

Legacy whale inspired 1,000 kids to make DAREarts Holiday cards

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the award-winning Legacy will take place at the Alder Street Recreation Complex in Orangeville tomorrow (Friday) from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Legacy is an award-winning installation artwork by local artist Ken Hall that consists of a whale's skeleton carved from reclaimed cedar. Legacy was the inspiration for this year's DAREarts DARE2draw program, which involved more than 1,000 children and youth from local schools creating Holiday cards in support of aboriginal youth. During the program, students learned about several environmental issues and about aboriginal culture. They then told their own 'whale tales' through art. Residents of Orangeville, the surrounding community, and all of Canada, can now help them make their voice heard; sales of the cards will support DAREarts programs in First Nations communities.

Legacy is inspired by the story of Hope, a whale that washed ashore on the West Coast in 2002 and was found to have the highest levels of contaminants ever recorded in a marine mammal. Her story put into perspective the delicacy of the fragile ecosystems for students in the DAREarts program. Legacy dares them to take positive action through art and to make a difference.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will include Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson; MPP Sylvia Jones and Orangeville Mayor Jeremy Williams. It will be followed by a short talk by the artist explaining the inspiration behind the artwork and its significance. Live music will be performed by local musician Ed Roman, who will open the event by making 'whale music' on his century old historic bass. Light refreshments and snacks will be available.

Hall chooses to focus on creating large-scale public installation artwork. Concerned about modern society's dislocation from the natural world, he addresses key issues by creating pieces with environmental themes. He was recently honoured as Artist of the Year at the 2014 Town of Orangeville Arts & Culture Awards, as well as being named Artisan of the Year at the 2014 Hills of Headwaters Tourism Awards.



Ken Hall's Legacy is inspired by the story of Hope.



Local children hard at work making their whale inspired holiday cards to support aboriginal youth.