



## **Anne Chambers to Receive the 2011 MERA Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts**

“We are pleased to announce that [Anne Chambers](#) will receive the 2011 MERA Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts for her sculpture of a trio of porcelain tulip bulbs, resting on a bronze glazed stoneware base, entitled *Spring's Promise*” says Tom Shoebridge, Chair of the Board of McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA), the community arts organization based in McDonald's Corners, Ontario.

The Award, consisting of a \$1000 prize, will be presented at MERA's Annual General Meeting on March 19, 2011 at the Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners. The AGM starts at 2 pm and all are invited to the presentation, which will take place at about 3.30 pm, followed by light refreshments and a chance to meet the Artist and see some of her work.

Ms. Chambers, a resident of Brooke Valley Ontario, is an accomplished potter whose work has been exhibited across Canada and was voted “best in show” at the Ottawa Guild of Potters Annual Exhibition in 2008. She is also the recipient of several awards, including the Ontario Craft Council's prestigious lifetime achievement *John Mather Award*.

“Anne Chamber's mastery of her medium, evident in the winning work and supporting works submitted with her application, place her squarely in the ranks of other highly accomplished and well known Ontario porcelain artists,” commented Victoria Henry, the Chair of the Award's independent Assessment Committee and Director of the Canada Council's Art Bank. “But it is the subtle beauty and whimsical nature of her works that particularly distinguishes them.”

The other members of the Assessment Committee were Leslie Reid, a recognized visual artist and Emeritus Professor of the Department of Visual Arts, University of Ottawa and Ellen Good, an accomplished weaver and recipient of the 2009 MERA Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts. Committee members were chosen to ensure that the committee would have solid expertise in both the fields of fine arts and fine crafts and that the works would be assessed in national, regional and local contexts.

The MERA Award, which is conferred every one or two years, was conceived and made possible by a generous donation by Lanark Highlands' residents Chris and David Dodge to the *Perth and District Community Foundation*, which manages the funds. Recognizing MERA's important contribution to the community, the Dodges chose MERA to administer the Award.

To learn more about the MERA Award visit MERA's website:  
[www.meraschoolhouse.org](http://www.meraschoolhouse.org), email [meraschoolhouse@bell.net](mailto:meraschoolhouse@bell.net) or phone 613- 278-0388.