Catholic School
in New Liskeard (in the Gym) **Sat. Oct. 27 10: am to 4: pm / Oct. 28 10: am to 3: pm**
Hope to see you there!

Alice Y. Sawicki signing off, stay safe.