

Arts and Crafts weekend

Daily News staff

All systems are go for Saturday's Summer Crafts Festival at the Arts Centre.

The event at the partially-completed centre takes place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The festival is designed to provide local craft people with an opportunity to show off the best of their talents, in addition to making a few sales.

The festival will also feature a tea garden, with various edible treats available.

And fundraising activities will continue for the Arts Centre.

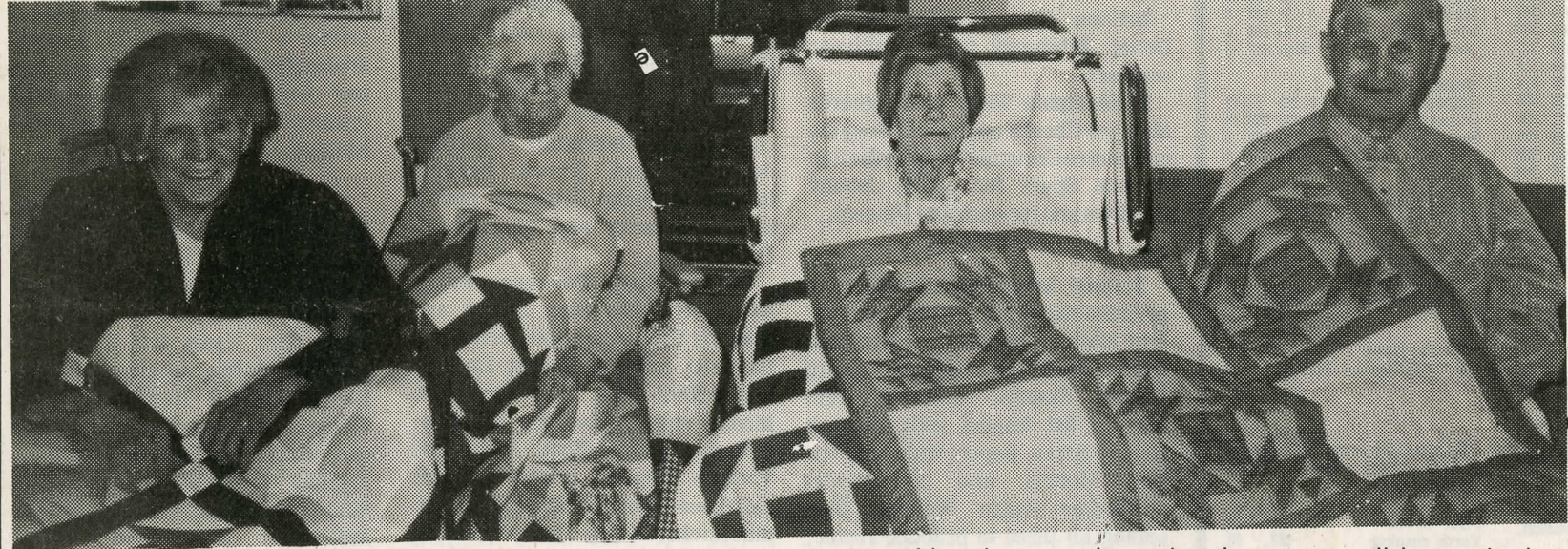
Tables of preserves and baked goods are being set up and festival-goers will be able to take home some of these goodies in exchange for donations.

As well, the crafts fair will provide local residents with one last chance to see the Arts Centre stage before it's completely covered in pennies.

The Penny Drive has been going for eight weeks now and organizers estimate that they've now passed the halfway point.

The goal is to cover the entire 40-by-60-foot stage with one-cent pieces.

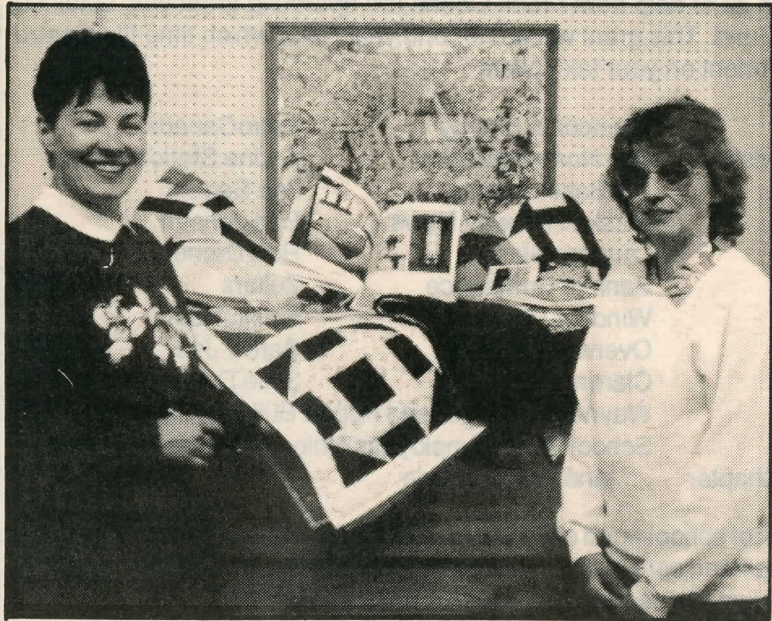
Children will be busy all morning and afternoon carefully placing recently donated pennies on the stage.



The Fort St. John Country Quilters Guild recently presented six hand-quilted lap robes to the Extended Care facility. Residents (l-r) Sadie Howe, Tilly Nolan, Josie Quellette and Peter Kursteiner are shown with some of these robes. The Country Quilters will be hosting a Show and Share open house at the Artspace on Sept. 6 at:

7 p.m. Old and new quilts and quilt projects will be on display. Come, bring a friend and bring your quilted items, heirlooms or new projects to show and share. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

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SIX HAND-QUILTED lap robes have been presented to the Extended Care Facility by the Fort St. John Country Quilters Guild. The robes are used as projects to help develop and refine hand-quilting techniques of guild members, among them Nadean Graves (left) and Carol Ingalls, the group's president. The guild will hold an open house at the Artspace at 7 tonight when old and new quilts and projects will be on display. **ART; 989**

Weavers' Guild spinning with success

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Daily News staff
Although they're young in com-

parison to the ageless craft of weaving, the local Weavers Guild has threaded its way through 15 years or more in Fort St. John.



Chris Drummond and Norma Currie of the Spinners and Weavers.

The Guild currently boasts 15 to 20 members — far less than in some years, say members Norma Currie and Chris Drummond, but people, including weavers, come and go from the community and the current number is pretty respectable.

President Currie says the members are in “various stages of expertise,” meaning, if members of the public feel an urge to join, they shouldn't feel too far behind.

The local spinners and weavers use various kinds of looms, says Currie, from 15-inch table looms to 45-inch floor looms. They also have one very large and very heavy 60-inch floor loom which can only be operated by two people sitting side by side to manage the threads because it is so wide.

It is mainly because of this loom that the Guild would relish a spot in the new Arts Centre.

The group is currently weaving a number of afghans on this loom and the last one off will be up for raffle at this weekend's annual Christmas Sale in the Totem Mall. This will be the Weavers' third Christmas Sale and they are holding it with the Potters' Guild who have been holding their annual sale for much longer.

Drummond says the members, who meet once a month in Central School, work almost exclusively with natural fibres like wool, silk and linen. Some members will spin dog and rabbit hair and Currie says she'd like to get her hands on some buffalo hair and see what she could do with it.

In one of the upcoming meetings, members will even try their hand at weaving baskets.

Guild members, she says, generally work on blankets, scarves, fabric, rugs and table runners. On occasion they'll take custom orders too.

At the Christmas Sale will be items like wool horse blankets, winter scarves and silk scarves, table runners and place mats, rugs and wool socks.

The material is dyed by the weavers, using everything from natural vegetation to kool aid and dried with methods ranging from the traditional to the microwave.

The Weaver' and the Potters' Christmas Sale is being held this Saturday and Sunday at the Totem Mall, and for more information on the Weavers' Guild, phone Norma Currie at 785-7919.



The Fort St. John Potter's Guild had an impressive display set up at the Totem Mall on the weekend as part of their annual Christmas Sale. The well-received event took place on Friday and Saturday. Pic-

tured here are members Dorothy Lees, Linda Hawkes, Cindy Furman, Brian Wagner and Pauline Southgate.

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Potters celebrate 20 years

The North Peace Potters' Guild is holding its 20th anniversary sale at the Totem Mall, Nov. 17-18, along

with the Weaver's Guild.

Back in 1969, a few student potters under the direction of Edna Adlard formed what is now the North Peace Potters' Guild. The need to provide working space was recognized by the support organization and the Guild moved into a very small house in Peace Island Park in Taylor, provided by the Taylor Recreation Commission. A small homemade electric kiln sufficed and Arts Council funds provided the first potters wheel.

Lack of funds precluded work in

very cold weather as oil to heat the poorly insulated building took a toll on the bank account. To provide operating funds, the Guild held its first Christmas Sale in 1970 at the old Hudson Bay building. A grand total of \$60 was realized.

Over the years, the Guild was operated from various locations. From its next stop at the Arena, a room rented from the city, the college took over classes previously sponsored by the Guild and as the college grew, the Guild moved with it to several other facilities and finally to its present home at the campus at the north end of town.

Membership has grown and diminished; personalities and programs have come and gone but always there has been the annual Christmas Sale.

For a donation, members of the public can have their name written on clay tiles which will hang in the new Arts Centre.

Demonstrations of potting and weaving will be held on both days.

Submitted article