

September/October 2008

PLRAC arts BEAT

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

www.PeaceLiardArts.org

Monkman Musings Celebrates Local History

It is a busy season ahead for the local theatre group, Grizzly Valley Players (GVP). The fourth and final performance of the 2008 season of *Monkman Musings* will take place on Friday, September 12th at 7:00 pm at the Community Centre. This project was initiated and cosponsored by the Economic Development Department of the District of Tumbler Ridge.



The July 18th show coincided with the grand opening of the Monkman Pass Memorial Hiking Trail and was attended by

dignitaries including MP Jay Hill and descendants of some of those who were part of the Monkman expedition in the late 1930's.

In October, the drama troupe gears up for a busy Halloween with the October 25th annual combined live performance and film showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show. This event is a licensed adult event. Tickets for Rocky Horror Night are at the front desk of the Community Centre 250-242-4246 beginning October 1. On Halloween night the Community Centre and District of Tumbler Ridge sponsor the annual Haunted House Experience with GVP as hosts in character. This family event runs from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

6th Annual Art of the Peace Symposium

October 24th, 25th and 26th in Dawson Creek

As part of weekend of celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the Dawson Creek Art Gallery in the Grain Elevator, the art gallery will be hosting the 6th Annual Art of the Peace Symposium.

The weekend events will be kicked off on Friday evening with a "Pick a Painting" fundraiser and a wine tasting event featuring Sommelier Tim Ellison from Rocky Mountain Wines.

Saturday will include presentations by nationally renowned artists and art supporters working in various sectors of the visual arts. First speaker will be artist & author, Molly Raher Newman who has played the role of Emily Carr for over 7 years, while entertaining and educating local and international visitors with stories of her life and readings from her journals and books.

Australian Potter, Greg Crowe is the second guest speaker. Highly respected for his wheel-throwing skill and wood firing effects, Greg's vessels explore the textural boundaries of the clay body. Stretched and torn, the roughly marked surfaces are enhanced by their salt-glazed veneers, in varying degrees of translucency, and in a range of diverse colour.

Painting in the Spotlight in Fort St. John

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is currently in the process of painting a mural for the North Peace Cultural Centre. The design for the mural was done by John Green, a local artist who is currently home on summer holiday from the Emily Carr Institute. Others will be volunteering their time as well to help paint and construct the mural.

There will be two watercolor workshops by Diane Bersea to be held on Sept. 11-16. The first workshop is

Last speaker of the day will be Private Art Dealer, Doug MacLean. With over 25 years of gallery experience, Doug MacLean will share his take on contemporary art and issues around collecting and exhibiting it. Doug shares his thoughts on the art he likes, and on exhibitions he didn't like. "Stimulating, insightful, possibly even controversial, Doug's talk promises to generate plenty of discussion."

Saturday night everyone is invited to the Kiwanis Arts Centre for a Dessert Theatre featuring the intriguing play *Vincent* by Serious Moonlight Productions. Written by Leonard Nimoy, the tumultuous life of history's most well-known and least understood artist comes to life through his brother Theo's memories and stories.

Sunday, the Symposium will be offering three workshops for participants; Encaustic with instructor Carrie Klukas, Watercolour on Canvas with Molly Raher Newman, and Hand Built Pottery with Greg Crowe.

Watch for more information on this exciting upcoming event on the Dawson Creek Art Gallery website at www.dcartgallery.ca

currently full (Sept. 11-14), but registration is still being accepted for the second, with a waiting list forming for the first.

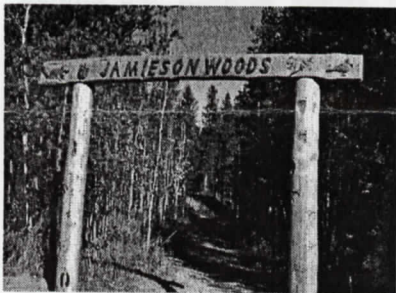
In addition to teaching watercolor, Diane will be holding an Artist's Talk on September 10th at 7:30 at the North Peace Cultural Centre. This event can be attended whether or not you are able to participate in either workshop.

Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council
Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow

Artist Profile: Kaspar Michel

Woodcarver and carpenter Kaspar Michel is a relative newcomer to the region, arriving in Hudson's Hope five years ago from Switzerland. Coming from a family boasting generations of woodcarvers, Kaspar's interest in the craft started at an early age. While in Switzerland, he went to school to hone his skills, studying art and drafting in addition to the art of hand carving.

It was after settling in Hudson's Hope that Kaspar started to pursue his interest in creating carvings larger than the figurines his family had made in Switzerland. In addition to traditional carving tools, he learned chainsaw carving in order to create bigger pieces. His recent carvings are usually from two to seven feet in height.



One might think that a block of wood is a blank canvas for a wood carver, but Kaspar says that he sees the figures in the wood and works to bring them to life, working with the

knots and grain of local pine or poplar, leaving other areas of the wood untouched. The result is often quirky and comical - like his "pants" carvings using branched logs - and bound to bring a smile to the observer. Jamieson Woods Nature Reserve in Hudson's Hope is entered via an archway created by Kaspar, gracefully carved with the tracks of local animals.



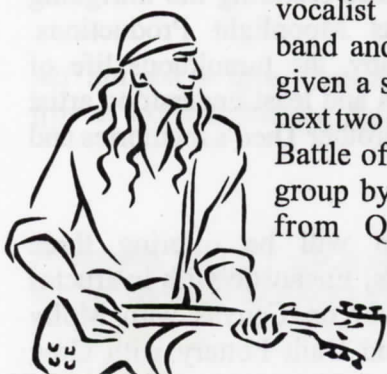
In 2007 he put chisels in the hands of students at Northern Lights College in Hudson's Hope, teaching a course in woodcarving. His carvings have exhibited throughout the Peace Liard region, though busy summers have prevented him as yet from entering Chetwynd's annual chainsaw carving competition.



Grizfest 2008 Rocks Tumbler Ridge

Grizfest Musical Festival was again a big success. The festival has been running since 2002 and traditionally kicks off with a competition called Battle of the Bands running the Friday night preceding the commencement of Grizfest. Added to this year's competition was a vocalist competition and both band and vocalist winners were given a spot to perform over the next two days of the festival.

Battle of the Band winner was a group by the name of Hot Rash from Quesnel, BC and the vocalist winner was Geoff Kennedy from Dawson Creek, BC.



Hot Rash performed at 1:00 pm on Saturday, as the opening music for Grizfest 2008. Geoff Kennedy performed at the same time slot the next day. Attendance for the festival broke previous years' records and added up to approximately 3000 with about 100 volunteers hard work to assist in the success of Grizfest. Additional information can be found at www.grizfest.com.

