

# The Road to...

an exhibition of photography

Opening June 10, 2012

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Gore Bay Museum

Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island ON

June 10 to August 6, 2012

Monday to Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TORONTO, ON. The Road to..., an exhibition of photography by Dougal Bichan, opens at 1 p.m. June 10, 2012, at the Gore Bay Museum in Gore Bay, Manitoulin, Ontario.

The exhibition consists of large size prints, photographs of the on-going re-construction of Highway 69 between Parry Sound and Sudbury, transforming into Highway 400. The photographs were taken with a vintage Burke & James, 4"x5", press camera, using Kodak Ektar film, scanned with an Imacon 949 and digitally printed by William Oldacre at Fine Art Prints. The prints are 24"x30" and 40"x50".

For several years, while driving between Toronto and Manitoulin, I have been fascinated by the highway construction happening between Coldwater and Sudbury. A huge feat of engineering, on one hand, it cuts a great swath through the northern landscape like a dissecting scalpel, revealing patterns in the layers of rock never before seen, upturned earth, felled trees, rearranging communities, human and animal, changing the whole relationship of the experience of driving from something intimate to something more distant.

Patterns emerge from the blasting of cuts through solid rock, cuttings of large tracks of trees, rows of red blasting cups set in rock faces, piling up various layers of different sizes of crushed gravel, and pourings of artificial rock (concrete).

Houses have been moved, businesses closed and demolished, wetlands displaced, communities bypassed. At the same time there is an irony in this great expenditure of time and energy and money to improve this highway when the world is struggling with its dependence on oil and long distance transportation of goods and looking at the imminent end of oil as a reliable and cheap fuel.

Dougal Bichan is a photographer living in Toronto. He has been making and exhibiting photographs for more than 30 years. The exhibition runs until August 6, 2012.

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## For more information

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