

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting
September 19, 2012

Call to Order: 7:11 pm

In Attendance: Rosemary Landry (Flying Colours, Potters Guild, Shar Coultry (PAGS), Sabrina Bailey (Northern Winds Band, SD 60 Band Program), Jennifer Jarabek, (Central PAC), Nancy Maxfield (FSJ Dance Society – formerly the Move Dance Centre Society), Yolande Harrison (Film Society), John Kirby, Tyson Mowatt, Russell Eggleston, Eliza Stanford, Joy Larstone, Connie Surerus, (Irish Dance), Nina Elias-Cazes (FSJ Arts Market), Sue Popesku (Stage North, PR Theatre Zone Festival), Cheryl Peebles (Spinners & Weavers), Sonja Butts, Margaret May (Northern Dance, PRN Festival), Rhonda Brown (Music Teachers), Wendy Schmidt (Potters Guild), Lisa Bush

Approval of Agenda: Move by Char, seconded by Eliza, to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Char should be added to the attendance list as she was present, representing PAGS. Moved by Yolande, seconded by Cheryl, to approve the minutes as amended.

Guest Speakers: “Northern Groove 101” Russell Eggleston, Tyson Mowatt, John Kirby gave a presentation about the changes to Northern Groove magazine and how arts groups can use the magazine to promote their activities.

What Northern Groove doesn't do: Northern Groove is not a traditional newspaper. There are no reporters or office. Consider them a support team with a magazine, website, facebook, twitter. Everyone can access the tools to promote themselves. Anyone can create an account for free and post information about their group, an event, an individual's story and can share information with the arts community at large.

Anyone can set up an account on the website and post their stories. Members are encouraged to post often; make stories easily readable and as exciting and interesting as possible. The website is free. Posting on the website is free; advertising in the magazine can be purchased.

People who don't want to write their own article, or don't feel able, can contact the NG and get someone to write for them for a fee. Talk to them to get help to get articles out to a larger audience. The magazine relies on members of the community to tell them what is happening.

If a group's activities come to their attention, their articles may be selected to go in the magazine. There is limited space in the magazine, so a few articles that catch their eye will be put in the magazine.

Magazine is published once a month.

Post on NG website and it automatically goes out to twitter and facebook.

Magazine is ad supported. Ads go from \$100 to about \$500 for a full page.

Deadline for articles is mid-month; make sure it is on the website before the 15th of the month.

The magazine is distributed in about 100 locations. The focus is on this community.

Everyone with an account on NG has an individual blog.

Article about event, automatically goes on the event calendar, so members, in effect, maintain the event calendar. Groups can send a press release and have it posted by the team.

tyson@northerngroove.com or russell@northerngroove.com.

Financial Report: We are doing well financially and have paid money back to the building fund which had been used during our period of financial crisis.

Question regarding Festivals/Fairs: Now only Sand Sensations, not High on Ice now that the Arts Council is not coordinating this event.

Moved by Eliza, seconded by Sue, to accept the financial statement from accountants for the year ending June 30, 2012. The motion was carried

Budget (2013/2014): For next year, \$8000 in budget for juried show.

Moved by Char, seconded by Nina, to approve budget for the year ending June 30, 2014. The motion was carried

Moved by Yolande, seconded by Cheryl, to continue to use the firm of Sander Rose Bone Grindle. The motion was carried

President's Report: (Rosemary Landry) This has been a very successful year for the Community Arts Council of Fort St. John due to the hard work of our members and a switch from an 'advisory board' to a 'working board'. We have been able to replenish our facility fund which was used in last year's crisis situation and to sponsor the very exciting new *Sand Sensations* demonstration event which we intend to become an annual event. With the assistance of City Council's Tax Exemption, we have come within \$7000.00 of having the ArtsPost becoming a self supporting facility. We have also done substantial work on our Strategic Plan in an effort to dovetail with the City's Official Community Plan. A special thank you is extended to Margaret May and Sue Popesku for doing the excellent job of staffing the office and to Sonja Butts for keeping our finances in order.

The Community Arts Council Mission is dedicated to developing Arts and Culture activities and events in our community and to supporting individual artists in their creative endeavours to become self-sustaining. This year we were pleased to welcome two new member groups: the Federation of Canadian Artists and the Art Market but were very sorry to see the Slainte Dance Group fold. There is a growing excitement for Arts and Culture in our community as seen in the formation of a new Community Band, a stronger Youth Choir and a renewed interest in procuring a Community Stage.

Board activities have included attendance at BC Hydro Consultations on Site C to determine the impact on the Arts Community and how we can best serve the anticipated influx of families and their needs for Arts and Culture should Site C become a reality. We have applied for multiple Grants to sustain and develop new programs. We have promoted further education through the awarding of three (3) Visual and Performing Arts Scholarships to Northern Lights College students and three (3) Bursaries to School District #60 Senior Secondary School graduating students.

We have worked in collaboration with the City of Fort St. John on High-On-Ice (HOI), Communities in Bloom Flower Pot Project, Art-that-Moves-You along the Walking Track, Art-in-the-Park and the recent Cultural Crawl brochure of all the arts events in the City during the month of August. However, we are sad to say that our eight year partnership with the City on HOI has come to an end as the City has decided to take a different direction for this event in 2013. We have provided ice and ice carving training to Hudson's Hope, set up a venue at the Chetwynd Chain Saw Carving event, and collaborated with Taylor on their Gold Panning event. We were proud to have developed a process for public art and to act as an agent for the Peace River Regional Hospital District in seeing an art installation to fruition in the new Fort St. John Hospital. It is the intent of the Board to continue to lobby for a Public Art Policy at the City level. Plans are already under way to collaborate with Tourism and the Museum to create a terrific event to celebrate the 75th Year of the building of the Alaska Highway.

We are a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the BC Arts Councils. Several of our Board members sit on the Regional Arts Council Board, the FSJ Hospital Arts Committee and one is a Cultural Centre Board member. We provide web site, face book and twitter access to our member groups to advertise their activities and we are a contributor to Northern Grove where we can tell our stories.

The ArtsPost has been very busy with the space being utilized on a daily bases with the activities being limited only by the amount of space available. It is the plan of the Arts Council to have the Artspost become an independent institution as one step further toward the development of a community Creative Arts and Education Centre.

In closing, I would like to thank our member groups for their support throughout the year, especially for the donation of those delicious pies for the Fall Fair booth. It is the Council's hope to become more engaged with the support and promotion of local artists, to include our First Nation artists and to inform our community about the vibrant Arts and Culture programs that exist here in the North Peace.

Moved by Sue, seconded by Cheryl, that we send a copy of this report to the media along with report of new board. Carried

MEMBER REPORTS

Oil Painters of the Peace: All classes for September and October are full. There is a waiting list so more classes will likely be scheduled later.

Music Teachers: are in the process of planning a meeting to talk about our year. They will have a recital at the end of November but haven't confirmed the exact date or venue.

Contact: Monica Best

Northern Lights Youth Choir: Jennifer Giesbrecht will be at the helm this year. Rhonda Scott is taking a personal leave of absence due to health concerns. Sabrina Bailey returns as an assistant and Monica Best as Accompanist.

Riser Fundraiser - We are currently accepting personal and corporate donations towards our \$5000 goal to purchase a set of REAL choir risers for use by any choral group at the Cultural Centre and wherever else our choir may need them. We are already \$1250 of the way there and hope to have funds in place by the end of October to place an order.

Social Media/Public Relations - theNLYC is making a concerted effort this season to attract new choir members and new audience members through an increased presence online and in local media. Visit www.theNLYC.com for more details!

Highlights Up-Coming - Christmas Concert, December 17th @ PM NPCC; Spring Concert May 12th @ PM NPCC. Also planning to perform in festival and several other community events throughout the year.

Central School PAC

- Swing Installation - September 20-22, 2012. This is being added to the playground and was \$8500.00 to purchase.
- We are doing an Art Card fundraiser that takes a piece of art from each student that wants to participate, places it on blank cards with the artists names on the back. These cards will be sold to the individual for \$16 for eight cards.
- Poinsettia will be used as a fundraiser as well this year just before Christmas - cost has not been determined yet. This is following the Walkers' Greenhouse flower baskets that were sold in May. Baskets were sold for \$17.00 each
- Updated the pottery module in May/June 2012 with new tools and clay with the grant provided the year before.
- We are also planning to bring Paul Hann, the children's song writer, up again this year for 2 weeks in April 2013. We invited him last year for 1 week and he was a hit with teachers and students.
- Men's Icebreaker hockey tournament - October 19-21, 2012. The will be held at the Pomeroy Sports Center and the entry fee is \$50.00 per player

Peace River North Festival Association: The Festival AGM will be on October 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the ArtsPost. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Festival on any level is invited to attend. The Peace River North Festival will take place April 14 to 21, 2013 and will feature classes in Dance, Piano, Strings, Guitar, Bands and Instruments, Choir and Voice and Speech.

Northern Dance Theatre Society: The dance troupe of Studio 2 Stage can look back on the 2011-2012 season with great pleasure and pride. The dancers worked hard and were rewarded with success at the three festivals they attended in Sherwood Park, Fort St. John and Grande Prairie. At the end of the season, the group said a fond farewell to six graduating dancers and their families, but, come August, dancers were moving forward with a larger troupe than before and hard at work at the annual two week summer school. Dancers worked on technique and new choreography under expert direction of four visiting teachers. Fundraising is already well underway, with the Fall Fair food booth and the Rotary Mega Lottery.

Stage North Theatre Society: had a very successful 2 week Summer Camp with Josue Laboucane as the instructor. Josue (from Fort St. John) is a professional director and actor in Vancouver and is has recently been accepted to work with Shakespeare's Stratford Theatre for the next few years. We also had a 3 week residency earlier in the year with John Kirkpatrick (also of FSJ) who is a professional actor, instructor and director from Edmonton.

- This coming year Stage North has chosen an exciting schedule of productions with the younger set in mind. Legally Blonde-The Musical has a strong youth element since the story is about Elle who goes enrolls in law school to get back at her boyfriend who dumped her and learns that she has special skills in prosecuting criminals. The cast of 35 have been in dance rehearsals all summer and will soon open the show at the NPCC.
- Stage North is assisting Studio2Stage in producing the classic Christmas show *The Nutcracker*. The September 21/22 auditions for this show will be combined with the Stage North show of *James and the Giant Peach* scheduled for February of next year. Both of these shows are for the young and the old to enjoy.
- Last year's Oscar Night Fashion and Form with original dress made of recycled movie film was so popular that Stage North is announcing the March 24, 2013 Fashion and Form will be a competition for fashions made of CD's and DVD. A video will soon be released promoting this unique competition in Fort St. John. This event takes place at On the Rocks which limits the audience to adults.

Sept 21/22, 2012 – Auditions for *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Nutcracker*- Fri 4:30 -9pm and Sat. 11am – 4pm NPCC

Nov 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2012 – *Legally Blonde – The Musical* 7:30pm NPCC Tickets \$25 each

Dec 20, 21, 22, 23, 2012 - *The Nutcracker* NPCC

Feb 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2013 – *James and the Giant Peach*- 7:30pm NPCC

Mar 24 – Oscar Night on the Big Screen With Disc-Continued Original Fashions On the Rocks

Festival show- April 26, 27, May 2, 3, 4, 2013

Peace River Zone Theatre Festival

The Festival is scheduled for May 14-19, 2013. Dale Hillman is the Chair of the Festival and Blair Scott is the Theatre BC representative.

Contact: Sue Popesku 250-785-6214 spopesku@shaw.ca

North Peace Fibre Academy Schedule: for Oct and Nov will have Weaving Level 1: (2 teachers) 4 weeks and Oct. 13 & 27 & Nov. 3 & 17. Wind the warp ahead of time and let the students start by dressing the loom. Then winding the warp could be done by the students for their next project.

Classes: 1. Threading the loom 2. Weaving 3. Edges and Finishing 4. Winding the warp

For Jan, Feb, Mar and Apr. – Tentative classes and dates: Beginning Wheel Spinning – on Jan 26, and Feb 2., Mar - Inkle Loom Pick-up, Apr – Felting or Spinning novelty fibres.

Peace Art Gallery Society: There is a pottery show on right now, and a show of Gary Oker's work will be featured from October 12 – November 7. The Magical Christmas Market from November 18 to December 22. Items for the Christmas Market should be in at the Gallery by November 12.

Fort St. John Film Society: The Society cannot get the Aurora Theatre in November and December. There will be two films in both September and October.

Fort St. John School of Irish Dance: The FSJ Irish Dance society and the Watt School of Irish Dance saw changes this past year, starting with two of our long time senior dancers leaving Fort St. John to pursue their studies in Calgary and Kelowna. We found the school with more beginner and novice dancers and fewer senior, champion level dancers. We spent the 2011/2012 dance year focused on preparing our dancers for competitions (feiseanna); both dancers new to competition and those moving

up to higher levels. They competed in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver and did very well, bringing home many medals and trophies. Two of our dancers suffered injuries and were sidelined for part of the year.

We had two dancers qualify for the World Irish Dance Championships that were held in Belfast, Northern Ireland in early April, but, due to injuries, only one, Bailey Haugan, competed. Three dancers competed at the North American Irish Dance Championships in Chicago in July and performed well.

Our two main fundraisers, Mega Lottery & Nova Scotian Christmas wreaths did very well and helped pay the rent at the Cultural Centre, teachers travel and workshop costs. The Society membership voted to increase the fees for operating expenses in September 2011, instead of adding a third fundraiser, to offset costs and help improve the bottom line.

On St. Patrick's Day, the Watt dancers performed for the residents at the Peace Lutheran Care Home and, because we had few senior dancers, Jo Watt also performed in a few of the numbers, much to the delight of her dancers and the residents.

When Shaelan Pomeroy closed her school, the Pomeroy Academy of Irish Dance, this spring, Jo Watt and assistant teacher, Hailey McGuire, worked hard to accommodate those dancers wanting to continue Irish dancing. We held two special classes in May and invited the Pomeroy dancers to the classes so they could see if they wanted to dance with the Watt School. We are delighted that all who attended are continuing to dance with the Watt School and the school's numbers have more than doubled with over 25 dancers coming from Pomeroy. We held a workshop in August with Aisling Watt, introduced the dancers to new choreography, allowed all the dancers opportunities to dance with someone new, learn new techniques and make new friends.

The dance year was capped off with a small and informal recital, with dancers performing new dances, especially "Tell Me Ma", performed by our youngest dancers, which included all of them singing along to the music, and favourite numbers for family and friends. We look forward to an exciting 2012/2013 dance year.

Fort St. John Arts Market: The market has recently established a juror panel to make sure items fit into the criteria of "art" and to ensure that there is a good variety of items. They are in talks with the Pomeroy Sports Centre as they need more space that the ArtsPost can provide. The group is busy getting the word out in the media. There will be a Fall themed event in October (October 13) at the Pomeroy. Other market dates are November 10 and November 24 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The group will be fundraising to support the market.

Fort St. John Dance Society (formerly the Move Dance Centre Society): The group will be holding their major fundraiser, Ladies Day Out, on November 10 at the Pomeroy Hotel.

Northern Winds Community Band: The newly formed band has had their first rehearsal. They are still accepting new members with 3 or more years of playing experience. 24 people came to the first rehearsal and they have close to full instrumentation. The band rehearses on Thursdays at the Bert Bowes Band Room. They are looking for opportunities to play in the community. Their first performance will be on Remembrance Day.

School District 60: The new season is underway. This has been a rather weak year for recruitment, especially in the lower income areas of town.

Potter's Guild: Members have completed a commissioned work for BC Woodlot Association. 50 handmade mugs were made by a number of different artists.

Winter Sale: December 1st at the ArtsPost, with Spinners & Weavers and Christmas ornament sale. The mug wall is open every Saturday and classes are running again.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sue Popesku ran the elections.

President: Rosemary Landry was nominated. There were no further nominations so Rosemary was elected by acclamation.

Vice President: Cheryl is in the middle of 2 year term.

Secretary: Nina Elias came forward to stand as secretary. No further nominations. Nina was elected secretary by acclamation.

Treasurer: Sonja Butts was nominated as treasurer. No further nominations so Sonja was elected by acclamation.

Director of Communication and Advocacy: Lisa is in the middle of her term. Any arts issues that you want to get out, talk to Lisa.

Directors: Connie Surerus and Sue Popesku are in the middle of 2 year term

New Directors: Margaret May, Joy Larstone and Wendy Schmidt came forward to stand as a directors.

Moved by Rosemary to accept Sonja in the position of treasurer in accordance with the constitution which requires a unanimous vote to approve a term of office beyond two years. Seconded by Nina. Passed unanimously.

Signing Authority: Moved by Sonja to remove Pam Clemen from the signing authority. Those with signing authority will now be as follows: Sonja, Rosemary, Margaret, Lisa, Nina Elias. Seconded by Yolande. Carried.

Meeting Adjourned

The Next regular meeting of the Community Arts Council will be on October 17, 2012 at noon.