



## Troutdale celebrates art and the arch

*Troutdale Arch dedication coincides with Earth Show, Art Walk and other events in downtown area*

**BY ROB CULLIVAN**

*The Gresham Outlook, May 5, 2010*

### **This Friday, the road will close, and the party will begin.**

It's time to dedicate the 68-foot steel and bronze Centennial Arch, which spans Historic Columbia River Highway in Troutdale.

Rising 22 feet above the road, the arch labels Troutdale the "Gateway To The Gorge."

At 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 7, the highway will close until about 7:30 p.m., at 257th Avenue – where the arch is located – heading east up to Buxton Road.

At 6:30 p.m., public officials, including Troutdale Mayor Jim Kight, as well as city council members, will dedicate the structure.

Dozens of politicians from the area as well as legislative and congressional leaders have been invited to the event, according to Debbie Stickney, city recorder.

She adds that visitors can obtain commemorative postmarks of the event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce, 226 W. Historic Columbia River Highway.

### Art explosion

Troutdale bronze sculptor Rip Caswell, who conceived of the arch, noted its dedication is part of a larger series of events beginning Friday in the city, and extending through the next couple weeks.

The dedication coincides with Troutdale's First Friday Art Walk, which features exhibits of artwork, as well as musical performances, at sites throughout the town. Friday is also the first day of Earth Show, an art/music/dance event.

Caswell adds that his own gallery, located at 201 W. Historic Columbia River Highway, is exhibiting "Racy and Red," with featured artist Rob Harbeck showcasing his photos of mostly Ferrari automobiles.

"It is Rob's firm belief that certain automobiles are works of art, ... and that each and every Ferrari in particular has a soul and unmistakable beauty all its own," the show's press release states.

The show will feature a free wine tasting by Quenett Winery, as well as food to nibble from Always Perfect Catering.

### Canadian duo

Esther Celebrini and her husband, Randy, who will be playing in the gallery, have a marriage made in artistic heaven.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artwork by Loree Harrell is part of the Earth Show in Troutdale this weekend.

The British Columbia, Canada, couple routinely collaborates, with Esther playing piano and singing her own compositions as well as jazz standards, and Randy painting as she performs.

“It’s almost like Randy’s acting like a jazz musician himself,” Esther says in an interview from British Columbia. “It’s like we’re improvising together.”

The couple performs 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, and from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 8-9.

The couple planned to arrive in Troutdale on Tuesday of this week, talk to folks around town, and come up with a musical-painting collaboration about the area, Esther says.

“We don’t know the area very well, so it’ll be an adventure in and of itself,” she says, noting she and her husband did a similar project in Havana, Cuba.

#### Earth Show

Troutdale’s First annual Earth Art Show will begin at 6 p.m. Friday and run through Sunday, May 16.

Events will take place during the following times and dates: 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, May 7 and 14; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, May 8 and 15; and Sundays, May 9 and 16.

Venues for the art installations and live performances include Caswell’s gallery, DiPompello Italian Ristorante, 177 E. Historic Columbia River Highway; the old gas station, 133 S.W. Historic Columbia River Highway; and the interior space at 101 W. Historic Columbia River Highway.

The show will feature earth-related art including sculptures, glass, painting, photographs, images and musical and dance performances in buildings and businesses throughout the downtown area.

Admission is free.

Troutdale’s Mary Tahan, one the featured artists, will be exhibiting photographs of snow-covered landscapes from Vancouver, British Columbia. She notes that she got stuck in the city during a huge snowstorm in December 2008.

“I figured it was such a big Earth event that I wanted to document it in photographs,” she says.

Canadian K.A. Colorado, an internationally renowned environmental artist who, among other things, has sculpted icebergs, owns a studio in Troutdale and is curating the show.

He notes it will feature 14 accomplished artists from Canada, Oregon, New Jersey and England, all of whom have created works that reflect their love of natural images and landscapes as well as their concern for their environment.

Troutdale is the bridge between the urban world of the greater Portland area and the wilderness for which Oregon is known, he says.

“There are so many visitors coming through here,” he says of Troutdale. “This is the last significant urban area before entering the gorge area. The wildlife population that Lewis and Clark recorded is really evident in the gorge area, and Troutdale is the pathway to it.”

For more information visit the City of Troutdale website at [ci.troutdale.or.us/](http://ci.troutdale.or.us/) or call 503-708-2313.