

Buzzfest coming to Terra Cotta Country Store next month

When encaustic and mixed media artist Kim McCarthy became friends with Judy Vella, long-time Caledon resident and owner of the Terra Cotta Country Store, the two women immediately felt a creative connection.

The result has been a life-giving friendship.

Vella became a patron of McCarthy's encaustic work and McCarthy became the caloric recipient of Vella's love of cooking. A shared love for art and food made the birth of an arts and food festival a natural outcome.

The women will see the fruits of their passions unify Oct. 5 and 6 in a festival hosted by the Terra Cotta Country Store and coordinated by the friends. The event, affectionately named Buzzfest, will pay homage to the importance of the natural world and the ongoing need for a balanced ecosystem.

The friends have invited dozens of high-calibre artists and committed foodies to gather for a weekend of creativity on Vella's property in Terra Cotta. All are invited to stroll the gardens which the artists are transforming into a living gallery. McCarthy and Vella both felt strongly that artists exhibiting their work be inspired by nature and sensitive to environmental practices. The theme of nature will be uniquely reflected in each artisan's medium and what better way to celebrate that connection than under the fall leaves on the banks of the Credit River? Painters, photographers, potters, textile artists, sculptors, woodturners, upcycled artists, chefs and farmers will be side-by-side, sharing the gifts of their labours.

Each artist is creating their own work and will be on site for the event, with the exception of Suzanne Campbell, who will be joining the festival representing artisans in the developing world under the fair trade organization Casa Relief. Festival guests can enjoy samples of organic goat cheese, purchase roasted chemical free sausages, indulge in a fantastic dessert from any one of the pastry chefs participating, take home local produce direct from the grower and shop for that perfect work of art, all in a parklike setting. McCarthy and Vella extend an invitation to see and taste the difference that supporting local talent is all about. The women hope that the festival is a testimony to the harmony of art and food and the joy of bringing kindred spirits together under the Caledon skies. Buzzfest will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. for more information, go to terracottacountrystore.ca



Judy Vella and Kim McCarthy will be hosting Buzzfest 2013 Oct. 5 and 6 at Terra Cotta Country Store.