

Peace-Liard Regional

# arts beat

April/May 2004

# Arts and Culture Week

April 25 - May 1, 2004



## Chetwynd

The Chetwynd Community Arts Council will be participating in Arts Week by hosting the **Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition**, from April 28 - May 2. The exhibition will be held in the Cottonwood Room of the Chetwynd Recreation Centre and opens to the public on Friday, April 30, with a reception for the contributing artists held that evening at 7:00 p.m. \$800.00 in prizes will be awarded, with chosen pieces touring the region following the exhibition. All regional artists are invited to enter, and the deadline for entry is April 21, 2004. For more information contact Donna Ony at (250) 788-3060 or your local arts council. The exhibition is always a great showcase of the talent and diversity of the visual arts in our region.

## Dawson Creek

The South Peace Community Arts Council of Dawson Creek will be celebrating BC Arts Week in a big way! The community will kick off the excitement with the **Peace River South Festival of the Arts**, April 19- 26. The festival will feature the talents of local students including instrumental music, dance, band, choir, choral speech, and drama. The visual arts will be featured at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery in conjunction with the Festival with an exhibit entitled **Mixed Media**, featuring the visual arts students from senior and middle schools in School District #59.

On April 23-25, the members of the South Peace Community Arts Council will be hosting a booth at the **Kiwanis Trade Fair**. Representatives from member groups will be in attendance throughout the weekend.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, in conjunction with Earth Day (April 22) the Dawson Creek Art Gallery's "**Culture Café**" will be presenting "**The Life and Times of Robert Bateman**". This CBC Film follows the career of one of Canada's most famous naturalist and wildlife artists.

Unchagah Hall will be a busy place during Arts Week with the Dawson Creek Community Players presenting the all time Canadian classic, "**Anne of Green Gables**" on April 22-24 and the Kiwanis Arts Centre presenting the **Festival Honours Concert** on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This concert will feature chosen performances from the Peace River South Festival of the Arts.

The week will round off with the Dawson Creek Film Committee presenting the **Toronto Film Festival Series** on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Centre Cinema and the **South Peace Music Teachers Recital** on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Fort Nelson

*International Dance Day*

In celebration of BC Arts Week, Arts North is planning several special events in Fort Nelson. Though no details were available at press time, more information will be available closer to Arts Week. Watch for details on how this community will be celebrating the richness the arts brings to the Fort Nelson area, and plan to participate!

## Fort St. John

To celebrate the richness and diversity of the arts in Fort St. John and area, member groups will have information displays in the foyer of the North Peace Cultural Centre on April 24, 2004 at the Honours Concert, part of the Peace River North Performing Arts Festival. The Arts Council is also very excited to be launching their new website at [www.fsjarts.org](http://www.fsjarts.org).

## Hudson's Hope

*"Welcome Fellow Fish"  
Kids*

The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge is planning to celebrate Arts Week with an interactive display on the Peace River. This display will be held at the Pearkes Centre. In conjunction with the display, a visual arts contest will be held with entries displayed in venues around Hudson's Hope.

## Tumbler Ridge

*April 24*

"**Off the Wall**" - various displayed pictures/ paintings/ prints from local residents' personal art collections

"**Free for All**" - local artists encouraged to provide their own arts & crafts, woodworkers, dancers, musicians entertain

"**Cheesecake Cafe**" - held in the TR Community Centre staffed by TR Public Library (during the day)

"**Freezer Burn - A Chilly Comedy**" - Theatre on the Ridge - young people's drama production; rooms 4 & 5 @ 1:00 pm

"**Java Jive**" coffee house series - local musicians & vocalists entertain; rooms 4 & 5 @ 7:00-10:00 pm refreshments available

Also in Tumbler Ridge: "**On The Spot 2**" Talent Show to be held on April 18 at 1:00 pm at TRSS. Open to the public.

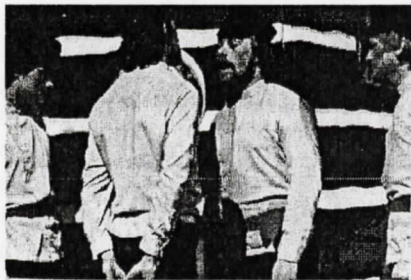


Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council  
*Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow*

**Artist Profile:** Tom Kirschner

In his twenty years with the Fort St. John theatre group Stage North, Tom Kirschner has played many parts, both on and off stage. His passion for the theatre has helped to build the reputation Fort St. John has for dramatic talent and award winning productions.

Tom moved to Fort St. John as a child and discovered a love for the theatre in grade school. As an adult he



*Fiddler on the Roof - 1983*

joined Stage North for the first time in 1983 with a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Since then he has taken part in at least 23 productions, as an actor, director, producer, and even a set builder. 2003 saw Tom's third win at the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival, taking home Best Actor accolades for his role in *Because He Can*. He went on with the troupe to the provincials and won for Best Actor there as well. Tom is a true team player and expresses his excitement about the reputation Fort St. John & Stage North is gaining for quality in drama. He has seen the respect for northern talent grow even in the past couple of years.

Some of Tom's most memorable productions over the years include *Noises Off*, in 1999, which he not only acted in, but directed and produced. He also built the set, an enormous and complicated piece. Another favourite was *Little Shop of Horrors*, in which he played the dentist. Tom explains that he greatly enjoys playing villains, getting to explore an evil character.



*2003 - Best Actor Award*

After over 20 years, Tom will be stepping back his involvement in Stage North, though this doesn't mean the Peace Region has seen the last of Tom Kirschner. Tom will continue his involvement with the theatre group he started in 2000, *Bridge to Broadway*, which has evolved over the years into a comedy troupe partnered with Dennis Szalai. Tom is hoping for continued growth with that group, and he will also be expanding his skills as he tries stand up comedy. Tom recently took a workshop with YukYuk's founder Mark Breslin, and hopes to bring a smile to the faces of our region as he learns this new craft.

On March 12th & 13<sup>th</sup> Michael Armstrong (from Quesnel) was in Hudson's Hope to facilitate 2 workshops. Michael is a playwright, actor, teacher and poet and so we were able to use his wide range of talents to present a Youth Drama Workshop for the school children as well as a Poetry/Prose Workshop for adults. On the Friday, he had an energetic day playing theatre games and offering directing tips for the actors in the up and coming school drama production "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe". On the Saturday he spent the day working with 8 local poets and writers, many of whom gave readings of their work during the "Evening of Words & Music" presentation at The Pearkes Centre. Donna Kane read a sample of her poems from her new book, "Somewhere, a Fire" and Vince Curley, Pat Markin and Jason Naisby

provided musical interludes. Everybody had a very enjoyable and relaxing evening and we hope to have a similar event next year.

TACSOTE (Hudson's Hope) wishes to thank the NLC Foundation for their financial support for these workshops and evening presentation.



## Contact Us!



The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge  
(Hudson's Hope)  
Arts North (Fort Nelson)  
Chetwynd Community Arts Council  
Fort St. John Community Arts Council  
South Peace Community Arts Council  
Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council

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We would love to hear from you! If you have any comments or information to share, contact the

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL**

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