



CREATIVE CENTRE

Willow Springs Creative Centre (WSCC) is a dynamic non-profit offering art, therapeutic gardening and food programs to many. Our mission is 'to promote growth through creative expression and community development'. We have a large group of community partners with whom we work and provide on-going programs and projects such as Autism Ontario, Options Northwest, Community Living, Smith Centre, Dilico, CNIB, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, 55 Plus Centres, Roots to Harvest, Lakehead Manor, Isabella Retirement Home, the Baggage Building Art Centre and more. Without these vital partnerships WSCC would not be able to exist.

Two art projects we are presently working on are:

- Our Listening Owl Theatre Project with the First Nations Support Group of CNIB. Together WSCC, playwright Eleanor Albanese, and the members of the support group will create and perform a play illuminating living in our area as indigenous people with vision loss.
- Our Pink House Pottery/Mosaic Studio will see us convert one of our buildings into a community pottery and mosaic studio that provides training in slab pottery and mosaic work to adults with disabilities. It will also serve as a drop-in studio for the community members wishing to try their hand at creating with clay.



Accessible and inclusive art classes are a key element of WSCC's work. For the past 3 years we have been providing individualized classes to those with Passport funding (See attached brochure). We are willing to come to your home, group home or you are always more than welcome to come to Willow Springs.



In a celebration of creativity, magic, fun food and imagination,

Willow Springs hosted our first annual Harry Potter Festival this summer. The event included The Great Hall where the Sorting Hat put everyone into their proper house under the watchful eye of Professor McGonagall, a scavenger hunt in the Forbidden Forest, a quidditch pitch with brooms ready to ride, Honey Duke's Candy Shop, wand fittings at Olevanders, The Three Broomsticks Pub with Fishy Green Ale and Butter Beer of course, Herbology Class repotting Mandrakes with Professor Sprout and Hagrid's Hut. The event was a wonderful success. Next year we





invite everyone to join in the festivities the first week of October. Watch Willow Springs page on Facebook for updates.

Promoting locally produced goods is an important piece of the community work Willow Springs is involved in. Each summer, the Willow Springs Market, a small but mighty farmer's market, brings together both local small producers and consumer community members. Wood-fired pizzas, artisan bread, homemade ice

cream and beverages are just some of the treats visitors to the market can expect to enjoy.



Delicious foods that are grown in Willow Springs' gardens are then utilized in food training programs for adults with disabilities, school groups and community organizations. Adults with disabilities and those who face other barriers to employment access culinary training and employment as part of Willow Springs' Market, Soup and Bread Extravaganza and Pizza and Salad programs which focus on building confidence, and developing food preparation, team work, and communication skills. Foods prepared in these programs are popular items that community members can't seem to get enough of, and shares sell out quickly!

Willow Springs Creative Centre recognizes the multiple benefits gained from gardening. We are working to

increase the knowledge of and access to therapeutic gardening and horticultural therapy for people throughout the northwest. In partnership with Lakehead University and Confederation College, Willow Springs is in the process of developing an Intro to Horticultural Therapy Certificate program for students as well as community members. In September, WSCC was thrilled to host the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association's annual conference.

Over the past few years WSCC has had an opportunity to work with the Thunder Bay Family Network. We look forward to many more chances to collaborate.

