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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artists Paint Gabriola

Gabriola Island, British Columbia September 15, 2010– You may not have thought it possible, but the artistic density of Gabriola Island just went up significantly. This week, over 100 artists from BC, Alberta, and the United States are attending the workshop hosted by the Federation Canadian of Artists at The Haven. There is also a contingent of local Gabriola artists as well including Melinda Wilde, Harold Allanson, and Judith Madsen. The artists break into groups of 20-25 artists, led by one of the Federation of Canadian Artists instructors and spend time around the island painting scenes in different mediums, oils, acrylics, and watercolours.

The group will be painting ‘plein air,’ which is painting outdoors using exterior settings and natural light as the subject of their paintings, at locations around the island including Gray’s Farm, Full Moon Farm, Berry Point, Drumbeg Park – alongside instructors and artists in residence. Evenings they gather back at The Haven for panel discussions, demonstrations, slide shows or analysis/critiques of the work they’ve been doing.

This workshop was the brainchild of Harold Allanson, an Honourary Lifetime Member of the FCA and well-known Gabriola artist. *“We hadn’t done a retreat like this in a number of years, and when I suggested it to the Federation of Canadian Artists they thought it was a great idea.”* Allanson added, *“The Haven was a natural fit because it can accommodate the large number of artists, and local artists can host the instructors.”*

This is the second year at The Haven for the Workshop, which so far sells out just a few days, says Louise Amuir, The Haven’s Conference Coordinator. According to Amuir, this can have an impact on the local economy. *“On Gabriola, September often feels quiet – a sudden shift in population signals the season change, but for us at the Haven this is a busy week that rivals our busiest summer week. We expect that our flurry of activity will spread out a bit to other island businesses in coffee sales, gas sales, restaurant sales and possibly even art sales as our groups of artists take respite from the swarms of wasps by shopping!”* Amuir says.

Gabrielans will also get a chance to see the amazing work they are doing at an art show and sale happening at the Wong & McKeen Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven on Saturday Sept 18th, at 7:30pm.



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Since 1983, The Haven has offered experiential programs for personal and professional growth and development, emphasizing self-responsibility, effective communication, healthy relationships, creative expression and integration of body-mind-spirit. Haven programs help people live their lives more fully and with deeper awareness of themselves and others. A not for profit charitable organization, The Haven is located on Gabriola Island, BC, Canada.

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Artists participating in the workshop at Berry Point painting the Gabriola scenery.