



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2014

LEGACY WHALE INSPIRED 1000 LOCAL KIDS TO MAKE DAREARTS HOLIDAY CARDS

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the award-winning *Legacy* will take place at the **Alder Street Recreation Complex** in **Orangeville, ON**, on **Friday December 19** from **5pm to 6:30pm**. The ceremony will be led by Dufferin-Caledon MP, David Tilson; MPP Dufferin-Caledon, Sylvia Jones and Town of Orangeville Mayor, Jeremy Williams.

Legacy is an award-winning installation artwork by local artist **Ken Hall** that consists of a whale's skeleton carved from reclaimed cedar. *Legacy* was the inspiration for this year's DAREarts DARE2draw program which involved over 1000 children and youth from local schools creating Holiday Cards in support of aboriginal youth. During the program, students learned about several environmental issues and about aboriginal culture. They then told their own 'whale tales' through art and residents of Orangeville, the surrounding community, and all of Canada, can now help them make their voice heard; sales of the cards will support DAREarts programs in First Nations communities.

Legacy is inspired by the story of 'Hope' a whale that washed ashore on the West Coast in 2002 and was found to have the highest levels of contaminants ever recorded in a marine mammal. Her story put into perspective the delicacy of our fragile ecosystems for students in the DAREarts program. *Legacy* dares them to take positive action through art and to make a difference.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be followed by a short talk by the artist explaining the inspiration behind the artwork and its significance. Live music will be performed by local musician Ed Roman, who will open the event by making 'whale music' on his century old historic bass. Light refreshments and snacks will be available.

Background:

Artist Ken Hall chooses to focus on creating large-scale public installation artwork. Concerned about modern society's dislocation from the natural world, he addresses key issues by creating pieces with environmental themes. He was recently awarded 'Artist of the Year' at the 2014 Town of Orangeville Arts & Culture Awards, as well as being named 'Artisan of the Year' at the 2014 Hills of Headwaters Tourism Awards.

Canada's **DAREarts** (Canadian Charitable No. 88691 7764 RR0002) is a national charity that uses the arts to empower thousands of at-risk kids with the ability to ignite positive change in themselves and others. Teaching "Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence," DAREarts' five-year program works with 9-15 year-olds from schools in marginalized neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.darearts.com and www.darearts.wordpress.com.

DAREarts thanks its lead supporters: **Northbridge Insurance, Guy Carpenter, Scotiabank, Ontario Arts Council** and **Ontario Trillium Foundation**.

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