White Bear Artists' Project



Plan and Proposal, July 2024



Project Summary

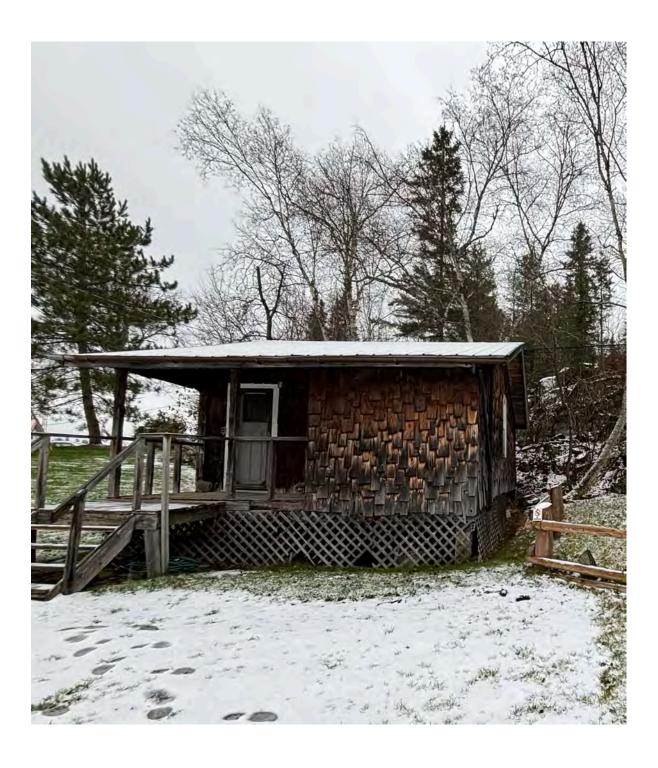
Artists from the Broken Forests Group and from the Ontario Society of Artists to participate in a two-week (12 nights) residency and forest conservation forum at the White Bear Artists International Residence next summer. The residency will be self-directed but will include guided tours to the White Bear Old Growth forest and several "strategy sessions" with area naturalists and artists to start the process of opening up new trails within the forest. The latter will be led by OSA member, Dermot Wilson, OSA member, Janet Hendershot and by Northland Paradise Owner/operator, Douglas Adams. The White Bear AIR is mandated to observe, maintain and protect the White Bear Conservation area, home to the fifth largest stand of Old Growth trees in the world. The Residence is further mandated to foster the development of Eco-artists and Contemporary Landscape Artists both in North America and from countries around the world.

Together with the OSA, we are creating arts projects that help us in building toward a healthy planet.

The proposed Residency and Arts Creation Project will begin on June 29, 2024 and end on the Saturday two weeks later. These weeks have been booked tentatively with Northland Paradise and the White Bear AIR. The residency offers clean "rustic" accommodations and a vintage Northern Hunting Camp decor. All rooms are equipped with basic kitchens, showers and toilets. The facility includes: two large studio/drawing spaces (there are also several porch/balcony areas outdoors for working), tables, easels, mules, etc., a working darkroom with chemicals, documentation lighting, a small "jewelry" kiln, studio photography backdrops, plein aire painting equipment, high speed internet, canoes and motorboats, a taxidermy shop and woodworking/ carving equipment.

The site itself is inspiring and magical! Our Residence is literally right beside over 50 kilometres of groomed trails. It is a short canoe ride across the Little Snake Lake from the 5000-year-old Indigenous peoples trail. It is a 15 minute walk to the Temagami Tower lookout point and its system of trails. By canoe, residents can travel for weeks to inter-connecting lakes stretching eastward to the borders of Quebec.

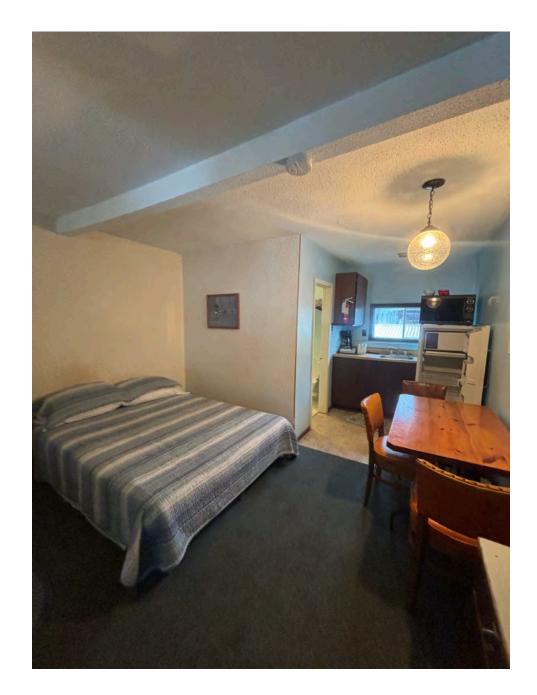
Our on site chef is absolutely second-to-none! He specializes in game preparation, marmalades and preserves, and amazing pies!! But this is a "truly Northern" experience, not a "five-star hotel". The objectives are: to get away from the pressures of urban life, to develop strong personal connections with the forest itself, to work everyday on our artistic practices and to participate in conservation and awareness projects that nurture and protect the Old Growth forests in Northern Ontario.



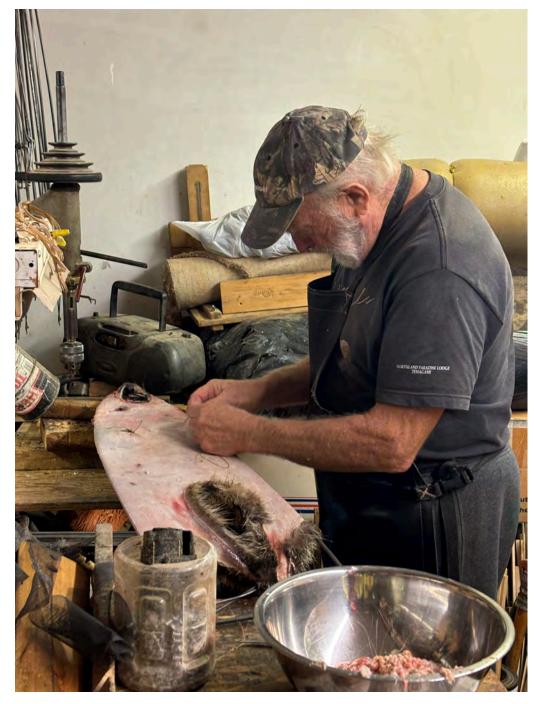
This small outlying cabin sleeps four.



A view of Studio 1 - note the beautiful view of Little Snake Lake AND the hickory nuts drying on the table!

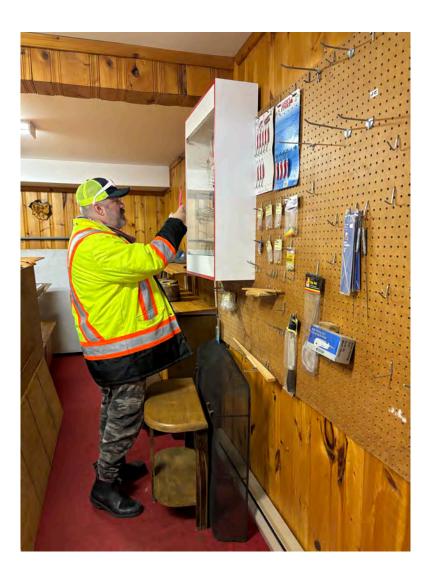


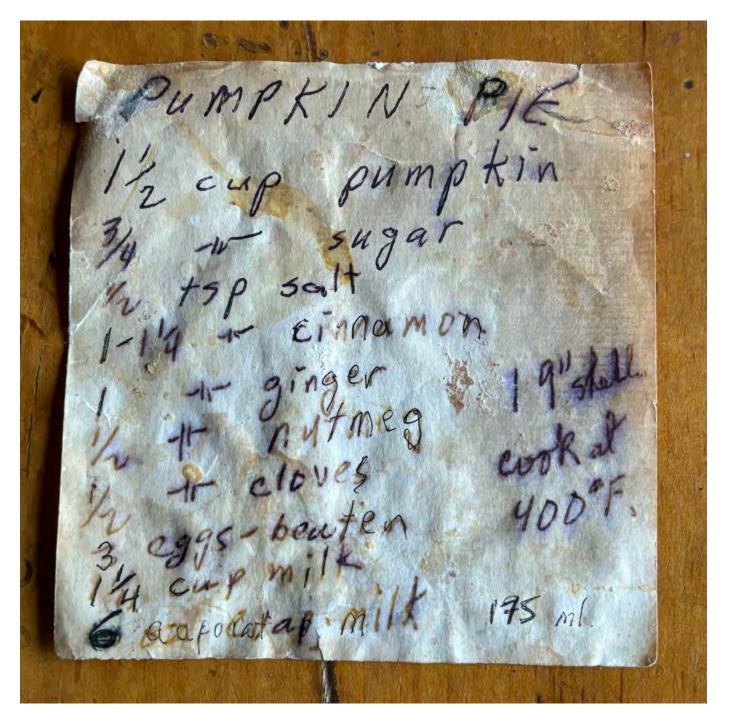
Room Four sleeps four and has a small kitcheonette in the back.



Doug is here in the process of getting a racoon pelt ready for market. He has been a fur trapper in the area for 50 years!

After a fresh snowfall, this shot shows Rooms four five and six, upstairs, and on the lower floor Room seven and Studio 2. Below...James is in Studio 2 checking out the lures.





Doug made 13 pumpkin pies while we were there in the beginning of November, 2023.

Broken Forests Group – Financial Support and Projections for the AIR

The first and most important objective of the White Bear AIR is to respect, document and promote the legacy of the White Bear Conservation area and Old Growth forest. We want the AIR to ensure that the Forest will remain, for centuries to come, an undomesticated and biologically diverse inter-dependent organism, i.e. a healthy "living" forest.

We want all artists, audiences and interested visitors to support us by:

- promoting the forest through their artworks,
- maintaining access to the forest without damaging the eco-system or removing any materials from the forest,
- living with and for the forest for extended periods of time,
- donating artworks, goods and services to the White Bear AIR to ensure it's ongoing operations.

