

ArtsPost on the move

Volunteers renovating new building where potters will finally have a home

HARDY FRIEDRICH
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Over 300 volunteer hours have so far gone into renovations at the ArtsPost Too location, and it's going to take at least that much more to be ready for a grand opening by the end of September.

The city's arts community has come together to clean, paint and refurbish cabinets and shelves at the Fort St. John Arts Council's new location on 94 Ave., which is also going to be home to the North Peace Potters Guild and the Spinners and Weavers.

The work started in June on weekends, but come August it was stepped up to daily in order to meet the tentative opening date, said arts council director Sue Popescu.

"We still need people to help move items down here. We still need to construct a wall and we still need a carpenter, plumber and electricity," she said during a tour of the building on Tuesday.

The council has been allowed to remain in the current ArtsPost location, now referred to as ArtsPost One, until the developers decide when to demolish it. The building was sold in March to make room for a \$70-million mixed commercial and residential project with two 10-storey towers, leaving the Arts Council with the arduous task of finding a new space to rent.

The new building, located at 10320 94 Ave., was once a sign shop owned by artist and sculptor Peter Vogelaar.

Rosemary Landry, treasurer of the North Peace Potters Guild, was busy on Tuesday with family members moving equipment around in the new space, which is the guild's first home in over a decade since they were forced to leave the Northern Lights College.

"The pottery studio has been in limbo for 15 years and we've just been stored all over the place. This is wonderful – we've been working like crazy the last few months just to get



Hardy Friedrich/AHN

Rosemary Landry, treasurer of the North Peace Pottery Guild, was busy painting a door at the new home of the Fort St. John Arts Council – ArtsPost Too. Landry also had her family involved in the effort. The location's tentative opening date is late September.

this done," she said.

Hopes are that pottery classes, which were popular last year at ArtsPost One, will start in September, and accommodate up to 12 students at a time.

This Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. a garage sale will be held at the

ArtsPost One location, across from Canada Post, to raise funds for renovations. People are encouraged to contribute art pieces or other treasures no longer used to the sale.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to renovate ArtsPost Too can contact the Arts Council.



Bruce Lantz photo

Leave it to kids, they'll always find something of interest at an event like the Fort St. John Arts Council garage sale held Aug. 11 at the ArtsPost. The arts group is raising money to help with their move to new quarters and were delighted with both the donated items put up for sale and the turnout. From left, happy shoppers Austen Nesse, 8, Kyle Nesse, 5 and Brittan Nesse, 4, with arts council president Lisa Bush and executive director Chandra Wong.

A LIGHT TASK

Four-year-old Emma Flavelle pastes some tissue on a balloon to make a lantern at the ArtsPost on Monday. The lanterns will be on display at the Association for Community Living's Illuminaria festival at Centennial Park on Sept. 27. The Illuminaria is meant to celebrate community, emphasizing the message that everyone belongs. Every participant can 'shine their light' as they parade a lantern through Fort St. John and meet at Centennial Park, where the festivities will begin. Free lantern making workshops are being hosted by the association at 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Fort St. John Community



**ARTS
COUNCIL**

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

Fort St John Arts Council AGM

Sept. 12 - 7:00 pm at

Artspost Too - 10320 94 Ave

Garage Sale

Sept. 15 - 8 am to 1 pm at

Artspost (across from Canada Post)

For more information call 787-2781