

THE SITES AND SOUNDS OF THE ARTS

FOR VISITORS TO FORT ST. JOHN

**Compiled for
Tourism in Fort St. John Seminar
May 28, 2012**

**Fort St, John Community Arts Council
Artspost Office 10320 94 Avenue
Fort St. John, B.C. 250-787-2781**

Fort St. John Community



**ARTS
COUNCIL**

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

A MENU OF MAJOR ARTS EVENTS FOR VISITORS TO FORT ST. JOHN



COVER PHOTO is coloured ice made by Eliza Stanford for the 2012 High On Ice Festival.

June 16
Artsy Fartsy Theatre Celebration

June 23
Chili Bowl Bash

July 1
Art in the Park

July 20 - 31
Sand Sensations BC

July 31 - August 23
Free Art Camp for Kids

July 30 - August 11
Theatre Summer School

August 31
Tour of Restored Vehicles of 1942 Building of the Alaska Highway

September
NPCC Spotlight on Local Performers

November 2 - 10
Stage North's *Legally Blond The Musical*

December 18
Opening of the Magical Christmas Market

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2013

January 25 - 27
High On Ice

February 9
Chocolate Festival

April 14 - 21
North Peace Performing Arts Festival

April 27
40th Annual Art Auction

May 14 - 19
Peace River Zone Theatre Festival



HOW TO CONTACT ARTS GROUPS

MEMBER GROUPS OF THE FORT ST. JOHN ARTS COUNCIL

Artspace Classes NPCC	suemcgarvey@npcc.bc.ca	250-785-1992
Ecole Central School Pottery/Arts	ecolecentralpac@gmail.com	250-262-4237
Flying Colours Artists	sdtroudt@gmail.com	250-785-3867
Assoc. for Community Living Players	cgoodwin@fsjacl.com	250-787-9262
Country Quilters Guild	quilt.stitch@hotmail.com	250-785-1702
Film Society	ymharris@pris.ca	250-785-4653
Irish Dance Society	conniesurerus@surerus.com	250-785-9476
Literacy Society	info@fsjliteracy.ca	250-785-2110
Mystik Borealis Dance	suzon@awink.com	250-787-1662
North Peace Gymnastics	paulori@telus.net	250-785-1053
NP Historical Society/Museum	fsjnpmuseum@fsjmail.com	250-787-0430
Music Teachers	monica.best@fsjmail.com	250-787-2378
NP Potter's Guild	scarab@xplornet.com	250-785-5550
NP Spinners and Weaver	church_peekles@yahoo.com	250-785-1680
Aboriginal Art Works Society	oker@awink.com	250-262-6131
Northern Dance Theatre Society	mecaversmay@shaw.ca	250-793-0409
Northern Lights Youth Choir	rscott@prn.bc.ca	250-787-0511
Peace Arts Gallery Society	scoultrey@npcc.bc.ca	250-787-0993
Performing Arts Festival	mcaversmay@shaw.ca	250-793-0409
SD #60 Band	jmontgomery@prn.bc.ca	250-785-4429
Slainte Irish Dance	lscottmoncrieff@prn.bc.ca	
Stage North Theatre	stage_north@stagenorth.ca	250-785-6214
The Move Dance	smiranda@telus.net	250-262-2718
Theatre BC Peace River Zone	bscott@terraenergy.ca	250-261-5442

Business members of the Arts Council

Angela Fehr Painting	afehr@pris.ca	250-786-5562
Retro Relic Poetry and Writing	retrofsj@telus.net	250-787-8822
Northern Groove Arts Magazine	www.northerngroove.ca	
Oil Painters of the Peace	dfolk2004@yahoo.com	250-785-6595

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MLA SPENCER HERBERT VISIT

Arts community still reeling from funding cuts

KATELIN DEAN
Staff Writer

Fort St. John is still reeling from massive cuts to arts funding, and local groups want more of the \$16-million provided to the BC Arts Council (BCAC) to support arts and culture throughout the province.

"Arts and culture help build healthy communities across British Columbia," said Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

"Cultural activities support jobs, attract tourist revenue and create inclusive local events that promote community pride."

The BCAC received \$16,831,000 to distribute throughout the province and approved 1,027 grants to applicants from more than 200 communities throughout British Columbia.

Bettyanne Hampton, executive director of the North Peace Cultural Centre, said she's never been success-

ful in attaining a grant from the BCAC, while the Fort St. John Arts Council said they've been getting the same funding for the past 20 years.

"The arts council gets funds through the BC Arts Council, but it's a formula and we only get \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year," said Sue Popesku of the arts council.

She noted that much funding used to come from gaming grants.

Spencer Chandra Herbert was in Fort St. John yesterday morning.

He met with Popesku, Hampton and Lisa Bush, also of the Fort St. John Arts Council.

The NDP critic for Tourism, Culture and the Arts said his mandate is to provide more consistent funding for the arts throughout the province.

"B.C. is last in per capita investment in the arts," said Herbert. "I'd like to see us grow that."

"Exactly how much would depend on provincial revenues and the budget picture," he continued.

"We've been going in the wrong direction cutting arts investment while other provinces have been increasing arts investment and attracting people from B.C."

He explained that gaming grants were cut in 2009, "but impacts really hit in 2010."

"They came in right before the Olympics," said Herbert.

Popesku said she understands why funding was cut.

"They were looking everywhere they could to fund the Olympics," she said.

She also pointed out that gaming grants didn't just impact the arts at the time. Since 2010, gaming grants have been piecemeal, she said.

"We cannot plan," said Popesku. "That is so critical."

"Particularly, you need to plan a year in advance as to what you're doing next year, particularly with volunteers," she said.

•SEE ARTS ON A3



KATELIN DEAN PHOTO

From left, Bettyanne Hampton, Sue Popesku, Spencer Herbert and Lisa Bush meet at Arts Post to discuss arts funding and the future of arts in Fort St. John.

Arts cash...

Dear Editor,

Last week, the B.C. government announced \$16,831,000 in funding for the BC Arts Council for the current fiscal year. Contrary to what the Opposition critic argues, this is the same level of funding granted by the provincial government over the last two years; it has not been cut.

Every year, the BC Arts Council, financed by the provincial government, provides support to an amazing diversity of artists and cultural organizations throughout British Columbia. That's why we provide council with stable, annual funding year after year.

The B.C. government also funds arts and culture through community gaming grants, in addition to BC Arts Council grants. By exercising fiscal discipline to help B.C. weather the worst of the global economic crisis beginning in 2009, we were able to raise the base budget for community gaming grants in 2012 from \$120 million to \$135 million, including \$17.5 million for arts and culture.

During fiscal year 2011-12, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council received a \$14,457 BC Arts Council grant. This total includes a \$6,800 Annual Performance Award. It is important to note that council, not government, awards individual grants based on an independent peer review process.

In addition to BC Arts Council funding, arts and culture organizations in Fort St. John also receive community gaming grants. The provincial government approved more than \$76,000 in community gaming grants during 2011-12 for arts and culture groups in Fort St. John.

Congratulations to the organizations that received this funding. Your commitment to arts and culture helps make your community a great place to live, work and invest.

HONOURABLE IDA CHONG, FCGA
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT
AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Community has step up to help local art

•CONT. FROM A1

Herbert noted that gaming grants have decreased from \$151-million to \$135-million.

"Having the gaming grant funding is pretty crucial because it's the seed money, almost, as without that, you don't get those volunteers...who multiply the effect of that so much more," he said.

"When you're having an economic boom, as this portion of the north seems to be, arts and culture has to be one of the things that keeps healthy communities, so investing in the arts through the BC Arts Council and through gaming hopefully should be able to grow in such a way that communities like this don't get squeezed out."

He pointed out that it's not necessarily how much money is given to specific groups, but how consistent it is. He said he would like to see government return to multi-year agreements with arts groups.

"What I've found is that arts councils and small groups - even if you're not giving them (everything they want), if it's consistent, they can work with that," said Herbert.

Yesterday's government press release

explained that 1,02 BCAC were approved ing to writers, pain actors, musicians, co and sculptors, in add cils, galleries and mu

"Congratulatio Columbia's amazing standing cultural gro they do to enrich the families, citizens an all regions of our prov

Herbert said this about the "Liberals, broken trust with the

"They made the de and culture in B.C. hi announcing funding announced in Febru people are fooled into money," he said. "It w cynical and I think it's

While funding has for the past couple c said the community h the plate.

"I think when we pu we get responses from Popesku. "There are very dedicated to supp this community."

AUG 24, 2012

AHNews

Groups get gaming grants

ALLISON GIBBARD
Staff Writer

When times are tough it is often the arts that suffer. However, a series of grants totaling \$130,880 is set to address the situation in the Peace River District.

"Everybody knows with economy being the way it is so when we can get some money to help us do things for kids, it's always a good thing," said Larry Espe, superintendent for School District 60.

Parent advisory councils (PACs) in the Peace River District have received community gaming grants, in addition to \$6,000 for the Fort St. John Community Arts Council.

Arts Council president Rosemary Landry was pleased to learn of the funding.

"This is an important first step since we have not received Gaming Grant funding for several years. This funding will help alleviate some of the recent funding cutbacks from other sources," said Landry, adding that the funding would go towards encouraging arts and cultural development in Fort St. John.

"I know how important this funding can be for a school or community group's budget, and I'm glad to see organizations in the North Peace benefiting from the community gaming grants," said MLA Pat Pimm.

The funding is based on the total population of the school at \$20 per student.

Across British Columbia, more than 1,500 PACs will share up to \$12 million in grants, and 141

community groups will share \$2,663,704 in provincial gaming revenue.

In the energetic city, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council receives \$6,000; Northern BC Distance Education School gets \$7,020; Alwin Holland Elementary School P.A.C. get \$6,540; Ambrose Parents Partners In Learning Excellence (A.P.P.L.E.) will get \$6,700; Baldonnel Elementary School P.A.C. gets \$2,540; Bert Bowes Middle School P.A.C. receives \$2,540; the C.M. Finch Elementary School P.A.C. will get \$4,880; Dr. Kearney Middle School P.A.C. gets \$10,740; Duncan Cran Elementary Parent Advisory Council will get \$4,800; and the North Peace Secondary School Parent Advisory Council receives \$23,100.

"Each PAC will have different priorities and plan for spending the dollars," said Espe.

Traditionally, these grants are used to support drama, writing, debating, music and student societies as determined by the PAC at each individual school.

Espe added, "The money will be spent on making things better for kids.

In Fort Nelson, the Fort Nelson Secondary School P.A.C. will get \$7,840; Gw Carlson Elementary School P.A.C. gets \$3,300 and J. S. Clark Elementary School P.A.C. will get \$2,580.

The Charlie Lake Elementary School P.A.C in Charlie Lake will receive \$6,600. the Clearview Elementary Junior Secondary School P.A.C. in Flatrock will get \$2,880 and Buick Creek Home and School in Buick Creek will get \$760.