

# The Spectrum

Magazine

*Fort St. John's Showcase of People and Business*

Volume 1, Number 1  
Winter 96/97

Complimentary Issue  
\$2.79



## **Schedules!**

Huskies, Maxx's, & More

## **Reviews!**

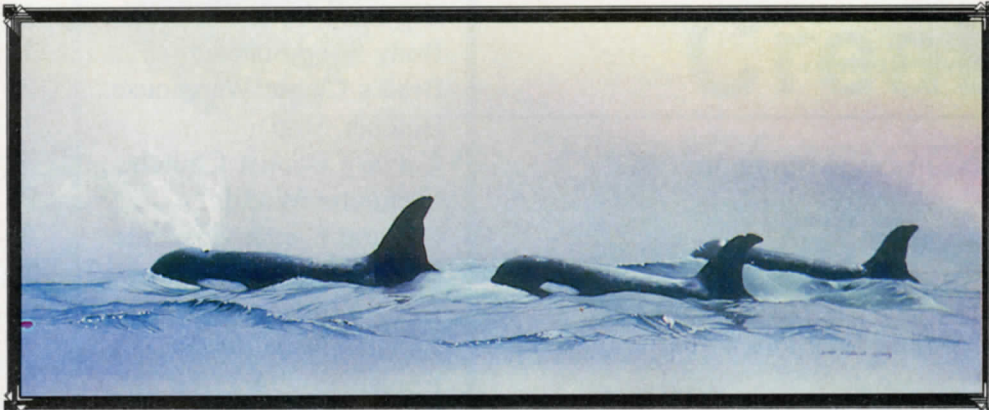
Skidoo's, Movie's, & Books

## **Interviews!**

Leanne Babcock, Cindy Vincent  
and other local people.

# The Spectrum's Artist Gallery

## Work by Cindy Vincent



'Orcas' is done in water colors on water color board.

These three curious whales came to visit Cindy and her family during a boat ride off the B.C. coast that they took during a vacation.



'Swan Seranda' is an oil painting done on masonite board. It took Cindy about three months to finish this piece.



'Echos of the Past' is a painting about the adventures of Mary Henry. Look closely at the clouds and you will see a picture of the past.



'Garden Pond' is the name of this treasure. It is painted with water colors on water color board. This style of painting is new to Cindy. She plans on making more up to sell as prints on cards.

# Imagination Opens up a World of Beauty for Cindy Vincent

By Lynn Haugen

*Imagination opens up a world of beauty and wonder for artist, Cindy Vincent. Her painters' eyes catch the beauty in a magic moment when the sun sneaks through the clouds and lights up the world with its special shining phosphore scene. Light can transform the world from drab to stunning, from ordinary to extraordinary. Light can change your mood.*

Local artist, Cindy Vincent marvels at the natural beauty in the north and raves about light. "I'm working hard with light trying to get a better effect, I never really experimented too much with it before," says Cindy. She points at a canola field which has just been struck with fall sunshine and turned from ordinary yellow to unbelievably brilliant, dazzling yellow. Cindy has been experimenting with all kinds of

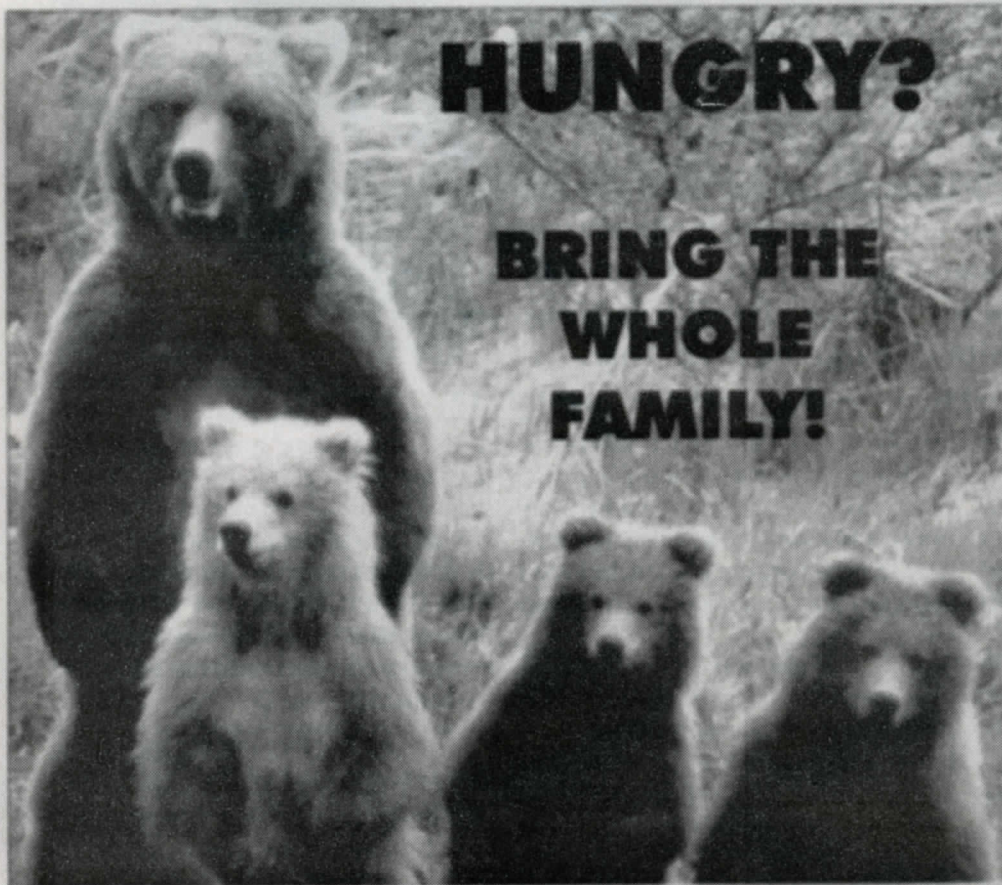
light from daylight, and late afternoon light, to sunset and moonlight. She maintains that each kind of light has its own special magic.

Her current favorite painting is of a rocky beach area on the Beaton River. She calls it 'The Phos', a Greek word, meaning To Shine. When she first stumbled upon the place it was not exceptional until the sun broke through the clouds and for a brief second, kissed the earth. The moment lasted just long enough for Cindy to grab her camera and press the button. Cindy raves about the light, "It was fabulous, the rocks just lit up. The light made it really come alive." Her painting captures the details and ingests something more, a sense of mood and drama into the scene. Cindy

maintains that she added nothing to the painting, and says "I painted it exactly the way it was at that moment."

Painting something exactly as it is, is not Cindy's usual forte. Like the surrealist painters before her she embellishes her paintings with drama mood and poetry. A cloud under Cindy's brush becomes more ominous or more serene than it was before. She transforms an ordinary sky into a stormy one or adds elements that suit her painting into water. "I'll take a picture that I like and normally I don't paint it just like the picture, usually I change it a bit," she says modestly. Cindy uses the opportunity to let her imagination create a scene that has more mystery or intrigue than the original scene had.


There are many rewards open to someone with a rich imagination. Cindy




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loves to visit used book stores and collect the classics. Words and writing have always been an area of pure pleasure. She loves second hand books: A previous owner might have left a thought in the margin. She says, "I love beautiful, leather bound books that people have written in. That's my favorite part, to see what's written in them." She has

treasured copies of Vanity Fair and Ivanhoe and is currently reading Treasure Island to her son. Cindy feels that reading is better than watching a movie because then your own mind and imagination can create the drama. She says, "What you visualize is way better than the stuff you are given in a movie. Reading the books has been so much fun. I enjoyed every minute of it."

Cindy also loves to read poetry. She is impressed with the way a poet can create emotion with words. She maintains that she would have loved to have been a poet, but her gift lies in her ability to make art. She believes strongly that one should go with their gift and that it is a waste of a life if you ignore that special thing that you can do better than anything else. Anyone familiar with Cindy's art will feel the connection to poetry in her work.

When Cindy moved up to Fort St. John with her husband she wondered where he was taking her. It was like the end of the world. Now, she definitely does not want to leave. She's becoming more and more aware of how beautiful it is here. Cindy has plans to paint many local scenes, "I think I should start

painting things I really love in this area," she states.

Several years ago Cindy had the opportunity to take part in a trip of a lifetime. The trip allowed to see more of

***Cindy has plans to paint many local scenes, "I think I should start painting things I really love in this area."***

the northern mountain wilderness and

through mountain on horseback, to a destination that was a whispered rumor. They headed towards a mysterious, tropical valley.

Their trip took 80 days and they did finally reach the Liard Hotspring area and were able to bathe in the hot pools for a brief time before turning back toward the south. Mary Henry loved the north and the adventure.

Cindy and her modern group of adventurers were planning to follow Mary Henry's route, but instead of doing

it in eighty days on horseback they were going to take three by helicopter. Cindy says, "wherever she went that's where we went - we retraced her steps from her journal."

In the helicopter, Cindy was amazed at the height of the mountains and then the steep steep valleys that Mary Henry travelled through.

"I really admire her doing that. I thought Wow, she must have been quite a lady but what

really impressed me was you can be flying and you'd go up and then all of a sudden it was like the mountain just gave way and it was straight down and you'd fly down and come up over the ridge and when you'd think you were going to hit the mountain you'd go uuuuuup and over and see another - just vast - it was so awesome. S



**The name of this painting is 'Phos', which means shine in Greek. It is painted from a picture Cindy took of some rocks on the Beatton River shore. It took Cindy two years to finish it. It is painted with oil paints on MDF board.**

**Cindy says, "I put my heart and soul into this painting."**

feel the special lure of the mountains. She had been invited to join a group who were retracing the route taken by Mary Henry, a Philadelphia botanist, who travelled through northern B.C. in the 1930's collecting plants and northern wildflowers.

The plan was to place a commemorative plaque at the top of the then recently named mountain, Mount Mary Henry and then follow along the way Mary Henry had travelled sixty years earlier. The conditions had been extremely primitive. They left the road behind in Fort St. John and travelled

*In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

Psalm 103:11

**Friendship**

*Anonymous*

*Our friendship, growing from the start,  
Has strengthened as time has passed.  
The bond between us, that we've formed,  
I know will last.*

*Our friendship is a special love,  
The kind that leaves us free.  
Our friendship is a mutual bond,  
That means so much to me.*

*Although we have our separate lives,  
And go our separate ways.  
Our friendship remains a continuing joy,  
That brightens many days.*

*We've rarely expressed our feelings,  
Of our friendship that is true.  
Yet I feel so proud when I can say:*

*I have a friend like you.*

**Gods Substitute**

*I was playing peek-a-boo with my one year old daughter while my four year old son was playing with his cars. My daughter stopped playing and started gazing at my face thoughtfully, when my son says, without looking up, "She thinks your God." My eyebrows went up and my head went back, and I thought, "Thats quite a reputation to live up to. I better not let her down."*

*Anonymous*

**Always Wear Your Seat Belt!!**

I was late returning home, so I jumped into my truck in a big hurry to get home, which was three blocks away. Since I was only driving a short distance, I opted not to put my seat belt on. Coming up to an intersection, I noticed a police car stopped. I quickly tried to put my seat belt on, but it was stuck. So I slipped what I could get a hold of over my shoulder and leaned into

the door. As the police officer drove by, I looked at him and noticed he was wearing a big smile. I thought that was odd but breathed a sigh of relief. Then it dawned on me why my seat belt was stuck. I rolled down my window and looked out - sure enough, there was my seat belt hook swinging in the wind.

Crystal Laboucane

**Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening**

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know,  
He lives in the village though.  
He will not see me stopping here,  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer,  
To stop without a farmhouse near.  
Between the woods and frozen lake,  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake,  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sounds the sweep,  
Of easy winds and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

**"Last Will of a Farmer"**

I leave:

To my wife- My overdraft at the bank. Maybe she can explain it.

To my banker- My soul. He has the mortgage on it anyways.  
To my neighbor- My clown suit. He'll need it if he continues to farm as he has in the past.

To my ASCS- My grain bin. I was planning to let them take it next year anyway.

To the farm advisor- 50 bushels of corn to see if he can hit the market. I never did.

To the junk man- All my machinery. He's had his eye on it for years.

To my undertaker- A special request. I want six implement and fertilizer dealers for my pallbearers. They are used to carrying me.

To the weatherman- Rain, sleet and snow for the funeral please. No sense having good weather now.

To the grave digger- Don't bother. The hole I'm in should be big enough.

To the monument maker- Set up a jig for the epitaph, "Here lies a farmer who has now properly assumed all of his obligations."

Author Unknown

Ever feel like a doughnut? You're either in the dough or in the hole.

# Don Nearhood's Memories in Miniature

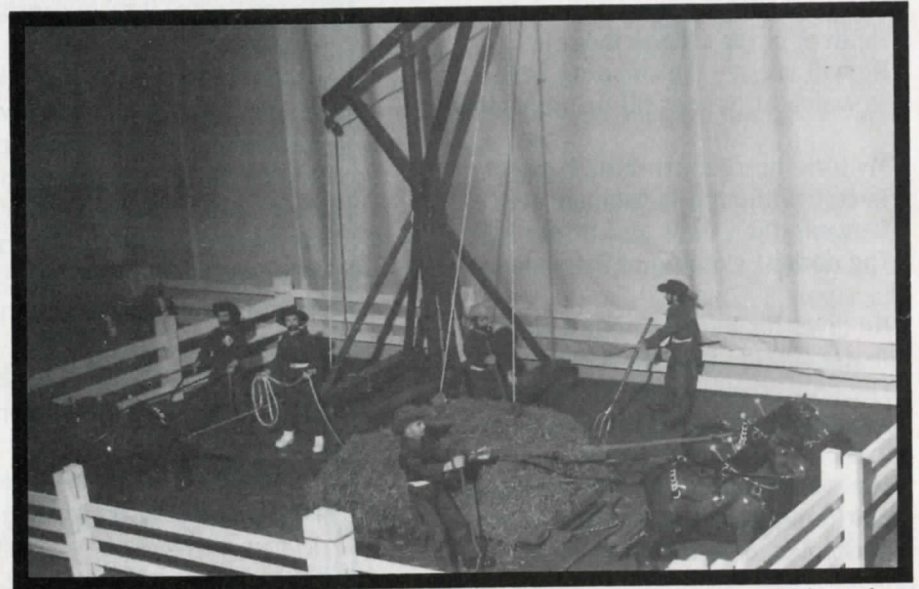
By Crystal and Carolyn Laboucane  
Thanks to the Peace River Regional  
District for their help.  
Photos Supplied by Don Nearhood



**T**wenty two years ago, Don Nearhood's daughter bought him a ceramic horse. He looked at that horse and decided it needed a harness. Ten years later, this hobby of building in miniature, exact working replicas of full size items, has exploded into a huge exhibit. His work has been shown all over western Canada, and was also the showcase of the ninth largest fair in the United States.

At one time Don had all his miniatures displayed in a shop located on his farm. The main attraction was a display called the Big Hitch. It was a long haul freighter with ten wagons and thirty-six horses all rigged up together. It is a replica of an actual unit that was driven from Glecian to the Calgary Stampede in the '20's. It was put together to break the record for the longest hitch, but wasn't actually used in the long haul freighting business.

In Don's lifetime, he has worked as a logger, farmer, freighter, cook and been an outdoorsman. When he retired, he duplicated these activities in miniature. The only thing that stood in his way of continuing to build and show his work is age.

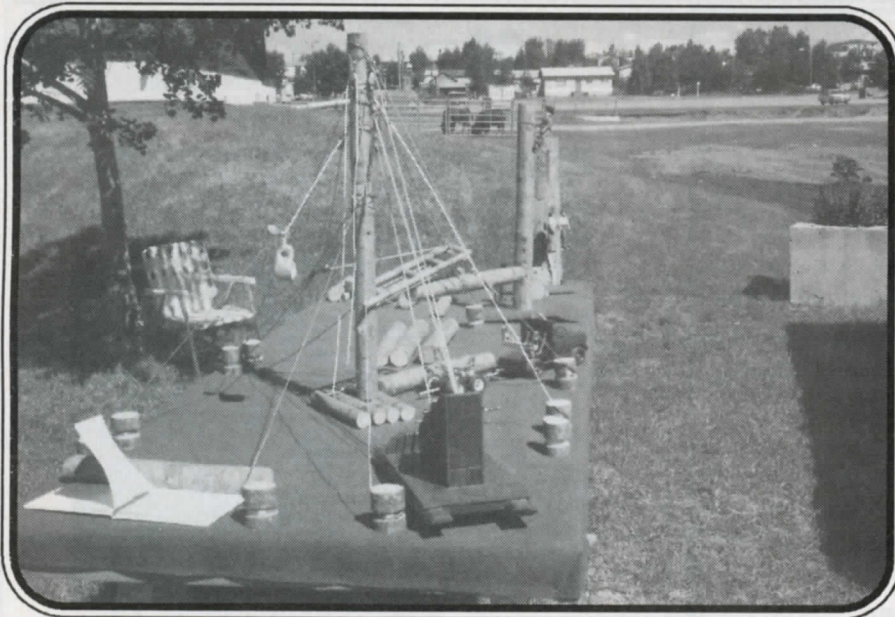


Don says, "I owe a lot to my wife Marie too. She had so much patience with me. For ten years, all I did was work and make my exhibits. I was surprised each morning when I woke up that she was still there."

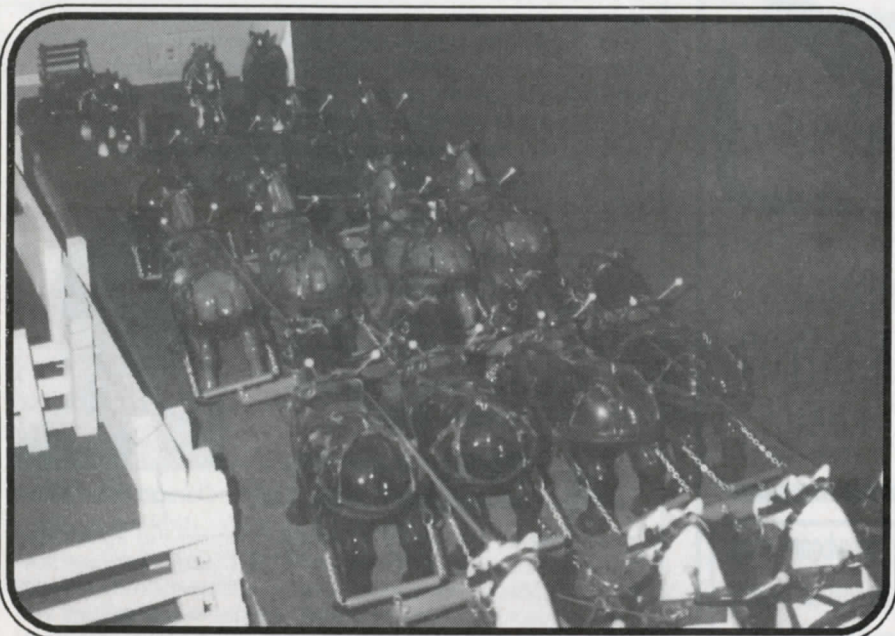
Marie says to that remark, "Now you tell me!"

Don's dream is to set up the complete exhibit in one place, and teach someone how to use each piece of work. This picture of the past, Don feels is the legacy that he wants to leave to the younger generation to look at, so they will understand how things were done in the 'old days' If you would like more information, feel free to call Don at 630-2440.

During harvest time, this hay derrick or stacker would be taken into the fields and used to make stacks of the harvest. The stacks would then be loaded onto a platform hooked up to a team of horses. Then the team would haul the load away to the barn for it be stored. Don says, "Making the pulley's that separated the slings from the attachment was the hardest part of this display to build."



*This is a working logging operation. Don painstaking built it from scratch. It is complete with winches, pulleys, block and tackle, tongs, booms, spars, and skidders. At a logging site, this device was used to tow the logs in from the bush, and also load the logs onto the trailers of the semi's. Later on, Don built a donkey engine, which is an engine that was used to move all the lines automatically. Everything that Don does, including the machinery, is done completely from scratch and it all works. If it didn't work, Don would take it all apart and do it again. All together, it took Don about 5 weeks to build the entire exhibit.*



*All Harnesses were cut by hand from leather and meticulously put together with all the proper rings and chains. This team of sixteen is pulling a fully operational 4 bottom gang plow and is a replica of Don's fathers farming operation that he used in Montana from 1916 to 1922.*



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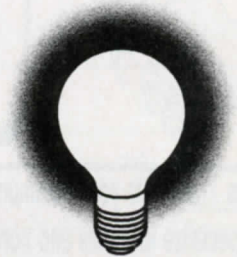
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Crystal Laboucane

OUR MISSION

The Spectrum is a publication dedicated to celebrating the positive aspects of Fort St. John and area. A variety of topics will be covered and shall include a human interest, neutral perspective. Enthusiasm, dedication and a common purpose will keep staff members working together with the community to produce an entertaining, thought-provoking magazine.

There was a lot of hard work put into this magazine. Misty Beattie has done sales, distribution, promotion and ad design. Brenda Harrison has written an article, started the venture, devised a business plan, and ad design. Jeanne Chapple has been our sales representative. Crystal Laboucane, me, has written articles, ran the office, and did the magazine layout. Bob and Lynn Haugen have written an article, ad design, consulting, and designed the magazine. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank these people for their hard work getting this book together. Nothing worth doing is easy.

Here at the Spectrum, we are just starting in this type of business. We are trying to create something that will touch the heart strings of the people in Fort St. John. We also want this book to be a reference of all the different schedules of the organizations running in our town. We want the people of Fort St. John to help us make this magazine something to be proud of.

The Spectrum was brought to you courtesy of the business's that have showed their support of this venture by advertising with us. If you notice a business's ad, mention it to them. It will help them and us know what areas we should focus on. Thank You from us folks at the Spectrum!

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Wine and Cheese Luncheon

Everyone that had anything to do with this edition of the Spectrum will be invited to a wine and cheese luncheon, that the Cultural Center has generously sponsored.

The people that will be invited includes the business's that have advertised with us, writers, the people that the articles were written about, media, and the people that contributed to the production of the magazine.

The luncheon is a celebration of the distribution of the magazine and its contents! There will be prizes awarded for the best ad, best article, etc., and hopefully a guest speaker.

Invitations will be going out in January, with the luncheon taking place around the end of the month or beginning of February.

VOTE FOR THE BEST WORK

Prizes will be given out for the best items in this magazine. We would love to know what you thought.

Color Ad- \_\_\_\_\_

Black and White Ad- \_\_\_\_\_

Article- \_\_\_\_\_

Poem- \_\_\_\_\_

Review- \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule- \_\_\_\_\_

Photo- \_\_\_\_\_

Handy Hint- \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for participating. Your support is appreciated!!