

## **Rave Reviews for Art in the Heart**

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**BRACEBRIDGE, ON** – A total of seven Muskokan artists were “on the streets” in Bracebridge displaying and selling their art to an interested public. Cloudy skies did not hinder them from making transactions as well as valuable contacts in their pursuit of a career in art.

A popular stop for many visitors to the downtown has been the booth of Jeffrey Ramage, a Bracebridge sketch artist and cartoonist. Jeffrey is able to capture his clients in either a realistic rendition or if they prefer in cartoon style. “Sketches take approximately 20 minutes to complete, but some patrons prefer to leave their favourite photograph for me to complete and then come back later to pick it up” stated Ramage.

Sandra Beausoleil, Event Coordinator for Art in the Heart, indicated that, “Every week sees a few new artists participate. Some of them will return later in the summer and bring new pieces that they have just completed.”

Some of the artists are busy demonstrating their craft. One such artist is woodcarver, Nathan Shortt. In addition to a variety of functional items on display, Shortt creates original wooden pens. Customers can select the type of wood and then he will create it on the spot.

BIA members are supportive of the program. “There’s no doubt that Art in the Heart adds to the charm of our historic downtown” stated Pelican Bay owner Liz Mitchel-Duran. She went on to add, “It is great that the Town of Bracebridge is supporting this type of program.” Karen McLellan of Muskoka Bean Café described Art in the Heart as, “A wonderful program that gives new artists the experience of participating in a show. It also gives people another great reason to enjoy the downtown.”

Muskoka Community Futures Corporation agrees with the merits of the program. They announced today that Art in the Heart has qualified for \$3,335 in funding under their Community Initiative Program. During the presentation held during Council meeting July 22, 2009, Marguerite Urban, Chair of Muskoka Futures, commended the program for its focus on the arts in Muskoka and suggested that the program could act as a model for other communities. Funding from this grant will be used to augment the marketing costs associated with advertising this program.

Next weekend’s roster will feature wood carvers, painters, a sketch artist and local performing artists. Sherri Coates, owner of Beautiful Clothing and Linens, will entertain visitors to the street in front of her store at 14 Manitoba Street from 2-4 on Saturday. As well, Sharon Bacon from ‘Music for Young Children’ will be performing with her young musicians in Bird Mill Mews on both Saturday and Sunday over the lunch hour.

Art in the Heart is a program to develop new and emerging artists that takes place every weekend, until August 16 in public spaces and alleyways in downtown Bracebridge. For more information, visit [www.artintheheartbracebridge.com](http://www.artintheheartbracebridge.com). Come and see the gems that can be found on the streets of Bracebridge. The hours are Saturdays from 9-5 and Sundays from 10-3.

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For further information about:  
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**About Bracebridge** – The Town Bracebridge is Muskoka’s fastest growing urban municipality with a current population of over 15,600 that increases to over 30,000 during the summer months. Bracebridge, “the Heart of Muskoka”, offers citizens unique quality of life through its location in the centre of Muskoka, a world-renowned pristine natural environment. The community has a diversified economic base with numerous educational, social, recreational and cultural resources. The Town is positioned on the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, halfway between the Equator and the North Pole, and is recognized as Santa’s summer home.