

## ARTSPEAK

# Book offers insight into art process

I have always been a bookworm. From the time I was very small, I have loved books and anything to do with books. This is why my most favorite gift to receive is a gift card for Chapters/Indigo/Coles.

To be able to go through any of these stores and pick out as many books as the card amount will allow, it's a wonderful feeling. The best though, is when you come across a book that really gets your head working.

While perusing the bargain tables at the Chapters in Chinook Centre mall in Calgary, I came across a little hardcover called

'Letters to a Young Artist: Building a Life in Art' by Julia Cameron.

Seeing as it was only \$5.99, I figured I couldn't go wrong. It wasn't until I sat down to read it that I realized just how good of a deal I'd gotten.

The book is a series of 'letters' that are written to an unnamed emerging artist by an unnamed established artist. It begins with the old artist asking the young

artist why he feels a need to cram himself into the "chic artist" stereotype (i.e. wearing all black, binge drinking, drug experimentation, promiscuity, whining about how hard it is to be an artist, etc.) and why the young one doesn't just focus on creating art.

As we only get the old artists letters, we only get one side of the conversation, but the letters we do read address the anger and frustration the young artist is having at the old artists' suggestions. After all how many



By Aleisha Hendry

from the young artist's perspective is how unproductive he feels when not making any art; that he's not 'in the mood' to make any. The old artist responds by telling the youngster that that's a load of bull. An artist should be able to take all that frustration and turn it into some kind of art, be it good art or bad art.

Art is based off of emotions, and there's no rule saying that it has to be based off of any specific emotion. The usual thought is that artists are dark and broody, that good art is made through serious angst. Any emotion, be it good or bad, should be used to make art. If you have the energy to feel a certain emotion, why not channel that into creating something? Instead of sitting around complaining about your lack of motivation, make art about your lack of motivation.

I strongly recommend this book to any artist, young or old, emerging or established. It inspired me to dig out my old 'ideas book' and try to work out some thoughts that have been running through my head lately. It's actually really beautiful and

Fay E. Lavallee of the Hudson's Hope Historical Society and also the district maintains that the district of the homeowner and also and maintain one way check and damaging basements.

# Fort St. John receives funding for literacy task force

**ALEISHA HENDRY**  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

The Fort St. John Public Library, School District 60 and the Fort St. John Literacy Society are set to receive \$40,000 to implement a literary task group.

The funding comes from a province-wide \$660,000 investment from 2010 Legacies Now and Literacy Now.

The purpose of the task force is to promote awareness of literacy issues in the area and across

the province.

"We're in phase two of the plan," said Jean McFadden, chairperson for the local literacy society, "In phase one, the task force met and contacted different groups, and it was really broad. They looked at what sort of literacy initiatives they wanted to take."

The next step is starting a campaign, said chair of the task force Orland Wilkerson.

"We're at the stage now where we're trying to implement that plan, and part of that calls for an awareness campaign to make people in the region

aware of the need for literacy skills and what literacy skills can do to improve the community in general," he said.

According to Literacy Now, 40 per cent of adults in B.C. are lacking the appropriate literacy skills that would help them gain advantages in their daily lives.

"We all realize the importance of literacy for economic development, for a person's individual well being, and for mental and intellectual growth. People who can't read face a number of barriers at work, not the least of which is the inability to

advance in the work place," said Wilkerson.

Literacy Now is a branch of 2010 Legacies Now, which was started to bring the spirit of the 2010 Olympics across B.C. by working to develop sports, literacy, and arts and culture.

"(Literacy Now) allows communities to have a close look at what they currently have regarding literacy programming for all ages and support for literacy development, as well as branching from that to what else do they need," said Leona Gadsby, director of community and adult literacy for 2010 Legacies Now.

# Literacy gets boost in Northeast

FORT ST. JOHN - The BC government will provide the Peace River North and Fort Nelson School Districts with \$57,527 and \$42,701 respectively to support innovative literacy programs that help improve students' reading skills, announced MLA Richard Neufeld recently.

"This is an innovative program that provides School Districts with the necessary tools to ensure that our children have strong reading and writing skills," said Neufeld.

"Our government is committed to making BC the best educated, most literate jurisdiction in North America, and this funding is a step in the right direction for students in my constituency."

The announcement supports SD 60's Peer Coaching Literacy

Instruction Project to improve reading performance and close the gap in the success rates between boys and girls and between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. The project will help students develop strong reading fluency and comprehension skills across the elementary grades.

SD 81 will use the funding to provide training to staff on differentiated instructional strategies for the language arts classroom and provide in-service and follow-up support meetings for classroom teachers in Precision Reading and guided Reading.

The funding raises government's investment in district innovative literacy programs to \$15 million. It fulfills a campaign commitment and supports the province's Pacific

Leadership Agenda. The funding will also help BC achieve its goal of being the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

School districts will use the grants for programs and teaching practices geared towards students who struggle with basic reading, writing, and math. All 60 school districts submitted proposals for literacy innovation funding this year. Each district will receive funding for local literacy programs.

Since 2001, the Province has provided more than \$92 million in new literacy funding, including \$15.6 million for public libraries, \$4.7 million for adult literacy, \$10 million for Literacy Now, and \$10 million for textbooks.



# Fort St. John Literacy Society

## **Early Childhood Educator**

Qualified ECE instructor wanted to work with our family literacy program two mornings a week beginning January 2007 for 16 weeks. \$15/hour.

## **Public Relations and Policy Officer**

Recent college graduate, 18-30 years of age, is needed to work with community agencies: conduct research, develop a policy manual and promote literacy society programs: \$18/hour, 32 hours per week, temporary; start immediately and work through April 2007.

Please reply to Jean McFadden, Community Literacy Coordinator,  
[literacy@pris.ca](mailto:literacy@pris.ca) or fax: (250) 785-2127 or phone (250) 785-2110



# The Fort St. John Literacy Society

## **Public Relations and Policy Officer**

Recent college graduate, 18-30 years, who is seeking work experience is needed to meet with other community agencies, conduct research, develop a policy manual and promote literacy society programs. \$18/hour, 32 hours per week; temporary; start immediately and work through April, 2007. Good writing and inter-personal skills preferred.

## **Early Childhood Educator**

Qualified ECE Instructor wanted to work with our family literacy program 8 hours week (2 mornings) beginning Jan 2007 for 16 weeks. \$15/hour.

Please reply to:

Jean McFadden, Community Literacy Coordinator,  
Fort St. John Literacy Society,  
P.O. Box 6196,  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H7  
or [literacy@pris.ca](mailto:literacy@pris.ca) or fax: (250) 785-2127

**Celebrate  
ABC CANADA  
Family Literacy Day,<sup>®</sup>  
January 27.**

For family literacy tips,  
activities and event information,  
visit [www.abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org).

# BOOK SALE!

8115

The Friends of the  
Fort St. John Public Library's  
Annual Book Sale will be held

**Saturday, January 20, 2007**

**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

North Peace Cultural Centre

*There is a good selection of used books for all!*

# REGION

## First meeting for Taylor library board

HANNAH SCISSONS  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Surrounded by brightly colored children's chairs and two shelving units with the books and movies that have been donated so far, the District of Taylor's new library board held its first-ever meeting Thursday evening.

The first order of business for the four appointed board members – Bev Leighton, Betty Ponto, Dianne Rosentreter, and Christina Reier – was selecting a board chair. Leighton agreed to take on the position, while Ponto will be the vice-chair.

They then got down to the business of deciding what actions will take priority over the months leading up to the target opening date of June 1.

Keir Gervais, community services director for the District of Taylor, has been working on getting the library running and provided the new board members with a large binder full of notes on procedures for them to review.

"The book ordering and the hiring of staff are the next steps I see to make," he said.

The board decided to post the job opening for a librarian as soon as possible, and once that position is filled, to consult with the new librarian over the ordering of books. Once that's done, a big job will await.

"Cataloguing and getting the books up and ready to go, and membership guidelines, is going to take a lot of time," said Reier.

Gervais noted that other libraries in the region have been extraordinarily helpful when he's asked for advice and samples of how they do business. Librarians in Tumbler Ridge, Pouce Coupe, and Hudson's Hope, for example, have all sent reams of informa-



Hannah Scissons photo

**The new board for the District of Taylor library held its first meeting Thursday evening. From left are Dianne Rosentreter, Bev Leighton, Taylor community services director Keir Gervais, Christina Reier, and Betty Ponto.**

tion along with offers of help.

"I've received e-mails with everything from how they do business to, well, their attention to detail – they are librarians – all the way to what they eat at meetings," Gervais said.

One big job for the board will be developing a budget. The District of Taylor will be providing much of the money for the operating budget, and other funds will come from government and library council grants.

A meeting will likely be coming in the spring for the board, and likely the community as well, to discuss a vision for the library. Many people have said they want it to have a focus on children, Gervais said, so issues like what percentage of books will be children's books will have to be sorted out, as well as questions of what other rooms at the library will be used for.

The next board meeting is set for Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Taylor library.