

600 attend Registration Day

By Paul Cowley
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September is the traditional time of year when parents spend a fortune on school clothes for their children and make the annual pilgrimage to register them in their favorite clubs and sports.

Hundreds filed through the Artspace Saturday to take advantage of the "Community One-Stop Registration", which brought 25 local organizations under one roof, making life a lot easier for parents faced with trying to register their brood of children in several different activities.

"We expected this turnout. Last year it was very popular," said Artspace special director Sue Popesku, who estimated at least 600 people visited the centre on Saturday.

A common registration day for clubs is a blessing to parents, said Popesku: "They could

spend a whole two days registering things for their children."

Andrea Houghton was registering members for the Fort St. John Speedskating Club and she agreed the common registration day was a good idea.

"From a parent's point of view, it's wonderful," said Houghton.

This is the second year the city's recreation department and the Arts Council have collaborated on bringing organizations together on one day to register new members.

Last year the event was held in the Arts Centre but it had to be moved to the Artspace this year after insurance couldn't be found to cover the public use of the unfinished centre.

Cameron McInnis, from the Fort St. John Radio-Controlled Flying Club, said he had a slow day signing new members but added that

the event gave the club exposure; he will return next year.

McInnis said the \$10 the clubs were charged to rent a table at the centre was "worth the money."

For next year, Popesku said she hopes to get more clubs to agree to participate in the "Community One-Stop Registration" or at least choose a common registration date.

This year the Girl Guides and Brownies registered Saturday but not the Boy Scouts. Similarly, minor hockey clubs registered at the arena but the curling clubs have a different registration day.

Popesku said many people asked where they could sign up for curling or the Boy Scouts. "If they would at least register on the same day we could send families to them," she said.