

# Big plans in FSJ for Canada Day weekend

2002

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ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Sixty years in the making, the Alaska Highway will be the centerpiece during Canada Day celebrations.

Motorcycles, memories of the Alcan Highway and a dance in the park are just some of the featured attractions as the Energetic City gears up for its best-ever July 1 celebrations.

"It's actually a lot bigger this year because of the 60th anniversary of the Alaska Highway," said Marija Haluska, the city's special events coordinator.

Events in Fort St. John will kick off at 1:30 p.m. with a rodeo parade

through town. A variety of activities for all ages will be held throughout the day at Centennial Park, including the Fort St. John Arts Council's Art in the Park exhibit featuring local artists and activities for children.

New this year is an evening dance with Vancouver blues band The Twisters, performing from 7-10 p.m. Fireworks will light up the sky as soon as it is dark, said Haluska.

"It's definitely going to be a bigger event than it has been in the past," she said.

The Alaska Highway will also come alive with the rumbling of American iron, as hundreds of Harley Davidsons and other cruisers are expected to take

part in the annual Thunder Run from Dawson Creek to Fort St. John.

"We're getting reservations from everywhere," said organizer Rick Kolter, general manager of the Alexander Mackenzie Inn, who said as many as 500 riders from as far away as California, Winnipeg and Alaska could show up.

"If we get 400 bodies I'm tickled pink," he said. "Everything over that, I'm ecstatic."

The ride is hosted by the Fort St. John Sunrise Rotary Club and two Rotary clubs in Dawson Creek. A poker ride will be held Saturday to Dawson Creek, ending with a pig roast at Jackfish Dundee's in Charlie Lake.

The low-slung cruisers will be on display Sunday at the show and shine at the Mackenzie Inn.

Riders will rumble up the highway from Dawson Creek to Fort St. John in Monday's Thunder Run, followed by a draw for a 2002 Harley Davidson valued at \$33,000.

Kolter said the event is getting bigger and better every year.

"It's just unbelievable. I can't believe this is our fourth year doing it," he said.

There are no separate celebrations planned in the District of Taylor, but parade floats will be entered in the larger celebrations in Fort St. John and Pouce Coupe.

# Art will be on display on July 1

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The Art in the Park exhibition on July 1 in Centennial Park will showcase and celebrate the talent and diversity of local artists' work.

The exhibition is part of the Canada Day celebrations, which take place in the park from 2-5 p.m.

Tara Brule, a local artist and educator will feature her work at the celebration. She will soon have a character she developed on CD covers in Wal-Mart stores across Canada. Weego Kids Productions, based out of Salmon Arm, released a CD called Weego Space last November, which features the artist's illustrations on the jacket.

Soon after Weego Space was released, Weego Ocean and Weego Jungle were created, starting a Weego CD series. Brule's artwork on the CD are illustrations highlighting a bright-eyed, pony-tailed character named Mindy.

Kids can meet Brule at the exhibition, where she will be offering the first 30 visitors a free copy of the CD. She will also be doing small caricature sketches for a minimal fee.

Other artists will also have their work on display, and the public is welcome to view or purchase the many pieces. Some of the other works on display include: Don Pettit's calendars featuring local photographs, Tyrone Oldershaw's beeswax candles, Mary Braaten's wall hangings and willow work, Rhoda Forbes's gourd art and pine needle coilings, Edward Hanlon's northern lights photographs, Cathy Ortynsky's pottery, North Peace Spinner and Weavers Guild textiles, Mike Kroecher's oil and acrylic paintings and Leon Augier's metalwork. Band instruments will also be on display with Todd Koponyas.

There will also be a children's art activities tent set up, where Shirley Kerr will feature hands-on art activities, and a birdhouse art exhibition tent will have a display of birdhouses built by a group of local students.