

# Taylor gives to the Artspace



## The season for giving

Taylor Mayor Fred Jarvis presents a cheque for \$9,188 to Gordon Grant, Cultural Centre Manager last Monday. The money was given by the Taylor District to aid the Cultural Centre who has had a shortfall in this year's operating budget. The Mayor said he was pleased to be able to contribute this money to the Cultural Centre and hoped it would make some difference in keeping the Centre functioning financially.

*-photo by Donna Lessard*

# First annual B.C. Arts and Culture held in FSJ

**GERALD GAUTHIER**  
Staff Writer

## Fort St. John

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is hoping the first annual B.C. Arts and Culture Week celebrations next month will have an impact on the funding crisis at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

A candidates forum will be one of several local events planned for Nov. 1-5 during B.C. Arts and Culture Week, which will be celebrated in communities throughout the province.

It is fitting now because there is so much controversy about the value of arts and culture in our community that hopefully this event will help the discussion, said Arts Council Vice President Lisa Bush in a news release.

"We're hoping it will open the eyes of the candidates to the impact of arts and culture on the community," added Jane Anderson, Arts Council President.

The event was created by the British Columbia Arts Council to recognize the

contribution B.C. artists and cultural groups make to the quality of life in all communities. The theme of the event is Outside the Lines, B.C. Celebrates Creativity.

Bush said the Arts and Culture Week celebrations in Fort St. John will likely be the biggest in the province.

A daily lunch-hour series will highlight different aspects of the arts. Features will include a kids art display, a look at literary arts, the candidates forum, a look at the history of art in the North Peace and a visual arts display.

The week will wind up with a Performing Arts Gala Nov. 5, featuring local performing artists who will showcase their talents at the cultural centre theatre.

The local festivities are a joint effort of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council, the Peace Liard Community Arts Council, the B.C. Arts Council and the cultural centre.

Any artists or art supporters wishing to become involved should call 785-6763.

Oct 25, 1989

Dup

# B.C. Arts and Culture Week honours local talent

**LISA BUSH**  
For the Alaska Highway News

## Fort St. John

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is inviting all to celebrate with them the first annual B.C. Arts and Culture Week.

This initiative was announced by the minister of small business, tourism and culture, Ian Waddell, on July 16.

The invitation was extended to the province's Community Arts Councils, and the local Arts Council sought to involve as many art groups as possible.

They were determined to make our celebration one of the biggest and most comprehensive in the province.

While many communities are concentrating on one or two aspects of the arts in their commemoration, locally the spotlight will cast its glow on the broad spectrum of Fort St. John's rich cultural fabric.

From crafts to visual and performing arts, people will be able to sample the

diversity of the Peace cultural community.

The Arts Council exists, in part, to serve such a function.

Their stated goal is "the development of cultural activities and the encouragement of artistic work in the North Peace."

The Arts Council is actually made up of the many arts groups, including four dance societies, two theatre companies, machine knitters, quilters, weavers, potters, gymnasts, music teachers, the Literacy Society, the Art Group, and the society that oversees the art gallery.

Because many of these groups are quite small, in terms of participating members, it is advantageous for them to join with others who have similar cultural goals under the umbrella of the Arts Council.

Through the council, they can also access grant monies that come from the provincial government through the B.C. Arts Council (which are added to from the City's budget).

It is likely that the Annual B.C. Arts and Culture Week will become another of the major projects the Arts Council undertakes, and this first one is certainly ambitious.

Throughout this week, various events will take place at the North Peace Cultural Centre during the lunch hour.

Visitors to the cultural centre can stop by tables that will be set up with information about various groups, and each day will highlight different themes.

Today, of course, was the opening of Arts Week, and the ribbon-cutting by Mayor Steve Thorlakson launched the city's official recognition.

As well, today's spotlight was on the art of children, and their masterpieces were displayed.

Tomorrow's spotlight will be on the literary arts, as the much-missed library will be re-opening.

The Literacy Society will be on hand to remind people that there are still some people out there that can not use the library services regardless if the doors

are open or closed.

Wednesday will take arts and culture into the political arena.

Local candidates will be able to state their positions concerning the issues surrounding the arts in Fort St. John, in order to help us in our decisions in this month's municipal elections.

Arts development in the North Peace has gone through many stages of growth over the years, as Thursday's theme will emphasize as we concentrate on that history and what has been achieved.

Friday's noon-hour spotlight will be the vast array of visual arts in our community. That not only includes the talents of painters, but the artistry of quilters, potters, and other crafts people.

One may think that the performing artists have been overlooked, but that is not so.

On Friday evening at 8 p.m., there will be a performing arts gala, which will showcase the incredible talents of musicians, actors and award-winning dancers.

*"Gives a tinker's damn about the North Peace."*

**GH FRIDAY IN FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.**

**60¢ (INCLUDING GST)**



*Nov 10, 1999*

Gerald Gauthier photo

# SAVED!

City Councillor Brian Churchill, left, presents a cheque Tuesday for \$36,755 on behalf of the City of Fort St. John to Gordon Grant, general manager of the North Peace Cultural Centre. Without the emergency funding, the cultural centre was in danger of not meeting its Nov. 12 payroll.

# Cultural centre to get no more rural help

**GRAHAM ANDREWS**  
Staff Writer

## Fort St. John

Another chapter in the cultural centre's funding saga has been written.

Electoral Area B and C directors have officially said that they will not allocate any emergency funding to the centre this year.

This follows the city's recent presentation of more than \$36,000 in emergency funding for the centre. This money will be used to help offset a projected \$73,000 shortfall in the centre's 1999 operating budget.

"It would be nice if these two directors had agreed to put in their share so that the cultural centre

could start next year on an even keel," said Brian Churchill, city councillor and treasurer of the cultural centre.

Last week, on behalf of the centre, Churchill asked Area B director Karen Goodings for approximately \$18,000 in emergency funding and an additional \$9,200 from Area C director Short Tompkins.

In a letter written to the cultural centre board yesterday, Goodings and Tompkins both said that their financial obligations to the centre had been met for the year and no more money would be made available.

The four funding partners — Area B, Area C, Taylor and Fort St. John — contributed \$60,000 in emergency funding to help the cultural centre in 1998.

"We actually feel that we fulfilled our commitment morally and legally last year when we bailed them out," Goodings said in an interview yesterday.

Both directors made it clear to the cultural centre board that no emergency funding would be made available when the facility's budget was presented earlier this year, Goodings said.

Cultural centre general manager Gordon Grant met with representatives from the District of Taylor this morning to discuss the district's participation in emergency funding.

Although results of that meeting were not known at press time, cultural centre chairman Tony Atkins said the centre will have to look at different ways of making up for the budget shortfall.

"With the money that we have from the city we will be able to survive but we'll have to look at ways of cutting costs and raising money to offset this," Atkins said.

"We will probably start the year with cost-cutting measures."

These measures may include restricting hours of operation for the centre and cutting different programs, he said.

Eighty per cent of the cultural centre's \$715,000 budget in 1999 is made up by self-generating revenue. The city of Fort St. John contributes 10 per cent of the centre's budget while Area B, Area C and Taylor make up five per cent, 2.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

A lack of revenue and decreased donations have been blamed for the recent budget shortfall.

## Taylor council believes in the cultural centre

*Council will decide today on additional funding*

**GERALD GAUTHIER**  
Staff Writer

### Taylor

Most Taylor councillors have hinted they favour granting emergency funding to the North Peace Cultural Centre.

"I feel it is a good facility, and it needs to be kept up and going," Mayor Fred Jarvis said Tuesday night.

Taylor Council was to meet this morning with cultural centre general manager Gordon Grant to discuss a request from the facility's board of directors for \$9,200 in emergency funding.

"If he (Grant) can show that we

shared responsibility in creating the deficit, I believe we're responsible for our portion of the debt up to our 12.5 per cent under the funding formula," Coun. Rob Fraser said.

Councillors Connie Shortt and Tony Von Hollen agreed the cultural centre is underfunded. Coun. Everett Clark said he didn't deny the facility is underfunded, but he didn't think Taylor should be putting more money into it.

"If the cultural centre is an asset, they should be given the opportunity to have funds to run, but they have to work very hard to get everything they can through their own income," Jarvis said.

Shortt said council expected to make a decision on the request by the end of today.

Nov 17, 1999