

Nov.28th, 1984.

To:- Peace River-Liard Regional Arts Advisory Committee.

From:- Fort Nelson & District Arts Council.

Report on Polar Inn Theatre Complex to Date  
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A Public meeting was held on November 15th. in the Village Council Chambers. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the citizens of Village Council's decision regarding the various uses intended for the Polar Inn. All proposals were met with little or no response from the half dozen people who attended with the exception of one uninformed gentleman who demanded to know why Fort Nelson needed a Theatre and why taxpayers should be burdened with another project. When it was pointed out that the Arts Council and not the taxpayers was to foot the bill this disgruntled spectator left the meeting.

The most significant meeting since the Arts Council became involved in the whole matter was held on November 22nd, 1984 in Council Chambers. We were asked for proposed revenue producing activities and were able to satisfy our Village Council that we were serious and logical in our aims. We also listed a few of the activities that we felt would benefit the community as a whole and these also were accepted as being very reasonable.

The question of terms of a lease was left until last. Various ideas were voiced ranging from possibly \$2.50 per sq. ft. as being a fair assessment of the space's value to \$1,000 per month. However, one Alderman pointed out that the Golf Club and the Curling Club (both Village owned facilities but operated independently) enjoyed a minimal rental agreement and why couldn't the Arts Council fall into the same broad framework. The upshot of the matter was that the Arts Council will be granted the facility in perpetuity in return for assuming the cost of utilities and the sum of \$1.00 per year ! !

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We, of course, are delighted with this decision and are now in gear for our fund raising efforts.

We shall be meeting with Village Council on a six-monthly basis to keep them informed of our progress and will receive their approval to commence construction when 50% of the total budget for the project can be proven as raised. Our target date for substantial completion is Jan. 1st. 1988.

Cost of the Theatre, complete with all equipment and ready for a Gala Opening will be available very soon, perhaps as early as next week, after Mr. Henry Hawthorne, Architect, has studied the facility.

Because of the fact that a Theatre seems now to be a reality, as some of us have never doubted, and that our new President, John Barry is deeply involved, little else has been happening in Arts circles in Fort Nelson of late. The second of four shows scheduled by Performance '84 will be in town on Nov.28th. this one being "Joy of Dance", a Vancouver company.

Phyllis Alstadt, our treasurer is anxious to get going with weaving and other crafts but has been out of town for a long time for medical reasons. She is back now, albeit on crutches, but we will be hearing from her soon in regard to her particular interests.

The Drama Club's production of "Babes in Toyland" is in the final stages of rehearsals and will be performed Dec. 7, 8 and 9th. in the Rec. Centre. We would like to record in this report a big 'Thank You' to Sue Popesku and Bob Bennetts for their help in our recent raffle for the Michael Jackson Show in Vancouver. The Drama Club made a profit of \$371 and our show is now able to add a bit of glitter.

Report prepared by Reg Tunnicliffe, Fort Nelson Arts Council Rep.