



## NEW FACE AT NPCC

MAR 10, 2010

David Bell/AHN

With the departure of former executive director Gordon Grant, who held the position for more than a decade, the North Peace Cultural Centre introduced Bettyanne Hampton (front row, right) as Grant's replacement Tuesday. The hiring committee consisted of (from left) Peter Stringer, Linda Sewell, Andy Falkenberg and David Batterham and the appointment was effective March 1. Hampton brings with her years of experience in non-profit management, and, for the past 15 years, she owned and operated Off the Couch productions.



The North Peace Cultural Centre Presents

1st Annual

# Santa's Workshop Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Build your own Gingerbread House!

Decorate Cookies!

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

+ Crafts, games, concession and more!

\$10 Parent & Child / \$20 Family - Advance

\$12.50 Parent & Child / \$25 Family - Door

North Peace Cultural Centre Box Office.

250-785-1992

[www.npcc.bc.ca](http://www.npcc.bc.ca)

Another fabulous artSpace event!



DEC 3, 2010





David Bell/AHN

## READY TO BOP WITH THE DOODLEBOPS

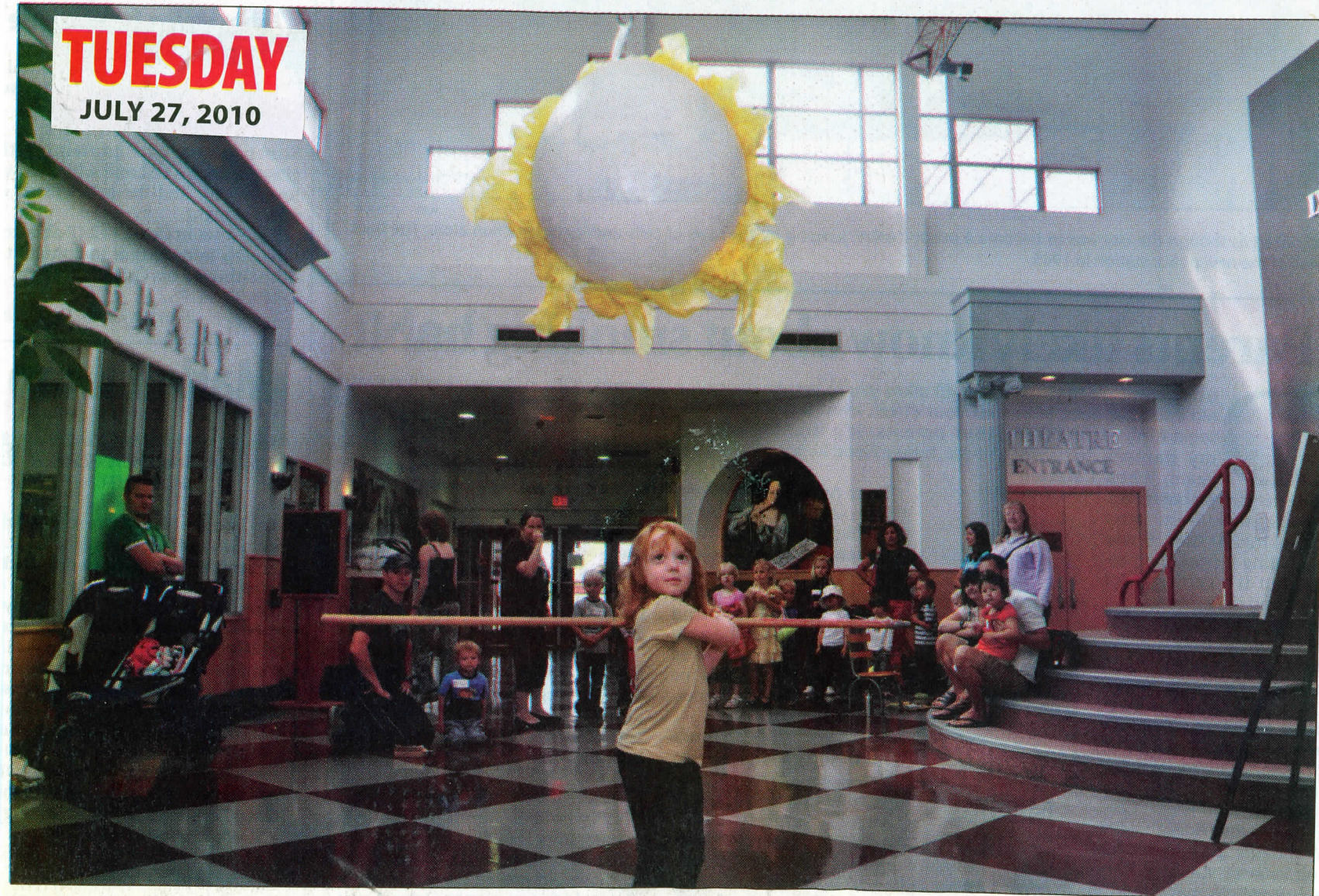
MARCH 20, 2010

Three-year-old Sahara Anderson already has her tickets to the Doodlebops, who hit the North Peace Cultural Centre on March 27 for 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. performances. Moe Doodle is Sahara's favourite. "It is super high energy, we really, really want everyone to participate, get out of their seats. We want them



## TAKE A SWING

**TUESDAY**  
JULY 27, 2010



Two hundred children took time out of their busy summer to visit the North Peace Cultural Centre for a safari party Monday. There was reading and four stations were set up with games, crafts, fun activities and even a piñata.

DAVID BELL PHOTO



**WEDNESDAY**

**JULY 28, 2010**



DAVID BELL PHOTO

Artspace co-ordinator Tanya Shymko says it is time to start thinking about college – the Kids' Summer College of the Arts program at the North Peace Cultural Centre, that is.

ARTS

# Summer art college on the way

DAVID BELL  
*Staff Writer*

Your kids aren't too young to go to college.

The first annual Kids' Summer College of the Arts gets going next Tuesday so, as space is limited, it is time to start thinking about registration.

The 'college' covers visual arts, dance, drama, music, yoga and culinary arts.

Co-ordinator Tanya Shymko said it was parents who drove the need for the program.

"We found that there is a demand for an arts related camp over the summer. Every spring we are bombarded with questions from parents about it. There are sports camps which are great, but there are a lot of kids who are more into art, dance and music and this just seems a logical thing to do."

The arts college is a pilot

program of the North Peace Cultural Centre, modelled after previous summer artspace programs incorporating feedback from parents, students and instructors.

More space has been added to the program this year.

"We used to take 30 kids a week, but we are taking 40 this year because we had to turn people away in previous summers," Shymko explained.

Shymko said the goal is to have kids 'graduate' from the program with a better understanding of many different artistic disciplines.

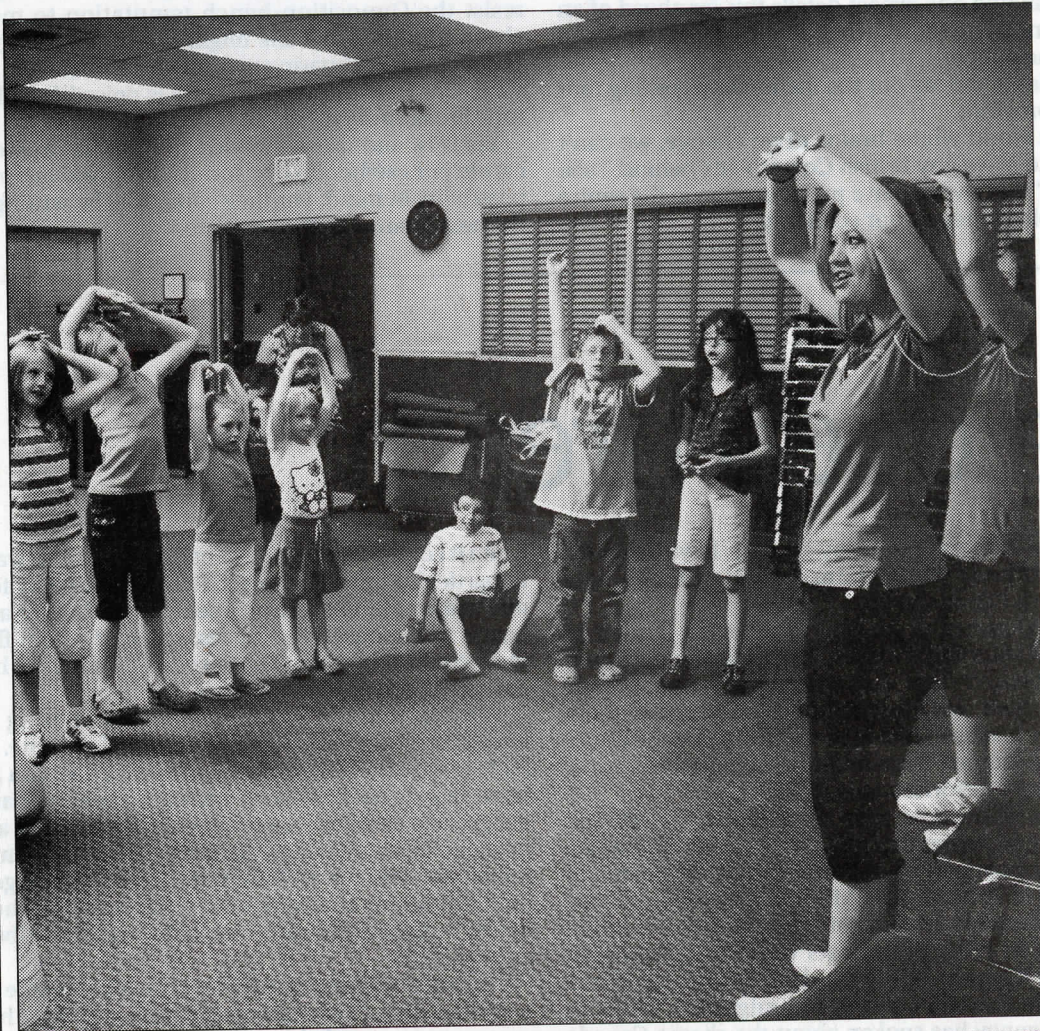
"They will have knowledge of all of the fine arts," she said.

"They learn how to read and play music, different types of dancing, a lot of kids don't get drama in school any more so they get drama, painting and art, cooking."

•SEE ART ON A3



## THE ART OF ENERGY



KELLY LAPOINTE PHOTO

Children at the Kids Summer College of the Arts program learned about energy conservation and how electricity works from BC Hydro on Friday at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

AUG 17, 2010



# LOCAL & REGIONAL NEWS

## LIBRARY UPDATE



DAVID BELL PHOTO

"All of the new floor has been put down, all the baseboards are up. The library has been painted, so right now it is just putting everything back together. Oct. 5 is the new tentative re-opening date," said Fort St. John Library director Kimberly Partanen.



# Library closing for a facelift

**DAVID BELL**  
Staff Writer

The Fort St. John Library will be closed for a few weeks to freshen up its image. It will close its doors Sept. 4 and re-open, tentatively, Sept. 28.

"We are closing to get a floor lift. The carpet is coming up and we are getting all new flooring," said director Kimberly Partanen.

The library moved from its previous location, where Shoppers Drug Mart is next to PriceSmart, in 1992. About eight years ago it got a fresh coat of paint, but that has been it for the past 18 years.

The existing carpet is the original floor covering from when the doors opened way back then.

A new colour scheme will be anchored by a rich brown flooring rather than carpet.

"While we are closed, we

are also getting a new paint job and we are re-arranging the floor layout as well," Partanen explained.

She said a new section for youth and teens will bring together materials that are currently in three different locations.

"This will bring all of the juvenile paperbacks, fiction and non-fiction together in one space rather spread out over the library."

Four new seven-foot shelves for adult non-fiction will also be added.

It was a staff member and her husband that meticulously measured the space and put it to scale, to allow for the new layout, Partanen said.

"It was like a puzzle. It is trying to fit everything that we have into the existing space but in a different configuration."

To make the move a little easier, by reducing what has to be moved, the library is hoping everyone will max

out their cards.

"We are encouraging people between now and Sept. 4 to come in and take their maximum amount of books out, which is 25. The less we have in the library, the less we have to pack. If you sign 25 books out you will get an entry form for a giveaway when we reopen," she said.

Readers are asked not to return books during the renovation.

A Ducks Ahoy fundraiser will be held at the North Peace Leisure Pool on Sept. 25, just before the planned re-opening.

"We are just changing things up a little bit. Trying to make better use of our space," Partanen concluded.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the library in Fort St. John.

For more information on the floor lift and other events, visit <http://fortstjohn.bclibrary.ca/>.



DAVID BELL PHOTO

Kimberly Partanen, director at the Fort St. John Library, has some big plans. The library will be closing Sept. 4 and tentatively re-opening Sept. 28 to undergo some much needed renovations. A new floor will replace the carpet and some fresh paint will hit the walls.



# Fort St. John library is open for business again

Oct 7, 2010

**ALEISHA HENDRY**  
*Staff Writer*

The Fort St. John Public Library had opened its doors to new floors and some rearrangements after being closed for a month.

Library Director Kimberly Partanen said the staff is thrilled to have the library open to residents once again.

"Everybody has just been so patient and we really haven't had any negative complaints – so that's very good," she said.

The library was originally scheduled to re-open last week, but a few delays held them back.

"There was still flooring going in and then we were supposed to open [Oct. 5], but we didn't have any patron computers set up, we needed to do that, we needed to have the front desk wired before we could bring all the comput-

ers back in.

"There's always an extension on big renovations and we're all exhausted. It's been a very busy month."

Partanen explained there were four carts of books dropped off by people who signed out more books that usual to get them through the closure.

She said she's kept the media-savvy public updated on what's been going on via Facebook and Twitter, which helped to spread the word while staff worked to replenish their information posters.

Program coordinator Janice Closson even held the first 'storytime' in the new children's section of the library. Before renovations, storytime had to be held in another room in the North Peace Cultural Centre.

"It's going to be challenging, because I know we're going to be disturbing some people who are using the library,

but it's three mornings a week and it's not for very long, so that's our hope – to be more inclusive, make people feel more comfortable and welcome in our library," said Closson.

Closson said the new layout of the library was a collaborative effort between staff members.

"One of our goals was to make more space – more welcoming space – for children and families because they are major users of the library, but we also wanted to make the library more welcoming to all patrons and give more quiet study areas," she said.

Along with the new floors, upgrades include four new 7-foot high shelves and a special children's section, as well as spacing out of the study tables so they're not congested into a small area.

"We hope that everyone's going to be happy."





ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

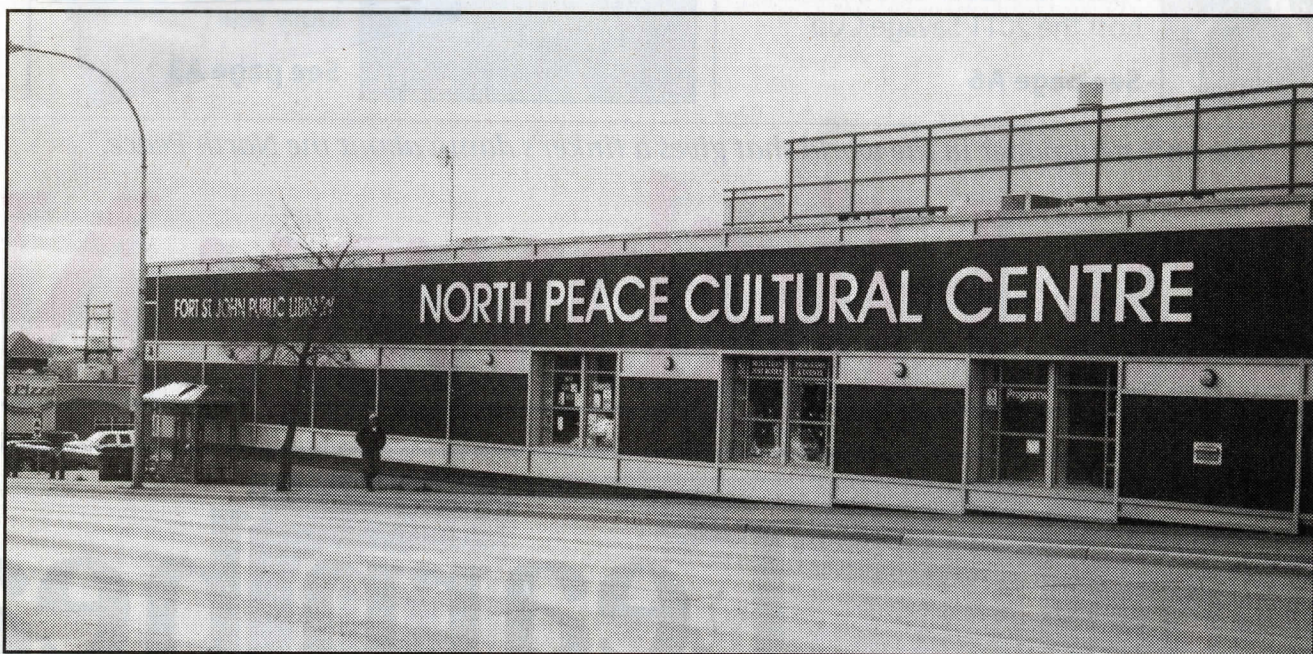
**More space for storytime is a welcome addition to toddlers and storytellers on Fort St. John Public Library's opening day. The facility has been closed for a month to provide the opportunity for some beneficial changes and renovations. See page A2 for details.**

OCT 7, 2010



# LOCAL NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010



## North Peace Cultural Centre working out lease agreement

**RYAN LUX**  
Staff Writer

Space and cash are at a premium at the North Peace Cultural Centre, which has been running a deficit for many years. The shortage of both has left the Fort St. John Public Library, located in the centre, without a lease agreement for the last two years.

The library has been holding out on signing a new lease because they wanted to obtain a priority use agreement for the centre's multi-purpose room.

"We would dearly love to have the room as part of our permanent space because then we wouldn't have to worry about our story-times being bumped out of the space when a group wanted to rent the room," said library director Kimberly Partanan.

Partanan said that the situation has improved since renovations to the library have created a nice story-time space for children, but that the multi-purpose room is still ideal because other people in the library don't have to listen to the stories along with the children.

Compared to other communities, Fort St. John's library is undersized and assessments indicate that it should be

almost double its size.

The impasse, according to Partanan, is that the centre needs revenue and the multi-purpose room rentals is one important source so the library needs to make way for paying customers.

While Partanan stressed that the library and the cultural centre are working together towards the future, she said she and others involved with the library are concerned that the cultural centre is shifting their financial burden onto the library's shoulders.

The two groups presented before the committee of the whole Monday and drew some criticism from council for taking so long to work out a deal.

"The presentations came at an awkward time because we're still in negotiations. We really should have gone through the rental negotiations before we presented but we haven't agreed yet," said Partanan.

She said that they still need to negotiate some items surrounding the \$20,000 rent increase.

North Peace Cultural Centre Executive Director Bettyanne Hampton said that when she arrived nine months ago, part of what she had to do was review some of the centre's relationships and reign in finances.

"There hadn't been any adjustment

in eight years, I thought it was a good time to enter into some conversations and the library was aware of that," said Hampton.

Hampton was reluctant to discuss specific items that continue to block an agreement, but said that the source of tension is financial strain.

According to Hampton the rent increase reflects the actual costs of maintaining the library, which includes utilities, cleaning and security.

"What we did is break down the costs and come up with a number that would allow us to recover the costs, we're not looking to profit at the expense of the library," said Hampton.

But she said the fact remains that the business case for increasing the rent is that it needs to reflect reality.

We're working together the real goal for our meeting was not to create some good financial conditions but to develop a good working relationship between us.

Both Partanan and Hampton agree that they would like to an agreement as soon as possible and realize that council is anxious to settle the disagreement because in the end both organizations receive significant municipal money.