



R.D. Lawrence Place

Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Box 648, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

rdlawrenceplace@mindenhills.ca

705 286-2298

April 14, 2010

CALL and ECHO

Presentation by Robyn Thomas and Wendy Oke

Minden, ON – Three women received a call from Spirit and their response is illustrated by an interweaving of experiences through their artwork and writing. Alma Rumball (deceased), Wendy Oke and Robyn Thomas have each found through artistic expression that their connection to one another and Spirit strengthens and deepens.

Robyn Thomas, a local writer/photographer, and Wendy Oke from Muskoka, will be at R.D. Lawrence Place on May 1 from 1-4pm to show a multi-media presentation of this Call and Echo between the three women. Admission is \$2 or a donation to R.D.L.P.

Alma, a clairvoyant, visionary recluse in Huntsville had a vision of Jesus in the 1950s when she was in her 50's. She was told she must draw and write. Her hand began to move automatically, separate from her consciousness. Alma gave the mission to 'take her drawings to the world,' in 1972 to Wendy who has shown Alma's work worldwide over 37 years. Wendy received inspiration to express her own creativity through writing and art as well as some photography recently.

Robyn's call to Spirit came from Mother Nature, beckoning her to attune to the beauty and healing power of her garden. Robyn's writing and wondrous photographs capture more than just the physical floral realm. Upon connecting with Alma's works, Robyn sought out Wendy and a friendship bond was forged. Further examination of Alma's works revealed a weaving back and forth through time from Robyn's current photos to Alma's imagery, a body of work that was created before Robyn's own artistic journey began. The three women continue to become entwined in a dance of creativity and spiritual quest. Attunement with Spirit is never out of sight or out of mind.

The public is welcome to join Robyn and Wendy as they present their artwork and their remarkable story. Biographies of these fascinating women are listed below. For more information call 705-286-2298 or email rdlawrenceplace@mindenhills.ca.

R.D. Lawrence Place has a mandate to foster a love of reading, promote the art of writing and deepen respect for natural heritage. It is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum, and Minden Library. The centre is owned and operated by the Township of Minden Hills.



Agnes Jamieson Gallery – Minden Library Branch – Minden Hills Museum – R.D. Lawrence Place
705-286-2808 www.mindenculturalcentre.com culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca



R.D. Lawrence Place

Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Box 648, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

rdlawrenceplace@mindenhills.ca

705 286-2298

BACKGROUNDERS ON ROBYN THOMAS, WENDY OKE AND ALMA RUMBALL

Robyn Thomas Biography

Robyn Thomas was born in a dense rainforest at the foot of an active volcano in the “land of the long white cloud,” New Zealand. Her dad named her after the “toutouwai,” a tiny bush-robin known for its cheerful song and friendly, fearless ways. A childhood enjoyed outdoors, instilled in Robyn a life-long love and appreciation for her natural surroundings and she heard the call from spirit at a young age.



Robyn followed her sense of adventure around the world until it led her to the glorious Haliburton Highlands where all manner of vibrant life abounds. She is now happily ensconced in the forest here with her family.

A writer and photographer, Robyn’s nature tales and personal commentaries of humour and hope have been widely published in North America and Oceania. Her photographs hang in galleries and have been used to help raise awareness and funds for non-profit organizations. Robyn co-coached a Special Olympics bowling team for high school students in the area for a number of years. She is a founding member of HHWEN, formed a Teen-writers’ Circle to encourage creativity in local students and for several years hosted Writing Circles in Haliburton County. Robyn and her husband John own a retail business in Minden.

Robyn’s passion for the natural world infuses her work. She realizes the need to Stop, Look and Listen, in order to fully recognize and welcome the gifts of beauty and healing bestowed by nature. Robyn’s writing and photographs pay homage to a deeper partnership with the earth. Her Florals are fluid and lyrical ~ reflections of outside-insight.



Alma Rumball’s Gabriel and Horn (to the left) and Wendy Oke’s Call and Echo Glass (above).





R.D. Lawrence Place

Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Box 648, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

rdlawrenceplace@mindenhills.ca

705 286-2298

Alma Rumball Biography

Alma's family pioneered in Muskoka in the 1870's, where she lived most of her life. Following a vision of Jesus, she became a clairvoyant recluse, at age 50, creating prolific, intricately coloured pen and ink drawings, born of a rich inner life. She watched, as "The Hand" drew by itself, unfamiliar forms, faces, and characters separate from her consciousness. Tibetan gods, Joan of Arc figures and tales of Atlantis revealed themselves. As a Christian, she never claimed credit nor understanding. She said she didn't do them - "The Hand" did. They have been called "the sacred language of light, activation drawings, with codes embedded in them for the evolution of humanity at this time." These energies may be accessed through meditation.

Tibetan gods have been identified in her work, by the spiritual advisor to the Dalai Lama, Kalu Rinpoche. Some drawings have writings on them; one is 'Alma Came To Earth As Joan of Arc'. Over two hundred pages are written in Atlantis, with abstract patterns above each page of writing.

Alma was given a 'genius' as her spiritual guide. He was a black, turbaned man, who spoke with her and acted as confidante, as she drew unfamiliar, otherworldly beings, often connected by tubes from the mouth. Her images of heaven and messages of peace may offer us a blueprint for living, plus a warning that if we do not change our ways, our fate could be similar to that of the lost civilization of Atlantis.

Wendy Oke Biography

Wendy is married to Alma's nephew, Colin; together they have been 'keepers of the drawings'. Wendy is a teacher/counselor/therapist facilitating workshops and retreats in Huntsville, Ontario. She was recently ordained as an interfaith minister in the Seminary program of the James Twyman Beloved Community. She writes a weekly column, 'Wise Woman Ways' and does freelance writing. Offering Alma's mystical drawings is the focus of her ministry and her lifelong soul mission.

Wendy's mission came through Alma, from her source of guidance, Aba, in 1972. "You are the one who is divinely inspired to be the one to take the drawings to the world," Alma proclaimed. At 25, Wendy did not realize the implications; now, 30 years later, it is clear.

The drawings have been shown in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Glastonbury, France and Australia. Wendy is writing a book about her journey. The award-winning documentary 'the Alma drawings' has been shown on Vision TV, ONE, TVO, Discovery and documentary channels. The film has just been released worldwide by the Spiritual Cinema Circle on their February DVD subscription.

Contact Wendy Oke for presentations or documentary showings, prints and cards.
(705)789-5481 www.almamatters.ca

