

ARTS

AND

All

IN FORT ST. JOHN

B.C.

SEPTEMBER 1985



INTRODUCTION

In our community, as in the region, arts groups and individuals have begun to develop means of communication among themselves and with the schools. Many arts programs are improving with the use of existing resources. New programs could be developed with increased communication between the schools and the community.

The information in this booklet will be sent to the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils in Vancouver to be included into a new computer "Artcom". This computer will hold all of the information on Arts related groups and individuals in British Columbia, to be accessed through British Columbia.

Fort St. John will have access to this system through the Artspace Computer to be in operation by Spring 1986. The Department of Communication provided funds for the Artspace Computer.

This booklet was assisted by the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and its member groups and compiled by the Heritage Festival '86 committee.

Pauline LaBoucane
September 1985

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Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 Box 6474
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4K5

Contact: The Artspace

785-1986

The Community Arts Council is a volunteer organization dedicated to stimulation and co-ordination of cultural activities and promotion of local artists and promotion of local artists and their works. The council acts as a service of information for groups and individuals and as an agent for funding requests to local and provincial departments.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Formed in 1968 to take advantage of a Centennial grant established by the B.C. Government.
- 1975 Initiated a planning committee for a theatre/library facility.
- 1976 Engaged a community musician through support of the Canada Council and cooperation with the North Peace Music Teacher's Association.
- 1969-1979 Organized the Arts and Crafts Fair.
- 1983 Developed the Artspace-Artspace Centre and Ticket and Information Centre.
- 1984 Established Artspace for Children Program.
- 1985 Coordinating Heritage Festival '86.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 20 Groups, 35 Individuals

ACTIVITIES: 1980-1985

The Council has stepped out as an active force in the community. An extensive public awareness program includes a weekly Arts page in the Alaska Highway News, and arts events brochure and information booth at the Trade Show. The council has sponsored workshops on fundraising and marketing, assisted member groups with projects such as the Performing Arts Festival, Crafts Fair and Art Shows, and helped all community non-profit organizations. Many group members benefit directly by the Arts Councils public awareness program and grant allocations.

<p>FUNDING: B.C. Cultural Services Branch City of Fort St. John Fund raising events</p>	<p>PROJECTS: P.R.L. Regional District Leon & Thea Koerner Foundation Employment & Immigration Canada Department of Communication</p>
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AFFILIATIONS: Member of B.C. Assembly of Arts Councils
 B.C. Touring Council

FISCAL YEAR END: June 30

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$25,000.00

Artspace
 Box 6474
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4K5
 Location: 10003 100St

Contact: Sue Popesku

Arts Administrator

785-1986 work
 785-6214 home

The Artspace is a facility for Arts activities in Fort St. John and a Ticket and Information Center for the Community. The Artspace has group and family members who use the facility; receive a newsletter quarterly and benefit through members rates on classes and Artspace Special Events. The Artspace staff coordinates the weekly "Whats Going On" calendar in the Alaska Highway News. The location in the heart of Fort St. John makes the Artspace accessible as a public facility.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1982 The Artspace originated under the Fort St. John Arts Council with the assistance of the Mukluk Society and the Downtown Association and generous support from G. Tucker of Tucker Enterprises.
- 1983-1985 The Artspace developed through grants from Employment and Immigration Canada. Northwest Property Management allows the Artspace to remain in the premises for minimal rent.
- 1984 With all granting sources exhausted; the Artspace received assistance from Fort St. John City Council for one third of the annual budget.

The Artspace continues to develop programs and remain in the corner location under no guarantee of tenancy.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 19 Groups; 142 Families.

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fundraising
 Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 Fort St. John City Council
 Facility Use Rental

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 B.C. Touring Council
 Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce

FISCAL YEAR END: June 30

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$26,000.00

Artspace Classes
 Box 6474
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4K5

Contact: Donna Cove

Co-ordinator

785-1986

Artspace classes offers an exciting program of Arts related classes for the entire family. It offers classes in theatre; music; dance and visual arts. It provides an opportunity for local artists to teach others and for children and adults to explore their natural creative abilities.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Began in 1983 as a pilot project called Artspace for Children; a development arts program for the children of Fort St. John.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 1000 Average registrants per year

Artspace Classes Continued

GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDING SOURCES: Canada Council; one time start up grant
Fort St. John Community Arts Council

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: June 30

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$24,000.00

Fort St. John Can-Canettes
C/O 9623 87St
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 4Y6

Contact: Winnie Krimmer Director 787-7766 work
785-9414 home

The Can-Canettes are an amateur performing dance group specializing in Gay Nineties and Roaring Twenties routines. Soft shoe; tap dance and light jazz complete their repertoire while bright and original costumes enhance their routines. The Can-Canettes perform in telethons; banquets; dinner theatres; dances and many other special events.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1982 Performed with Bobby Curtola and Rocky Vasalino for Mukluk Rendezvous.
- 1983 Performed for Montreal Canadiens Oldtimers Hockey Club.
- 1984 Performed at Tamarama Telethon on CBC in Grande Prairie.
- 1984 Performed at VIP Party for Premier Bennett during the Winter Games
- 1984 Performed a Celebrity Performance with Dave Broadfoot (CBC's Airface) in Tumbler Ridge.
- 1985 Performed on the BCTV Variety Club Telethon in Vancouver.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 10

GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDING SOURCES: Partial sponsorship from the Pioneer Inn FSJ.
Travel grants from B.C. Lotteries.
Show fees

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: June

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$3,000.00

Fort St. John and District Council of Women
Box 6
Goodlow B.C.
J1C 1S0

Contact: Win Baker President 781-3533

The Local Council of Women bring organizations together in federations. The council carries on work through committees for the gathering and dispersing of information on conditions and requirements of concern; carries out work of common interest and inaugurates new movements within the community.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- The group has been operating continually since December 4, 1961 and meet monthly at a luncheon Sept.-June.

MEMBERSHIPS; 12 Federations

AFFILIATIONS: Arts Council
Fort St. John Public Library.

Local Council of Women Continued

FISCAL YEAR END: June 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,200.00

Fort St. John North Peace Museum
 9323 100St
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4N4

Contact: Barbara Fairservice Museum Coordinator 787-0430

The Museum reflects the history and interests of the communities in the North Peace area and provides an educational service to interested historians. The Museum includes the following functions: School Tours; Group Tours; Audio/Visual playbacks; Photo-graphic development; Historical reference material; Artifact collection and a Tourist Attraction.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1967: Peace Island Park Museum opened in South Taylor
- 1967-1983: Peace Island Park Museum Building steadily deteriorated; hundreds of artifacts were collected and accessioned.
- 1984 February 16: Opening of new 6,000 square foot exhibit space museum in Fort St. John.
- 1984-1985: 9,000 visitors in just one year.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 230 (related through the Historical Society)

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCE: Admission; donations; fundraising and space rental.
 Occasional Employment and Immigration Canada grant
 Fort St. John Community Arts Council.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Winter Tues.-Sat. 11-4pm
 Summer Mon.-Sun. 8-8pm

ADMISSION: Adults \$1.50 Students \$.75 Under 5 Free
 Historical Society Members Free

AFFILIATIONS: Canadian Museum Association
 B.C. Museums Association
 Heritage Foundation
 Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: January 1

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$45,000.00

Fort St. John Public Library Association
 10349 100th St
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 3Z2

Contact: Romi Haseo Supervising Librarian 785-3731

The Fort St. John Public Library lends books and magazines; supplies reference materials for public use; has projectors and screens for rent; provides telephone directories, newspapers, and periodicals for public use. They also have interlibrary loans, and reciprocal borrowing. The library also offers story hour and films for children and has recently begun a section for educational video tapes.

Public Library Continued

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Established in 1950.
- Moved to their present location in June of 1984.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 7,863

CIRCULATION: 8,000 books per month

Library Hours See Page 14

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Operate on grant from the City of Fort St. John
Purchase books with a grant from the Provincial Government

AFFILIATIONS: Peace River Associated Libraries
B.C. Library Association
Arts Council of Fort St. John

FISCAL YEAR END: December 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$100,000.00

Fort St. John Rotary Pipe Band
9704 112Ave
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 2W3

Contact: G. Adlard

Acting Pipe Major

785-0269

The Fort St. John Rotary Pipe Band performs publicly at community parades, Burns Night Celebrations, November 11th Services, Childrens' Parades. They have also performed for Curling Bonspiels, and Fort St. John Winter Games. The Pipe Band travels to communities throughout the Peace Country, including Grande Prairie, Fort Nelson, and Whitehorse.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- The Pipe Band was formed in September 1970.
- They played for the Queen in May 1971 in Fort St. John.
- Have been in continuous operation since.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 8

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Arts Council
Fort St. John Rotary Club

FISCAL YEAR END: September

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$800-\$1,000.00

Fort St. John Radio Control Club
107 103A Ave
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 2J4

Contact: Lloyd Gibson

President

787-7573

Members are involved in designing, building and flying miniature model aircraft. The club concentrates on radio controlled aircraft only.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Club started in 1979 with 6 members and grew to a maximum size of 42 members in 1982.

MEMBERSHIPS 1984-1985: 30

Friends of the Public Library Continued

MEMBERSHIPS: 100

AFFILIATIONS: Arts Council
Fort St. John Public Library

FISCAL YEAR END: October

North Peace Art Society
Box 7577
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 4R4

Contact: Merle Hendricks President 785-3710

The Art Society's aim is to promote and encourage growth of the Visual Arts in the North Peace Region. They operate a gallery which is run by volunteer staff. A summer program by a student artist in residence is providing added tourist interest in the gallery.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1968 North Peace Art Group formed.
- 1984 Developed an art gallery and picture rental.
- 1984 Became a Society.
- 1985 Initiated Summer Student Artist Program.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 51

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Arts Council
Summer Employment Program

AFFILIATIONS: Community Arts Council of Fort St. John

FISCAL YEAR END: June 30

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$35,000.00

North Peace Historical Society
9323 100St
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 4N4

Contact: Ivan Strome President 785-2909

The North Peace Historical Society was founded to create and maintain an interest in the history of the North Peace. The first museum opened in 1968 at Peace Island Park in South Taylor; and housed artifacts of the pioneer era. The Society built a new 5,000 square foot museum in Fort St. John which opened in February 1984. In one year; the museum has welcomed over 9,000 visitors. The Society is currently focusing on pioneer building preservation and the Heritage Festival '86 preparations.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Formed in 1964 to preserve Peace Country history.
- 1968 Official opening of Peace Island Park Museum.
- 1973 Published Peace Makers of the North Peace.
- 1975 Published Pioneer Profiles.
- 1979 Established Museum Committee.
- 1984 Official opening of Fort St. John-North Peace Museum.
- 1985 Restored Monica Storr's Anglican Chapel.

Historical Society Continued

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 250

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
New Horizons Department of Health and Welfare
Cultural Services Branch Project GrantsAFFILIATIONS: Member of Fort St. John Community Arts Council
Member of B.C. Museums Association
Member of B.C. Heritage Society

FISCAL YEAR END: January 1

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$25,000.00

North Peace Potters Guild

P.O. Box 7845
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 5E6

Contact: Sandy Troudt President 785-3667

The North Peace Potters Guild are associated with the college and share a common studio; members have access to a complete facility that includes several electric kilns and a gas kiln; store; etc. Typically; over the year a workshop; a summer sale and a christmas sale are held. Skill level of the members range from amateur to accomplished. Ocassionally individual member shows and sales have been sponsored.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- The guild has been active for over 10 years; first in Taylor; then at various locations in Fort St. John.
- For the past 6 years; the guild has been associated with the Northern Lights College.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 12

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Arts Council
Memberships
Sale CommissionsAFFILIATIONS: B.C. Potters Guild
Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: May 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$3,500.00

North Peace Registered Music Teachers Association

216 89St
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 4Y9

Contact: Jana Jordon Secretary 785-5774

The Music Teachers Association teaches music; conducts recitals; participates in festivals; sponsors some musical performers; and prepares students for theory and practical exams. They have 3 registered members of B.C. Registered Music Teachers Association.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Started in 1964
- Supported the growth of music for over 20 years.

Music Teachers Association Continued

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 15

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
Registration Fees
Fund raising concerts and recitalsAFFILIATIONS: B.C. Registered Music Teachers Association
Canadian Federation of Music Teachers
Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: February

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,300.00

Peace Country Craftman's Association
9304 95Ave
Fort St. John B.c.
V1J 1H5

Contact: Moneca Tanner President 785-4758

The Craftmans are a group of active local artisons and craft people cooperating in an effort to improve the standard of crafts in the Peace Area. They sponsor craft workshops and hold annual Christmas and Easter sales. Meetings are at the Artspace every fourth Monday at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join the members to discuss craft business and enjoy craft related presentations. The Craftman's Association is organizing the Crafts Fair for Heritage Festival '86.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 27

SOURCES OF FUNDS: Membership fees
Table rental for shows and sales

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: July 31

Peace Lutheran Ca.re Home Aux.
9908 108Ave
Fort St. John B.C.

Contact: Kathy Thorlakson 785-8941

The Peace Lutheran Care Home Auxilary was started to volunteer assistance to the residents for their physical and mental needs. They spend time with them in visiting, doing handicrafts, playing cards and bingos and driving. Additional services as hair dressing, and other personal attention plus organization of social affairs are part of the Auxilary's mandate. An annual appreciation tea for non-auxilary members who support the Auxilary attracts increasing public support.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- The group was started in 1978.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 20

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
Fund raising events

AFFILIATIONS: Peace Lutheran Care Home

Care Home Aux. Continued

FISCAL YEAR END: December 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$9,000.00
 \$1,500.00 Arts Related Portion

Peace River North Festival of Performing Arts
 C/O Site 16 Comp. 33 RR#1
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4M6

Contact: Heather Bickford Treasurer 785-4546

The purpose of the Festival was to promote Dance, Drama, Speech Arts, Music, Creative Writing and Photography in the community and to give those interested and talented, motivation and incentive to develop their talents. Unfortunately in 1981 an executive could not be formed and a festival of Arts under this name has not been held since.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1940 to 1960 Original Festival organized.
- 1973 Revived for a 2 day festival.
- 1981 Expanded to two full weeks.

1981 Award winners may qualify for the Provincial Speech Arts and Music Festival.

GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 B.C. Festival Association
 B.C. Cultural Services Branch

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 B.C. Music Festivals Association

FISCAL YEAR END: August

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$10,000.00

North Peace Spinners and Weavers
 Box 388
 Taylor B.C.
 V0C 2K0

Contact: Christine Drummond Secretary/Treasurer 789-3598

The purpose of the Spinners and Weavers is to explore the craft of spinning and weaving. They offer demonstrations to community groups and functions. They meet monthly and welcome new members to learn their craft or further expand their knowledge in the craft.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- The guild has been in existence for over 10 years. They are presently quite involved in the Peace Country Spinners and Weavers.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 30

GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDING SOURCES: B.C. Arts Council

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council

FISCAL YEAR END: June 30

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$400.00

Stage North Theatre Society
 P.O. Box 7455
 Fort St. John B.C.
 V1J 4R4

Contact: Norman Bryson President 785-9350

Stage North is a non-profit community theatre group putting on stage productions involving talented members of our community, (dedicated to bringing the residents of this area quality performances). Their regular season includes one large musical, one or two small shows, and an annual entry in the Peace River Zone Festival.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- 1981 Billy the Kid
- Rinse Cycle
- 1982 Wizard of Oz
- 1983 Fiddler on the Roof
- A View from the Bridge
- 1984 The King and I
- 1985 Three in One Act Plays

MEMBERS: 37

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 Major Musicals

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 Theatre B.C.
 B.C. Touring Council
 Peace River Zone Festival

FISCAL YEAR END: May 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$13,000.00

Treeline
 Box 565
 Taylor B.C.
 V0C 2K0

Contact: Maidie Hilmo Editor and Publisher 785-3119(h)
 785-6981(w)

Treeline is a non-profit Press Publishing literary works and art which are primarily from Northern British Columbia. The Press publishes anthologies and individual selections. Treeline also sponsors literary readings by famous Canadian writers and local writers.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Established in 1981 with Treeline 1, an anthology of short stories and plays stemming from the Northern Lights College creative writing classes with community input from adults and children.
- 1983 Treeline 2 added a section of writings by old timers of the North
- 1985 publishing "Kissed by a Rainbow"; a selection of poems by Milton Halliday a North Peace Pioneer.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 20

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
 South Peace Art Gallery

GRANTS OR FUNDING SOURCES: Sales of Books

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$5,000.00

FISCAL YEAR END: August 30

Dance Society
Box 7857
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 5E6

Contact: Harvey Ridell Vice President 787-9430

The Dance Society has just formed this year and are geared towards promoting discipline of ballet, tap, and jazz. The Dancers will be examined by the Provincial ballet, tap and jazz committee.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 40 Students +

FISCAL YEAR END: September 31

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$55,000.00 (proposed budget for this year)

Cable 10 Society
C/O 5440 Cable TV 9815 100ave
Fort St. John B.C.
V1J 1Y4

Contact: Norm Bryson President 785-9350

Regular non profit society dedicated to improving Community awareness through use of TV by involving other groups and individuals in Community programming and broadcasting.

HISTORY BRIEFS:

- Society formed April 1985

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 10 and growing

FUNDING: Public Donations
memberships

AFFILIATIONS: Fort St. John Community Arts Council
Artspace
Canadian Cable Broadcasters for Community Broadcasting

AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET: \$3,000.00

Fort St. John Figure Skating Club
10320 111Ave
Fort St. John

Contact: Gail Webber 785-5163

The Fort St. John Figure Skating Club has been active in Fort St. John for 20 years. Each year the club puts on a carnival, that has beginner skaters up to professional skaters performing in it. Classes are for anyone from pre-school to adult.

Fort St. John Friendship Society
10208 95Ave
Fort St. John

Contact: Harriet Janvier 785-8566

The Fort St. John Friendship Society is a non profit organization established in 1969. Some of the services they offer the community are a referral service, counselling, legal advice, preschool, youth, cultural, social and recreational programs for all ages. The society also has a craft store that is open from 8:30 - 4:30.

Fort St. John Public Library Association
10349 100St.
Fort St. John

Contact: Romi Haseo 785-3731

The Fort St. John Public Library is renting premises in a convenient shopping centre. New plans for a permanent library are under consideration however lack of funds is the major concern. The library has a number of programs for children including, children's story hours, puppetry, group tours for schools, workshops, and saturday films. The current circulation is approximately 8,000. The library's hours are:

Monday	10:00am-5:00pm	Friday	10:00am-9:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am-5:00pm	Saturday	1:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday	10:00am-9:00pm	Sunday	1:00pm-4:30pm
Thursday	10:00am-5:pm		

Irish Dancers
9515 Peace River Rd.
Fort St. John

Contact: Marg Kelly 785-2260

The Irish Dancers have classes from September through April. They teach dancing to anyone from the age of 6 and up.

Jellisons Dance Studio
11 10404 101Ave
Fort St. John

Contact: Noelle Jellison 785-8896

Beginners of all ages may enroll in ballet, jazz, tap and women's classes. Over 200 students from the community are enrolled in classes each year. The students enter the Festival of Performing Arts and conduct a recital in the late Spring.

Twirlers

Contact: Donna Brown 785-6121

The Twirlers are a non profit organization. The group meets twice a week and has girls 7-13 years of age. Registration is in September and there is a maximum of 20 students.