



Tessa Holloway/AHN

CREATIVE ARTWORK

Heather Hannaford, right, helps Wendy Schmidt with the clay bowl she's creating at the hand-building clay workshop on Wednesday mornings at Artspace Too.

GRAND
OPENING

You and your friends
are invited to the
GRAND OPENING
of the
ARTSPOST TOO

10320-94 Avenue,
Fort St. John

The Artspost Too
is the Arts Council
Studios for Pottery,
Painting and Spinning
and Weaving.

Friday, October 5

4pm to 7pm

Saturday, October 6

10am to 3pm for

Family Day

Mural Painting,
Children's Activities,
Raku Pottery Firing

For further information:
Arts Council Office 787-2781

Fort St. John Community



"Shaping Today. Inspiring Tomorrow"



A FRESH LOOK

Submitted photo

James Landry helps with the framing of a new wall going up in ArtsPost Too. There will be an open house at the new location of the ArtsPost Oct. 5.



DECORATED DOORS

Sept 20, 2007

Ken Gousseau/AHN

Sonja Butts was one of about a dozen artists painting a mural on an overhead door Wednesday at ArtsPost Too. The artists participated in a workshop under the expert guidance of Michelle Loughery, a master muralist from Vernon, B.C.

GRAND OPENING

The Fort St. John Arts Council invites you to celebrate the opening of

THE ARTSPOST TOO

10320-94 AVE. - 1 BLOCK WEST OF ECO DEPOT

COMMUNITY STUDIO SPACE FOR

• POTTERS • SPINNERS & WEAVERS • PAINTERS

FRIDAY, OCT 5

4 - 7 PM - OFFICIAL OPENING WITH RIBBON CUTTING AT 5PM

SATURDAY, OCT 6

10 AM - 3 PM FAMILY DAY

WITH MURAL PAINTING, KIDS ACTIVITIES, RAKU POTTERY FIRING



Arts has a new home in Fort St. John

By Melanie Robinson

FORT ST. JOHN – Several arts groups throughout the city now have a space they can call home.

The new 94th Avenue location of the Artspost officially opened to the public last week – and community members couldn't be happier.

"This is what we've been looking for for years. We really need this type of guild. This is excellent, it's a good start," said Rene Giesbrecht, a member of the North Peace Spinners and Weavers.

It's especially exciting for the local potters guild, who haven't had a place they can work out of for 15 years.

"Until last year we had no space," said adult class instructor Heather Hannaford.

"We intend to make it one of the premier teaching facilities in the province and it's off to a good start."

But it certainly wasn't easy. Over 35 volunteers have been working since June 1 to get the new location ready to open.

"It is about 1,200 volunteer hours, probably more than that now," said arts council director Sue Popesku.

"We're very pleased to be able to have that many people that helped."

One of the volunteers, Rosemary Landry, admitted it was worth it. She and the rest of her family put in a lot of

time to make the studio space what it is today. "It was just a huge amount of work and a lot of people helping out, a tremendous amount of volunteer work."

One thing the council decided to do to cut down on costs was to use the materials offered to them from their old location.

"We had to move and henceforth we were told that anything in the building we could take with us," said Popesku.

"So we had a volunteer carpenter come in and literally tear down the wall in the other space and bring it down here and reconstruct it. Much of the material, instead of buying new material, we were able to recycle."



Melanie Robinson photo

Rene Giesbrecht plies her craft.



Ken Gousseau/AHN

Mary Brockey weaves in the North Peace Spinners and Weavers' new studio Friday at the official opening of ArtsPost Too.

ArtsPost Too a 'dream come true'

KEN GOUSSEAU
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

In the front entrance, the spinners and weavers are plying their craft under one roof for the first time in 30 years.

Near the back, members of the local potters guild are shaping slabs of clay in their spacious new studio – the first they've had in more than a decade. And in the room next to them, where the painting will take place, members of the Arts Council are celebrating the roughly 1,300 hours of hard work that made their new building, ArtsPost Too, a reality. "It's like a dream come true," North Peace Potters' Guild president Heather Hannaford said at the grand opening Friday. "It's perfect."

The potters guild had been without a home for the past 15 years, after they were forced to leave Northern Lights College. Now, the guild occupies the lion's share of the new building, located at 10320 94 Ave.

Pottery classes for children and adults have both been filling up fast, Hannaford said, and the new studio is allowing a greater number of participants to join the sessions.

Members of the North Peace Spinners and Weavers were ecstatic about finally having a dedicated space after three decades of waiting. Rene Giesbrecht said ArtsPost Too will enable the

group to take on guild projects and offer classes in the future.

She added that having a studio will give the group of 20 more exposure in the community, allowing them to increase membership.

"We're really excited to have a place," Giesbrecht said as she minded her spinning wheel. "We've been working toward this for a long, long time."

Arts Council board member Sue Popesku said 50 volunteers worked tirelessly to clean and renovate the commercial building. Wherever possible, the Arts Council used recycled materials from the old ArtsPost, such as the wall with paned glass windows that separates the pottery and visual arts studios.

Popesku emphasized that ArtsPost Too is only a temporary solution, however. Renting the building will cost the Arts Council \$2,000 per month, and that doesn't include utilities. She said with the Arts Council's modest budget, it will take community support to make their dream of having a permanent space a reality.

"The arts sector of this community has been sorely neglected when it comes to facilities," Popesku said.

"One of the purposes of doing this building and having these studios is to show the community just how valuable the arts are."



Ken Gousseau/AHN

MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW

Fort St. John resident Christine Benko and her 9-month-old son Lucas browse through some of the items at the Arts Council garage sale Saturday morning at the ArtsPost. The proceeds will be put toward a new building for the council, dubbed ArtsPost Too. The council plans to put on another garage sale next month.

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Bruce Laantz photo

Lynn Locher, right, and Lisa Bush try their hand at ceramics during the recent opening of the new Artspost Too in Fort St. John. The facility will provide a home to a wide variety of local artisans.



Bruce Lantz photo
Shirley Kerr shows nine-year-old Julia Wissink some of her skills at the recent opening of Artspost Too in Fort St. John.

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ARTSPEAK

A new space for ArtsPost Too

Imagine for a second if you will, a place where arts and culture can be explored with like-minded people, where you can learn to make a clay pot on the wheel or use your artistic abilities to do rewarding volunteer work and help to enrich the lives of people in this city.

Well imagine no longer, for it has now become reality!

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council has been making some pretty big changes as of late. Major things have taken place with our greatly-desired studio space called the ArtsPost.

This heritage building housed the Arts Council office, a gallery exhibition area and a large studio space for working on projects like the Flower Pot Project. Local businesses were invaluable in painting and repairing the building, as well as providing volunteers to get the ArtsPost into shape.

The most exciting part was that the space provided a stable, regular meeting and working space for our member groups, especially the North Peace Art Group, the North Peace Spinners and Weavers and the North Peace Potter's Guild. The development of a potters' studio is something

Fort St. John has done without for 15 years.

The building has since been sold, and the Arts Council moved to a new location, the ArtsPost Too.

We have decided to take on the challenge of operating a storefront building dedicated to promoting and supporting arts and culture in Fort St. John.

Judging from residents' feedback about the original ArtsPost, we feel having a dedicated place for arts and culture is a wonderful outpost and outreach for greater community building.

Our new location is at 10320 94 Ave. and already it's buzzing with activity. As I write this, Shannon Butler of the North Peace Potters' Guild is holding a

children's pottery class in the new and improved pottery studio; Norma Currie of the North Peace Spinners and Weavers Guild is working on her loom and people are coming and going through the space every few minutes it seems.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is working for a better community by supporting and developing the arts and culture.

We strive to facilitate Fort St. John residents to reach and expand their potential through the arts; advocate for the arts, artists and arts groups in Fort St. John; network and connect with all those interested and concerned about the arts; promote the role of the arts in building quality of life and enhancing positive lifestyles; educate the public about the arts as well as market the arts and artists in and around Fort St. John.

This has been a long time coming for the Arts Council. We've been in limbo in terms of space for quite some time, what with the imminent demolition of the old ArtsPost.

After searching high and low for a space that could accommodate our needs, we finally found it and we couldn't be more pleased. Over 1200 volunteer hours went into getting the building in shape, and we couldn't have done it without their help.

ArtsPost Too is open Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. You can contact the Arts Council by phone at 787-2781, by fax at 787-9781 or by email at fsjarts@telus.net.

Aleisha Hendry is the executive assistant for the Fort St John Arts Council.



By Aleisha Hendry