

PEACE RIVER NORTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



1981 ANNUAL REPORT

SPEECH ARTS
DANCE
DRAMA
MUSIC

MAR 23-27
MAR 30, 31 APRIL 1
APRIL 2 & 3
APRIL 1, 2 & 3

JUNE, Fort St. John, B.C.

PEACE RIVER NORTH FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1981

JUNE

GENERAL

Our Festival was expanded this year to two full weeks - March 23 to April 3rd. Finale Night was held April 4th.

We had several 'firsts' this year.

- The two Festival Weeks were designated as "Performing Arts Weeks" by the City of Fort St. John.
- We received support from three levels of government; Local, Provincial and Federal.
- We held a short but serious Fundraising campaign.
- Syllabus and Program had a new look and size.
- Festival was officially opened this year by our Mayor, Mr. Brian Palmer.
- Dance included a Highland Section.
- We had our photography section displayed at City Hall for one week.
- We gave a record seven scholarships this year ranging from fifty dollars to two hundred dollars.

Our 'working' committee is quite small. During Festival days another 30 or so people lend a hand as secretaries, stewards and door personnel. We rely heavily on these volunteers for a smoothly running Festival. I take this opportunity to thank the Halls co-ordinator for the excellent job she did of organizing the personnel and keeping the various halls manned. We had many cancellations so the job was not an easy one.

- We became a Registered Society this year and have applied for a tax number.
- We switched to gift certificates from trophies this year. Groups still received trophies. This was much easier and well received.
- We gave gold seals only and participation certificates for the first time. This not only brings us to Provincial standard but eliminates a lot of the side by side competition.

ENTRIES

Our entries this year totalled 786 involving close to 3000 people. Entries were broken down as follows;

ANNUAL REPORT continued

Speech Arts -	-	335	
Dance-	-	129	
Piano -	-	67	
Vocal & Operettas -	-	60	
Band -		18	
Drama -		10	
Creative Writing -	-	126	
Photography -		41	
			Total 786

Late entries totalled around 40 this year. This caused considerable problems as the Program had gone to print. Fifty Programs had to be changed by hand for the Adjudicators and Hall Personnel.

We should hold a workshop on filling out entry forms. I feel we made a little headway in the battle against photocopying. I would like to see a late entry fee charged next year. Also no T.B.A.'s accepted on entry forms and no changes to forms after the cutoff date.

BUDGET

Our estimated budget for 1981 was around £9,500.00. We raised this money through the assistance of the B.C. Cultural Fund; the B.C. Lotteries Foundation; the Community Arts Council; local advertisers; scholarship donors; donor patrons and silent benefactors.

2,500.00 was given back to the people in scholarships and awards. Advertising was sold in the Program but not in the Syllabus. A very comprehensive budget is attached to this report. We should have a small cushion to begin with next year. I would like to thank the fund raisers, who against the odds, raised £4,500.00 in two weeks.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND TROPHIES

£2,500.00 was given out this year. £1,000. went to scholarships and £1,500.00 for awards and trophies.

82 Awards and trophies were given (£15.00 gift Certificates)
 21 Adjudicator awards were given (£15.00 cash)
 7 Scholarships were given £200. vocal; £200. drama; £200. music
 £150. dance; £100. Speech Arts
 £100. jr. vocal £50. strings

This year only groups and dance received trophies. The others received gift certificates or a cash award.

FINALE NIGHT

Finale Night was quite well attended this year. Many more people stayed after Intermission. The whole evening was well organized and ran quite smoothly. Twenty-five representative talents were presented. This is an informal evening when people can relax and take photos. Awards, Trophies and Scholarships were announced but not given out. This saved a great deal of time and most people seemed pleased with this arrangement. In retrospect, and if time permitted, which it did

not this year, I would like to have the Scholarships given out by the donors.

ADJUDICATORS

Our Adjudicators did a fine job. They were artistically sound, very sensitive to the children and co-operative and generous with their time.

Five Workshops were held - 3 in band
 1 in vocal
 1 in piano at the request of the
 music teachers

A Speech Arts Workshop has been planned for early Fall.

All the Adjudicators commented upon how well organized and how smoothly the festival ran this year.

The programming was, on the whole, good. One day of Speech Arts was a little heavy. Dance was full but well timed.

Our adjudicators this year were:

Speech Arts - Alice Polley Coutts - Edmonton
 Dance - Liz Davies Bennett - Innisfail
 Piano - Sylvia Shadick - Edmonton
 Vocal - Victor Lester - Saskatoon
 Band - Dr. R. Vagner - Orgeon
 Drama - Mrs. Florence Stephan - Red Deer
 Creative W. - Mrs. D. Blenkin - Victoria
 Photography - Mr. Ken Seto - Dawson Creek

ADJUDICATORS DINNER

The dinner was held at the Holiday Inn and attended by 32. The Mayor spoke and grace was sung by Victor Lester the vocal Adjudicator. City of Fort St. John pins were presented to the five adjudicators present by the Mayor and the President. It was a good evening and enjoyed by all.

PUBLICITY

Publicity for a festival of this size is a big job. A very wide area must be reached.

We had articles and ads in the newspaper.

We were able to get the 'Town and Country' section.

25 posters were printed and posted around town.

Over 200 syllabi were distributed.

Follow ups were sent to the schools.

Daily results were published in the paper.

Finale Night results were published.

Creative Writing was on display at the Trade Fair, along with pictures and photographs of this year's festival.

On the whole, our media coverage this year was less than excellent. We had a spot on CJDC-TV. CKNL had a tape of the days events. The newspaper, due partly to the lack of a reporter, gave us very little coverage other than what we put in ourselves. There were no pictures during festival days.

PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL ENTRIES

We had one recommended in speech arts as an observer and one recommended in vocal to go as an entry. The committee decided to send the vocal entry. This is a senior vocal entry. We are very excited about this as it is a first for us. Expenses were helped by a scholarship.

NEXT YEAR

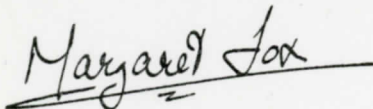
Festival dates for next year have been tentatively set for April 19th through April 30th.

CONCLUSIONS

I feel that this was a very good festival. The adjudicators were well liked. It ran smoothly. It was innovative. Our greatest handicap is manpower. If more people do not become actively involved our festival may falter.

The responsibility for this festival was given to me in late September as our President had resigned over the summer. A lot of work had to be done in a hurry and I sincerely thank those who willingly supported me and helped to provide me with the background knowledge. Thank you for this experience and for helping to make this year's festival such a big success. I am sure next year will be even better.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret T. Fox,
President.

May 19, 1981.