

# New goals for local arts council

by Barbara Haidn

The Fort St. John Arts Council is looking for a new focus. With the completion of the Cultural Centre, the Arts Council is in the process of revamping its organization, to re-direct itself towards a new goal.

"In the last ten years we had to actually create the Arts Space. We were working with the purpose of creating a permanent facility for the arts in Fort St. John," said Sue Popesku, representative for the Canadian Conference for the Arts.

With a major project just completed, the Council has re-vamped itself into a maintenance mode, Popesku explained. In light of its mandate to stimulate and develop art activities and facilities in the local community, the Council will be looking for new objects and projects.

The Council is holding its annual general meeting, June 15 at the Cultural Centre at 7pm. The 24 member group

will be presenting brief accounts of the past year.

Part of the Council's goal is to broaden the public's perception of the arts beyond the strict visual, musical and performing arts. Choices in color, decor, cosmetics, clothing and wardrobe are cultural expressions of personal tastes.

"If arts didn't exist, you wouldn't turn on the radio, wouldn't wonder what to wear. Film and video wouldn't be part of common language and you wouldn't care about the color and design of your car," Popesku explained. "We live the arts whether we like it or not."

Throughout the summer the Council will be holding a logo and "Arts in motion" photo contest. The Council hopes to receive a wide array of photos varying from dance to crafts, hairstyling, lawnscapeing, and teaching, in an effort to broaden the popular definition of the arts.

# Busy year for Arts Council

By Kate O'Neil

There were many highlights for Arts Council members in the past year. Many events were held at the North Peace Cultural Centre, which celebrates its first anniversary June 25. The 10th annual Dance Extravaganza, hosted by the 50 member Northern Dance Theatre Society was held for the first time at the centre. Six of these dancers competed in Trail at the BC Festival of the Performing Arts, in May.

The Can Canettes won the Can Can Challenge in Lilloet this year and hope to compete in Edmonton next year. The North Peace Highland Dance Association brought home the aggregate trophy after winning every class they entered in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Stage North won the Zone Festival this year which means "Stops Along the Way" will be performed at Mainstage in Vancouver and "Cut" will be developed further by a Vancouver director, both at the end of July.

A broad range of talents makes up the North Peace Arts Society who have been focusing their attention on "People and Places" a show currently showing at Gallery North which has had 19 shows this year, including two student shows and Betty Kouvasic, a Prince George artist sponsored by the Arts Council.

Tumbler Ridge was the

venue for this year's juried art show which featured regional artists. Regional Arts Council Representative Carol Ingalls said the show was a big success with painting representing all the regions; however, while well represented with paintings she said it was "sadly lacking in other mediums such as fibre art, sculpture, and carvings.

The Centre's newly restored piano got a steady work out at the May 31 Playathon. A variety of musicians kept the music flowing from noon until 8 pm. to raise \$2,045 toward the piano's restoration costs. An anonymous donation of \$8,000 was contributed to the restoration; \$3,000 from the cultural centre and the sale of the music teacher's piano for \$2,500 and \$1,500 from the Peace River North Festival Association; \$300 remains to be paid for the restoration.

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir travelled the region with conductor Walter Prosnitz in November and sang two Christmas concerts with Frank Mills in December.

The Literacy Society promoted and celebrated literacy with a Gala Reading Night with the support of Roy Forbes.

The cultural centre will hire a technical director to oversee lighting, sound design and stage carpentry. Artspace classes will continue this year with a new program called Sparts, a mix of sports and arts.



# Arts Council forms new directions

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is searching for a new direction now that the North Peace Cultural Centre has been established and the Artspace is under the direction of the North Peace Cultural Society.

At the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, the 24 member groups of the Arts Council will discuss future directions.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council has spent the past 12 years developing the programs within the Artspace that are housed in the Cultural Centre.

The groups can now focus on other arts areas that may need attention in Fort St. John. Since its incorporation as a Society in 1967, the Arts Council has undertaken many community projects such as the Community Musicians Program, the Heritage Festival, the Winter Games Murals, and the Concert Series, as well as, the development of the Cultural Centre.

The support activities of the Arts Council have been ongoing and will continue into the next year.

The Arts Council provides awards to outstanding students at North Peace Secondary School and Northern Lights College in music, drama, art and creative writing.

The Business Arts Development Award with the Chamber of Commerce will be given in 1994.

The financial assistance and

liability insurance coverage for Arts Council groups will continue as usual.

And the Arts Council will continue to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors of the North Peace Cultural Centre.

New initiatives include a photography contest called "The Arts in Motion" which will be featured at the North Peace Art Gallery in the Cultural Centre in January, 1994.

A new scholarship program has been introduced by the Dumaine Family as a Memorial to Lindsay Dumaine who was killed in a car accident last fall.

The Lindsay Dumaine Music Scholarship Found will provide a scholarship to a high school graduate

music student each year. The Arts Council is also conducting a logo contest which closes August 15.

The Arts Council is open to the general public and meets each month on the third Tuesday at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Everyone is invited to the Annual General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on June 15. Ivan Strome of the North Peace Historical Society will present the plans for the expansion of the Museum at the Annual General Meeting.

Election of officers and discussion about future activities are also on the agenda. For further information, please phone Pam at 785-1634 after 5:00 p.m. or Sue at 785-6214 during the day.