



September/October 2006

Dawson Creek Film Committee Announces Reel Wednesdays 2006 Fall Schedule

The Dawson Creek Film Committee was formed in 2003 as a partnership between the South Peace Community Arts Council, Kiwanis Arts Centre, Dawson Creek Art Gallery and Tourism Dawson Creek.

Since that time, the committee has presented eight to ten independent films from the Toronto Film Festival each season. "Reel Wednesdays" is held the last Wednesday of each month, September to May, at the Centre Cinema. And the schedule has also included "Classic" films such as: *Casablanca*, *Wizard of Oz*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Psycho*.

This year's fall lineup includes:

September 26 - Prairie Home Companion

October 25 - Wah-Wah

November 15 - Mistress of Spices

On December 20th the committee will be hosting the Christmas classic "**White Christmas**". A wonderfully nostalgic film starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kay, Rosemary

Klooney and Vera-Ellen transports you back to the 1940's. After leaving the Army after W.W.II, two soldiers team up to become a top song-and-dance act and meet a pair of beautiful sisters who also have a song-and-dance act. The young men follow the girls to a Vermont lodge to perform a Christmas show where the men their former commander, General Waverly, is the lodge owner. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the performers try to help the General.

January 31 - Journals of Knud Rasmussen

February 28 - Wordplay

Passes for the entire season (eight Toronto Film Festival movies and one "Classic") are

Double ~ \$99.00 and Single ~ \$55.00. Regular admission at the door is \$8.50 each.

For any information on this program phone the Kiwanis Arts Centre at 782-9325 or the Dawson Creek Art Gallery at 782-2601.

FSJ Monday Night at the Movies 2006 Fall Lineup

The Fort St. John Film Society has finalized its fall lineup, and will be bringing to Fort St. John a host of great flicks with its "Monday Night at the Movies" program.

The fall schedule is as follows:

September 11 - An Inconvenient Truth

October 2 - A Prairie Home Companion

October 23 - Wah-Wah

November 6 - Mistress of Spices

January 8 - The Journals of Knud Rasmussen

Movie Descriptions

Prairie Home Companion

A fictionalized account of a real show that Garrison Keillor is currently running in the United States, A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION features singing cowboys, a country music diva (Meryl Streep) and many interweaving storylines involving secrets, strangers and power struggles. Pure fun and intrigue, A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION is Robert Altman at his best.

Wah-Wah

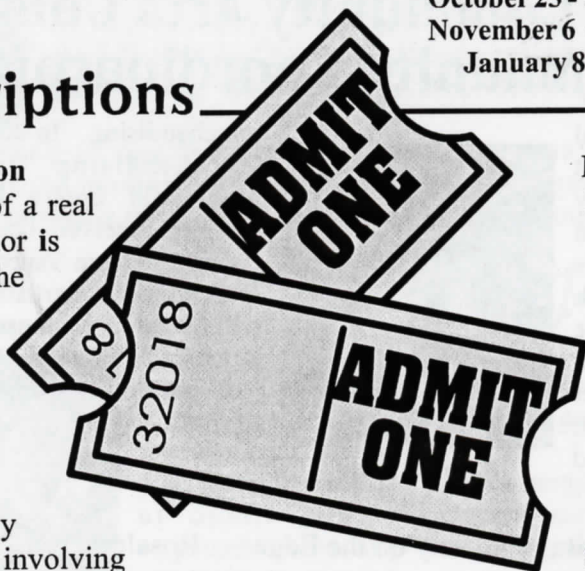
A coming-of-age story set in Swaziland in the final days of the British Empire, offering an intimate perspective on Britain's imperial venture while vividly revealing one boy's creative awakening. With neither cynicism nor false nostalgia, WAH-WAH paints a remarkable portrait of people overtaken by history.

Mistress of Spices

In a scented shop in the enchanted burg of Oakland, California, mistress Tilo (Bollywood superstar Aiswarya Rai) works her magic. One of a secret clan of women, Tilo deals in roots, plants and powders from around the world. Drawing on ancient wisdom, she measures out remedies to cure heartache, banish bad luck and rescue the wretched from life's wrong turns. Of course, Oakland is hardly Shangri-La, but the collision of romance and reality is exactly what makes THE MISTRESS OF SPICES so charming.

Journals of Knud Rasmussen

Set in 1922 Igoalik, where one of the last great shamans and his daughter struggle to find a balance between their shamanistic traditions and the influence of Christianity that is infiltrating their land. Knud Johan Victor Rasmussen, born in Greenland in 1879, was the first person to cross the Northwest Passage by dogsled, and it is through this historical figure that the clash between civilizations is related in the film.



Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council
Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow

Irish Dance Teacher Honoured in Fort St. John

The Slainte Society of Irish Dance congratulates Shaelan Pomeroy for obtaining T.C.R.G certification. Shaelan is the owner and teacher of Pomeroy Academy of Irish Dance which has grown into a studio that teaches 50 students ranging in age from 5yrs to adult. Obtaining the T.C.R.G means that Shaelan is now registered with the An Coimisiun le Rince Gaelacha in Dublin Ireland, as well as the North American and Western Canada Irish Dancing Teacher's Association, and her students are now eligible to compete in Irish Dance Competitions world wide.

Shaelan was born and raised in Fort St. John, and has been Irish Dancing for 22 years. She has earned many honours in the Irish Dance Competitions including, qualifying and attending

the World Championships in Ireland 6 times with a top ranking of 21st, and obtaining a ranking of 12th in North American before retiring for competitions in 1998. She started her studio in 2001 and it has continued to grow and expand. In 2004, she has also opened a second studio in Grande Prairie and enjoys bringing her love of Irish Dance to the students in both cities.



Shaelan at centre, with some of her students

Feature Artist: *Carole May Coty*



Carole May Coty

Carole May Coty moved to Tumbler Ridge, from the lower mainland, in November of 2005. She is currently the president of the TR Community Arts Council, enjoys singing with the TR Adult Community Choir, and finds great joy in participating in the local drama club, The Grizzly Valley Players.

Carole May is enthusiastic about art and painting. She is mainly self taught and has attended workshops with many accomplished art instructors. As well, she has completed many classes in the Fine Arts certificate program at the University of Alberta. She enjoys working with watercolours and acrylics in a loose, impressionistic way and looks forward to learning much about her latest interest, en plein air painting with oils. She is committed to expressing her own unique, artistic voice.

Carole May is represented by the Candler Gallery, Camrose, AB, Infinite Ideas, Beaumont, AB, and Mind & Matter Art Gallery in White Rock, BC. You will also find her artwork at Mac's on Main, Tumbler Ridge, and periodically in the Community Centre's showcase. The Dawson Creek Art Gallery and the Tumbler Ridge Artists Group are two other venues used to display her artwork.



South Peace Community Arts Council Hires Community Coordinator

The South Peace Community Arts Council (SPCAC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Roxanne Rusin as the new Community Coordinator. Roxanne has just returned to Dawson Creek from Vancouver and she tells us she is delighted to be back in Dawson Creek where she can share her passion for the arts. Many people know Roxanne as the Kiwanis Art Centre Ballet Instructor. She is a professionally trained dancer and her love for teaching is also combined with business management and retail sales and



Roxanne Rusin

merchandising. In 2002 she received a Fashion Merchandising Diploma from Blanche Macdonald Centre for Applied Design and recently received her Administrative Assistant Certificate from Vancouver Community College. Both Roxanne's artistic and administrative skills will be put to good use as she continues to be the Kiwanis Art Centre Ballet instructor and in her new position as Community Coordinator for the SPCAC.

Contact Us!



The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge (Hudson's Hope)	Rosaleen Ward	783-2377
Phoenix Theatre (Fort Nelson)	Doug Roper	774-2241
Chetwynd Community Arts Council	Yvonne Elden	788-2792
Fort St. John Community Arts Council	Laurie Petrucci	787-2479
South Peace Community Arts Council	Roxanne Rusin	782-2601
Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council	Erin Hanna	242-3364

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



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
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We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council
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PLRAC arts BEAT

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

November/December 2006

Muskwa-Kechika Artist Exploration Camp

This past August, Mayfield Lake, located on the Gataga River in the heart of the Muskwa-Kechika (M-K), became the setting for the first Muskwa-Kechika Artist Exploration Camp.

Artists from across Canada arrived at Mayfield Lake August 6th via float plane from Muncho Lake. From there, the 12 artists, working in a variety of mediums and traditions, spent the next week exploring and responding to one of the few remaining intact wilderness areas on our planet. The 10 day camp, which included a pack horse trip into the alpine, also gave the artists many opportunities to exchange ideas and perspectives on art through presentations and informal dialogue. "As an artist this experience was very valuable for me and my work," said Wayne Sawchuk. "It brought new perspectives and techniques that I think will make my images better and more exciting and at the same time help to place my work in a larger artistic context."

The camp also succeeded in emphasizing the value of the Muskwa-Kechika. "Coming back out in the float plane ... my first view of civilization, the road, sent a wave of sadness through me," said Deryk Houston, a visual artist from Victoria, BC. Sally McKay, a video artist based in Toronto said, "We need to acknowledge the importance of wilderness, not only in the empirical sense of preserving species and habitats, but also as a concept of human cultural value."

While the camp may be over, much of the work being created from the experience has just begun. "The challenge for me is to capture as much as possible that sense of scale," says Deryk Houston, "that immense feeling as we sat and looked at the world around us." Don McKay, a poet who is currently writer-in-residence at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, is working on an assemblage of writing that he also hopes will fit both the experience and the region. The first exhibition of the artists' work is scheduled to open at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery February 6, 2007 with other venues currently being planned.

The 12 artists who assembled at Mayfield Lake have started what the organizers hope will be an ongoing discourse between artists and the Muskwa-Kechika.

Funding for the camp was provided by Arts Now, the Northern Lights College Foundation, the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

All photos taken by Wayne Sawchuk.



Artists from across Canada traveled to Mayfield Lake via float plane from Muncho Lake.



Traveling by pack horse, artists had a chance to experience the alpine. Seen here are Donna Kane, Emilie Mattson, Donna Wende, and Deryk Houston.



Through presentations and informal dialogue, artists had a chance to share ideas and approaches to art.



ELVES Christmas

The Christmas season will be kicking off early in Fort St. John this year! The Fort St. John Arts Council is very excited to be once again hosting *Elves' Christmas*,

which will run from November 17 until December 13. *Elves' Christmas*, coordinated by the always enthusiastic Tara Van Dyke, will include four community events: Hot Chocolate Invite, Christmas Rock Concert, Gala Dinner and Christmas Tree Auction and the *'Raising Our Voices'* Choral Concert.

On the evening of November 17, before the annual community Christmas parade and light-up, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council invites residents to come into the North Peace Cultural Centre for free hot chocolate and treats. We will be selling 'Crazy Hats' to help people get into the holiday spirit, as well as have the North Peace Community Choir performing!

The Christmas trees, wreaths, and hand-painted glass ornaments will be on display at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel for the public to preview leading up to the Gala Dinner and Auction on December 6. It will be a delightful evening of fine dining, live entertainment and an opportunity to purchase your choice of fabulous Christmas Season decorations.

For those that like to rock, we have a youth-oriented concert featuring the band *Mindset*, on November 24 at the North Peace Cultural Centre. Or, if you prefer a more traditional experience for the Christmas season, then the *'Raising Our Voices'* choir concert on December 13 is for you! This choral evening of spiritually fulfilling performances will feature Brad Langerud, *The Peace Harmony*, *'Unto Him'*, and *The North Peace Community Choir*. Both performances will be at the North Peace Cultural Centre for your viewing pleasure.

Elves' Christmas Agenda

Friday, November 17, Community Christmas Parade free hot chocolate and treats.

Friday, November 24, *Mindset* and other youth oriented performances, \$15, tickets available at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Wednesday, December 6, Christmas Tree Auction and Gala Dinner, \$30 for dinner tickets, \$10 for general entry. Call the Fort St. John Arts Council for tickets, 787-2781.

Wednesday, December 13, 'Raising Our Voices' Choir Concert, \$15, tickets available at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

South Peace Art Society Christmas Exhibit and Gift Fair

The Dawson Creek Art Gallery presents its most popular exhibit, the South Peace Art Society Annual Christmas Show and Sale. Visit the gallery, decorated in a Woodland Fantasy theme, and enjoy a wide variety of art work including photography, watercolour, oil and acrylic painting, drawing and sculpture. Find a unique gift for someone on your list!

The fifth annual Christmas Gift Fair at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery will feature an array of gifts from local artists and artisans throughout the Peace Country. In our gift shop you will find unique gifts hand-crafted by local artisans; pottery, woodworking, fabric art, metalwork, jewellery, soaps and oils, and much more!

The South Peace Art Society Show and Sale and the Gift Fair will have a grand opening on Saturday, November 18th from 10am to 4pm. The Dawson Creek Art Gallery is the place to go for one of a kind, locally made gifts and decorations for your home. This exhibit will be on display until January.

Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council

Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow

Wayne Sawchuk Presentation



Wayne Sawchuk, an award-winning conservationist and wilderness photographer, will be giving a slide presentation of his work at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery on Thursday December 7th at 7 pm.

Wayne's photographs of the Rocky Mountain wilderness have been widely published in magazines such as *Canadian Geographic*, *Beautiful BC*, *The National Post*, *Explore* magazine, and *BC Outdoors*. Several of his photographs are

now showing in the 2006 *Yellowstone to Yukon* exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. In June of this year, Wayne received a Canadian Environment Award in the Conservation category in recognition of his work to preserve and raise awareness of the Muskwa-Kechika.

The December 7th presentation will include photographs from the 2006 Muskwa-Kechika Expedition, a two-month packtrain journey into the wilderness south of Muncho Lake on the Alaska Highway as well as images from the Muskwa-Kechika Artist Exploration Camp, held at Mayfield Lake on the Gataga River this past August. Co-organized by poet Donna Kane, the art camp brought together a dozen artists from various disciplines to produce work showcasing the Muskwa-Kechika. An exhibit of this work will be launched February 2007 at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

This is a wonderful opportunity to view some of the wildest and most spectacular regions on our planet. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend!

Banff Mountain Film Festival Comes to Tumbler Ridge

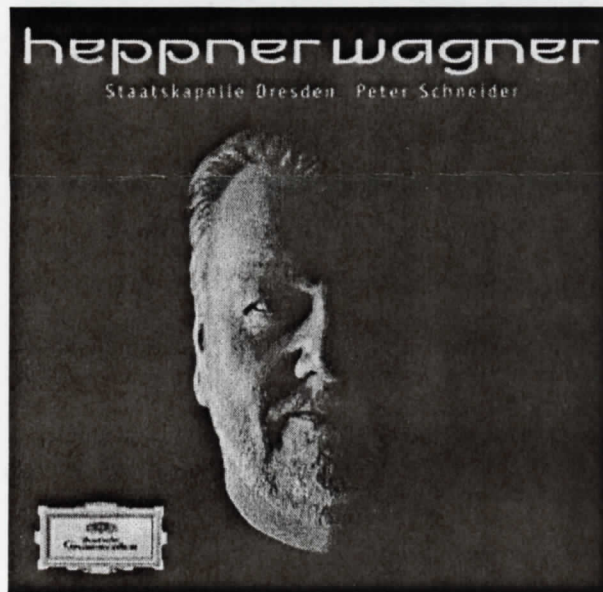
Coming to Tumbler Ridge is the internationally acclaimed Banff Mountain Film Festival. This is the 11th year for this traveling film festival and Tumbler Ridge is the only Peace Region host for this magnificent venue. Typically the film content is stunning videography and breathtaking scenery; capturing everything from animals to events, traditions to locations and all of it spectacular for the viewer.

The Tumbler Ridge screening takes place on December 7th at the high school (TRSS) located at 180 Southgate. For ticket information and show time contact Sherry Berringer 250-242-3369.

While the first screening of this year's selection takes place on November 4th and 5th in another tour location, details are not available on film description until after that first screening. Film description will then be available at the Banff Mountain Film Festival website.

This is a wonderful evening for the family and individuals alike. To attract a world-class event like this has been a great achievement for Tumbler Ridge, proudly coordinated for the first time by the Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council in association with the Wolverine Nordic Mountain Society.

Dawson Creek Welcomes Ben Heppner Home



The voice of Ben Heppner, one of the world's finest dramatic tenors, will once again fill the Unchagah Hall on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 8 p.m. As a youngster Heppner started singing with his family and also sang in the choir at Dawson Creek's Alliance Church. He pursued his musical studies by attending the University of British Columbia School of Music. In 1979 he won the CBC Talent Festival which drew national attention and fueled the beginnings of his singing career. Today he performs a diverse repertoire with opera companies such as the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Opéra National de Paris, and the Royal Opera to name a few. He also appears in concerts all over Europe and the United States with major symphony orchestras and has recorded both solo and operatic albums with internationally-renowned record labels. Just outside Dawson Creek's City Hall there is a street which bears Heppner's name; a permanent statement of the City's admiration for Ben himself.

The South Peace Community Arts Council is ecstatic to be bringing Ben Heppner back to Dawson Creek as part of their Overture Concert Series. The concert series has been designed to recognize, promote and support all genres of the Canadian performing arts scene. The Ben Heppner Homecoming Concert has already sold out and is sure to be a very memorable occasion for audience members and Ben Heppner as well.

Submitted by Roxanne Rusin

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