

Annual Canola Festival in FSJ showcases local talent

By Shaun Thomas

FORT ST. JOHN - The third annual Canola Festival took place on July 17 outside of Cosmic Grounds coffee shop and this year's festival had something for everyone.

"This year we had 30 performers and that ranged from acoustic artists to electric stage bands. The bands include some punk, some blues, some bluegrass, some modern rock, another band that sings like the Beach Boys, others that are more moderate soft rock and some Irish dancers," explained festival organizer Dan Gauvin.

"It's very exciting and that's what Canola Fest is all about. It originated around the open mikes we had at Cosmic Grounds and from there we started to give the performers a chance to get on stage. When they get on stage they get a chance to just build up that much more respect towards each other and their confidence just grows ten

fold"

In addition to the bands playing the stage, there was a tent set up featuring ten local artisans displaying their talents and, in some cases, marketing their art.

"It's great because a lot of these artisans don't necessarily get a chance to display their work," added Gauvin.

The festival ran all day Saturday and wrapped up on Sunday evening with a concert featuring local artist Ryan Hennessey opening for The Northern Pikes at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Shaun Thomas photo

Right: Local artisan Melanie Franklin inks a design onto the hand of Sue Lawrence in the artisan tent at the festival



Shaun Thomas photo

"Five Piece Harmony performs for the crowd on the small stage behind Cosmic grounds.



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Communicating with tree frogs played their unique sound on Saturday evening.