

High On Ice Festival: One Cool Event

When I moved to Fort St. John in the dead of winter four years ago, I couldn't help but wonder, "What on Earth do people do around here to stay sane in winter?" I never would have imagined ice carving as a viable winter pastime. At the time, my concept of ice carving didn't go much further than those swans you see made of ice at wedding buffets. Needless to say, I was kind of blown away when I visited the annual High On Ice Festival. The creativity and the sheer magnitude of these ice sculptures is truly amazing.

January 15 – 17th marked the sixth annual event and once again, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and the City of Fort St. John partnered to host a spectacular event for spectators of all ages. Each year, the Arts Council organizes the Ice and Snow Carving Events such as the Professional Single Block and Team Competitions as well as the Amateur/Intermediate Ice Carving Competition, Snow Carving Competition, and the Mayors' Challenge, which sees mayors from all over the region showing off their own ice carving skills. This year, the Professional Ice Carving Competition showcased the talent of competitors from all over Canada, the United States, and from as far as Latvia, and Russia. Many of these competitors are trained chefs by profession, some are artists, and all of them capable of producing some of the most amazing ice sculptures you will ever see. In fact, each competitor is held to the stringent standards of NICA (the National Ice Carving Association), with High On Ice being one of just four NICA sanctioned events in all of Canada. This year's theme was "Spirit Within" and dazzled

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spectators with a myriad of creative interpretations.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council would like to thank our generous sponsors for this event. For a complete list of sponsors, please visit the Arts Council's website at www.fsjarts.org. We would also like to thank our volunteers for this event, their support helped make this the best High On Ice Festival yet.

—submitted by Tara O'Donnell

Federation of Canadian Artists To Open Chapter in Peace Region

Artists from all over the Peace region met in Dawson Creek on January 9th for a meeting exploring the possibility of opening a chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists. The FCA, headquartered in Vancouver, BC, is an internationally recognized arts organization with worldwide membership. It promotes visual artists with exhibition and education opportunities as well as bringing together a community of like-minded artists among its members. Senior Signature member Roberta Combs was gracious enough to share this opportunity with us, answer questions, and to host several critiques in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John during the month of January.

Membership in the FCA is granted on several levels. Supporting members receive FCA publications, while active members are permitted to enter juried exhibitions. Signature members and Senior Signature members receive additional membership benefits.

Chapter membership is not required in order to be a member of the FCA, but it is beneficial because chapter exhibitions

count toward achieving Signature status. A local chapter is also able to bring education opportunities to their membership and others in the region, while enjoying the support of the FCA.

Starting a chapter in the Peace region requires twenty active members, however, with over forty artists in attendance at the January 9th meeting, representing communities all over the Peace Country from Grande Prairie to Chetwynd, seeing a chapter come into existence in our region is a very real possibility and could happen very soon.



Artists from all over the region gathered at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery on January 9th to discuss starting an FCA chapter.

Information and membership application forms can be found on the FCA web site, www.artists.ca. For information on the Peace Region chapter, contact Donna Ony at 250-788-3060 or email dony@telus.net or Ellen at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery at 250-782-2601 or

curator@dcartgallery.ca.

2010 Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition

Visual artists of all genres are invited to enter the 2010 Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition, a project of the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council in partnership with one of the six Community Arts Councils. The purpose of the exhibit is not only to allow regional artists to display their work to a wide audience but also to learn the process of preparing and entering their creations for show in a formal setting.

This year's exhibit will run from April 9 to 11 at the Cottonwood Hall, Chetwynd Recreation Complex. Coincidentally, with the advantage of increasing foot traffic, Chetwynd's Trade Show will also be open in the same venue during the exhibition.

Call for Entry forms have been mailed out and will also be available through local Arts Councils, art galleries, and for download on the PLRAC web site, www.peaceliardarts.org.

Three categories of work are eligible for entry:

Open Class - original work

Student Class - Students Grades 8 - 12, including home-schooled students

Class Project - work done under supervision.

The Opening Reception will be held on Friday evening, April 9th at 7pm. Critiques will be delivered on the morning of April 10th, 10am - noon.

A workshop will be offered on the afternoon of April 10th, details TBA.

The exhibit will be open to the public on Sunday, April 11th from 10am - 2pm at the Cottonwood Hall.

For more information, phone Donna Ony at 250-788-3060 or Yvonne Elden at 250-788-2792 or contact your local Arts Council.

Submitted by Yvonne Elden



*2009 Winner Caily Oldershaw
and painting "Be There"*

TACSOTE Partners with Drama Group

The Arts and Cultural Society on the Edge has enjoyed a recent partnership with Reviving the Spirit, a local drama group, with the goal of bringing live entertainment to the town of Hudson's Hope. "Jake's Gift," a one act play put on by Reviving the Spirit and Steve Metzger, saw attendance in the two hundred range, with TACSOTE helping with set up and admissions. TACSOTE also helped at the drama club's fall dessert theatre and many were thrilled to see Anita McWilliams, an original member of the first drama club in Hudson's Hope, Portage Players, return to the stage after many years. She got a standing ovation!

Currently TACSOTE and Reviving the Spirit are in the process of purchasing a sound system, with profits from Jake's Gift, that both groups will share.

TACSOTE is looking forward to organizing an event for this year's Arts and Culture Week at the end of April.

-Submitted by Patricia Markin



Jacky Gilbertson (left) and Mary Mottishaw were both thrilled when their works of art were inducted into the Dawson Creek Art Gallery's permanent collection on January 19th. The pieces of art were each purchased for \$1,000 and are on display as a part of the Olympic Torch Relay Exhibition until Jan. 30 when it will be moved to the EnCana Events Centre in preparation for the torch relay arrival in Dawson Creek.

Megan Gorecki/Dawson Creek Daily News

Contact Us!



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We would love to hear from you! If you have any comments or information to share, contact the **Peace Liard Regional Arts Council**

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