

Fort St. John Community



"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

2013
Annual General Meeting

September 18, 2013

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President's Report

In preparing the Community Arts Council annual report for the year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, I realize that it has been a very busy year filled with many accomplishments and several disappointments. Through the dedication of our hard working Board Members we have maintained our Mission to develop Arts and Culture activities and events in the community and to support individual artists in their creative endeavours to become self-sustaining.

In the Fall, The Board completed the development of the Community Arts Council 10-year Strategic Plan and presented it to the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and the Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council (PLRAC). Copies were also distributed to the City, Arts BC and made available on line to our member groups. This document provides direction and will assist in future decision making. The Board also developed guidelines for a Public Art policy which has the potential to be implemented throughout the community when the opportunity arises.

Many grant applications were submitted and we received \$21,000 from BC Creative Spaces, \$6000 from BC Gaming and the City of Fort St. John allotted \$15,000 to member groups only with the provision that unused funds were to be returned to the City.

As a member of the Fort St. John Hospital Art Committee, the Arts Council assisted in the cataloguing, moving and replenishing of the artwork at the new FSJ Hospital and Peace Villa Residential Care facility. The ongoing work of this program was compressed into a power point presentation by Sue Popesku and myself and presented as part of a panel discussion "Knowledge Exchange for Building on Success: Arts & Health" at the Arts BC Conference in Vernon in May. Board member, Joy Larstone also attended this conference on behalf of the FSJ Arts Council.

An extensive media program was implemented this year with monthly ads in the AHN and NE News. Due to the success of the program we will continue to put all arts events of member groups into the advertising and promotions with the newspapers. Using digital media, the face book page and the website was kept up to date with current information about the arts. We continue to provide arts events and promotional articles to the BC Musicians magazine which is distributed throughout British Columbia and Alberta.

Working with municipal and community organizations the Board entered into Site C discussions with City Hall and BC Hydro;; helped with the Visitor's Centre's Amazing Race; were a venue for the Peace Gallery North Art Walk Cultural Crawl studio tour; compiled the BC Cultural Crawl flyer for the City of Fort St. John; supported Communities in Bloom which is now directed by members of NEAT and Restorative Justice; established a memorandum of understanding with Tourism BC working on the 75th Anniversary (2017) of the Building of the Alaska Highway and various tourism programs; continued to

serve on the Hospital Art committee and Peace Liard Regional Arts Council and maintain membership in the Art of the Peace (Grande Prairie) and FSJ Chamber of Commerce.

The Arts Council is proud to present annual bursaries and scholarships to students furthering their artistic endeavours. The 2013 year's award recipients were: NLC Students (\$150 each) to Brendon Studer for Visual Art and Elsie Harden for Creative Writing ; NPSS (\$100 each) to Amanda Steiner for Music, Sierra Koop for Visual Arts, and Donald Truscott for Performing Arts; and the Lindsey Dumaine Scholarships (\$200 each) awarded at NPSS to Natasha Chretien for Music , Holly Chmelyk for Visual Arts and there was no applicant for Performing Arts. The scholarship cheques are awarded upon written confirmation of registration in an institution for further studies.

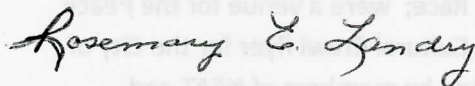
Maintaining and managing the Artspost has required more fundraising efforts this year with the second annual *Reuse, Recycle and Rejoice* Christmas decorations sale and the "Best Pies" sale at the Fall Fair. The studios of the Spinners and Weavers and the Potters' Guild will now be joined by painting classes in the Fall of 2013. The Arts Council office remains in the Artspost and is a consistent location for office assistance for member groups without a home of their own. The Arts Council is fortunate to continue with the tax-exemption from the City of Fort St. John which is a large burden if we had to fundraise further to cover this cost. We continue to staff the office with volunteers.

The City of Fort St, John decided to take a different direction in the beautification of our City by winding down the Flower Pot project. After 12 years of partnership with the City to have artists paint and refurbish new and old flower pots; to fundraise through sponsorships and an annual auction sale, there were no new pots this year. Sponsorships were limited to 100 pots and we received the remaining 24 pots (non-self watering) for a final fund raiser, which was not enough for an auction sale.

In addition, the City also terminated the Arts Councils partnership with High On Ice after 10 years of organizing the ice and snow portion of this community event. Since then, the Arts Council Board has turned our efforts and expertise to developing SAND SENSATIONS BC and the District of Taylor has welcomed us with open arms.

In closing, I would like to thank our member groups and the Board of Directors 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.

Respectfully Submitted



Rosemary E. Landry

FSJCAC President