

## DAREarts RETURNS TO MARTEN FALLS (OGOKI POST) FIRST NATIONS

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Toronto, Ontario - The week of March, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> DAREarts is coming back.

**Marten Falls First Nations (Ogoki Post)**, a remote fly-in community located on the Albany River in northern Ontario, welcomes back the DAREarts team of teaching artists! A weeklong visit in the fall of 2010 by the same DAREarts team teaching artists proved to be an empowering experience for the Henry Coaster Memorial School students, staff and the community. The same children in grades 5 to 8 will be participating in this week of artistic sessions with a focus on film-making. This partnership of DAREarts and Ogoki has been made possible by the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

The local police in Ogoki stress, "It's harder on the community when groups fly in and are not heard from ever again. It's like a slap in the face to the kids. They grow distrustful and don't want to invest."

Marilyn Field, DAREarts Founder remarks, "There is now an established partnership between Ogoki and DAREarts: the kids are investing in the project and DAREarts will continue to visit Ogoki. We are proud to play a role in these young people becoming brave leaders who can ignite positive change in their community."

DAREarts is a fifteen year old Canadian charity that uses the arts to empower children with Discipline, Action, Respect and Excellence. The end result is a group of youths who are passionate about achieving their goals. Moreover, they are poised to become leaders of their peers. Several years ago, DAREarts was handed a challenge by northern aboriginal communities to help re-direct their youth away from the daily negative influences and re-ignite their traditional values.

DAREarts Aboriginal Teaching Artist Cathy Elliott, explains, "This program is named, Nee-tum Ocheeee-bek, First Roots. This name was given to the program by an Elder in Webequie. The name well represents the nature of the work we're doing with the First Nations Kids. The use of the term First Roots is used to describe the program in the language of the communities in which we are working" explains.

***"Ontario recognizes how important an education is for empowering Aboriginal children and youth. Art inspires leadership skills, creativity and encourages a child to reach their full potential though academic success. Together, with DAREarts, we are giving Aboriginal children and youth more opportunities to learn, create and succeed," says Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.***

The six days will contain a challenging program that will help the students build their self-awareness, confidence and courage to make good decisions. The DAREarts workshops will have a film-making focus, along with storytelling, music, dance, drama, photography and sharing circles. **The final showcase of the children's work for the community will be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. followed by a traditional feast. All are welcome.**

The sessions will be led by the DAREarts team below.

**Cathy Elliott** is an Acadian, Irish/status Mi'kmak member of the Indian Brook Band in Nova Scotia. Her great, great, great grandfather, Chief Kopit, signed the Treaty of 1752. Her grandfather, Louis Bernard, made and played fiddles and was always a fascination to her. It was only recently that she learned that Louis was a Residential School Survivor. Her first cousin Betty Ann Lavallée is National Chief to the Council of Aboriginal Peoples. Cathy became an teaching artist with DAREarts in 2007.

Cathy's artistic journey started when her mother (a painter) put a pencil in her hand and demonstrated how to draw a three dimensional box, then a face, then, well everything. Since then, she has pursued a life: visual arts, (painting, sculpture, jewellery making, photography, digital art, graphics and advertising) theatre, (performing, playwriting, lyrics) music (musical theatre, roots, guitar, piano, computer) and film (direction and musical scores).

She wrote and performed the scores for RedBark Film's Brebeuf and His Huron Carole for CBC and APTN (2002) as well as for Jimmy McQuat, the Hermit of White Otter Lake (1983). Most recently she created the score for the Pre Show Film Installment at the new Planetarium in Sudbury's Science North and was Yvelle Longpré in the English workshop of Les Belles Soeurs the Musical (The Sisters). She received a Dora nomination for Leslie Arden's The

Happy Prince (LKYP). Cathy wrote the script, created the film score and directed Graham Greene in DAREarts documentary, "Fill my Hollow Bones".

**Jeremy Proulx** – is a young First Nations screenwriter, filmmaker and actor of Anishnabe (Ojibwe) and Haudenosaunee (Oneida) descent, who has worked in film as a writer, dialogue polisher as well as story and character developer, just to name a few. He has also worked as a senior videographer and researcher with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, working in the areas of video documentary and interviewing elders from his community, eventually editing the footage for final product. Jeremy has been awarded several awards and bursaries from York University, National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Community Foundation of Grey Bruce and the Banff Centre for the Arts. Jeremy's strong theatre background as an actor has taken him to stages across the country and blends well with his gift for storytelling and continued community work with First Nations youth across Turtle Island.

**Linda A. Carson**, a graduate of Vancouver's Studio 58, has been a professional actor, writer, and teacher for the past 20 years. She has acted in theatres and schools across Canada and written several plays including, Dying To Be Thin, (Jessie Richardson Award), Mom's The Word (co-wrote, Jessie Richardson Award), and an adaptation of the James Marshal stories, George and Martha. Linda's latest acting credits include the The Last Drop, by Kim Selody, (Dora Nomination), Patty's Cake, Carousel Players (Dora Award) and Where the Wild Things Are, Carousel Players (Dora Nomination and tour of Japan). She lives with her family in Ottawa where she continues to write and act.

**Peter Elliott**, is a graduate of Humber and Sheridan College. Since 1979 he has edited and shot various documentary and lifestyle television series, independent documentaries, corporate communications including the direction and production of some documentary films. Some of Peter's editing has been with Convictions, Tow Biz, Designer Guys – Seasons 3&4, Trash to Treasure, The Surgeons, and 72 Hours True Crime. Peter's Director of Photography projects include; Who's Afraid of Happy Endings?, Loggerhead Shrike, Mark Three Power Pump, and Canada's Stargazer. As part of the DAREarts Aboriginal Webeguie team Peter will be adding Director of Photography to the soon to be released documentary 'Fill My Hollow Bones'.

### **SCHEDULE**

Monday	Meeting with teachers and committee members <i>Every day will begin/ end with a traditional sharing circle. Students will be invited to continue creating in the evenings.</i>
Tuesday:	AM - Introductions, exploration of the week's objectives and outcomes, discussions of values, etc. PM - Build stories together; Round Robin of workshops EVE: Individual photography in the community
Wednesday:	AM - Circle; Develop scripts from stories PM - Workshops to build and tell their story EVE: Individual photography in the community
Thursday:	AM - Circle; Tutorial learning sessions & song writing PM - Workshops to build and tell their story EVE: Individual photography in the community
Friday:	AM - Circle; Tutorial learning sessions & song writing PM – Final editing of the film
Saturday:	4 PM-Community Screening of their film followed by a traditional feast

Please visit DAREarts at [www.darearts.com](http://www.darearts.com)



For more information:  
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