

## ARTS COUNCIL REQUEST – STREET BANNERS

Dec 7, 2017

Council approved a request from the Community Arts Council of Fort St. John to support their Street Banner Program for the next three years, at a cost of \$5,000 per year. The Arts Council established the banner program in 2015 and it has been made possible through extensive fundraising efforts and additional support for the arts by generous community-minded businesses. These themed banners have enhanced the City's existing downtown beautification efforts and helped to celebrate local initiatives. The most recent production of banners was \$100.00 / per piece (design, set-up, printing, shipping) at a total cost of \$10,000.00. The Arts Council has now exhausted all recent funds raised for this initiative and approached the City for financial support. The Arts Council contributes to the enhancement of the community whenever possible, particularly in the downtown core, and has stated that it would like to work with the City in envisioning new developments.

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

A Committee of the Whole meeting is tentatively scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Monday December 11, 2017.**

The Regular Council meeting will follow at **3:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2404, 2017 will be held at **6:00 p.m.**

All meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers and the public is welcome to attend.

[www.fortstjohn.ca](http://www.fortstjohn.ca)



**FORT ST. JOHN**

*The Energetic City*





**Below:** Shannon May serves up a slice of the world's best cherry pie.

FALL FAIR AUG 24, 2017



# TAKE PART IN THE ARTS

IN FEBRUARY 2017

“Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts in Fort St. John in 2017”

Feb 3-25 | Art Exhibit “My Canada”  
At Peace Gallery North in the NPCC

Feb 4, 5 | Ice and Snow Carving Workshops  
With the City of Fort St. John register 250-785-4592

Feb 6 | Monday Night Film *Manchester by the Sea*  
With the FSJ Film Society at the Aurora Cinema 7pm

Feb 7-Mar 3 | “Let’s Art” After School for Ages  
5-14  
With Peace Gallery North at NPCC 3:30-5pm

Feb 11 | Fire & Ice Event in Chocolate  
With the Peace Gallery North at the NPCC Tickets  
Available online NPCC

Feb 15-19 | Spinning and Weaving Retreat  
with the NP Spinners and Weavers at NLC

Feb 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 | Wizard of Oz –the  
Musical  
With Stage North at NPCC tickets now available 7:00pm  
Matinees 2pm

Feb 10 | African American Soldiers on the Alaska  
Highway Construction

A presentation at the FSJ Museum 7pm admission free

Feb 12 | Tapping Into Talent  
Local Talent at Seniors Apt #4, Public Invited, 2pm

Feb 14, 24, 25 | Dinner Theatre “Colosseum”  
With Stage North at Pomeroy Hotel Ballroom Tickets at  
stagenorth@eventbrite.com

Feb 18 | HERITAGE DAY “My Canada” Fort St.  
John and Canada 150  
Hands on at the FSJ North Peace Museum 1pm –4pm

Feb 23 | Monday Night Film *Denial*  
With the FSJ Film Society at the Aurora Cinema 7pm

Feb 24 | Pottery Workshop with Ruth Ann  
Tudball  
with the North Peace Potter’s Guild at the Artspost

Feb 26 | Ballet *Kelowna 150 Moves*  
At NPCC Tickets now available npccbcc.ca

FEB 2, 2017

FOR MORE ON ARTS HAPPENINGS  
[www.fsjarts.org](http://www.fsjarts.org)

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Fort St. John Community



“Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow”

10320-94 Avenue  
info@fsjarts.org  
250-787-2781  
www.fsjarts.org

A non-profit,  
charitable organization.

The FSJ Community Arts Council is working towards a better community through the development of arts and culture.

# TAKE PART IN THE ARTS

IN MAY 2017

MAY 4, 2017

“Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts in Fort St. John in 2017”

May 4 | Band Concert *Guardians of the Galaxy*  
120 Musicians Conductor Joe Brooks NPCC 7pm

May 5- Aug 15 | Art Exhibit Trench Art Exhibit  
From Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery at Peace  
Gallery North

May 6, 7 | Art Workshop with Kathy Guthrie  
Featuring Solist Trumpet Chris Young at NPCC 7PM

May 6 | Vivaldi – an Evening of Baroque  
Featuring Solist Trumpet Chris Young at NPCC 7PM

May 8 | Monday Night Film *Maudie*  
With the FSJ Film Society at the Aurora Cinema 7pm

May 11 | Studio 2 Stage Dance Gala  
With Northern Dance Theatre Dancers at NPCC

May 13 (Saturday) | Mother’s Day Dance Recital  
with the Studio 2 Stage at NPCC

May 18, 19, 20 | Stage North’s *Five Women  
Wearing the Same Dress*  
A comedy play at NPCC 7:30pm

May 20- Aug 19 | ARTWALK 2017  
35 artists in 30 venues downtown Fort St. John

May 20 | Fleece for Spinning Workshop  
With NP Spinners and Weavers at the Artspost

May 26, 27 | Theatre Festival Live on Stage  
*Late Company* Fri 7pm, *Self Help* Sat 1pm *Salt Water  
Moon* Fri 7pm At the North Peace Cultural Centre

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# TAKE PART IN THE ARTS

IN JULY 2017 *July 6, 2017*

"Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts in Fort St. John in 2017"

**July 7 | Cemetery Tour Alaska Highway Edition**

With the NP Historical Society

**July 7-29 | Art Exhibit by Elizabeth Harris**

With the NP Historical Society

**July 8 | Textile Arts Market and Music Stage**

Celebrating 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway Free at NPCC 11-3pm

**July 8 | Alaska Highway Road Show**

Original Stories and Songs about the Construction at NPCC 7:30pm \$10 tickets

**July 10-21 | Free Art Camp NPCC**

With Peace Gallery North Registration required NPCC

**July 21 | Western Command Convoy Exhibition of Vehicles**

At the Museum

**July 28 | Travel & Tourism Alaska Highway History**

At the Museum

**Until Aug 15 Exhibit of World War Trench-Art**

From Moose Jaw Museum at the NP Museum

**Until Aug 19 ARTWALK 2017**

28 artists in 25 venues downtown Fort St. John

**Tickets on Sale Now for RON JAMES NOV 21**

At the North Peace Cultural Centre npcc.bc.ca

FOR MORE ON ARTS HAPPENINGS

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# TAKE PART IN THE ARTS

IN AUGUST 2017

"Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts in Fort St. John in 2017"

**Aug 5 - Sep 9 | Summer Salon Show**

Prints and Paintings by Gallery Artists at Peace Gallery North NPCC

**Aug 8 and Aug 28 | Art Camp 5-12 years**

With Spectrum Studios at the Artspost 250-794-1383

**Aug 11 | Cemetery Tour Alaska Highway Edition**

With the NP Historical Soc. At the FSJ Cemetery (100 Ave) 7pm

**August Artists in Residence at Peace Gallery North NPCC**

Tues, Aug 15 Sherry Petryshyn and Barb Wagner 10am-4 pm

Fri Aug 17 Barb Daley 1-4 pm

Tues Aug 22 Lindsay Jardine 1-5 pm

Thurs Aug 24 and Aug 31 Barb Daley 1-4 pm

**Aug 16 Species at Risk Exhibit**

With the Royal BC Museum at the FSJ NP Museum 10am-4pm

**Aug 19-20 At the Fall Fair**

Travelling Museum Trailer at Fall Fair  
Best Pies in the World with the Arts Council  
Sheep to Shawl event with the Spinners and Weavers

**Aug 20 - Nov 30 Alaska Highway Photo Exhibit**

By the late Rudy Schubert at the FSJ Museum

**Until Aug 15 Exhibit of World War Trench-Art**

From Moose Jaw Museum at the NP Museum

**Until Aug 19 ARTWALK 2017**

28 artists in 25 venues downtown Fort St. John

**Tickets on Sale Now for**

Alcan Craze of '42 Live Theatre Sept 29  
and RON JAMES Touring Show NOV 21

At the North Peace Cultural Centre npcc.bc.ca

FOR MORE ON ARTS HAPPENINGS

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# TAKE PART IN THE ARTS IN OCTOBER 2017

**"Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts in Fort St. John in 2017"**

## October Monday Night Films

with the FSJ Film Society at the Aurora Cinema

7pm

Oct 2 The Big Sick,  
Oct 16 The Only Living Boy in New York  
Oct 30 Rebel in the Ry

with Lisa MacLean 7-9pm Oct 16, 23, 20

## Oct 13-15 Workshop Spinning Art Yarns

with Sarah Grimwood and the Spinners and Weavers

pre-register: marionelzawalker@gmail.co

## Oct 5, 6, 7 The Alcan Craze of '42

Live theatre with Stage North and NPCC at NPCC 7:30 show

## Oct 22 Tapping Into Talent

Everyone welcome at the Seniors Home 2pm

## October at Peace Gallery North NPCC

Art Exhibit by Michelle Pringle and Catherine Ruddell Oct 6-28

Artists in Residence Oct 21 Cheryl Peebles  
1-4pm Free weaving

Art Workshops: Tableau Noire with Sandy Troutd 1-4pm Oct 12, Contemporary Art Now

## Oct 20-21 Antique and Collectibles Sale

With the NP Historical Society at the Legion Hall, Fri 2 - 8pm, Sat 10am - 4pm 250-787-0430

Looking Forward to the Recycled Christmas Decorations Sale at the Artspost Nov 18-Dec 16

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SEPT 28, 2017



# FORT ST. JOHN ARTS

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*Celebrating 50 years of the Arts Council in 2017*

## Arts in the 70's Picked Up the Pace

The Fort St. John Arts Council took on more activities and focused on a wide range of cultural initiatives in the 1970's. The pottery studio was moved from Taylor to the Fort St. John Hockey Arena in 1971 where classes were more accessible to a wider group of people. Assisting with the upkeep of the community owned grand piano, the Arts Council helped to find space where piano concerts and classes could be conducted. A Canada Council Community Initiatives Grant enabled the Arts Council to bring in a professional pianist to teach individuals and to organize performances. A Community Art Fair was initiated in 1974 and was so popular that it continued for many years.

After long discussions about the lack of support for the arts in Fort St. John, the Arts Council created an Arts Centre Building Fund in 1974. The following year a public meeting was called to pursue the establishment of the Arts Centre and Public Library Committee. The CCC (Community Centre Committee) worked diligently to gather public support for the Library Theatre Complex to be built where the Pomeroy Sports Centre now stands. Two regional referendums in 1979 and 1980 failed by narrow margins. The design for that plan was tabled but the desire to have an Arts Centre was gaining momentum. It took another 12 years and fundraising of \$4.6 million before the North Peace Cultural Centre was

opened in 1992.

By 1975, Fort St. John had a population of 6,000 and the Arts Council had expanded to include a full season Concert Series, the Painter's group, Workshop Players and Performing Arts. Northern Lights College obtained community arts support to locate in Fort St. John by offering educational courses in music, drama, painting, pottery, and creative writing. In later years, each of these departments were terminated, one by one, as the College required more space for academic courses. The Pottery Studio was the last to be evicted in 1992 and remained dormant for 15 years until it was welcomed into the Artspost in 2007.

The Arts Council ushered out the '1970's having made successful gains in piano music, painting, and theatre but realized that big gaps in heritage, dance and instrumental music still remained to be addressed.

*In 2017, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council celebrates 50 years of Arts, Culture and Heritage development. Each month, historic milestones in the arts will be featured in this newspaper column. Comments and additional material are welcome.*

*Sue Popesku [spopesku@shaw.ca](mailto:spopesku@shaw.ca)*

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## Seven Decades of Music, Dance and Drama

The Peace River North Performing Arts Festival has 600 entries in the 2017 annual dance and music competition in Fort St. John. Parking in the downtown core these two weeks is at a premium with the central location of the Festival at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Music and dance participants did not always have a proper theatre in which to perform. The early festivals were held in the Carlsonia Theatre which was also a movie house. And when that burned down, the Elks Hall, school gyms and the Legion Hall became makeshift theatre space for decades. The 1st Annual Music Festival in Fort St. John was sponsored by the Elks in 1946 and had 136 entries from the entire region. Previous to WW II, Pouce Coupe had held a Music Festival which was such a success that communities decided to hold their own festivals after the war was over.

1946 was also the year that the Alcan Follies originated in Fort St. John. Miss Diana Sandy and Miss Mary Anne Lohman tap danced their way into everyone's heart. Miss Lois Stokke sang and the rest of the troupe kicked up their heels for the appreciative crowds. They were soon sought after to tour Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson.

The Music and Elocution Festivals added drama which expanded quickly to feature over 23 plays in one outstanding year. Classical dance lessons for young

people with Mrs Dorothy Foster increased the numbers of dance entries. The Festival became so big that drama separated to hold their own festival from 1953 on. In 1954, the Fort St. John Players won the coveted BC Hamber Award along with sweeping the BC Drama Festival competition in Penticton with an original play written by Rudy Schubert.

Like many volunteer organizations, the Music, Dance and Elocution Festival had challenging years. From 1959- 1960, Fort St. John did not hold their own festival. Local talent travelled to the Peace Country Arts Festival in Dawson Creek or Grand Prairie. The Festival was revived again in the mid '60's when Dawson Creek and Fort St John alternated years. Two more resurgences, one in 1975 led by Dorothy Pickell, and again in 1987 led by Margaret Fox seemed to have sealed the fate of the Peace River North Performing Arts Festival because they have continued to flourish for the past 30 years.

The hard working Festival Board was proud to have hosted the BC Festival of Performing Arts Competition in Fort St. John in 2016. Only one time before had the entire Performing Arts of BC come to Fort St. John and that was in 2001 for the BC Festival of Arts. The Performing Arts Festival of BC was one of the 5 main organizations that made up the BC Festival of the Arts.

*Sue Popesku For more information [www.fsjarts.ca](http://www.fsjarts.ca)*





# FORT ST. JOHN ARTS

Oct 26, 2017

[www.fsjarts.org](http://www.fsjarts.org) 250-787-2781 [info@fsjarts.org](mailto:info@fsjarts.org)

*Celebrating 50 years of the Arts Council in 2017*

## THEATRE MAKING HISTORY

Original plays were written by Fort St. John homesteaders as far back as 1939. Play writing was a social affair. Creative folks got together to write the stories and produce the plays for their own leisure activity which also treated the entire community to entertainment. Sometimes historic events were re-enacted and sometimes those historic events were skewed to fit the script. In 1942, during the war, play writing and performances were put on hold. The local townspeople were busy dealing with austerity measures during the war and the additional pressures of thousands of soldiers in town who were determined to build the Alaska Highway in 8 months.

Creative folks have surfaced again in this 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway to produce *The Alcan Craze of '42* about the fear and excitement in Fort St. John in 1942. Written by local playwright Deborah Butler, this historic play is directed by BC actor and director Michael Armstrong. Local actors from Stage North have teamed up with the North Peace Cultural Centre to depict the shock and awe of the homesteaders and aboriginals as the town was invaded by the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Imagine a peaceful small village of two muddy streets, a few establishments centered around the Hudson Bay store and no liquor store closer than Pouce Coupe. Fort St. John residents, and history itself, took a major life-changing direction in 1942. The Alaska Highway opened up the North and transformed Fort St. John from a small sleepy village into a thriving business centre which the residents would come to appreciate only decades later. The *Alcan Craze of '42* is live on stage Sept 29-Oct 7 at the NPCC.

Local playwriting resumed with more vigor after WWII. The Annual Drama and Elocution Festival had so many play entries from the schools and from the community that a separate Drama Festival was established apart from the music, speech arts and dance competitions. With the installation of televisions in every household, the prolific activity of playwriting diminished.

*Sue Popesku Fort St. John Arts Council*





# FORT ST. JOHN ARTS

JULY 21, 2017

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*Celebrating 50 years of the Arts Council in 2017*

## ART in HOMEMADE BAKING

The creation of homemade cooking seems to be a dying Art in the fast pace of our daily lives. With the plentiful, ready-made meals available in the grocery stores and little time to prepare supper, packaged products have replaced ingredients from scratch, and the microwave has replaced the oven.

On the top of the most endangered list is homemade pies. Nothing brings back nostalgic memories, real or perceived, than the mention of homemade apple pie fresh from the oven. We associate the smell of baking pie with a warm kitchen, cozy home environment and the promise of good things to come.

Members of the Fort St. John Historical Society have managed to preserve the Art of pie baking. It is a tradition that Historical Society members donate pies for the Canada Day Pie Sale at the Museum. Year after year, hundreds of people stand in line for up to 20-30 minutes to buy a piece of delicious homemade pie with ice cream. More than 700 people polished off about 120 pies this year at Canada Day and still a few missed out when the pies plates emptied an hour earlier than expected.

Following through with the Art of pie baking, the Fort St. John Arts Council has offered The

Best Pies in the World at the North Pine Fall Fair in August as a friendly competition to the Historical Society. Over the years, they have not been able to top the Historical Society in number of pies or in variety of pies. The members of the Historical Society remain the champions, though the attendees of the Fall Fair devour an average of 80 pies during the weekend.

Most of the generous pie makers in the community are over 50 years old. This does not bode well for the longevity of the homemade pie. Along with introducing young people to the forgotten skills of the early homesteaders with lessons like quilting and spinning and weaving, instruction in baking pies from scratch should be part of the required curriculum of The Pioneer Way of Life.

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