

Fall opening eyed for art gallery in GRC expansion

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Staff Writer

A goal to bring a sense of art and culture into the lives of Ottawa residents has reached fruition.

The Ottawa West Arts Association (OWAA), comprised of a group of local artists, have worked hard and long hours to have a place to hang their artwork.

Come October, residents will be able enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy the works of art hanging from a wall in the owaa gallery.

From mixed media to pottery to textile art to sculptures to photography to canvas and even acrylic, plus many more, there will be something for everybody to see come the fall.

The owaa gallery is part of the second phase of an expansion of the Goulbourn Recreation Complex, located on Shea Road in Stittsville.

Executive members of the OWAA, a not-for-profit association, told the EMC they are proud of how far they have come since November of 2007, when a Stittsville Steering Committee was first formed and brought the idea to the attention of ward 6 Stittsville-Kanata West councillor Shad Qadri.

The founding members of this committee were Sue Perley-Robertson, Louise Barker, Beverly Ashford, Gerald Smith and John Madden.

During November of

2007, Terry Sametz was invited to join the Stittsville Steering Committee as a consultant.

The Stittsville Steering Committee name was changed in December 2007 to the Goulbourn Recreation Complex (GRC) Gallery X Steering Committee, but consisting of the same members.

This committee presented a proposal to the councillor, Tessie Boretos, portfolio manager, Visual and Creative Arts Program for the city, and to the Stittsville Village Association.

With the support of the councillor, Boretos and the Stittsville Village Association, the GRC Gallery X Steering Committee proceeded to form the Ottawa West Arts Association in May 2008 with a membership of 28.

Now, membership has increased to 38, said Perley-Robertson.

As of May 2007, the OWAA began to develop an exhibition space in the GRC, Phase II Expansion.

Presently, the executive members of the owaa gallery include Sue Perley-Robertson, chair; John Madden, co-chair and secretary; Louise Barker, co-chair; Cindy Jackson, treasurer; Josie Braden, co-chair

of exhibition; and Aud Karin Sund, co-chair of publicity.

The plan, as part of an expansion, will be to have one 6 m wall space and one 10 m wall space. The larger gallery will also have a canopy and tables and chairs set up in a café style, as well as some floor space for sculptures.

"We have had great support from the GRC staff," said Perley-Robertson.

The owaa gallery is currently non-juried, with the possibility of having juried shows in the future, she added.

If the space provides, some artists can set up their easels and invite the com-

munity to watch as they paint.

"All members were invited to participate in the logo design, and they gave lots of input," said Perley-Robertson.

"It's fun for everybody. Everybody brings something different to it. There was lots of suggestions and opinions."

The majority of members are from Stittsville and Kanata, she noted, however, memberships are open to all.

If anybody is interested in joining the OWAA, please contact Sue Perley-Robertson at jessler@rogers.com.