

MARCH 9, 10

Artists gather in celebration of Galerie Knowlton

We are blessed to live in a region where artists, writers and all manner of created types call home. Their presence adds much to the local culture and the general atmosphere in which we all live. But we often fail to realise the day-to-day struggle that those who create, who inspire, who enrich the fabric of our lives often face.

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Particularly in dicey economic times, a painting, a new book even a trip to the theatre is often the first causality. This weekend a group of local artists are coming together at Galerie Knowlton to draw attention to the fact that to keep our strong cultural base we must support it.

"This is an extraordinary event. It is rare that a group of renown artists mobilize to help save an important galerie going through a difficult time," says artist Marie-Andrée Leblond. "But without the galerie we would find it difficult to survive.

"On my own behalf and on behalf of those who will help me to make this weekend a success, I invite everyone to our Happening, a celebration of art, artists and art lovers."

The Galerie

Galerie Knowlton was started a decade ago by Françoise Desjardins. Five years ago she and her husband bought an old heritage building, a white clapboard mansion on Victoria Street.

They took down walls, refinished the beautiful wood floors, repaired and restored the old staircase. The ground floor and second floor houses the collection. The building is painted a pristine white

and in summer Desjardins masses the front with flowers.

Galerie Knowlton exhibits an eclectic mix of style from the strikingly realistic to bold abstracts. The several dozen resident artists represented include both established and emerging artists, with a good representation from the Eastern Townships.

The Artistic Celebration of Galerie Knowlton takes place March 9 and 10 on Saturday from 9 am to 8 pm and Sunday 10 am to 6 pm at 49 Victoria Street, Knowlton.