

FSJ Arts Council to host toga party “Fun-raiser”

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council will host its first ever Toga Party, April 10th at On the Rocks Nightclub. Doors open at 8pm.

This event will serve as fund raiser for the Community Arts Council, with proceeds supporting the continued operation of the ArtsPost facility. The ArtsPost is a storefront building dedicated to promoting and supporting arts and culture in Fort St. John. The ArtsPost is home to the Arts Council’s administrative office as well as meeting and workspace for its 24 (and growing) member groups and includes the North Peace Potters’ Guild studio and the North Peace Spinners and Weavers Guilds’ workspace. The ArtsPost is located at 10320 94th Avenue.

Guests are invited to don their best toga or attire recalling the days of ancient Greece and Rome. Creativity is highly encouraged (floral sheets make excellent togas). Prizes for best costumes will be awarded.

For entertainment, guests will be treated to an evening of dancing, complementary appies, a chance to win a stunning diamond necklace. In addition, there will be a very tongue and cheek ‘Slave Auction’, where upstanding gentlemen will be auctioned off to the highest bidder as the perfect date for an evening. These good sports excel at drink delivery, purse holding, have exceptional dancing skills, and are adept at arranging a safe ride home for you upon the evening’s conclusion.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at the following locations: the Fort St. John Visitor’s Centre, Whole Wheat ‘N Honey Café, Retro Relics, and at the door.



SPY SCHOOL

Move over James Bond, some new recruits are being trained this week to take a shot at your title. As part of ArtSpace's Spring Break Camp at the North Peace Cultural Centre, children are learning a variety of skills that could lead to a 007 designation. "They are in spy training right now. They break into three groups which will teach them how to improve their senses, some physical training and even how to make secret ID badges," said organizer Susan McGarvey. (Above) Hudson Str andberg (left) gets some assistance in making a secret ID badge holder from McGarvey as fellow spies-in-training Madison Fuhriman, Liam McGarvey and Martina Scheck look on. (Right) Glenn McGarvey mentors Hayleigh Forrest in some of the finer points of escape. (David Bell/AHN)



MAR 30, 2010

NEW! NEW!
Canadian Tire
Flyer in NOW!!



Jordyn Forster was one of several little foodies at the Petit Chefs class, one of many programs put on by artSpace.

David Bell/AHN

FEB 26, 2010



David Bell Photo

ARTS UPDATE

Fort St. John Community Arts Council's Tara O'Donnell and Lisa Bush spoke to council at Monday's meeting about the successes and challenges of this year's High on Ice Festival. They presented recommendations to improve economic opportunities and community engagement for next year's event, noting that thousands of people attended this year's festival.



Aleisha Hendry Photo

BOOKMARK ART

(L-R) Edward Stanford, Janice Closson, Lisa Bush, Bruce Christensen and Larry Evans show off this year's Fort St. John Community Arts Council Art That Moves You bookmarks. The bookmarks kick off Arts and Culture week and are available at the Fort St. John Public Library.

ARTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010



File Photo

Edward Stanford, Aleisha Hendry, Bruce Christensen, Lisa Bush and Larry Evans show off this year's Art That Moves You bookmarks at the Fort St. John Public Library.

Arts Council celebrates local artists with collectable bookmarks

Tara O'Donnell



STATE OF THE ARTS

Last month, hundreds of arts councils, schools and other arts organizations across

B.C. participated in a week-long celebration of the arts known as BC Arts and Culture Week. Each year, over 20,000 artists, young people, educators and community members host and participate in performances, art walks, exhibitions, workshops, and public art projects. This past April marked its 11th year, and the Fort St. John Community Arts Council celebrated by releasing its limited edition 'Art That Moves You' bookmarks.

The images on these bookmarks are created from a visual arts program known as Art That Moves You. The Art That Moves You program places original paintings by local artists on the sides of city transit buses,

where advertising panels are usually located. Last year's theme was "Branching Out," commemorating Fort St. John as the recipient of the 2009 Forest Capital of B.C. award.

As a legacy component of this program, bookmarks are produced from the previous year's panel images which were launched during the B.C. Arts and Culture Week this past April. Though Arts and Culture Week has passed, last year's Art That Moves You panels are currently on display at the Fort St. John Public Library and there are still book marks available at the library, so be sure to stop by and collect all eight.

This year's collection of bookmarks features the work of Suzon

Tremblay, Julia Roe, Sonja Butts, Aleisha Hendry, Eliza Stanford, Catherine Ruddell, Shannon Butler, and Wendy Wheat.

Arts and Culture Week highlights the vital contribution that arts and culture make in learning and in life. Music, films, media arts, dance, books, theatre and visual art are a part of daily life, and have a lasting impact. They inspire us, challenge us and broaden our horizons. I think most of our residents would agree that one week is hardly enough time to showcase the rich arts and culture scene we have in Fort St. John. With this in mind, let's proudly celebrate Arts and Culture week all year long!

ARTS

It's gonna be an artsy summer

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council has a variety of events coming up this month



Submitted Photo

Come have some hot chili and get a cool handmade bowl at the North Peace Potters' Guild annual Chili Bowl Bash in June 13.

Tara O'Donnell



STATE OF THE ARTS

Sometimes it feels as if it will never arrive. Spring is elusive here in Fort St. John. It teases us with a day or two, perhaps even a week of fine weather and then comes a cruel pelting of snow. It's a long way coming, but the fair months of summer in Fort St. John are well worth the wait. As the summer solstice draws near, our city blooms with a variety of arts and culture activities.

June kicks off with the 17th annual Kids Fun For All Art Exhibition at Peace Gallery North. This event opens June 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs through June 16. This event is sponsored by the Arts Council and features art created by children from schools throughout Fort St. John.

A longstanding member of the Arts Council, the Fort St. John Association for Community Living (FSJACL) is an organization dedicated to making sure that people with developmental disabilities are able to lead active and productive lives in their communities. The FSJACL is encouraging our residents to commit random acts of kindness! That's right, June 11 is annual Pay It Forward Day. If someone has done something to brighten your day, report them by contacting the FSJACL at 250-787-9262. No act of kindness is too small; this is the day to pay it forward.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council will hold its annual Flower Pot Auction at Centennial Park, June 13 at 1 p.m. After a couple of years lining the streets of Fort St. John, those festive flower pots go to auction, and now is your chance to bid on your favorites! Pots will be on display at Noon. Proceeds from the Flower Pot Auction benefit the Arts Council and this year's organizing groups: The North Peace Potters' Guild, North Peace Gymnastics Association, and Northern Dance Theatre Society.

In honor of the hot months of summer to come, the North Peace Potters' Guild is back at it with their upcoming annual Chili Bowl Bash Fund Raiser on June 18 at 6 p.m. Guests

are invited to come to the ArtsPost, home of the Potters' Guild, to enjoy some of the best chili Fort St. John has to offer. A variety of local 'chili gurus' will be serving up something spicy (okay and some mild offerings too) and they want you to be the judge of who's got the winning recipe. The best part is that the potters have been busy crafting beautiful bowls for you to choose from and keep! For the cost of a \$25 ticket, you can eat as much chili as you can handle, select a one of a kind hand-crafted ceramic bowl, and support the North Peace Potters' Guild. Now that's a win-win situation. For tickets call Natalie at 250-785-4326.

In partnership with the new Fort St. John Community Garden, the Arts Council will be hosting Art In The Garden, for a day of painting and beautifying in the new garden space. Planters, signage, picnic tables, and benches will all be in need of some colorful splashes. Volunteers are invited to join in the fun from 12 to 4 p.m. on June 19. Paint, brushes, and other supplies will be provided. Art In The Garden is for participants of all ages, young and old and all skill levels. Wear your painting clothes and bring your creativity! The Community Garden is located on the grounds of the Church of the Resurrection Grounds; parking on 102nd Avenue.

And of course there's Northern Groove, the magazine with its finger on the pulse of the arts and culture scene in Fort St. John. A go-to guide with the latest happenings and goings on in our city, Northern Groove features a variety of local artists, arts and culture events and organizations, as well as businesses that support the arts. My favorite part is

always the 'Food' section (naturally), which outlines the recipe I'm making at my next gathering of friends and family, complete with a suggested cocktail pairing, and even the play list that goes with it. Genius! Be sure to check out the latest in what's happening in a copy of Northern Groove magazine or online at www.northerngroove.com.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is located at the ArtsPost Facility, 10320 - 94th Avenue. For more information about our organization or our programs, please contact us by phone at 250-787-2781, email at info@fsjarts.org, or visit our website at www.fsjarts.org.

Pipeline to the Arts

ART EXHIBITIONS

- Kids Art-For-All Art Exhibit, June 3 to 17, Peace Gallery North.

FILM

- Fort St. John Film Society presents: The Trotsky, June 14, 7 p.m., Lido Theatre.

MUSIC

- Jammin' at Jacks, June 5, 2 p.m., Jackfish Dundee's.
- That NEAT Thing, June 5, 6 p.m., grassy lawn by Patch Java.
- Music That Moves You, June 16, 7 p.m., Transit Bus - starts at North Peace Cultural Centre.
- Econoline Crush, June 24, 7 p.m., Egan's Pub.
- Jam at the Dam, July 3, 3 p.m., Hudson's Hope.
- Damiel Wesley, July 6, 8:30 p.m., On The Rocks.

THEATRE

- Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll, June 9, 7 p.m., Lido Theatre.

ARTSPOST

- Fort St. John Community Arts Council Annual Flower Pot Auction, June 6, 1 p.m., Centennial Park.
- North Peace Potters' Guild Annual Chili Bowl Bash, June 18, The ArtsPost

Flower pot auction this weekend

DAVID BELL
STAFF WRITER

Got pots? Flower pots, that is. If not, make your way down to Centennial Park this Sunday at 1 p.m. and you can get hooked up.

For the 10th year in a row, flower pots that have adorned city streets for the last two years have been cleaned up and are awaiting a new home, for the right price.

The flower pot program, originally part of the City's Communities in Bloom project, is a partnership between the Fort St. John Community Arts Council, the North Peace Potters' Guild, the Northern Dance Theatre Society, the North Peace Gymnastics Association and the City.

The auction raises funds for the arts council.

There are 200 flower pots around the city and 50 are replaced

each year. Local artists paint the new ones and the old ones hit the auction block.

"It is the program I love doing," said Arts Council executive director Tara O'Donnell.

"People really know about it and seem to love it. The pots are beautiful, the flowers are gorgeous and then also it is kind of a cool extra thing that our local artists paint them."

Individuals, groups and organizations can also sponsor a pot before it finds a home on a street or avenue.

"There are still some sponsorships available but it is filling up fast... Every year we get more and more people, before we even have the pots people are starting to contact us."

For more information, contact the arts council at 250-787-2781 or by email to info@fsjarts.org.



TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010



Aleisha Hendry Photo

PRETTY POTS

Some local art enthusiasts checked out some of the flower pots that were up for bidding at the Fort St. John Community Arts Council's annual Flower Pot Auction. The fundraiser brought in \$4,950.

CANADA DAY 2010



Despite the blustery winds, thousands of people lined 100th Street to watch the Canada Day parade, then poured into Centennial Park for music, food and fun. (Above) Eight-year-olds Angelina Cayford and Emily Ruehl painted some butterflies at the Fort St. John Community Arts Council's kids' art tent. (Top Right) Brian MacMillan was the highlight of Music Under the Stars as part of Canada Day festivities at Centennial Park Thursday evening. MacMillan is currently on a cross Canada tour which wraps up at the end of August. (Far Right) Parade participants showed their patriotism during the long parade route. (Right) Brothers Carter and Zack L'Hurux joust for supremacy on Canada Day. For more Canada Day photos, check out www.alaskahighwaynews.ca (Photos by Aleisha Hendry, David Bell and Stewart Burnett)



Arts Council presents to BC's Finance Committee

Oct 1, 2010
TARA O'DONNELL
*For the Fort St. John
Community Arts Council*

On Monday, October 04, BC's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services was in Fort St. John to hear from community groups regarding our Provinces current funding levels. It is their role to conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming year. The Fort St. John Community Arts Council appeared before this committee to illustrate how last year's dramatic cuts to the arts are affecting our community.

With a more than 40% cut in funding to the arts last year, many arts and culture organizations have been left reeling and the Fort St. John Community Arts Council is no exception. The organization has been forced to make tough decisions like cutting major programs this year such as the Elves' Christmas Program in an effort to remain sustainable. In addition, many of the 28 arts and culture organizations that are members of the Arts Council have also felt the financial pinch.

As an umbrella organization supporting arts and culture, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council felt it essential to speak out about cuts to the arts and how it hurts our community. The Standing Committee is to prepare a report to the Minister of Finance by November 15, 2010 on the results of these consultations. The Arts Council has asked that the Committee recommend that funding levels to the arts be restored to 2008 levels.

Spirit festival funds handed over to the B.C. Arts Council

RYAN LUX
Staff Writer

Following accusations that the B.C. Liberals were treating the Arts Legacy money as a political slush fund, the government announced Thursday that it would hand over the unspent cultural dollars earmarked for this year to the independent B.C. Arts Council and the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils.

The controversy emerged after it became known that \$525,000 of this year's \$3 million Spirit Festival Funds bypassed funding mechanisms that evaluated proposal's artistic merit and supported non-arts events in key MLAs' ridings.

When the government announced the program in July, then Arts Minister Kevin Krueger said it was meant to fund festivals in February 2011 that would rekindle the pride and excitement B.C. experienced during the 2010 games.

Minister Stephanie Cadieux announced Thursday that of the

\$1.15 million left out of \$3 million in festival funding, \$750,000 would go to the B.C. Arts Council and \$400,000 to the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils.

Stan Hamilton, Chair of the B.C. Arts Council said the money would help his organization "in achieving its strategic goals and priorities. The funding supports council's mission of engaging all British Columbians in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for its excellence."

The announcement also has some people in Fort St. John breathing a sigh of relief. Fort St. John Community Arts Council President Lisa Bush said that she's happy that the government has fallen in line with public opinion.

"That's where the money should have gone right from the beginning and that's where everyone was saying it should go," said Bush.

She qualified her enthusiasm, saying she thought it was unfortunate that two-thirds of the arts money had already been spent by the time it was granted to the appropriate organiza-

tions.

Calls to the city's various art groups today elicited more confusion than relief and Bush said that's because few people really know or understand how the funding formula actually works.

Few people in the arts community are intimately involved in the politics of lobbying for provincial government funds through art councils.

Fort St. John lacked the capacity, according to Bush, to run a February festival that would have qualified for Spirit Festival money, because of the proximity to the labour intensive High on Ice festival.

The announcement that some funds would be freed from the Spirit Festival funding restrictive criteria means that there will be more money available down the road to fund local arts initiatives.

"It's somewhat of a relief, because it means that at least for a while there will be some funding stability at the B.C. Arts Council and we won't have to worry about more cuts," said Bush.

•SEE B.C. ON A3

Council declines arts council funding request

RYAN LUX
Staff Writer

Fort St. John city council opted not to bend the rules by providing more funding for the city's arts council Monday.

The council passed a motion regretfully declining to provide \$12,000 above and beyond what they would normally contribute to the Fort St. John Community Arts Council.

Arts council treasurer Sonja Butts, along with Secretary Margaret Cavers May and Director Aleisha Hendry, appeared before the Committee of the Whole and made their case for more dollars saying that the group only depends on the city for 1.2 per cent of its annual budget and raises a significant amount of revenue through fundraising and sponsorships to the tune of \$87,000 in the last fiscal year.

The arts council presented a report that showed their

annual expenses to be \$109,000 a year. Various studies analyzing the economic impact of arts funding indicate that it creates a net bonus to the community. Using a conservative model that argues every dollar spent on arts and culture creates \$2.50 in return for the economy, the group stated they generated \$2,057,500 for the local economy last year.

Beyond the numbers, the arts council emphasized the vital service it offers to a broad section of Fort St. John and area residents. Their report showed that 3,874 locals directly participate in arts council funded initiatives, and reached an audience of 39,750.

Butts told council that arts and culture is good for the community because they allow "creative people to do cool stuff," but added that it provides a critical tool to allow residents to connect with one another.

"Think of an oil fields

worker who packs up his whole family who don't know anyone here and their stuck in their homes for the winter," Butts explained, "Arts programs get them out of the house and let them meet new people and become part of the community."

Mayor Bruce Lantz took exception to the arts council's suggestion that the city only supports 1.2 per cent of the art council's operations.

"Those figures eliminate the \$500,000 we give to the North Peace Cultural Centre every year, so I think your data is simplistic and low," said Lantz

Councillors also expressed concern that providing additional funds to one group could create a slippery slope. Specifically because the arts council's request was to cover operational costs when the city's policy is to provide programming funds only.

•SEE GREATEST ON A3



DEC 2010
Margaret Cavers May, Aleisha Hendry and Sonja Butts petitioned council for a one-time grant on behalf of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council

RYAN LUX PHOTO

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY
ARTS COUNCIL

LOOKING FOR \$31,500

OCT 20
2010

President Lisa Bush started her presentation by notifying council that former Executive Director Tara O'Donnell had to be laid off due to funding.

She went on to request a total of \$31,500 for the Arts Council, saying that funding given to arts has a positive impact overall.

"The provincial government did find, surprise surprise, that the arts are not an expense to government," she said. "Every dollar they put in, they get back more than a dollar. Sometimes I hear the question that if we fund arts, what do we cut? Behind that of course is a lie. You don't have to cut anything, because it helps pay for other priorities."

Bush also mentioned that arts were cut by more than 40 per cent this past year. She noted that arts culture attracts professionals to the community.

Board Director Dayna Manning added to that point.

"What we really do is we help creative people do cool things," she said, which seemed to be the arts council's slogan for the presentation. "The new mandate for the arts council is to connect this community. We are the musical capital of northern B.C., we have an incredible arts theme, and I believe it has to come together with community at a local level. We can start enabling people with their own projects."

Manning said she wants to add side promotions to productions they already have going on, such as having a restaurant discount ice cream during their High on Ice show.

The arts council has also undergone a major change in staff recently, with many new board members as of September.

Bush pointed out that much of what the City gives the arts council goes directly to the 28 member groups.

"Probably every citizen in Fort St. John is affected by this," said Manning regarding the range of member groups.

"This year we're asking for additional funding, because our member groups keep on increasing," continued Bush. "We're finding new people all the time who are doing cool things, so there is that much more demand for the funds that you provide."

Since 2005, the Arts Council has increased in size by 21 per cent, but funding levels have remained the same. Bush also requested support for arts awareness and advocacy programs to help connect people to the events and inform the public of what is going on.

Milestones in History

40 years of Arts and Cultural Development in Fort St. John

from the Meeting Minutes of the
Community Arts Council
1974 to 2010

Fort St. John Community



"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

Fort St. John
British Columbia, Canada

printed
December 2010



available in digital: info@fsjarts.org

ABOUT THE CONTENTS

The information in this document has been compiled from the meeting minutes of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council from 1974 to 2010. The contents of the minutes are assumed to be correct. However, some discrepancies may occur.

The Community Arts Council minutes are available for viewing at the office of the Community Arts Council of Fort St. John.

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
OF FORT ST. JOHN



Location 10320 94 Avenue V1J 4X3

Office Hours: 9-12 noon Monday-Friday
Phone 250-787-2781 Fax 25-787-9781

Email info@fsjarts.org Website fsjarts.org

Mailing Address: Box 6474 Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 4H9

Registered Charity with Revenue Canada since January 1, 1981

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is dedicated to

- developing arts and cultural opportunities for residents and visitors.
- focusing on education and training in all creative arts.
- enhancing the community with artistic programs and activities.
- encouraging individuals to pursue his/her creative talents and skills.

Thank you to these people who helped with information about the activities of the Fort St. John Arts Council.

Heather Hannaford Judy Hawthorne Tony Atkins
Bertha Kirschner Ruthann Darnall

Sue Popesku, member of the CAC since 1975, has compiled this information. She can be contacted at 250-785-6214 or email: spopesku@shaw.ca
printed December 13, 2010

MILESTONES IN HISTORY COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

1967

Provincial BC Centennial Planning Committee establishes Arts Fund for municipalities. Community Arts Council of Fort St. John established.

1968

Overture Concerts assists CAC in sponsoring classical concerts on tour to FSJ.

1969

Potters establish a pottery studio in Taylor.

1970

Fort St. John Community Arts Council registered as a BC Society.

FSJ Centennial Project Committee (Tony J. Brummet) proposes a Com. Arts Centre.

1971

North Peace Potter's move pottery studio to Fort St. John Hockey Arena from Taylor.

Arts Council First Annual General Meeting held at the Public Library June 2, 1971.

1974

Assists with the upkeep and location of the one Grand Piano in Fort St John.

First of Annual Art Fairs in June held in the hockey arena until 1977.

Building Fund established for an arts centre after discussion about unbalanced support for facilities in the community.

1975

First full scale musical (Oklahoma) sold out to 1500 audience for 3 nights.

Arts Council has 6 groups; Town pop. 6000, grant of \$5000 to Arts Council groups.

CAC calls public meeting to pursue formation of an Arts Centre/Library Dev. Com.

1976

Northern Lights College is established in Fort St. John with a mandate to include education in the arts (music, drama, painting and pottery and creative writing).

1976-1980

Potters and Painters Annual Show and Sale held in the foyer of City Hall, Central Dept. Store, Dalmahaghit, Hunter's Mall, and other make-shift locations.

1977

Stage North established at NLC with Brian Paisley as theatre teacher and director.

Community Musician's Grant of Canada Council enables CAC to hire Marianne Survis.

Concert Series separates from CAC with own budget, volunteers, and planning.

1979/80

Two regional referendums for a Library/Theatre complex defeated by narrow margins.

1981

1980's

Jellison Dance Studio establishes dance studio for classes in ballet, jazz and tap.

FSJ hosts first Regional Arts Council Conference establishing PL Regional Arts Council.

First (of 3) Treeline Creative Writing Book published by NLC by Maidie Hilmo.

First Street Banner Competition conducted by April Ingham.

First Regional Juried Art Show in vacant People's Drug Store on NE 100 St/10 Ave..

MILESTONES IN HISTORY
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

1982

Alaska Highway Museum Summer Exhibit (current loc. of WW/Honey).
NLC Academic Conference on the Building of the Alaska Highway for 40th Anniversary.
Artspace established as first home for the Arts on NE corner of 100st/100ave.
Com. Recovery Grt for Artspace, City Special Events, Downtown Assoc. employees.
CAC donates funds to Historical Society to begin establishment of a museum.
Community murals (22) painting begins by "Wall People" for BC Winter Games.

1983

Artspace classes established with 240 registrants on the first day.
CAC partners with Katimavik to bring organizational workers to community associations.
CAC moves at AGM to establish committee to work toward a Cultural Centre.
Arts Council begins Children's Concerts organized by Artspace Classes.

1984

Famous Australian Rolf Harris performs in Fort St. John in NPSS gymnasium.
Potters establish studio at Northern Lights College.
Peace River Zone Theatre Festival held for first time in FSJ.
Artspace has Sports Champs Display and Artworks/Souvenir Shop for BC Winter Games.
Fort St. John North Peace Museum opens its doors..
Artspace funding crisis for operational funds in April. City begins \$650 month support.
Artspace received Canada Works Grant in October. Employs three people.
Public Library opens new and larger location in Overwaitea shopping complex.
Economic summary of Arts Council groups have \$200,000 collective expenses resulting in \$501,000 impact on the community. City supports arts groups with \$5,000.
Artsfest Event developed as an annual event for next three years.
Artsvaark Summer Program established with a '84 Challenge Grant Summer Students.
First Annual Art Auction by local artists.

1985

First Computer purchased and Arts Directory produced.
Canada Council supported sponsorship training with dance workshops/concerts.
Famous children performers Sharon, Lois and Bram in Fort St. John at NPSS gym.
Partly Arts Concert Series established.
North Peace Arts Society formed.
CAC assisted in auditioning talent for Expo 86 Northern Showcase at BC Pavilion in '86.
Expo 86 Legacy Funds \$1 million to go toward library, theatre, arts centre.
Artspace becomes a separate group of the Arts Council but still houses the CAC office.

1986

Heritage Festival '86 organized by the CAC as an Expo 86 Fort St. John event.
Expo 86 BC Pavilion Week has 156 performers from our region- FSJ CAC is organizer.
Job Creation Strategy Grant received: 3 for cultural and tourism training.
Huge Arts and Crafts Christmas sale in Bay Building, the future NPCC.

MILESTONES IN HISTORY
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

1987

Artspace relocates downstairs in same building on 100st/100Ave NE corner..
CAC hosts "Hands Across the North" - a regional arts conference.
Hist. Soc. unveils 10,000 yr old man-made bead found at Ch. Lake Caves.
The "Before Stage" set up in the Bay building, the future NPCC.
Legacy of Christmas Cheer annual event established in "Before Stage".

1988

CAC assists in organizing Petro-Canada '88 Olympic Torch Relay.
Vancouver Symphony plays in Fort St. John at NPSS gym
Job Development Grant received for 3 people: Gallery/Library/Media.
CAC involved in establishing the 50th Anniversary of the Construction of Alaska Hwy.

1989

Just Before Stage in Hamilton Basics bldg. replaces stage in the Bay Building.
Airing the Arts established as a fund raiser and an annual event for next 3 years.
Arts Directory research, compiled, and printed.
Project '92 (Alaska Highway Anniversary Celebration) FSJ office in the Artspace.

1990

1990's

CAC produces "Canadian Heritage Showcase" of local talent for NLC new students.
Conducted "Pennies for the Stage" with results of \$13,500 raised for NPCC.
Many and varied fund raisers conducted for the Arts Centre building fund.
Many meetings with NPCC architects in final planning stages.

1991

Potters dismantle studio at NLC due to lack of space with NLC/NBC expansion.
Transition period for Artspace to move to new NPCC.

1992

North Peace Cultural Centre opens Public Art Gallery, 413 seat theatre, Artspace activity and meeting area, sprung wood floor and Public Library opens.
Arts Council hands over all equipment, activities, and Artspace Classes to the NPCC management as planned.

Arts Council without an office but supports NPCC as it establishes a support base.
Arts Council organizes all Bingos for NPCC.
Children's Festival in June organized by Arts Council.
Street Banner (100 artworks) project with Airshow and 1992 Alaska Highway themes.

1993

Arts Council relinquishes to NPCC their share of ownership of the Grand Piano.
Planning to reactivate participation by member groups.
CAC funds purchase of mid-stage curtains for NPCC stage.
Founded the Lindsay Dumaine Scholarship Fund with donation of Ray/Liz Dumaine.

1994

Provincial conference of Assembly of BC Arts Councils held in Fort St. John Sept 20-Oct 2.
Cable 10 arts video project initiated for once a week airing.

MILESTONES IN HISTORY
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

CAC participation in Bi-Centennial Anniversary of FSJ.
Needs assessment of Arts conducted upon request of City Hall with the aim to pursue office and storage space for the Arts Council.

First Annual Kids Fun Art Exhibit at the Peace Arts Gallery in the NPCC.

1995

Provincial conference of BC Museums Association held in Fort St. John.
Policy dev. and doc. starts with CAC membership and Finance policies.
Participation in SD #60 discussions on Impact of New Grad Requirements.
CAC first attempt to encourage City of FSJ to apply to host the BC Festival of the Arts.
Potters forced to vacate NLC due to lack of space for UNBC.
Organized the Grand Piano at Duncan Cran to go to the NPCC.
Actively pursued office, storage, and studio space in the Rotary Health Unit but Chamber of Commerce took over the building.
Partly Arts Series leave all concert sponsoring to NPCC after 10 years of success.

1996

CAC conducts Doings at the Derrick for one year through a Summer Challenge Grt.

1997

Art Committee established at the Fort St. John Hospital.

1998

CAC takes part in the Centennial Park Planning committee.
Two goals identified at the AGM are 1. find dedicated studio space for arts groups and 2. continue to pursue the hosting of the BC Festival of the Arts.

Actively pursued the old pool as a potential arts space.

1999

Another approach to the City Council to bid for the BC Festival of the Arts.

2000

2000's

CAC and the City of FSJ submit bid to host the BC Festival of the Arts.
Assisted in developing Communities in Bloom.
CAC established fund for future studio space.
Flower Pots program established by the request of the City of Fort St. John.

2001

BC Festival of the Arts welcomes 1600 delegates to Fort St. John May 29-June 3.
Street Banners (60 handpainted artworks) "Children Celebrating Their Community".
CAC works with City Winter Lights Celebration as apart of the Com. in Bloom.
CAC organizes first snow sculpting workshop with Grade 12 students at NPSS and an ice sculpture at the arena by Peter Vogelaar.
Economic Impact Study completed on BC Fest of Arts, Airshow and Gymstrata revealing that \$1.639 million was brought to FSJ with these 3 events.

MILESTONES IN HISTORY
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

2002

CAC works with City on Northern Lights Festival for Dec.-sponsor Air Canada.
Snow sculpting held for Valentine's Day in Feb.
July 1 Art in the Park organized by CAC upon request from City of FSJ.
Work with Econ Dev. Com and NP Film Committee to have Film contacts in NP.

2003

Arts Council hires first part time paid Executive Director Laurie Petrucci.
Mural program planned but grant applications rejected.
Snow sculpting competition took place in December (Ice in Jan 2004).
CAC joins the Olympic Committee and the Olympic Legacy Committees.
CAC initiates Vision of the Arts aiming for a Community Arts Policy.

2004

Arts Council sets up first webpage with help of Oliver Hachmeister.
Ice Sculpting takes place in Jan. -sponsors Hawk Air/ Rhyason Contracting.
CAC takes Festival of Trees (previously of NPCC) as Elves Christmas Festival.
Cultural Capitals Grant of \$250,000 rejected due to lack of Community Arts Policy.
Received Arts POD Grant to hire a consultant for a cultural assessment of the com.
First annual presentation of "The Vagina Monologues" by the FSJ Women's Centre.
City support to arts groups moves p from \$8,500 to \$15,000.
The City Water Tower painted at the request of City Hall.

2005

International High On Ice Competition established by the City of Fort St. John.
CAC organizes Arts Exploration Summer Camp.
Arts Umbrella of Vancouver chooses FSJ for 2 week Children's Art outreach wkshp/exh.
CAC produced Communities in Bloom magazine for the CIB program.
Rear rooms of the Sew It Yourself Shop becomes available to the CAC for temporary work space and office. City renovates part of building to make office space secure.
Taylor supports CAC with one-time grant of \$5000.
City approved \$20,000 to match Legacy Now funds for Cultural Policy development.
Cultural Scan completed by Arts Council.
"Art that Moves You" program initiated of local art panels on the City buses.

2006

High On Ice warm weather forced professional carving to move into the Curling Rink.
Youth-Career Focus (Skills Dev. Can. Grant)- CAC hires student (Aleisha Hendry).
Cultural Plan developed with Bob Yate is first steps to Community Cultural Policy.
CAC organizes visual arts committee for beginning artists who wish space to create.
Can-West New Play Festival hosted in FSJ by Stage North and Theatre BC Sept 14-16.
Entire Sew It Yourself Shop building becomes available to the Arts Council. Duke Energy volunteers help paint and clean up and Artspost I is established.

MILESTONES IN HISTORY
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

2007

Russian ice carvers of High On Ice stay to sculpt ice for the Northern Winter Games.
Snow Sculpting Competition held in conjunction with Northern Winter Games.
Bookmarks initiated as part of the Art That Moves You Program for Arts Week.
Exec Dir Laurie Petrucci leaves and Chandra Wong hired part time.
Part time Aleisha Hendry let go due to financial restraints and no grant funds..
Art of Reduction Exhibit of Art made of Recycled products.
Quilters exhibit "Threads of Diversity" at Peace Arts Gallery.
"Flavours of the World" introduced by Ecole Central PAC.
Artspost II established on 94 Avenue for CAC office, arts studios.
City Com. Development Officer to further the process of a Cultural Policy Dev.

2008

CAC conducts Arts Day for Spirit of BC Olympic Committee.
CAC organizes Crushed Grapes Wine Festival for Feb 15.
Local ice harvesting proves successful for High on Ice and surrounding communities.
Exec Dir. Chandra Wong leaves position and Tara O'Donnell is hired full time Mar 1.
Stage North wins Provincial award for Best Prod in Com Theatre (The Monument.)
Annual Regional Juried Art Show initiated Children's Journal Program by Barb Daley.
CAC receives last of Direct Access funding of \$6,000.
Potter's Guild conducts first annual Chilli Bowl Fundraiser during Summer Solstice.
City hires Arts Consultant Cindy Haapenen (Vancouver) for Cultural Planning Study.
CAC Participates in the City's Community Awards and Neighbourhood Charette.
The First Annual Best Homemade Pies at the Fall Fair is a success

2009

Arts Council has 25 groups; Pop. 18,000, City grants \$15,000 to CAC groups.
Fort St. John North Peace Museum opens new expansion
The Cultural Policy report to the City by Cindy Haapenen in Feb. stalls process.
Last Elves Christmas Festival events held after 6 years of success.

2010

CAC participated in the Tourism Foundation Planning
Initiated the Community Gardens program "Art in Bloom"
Numerous planning sessions revealed a financial shortfall and potential solutions.
Art That Moves You panels were installed at the Enerplex Walking Track.
Arts Council suspends full time Exec. Dir. position in Oct due to lack of funds.

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF FORT ST. JOHN

Location: 10320 94 Avenue, Fort St. John Phone: 250-787-2781
Mailing: Box 6474 Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 4H9 Fax: 250-787-9781
Email: info@fsjarts.org Website: fsjarts.org

Fort St. John Community



ARTS COUNCIL

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

The Arts Council works as an umbrella group for many arts organizations, please contact us for information on the following:

Spinning & Weaving
Literacy
Film
Theatre
Band
Dance - Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Irish, Scottish, Bellydancing, etc.

Quilting
Visual Arts
Gymnastics
Music Teachers
Performance Arts Festivals

Arts Council Programs include:

Downtown Painted Flower Pot Program
Canada Day - Art in the Park
Elves Christmas Festival of Trees & Concerts

Scholarships and Bursaries - NPSS & NL College
Ice and Snow Sculpting - High on Ice Winter Carnival
Art That Moves You - City Transit bus murals

contact: fsjarts@telus.net phone: 787-2781 fax: 787-9781 www.fsjarts.org

Art That Moves You 2006
City Transit Bus Murals
Local Artist: Mary Braaten

Your Arts Council is working for a better community by supporting and developing arts & culture!



FLOWERPOT AUCTION

SUNDAY
JUNE 13, 2010
1:00 P.M.
POTS ON DISPLAY
AT NOON
CENTENNIAL PARK

Fort St. John Community



**ARTS
COUNCIL**

"Shaping Today. Inspiring Tomorrow"

NORTHERN DANCE THEATRE SOCIETY

NORTH PEACE POTTERS' GUILD

NORTH PEACE GYMNASTICS ASSN.



These are just a few of the flowerpots that will be on sale on June 13.

Each one is unique and has been painted by a local artist.

Join us for coffee and snacks and take home one of these works of art for your home or business.



THE FLOWER POT PROJECT

The Flower Pot project was initiated in 2001 as part of Communities in Bloom and in partnership with the BC Festival of the Arts Committee.

In 2002 the project was handed over to the Fort St. John Community Arts Council to continue. Since then, the Arts Council, partnering with various member groups, has arranged for the painting and sponsorship of 50 new pots each year and the cleaning and touching up of 75 pots from previous years to be returned to the streets. Fifty pots are also cleaned, touched up or repainted and sold at auction.

The flower pots have become a familiar and beautiful addition to the streets of Fort St. John each summer and Arts Council is proud to be a part of this celebration of art and beauty.



Fort St. John Community



OFFICE AT THE ARTSPOST
10320-94 AVENUE

787-2781

www.fsjarts.org



Studio 2 Stage (250) 785-8896

NORTH PEACE POTTERS GUILD

10320-94th Ave. (250)-785-5550

NORTH PEACE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

9805-96A Ave. 250-787-5327. www.npga.ca

In partnership with
The City of Fort St. John



Clockwise from left: Wendy Schmidt, Nicole Parker, Tara O'Donnell, Margaret Cavers May, Sonja Butts, and Lisa Bush show off the latest Art That Moves You bookmarks for Arts and Culture Week. Panel by artist, Donna Bozarth.

On the Move Again

The Art That Moves You project is back on the move again! This year's artists have been selected and are busy painting their panels in the 2009 theme: *Branching Out*. Fort St. John is the proud recipient of this year's Forest Capital of BC Award and what better way than to celebrate than by expressing it through art?

Each year, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council partners with the City of Fort St. John and BC Transit to deliver this exciting program. Eight panels in total are painted by local artists which will then be placed on public transit buses for the summer months.

Come spring, the Arts Council creates bookmarks from the previous year's panels. These bookmarks are released during Arts and Culture Week in April each year at the Fort St. John Public Library. They are free to the public and are available while supplies last.

This project celebrates the tremendous talent of our local artists while displaying art in a unique way. Who knows, you may just spot a masterpiece on your way to work today! Keep an eye out, we're on the move!

The Arts Council meets monthly at the ArtsPost every 3rd Wednesday at noon. Everyone welcome!
- 10320-94 Avenue -

Art in the Park is Fun For the Entire Family

Art in the Park is a joint initiative between the City of Fort St. John and the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and is part of the annual Canada Day celebration. Art in the Park is comprised of the Artist Show and Sale, the Children's Art Activities, and ice carving demonstrations.

The Artist Show and Sale showcases the talents of local artists and crafts persons within our community. This event also serves as an opportunity for artists or arts organizations to gain exposure by selling their goods or demonstrating their craft. Be sure to check out the beautiful hand made items such as pottery, paintings, jewelry, and woven items that will be available for sale.

The Children's Art Activities is a real crowd pleaser year after year and not just with the kids! Perhaps there's just something about a table stocked with paint, glitter, paper, and glue that beckons the kid in all of us to get creative. Children will love the hands on art projects, parents will love that the kids are entertained!

Don't forget about the ice carving. That's right, ice carving, in July! Come see an ice carving demonstration and perhaps try your hand at it yourself. Ice carving is a unique art form that with a little practice anyone can learn to do!

The festivities run from 12pm - 4pm, July 1, Centennial Park.



The Children's Art Activities tent is always a hit at Art in the Park, part of the city's Canada Day celebration.

Yes. The city will have to step up and pick up the slack if they'd like for the current level of service to continue. This of course puts them in a difficult position. We'll also be depending even more on sponsorships from local business and individuals.

Some people think that the arts are a frill. They don't understand that the arts can be an important economic driver. We will be working hard this year to demonstrate to those who are swayed by economic arguments how every dollar invested in the arts brings a dollar return that is higher than the money invested.

Think of the Olympics in Vancouver. If people watch the opening and closing ceremonies, it is because of the arts and culture that are on display. From one Olympics to another, the sports are pretty much the same.



What gives each its unique character are the arts and culture that are featured.

This year the province is making money available to celebrate last year's Olympics! It is new funding coming forward from the Province, and it's called the Spirit Festival Grant. The problem is that it is funding for a festival to be held only in February, which, first of all, doesn't leave much time to plan an event like

that — especially on the heels of High On Ice. Some arts organizations across the province are upset about it because of the rigid parameters; it doesn't allow for much creative expression.

If money were no object, what types of things would you like to see the Arts Council do?



There is a lot we could do in targeting teens and the elderly by bringing in artists from out-of-town, putting artists in the schools, offering programs to go out and involve these people.

There could also be multicultural projects to help with the integration of the immigrants who are

moving to Fort St John from all over the world.

Other than cutting back your programs, what are you doing to adjust to the changes that are being forced on you by the cutbacks?

At the moment, we are refocusing our work on our strengths in networking. We have a database of local artists. When people call me and they ask, "Do you know someone who can do X or Y?", our database can provide the answers.

We are beginning a consultation with our groups to see what they need from us and how they see our role.

The people up here have a 'can do' spirit. When someone has an idea, they make it happen. It is a terrific place to be. We will be working with our members and with our supporters in the community to ensure the arts remain vibrant. When I see the generosity of the people here, I am certain we'll come out stronger and less dependent upon the province.



Introducing Devon,
from Patch Java



Mon - Thurs - 6am - 6pm
Friday - 6am - 8pm
Saturday - 8am - 8pm
Sunday - 9am - 3pm

Open Late.
Proudly Local.

OUR LOCAL ARTS COUNCIL: YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE WHO HELP THE CREATIVE PEOPLE!

HENRY SEE

Tara O'Donnell has a passion for the arts. "Art is part of everything, it benefits every sector of the economy", she says. "I have been asked by people who are working on the new hospital project to be part of a judging panel for a children's art contest that the hospital is holding which will then feature the art at the new hospital. Art is part of education. Every child in FSJ should be practicing art in school. Art can bring in tourists. It is one of the factors that makes Fort St John a place where people want to stay and live when they come up looking for work."

Tara is the Executive Director of the Fort St John Community Arts Council, an organization that is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. But with cutbacks in provincial funding for the arts, the anniversary year will be a crucial one if the Arts Council is to survive.

So what is the Arts Council (FSJCAC) and why should people care about its future?

The FSJCAC is an umbrella organization representing 29 arts groups in Fort St John, from potters to weavers and spinners, visual artists to theatre, dance, gymnastics, and more. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the community who isn't connected to the arts either through their kids, theatre, music, or our other member groups.



In the past we have put on projects for the community such as Elves Christmas, the painted flower pots we see on our street corners during the summer, Art in the Park on Canada Day, and we manage both the professional and amateur Ice Carvers' Competition and snow carving activities for the City's High On Ice festival in January.

We are having to scale back our projects with the cutbacks. We don't have the resources to do them. We are trying to do the same job with less money and more members. Now we have to cut.

Where does funding for the AC come from?

We have gotten money from the BC Arts Council, but the arts in terms of the Province's overall budget was cut by 40% - our arts council will receive less money from the BCAC this year, but

the most serious cuts were due to the fact that we lost our gaming money last year (Direct Access Grant). We get money from the City of Fort St John, but most of that is then passed on to our member groups. We also have sponsorships from local business and individuals.

So it sounds as if the burden is being shifted from the province to the locality.



**Grand Opening
Ceremony**

October 13, 2010
F18 Fly-over 5:30 pm
Ceremony 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Fireworks to Follow

October 14, 2010
Community Day 4:00 - 8:00 pm
FREE Activities at the Enerplex



For information call 250.785.4592
e-mail recreation@fortstjohn.ca
or visit www.fortstjohn.ca