A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

OCT 28, 1992.

Airing the Arts, a showcase of local talent, was held over the weekend to raise money for the arts in Fort St. John.

Rotary pipe band members Ross Haller, snare drum; Lorne Backus, bass drum; Valerie Crook, Wendy Framst, Doug Lawson, Gordon Davies and Mel Clarke, pipers, pipe during the parade.

Nov 12, 1992

QUILTERS SHOW

Left to right: Jose Fornelli, Rose Fuhr, Heather Jackson, Carol Ingalls, Cyndi Myron, Nadean Graves, Dawn Carter.
Fuhr, Ingalls, Myron, Graves and Carter are members of the quilters guild who created the quilts donated to Meaope House. Missing are Beverly Bickford Gross and Pia Nielsen-Morin, who also made quilts.

SHANNON LLOYD

AHN Staff **Fort St John**

At their third annual Open House, the Fort St. John Country Quilters presented nine quilts to Jose Fornelli, coordinator of Meaope House.

"We've never received anything like this from the community," she said.

There are 19 members in the Country Quilters this year, said Cyndi Myron, president.

The group meets every second and fourth Monday of a month, and holds several workshops throughout the year, she said.

"Our main one is in October, and this year a well known quilter from Calgary came up."

At smaller workshops, other local quilters will share and demonstrate different techniques, Myron mentioned.

People interested in quilting and who know how to sew meet the requirements for new members, she said.

"We usually start with a large piece of material, cut it up, and resew the pieces into patterns."

There are many different methods in quilting, and some quilts will take much longer to complete depending on whether or not they are hand or machine quilted, explained Myron.

Many of the quilts have names that indicate themes or have some meaning, but all the quilts have meaning for the quilters who created them.

Chamber choir Christmas concert this weekend

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS DEC 4, 1992

Fort St John

The Northern Lights Chamber choir would like to invite you to their annual Christmas performance on Sunday, December 6 at the North Peace Cultural Centre at 3:00 pm.

The concert promises to be a traditional family Christmas get together, with old favourites like 'Hark the Herald Angels', 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Joy to the World'.

The audience better be prepared to sing along with the choir because that's what will be asked by the members of the choir.

The Chamber Choir, which is conducted by Esther Oosterbaan and Merrill Flewelling, has a few smaller groups- the Chancl Choir and the Jazz Choir- both of which will entertain the audience with their own brand of carols.

As special guests, the Northern Lights Children's Choir conducted by Beverly Barradell will perform.

These young singers entertained sold out audiences at the recent Frank Mills concert.

The whole family is invited to attend, and tickets are $9.00 for adults and $7.00 for students / seniors.

Tickets for the December 6 performance are available at the Cultural Centre, from choir members, and, if the show isn't sold out, at the door.

MAR 13, 1992

North Peace Arts Society members show off the painting of the Peace River valley that was donated to them by renowned artist Ted Harrison. The painting, valued at over $5,000 will be made into posters that will be sold to the public. See Arts Society News on page 6.

DUP

GALA OPENING SHOW WOWS AUDIENCE

The new North Peace Cultural Centre opened its doors this weekend with a huge gala show involving some 24 separate performers. Both shows were full of local citizens who wanted to herald in a new age for the arts in Fort St. John. See Pg. 3 for story and more photos, and watch for a complete photo page later in the week. JUN 29, 1992

Local children to perform in Snow White

'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' has a wicked queen and many lively colorful characters when the show takes to the stage with 50 community children on Saturday, February 22. Missoula Children's Theatre has been invited to return to the community by the Fort St. John Arts Council. Last year 50 children took part in Cinderella. Tickets are available at the Artspace as Party Arts Series #4.

Fifty local chilren have the opportunity to perform in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

This musical production is a unique, one week, rehearsed play with two shows on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Auditions for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is scheduled for Monday at 4:00 p.m. at Bert Ambrose School. All children from five to seventeen are invited to audition free of charge.

The Missoula Children's Theatre returns to Fort St. John by popular demand. Over 100 children auditioned for "Cindrella" last year and had a fun-packed week of after-school rehearsals to prepare for the community shows at the end of the week. Christine and Deny Staggs are one team of dozens that tour the U.S. and Canada from Missoula, Montana to bring children's theatre to northern communities. The team comes complete with costumes, scenery, props and make-up to outfit dwarfs, trees, bunnies, skunks, turtles and bats along with the main characters of Snow White, the King, Foxy, Fernando and more.

Bert Ambrose School has exclusive time with Missoula Children's Theatre this week of February 10-15. Children in the Bert Ambrose production of Snow White will have their time in the spotlight on February 15 so other children from all schools in District #60 will have a chance to be cast in next week's community show during auditions on Monday, February 17th at 4:00 p.m. at Bert Ambrose.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is part of the Partly Arts Series in Fort St. John. The Partly Arts Series strives to bring a variety of professional concerts and pcerformances to Fort St. John. Tickets are available at the Artspace for $12 adults and $7 students and senios with children under 5 FREE. Family tickets for $30 are also available.

o. 228, Tuesday, February 25, 1992 — 12 Pages 40¢ + 3¢ G.S.T. PER COPY

Spinnin' a Yarn

Arts

Rene Giesbrecht of the North peace Spinners and weavers Guild shows 8-year-old Rebekah Corkum how to feed wool into the spinning wheel at the Heritage Day demonstration last Friday. The demonstrations were held at the Fort St. John North Peace Museum.

JUN 1, 1992

PAMELA DEN OUDEN

It's official – the North Peace Cultural Centre is finally open. Hundreds were on hand for Friday's open house and the two gala performances on Saturday were sold out. Little Jessica L'Heureux, left, and pioneer Millie Hazlett, right, helped Mayor Steve Thorlakson with the ribbon-cutting ceremony. MP Frank Oberle said the completion of the $4.1 million project took "a lot of stubbornness and a big heart."

THE NORTHERN Dance Theatre has put Fort St. John on the map again! The dancers recently competed at Edmonton's Showstopper competition, and brought back lots of medals and trophies. Some of the dancers have qualified for the national Dance America finals to be held in Los Angeles in July. This week the dancers compete in the Prince George Festival.

MAR 18, 1992

. 207, Monday, January 27, 1992 — 10 Pages 35¢ PLUS 2¢ G.S.T.

The Haggis was piped in, Jennifer Lindsay and her Peace Country Highland Dancers performed to the Fort St. John Rotary Pipe Band and an interesting menu that included along with the Haggis, "the great chieftan of the puddin' race", such items as 'Prime Hielan Stirk', 'Bashed Meeps', 'Chappit Tatties', 'Kale', and 'Athol Brose'. The event was the 25 Annual Robbie Burns celebration hosted by the Nights Of Columbus and the North Peace Shrine Club. Robbie Burns was born 233 years ago.

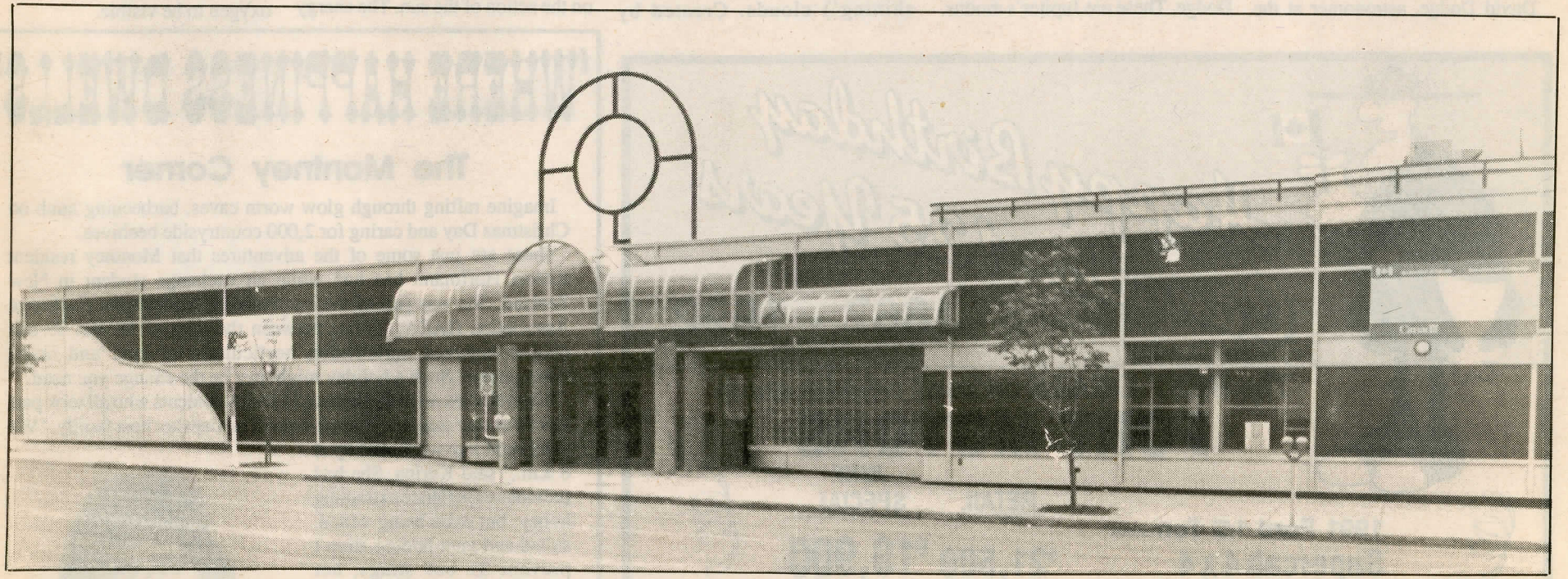
NURSE JANE GOES TO HAWAII

DUP

NOV 20 1992

A scene from the play 'Nurse Jane goes to Hawaii'. Chris Livingstone plays Edgar, opposite Donna Kirkpatrick who plays advice columnist Doris. The play opens tonight at the North Peace Cultural Centre. For a backstage look at the making of 'Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii' see Pg. B1.

North Peace Cultural Centre Grand Opening



PAMELA DEN OUDEN

The North Peace Cultural Centre is a unique $4.5 million project providing four facilities under a single roof. The pride presented in its completion is shared, not only by the residents of Fort St. John, but also the community of Taylor and the surrounding regions.

Financial backing for the centre was received in part, from a B.C. Expo Legacy Grant, GO B.C. funds, and the Federal Department of Communications. In addition, local governments and the generosity of the area's corporate and private sectors, have all contributed to making the North Peace Cultural Centre a reality.

The 40,000-square-foot centre will feature an 8,000-square-foot public library, a 413-seat theatre, a nationally certified art gallery and the Artspace ticket and information centre.

This weekend, June 26 and 27, the community will celebrate its success with a complimentary open house and two gala performances.

Friday, the public is invited to tour the centre from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and enjoy the many talented and colorful displays of art, music, crafts and dance. In the library, Artspace and concourse, from the art gallery to the theatre and from our new sprung dance floor to the atrium loft, the sights, sounds and scope of the entertainment will be as varied as the talent itself.

Saturday the curtain will rise twice, on a presentation of the world-class cultural expression and community spirit the Fort St. John region fosters and encourages, and of which the new centre will become the focus. Dedication ceremonies will be part of a wine and cheese reception immediately following the matinee performance. Official presentations will begin at 6 p.m.

we wish to

Literacy Society public outreach

by Barbara Haidn

Illiteracy is a handicap of social circumstance. Nearly five million Canadian adults cannot read well enough to understand the directions on a bottle of aspirin, a driver's manual, or fill out a job application form.

Literacy does not refer only to reading and writing skills, but is more broadly defined according to individual needs within various social groups, stratifications and micro communities.

In conjunction with the Fort St. John Literacy Society, City Council declared the week of Oct. 31 to Nov. 6 Literacy Week. Events planned include a mall display and Monday Nov. 2 David Griffiths, President of the Fort St. John Literacy Society, and David Thomas, Literacy Outreach Worker, will speak at the Chamber of Commerce.

"We want to increase community awareness for our service, increase the understanding of illiteracy, recruit more tutors and encourage people to register," explained Griffiths. "We're struggling to draw closer ties with the community," said Thomas.

The Fort St. John Literacy Society is a non profit organization made up of members concerned with illiteracy in Fort St. John.

The Society's aim is to promote community access to literacy for adults who feel that their reading and writing skills prevent them from functioning fully in the everyday world. Equally important is public education on the nature of illiteracy, its different forms, causes and effects. The Society also encourages leadership and involvement of learners in their literacy activities."

The Literacy Society has been in the making for four years and has been effectively running for two. The program and its initiatives are a collaboration between Northern Lights College and the Society. "One of our first projects was the tutor training course that prepared volunteer tutors to provide instruction to learners. The Society is currently staffed with 52 volunteer tutors, 30 of which have completed training. We have 38 learners registered and currently there are 17 match-ups," said Thomas.

Functional literacy refers to the information processing skills necessary to understand printed material commonly encountered at work, home or within the community.

Individual functional literacy reflects the ability to use reading, writing and mathematical skills satisfactorily. Thomas explains that "the profile of a functional illiterate adult is not as simple as being poor, poorly educated and poorly employed.

Illiteracy is often revealed through life changes, when those circumstances that hide the disability suddenly change, lay-offs, the death of a family member. Changes where people must suddenly attempt literary activities they haven't done in a long time".

The Society screens the volunteers and interviews learners in order to successfully match students with their personal tutors. The instruction provided by individual tutors is a reflection of a students own personality and needs, allowing for rapport and trust to develop between pupil and instructor. "The instructions are one-on-one personalized so that personal needs can be meant," said Thomas.

Commenting on her experience with the Literacy Society tutor, Sue Stebing said, "reading is the greatest gift that someone can give themselves and its been a wonderful experience to see some blossom and get self confidence. One person who had the drive, the first book he wanted to read was a nursery rhythm book to his daughter. And its not me whose doing the work, its them."

"Literacy will be the measure for this decade", concludes Thomas. In the information era, literacy will be everyone's most valued asset.

More visitors to library at new location

The Fort St. John Public Library couldn't have found a better place to be.

Since moving into its new location, in the North Peace Cultural Centre at the corner of 100th Ave. and 100th St., the library has seen a dramatic increase in new members and in regular users.

In fact, in the month of July the number of people taking advantage of the library's services increased 18 per cent over the same month last year. And the number of new members has almost doubled when compared to the same point in time last year.

Librarian Romi Haseo says the new location for the library is certainly a contributing factor.

"Usually the summer isn't that busy, it is fairly steady every year," says Haseo. "We were closed for four weeks (for the transition into the new facility), so that surge of people came in and then we have a lot of people coming back from holidays."

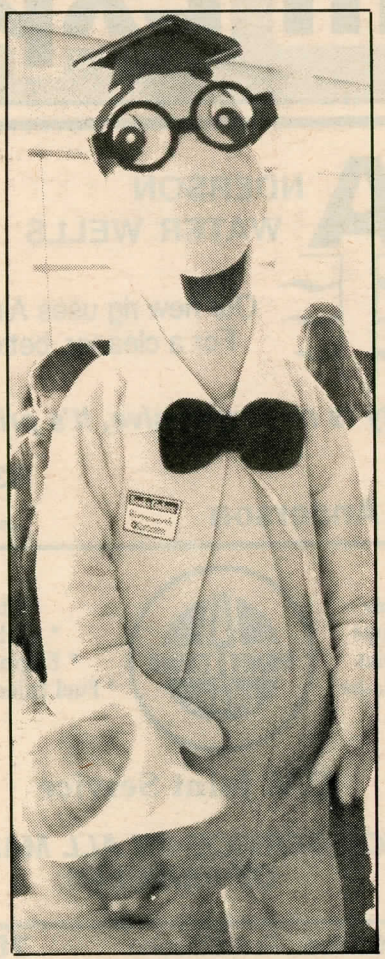
There were some advantages to the old location, next to Overwaitea, because a lot of rural residents were able to combine their shopping and library visit in just one stop.

The new facility certainly has a number of things going for it though, including the fact that there is a bus stop right outside the building and that there are so many other things taking place at the North Peace Cultural Centre that the exposure to the library is increased.

"There are different kind of things happening here, so maybe this will be a one-stop visit for people as well," says Haseo. "If people are stopping by for another reason, picking up tickets for a performance or if the art gallery has something on, we are right there for them."

With the new location comes a new clientele for the library, Haseo has noticed that the regular are still visiting but she has also seen some new faces.

"The clientele is changing, but hopefully that will mean an increase in the use of the library."



Wormsworth entertains

The library currently has approximately 8,000 square feet of space as compared to only 3,300 in the old location, and that has the library staff excited about the endless possibilities for improvements and added programs.

They have gotten some assistance in that regard from the provincial government recently with the notification that their provincial grant allotment for this year has been increased by almost 30 per cent.

Haseo and her staff have already begun taking advantage of the new-found funds by purchasing more books.

"We desperately needed more books with the increase in space," says Haseo. "And that is what people want when they go to the library, an increased selection. We have begun purchasing more new books and you will begin seeing more and more on our shelves."

As for new programs, the library staff are working on a number of new ones but are keeping quiet about them at the moment as they work out the specific details.

Because of the added space, including access to a multi-purpose room, programs can be added that will not interfere with what is happening in the library directly.

At the old location, when a program such as story hour was being held the staff would have to close off a section of the library. Now the programs can be held in the multi-purpose room and the library will still be fully accessible.

"That gives us a little more flexibility in planning things," says Haseo. "Whereas before we had to think small scale, we can now begin to look at things on a larger scale."

The library staff are currently gearing up for what they expect will be their busy season. When the weather begins to turn, usage in the library increases as people begin to move indoors.

And with the start of school in September the rush will be on to take advantage of the many services offered at the public library. Fortunately, they now have the space and resources to handle the demand.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1992

Arts and Crafts fair attracts local artisans

JOHN GRAY

AHN Staff

Fort St John

Ten years ago Sharon Woloshyn's husband gave her a router for her birthday.

A router, Woloshyn explains, is a wood working tool that smooths and rounds the edges of a board. Even though her husband gave her the tool, she was not allowed to use it, she said.

That was before she began building wooden piggy banks for the local heart association.

"My father used to make these in his spare time and I thought we could raise money if we put them in the stores," she said.

The first piggy bank took her more than 40 hours to make because she had no wood working experience.

Now, it takes her an evening to make one and she now forbids her husband to use the router.

"I have another birthday coming up and I'm hoping for a circular saw," she said.

Woloshyn is one of more than a dozen makers of arts and crafts who attended the first arts and crafts fair in the new North Peace Cultural Centre.

Local artists and artisans jammed the corridor of the new centre to hock the products of their time, work and imagination.

Most of the crafts start as either a hobby or a lark, but if the craftsman is good, they soon find a word-of-mouth market for their goods and start making them as gifts for friends said, Liz Dumaine.

Dumaine makes jewellry with rare and beautiful rocks. She got started after her son gave her a chunk of Amherst he found while on vacation. She said the rock was so beautiful she felt she had to do something special with it.

Like Dumaine, Dennis Kroeker and his daughter Melodie Utz began building the small wooden puzzles and figurines after friends asked them to build things for them.

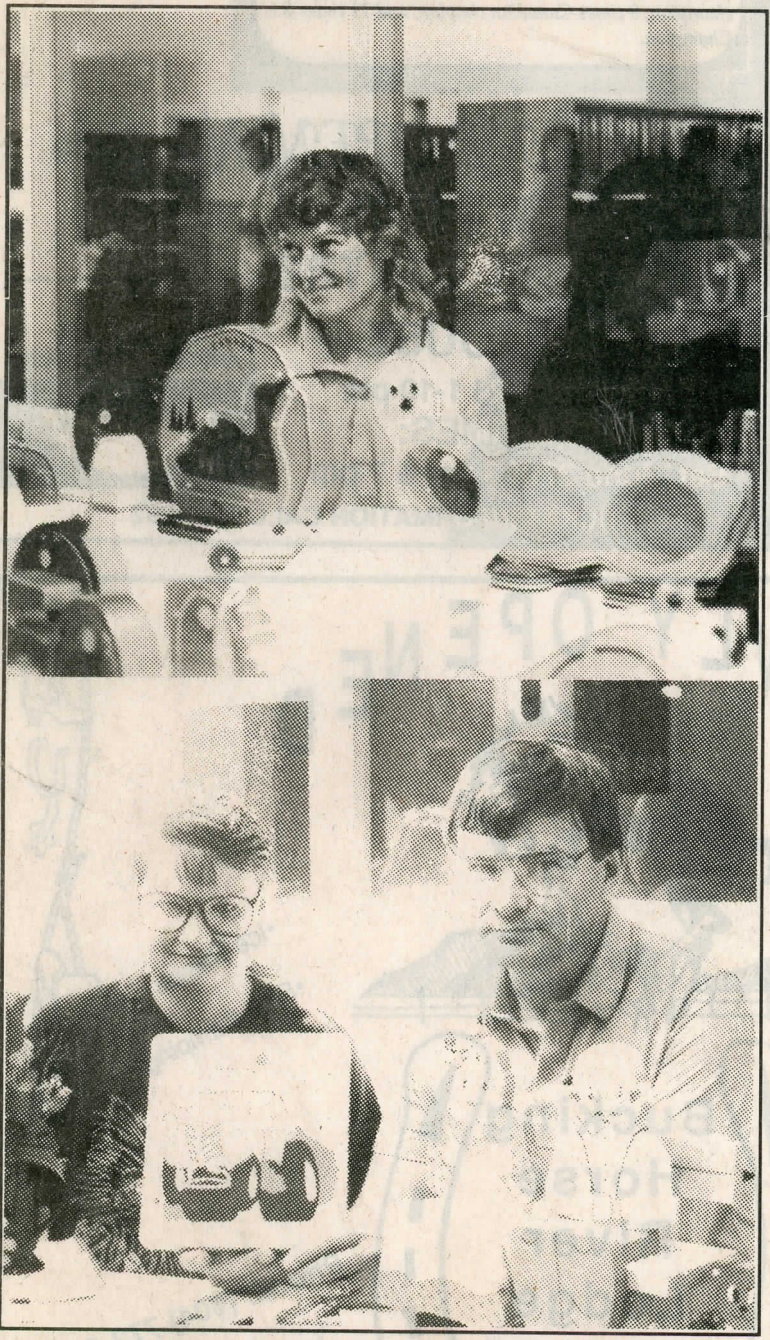
"I made a set of wooden candlesticks for a wedding party and people started asking me for them," he said.

Profit is not the main motivation behind building the figurines, said Kroeker. He was a carpenter and build his house from frame to fixtures. He continues to build the figurines and other wooden novelties to keep his skills sharp, he said.

He has made several hundred of the figurines and sells them at crafts fairs and flea markets all over town.

"We just sell them so that we can buy a few more paintbrushes and replace the saws that we go through," he said.

CRAFTS FOR SALE



MORE THAN A DOZEN: artisans and craftspeople from the North Peace attended the first arts and crafts fair at the new North Peace Cultural Centre this weekend to hawk their wares -- all labors of love. Many started making the items as a hobby and are now seeing if the public is interested in buying them.

1992 MAY 1

NORTH PEACE
ART SOCIETY'S
9th Annual
ART AUCTION
May 1st - Mackenzie Inn

Viewing: 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Auction to begin at 8 p.m.

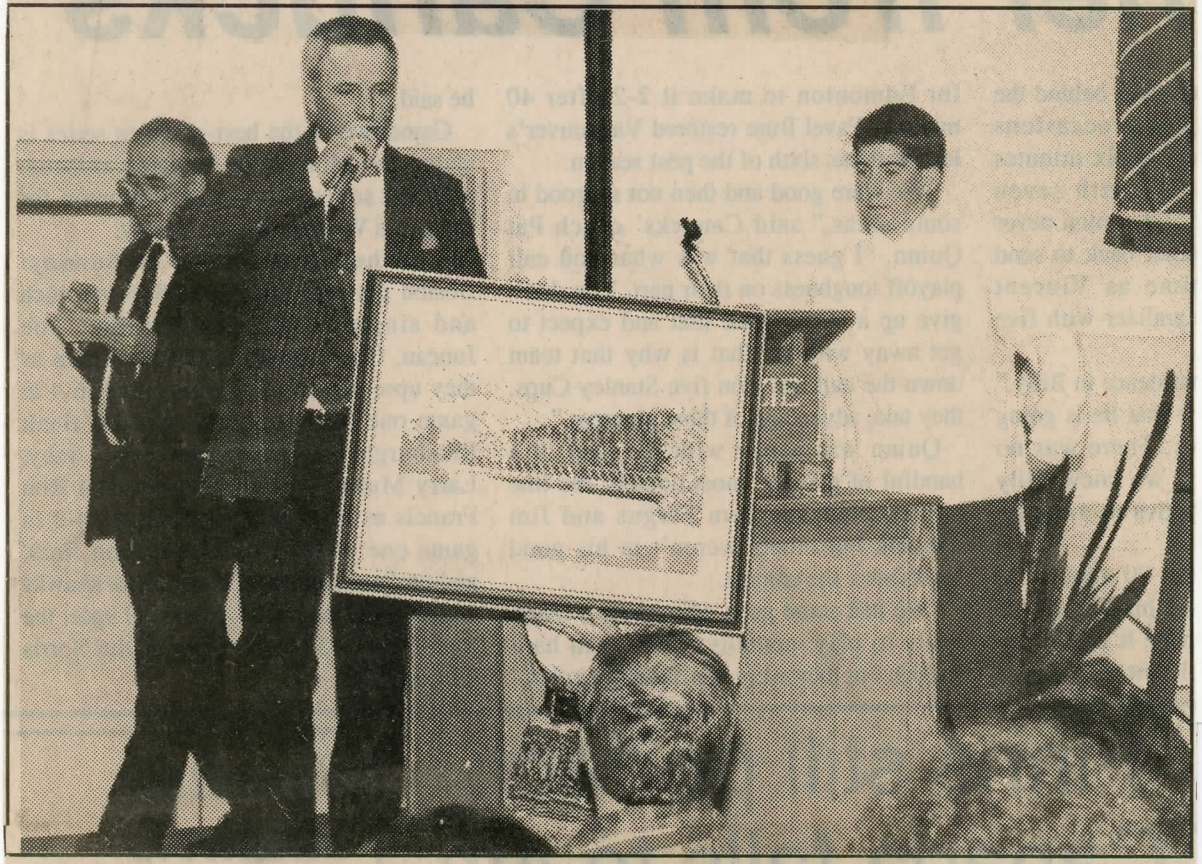
Tickets $6 in advance - $8 at the door
Available at the Art Space, Art Gallery
& from local Artists

Refreshments - Silent Auction
- Door Prizes -

DONALDA GRASSIE: has fun with her artwork.

DUP

ANNUAL ART AUCTION



The North Peace Art Society held their 9th annual art auction this past weekend. Early reports indicated the auction was a success, raising a rumored $10,000.