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The Hub ready to mould something special from clay



By Cowichan News Leader Pictorial  
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Cowichan Station is celebrating the fact the Hub has gone to pot.

Cowichan Station Area Association has just received \$50,000 from the province to create a new pottery and clay arts facility in its growing community centre.

The grant will help renovate the ground floor of the former Cowichan Station schoolhouse into a new community clay studio orchestrated by local potters.

The studio will be run by the Clay HUB Collective involving five of Cowichan's most talented professional clay artists and will offer pottery classes for all ages and abilities.

The clay artists are Cathi Jefferson, Hilary Huntley, Mary Fox, Franziska Ebbesen and Ewa Sniatycka.

“It’s great news,” said Jill Thompson from the CSAA. “I was so impressed with the vision from the clay potters (who approached the CSAA to use the space) for wanting to include the community and the arts more and I think the province saw that.”

Thompson claims there were 150 applications for similar grants and it was a “terrible time waiting to hear for a month” whether the CSAA would receive one.

“The potters will run a day studio and will provide all the equipment. All we have to do is provide the space,” she said.

Thompson said the CSAA has a vision of transforming the upper floor of the 100-year-old schoolhouse sometime in the future to create a “fully functional, historic, rural, community space for arts, culture and recreation.”

The ground floor and clay studio will open this fall with construction beginning in May.

“We have a real need in the valley for affordable spaces so artists can rent and then teach their practice,” said Thompson who also confirmed the bathrooms at the schoolhouse will also be given a makeover to enhance wheelchair access in order to give seniors and those with disabilities more “therapeutic opportunities.”

Madelaine MacLeod, also from the CSAA, told News Leader Pictorial she was “ecstatic” when hearing of the grant and said it’s a very very exciting thing.

That feeling was echoed by Cathi Jefferson, founding director of the Clay HUB Collective.

“We Clay Hub potters sure want to thank everyone who has been so amazing helping make this grant happen and giving us a place in this community to provide a clay making place open to everyone,” said Jefferson in a press release.

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