

====\\DeRAIL launches temporary public art along the PEC Millennium Trail, Consecon ON

“Stop thinking about artworks as objects and start thinking about them as triggers for experiences.”

---- Brian Eno, Musician and artist, Speaking on art

A community-engaged, site-specific, temporary, public art program animates a western section of the Millennium Trail with Conrad Beaubien and Krista Dalby / The Department of Illumination.



Millennium Trail at Consecon Lake. Image: Bailey Austin MacMillan for ====\\DeRAIL 2020

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

VIP / Media Preview

Thursday, October 22, 2020

11 AM

Salem Road / Hwy 33 intersection at the Millennium Trail, Prince Edward County(West end Depot, Picton Farm Supply)

Consecon, 22 October 2020 - Inspired by the dynamic, linear landscape of the PEC Millennium Trail, and in partnership with Tourism Industry Association Ontario and The County of Prince Edward (future partners to come), ====\\DeRAIL Platform for Art + Architecture presents WALKING WITH THUNDER by Conrad Beaubien, and JOIN OUR HERD! by The Department of Illumination.

The program takes place during the slower tourism months, October 2020 to May 2021, to safely draw people into a placemaking experiment in an open green space to inspire new ways of understanding this popular local trail. Conrad Beaubien's meditative monthly walks with a donkey, and The Department of Illumination's celebratory bike parade in spring, both invite audiences to pause, to listen, to observe, and to consider how we might think differently about this unique, shared public landscape beyond its usual function as a movement corridor. Where time is something to be considered rather than counted, ====\\DeRAIL invites people to add their own layers of meaning to a linear landscape beyond its functional role as a mobility corridor.

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Walking with Thunder, an enchantment of stories and images by an artist in the company of one savvy beast.

"Thunder is a 12-year-old donkey who's sure to tell you that he's no jackass, mule, or run-of-the-mill beast of burden."
---- Conrad Beaubien

Led by storyteller Conrad Beaubien, *Walking with Thunder* is an adventure into the landscape, a monthly trek with a donkey through the seasons from October 2020 - May 2021. A passage of self-reveal, a re-finding mission, *Walking with Thunder* takes a close-up look at the stuff of every day during this time of social isolation and rapid change: *Walking with Thunder* is storytelling of today; it is an exchange with an audience through new media and conventional means of communication.

Walking with Thunder is a mission to also raise funds to employ established artists and field naturalists to help evolve mental health programs in support of those in need in our current era. A GoFundMe effort behind the *Walking with Thunder* Fund will financially assist artists, artisans, field naturalists, and others established in their practices to creatively invent opportunities for small, safe, and welcoming gatherings in studios, work settings, and the out-of-doors. These inspired, all-ages engagements are intended to further mental wellness in a time of heightened loneliness, stress, and anxiety.

To accomplish this, the *Walking with Thunder* Fund will establish a coordinating base in the hamlet of Consecon, Prince Edward County, Ontario. This will take advantage of the multiple facets of the region's natural heritage and the noted population of professionals engaged in an extended range of the arts and other expertise. So why not come together in spirit, let's lend cheer for Thunder so that with donkey-like stubbornness - maybe we are too impatient- we can open unseen paths ahead.

The narrative of the walk will be told in print, social media and radio as posted images of the walk-in-progress will also preface each upcoming leg of the journey. As interest is earned on social media, *Walking with Thunder* will reach out to the curious with a call to lay their feet on the path of discovery itself.

Special thanks to Paul + Nadia, Noble Beast Farms.



Join our HERD!, a springtime celebration of bicycle beasts.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC COMPANY

In May 2021, The Department of Illumination invites the Consecon community to create a joyful herd of bicycle beasts and parade them along the PEC Millennium Trail. Join our HERD! will begin with an outdoor workshop in the open space beside the Trail at Salem Road/ Hwy 33. Here, artists from The Department of Illumination will provide participants with materials and instruction to turn bodies and bicycles into fantastical creatures on wheels and on foot! We'll ride together down the Millennium Trail to discover untold surprises, and return to our point of origin for a fun-filled celebration with live music, food, and drink. Specific event details to be released in the new year.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Conrad Beaubien's love of storytelling has engaged him in a life of the arts. A creator, writer and director of films, his expression includes music, painting, and sculpture. Currently writing for stage, Conrad has garnered audiences for recent theatre works: *Stringman*, *Back of Hoards Station*, *Bridge Street* and *The Undoing of Billy Slim*. Living in Prince Edward County, he shares a two centuries old worker's cottage with squirrels in the attic. Conrad is a columnist for the Wellington Times, a popular regional weekly newspaper, and a regular contributor to Watershed Magazine.

The Department of Illumination Artistic Company is a not-for-profit organization that brings joy and creativity to the rural community of Prince Edward County, Ontario. Formed in 2013, they produce multi-disciplinary festivals and events in public spaces. Signature events include The Firelight Lantern Festival, ICE BOX (winter festival), Boxtopia (pop-up cardboard installations) and the annual Scarecrow Festival. They host arts workshops in a range of artistic disciplines for both adults and children, often using shared spaces such as town halls, museums and schools. They aim to reduce barriers to arts participation by welcoming all people to get involved as active contributors or volunteers, while striving to provide opportunities for professional artists to create and share new work. During COVID they have been adapting their work into online and distanced programming with projects such as the future exhibit Art in Isolation and the physically distanced Safety Dance. The Department of Illumination's accessible arts experiences build community and inspire a pride of place. www.deptofillumination.org

Krista Dalby is the Artistic Director of The Department of Illumination which produces the annual Firelight Lantern Festival and public art project ICE BOX. Dalby is a multi-disciplinary artist with an extensive background in theatre as playwright, producer and designer.

ABOUT ====\\DeRAIL

====\\DeRAIL Platform for Art + Architecture, a registered nonprofit, independent arts producer, and alternative platform for dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary, geographical, and ideological boundaries. ====\\DeRAIL commissions and produces place-specific art projects to foster new conversations about public space design. Established in 2016, we bring urban and rural landscapes to life through contemporary art by moving beyond the walls of a traditional gallery space to offer a new experience to both citizens as participants and artists as contributors. ====\\DeRAIL is co-founded and co-curated by landscape architect Victoria Taylor ([VTLA](http://vtla.ca)) and designer and public art curator Gelareh Saadapajouh. With years of combined experience as designers, artists, exhibition and public art curators, these two cultural producers push the definition of public art to produce unique and creative socially-engaged/place-specific art and programs. Together with their collaborators and supporters, our vision is to inspire and expand the public dialogue around contemporary art, placemaking, landscape, and the experience of the outdoor spaces that we share.

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THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY AND SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS.



For more information, photos, accreditation, or interview requests contact:

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