



Media Release #6-09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Catharines and Area Arts Council and City of St. Catharines present

ARTIST'S GARDEN IN THE GARDEN CITY

St. Catharines, Ontario, July 28, 2009 – The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council and the City of St. Catharines are pleased to announce that artist Elizabeth Chitty's project *The Wheels on the Bus* will be produced as an *Artists' Gardens in the Garden City* project in Downtown St. Catharines. Ms. Chitty's garden will be located on the east side of Carlisle Street near St. Paul, close to the St. Catharines Transit terminal. An opening reception will be held on **Friday August 7 at 4:30 pm**, with remarks at the garden site and refreshments at the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council at 31 James Street. The public is welcome, and invited to remain downtown after the opening to experience *Art City* from 6 – 9 pm.

The Wheels on the Bus incorporates two recycled bus tires as plant trellises. Its location by the bus terminal is fitting for a garden that celebrates public transit as a key strategy of "green" and sustainable communities. To further "green" downtown, the garden is planted with plants that are attractive to birds and butterflies. The title of course references the song familiar to toddlers everywhere!

Elizabeth Chitty is an interdisciplinary artist with a body of work spanning 34 years. Recent work includes performances at such venues as the Walter Phillips Gallery at the Banff Centre, Sound and Video Art for the Rights in Toronto and at the Amnesty International Group 112 Niagara Region's Human Rights Day Vigil. She was part of a National Gallery of Canada touring exhibition and of James Street Night of Art and exhibited two new installations in solo shows at Grimsby Public Art Gallery in 2008. A solo exhibition at Hamilton Artists' Inc. in 2009 included a new constructed photograph, *Guardian of Niagara: The Soft Fruit Industry*, subsequently shown at the June 2009 *Art City*. For *Art City* she also created the community-based interactive installation/performance, *Want*. Ms. Chitty lives in St. Catharines and is a long-standing and dedicated member of the Niagara arts community.

Artists' gardens are gardens made by artists that explore ideas, like other artwork does. The artist uses plant materials, sometimes augmented by other materials, to create a work of art. Artists' gardens are a means of enlivening and revitalizing communities through art, and show how artists create interesting places to live and work. Artists' gardens have been created in many communities world-wide; particularly well-known is the artists' gardens project at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, which has been in place since 1985.

The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council initiated the *Artists' Gardens in the Garden City* project in 2007. The first garden, Don Dormady's *Arch*, is located in front of 34-38 James Street.

Artists' Gardens in the Garden City is a public art program of the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council, in partnership with the City of St. Catharines, and is sponsored by the St. Catharines Downtown Association. *The Wheels on the Bus* is supported by the **St. Catharines Transit Commission**.

The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council gratefully acknowledges funding by the **City of St. Catharines**, **Ontario Trillium Foundation** and **Ontario Arts Council**.

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