

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Community Arts Council  
Annual General Meeting September 19, 2018

During this past year, 2017-2018, the Community Arts Council celebrated the end of our 50th Anniversary and the beginning of a new decade of art activities. Discussions were begun regarding the formation of an Arts Development Foundation of Fort St John to consolidate monies for a Creative Arts Centre. The New Horizons Seniors Program was started for seniors to tell and record their stories and an Arts survey was sent out to collect data on the art's activities in the community.

Work continued on refreshing the Art's Post with a new logo and painting doors to be mounted on the outside of the building representing 'Opening Doors into the Arts'. Meetings were held with Art's Post user groups to ensure both parties needs were being met. It resulted in an increase in rent from the North Peace Potter's Guild to ease the financial burden carried by the Art's Council.

Board members attended and participated in: the City Rural Development Consultations' to make Fort St. John and surrounding communities more resilient and economically strong; and the Mayor's Nomination Meetings for BC Winter Games 2020 and are pleased to announce that Margaret May has been appointed Director of Ceremonies. Quarterly reports on the Arts were submitted to the city and we were pleased to enter into a new partnership with city on the Banner Project. This year's Country Classic theme was in keeping with the Bright Nights in June celebration. The four brightly coloured banners were designed by Tanya Shymko.

Throughout the year the Board has continued to work on behalf of our members, holding monthly meetings featuring guest speakers, applying for grants, adjudicating the city grant, advertising special art events in the local newspaper and Chamber of Commerce magazine and maintaining the web site and a face book page.

Such programs as the Art Walk, held May 19 to July 21, 2018, flower pots and display cases at the Airport, Best Pies at the Fall Fair, and the Christmas Reduce, Reuse, Recycle have all been a success. Bursaries and Scholarships were awarded to students excelling in the arts at the High School. The Constitution and Bylaws were revised for approval at this year's AGM and the Policies and Procedures review remain a work in progress. In addition, two members of the Board attended the Arts BC Conference in May in Burnaby at the beautiful Nikkei Centre for Japanese\West Coast Design of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

The Art's Council is affiliated with the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council and supports their initiative for the first Literary Conference in the Northeast, 'Words North' to be held September 27-29, 2018 and will be working to host the Juried Art Show to be held in Fort St. John in April, 2019.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board, the Member Groups and the City of Fort St. John for their continued support for the promotion of the Arts in our community. On behalf of the Arts Council, we wish to thank Tanya Shymko for her service on the Board and wish her well in her new Southern home.

Respectfully Submitted. Rosemary Landry FSJ CAC President



## **ARTSPOST in 2018** “With Success Comes Increasing Demand on Studio Space”

### **CHANGES IN 2017-2018**

The Artspost is moving into its 12th year of operation. The Arts Council operates the Artspost with the assistance of the Potters and the Spinners and Weavers. Both groups are subtenants in the building and each group pays monthly rent. Fundraising is required by the Arts Council to meet the \$50,000 annual budget to keep the doors open.

1. **The Potters Guild has increased their rent** substantially this year which alleviates the very real possibility of not being able to continue operating. The Potter's have also taken on more clean-up and facility improvements of the Potter Studio. Thank you to the Potters for stepping up to the plate.

2. **The City of Fort St. John has changed** their delivery system of providing the city tax on the building. Previously, the Artspost was included in the Tax Exemption category of the City and no money changed hands. The City now issues the annual tax amount to the Arts Council through the Basic Assistance Grants and the Arts Council writes the cheque for the taxes to the City.

3. **Tanya Shymko of Spectrum Studios** who rented the space on a daily basis to teach children and adult art classes has left Fort St. John. We welcome Holly Ulrich who will be taking over the Art Classes and will continue to rent the space on a daily basis.

4. **The Spinners and Weavers** have increased their membership and have included a youth educational element to their programs. They have totally cleaned out the kitchen this year, battled a water pipe break, and continue to keep the lobby clean. They are limited in what they can do in their small but attractive space in the lobby and we thank them for all their care and attention.

### **THE OFFICE OF THE ARTSPOST**

is open 10am to 1pm weekdays. Essentially 3 volunteers work the schedule. Sue Popesku is on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and takes care of daily issues and Arts Council business. Margaret May is on Wednesday and completes the grants and government reporting along with the help of the Treasurer, Connie Desfosses. Rosemary Landry volunteers in the office on Thursday and cleans the building with the help of the Spinners and Weavers, who clean the lobby and Potters who clean their studio.

## **ABOUT THE ARTS COUNCIL**

**Arts Council Mandate:** The Fort St. John Arts Council established the Artspost to provide space for arts groups to conduct creative learning opportunities for children and adults. Classes, workshops and training experiences are open to the community so that new and emerging artists and all children can take lessons, learn the art, and increase their level of understanding and skill. For 50 years the Arts Council's mandate has been to help develop arts programs, projects and facilities that are needed in the community. Once established, the Arts Council often moves on and begins a new development.

**Arts Council Support:** The Arts Council supports arts groups in their quest to teach others, to provide classes for children and adults, to exhibit their works and to fundraise for further learning opportunities for the group. The Arts Council does not support individuals nor provide equipment for personal benefit. The Arts Council responds to the group mandate that focuses on the community aspect of the organization.

**The Arts Council is run by a Volunteer Board of Directors** and many of the 27 member groups have their own facilities. However, there are a number of groups looking for space and many of the groups are looking for larger spaces and/or permanent spaces. The Arts Council is always seeking information on potential facilities for all arts groups who need a home.

## **BACKGROUND ON ESTABLISHING THE ARTSPOST**

**Background:** The Arts Council took the offer of The Sew It Yourself Shop (across from the Post office- but now demolished) to occupy the building when they moved to another location.

**Artspost I** was established. A small contingent of the Potters' Guild moved into the back bay once used by Stage North Theatre Society. The Arts Council conducted various art exhibits, classes and projects in the rest of the building. The City was very helpful in allowing the Arts Council to use the building until the City planned to sell to a development called the Pilot Project (which never did materialize). The Arts Council and the Potter's Guild had to find alternative quarters. Margaret and Dean May stepped forward and offered their building at 10320 94 Avenue for the **Artspost II**. The Arts Council is charged triple net but one half the standard commercial rate for the annual rent. Margaret and Dean May are benefactors of the Arts Council. The Arts Council could not afford the full commercial rate for Artspost II and we are grateful to the May's for their continued generous support for the past 11 years.

**Potter's Guild Background:** The first pottery studio was established in Taylor in 1969. It moved to the arena in Fort St. John in 1971. The Potter's Guild was allowed a room in the new arena but had its limitations in size and accessibility. In the early 80's, when Northern Lights College built the new Fort St. John Campus north of town, a pottery studio was one of the academic arts programs promised to the community along with drama, music and visual arts. Forest Hutchinson was the NLC visual arts and pottery instructor and conducted classes during the day. Heather Hannaford taught a credited pottery course in the evening. The Potter's Guild shared space with the academic courses of NLC.

In 1992, the Visual Arts and Pottery Studio was closed down following the demise of the other arts elements at NLC. The College would not maintain the arts program nor studio since the studio space was required by UNBC for other purposes. All equipment became the property of the Potter's Guild and was stored at Heather Hannaford's farm and Louise Framst's farm. Heather and others continued to have pottery workshops at private homes and potters gathered for seasonal sales. The situation was not conducive for classes for the community at large and children's classes did not exist.

Fifteen years later, in 2007, the opportunity arose to develop a full pottery studio in the Artspost II. Equipment was transferred from the small space used in the Artspost I. Heather Hannaford agreed that all the other pottery equipment could be brought in from her farm, cleaned up and installed into the Artspost II. Heather and family, Rosemary Landry and family and Sue Popesku gathered volunteers to clean and paint the 2 trucking bays at 10320 94 Ave and get the pottery studio up and running.

The Potters have restructured the Potters Guild somewhat since the passing of Heather Hannaford. The membership is now sharing many of the responsibilities that Heather had assumed for 10 years. An increasing number of members and demand on the studio has sparked conversation about ways to increase the usable space. Special events continue and are gaining more community support each year.

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*Submitted by Sue Popesku 250-785-6214 [spopesku@shaw.ca](mailto:spopesku@shaw.ca) September 19, 2018*

**ATTACHMENT: 3 YEAR OPERATION FORECAST 2017-2020**



## ARTS IN FORT ST. JOHN

The Arts Council partnership with the City includes three components:

**Group Support:** The grant application to support the arts groups in Fort St. John is submitted to the City by the Arts Council and adjudicated by all the groups who have applied for support. The new system implemented earlier this year of the City writing the cheques directly to each group has proven effective. The Annual Fee for Service to the Arts Council reinstated earlier this year has also been gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support of the Arts Council and arts groups in Fort St. John.

**Taxes Support:** The change in delivery for the tax-exemption for the Artspost has also been completed this year. The Arts Council received the tax amount and paid the taxes directly. This allows the municipal funds to flow through the Arts Council's accounts and qualifies the Arts Council for a matching grant from the BC Arts Council for up to \$5000.

**Banner Project:** The Country Classic banners enhanced the city streets this year. A final report has been submitted to Ross deBoer for the \$5000 support the City provides for this \$10,000 project. Plans to post the orange banners of this year at the North entrance of the city with replace the fading musical banners. The blue banners of this year will be posted along with some of the Alaska Highway banners on extra posts for 2019.

Plans for YEAR TWO of Banners with the City: One hundred or more BC Winter Games banners will hang from May 2019 through the Winter Games in the winter of 2020. Public works is identifying potential additional posts for BC Winter Games banners. The call for a 2019 artist will be issued in October 2018. We want to make sure that the City is well posted for the BC Winter Games.

### New Programs

- **Potential BC Winter Games Project:** The Arts Council is exploring the possibility of Store Participation in hanging narrow banners in their windows welcoming BC Winter Games participations. Many of the store fronts (particularly downtown) are unattractive due to empty spaces and the windows are dirty and blank. During the Winter Gamers, more than 150 banners could be hanging inside on the street-front windows which would provide much-needed colour enhancement for the entire town. We are working out the budget and the number of stores that would take part. Stay tuned for more information.
- **The Arts Survey of all Arts** in the community has proven to be a very big undertaking. The Arts Council is exploring ways to manage a feasibility study on the State of the Arts in Fort St. John and area to get a clear and concise scope on the programs, participation and demand for additional programs and space. Since the last study completed in 2007, many changes have occurred and the demand for arts programs, venues and projects has increased. We have met with a major funding source and need to locate the other one half of the funds required to do an extensive survey and mapping the arts in the North Peace.

- **Creative Support for Colour and Fun:** The Arts Council is calling upon artists to paint original designs on wooden Muskoka chairs to be auctioned off to business, corporations and individuals. The goal is to feature this artwork project at Bright Night's in June 2019.
- **Arts Council Board Member Margaret May** is one of the Directors of the BC Winter Games for 2020. The Arts Council and groups will be working with her in delivering the goals of her portfolio for the Opening Ceremonies and other enhancement projects to help the BC Winter Games.

### Continuing Programs

- **Storytelling** with the seniors (A New Horizon's project) continues until February 2019. Organizer Natalie Brekkaas has been working with various seniors in writing short stories, documentaries and life histories. Pam Denouden of NLC and Linda Haugen from Charlie Lake are assisting in the program. The program will continue until Feb 2019.
- **Airport Partnership:** The Airport display features a different Arts Group each month. Flower pots are painted and planted at the airport by the Arts Council. The 2018 Airport Day of Disaster in September required Stage North actors to be volunteer make-up artists and victims for Emergency Personnel to respond in a mock disaster.
- **Activities** include management of the Artspost Studios with its increasing demand for more space and storage. The Arts Council will be involved again with Bright Nights in June '19 with the NPCC, the Potter's Chili Bowl Bash in June and the Best Pies Sale at the Fall Fair in August. Apparently the Arts Council got more homemade pies donated this year for the Fall Fair than the Museum got donated for Canada Day. This friendly rivalry counts only the number of homemade pies donated, not the overall profit from these fundraisers.
- **Assisting community groups:** Arts Council members respond to specific requests from community groups in questions about governance, grant writing and fundraising. This is on an individual basis and the most knowledgeable volunteers are asked to assist.

**NOTE: The Artwalk** will be put on hold for 2019 and plans to add a new component to the program will be explored. The Artwalk brings tourists and residents into stores in the downtown core during the summer months and gives artists an opportunity to display and sell their artwork. It has been successful for the past 6 years in Fort S.t John.

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*The Fort St. John Community Arts Council has 27 arts, culture and heritage groups that involve families and individuals in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, literary arts, fabric arts and heritage. The Arts Council is the umbrella organization that coordinates and promotes arts and heritage in the community. The Arts Council also initiates programs and projects that further enhance the community, assists in attracting newcomers to the community and retaining workers and their families to live here permanently. The Arts Council believes that all people have the right to express their creativity.*

*Combat PAC - Peter Pan in March  
 Irish - St Pat's Ban in March*



**The Fort St. John Community Arts Council**

*Shapes healthy minds and stimulates active thinking.      Presents creative opportunities.  
 Instills confidence and personal growth.      Attracts families and retains employees in the community.*

**2018 Fall Events In the Arts**

**September:**

|            |  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| Sept 15    | Spinners and Weavers AGM and Workshop          | Artpost                                 |
| Sept 15/16 | Auditions for Stage North season of plays      | The Space (11520 East Bypass Rd)        |
| Sept 17    | Pottery Classes Begin                          | Artpost                                 |
| Sept 19    | Arts Council AGM                               | Artpost 7pm                             |
| Sept 19    | A Tribute to Stompin' Tom Connors              | NPCC                                    |
| Sept 21    | BC Heritage Roundtable- the future of heritage | FSJ NP Museum 10am                      |
| Sept 21    | Ma Murray Documentary Night                    | FSJ NP Museum 7pm                       |
| Sept 22    | Book Sale                                      | NPCC Friends of the Library             |
| Sept 24    | Finding Your Feet                              | Aurora Cinema Monday Night Film Society |
| Sept 27    | Words North Regional Literary Festival         | Dawson Creek                            |
| Sept 29    | 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Art Auction            | NPCC Peace Arts Society                 |

**October**

|        |  |               |                           |
|--------|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Oct 1  | Shock and Awe  | Aurora Cinema | Monday Night Film Society |
| Oct 2  | Little Arts and Art n Around Lids Painting Classes start | Artpost       |                           |
| Oct 5  | Don't Shoot, I'm only the Piano Player-David Scheel      | NPCC          |                           |
| Oct 15 | Don's Worry, He Won't Get Far                            | Aurora Cinema | Monday Night Film Society |
| Oct 19 | Teen Night at the Museum - Halloween                     | FSJ NP Museum |                           |
| Oct 29 | Mary Shelley   | Aurora Cinema | Monday Night Film Society |

*Let's Clit - Seniors / Student Project  
 July/Aug - 2 one week art camp.  
 Seniors Art Day  
 Paint Night  
 2 hour  
 The Left Adults*

**November**

|       |                                   |      |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Nov 4 | An Evening with Murray McLauchlan | NPCC |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------|

|                |   |               |                           |
|----------------|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| Nov 5          | Hearts Beat Loud                                  | Aurora Cinema | Monday Night Film Society |
| Nov 8          | Louisiana Hayride Show                            |               | NPCC                      |
| Nov 15-24      | The Complete works of Shakespeare Abridged        |               | NPCC Carpet Room          |
| Nov 16         | Poetry Night at the Museum – old and new          |               | FSJ NP Museum             |
| Nov 17 – Dec 8 | Recycle, Reuse, Rejoice Christmas Decoration Sale |               | Artspost                  |
| Nov 24         | Sharon, Bram and Friends                          |               | NPCC                      |

Nov. - Recital Music Teacher -

**December**

|              |  |      |                          |
|--------------|--|------|--------------------------|
| Dec 1        | Winter Pottery/Spinning and Weaving Sale |      | Artspost                 |
| Dec 1 -      | Magical Christmas Market                 |      | Peace Gallery North/NPCC |
| Dec 5        | Old Fashioned Christmas Tea              |      | FSJ NP Museum            |
| Dec 7-15     | NPSS Musical Theatre Production          |      | NPCC                     |
| Dec 7        | Kid's Night at the Museum – Christmas    |      | FSJ NP Museum            |
| Dec 16       | Christmas Dance Recital                  |      | Studio2Stage             |
| Dec 20,21,22 | The Nutcracker                           | NPCC | Studio2Stage/Stage North |

**Coming up in the New Year:**

In January: Tony and Tina's Wedding A Comedy with Stage North/FSJ Rotary Club

In April: Peace Liard Regional Juried Exhibition at the Peace Gallery North NPCC

In June: Bright Nights in June at the NPCC  
Chili Bowl Bash at the Artspost

In September: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Words North Literary Festival at NPCC