

ARTS

Arts Council kicks off annual Elves Christmas program

**Tara
O'Donnell**



STATE OF THE ARTS

Uncle Gary's Christmas sweater. It's also a time to get a little bit nostalgic. Everyone seems to have that one holiday memory that gets rehashed year after year over Christmas dinner with the family. Mine is the time that mom made a gorgeous apple pie, that upon first bite revealed itself to be made with salt rather than sugar. The taste was beyond horrific and my mother, an avid baker, was mortified. To this day, my mother maintains that it was my cousin and I that switched the contents of salt and sugar containers on her. Twenty some years later, neither my cousin nor I have ever fessed up to this particular stunt since it is far too much fun to listen to mom rant about the incident year after year.

Decorating is another big tradition in our family, and we like to start well in advance of Christmas. Luckily, if you're like me, there is a place in town that is perfect for unleashing all of your creative decorating talent – the ArtsPost! The ArtsPost is home to the Arts Council, where busy little elves are preparing for the upcoming Festival



Submitted Photo

Several volunteers and Arts Council Board members officially open the Elves Christmas program last year.

of Trees Gala and Auction, part of the Elves Christmas program. The elves are hosting decorating workshops to help decorate the Christmas trees, wreaths, and other holiday items that will be up for auction at the Arts Council's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Festival of Trees on Dec. 3.

If you have a love for all things glitter and gold, then we invite you to join us at the ArtsPost from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays or Wednesdays to share in the decorating fun. The ArtsPost is located at 10320 - 94th Avenue.

Decorating workshops will run through Nov. 25.

The official kick off for the Elves Christmas program is Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Quality Inn Northern Grand from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Join us for hot chocolate and cookies while enjoying a preview of the many beautifully hand-crafted items that will be up for auction at the Festival of Trees.

If you would like more information on the Elves Christmas program, please contact us at the ArtsPost at 250-787-2781.

The snow has fallen and though the rest of the world may consider this time of year fall, here in the Peace my thoughts have turned to fuzzy mittens, the crackle of another log being thrown onto the fire, and the scent of sugar cookies baking in the oven. Dare I say it? It's starting to look a lot like Christmas.

The holidays are all about celebrating traditions, good, bad, and ugly – like

ELVES

christmas
2009



Festival of Trees

Gala Dinner & Auction

Thursday, December 3, 2009

quality inn northern grand hotel

6pm



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Tonight's Menu sponsored by:



Thank you for coming to the fifth annual Elves Christmas 'Festival of Trees Gala Dinner & Auction. We hope that you will enjoy the wonderful food, wine, and entertainment. More over, we hope that you enjoy your evening with us as we work towards achieving our fund raising goals for the Fort St. John Community Arts Council.

We have taken extra care to make sure that you are presented with top quality products. Each Christmas tree was uniquely designed by our very own elves who have been hard at work in our workshop. They have decorated in many different styles in order to account for different tastes, whether it's the elegance of the "Holiday Elegance Tree", The fun of the "Tropical Brights Tree", the Uniqueness of the "Butterflies and Bells Tree", The bold "Peacock Paradise Tree", or the very collectable "John Deere Tree", a must-have for any John Deere enthusiast! You may recognize many of the decorations that have come from local stores like Deb's Flower Hut, Canadian Tire, and Dunvegan Gardens.

The ornaments are hand-blown glass by Artist Malcolm MacFadyen of Glass Craft in Vancouver. Each of these ornaments have all been hand painted by local artists. The wreaths have also been creatively decorated by local artisans. All auctioned items will be presented to the successful bidder after the live auction. Arrangements may be made for delivery of larger items, if necessary.

MC - Blair Scott
Auctioneer - Aron Loewen

TONIGHT'S WINES

Red Wine

Saturna

2007 Pinot Noir
(Gulf Islands, BC)
Sweetness Rating: 00

Three Winds

2007 Syrah
(France)
Sweetness Rating: 00

Rose Wine

Santa Digna - Miguel Torres

2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Rose
(Chile)
Sweetness Rating: 00 - 01

White Wine

Rosemount

2008 Traminer Riesling
(Australia)
Sweetness Rating: 01

J.Lohr - Riverstone

2006 Chardonnay
(California, USA)
Sweetness Rating: 00

Dessert Wine

Bottega - Petalo Il Vino

dell'Amore

Moscato
(Italy)
Sweetness Rating: 05

TONIGHT'S MENU

Appetizers

Stuffed Mushrooms, Mini Quiche, Grilled Lemon Prawns

Salad

Caesar Salad

Soup

Potato Leek

Main Course

**Roast Pork with Apricot Glaze
Potatoes au Gratin and Grilled Vegetables**

Dinner Roll

Dessert

Assorted Dessert Tray

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is working for a better community by supporting and developing arts and culture. The Arts Council is an umbrella organization that currently represents 25 member arts groups:

Ecole Central School of the Arts
 FSJ Assoc. for Community Living
 FSJ Country Quilters' Guild
 FSJ Film Society
 FSJ Irish Dance Society
 FSJ Literacy Society
 FSJ Women's Resource Society
 Northeast Aboriginal Artworks Society
 Northern Lights Youth Choir
 SD #60 Band Program
 North Peace Cultural Centre
 North Peace Gymnastics Assoc.
 North Peace Highland Dance Society

North Peace Historical Society
 N. Peace Music Teachers Assoc.
 North Peace Potters' Guild
 N.P Spinners & Weavers Guild
 Northern Dance Theatre Society
 Northern Noise Society
 Peace Arts Gallery Society
 PRN Performing Arts Festival
 PRN Performing Arts Festival
 Slainte Society of Irish Dance
 Stage North Theatre Society
 Theatre BC Peace River Zone
 The Move Dance Society

Along with the Elves Christmas events, the Arts Council also organizes community programs such as the ice carving and snow sculpting events during the High on Ice Winter Festival, the Flower Pot Project, Crushed Grapes Wine Festival, Art That Moves You, and Art in the Park on Canada Day.

The Elves Christmas events are brought to you by the FSJ Community Arts Council. The funds that we raise from these events will go towards security for our employees, and enhancing current programming. Funds raised will also help to offset the high costs involved with renting commercial space in Fort St. John.

Thank you for helping us achieve our fund raising goals which can only result in a stronger, vibrant, cultural community.



Classic Holiday Movie Week

December 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22
 at the Lido Theatre

sponsored by:



Sunday, Dec 13 at 7:00pm
 National Lampoons Christmas
 Vacation

Monday, Dec 14 7:00pm
 A Christmas Carol

Tuesday, Dec 15 7:00pm
 How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Thursday, Dec 17 7:00pm
 Elf

Monday, Dec. 21 (Matinee) 3:00pm
 A Muppet Christmas Carol

Monday, Dec 21 7:00pm
 It's A Wonderful Life

Tuesday, Dec. 22 (Matinee) 3:00pm
 Jack Frost

Tuesday, Dec 22 7:00pm
 Miracle On 34th Street

All Tickets only \$5

Advertising generously
 sponsored by:



Family Entertainment

Sunday, Dec.20

Lido Theatre

3pm

Tickets available at the Lido Box Office

Advance Tickets -
 Adults \$15, Children (12 and under) \$5
 Tickets at the door -
 Adults \$20 and Children (12 and under) \$10.



Live Auction Items

1. Tropical Brights Christmas Tree
2. Scottish Highlands Swag
3. Classic Quilt from the FSJ Country Quilters' Guild
4. Hand-Painted Blown Glass Ornament by artist: Sonja Butts
5. Hand-Painted Blown Glass Ornament by artist: Margaret May
6. Winter White Swag
7. Butterflies and Bells Topiary Tree
8. Silver Sparrow Wreath
9. Peacock Paradise Christmas Tree
10. Pysanky Ukrainian-Style Egg Ornaments by artist: Nicole Parker
11. Hand-Painted Blown Glass Ornament by artist: Penny Boden
12. Dream Weaver Wreath from the NP Spinners' and Weavers' Guild
13. Symphony in Bronze Wreath
14. Blue Pinwheel Quilt from the FSJ Country Quilters' Guild
15. Full-Day Fishing Trip for 4 from Foggy Point Charters
16. Partridge and a Pair of Trees

17. Forest Glen Swag

18. John Deere Collector's Christmas Tree

19. Hand-Painted Blown Glass Ornament by artist: Wendy Wheat

20. Hand-Painted Blown Glass Ornament by artist: Sandy Trout

21. Holiday Elegance Christmas Tree

22. Midnight Magic Wreath

Our Decorating Team

Wreaths, Trees, Arrangements & Centre Pieces

Pam Clemen
Lisa Bush
Angela London
Margaret Cavers May
Nicole Parker
Henry See
Shannon Brash
Rosemary Landry

Daria Dolsen
Russ Wilkinson
Cathy Wilkinson
Tara O'Donnell
Allysha Janes
Morgan Peltier
Richelle Gauvin
Christina Hogarth

printing courtesy of:

Hamilton
COPIERS

Thank you to all Elves Christmas Sponsors:

Diamond Sponsor (\$2000.00)

ArcTech Welding and Machining Ltd.
Hamilton Copiers

Spectra Energy

Gold Sponsor (\$1000.00)

City of Fort St. John
Macenna Staffing Services
Grimes Well Servicing
North Peace Savings & Credit Union

Devon Canada
Moose FM
Energy/The Bear FM
Trevor Bolin Team

Silver Sponsor (\$500)

Alaska Highway News
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Home Hardware Building Center

Northeast News
Petron Communications
Surerus Pipeline Inc.

Brnze Sponsor (\$250)

Canadian Tire

Unocal Canada Ltd.

Copper Sponsor (\$150)

Rhyason Contracting
Transportation

Fedderly

Other Friendly Elves

Dunvegan Gardens
Super 8 Hotel
Sonlight Gallery
The Hair Bin
Deb's Flower Hut

Shoppers Drug Mart
Li-Car Management Group
Rec Pro / Arctic Spas
Frontier Jewellers
PriceSmart Foods

Special Thank You To:

Aron Loewen - Auctioneer
Quality Inn Northern Grand
Members of Stage North Theatre Society
Naomi Shore
Nine Mile

Blair Scott - MC
Systems by Trail
Russell Eggleston
Shirley Kinnis