



Two Peace Country icons will choose the best theme song for the 2017 Alaska Highway Celebrations from the many entries submitted by local musicians. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council announced that well-known musician, Roy Forbes, and accomplished writer, Caroline Woodward, both originally from the Peace Country, will select the most appropriate entry when the competition ends on November 30, 2015. The songwriter whose work is chosen will receive a \$1,000 prize.

Forbes (formerly known as Bim), began his musical career in 1971 when he left his hometown of Dawson Creek to move to Vancouver. He was 18 years old. By the end of that same year, Forbes had made a name for himself, landing a late 1971 appearance at Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre. His performance made headlines, and his first LP *Kid Full of Dreams*, hit the Top 10 in several major Canadian markets. Since then, Forbes has received Juno nominations, West Coast Music Awards and in June 2007, he received an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree from Northern Lights College in recognition of his decades of work. In that same year, the City of Dawson Creek named a street in his honor – Roy Forbes Drive. As judge of the 75<sup>th</sup> Alaska Highway Anniversary Theme Song Contest, Roy continues to give back to his community.

“It'll be fun to hear what kind of tunes you Peace Country songwriters come up with as you salute that stubborn, storied stretch of highway that has been such a colourful part of northern BC life for so long,” says Forbes. “And I'm really happy that Caroline Woodward - that

Alaska Highway two-steppin', storytelling gal - is on board for this Alcan ride. She's the real deal!"

Like Roy Forbes, Caroline Woodward also grew up in the Peace River area. "I am very excited to hear Peace River singer/songwriters come up with Alcan answers to "Six Days On The Road" or "24 Hours From Tulsa" and to add their talent to the list of Great Road Songs," says Woodward, whose book *Disturbing the Peace* was nominated for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and includes many rollicking stories about the Alaska Highway. The Peace River area continued to inspire Woodward with her mystery novel, *Alaska Highway Two-Step*, nominated by the Crime Writers of Canada for the Arthur Ellis Best First Mystery Novel.

Woodward, whose most recent book, *Light Years: Memoir of a Modern Lighthouse Keeper*, is an exploration of her life as a writer and lighthouse keeper on a remote North Pacific island, is also a music aficionado. "I just love music, all kinds, classical to rockabilly, feisty folk to country ballads, from Leonard Cohen's lyrics to Beethoven's Ode to Joy to the sweet harmonies of Winnipeg's Wailin' Jennies to the Fabulous Roy Forbes and UHF! Bring it on!"

The theme song contest is one of several initiatives being carried out by the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council in support of the Alaska Highway anniversary celebrations taking place in 2017.

In addition to a song being selected by Forbes and Woodward, there will also be a People's Choice award.

The deadline for submissions to the song contest is November 30, 2015. Songs can be emailed as audio files to PLRAC Executive Director, Donna Kane, at [dkane@pris.ca](mailto:dkane@pris.ca) . For more information on this contest and other PLRAC initiatives visit [www.peaceliartarts.org](http://www.peaceliartarts.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/peaceliardregionalartscouncil> .

