

College awards handed out

MAY 1989

Daily News staff

The Fort St. John campus of Northern Lights College held its annual Awards Ceremony on Friday. Campus principal Finola Finlay was in charge of the proceedings.

The following is a list of the award recipients and the donors.

The Alaska Highway News Scholarship of \$100 for highest achievement in second-year English: **Delia Beaton**. The Peace River Block News \$100 scholarship for creative writing: **Tracy Radcliffe**. The \$100 scholarship from the Northerner for excellence in research and writing: **Barbara Hachmeister**.

The Nigel Hannaford Award for creative writing: **Orva Moore**. The \$100 scholarship from the Fort St. John Arts Council: **Karen Ballinger**.

The Fort St. John Arts Council \$100 scholarship for excellence in visual arts: **April Ingham**. The Arts Council \$50 scholarship in music: **Joscelyn Hannaford** and **Donald Barnetson**.

The North Peace Savings and Credit Union \$300 scholarship to support the continuing education of a student interested in pursuing a career in business: **Craig Walker**. The Peace River District Women's Institute \$100 bursary: **Nancy Lalonde**.

The Women's Resource Centre \$100 bursary to a single parent studying in the human service field: **Lorraine Archambeault**. The Order of the Royal Purple, Elks Lodge, \$100 bursary to a deserving student in the child care or community service fields: **Anita Palmer**.

The B.C. Preschool Teachers Association award of a one-year membership in the association is presented annually to an early childhood education student: **Suzanne Anderson**. The Fort St. John Lioness Club bursary of \$100 to further the education of a deserving student: **Patricia Fleming**.

The Fort St. John Elks Club \$500 bursary to assist students to continue their education in a career working with children or with the handicapped: **Margo Jones**. The Fort St. John Lions Club \$500 bursary award to assist a student to continue his or her education: **Bernietta Chambers**.

The Fort St. John Kinsmen \$250 awards to vocational students at the college: **Shelley Freemantle** and **Laurie Vanvolkingburgh**. The Northern Lights College Student Association \$200 scholarship for excellence in the Northern Teacher Training Program: **Agatha Friesen**. The Northern Lights College Student Association \$200 bursary to an adult education student: **Del Alexander**.

The Northern Institute for Resource Studies \$250 bursary: **Roberto Guillen**. The Milton Best Memorial Fund \$125 scholarship for a student with outstanding achievement in history: **Colin Green**. The Gus Kielbart Memorial Fund \$150 award to a mechanics student: **Susan Richter**.

The Kinetic Supply tool award worth \$200: **Patricia Letendre**. The Northern Metallic Sales \$500 tool award: **Jordan Ellison**. The Canadian Forest Products \$500 award for achievement in the university transfer program: **Demetrios Stametalakis**.

The Derrick Plumbing and Heating award of \$250: **Andrew Lipinski**. The Almac Contracting bursary of \$200 for conscientious and excellent work in early childhood education: **Cindy Singer**. The Westcoast bursary of \$500: **Lina Dahilig**.

The Northern Lights College \$100 scholarships: **Kim Corbett**, **Joyce Hansen**, **Mary Hopkins**, **Teresa Jackson**, **Agnes Godfrey**, **Kathy Maisonneuve** and **Muriel Shears**.

The Northern Lights College book prizes: **Donna Salter**, **Grace Hancock**, **Louise Olsen**, **Brad Barclay**, **Melanie Auger** and **Amy Chan**.

The Campus Fellowship award to a student whose actions and attitude have made the campus a better place: **Andrew Blair**.

NLC's Visual Arts program pared down to the bone

Daily News staff

The Northern Lights College Board has decided to cut back on the Visual Arts program offered at its Fort St. John campus.

The pottery and ceramics courses have been dropped from the curriculum and the arts instructor has been laid off.

Courses in painting and drawing will continue to be taught in Fort St. John. The art instructor based in Dawson Creek will split his time between the two campuses.

"A year ago we looked at the situation because the enrolment in Visual Arts had been declining and the interest waning," college chairman Jim Inglis told the Daily News. "The instructors were given the responsibility of generating new

interest, and we decided to try some new angles. But it didn't work. So we had to cut the program."

College records show that there was a small increase in enrolment after the program was revised but the increase was marginal.

As a result, Forrest Hutchinson, who taught art here for 11 years, is now without a job. He served as the instructor for all the Visual Art courses offered at the local campus. These included print making, pottery, drawing and graphic design.

Hutchinson was notified of his dismissal earlier this week.

"We're talking about a small number of classes and a small enrolment," Inglis said. "In all, I'd say we're instructing the equivalent of just 10 to 12 full-time students in

that program — and we're spending over \$100,000 a year. We can't justify that kind of money when computer classes are filled to the rafters and we don't have anything left in our budget to spend on more computers.

"It's a case of either generating more interest in Visual Arts or spend the money somewhere else."

Inglis indicated that the Visual Arts program will probably have to be pared down further. He said the college will likely move towards the graphic arts end of the program because it offers the greatest employment opportunities for students.

The Emily Carr College of Art and Design, based in Vancouver, has been asked to increase the number of courses offered throughout the Northern Lights College region.

History of the North Peace recalled

AUG 1989

This week in the North Peace history column we're going to take a bit of a departure.

Instead of looking at the various events which shaped this country 10, 20 and 30 years ago, let's look at how things were in general in Fort St. John and District in the year 1960.

Our source material for this journey backward is a booklet called "The Land Beyond the Peace," published by the Alaska Highway News.

The brochure was compiled by Silas Trepus and instigated by the Town Council of Fort St. John and the Fort St. John and District Board of Trade, "in an effort to answer the hundreds of questions on town and district which are asked our people every day."

First of all, the booklet lists the population as being 5,000 in 1959. It was just 1,800 five years earlier.

Likewise, in 1954 there were just 75 telephones in Fort St. John. By 1959, that number was 2,000.

Under the real estate heading, it says there were 171,000 acres of land under cultivation in the area, and notes that building booms occurred in 1930, 1947 and 1960.

Ironically, the writer states that "no one has ever lost a cent in real estate in Fort St. John because the steady rise in values has brought profit in every transaction."

And the book had this to say about The Great North Road: "The micro

wave installation parallel to the highway will take five years to complete and will employ hundreds of men. A new tungsten development northeast of Watson Lake is to employ 1,000 men.

"There is road building and soon there will be railroad building, pipe line extensions and construction of all kinds. There still remains a sizeable fur industry. The timber reserves are barely scratched. All of these activities are dependent upon the highway."

The booklet notes that the Peace River is the only river in North America that flows through the Rocky Mountains. Charter and scheduled boat trips were available then on the Peace, Parsnip and Finlay Rivers.

Of course, this was before the Peace was dammed.

The Peace River Power Development project — later named the Bennett Dam — was mentioned in the brochure as an "uncomprehensible economic boost to the area," due for completion in 1966.

As for oil and gas, it says over \$770 million had been spent in the north on exploration. Major gas discoveries here contributed to the construction of Canada's first major gas pipe line.

George L. McMahon, president of Pacific Petroleum, which built the Taylor refinery, called the North

Peace the "Awakening Giant."

The booklet, under the topic of forestry, notes that the completion of the PGE Railway to Fort St. John in 1958 resulted in two pulp mills "planning to establish here immediately."

Then there's the list of industries which were coming to the north: Peace River Power Development, \$600 million; pipe line extension, McMahon plant at Taylor expansion and oil exploration, \$250 million; pulp mill, either in Taylor or Hudson's Hope; plywood plant; railway to Alaska; and a synthetic rubber plant.

"It is expected that this area will

be swarmed by job seekers because of the big industries coming in. A man would be best advised to travel alone and light and get established before bringing the family and furniture."

There was a similar warning for prospective farmers: "By all means, don't sell out where you are before you look where you are intending to move in. If you purchase a farm, be sure you see the farm before you buy it."

At the time, new land for farming and ranching in the southern mainland was running out and farmers were looking to "The Land Beyond the Peace" as the place to relocate.

RESTAURANT



Photo by Scott Crowson

When you've lived in Fort St. John a while, you tend to forget the colorful murals that adorn many of the downtown buildings. This one,

on the outside of Northern Lights Restaurant, was painted by Scott Mushens, Sonja Embreus and Carol Ljuden. The murals were done for the B.C. Winter Games, held here in 1984. NOV 1989

Cheer up and stay warm

NOV 30, 1989

Article submitted

The Legacy of Christmas Cheer invites all Santa Parade watchers to get warm before and after the parade on Saturday.

The 1989 Legacy of Christmas Cheer in the former Stedman's building will have handicrafts, performances and fresh donuts from the Co-op to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere after the parade.

Finding a location for the Legacy of Cheer has been a problem over the past few years.

It has been held in the Arts Centre before construction began and last year in the former Pat's Home Furnishings building.

Thanks to Monte Bissett and Rockinghorse

Antiques & Gifts, the Arts Council can use the former Stedman's building on 100th Avenue this year.

The Legacy of Christmas Cheer began in 1985. It's goal is to raise funds for the construction of the Arts Centre.

A \$1 admission for those over six years old will go into a draw box for door prizes donated by the Playful Learning Centre, Brass Bucket, Rockinghorse Antiques, Artworks, J.C. Crafts, the Lido Theatre and Lorainne's Fabrics.

A Kids Korner at the Legacy of Christmas Cheer and luncheon tea along with performances by the Northern Dance Theatre Society, Artspace Drama Class, Music students and the fiddlers

promises to make the Legacy of Christmas Cheer an exciting day for everyone.

Crafts tables with unique Christmas gifts include native crafts, wooden rockinghorses, paper tole, Pakistan Art, aprons, crochet bells, custom-made gift packs, folk art painting, bake goods and fabric art clothing.

Demonstrations by Art Society painters and music teachers along with gifts from the Museum gift shop will make a colorful and fun display.

Everyone is welcome to join in the Christmas fun in the former Stedman's building, located beside the Lido Theatre, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.