

CULTURAL CRAWL ARTWALK

JUNE 1 - 23

Enjoy this free community event in celebration of the creative energy and expression of our local artists and the culmination of the 20th season of the cultural hub of our city, the North Peace Cultural Centre. Local artists will have artwork on display at a variety of business locations throughout the city, as well as at the Centre.

Full details including venue map will be made available on the NPCC website on May 22.

UPCOMING
AT THE
CENTRE:

MAY 28
MAY 29
JUNE 1

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE LIVE
CHILLIWACK
CULTURAL CRAWL ARTWALK BEGINS



COME GET YOUR SEAT
FORT ST. JOHN'S **TOUCHSTONE** OF THE ARTS

BOX OFFICE 250 785 1992

ONLINE tickets.npcc.bc.ca

FIND US: CORNER OF 100th & 100th

HOME TO DANCE, MUSIC, PLAYS, ART & MORE

THE CENTRE IS THE CENTER FOR
LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**NORTH
PEACE
CULTURAL
CENTRE**

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THE PEAC

Boo! takes over the stage

KATE MILLS
Staff Writer

For one afternoon only, contemporary dance show *Boo!* will bring a unique experience to the North Peace Cultural Centre on Saturday.

Adam Dymburt, general manager of the Sursaut Dance Company that is putting on the show, said the performance is not a story to follow, but something uniquely different.

"What the artistic director is trying to do with this dance and with all the dances we do is create atmospheres and feelings, rather than what you get in the theatre, which is a storyline, a dramatic plot," he said.

He also said the show is different from typical family entertainment that goes for laughs, or popular shows like *Disney On Ice*.

Rather than judge the show's suc-

cess on whether everyone is laughing or happy when they come out, Dymburt judges the show's success on whether or not the audience has been attentive.

"That you can usually feel, because especially with the young audience, if they don't like what they're seeing on stage, they're going to start being jittery in the audience – they're going to start moving around, talking," he said.

Dymburt added that what the Sursaut Dance Company does is different than what is normally presented to family audiences because it's more along the lines of poetry, but in movement.

Stephanie Brochard will be dancing in all the vignettes on Saturday, and really enjoys the challenge of performing in several stories, with different characters and costumes for each.

"I really have to jump quickly from one piece to another, so I have no time to think, and I really like that," she said.

Brochard also noted that because children are rarely exposed to contemporary dance, it's an opportunity to know whether they like it or not, rather than just have an idea of what it is, but never have a chance to see it.

Brochard, who has been dancing since she was four, originally studied ballet, but fell in love with contemporary dance as a teenager.

"It's very wide, ... there isn't a specific aesthetic or a specific technique ... so it allows you to move in various ways," she said.

Brochard said that while ballet gave her excellent training and made her the dancer she is today, she found it very rigid and strict in comparison to the freedom of movement allowed with contemporary dance.

After Saturday's performance, the cast of *Boo!* will be heading to Whitehorse for another show before returning home to Quebec.

Who needs the Cultural Centre?

The North Peace Cultural Centre. Who needs it?

Now there's a question that has and continues to incite heated, passionate and often startling conversations over the Centre's almost 20 years of operation. Passion aside, it's a really great question.

The facts: How many people use the Cultural Centre? Foot traffic is estimated conservatively at 160,000 people per year. The stats are based on direct attendance at classes, shows, meetings, tours, gallery openings, gift shopping, church services, conferences and events, visits to the library, café and general gatherings. Our regional catchment area is approximately 40,000. The math on that represents four visits by every person in the city and regional districts combined.

Add another 10,000 visitors through the Centre for book sales, plant sales, or other events held in and around the centre. That's an estimated 170,000 visits to the North Peace Cultural Centre every year.

Whichever side of the question you're on, the fact is...the Centre is well, well used!

those with a hankering for a great breakfast, lunch or preshow/intermission snack. At any given time, the meeting and conference rooms are filled with a variety of corporate, government, community or private gatherings.

The Centre Box Office sold tickets online, by phone and in person to over 2,000 people last month alone! The Centre exists to serve, inspire and engage the community and it would appear that "those who use the Centre" constitute a significant chunk of the community!

This coming season we'll be doing some shouting out about the great events, shows, opportunities and activities that happen inside it, all as a means to celebrate the ongoing benefits the Centre provides to our fine city. Listen to Moose, the Bear (and often CBC) radio, read about us in the Northerner's Touchstone page (where local artists, events and activities are featured each week), visit our website, 'like' us on Facebook, or best of all, c'mon in and visit us! There's a smiling face ready to share exciting information.

- providing priority booking to local arts organizations and groups.

- providing a full-service box office for all events in the Centre and throughout the community.

- providing a free postal outlet for various community organizations

- publicizing community events on our website, Facebook, press and other media

- assisting in the preparation and production of events

- hosting an exhibit each year in Peace Gallery North for local quilters and spinners and weavers, complete with a gallery hang, an opening gala, media coverage and promotion.

The Centre is also home to teen users who gather weekly in the con-course; it's a hotspot for internet users; a host for horticultural plant show and sales, book sales and a variety of other community gathering activities. It is a hub for arts and cultural activity and it is well used by corporate clients for meeting and

well, well used!

But by who (ok 'whom' if we're using the Queen's English)?

For starters, the Centre is used daily by our vibrant dance community (Irish, Contemporary, Country Dancin', Bollywood, African Dance, and more) for regular classes and multiple performances; by community theatre (Stage North, Spectacular Chair Factory, Peace River Zone Theatre Festival) for auditions, rehearsals and performances! The Centre is home to the Performing Arts Festival, the Community Choir, the Northern Lights Youth Choir, piano students, voice students, drum students, school plays and musicals, dance recitals, and school district band concerts. It is used by the Flying Colours artists, North Peace Spinners & Weavers, Peace Country Quilters and the Horticultural Society. The Centre Theatre itself is in use almost 200 days during its Sept – June season. In fact, over 12,000 of you came to see a local or touring show this past year!

A record number of you attended a Peace Gallery North show opening, sold your art in the gift shop or purchased a piece of local art. Many of you were part of Fort St John's emerging artists who came to work and show in the loft gallery, which also drew numbers of visitors to view your pieces. More creative folks of all ages came to the Centre to take cooking lessons, crafting sessions, music lessons, outdoor or language classes and yoga sessions via artSpace. The Library was well utilized by our whole community and the Café has become a favourite for

information.

We love our community! The Cultural Centre works hard to provide a healthy and vibrant place for people here to work and play in!

FACT: A flourishing arts and culture centre is important for workforce recruitment and retention strategies. As important as good jobs and making money are, most of us want to live and work in vibrant communities filled with creative people and educational opportunities such as the Cultural Centre offers.

FACT: Today's workforce seeks certain characteristics, such in a Cultural Centre, in the places they choose to live. The number of phone calls and emails about our Centre and the programs we offer has doubled in the past year and they're coming from workers considering relocating their families to Fort St John. The Centre is important to attracting talented people and companies to power the economies of our community.

FACT: Communities who have a place for people to socialize, meet, gather, interact and participate produce a more socially invested, tolerant and contributing society. The Centre values and encourages relationships with local organizations to build community through arts and culture. We demonstrate this by:

- providing welcoming and inclusive environment for all cultures, ages and demographics
- providing free space for public meetings and gatherings
- offering discount fee structures to non-profit and charitable organizations

by corporate clients for meeting and event purposes as well.

FACT: A successful arts and cultural centre enhances community pride and self-image through:

- presentation of touring bands and name recognizable artists
- school performances held in the Theatre, which provide a professional training and experience for youth as both participant and audience
- the operation of an art gallery and gift shop which provides opportunity and exposure for both up and coming artists as well as professional level artists which showcases the talent that exists in our community
- the dance studio where dancers of various genres learn, practice and compete successfully at both local and international levels
- hosting world-class cultural and corporate events
- the fine arts preschool, which gives local children the tools for balanced learning and success at an early age and is the first of its kind in the north

The Cultural Centre is excited to continue its role in meeting the needs of a growing and vibrant population, and we thank you for your continued involvement and support. Contact us with ideas and suggestions about other ways we can support our great community. Your input is important and we'd love to hear from you.

- Contributed

Summer Reading Club a Real Page Turner

GAVEN CRITES
STAFF WRITER

The Fort St. John Public Library is giving kids all kinds of reasons to pick up a book this summer.

Hundreds of children aged two to 14 from the area are taking part in the library's Summer Reading Club, recording the amount of time they spend reading and winning prizes as the pages mount. To go with the Club's theme this year – "Up, up and Away!" – there's a helicopter ride up for grabs for top readers.

Library director Kerry France said the Club works like an incentive program to help maintain literacy levels throughout the summer months.

"This area has a little bit of a difficult time reaching literacy levels," she said. "We're definitely looking to battle that and improve those numbers and help children so when they go back into school, they don't dip below that level they worked to maintain. And it's another thing to do during the summer, as well. You can have a collection of books at home and eventually it's going to be tired and you've read them all. So, come here. We have thousands and we share."

The Club saw over 450 members in 2012. A colourful mural travels high up the length of the library walls, displaying the names of children as they progress in how many hours they read.

"There's quite a contest involved," France said, adding any reading material counts. "We do have a huge database of like 60,000 eBooks and audio books," France said.

"There are a lot of our patrons that love using the electronic references and everything digital. But, then there's the people who will never give up their print and they



Gaven Crites Photo

Kristy Giesbrecht took daughters Hayley, 8, and Katelyn, 6, to the Fort St. John Public Library Wednesday to look for Geronimo Stilton books and books about unicorns. Here, Hayley (right) reads to Katelyn July 3.

really enjoy that."

She added: "Whatever the public wants, that's what we're here to give."

A Library and Beyond (LAB) component, done in partnership with School District 60, was added to the program last year, which sees groups of children travel into the community for fun activities one day a week. On July 3, it was

a visit to Fort Bowling Lanes. Other times it's Taekwondo, swimming or the petting zoo. There's also storytime at the library every Tuesday and Thursday

"We don't know how many people are going to show up (for story time)," France said. "Sometimes it's a really big day."

The Club's wrap-up party is Aug. 21.

"During the last month of school, we send our student coordinators to every school in the area and they do a little skit and they hand out all the information to every student that's attending that day," France said. "The school's are all aware of this and we have huge participation."

The Club runs on donations, France explained. The library usu-

ally receives close to \$15,000 from different sponsors.

"We're not quite at that mark yet this year, but we hope to be," she said. "We usually receive another \$14,000 in federal grants to hire our summer coordinators. This year we did not get that... This year we missed out."

Registrations began June 27, but are open throughout the summer.

Page turners

GAVEN CRITES
Staff Writer

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See READING on A3

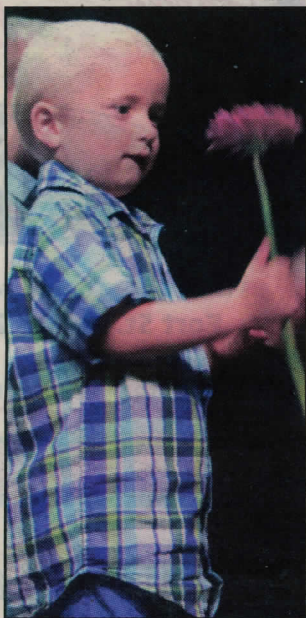


GAVEN CRITES PHOTO

Kristy Giesbrecht took daughters Hayley, 8, and Katelyn, 6, to the Fort St. John Public Library Wednesday to look for Geronimo Stilton books and books about unicorns. Here, Hayley (right) reads to Katelyn July 3.

PlayArts Preschool tots showcase their learning

Three- to five-year-olds showed off a variety of skills they learned throughout the year, like sign language, French, gross motor skills and story telling.



Kyla Corpuz photos

PlayArts preschoolers gave flowers to their parents at their end-of-the-year show/graduation on June 21 at North Peace Culture Centre. At the end of the ceremony they donned colourful grad caps.



Gaven Crites Photo

Students at Taylor Elementary School ring bells to raise awareness and celebrate Sand Sensations B.C. 2013 where from July 27-Aug 2 professional sand artists will go to work creating large sculptures at Peace Island Park in Taylor.

Monster project turns drawings into stuffed toys

By Kyla Corpuz

FORT ST. JOHN - Ms. Ans' Grade 11/12 ceramics and sculpture class from North Peace Secondary School turned Mrs. Foster's Grade 1 class' drawings of monster into three-dimensional stuffed toys.

It was a creative and collaborative project, said Ms. Ans, who added that she will continue the monster project in the future.

The high school students presented the elementary students with their new toys on Jun. 7.







DEREK BEDRY PHOTO

City Councillor Larry Evans displays some early science at the Northern B.C. Regional Science Fair at North Peace Secondary School on Tuesday.

Fun, 2015



Carl E. Johnson Photo

Students from Bert Bowes Middle School put on a performance of Seussical Jr. at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

MUSIC FILLS THE AIR

AT DUNCAN CRAN SCHOOL

Contributed by Christine Todd

Students at Duncan Cran Elementary this past October were thrilled to welcome a very special visitor at their school. From October 9th to 18th, singer/songwriter Paul Hann came to Duncan Cran to offer a music residency to students from Kindergarten through grade six.

Paul Hann is an award-winning singer/songwriter and well-known children's performer. For over 40 years, Paul has delighted as a performer, entertainer, musician, and star of his own television series that ran for seven years and was twice nominated for a Juno award. A talented folk singer, he has released six albums and recorded seventeen children's albums.

Hann has been introducing children to the joy of music in schools for over 20 years. Hann believes that music holds "intrinsic joy that is easily brought to life in all people." Hoping to spread this joy, Hann travels to various schools offering an Artist In Residency program. Typically, Hann will spend one week at a school, although the length of his stay varies depending on the size and need of that particular institution. During this time, Hann meets with each class to co-write a song. Together, Paul and students write, practice, and ultimately perform this song at a special concert. Songs that the Duncan Cran students have written this year with Paul include: "Keepers of the Earth," "Global Village," "Explorers," and "First Nation's People," just to name a few.

One thing every child agrees on is that everyone loves when Hann pays their school a visit. Unanimously, every student mentioned admiring Hann's guitar-playing and vocal talents. They all mentioned

that he is "a really funny guy with lots of good jokes!" Each student I talked to told me that he is a great guitar player and really good at singing. Students are so overjoyed by Hann's arrival, in fact, that at Duncan Cran Elementary Hann was swarmed by crowds of students like a legendary rock star. The students really enjoy writing their own special song and being able to perform on stage for the parents. Everyone mentions that it is such a wonderful feeling when you walk into the building to hear music and children's voices singing.

2012 marks the 15th year that Hann has come to the schools in Fort St. John to share his love of music and songwriting with local children. This year's residencies include: Charlie Lake (Oct), Robert Ogilvie (Dec), CM Finch (Feb), Baldonnel (Feb), Central (April), Bert Ambrose (May) and Upper Pine (May). Paul puts his visits to Fort St John as "a long distance romance," and goes on to say that his experiences in Fort St John are "incredible."

Hann has decided that the 2012/2013-year will be his last pilgrimage up to the Energetic City. Although not yet ready to retire fully,



Evergreen Products Fundraising Program

Made in Quesnel, BC



20" Winter's Salute

Handcrafted with boughs of Douglas Fir, Subalpine Fir and/or Western Red Cedar. Decorated with a large, red, all weather velvet bow and three cone clusters composed of large and small cones with red berries.

\$50.00

19 - 20" Jingling Charm

This door swag is created using boughs of Douglas Fir, Subalpine fir and/or Western Red Cedar. Decorated with a large, red, all weather velvet bow and 1 Lodgepine cone cluster with red berries and 3 silver or gold jingle bells.

\$26.00



20" The Traditional

A Moose Meadows Farm "Signature Wreath" created with boughs of Douglas Fir, Subalpine Fir and/or Western Red Cedar. Decorated with a large, red, all weather velvet bow and 2 large Ponderosa pine cones.

\$40.00

10' or 18' Mixed Garland

Created with boughs of Douglas Fir, Subalpine Fir, Western Red Cedar and Lodgepole Pine wrapped onto a dense, natural rope. 18' comes with 2 large bows.



10' - \$58.00 18' - \$88.00

artspace
AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE



playArts Preschool

20

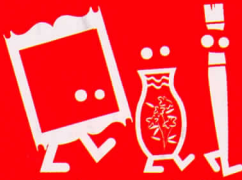


NORTH PEACE
CULTURAL
CENTRE

CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
OF ARTS, MUSIC, CULTURE & COMMUNITY



look for this
decal on the door
of participating
businesses....



Cultural Crawl

artwalk

more info...npcc.bc.ca

20



NORTH PEACE
CULTURAL
CENTRE

CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
OF ARTS, MUSIC, CULTURE & COMMUNITY



JUNE 1-22, 2013

100th AVENUE

103rd AVENUE

100th STREET

FORT ST. JOHN, BC



more artist info: npcc.bc.ca

Cultural Crawl artwalk

Enjoy this free community event in celebration of the creative energy and expression of our local artists and the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the cultural hub of our city, the North Peace Cultural Centre.

participating artists

North Peace Potters' Guild & North Peace Spinners and Weavers

1 | North Peace Cultural Centre Loft & Foyer | 10015 100th Ave.

Showcase of Various Local & Regional Artists

2 | Peace Gallery North | 10015 100th Ave.

Catherine Ruddell

3 | Scoop Clothing | 9935 100th Ave.

Cindy Vincent

4 | Northeast News | 9909 100th Ave.

Heather Best, Penny Boden

5 | CJ's Java on Main | 9905 100 Ave.

Barb Daley

6 | Brad Brain Financial Planning Inc. | 101-9705 100th Ave.

Eliza Stanford

7 | Quality Inn Northern Grand | 9830 100th Ave.

Louise Ruddell, Dora Van Rensburg, Flying Colours Printmakers

8 | Whole Wheat 'n' Honey | 10003 100th St.

Michael Graham

9 | NEAT - Northern Environmental Action Team | 10027 100th St.

Darby Forest

10 | Marcy's Bright Lights | 10107 100th St.

Rosemary Landry

11 | Frolic | 10125 100th St.

Donna Bozarth, Judy Templeton

12 | Uniglobe Travel | 10147 100th St.

Sarah Halse

13 | Piece by Peace Quilts | #1, 9919 103rd Ave.

Miep Burgerjon

14 | Smartz Pantz Kids Clothing | 9919 103 Ave.

Michelle Pringle

15 | Petals and Blooms | 10411 100th St.

Sonja Butts

16 | Systems Sound Source | 10421 100th St.

Sharon Gaunt

17 | Needful Things | #2, 9912 100th St.

Mike Kroecker, Karl Musgrove, Holly Ulrich

18 | Central Emporium | 10040 100 St.

Lana Schallock, Sandy Troutt

19 | This 'n' That | 10112 100th St.

Shannon Butler

20 | Headspace Artefacts | 10116 100th St.

Robin Hamer, Mayrena Valladeres

21 | FSJ Women's Resource Society | 10051 100th Ave.

Steven Ferris

22 | Ferris Fast Cycles | 10109 95th Ave.





On Saturday, June 8th, a ten passenger bus will be leaving the North Peace Cultural Centre's parking lot and stopping for brief art studio tours, including the new hospital common area, giving visitors a peek behind the scenes where creative work occurs or is on display.

This is a fantastic opportunity for local artists to display their work and to educate the public about their artistic directions and inspiration. For the community, this is a great opportunity to meet or become more familiar with many diversely talented artists who reside right in our neighborhood.



bus departure times
will be listed on
npcc.bc.ca
website

Cultural Crawl studios



Miep Burgerjon : Miep's Studio

Open for bus tours June 8.

Shannon Butler : Kilnhouse

10510 - 101st Avenue. Open regular business hours.

Barb Daley: 7 Bangles Art & Design

10166 275 Road, Airport Subdivision

Open June 8 or by appointment (250-262-9974).

Fort St. John Hospital

8407 112 Avenue

Bus tours, June 8 or view artwork in common areas.

Mike Kroecker

13689 Old Hope Road, Charlie Lake.

Open June 8 or by appointment (250-785-4956).

North Peace Potters' Guild: ARTSPOST

10320 - 94 Avenue.

Open for Art Walk, June 1 and June 8.

North Peace Spinners & Weavers' Guild: ARTSPOST

10320 - 94 Avenue

Open for Art Walk, June 1 and June 8.

Michelle Pringle

8011 - 97 Avenue

Open June 8 or by appointment (250-263-7777).

Catherine Ruddell

10507 - 92 Avenue. Open June 8.

Holly Ulrich

9708 - 105 Avenue

Open June 8 or by appointment (250-785-1518).

Bob Young

13347 Sunnyside Drive, Charlie Lake

Open June 8.

Cheryl Peebles Studio & Gallery

10244 - 99th Avenue

Open June 8 or by appointment (250-261-1157).

