

Doin's at the Derrick back to showcase local entertainers

This summer, there will be more opportunities for all of us to get outside and socialize as a community. This summer, local entertainers will have more opportunities to showcase their talents before an audience. This summer, after a one-year absence, Doin's at the Derrick return to Fort St. John.

The premise of the event is simple. Each evening with a scheduled performance, (usually Thursday, Friday and Saturday), a performer or group from the Peace region will appear on-stage at the Derrick (at the Museum grounds on 100 Street) and treat audience members to a concert or performance, absolutely free!

A production of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council, the event is designed to highlight the many talented performers that live and work in the region, and make the general public more aware of the types of cultural groups that exist in the area.

The types of performances that will be held at the Derrick this summer are widely varied, said Sandra Gunn, Doin's at the Derrick co-ordinator.

Many area musicians will give concerts, ranging from country to rock and roll; from big band to jazz. Local dance groups, including the Can-Canettes, the Watt School of Irish Dance and Jennifer Lindsay's School of Scottish Dance will also be taking to the stage this summer. Local firefighters are also planning a lip-syncing contest later in the summer.

"Each week is something different," said Gunn. "The types of performances are quite varied."

Gunn has other events planned for Doin's at the Derrick, to give it a festival atmosphere. There will be specific events for children, including face painting and drawing on the sidewalks

Outside Looking



DUP
**In
JANELLE
LAKE**

with chalk.

She is hoping to draw in local artists, offering them a venue to display and even sell their work. Food may also be available, and Gunn is seeking interest from local non-profit groups to provide a simple food service to the public.

As a community event, interest from local performers is welcomed. Gunn still has several performance spots open for interested parties. Performances can be as short as one hour. "Just come down and do it," said Gunn.

The response to Doin's at the Derrick to date has been very positive, said Gunn. "People are excited that it's going on again after a year away.

"The Historical Society had several hardworking volunteers putting a fresh coat of paint on the Derrick last weekend, in preparation for the kick-off concert, and Home Hardware has donated materials to build benches for seating.

The summertime series kicks off this Saturday, with two concerts. Northern Jazz will launch the summer of entertainment beginning at 2 p.m. Later that day, at 7 p.m. the School District 60 Band will host an evening of music. Doin's at the Derrick will then begin regular performances every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with special events planned for Canada Day and Sept. 1, which

JUN 13, 1996
will be the closing of the summer of entertainment.

The event offers it all — music, dance, entertainment, a sense of community and a festive atmosphere. It needs only one more ingredient to make it a success — your participation.

Doin's at the Derrick was once a hugely popular event in Fort St. John, faltering only when public support began to wane. With a year's absence, there seems to be excitement building about the upcoming series. Now we need to sustain that excitement, and support the efforts of everyone taking part.

"It's a community event, bringing everyone together. It's a nice place to meet, talk and enjoy music. People feel like they are part of something," said Gunn.

Doin's at the Derrick offers a deal that can't be beat — free entertainment and a chance to be an involved part of the community. Watch for performance details in this newspaper.

For more information about the event, call Gunn at 787-9287.

Janelle Lake writes every Friday in the Alaska Highway News.

Weaving and stitching a passion for this group

TANIA WILSON
For the Alaska Highway News

Fort St. John

Huckweaving, canvas work, cross-stitching, quilting and many other stitches and techniques are the passion of the members of the North Peace Needlearts Guild.

The North Peace Needlearts Guild was formed in 1991 by Carolyn Mitchell, and meets on the first Monday of every month, except July and August. The Guild is associated with, and is a chapter of, the Embroiders Association of Canada.

"In our group we have people who are rank beginners and we have experts as well. I might be a beginner in one technique and an expert in something else," said guild member Charlotte Onciul. "We don't want people to get the impression that we're experts at everything, because we're not."

"We do welcome new members, ... men as well as women," said Moneca Tanner, another guild member. "And people who have never stitched before, we will certainly take the time to spend with them."

Each month, members set themselves a mini project, in one technique and stitch to have completed by the next meeting. This gives the group the opportunity to refresh their skills in a particular technique, and to

learn new stitches and techniques from other members.

"When we set up our guild, we wanted to promote needlework in all it's forms and to encourage the community," said Onciul.

The North Peace guild has been involved with some community projects, such as the quilt for the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway, which is located at the Whitehorse Museum in Whitehorse.

"Different guilds, and ladies in communities along the highway got together to put something in on their community," said Tanner.

Each year the Embroider's Association of Canada holds a seminar, where members of various embroidery guilds across the country can meet and learn new stitches and techniques. These seminars are usually attended by around 300 embroiders, said Tanner.

The next seminar to be held in Western Canada will be in Victoria in 1997.

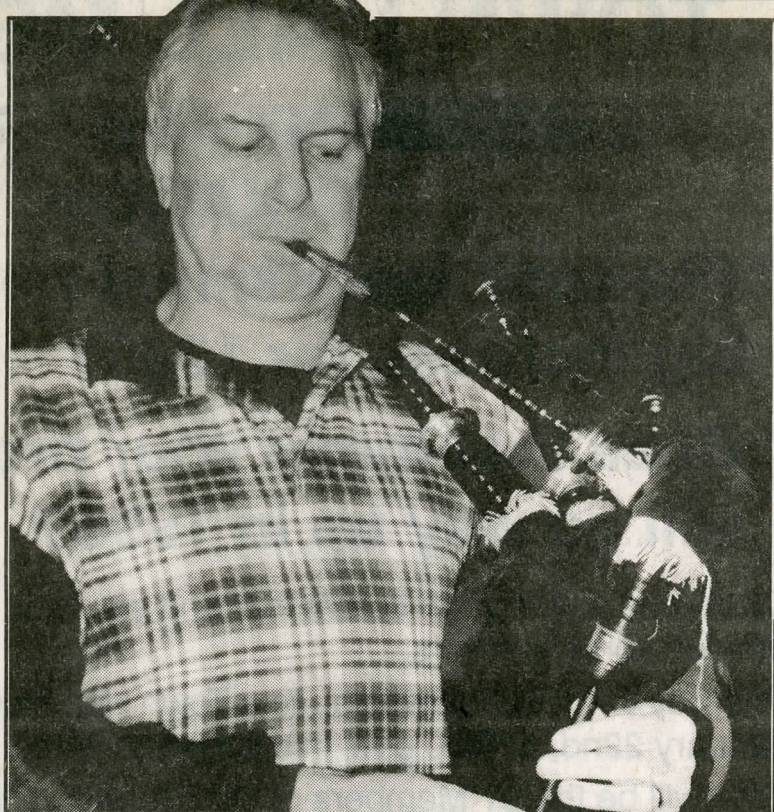
This year's seminar is being held in Newfoundland. The members of the North Peace guild will be assisting Victoria with their seminar, by making small embroidered "favors" to be given to all those who attend.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the North Peace Needlearts Guild, contact Moneca Tanner at 785-4758.



Tania wilson photo

Charlotte Onciul (left) and Moneca Tanner of the North Peace Needlearts Guild with a small selection of the guild's work, including Huckweaving, Bargello, Quilting and Pull-thread items.



Tania Wilson photo

Brian O'Neil was practising last night for an upcoming performance. He is a member of the Fort St. John Rotary Pipe Band.

Pipe band will play for Robbie Burns night fun

JAN 19, 1996

FORT ST. JOHN (Staff) — The Rotary Pipes and Drums are busy getting ready for their performance Jan. 27 at Robbie Burns Night festivities.

“We will be performing Jan. 27 at Robbie Burns Night at Immaculata School,” said Gordon Davies, a representative of the band.

Davies said the performance later this month is one of the band's main activities of the year. They also perform in various fair weather activities like parades.

Right now, the band has eight regular members and six students.

They're looking for more members.

“We're always looking for pipers and drummers,” he said. “We take people from right off the street.”

Anyone is welcome to attend their practices, which are held every Thursday at Duncan Cran Elementary School from 7 to 9 p.m. in the music room.

Band members are encouraged to practise every day for at least 20 minutes and preferably more.

Anyone who would like more information about the band should call Gordon Davies at 785-9683.

Potters spinning their wheels while they wait for decision on new home

JAN 17, 1996

TOM WILKINSON
Managing Editor

Fort St. John

Local potters are still waiting to hear whether they'll be able to use the old health centre, but they're not optimistic, says the potters guild president.

Jane Anderson said the activities of the North Peace Potters' Guild have basically ceased since they have nowhere to set up their kilns.

"It seems like they're not going to help us, the way things are going," she said about city council.

She said that although the school district has offered the guild a building, they must move it, and they have no land to put it on.

"What we want is a place to have the arts groups all together," she said.

Anderson feels the old health centre located in Centennial Park would serve that purpose.

The guild has four electric kilns and one gas kiln they would like to set up, as well as approximately ten wheels. She says they would need two rooms somewhere. If they find space, they can begin holding classes again and could even afford to pay rent.

"We've had lots of calls from people wanting to put their kids in classes and we have nothing to offer them," she said. "We still want to offer the community our services."

She said a consultant's report recommended the city remove the building from Centennial Park, and she's heard that council doesn't want to foot the bill for the arts groups to operate there.

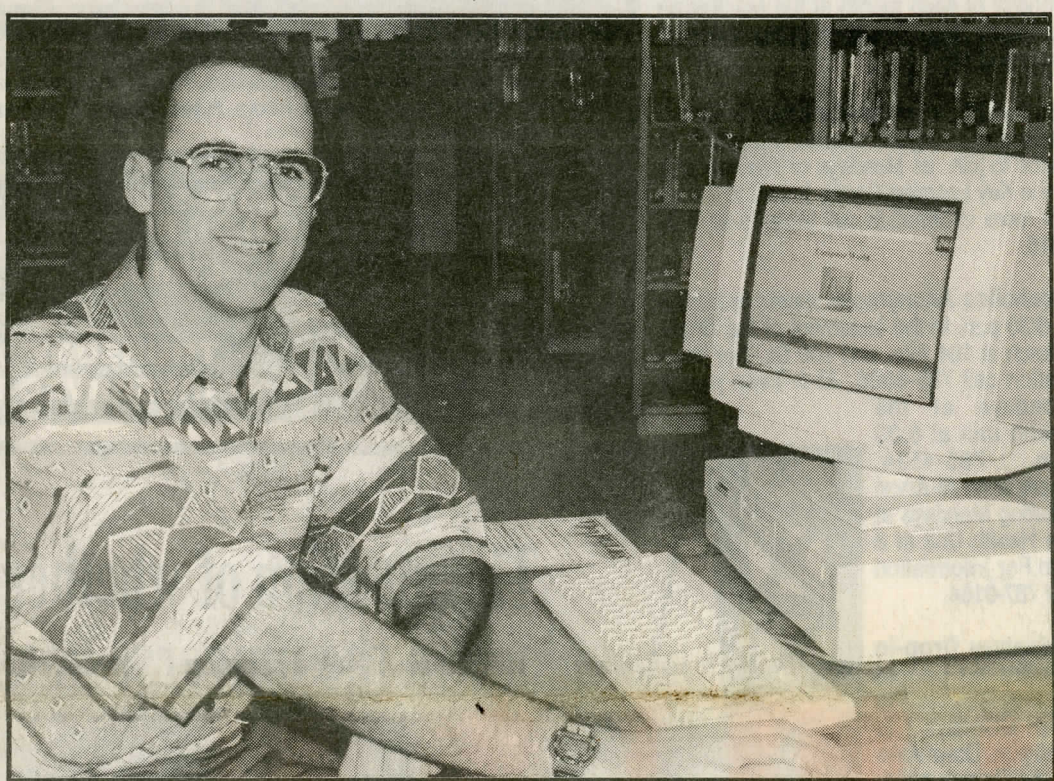
"Basically, in Fort St. John there's no pottery going on. We've been part of the community for 26 years and now we're not needed anymore."

She says that the potters and other arts groups are willing to do whatever renovations need to be done to put the old health centre into operation.

She said the guild's next step will be to approach the museum society. She said the second phase of their planned expansion calls for an artists studio. The potters' guild would like to know how far along they are.

"We're not asking for the moon," Anderson said. "It's really interesting to watch people weave and watch people pot. They (the City of Fort St. John) have the building. Why not just let us have it?"

Mayor Steve Thorlakson said a decision has not yet been reached.



Tania Wilson photo

Jason Brett is providing Internet training through the Fort St. John Library this summer.

JUL 19, 1996

Internet comes to the library

TANIA WILSON
Alaska Highway News

Fort St. John

The introduction of Internet tutorials has expanded the educational resources of the Fort St. John public library this summer.

Computer World has loaned the Fort St. John Public Library a computer and provided access to the internet for the months of July and August. The library is now providing hands-on, one hour, tutorial sessions on the internet to businesses, non-profit organizations, teachers and others in the education community who have never used the internet before, or who have specific problems with it.

Jason Brett, who became interested in the internet in

1988 after he graduated from high school in Dawson Creek, is providing the internet tutorials.

"The program is supposed to be for businesses and non-profit organizations who have little knowledge of the internet, but many questions," said Brett. "We get a great many people who have never used the internet before, and who are new computer users."

Once people have familiarized themselves with the computer mouse, Brett says that after about half an hour, they are clicking between web pages with ease, and finding the subjects that interest them.

"We're not pushing people to be a part of the internet. We're not trying to promote it, we're just giving people the chance to talk about it and get their questions answered. If

someone has a specific problem with the internet, we will try and answer specific questions," said Brett.

This service was started on July 12 and will continue until the end of August. The public library is currently investigating options to provide the internet to library users on a permanent basis.

"Quite a few people have shown an interest in it, and after their sessions have left satisfied."

The internet has grown at a remarkable rate in the last year, says Brett. It's growth, especially of business sites (.com sites) is huge.

If you're interested in a session with Jason Brett, to learn about the internet, you can book a time by calling the Fort St. John Public Library at 785-3731.



Contributed photo

HIGHLAND DANCERS —

JUL 2, 1996

On June 8, 21 dancers of the Jennifer Lindsey School of Highland Dance competed at the 11th Grande Prairie Highland Games. All dancers performed very well, competing against dancers from the local area as well as Edmonton and as far south as Cranbrook, B.C. Bronwen Ross won the trophy in the novice (12 and under) category. Other medal winners included Adrienne Petzold, Lindsay Petzold, Megan Orcutt, Carina Milan, Alycia MacDonald, Chantal Woychuk, Sarah Gossen, Desiree LeBlanc, Courtney Unruh, Lauren Friesen and Jolene Milan. The Highland Dancers performed at the derrick during Canada Day celebrations Monday.



Tom Wilkinson photo

PLANT SALE —

The North Peace Horticultural Society was out in force at their plant and coffee sale Saturday in the North Peace Cultural Centre. In the back row, from left are: Ian Stewart, Dennis Davidson and Inga Burkholder. In the middle row, from left are: Eira Lucas, Ellen Fox and Brenda Katerberg. In the front row are: David McAleney and Nancy Dean.

MAY 14, 1996

ORLD



Tania Wilson photo

CHAMBER CHOIR —

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir, accompanied by Merrill Flewelling treated over 25 people to a musical afternoon in the Cultural Centre concourse on Sunday afternoon.



Tania Wilson photo

Local artist Shirley Mather with some examples of her work from portraiture to landscapes and wildlife scenes. Mather has sold paintings in Canada, the U.S. and England, and will have some on display at the North Peace Art Group's summer exhibit.

Local artist has been painting since age 12

TANIA WILSON
 For the Alaska Highway News
 Fort St. John

Painting has interested Shirley Mather of Fort St. John since she was a child, creating portraits, landscapes and animal scenes.

Painting off and on since she was 12 years old, Mather developed a love of painting and art, which she has been able to pursue more actively over the past 20 years. Using oil paints, Mather creates a variety of works, created both from the inspiration she finds in the Peace region and from her own imagination, enjoying the depth and range of colors the oils allow her utilize.

"I love winter scenes, and I use scenes from around the area ...

there's such inspiration here," said Mather. "I like paintings that tell a story, and it's fun to make up (from my imagination) a painting."

Mather finds all her work challenging, although commissions are sometimes more difficult because "not all photos make good paintings, you need something to focus on."

She is making progress with her preparations for the upcoming summer art exhibit by the North Peace Art group at the Peace Gallery North. Mather hopes to have a number of new works to display, although many of her newer works have already been sold. Mather has sold works to people throughout Canada, the U.S. and England.

DUP 1996
 MAR 29

LOCAL

Literacy society hands out certificates

FORT ST. JOHN (Staff) — Several members of the Fort St. John Literacy Society received volunteer tutor certificates after finishing their training Thursday night.

Don Campbell, representing Superior Propane, was also on hand to present a special award to student John Fehr, who described the process of returning to school while trying to be a husband and father to four children.



Tom Wilkinson photo

Newly graduated tutors and more experienced comrades gathered Thursday night with members of Literacy B.C. Holding the sign are David Thomas (left), an outreach worker and Corey Blades, the vice-president of Literacy B.C. In the front row, from left are volunteers: Allana MacAulay, Irene Barcelo, Myrna Cleaveley, student John Fehr, Superior Propane representative Don Campbell as well as volunteers Toni Harvey, Nora Bitner and Angela Munro.



Tania Wilson photo

Mary Anne Oger demonstrates various machine knitting techniques Sunday to the 13 ladies who gathered at the Grandhaven Community Hall to attend the three day workshop on machine knitting.

Local machine knitters learn from well-known Canadian

FORT ST. JOHN — Machine knitters in Fort St. John had a rare opportunity to learn from well known Canadian knitter, Mary Anne Oger at a weekend workshop.

Oger is from Thunder Bay, Ontario and is well known in both Canada and the United States and is the author of four books on machine knitting. The Fort St. John Machine Knitters Club enjoyed a rare opportunity to learn from Oger during a three day workshop at the Grandhaven Hall over the weekend.

"It was a technique workshop, and we learned many new techniques. We were very fortunate to have Mary Anne come out from Thunder Bay," said Kathy Boyd of the machine knitters club. "Thirteen people turned out, seven from Fort St. John and six from out of town. It's good to see others taking an interest."

The machine knitters club was

formed 10 years ago, with the aim of helping each other to improve their techniques and skills, said Boyd.

"We do different things for the community," said Boyd. "This year we knitted toques for the soup kitchen through the Alliance Church. In the past we have done things such as making afghans and lap robes for the Peace Lutheran Care Centre."

Right now, the club is concentrating on completing projects for the North Peace Fall Fair in August, and has no other projects planned until next spring.

The machine knitters club meets twice monthly, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be held at Kathy's Yarn Magic, and anyone interested in becoming a member is invited to attend. For more information contact Kathy Boyd at 787-2465.

Friends of the Library are promoting literacy

FEB 9, 1996

Library Corner



**LOUISE
FRAMST**

It's February already: Heart Month, Valentine's Day, Heritage Week - a perfect month in which to pay tribute to an organization which has supported the Fort St. John Public Library for decades. The Friends of the Library are a group of citizens whose goal is to assist the library to promote, improve and expand its services. Over the years, they have done so admirably. We give them our heartfelt thanks!

This organization was formed in the late 70's. In the beginning, the Friends of the Library were affiliated with the USA association. In 1980 the Friends of the Library became an independent chapter. Throughout the years the Friends have worked with the Fort St. John Public Library in a close relationship.

The specific objectives of the Friends has altered with the needs of the library. In recent times they have focused on providing furniture and equipment. In the past three years alone, they have donated well over \$10,000 to the library. We see evidence of their efforts in furnishings and fixtures for the children's and adult's sections of the library. The Friends are staunch supporters of the Summer Reading Program, providing funds to operate as well as money for prizes.

Their current project is to help automate the library. To date the Friends have purchased 1 computer and a tape machine (to back-up information). Of course, they will still help the library in any way possible, especially with their support for reading programs.

Funds are raised mainly through Book Sales. Donated books are sold at these sales in the spring and fall. They also have Book Carts in the library and at the Cecil Lake Store. The next Book Sale will be after March, date to be

announced.

Membership is a concern for this small group of volunteers. They invite you to join this worthwhile organization. If you cannot join, but would like to help out, they welcome you with open arms. They especially need help with transporting and carrying books for Book Sales. To join or volunteer your help, please contact Joan Churchill at 827-3285 or leave a message at the library, 785-3731.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library is from 12:00 noon-1:00, at the Fort St. John Public Library. (p.s. - they don't have many meetings!) Hope to see you there!

Bulletin Board

* Watch for new books on the shelves. There are "tons" being prepared for circulation, especially First Nations books.

* Feb. 26 - March 3 is Freedom to Read Week.

* Storytime for 3-5 year-olds begins March 5, noon to 1:00 at the library.

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact the library at 785-3731. Have a good day, if you choose!

Louise Framst writes about the Fort St. John Public Library.

FORT ST. JOHN
CAN - CANETTES



The Fort St. John Can-Canettes were out in action at the trade show, putting on several performances. From left are: Claire Leflar, Brenda Wellard and Darcy Danczak. APR 22, 1996



Tania Wilson photo

STAGE BAND —

Lisa O'Connor joined other members of the North Peace Stage Band on Monday morning in performances at both Bert Bowes and Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary Schools.

APR 16, 1996

Pressing flowers a long-time hobby for this Fort St. John resident 1996

TANIA WILSON
For the Alaska Highway News

Fort St. John

Susie Clark's hobby is a unique type of art which allows her to share the beauty of flowers and autumn leaves with others, pressed flowers.

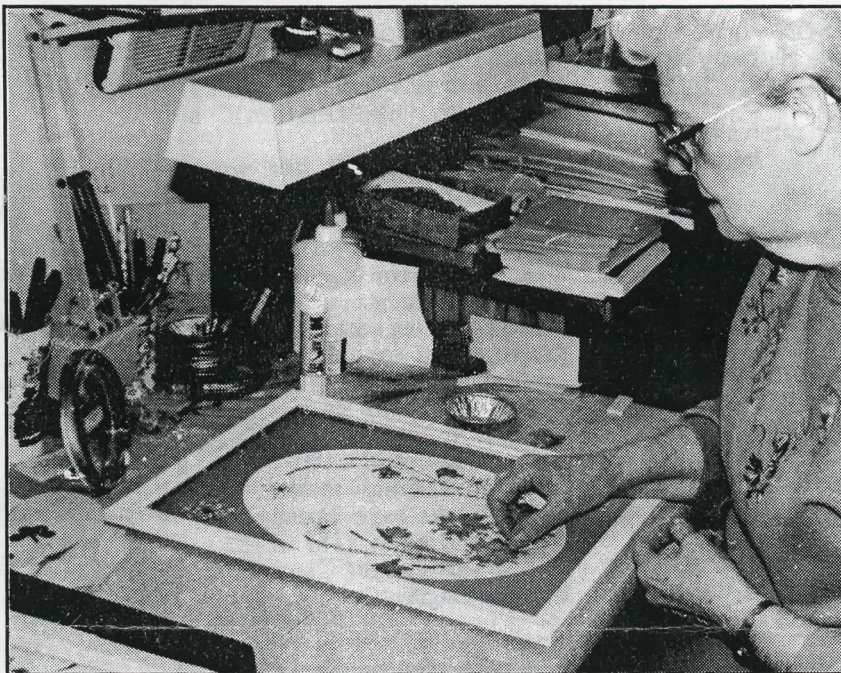
Clark began pressing flowers and framing them in 1970 following a trip to the Yukon.

"I've always loved flowers, since I was a child. I used to pick the flowers and stick them in a book," said Clark. "We took a trip to the Yukon in 1970, and the flowers up there were just so gorgeous. I just couldn't resist picking them. But then I thought, well what am I going to do with these now that I've picked them? So I found an old catalogue and I stuck them in there, and when I got home I made my first picture."

Clark has done many pictures since then, and has a number of them on show at Peace Gallery North. She also donated one to the Art Auction last weekend.

"I also sell them ... they're all framed and ready to go," said Clark. "I give some away as presents ... my pictures have gone to England, Spain, Germany and France," people from all over the world enjoy Clark's work.

Because of her hobby, much of Clark's summer is spent looking for and picking flowers for her pictures, trying to pick flowers whose colors



Susie Clark works on her latest arrangement of pressed flowers in her basement studio.

won't fade too quickly.

"They're under glass, but I always put a label on the back telling them not to hang the picture in the sun because sunlight will fade the colors ... they will last several years."

Clark has taught courses in flower pressing at the Cultural Centre, and is hoping to hold another course if the schedule at the Cultural Centre permits.

"It's difficult to teach people how to do it, because you've got to have a design in your head. There are so many different ways you can arrange them ... that's the hardest part, doing the arranging. Once you've got the arrangement made to your satisfaction, you can go ahead and start gluing the flowers down. The smaller they are, the harder they are to arrange," said Clark.



Tania Wilson photo

OAK ISLAND TREASURE —

Members of Stage North's production of "Mystery of the Oak Island Treasure" were rehearsing Thursday night at the cultural centre. Directed by Ian Forsyth, Oak Island Treasure will open at the North Peace Cultural Centre on Feb. 15 at 8 pm. Further performances will take place on Feb. 16 and 17, at 8 pm, with an additional performance at 2 pm on Saturday, Feb. 17. Seadog (Larry Evans) and Diana (Shannon Wiltse) struggle (left) as her brother Jason (Gilles Francoeur) threatens Scavenger John (Tom Kirschner) with a chair. The Canadian play takes place in Nova Scotia on a small island where the treasure of Captain Kidd is reputed to have been buried. The delightful story has lots of family appeal and features two children making repeated trips to the island to search for the treasure, while being confronted by pirates and ghosts.

JAN 26 1996



NICE DONATION — Moneca Tanner of the Peace Country Craftsmen's Association presents Myra Redlick of the Salvation Army with a cheque for \$200 to go towards the Food Bank. The money was left over from the Association's collection of table fees during the year, and as the Craftsman's Association is a non-profit organization, Tanner said they thought it would be best used by the food bank.

Tania Wilson photo

AUG 20, 1996

PROVINCE

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS, FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.



Trading views on how to get information into the media are Bruce Lantz (standing), publisher of The Alaska Highway News, and participants in an Artspace workshop Wednesday at the North Peace Cultural Centre. Also at the Mediawise seminar conducted by Lantz were, from left: Trail LeClerc, Wes Tallman, Judy Laythorpe, Louise Framst and Tawny Schultz. The group discussed the best way to write press releases, handle photo opportunities and otherwise get results when promoting events and activities in the media. The workshop continues next week. FEB 21, 1996

Tania Wilson photo