In June 2012 the *W(where)* Festival begins and ends on its feet, exploring ideas of place, art, and community. Taking place in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, local and visiting artists will lead audiences in a series of “field trips” engaging participants in an interactive way. In addition, the festival will feature an exciting evening of local artist talks, a special interactive discussion about creative Pictou County, a public launch of an online video project and music by Al Tuck.

Discover new terrain, new histories, and new possibilities for artistic thinking at the *W(where)* Festival this spring in Pictou County. All events are free and family friendly.

**Highlights of the festival include:**

+ local resident/artist-led “field trips” throughout Pictou County
+ engaging visiting artist projects by Marlene Creates and Sheilah Wilson
+ fun and fabulous talks by local Pictou County artists about their work
+ a special discussion about art, place and community with invited guests
+ a closing event that will bring you back in time and concert with Al Tuck

**Questions?** Contact Mary MacDonald, curator, at wherefestival@gmail.com, 902 921 3373, or stop by 13 Water Street, our June headquarters.

**Visiting Artists**
Marlene Creates (NL)
Sheilah Wilson (New Zealand/NS)
Katherine Knight and David Craig (Toronto/NS)

**Local Artists**
Linda Little & Sheree Fitch (River John, NS)
Raina McDonald (Brookland, NS)
Sharon Nowlan (Pictou, NS)
Susan Sellers (River John, NS)

**Curator** Mary MacDonald is an artist, arts administrator and curator hailing from Pictou. Mary graduated from Mount Allison University (BFA 2006) and is presently studying towards a Masters of Fine Arts in Criticism & Curatorial Practice at OCAD University (Toronto). The *W(where)* Festival is a part of Mary MacDonald’s graduate thesis work and ongoing research in contemporary rural curatorial practices. [http://mfmacdonald.wordpress.com](http://mfmacdonald.wordpress.com)
W(where) Festival Schedule

JUNE 26

7pm – “kitchen pARTy”, a social evening of local artist talks, Carvers Coffee House, Pictou
Here the traditional artist talk is transformed into a fun and social evening! Eight local artists (filmmakers, painters, sculptors, and textile artists) share recent projects and works-in-progress in 15 minutes or less. Come, be merry and meet some of those involved in Pictou County’s art scene.

Presenting artists: Eliza Furnbach, Susan Tilsley Manley, Amanda MacDonald, Dawn McNutt, Stephanie Robinson, St. Clair Prest, Carolyn Vienneau + Fenn Martin.

Carvers is located at 41 Coleraine Street in Pictou.

JUNE 27

9am-1pm – Award Ribbons for Places in Pictou County, a special project by visiting artist Marlene Creates (Newfoundland), Day 1, Bayview Community Hall
For this project, visiting artist Marlene Creates is inviting participants of all ages to share some of their meaningful places in Pictou — either natural or built — in order to reveal some of its invisible layers of meaning. Participants will be given the materials to create an award ribbon, which will be installed in their chosen spot. This is a chance to commemorate a place that people value in their everyday environment.

Marlene Creates is an acclaimed environmental artist and poet who lives and works in Portugal Cove, Newfoundland. Born in Montreal, Creates studied visual arts at Queen’s University (ON). For over thirty years her work has been an exploration of the relationship between human experience, memory, language and the land, and the impact they have on each other. http://www.marlenecreates.ca

Sign up in advance to participate in this project, please contact: wherefestival@gmail.com or 921 3373.

12pm-6pm – Walking in Place: Field Trips in Pictou County, Walk 1, Susan Sellers
Led by community members and local artists these field trips lead the public to various sites and may include historical research, on-location performance or site-specific sculpture. Through visiting local sites and listening to local stories, the goal of Walking in Place is to encourage new ways of thinking about “here”. Each walk will be unique and devised by the artists themselves.

Susan Sellers · Following the Footsteps of an Unsung Heroine · Pictou Island, NS

Using the framework of the life and times of Pictou Island nurse, Margaret MacDonald (1897-1977), this field trip will begin and end with a voyage at sea. On Pictou Island, Susan will lead us to various sites that played a major role in MacDonald’s life as well as a dramatization of the popular legend of the White Lady. At one time, 20 families lived on the island year round.
Susan Sellers has travelled back and forth to Pictou Island for the past 25 years. Sellers is a retired school teacher with 28 years experience, five of which she was the enrichment teacher assigned to students on Pictou Island. Sellers is also a writer, photographer and lover of horses, having recently published images in *Saltscapes* magazine.

Space is limited for this one, so please contact 921 3373, wherefestival@gmail.com to secure a spot on the ferry.

**JUNE 28**

**9am-1pm – Award Ribbons for Places in Pictou County, a special project by visiting artist Marlene Creates, day 2, various locations throughout the county**

On day 2, participants will travel together awarding their special places. Marlene will video document each participant and content will be uploaded to an online interactive map that will live on after the festival is complete. Visitors may accompany the group on their adventure or interact online and add their own award.

*Meet at the Bayview Community Centre parking lot at 9am for a ride/caravan with us.*

**2pm – The Invisible Inside the Visible site-specific audio installation, Lee Tik Service Centre, River John**

In this project, **Sheilah Wilson** records stories from the local community about the area’s almost forgotten but still famous racetrack. A part-time resident of the area, Wilson also investigates the importance of social sites of exchange, here being Lee Tik Service Centre where residents buy groceries, get gas and spend time exchanging information. These oral histories will be installed in two listening stations at the gas station throughout the festival. On June 28 at 2pm residents will have the chance to meet Wilson and hear her talk about the making of this project.

Sheilah Wilson (New Zealand/NS) was born in Caribou River (NS) and studied photography at the Instituto Allende (Mexico) and visual art at NSCAD University before receiving her Masters of Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College (UK). Wilson’s work is an investigation of the seam that binds experience to language, story to teller and fantasy to history through photography, site-specific public art and performance. [http://sheilahwilson.com](http://sheilahwilson.com)

*Lee Tik Service Center is located 1971 Sunrise Trail just out side River John village.*

**JUNE 29**

**9am-1pm – Award Ribbons for Places in Pictou County, a special project by visiting artist Marlene Creates, day 3, various locations throughout county**

Project continues

**2pm – Walking in Place: Field Trips in Pictou County, Walk 2, Linda Little & Sheree Fitch**

Linda Little & Sheree Fitch – From the Bridge – River John, NS

In this adventure Sheree and Linda lead a troupe along a stretch of the Jitney Trail to the old iron railway bridge just outside River John village. Both published authors, Linda and Sheree will read site-specific poetry and passages from their work that feature elements of the landscape around us. The old rail-
bed and the bridge are transformed through story bringing new thinking about the physical structures and their metaphorical applications in art. Followed by tea and a small workshop.

Sheree Fitch is an educator, literacy activist and author of award winning poetry, picture books, nonfiction, plays and novels for all ages. Her books include: Toes in My Nose (1987), There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen, Mable Murple. If You Could Wear my Sneakers. In 1998 she won the prestigious Vicky Metcalf award for a body of work inspirational to Canadian Children. Her work as a poet and literacy educator has taken her to the Arctic as eight-time poet laureate for Peter Gzowski’s fundraisers for literacy and to Bhutan where she taught writing and participated in that country's first national reading week.

Linda Little lives and writes in River John. She has published short stories in many reviews and anthologies, including The Antigonish Review, Descant, Matrix, The Journey Prize Anthology, and The Penguin Book of Short Stories by Canadian Women. Linda has two award-winning novels, Strong Hollow (2001) and Scotch River (2006). In addition to writing, Linda teaches at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and is involved with River John’s annual literary festival, Read by the Sea.

Meet us at the Royal Canadian Legion parking lot on the West Branch Road in River John to begin.

7pm – Here Today Here Tomorrow, a interactive discussion about Art, Place and Community, with invited visiting and local artists, Pictou Academy Auditorium
In this discussion, artists are asked more critical questions that pertain to festival's overall themes, successes and failures sharing experiences from the past few days. How important is place in the art of Pictou County? What is the future of rural art practices? are some of such questions that will be explored. The public may weigh in with their point of view.

JUNE 30

9am – Walking in Place: Field Trips in Pictou County, Walk 3, Raina McDonald “I AM HERE”
Raina MacDonald – I AM HERE – Brookland, NS, 525 Backroad

Gathered in an old overgrown foundation, Raina will invite us to explore the surrounding world (considering here as a specific geographical location with stories that create notions of past, present and future) along with the world within each of us (considering here as an intimate space within our bodies that we inhabit when we allow ourselves to be truly present).

Raina McDonald lives in Pictou County where she enjoys engaging with her rural community through art and teaching yoga. Originally from Victoria, BC, she graduated from NSCAD University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Raina looks to the worlds around her for metaphors to describe her own evolution, creating work through printmaking, installation, sculpture and community projects that speaks to the current human experience.
4pm - Walking in Place: Field Trips in Pictou County, Walk 4, Sharon Nowlan

Sharon Nowlan – Where Sky Meets the Sea – Waterside Beach, NS

In this excursion, Sharon Nowlan will lead a group to Waterside beach where she will share thoughts about her work that incorporates beach stones and pebbles as a main medium. As her work naturally begins with a walk on the beach, so will our adventure. Collecting stones together we will construct a large beach installation together as a group. This walk is open to all ages, families and friends. Afterwards, the results will be sent to the World Beach Project, an online database of beach-art hosted by the Victoria and Albert Museum (London).

Sharon Nowlan has been gathering pebbles all her life. A resident of Pictou, Sharon studied Fine Arts and Environmental studies at the University of Waterloo.

7pm-10pm – Closing event, Launch of “Memory Factory” (7pm) at the Palace Theatre in downtown Pictou followed by music by Al Tuck (8pm).

Filmmakers David Craig and Katherine Knight of Site Media Inc., in collaboration with the Northumberland Fisheries Museum, embark on an exciting online project that features reflections, images and stories about the Maritime Packers lobster cannery in Caribou NS. What once was, gives us foresight in shaping the future. Join us for the launch of this project and closing reception of W(where) featuring music by the amazing Al Tuck.

Katherine Knight and David Craig (Toronto/NS) founded Site Media Inc. to produce documentaries on creative individuals in extraordinary places. Site Media has produced four documentaries on Canadian artists: Annie Pootoogook: Kinngait; Riding Light into the World; Pretend Not to See Me: The Art of Colette Urban, and KOOP – The Art of Wanda Koop. Site Media is currently developing a film on the architecture of Todd Saunders. www.sitemedia.ca

Born in Summerside, PEI, Al Tuck has shared the stage with Garth Hudson, Feist, Sarah Harmer, Superfriendz, Old Man Luedecke, Buck 65, Matt Mays and Joel Plaskett. He is an awesome encyclopedia of popular music, a roving troubadour familiar with the inside of nearly every bar and club from coast to coast. Country, blues, r&b, rock, dub and maybe even a little vaudeville are all on his map. His consummate musical grace and dreamy drawling vocals belie one of the sharpest and most deliberate songwriting minds in music today. www.altuck.ca. Suggested donation $10.