

1994 ASSEMBLY OF B.C. ARTS COUNCILS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 2



*Welcome
to Fort St. John,
Delegates*



This is the first time the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils Conference has been held in Fort St. John and it is the furthest north it has ever been. Local co-hosts of the conference are the Peace River Liard Regional Arts Council and the Fort St. John Community Arts Council. Among those who look for-

ward to welcoming you at the conference are the B.C. Arts Council Chairperson, Sheila Simard from Dawson Creek and local Committee heads including Anna Stuber, Yvonne Elden, Pam Mroz, Sue Popesku, Pam Okrainec, Jennifer Lindsay-Stanhope, and April Ingham. Plenty of fun and interesting sessions ahead.

Attention Delegates!

To make your stay in Fort St. John more enjoyable, we recommend that you...

- ✓ Bring a bathing suit. The Pioneer Inn has a lovely pool, sauna, and hot tub.
- ✓ Bring a warm jacket. Beautiful fall weather has set in with relatively dry but windy days.
- ✓ Bring a camera. The colourful landscape will be at its prime when you arrive.
- ✓ Bring walking shoes. Local businesses have designed window displays specially for you, just follow the footprints!
- ✓ Bring a warm casual outfit. The Saturday night riverboat ride and

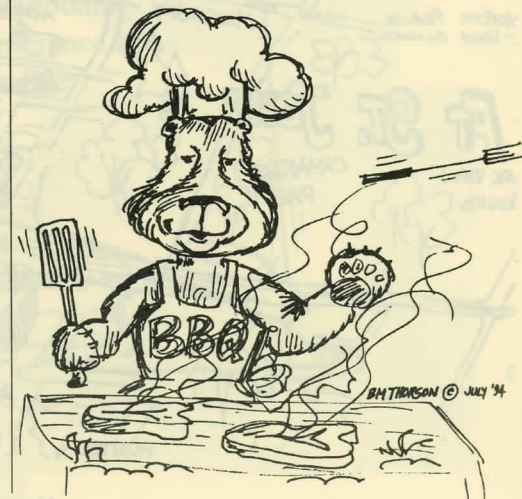
BBQ will be more fun in comfortable clothes.

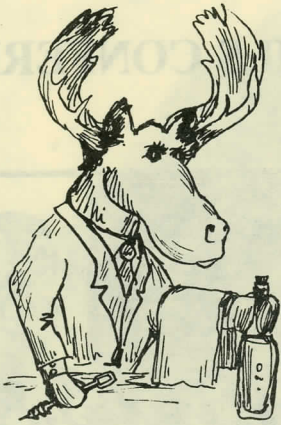
- ✓ The banquet on Friday night will include local dignitaries and VIP's. You may wish to dress in semi-formal wear for the occasion.
- ✓ Look for Conference volunteers at the Airport. Volunteer drivers will escort you to the Pioneer Inn or the Cedar Lodge.
- ✓ If you smoke, ask for a room on the smoking floor. The Pioneer Inn will charge a \$50 cleaning fee for any cigarette smoke in rooms on non-smoking floors.

Arriving by Wednesday? You're invited to a BBQ.

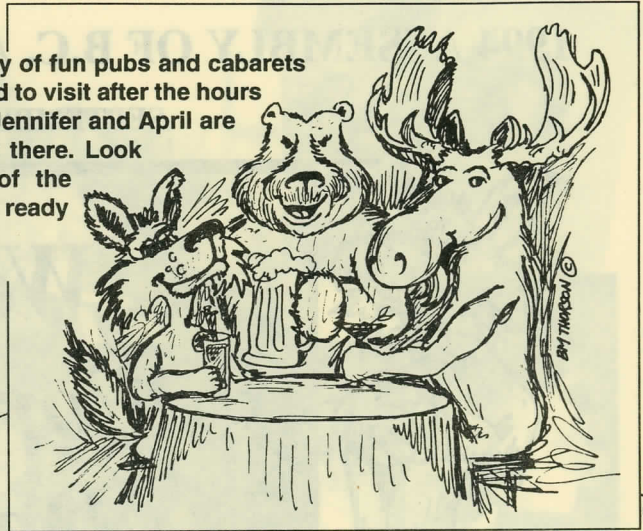
For those conference delegates, staff, and Board members who arrive by Wednesday evening, the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council is having a BBQ for you. Your host Bob Bennetts is opening his home overlooking beautiful Charlie Lake for the evening.

Please phone 604-785-6214 to let us know in advance if you will be arriving before 7 P.M. on Wednesday, September 28.



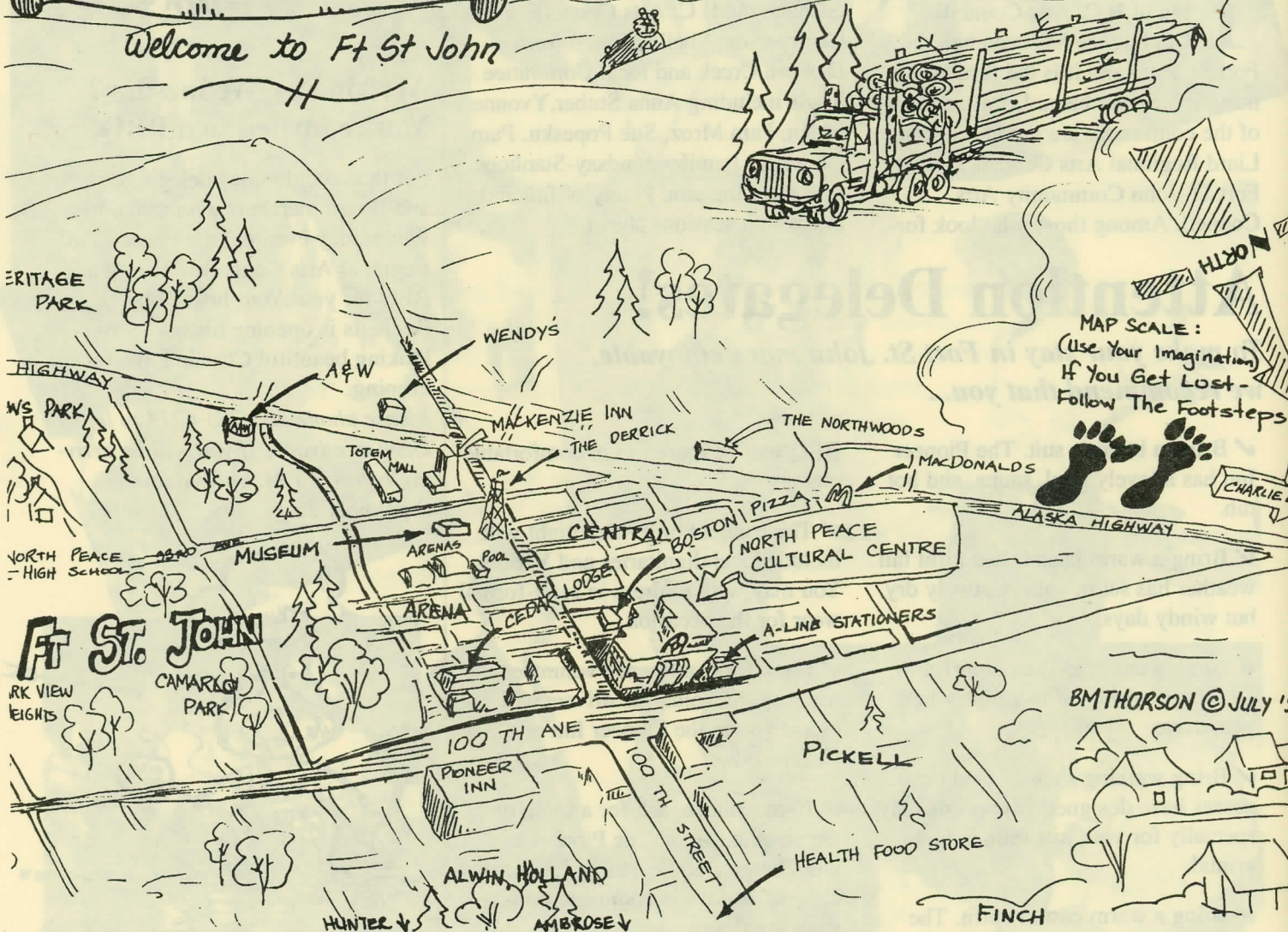


Fort St. John has a variety of fun pubs and cabarets which you may be inclined to visit after the hours of the conference. Pam, Jennifer and April are planning to help you get there. Look for them in the lobby of the Pioneer Inn. They will be ready to party!



THE MAP!

Welcome to Ft St John



Above: Detail of Thorson's city map. A full reproduction will be made available at the conference.

Our Very Own Cartoonist, Blair Thorson



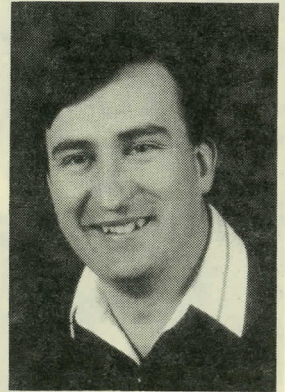
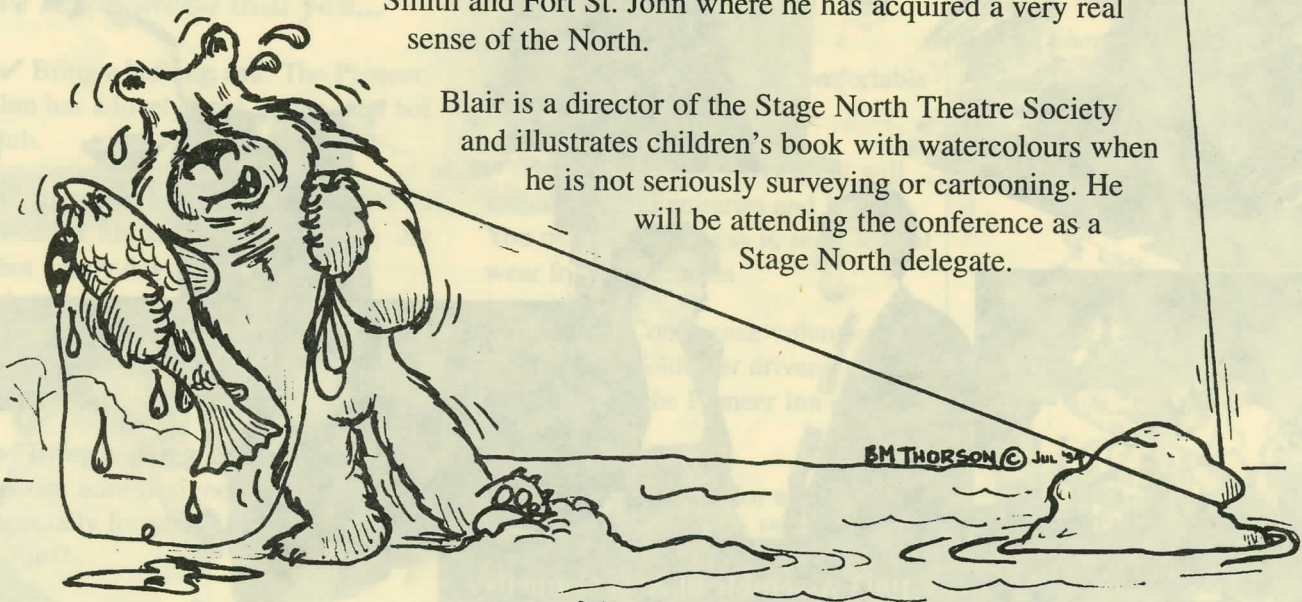
The art of cartooning comes easily for Blair Thorson, although he wanted to be a realist as an artist. In a recent interview Blair said, "Cartoons make money, so I spend my time creating images with political overtones to make people smile."

For the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils Conference, Blair penned a few fun cartoon sketches of his view of the North. The map of Fort St. John is his perspective of the city to help you find your way around.

Blair creates cartoons for the regional newspapers as a second career. After only one year contributing to the Alaska Highway News in Fort St. John, his cartoons are in demand by Fort Nelson, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge newspapers. He has plans to expand into Alberta. He laughs about his outlook on the cartoon business saying, "I like to view myself as the Robert Bateman of the cartoon world, I also started out in fish and wildlife!" However, cartooning for Blair can not support his family quite yet.

For 17 years, Blair has been a hydrometric surveyor, more commonly known as a water surveyor. He followed in his father's footsteps of 35 years in the same career. He has spent years in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Fort St. John where he has acquired a very real sense of the North.

Blair is a director of the Stage North Theatre Society and illustrates children's book with watercolours when he is not seriously surveying or cartooning. He will be attending the conference as a Stage North delegate.



Blair Thorson



1993 Assembly of Arts Councils
Conference, Nanaimo, B.C.