

Local arts conference ready to roll

Submitted

Fort St. John

A flurry of arts activity and recent major success stories have attracted attention to the North by community arts organizers in the Province of B.C. More than 120 delegates are expected in Fort St. John for the Assembly of B.C. Arts Council annual conference and general meeting scheduled in Fort St. John at the end of the month.

The name of the conference, Changes, Challenges and Rewards, reflects the on-going determination to keep the community arts as an active part of a healthy, thriving community. Presentations and discussions about contemporary arts issues are planned for the three day event. A few of the resource people are:

— Darcy Newman Edgar, lawyer and educator in arts and cultural administration, will explore contemporary human rights law, institutional resistance to change and recent cases where the law has applied.

— David Diamond, playwright, director and founding member of Headlines Theatre, uses innovative and exciting theatrical form in problem solving with the audience.

— How to break habits within our organizations to create more effective communication will be presented by Steve Warland, who has extensive experience within non-profit, government and educational

organizations.

— Registered parliamentarian Eli Mina entertains and educates an audience in the ethical use of parliamentary procedure to avoid the confrontation which blocks dialogue, to guide heated debate and to answer hard-hitting questions.

Special activities are planned by the local co-hosts of the conference, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council. Additional tickets are available to everyone in Fort St. John for the special events during the conference.

The opening gala and reception features Fort St. John's best on Thursday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. in the cultural centre. Tickets are \$10 each. The banquet and Wearable Art Fashion Show is Friday, Sept. 30, at the Pioneer Inn. Tickets are \$25 each.

A silent auction of gifts donated by Arts Councils throughout the province is open to everyone in the Peace Gallery North on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Delegates will be treated to riverboat rides and few lucky individuals will be riding with Bob Batchelor of Northern Mountain Helicopters to view the Peace River after all the work of the Conference is complete.

Many local businesses are planning to put special arts displays in their windows. The conference committee will connect those windows with a series of painted footsteps to guide Conference delegates and businesses to special places of interest.

Conference registrations are still coming in. Contact the Fort St. John Community Arts Council or the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council for further information at 785-6214.