

## **Notable AX**

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Jane Simpson, Executive Director, AX

## **Renovation Update**

**AX** received confirmation from the town last week that the renovation of the centre's first floor will be completed by April 15. The historic building has tons of character, but hand in hand with the charm of old buildings comes the potential for construction delays, particularly once the renovation crew gets deep into the structure.

The town is confident we'll be able to get into the building by mid-April, and then we'll need some time to prepare the centre for the public. Now that **AX** has a firm occupancy date, we can secure exhibits and make concrete plans for workshops and events.

## **Literary Update**

When **AX** opens its doors this spring, it will be as a multi-disciplinary centre, featuring visual arts, ceramics, fine craft, film events and more. Included in these offerings will be literary arts events, such as readings, workshops, and open mics.

Before Christmas, I reached out to the Frye Literary Festival organizer in Moncton and asked about the possibility of collaboration. The Frye will occasionally partner with other arts organizations and give featured authors the opportunity to meet with readers outside of the Moncton area.

The **AX** literary committee – headed by Sussex area author Beth Powning – is now working with Frye Festival organizers and our wonderful Sussex Library to arrange for an author visit this spring. Stay tuned for the announcement about the prominent Canadian writer we'll be welcoming to Sussex for a reading and presentation.

This past fall, when I read at UNB's Poetry Weekend, the organizers asked if **AX** might be interested in hosting the UNB Writer in Residence for a visit. This program allows New Brunswick writers – including those who aren't UNB students – a chance to meet with the visiting author. Sometimes, UNB will send these authors out to interested communities. In years past, Sussex has welcomed such authors as Fred Stenson, Joan Clark, and John Barton from the UNB Writer in Residence program. I always came away from those sessions having learned something valuable about the writing process.

The **AX** literary committee is collaborating with UNB and the Sussex Library to arrange such a visit to Sussex as well, so watch for more information.

### **Jeepers Peepers!**

Let's not forget our visual arts... As mentioned in a previous column, **AX** is teaming up with the New Brunswick Museum to feature a spring-themed exhibit called *Jeepers Peepers*, and we're putting out the call for proposals of complementary artworks.

The application is open to New Brunswick artists working in all visual media. **AX** encourages surprising, unusual, and imaginative proposals.

We have extended this deadline to **February 10**. Please share this call with artists who you think might be interested. For more information and to download a proposal form, visit the Exhibit section of the **AX** website: [www.axartscentre.ca](http://www.axartscentre.ca).