



Willowdale Group of Artists

What we've done, and what we are planning for 2009/10

February 2010

WGA is one of the oldest art associations in Ontario. We have 200 active Members, 8 Life Members, and 14 Patrons. Our membership year runs from September to August, with renewals forms going out in February. Our **Annual Information Package** goes out to members in August. This includes your membership card, program schedules, membership and executive committee information, plus ways you can participate in the Group. Our \$85 membership fee covers meeting space rental, show space rental, guest artists, instructors, models, communications and weekly meetings. Applications for new memberships are added to our waiting list upon their completed return (no payment at this point). You will be contacted when a space becomes available.

Tuesday Night Meetings are offered each week and form the core of the program. You must attend a minimum of 4 meetings in your first year (and 6 meetings in subsequent years) to be eligible to enter the Spring Juried Show. The sign-in sheet is available at coffee break. We meet every Tuesday night at the **North York Seniors Centre** – 21 Hendon Avenue (1 block north of Finch, west of Yonge). **Parking** is available underneath the Seniors Centre for \$2 (with validation from main desk in Lobby), for free in the TTC parking lot across the street, or street parking. Tuesday Night Meetings include **Demos** by guest artists beginning at 7:15 pm, **Workshops in Life/Costume Drawing** (with instructor), and **Workshops given by Guest Instructors**. Workshops begin at 7:30 pm and require you to bring your own art supplies and paper.

Our **Winter Party** (December 1st, 2009) is our main social event of the year. Held at Holy Trinity Church in Thornhill, the evening offers our Holiday Skit, good food (pot luck hors d'oeuvres and sweets) and an opportunity for fellowship. **Jury Night and Nomination of Directors** for 2010 is March 9th. Remember, this important meeting is your chance to enter the Spring Show, and to volunteer to be more involved in the Group's activities in the coming year! **Critique Nights** (April 6th and 13th) begin at 7pm and will be lead by Brian Smith this year. You may bring two paintings for critiquing. The **Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers** wraps up the year on May 4th, with desserts and coffee at 7pm. Tables and chairs are set up and put away each week – everyone is expected to help with this.

WGA is user-friendly. We offer two **Newsletters** per year, which provide information on upcoming events and shows, in addition to our detailed **Information Package**, which outlines the year's meetings. Don't forget to check the table just inside the meeting room for literature and notices of events, shows and workshops. We will also be implementing our membership email option this

year, so you can receive notifications and information via email instead of mail. Important mailings like the Annual Information Package will continue to be mailed out to members.

WGA is for learning. In addition to our regular demos and workshops, WGA offers its members easy access to Workshops at **Banbury** (Wednesday afternoons – **contact Joanne Braganza**) and **Edithvale** (Thursday evenings – **contact Bernadette Hill**) for very nominal fees. These Workshops are excellent learning opportunities. Information for both of these comes in the August Information Package. In addition, WGA has its own **Library**. You may borrow books and videos for up to 3 weeks at the beginning of any Tuesday meeting.

WGA has **Open Art Shows** at the North York Civic Centre, Markham Theatre, Sunnybrook Hospital and Todmorden Mills (among others) during the year. Watch for announcements regarding dates. Sign-up sheets are made available at the Tuesday meetings and are on a first-come, first-served basis. You are responsible for transportation of your paintings, and for adhering to the rules for matting, framing and hanging. These rules are published in detail in the Spring Newsletter each year.

Our **Juried Spring Show** will be held this year May 1st to May 14th. It is held at the North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. Eligible members may submit two paintings (attend your meetings!). Jury fee is \$3, or two for \$5. Contact is Mickey Katz. Accepted paintings are subject to a hanging fee. Sitters are required to host the show. Sign up on Jury Night. Reception is Tuesday May 11th, at 7 pm in the Gold Room Memorial Hall). Paintings not sold in the Spring Show are expected to be included in the **Etobicoke Civic Centre Show**, June 24-Sept. 10, 2010. Extensive details of show rules, jurors, etc. are published in the Spring Newsletter.

Past Shows:

Juried Spring Show 2009 (15 paintings sold)
Fall Show 2009 – North York Civic Centre (9 paintings sold)
December 2009 – Markham Theatre (0 paintings sold)
January 2010 – Etobicoke Civic Centre (1 painting sold)

Upcoming Shows:

May 1-14, 2010 – Juried Spring Show, North York Civic Centre
June 9-20, 2010 – Todmorden Mills Show
June 24 – Sept. 10, 2010 – Etobicoke Civic Centre

New members will have an orientation in September before one of our demos. You will be contacted with more information. If you have any further questions, this will be your opportunity to have them answered. Hope you will join us!

Gail Thompson
Membership Convenor

Visit our website at
www.willowdaleartists.com