

# ARTS NORTH

Volume 33 Issue 1  
Summer 2008

## Arts Fest 2008 A Success

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2008 ArtsFest Tour pieces  
chosen

Carol Anders  
"Pickers"  
Laurie Bare  
"Mystical Cottonwood"  
Michael de Blois  
"Cut Field"  
Mo Hamilton  
"Two Yellow Birds"  
Jo Ann Hamm  
"Inspiration Blooms"  
Joan Jochim  
"Preparing for the Hunt"  
Yoka Loiseau  
"Year of the Dragon"  
Joan Ramsey Harker  
"Kauai Feeling"  
Lindsay Read  
"Thirteen Cents"  
Azu Rudland  
"Feeding the Birds"

Congratulations to all of the artists  
and look for these wonderful  
pieces throughout the region from  
May 2008 to January 2009.



### ArtsFest 2008 Quesnel

*By Cherie Lynn Bailey*

ArtsFest 2008 was a very successful event. Events took place in Quesnel on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, were well attended and had great reviews. There were 43 exhibits which displayed the diverse talent in our region. Pieces were adjudicated by Paula Scott and Guy Hildebrand. Attendees included visiting and participating artists, volunteers and arts council representatives. Everyone had a wonderful lunch at the Shiroy House (which is always delightful) and attended seminars on photographing their art and funding opportunities. They then finished with CIRAC's AGM. Thank you to the following for making the 2 days a very successful event:

- Bernice Heinzelman
- Quesnel Community Arts Council
- City of Quesnel
- Shiroy House and staff
- Numerous volunteers and artists who participated

Look for:

- The 2008 AGM Summary
- Upcoming events
- New CIRAC Appointments
- 2008 ArtsFest Highlights

# ARTS NORTH

A journal of the arts produced by  
the Central Interior Regional Arts Council

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~Editorial~

I am glad to be finally writing to everyone after the turbulent few months that we have had. We were all very sad to see Gail leave us after so many years of exceptional service but know that she is **enjoying her new life in the Lower Mainland.** In addition to Gail's departure we were unfortunate to have her replacement Coordinator, Andrea Palmer leave, due to very unfortunate medical circumstances, quite suddenly, at the start of the New Year. We were, for a time, uncertain of the future but as always these things have a way of working out.

Fortunately for all of us we were able to find a new coordinator quickly. Cherie Lynn Bailey is a long term resident of Big Lake, BC just outside of Williams Lake and we are very excited that she has joined us and taken the bull by the horns, so to say. She and I are working very closely to continue to provide the best opportunities for CIRAC and its member councils. We are enjoying working together very much and closing the distance between the coordinator and the president has been working very well. I want to thank the Executive as a whole for supporting my unconventional methods and Cherie Lynn for coming into this position with her unending energy and passion. I think we have good things in store in the coming months and years. The office is in the process of being moved to the new arts centre in Williams Lake where we will be able to represent CIRAC right within the arts community.

April has come and gone and was busy as usual as anyone who

*(Continued pg. 3)*

**Editorial cont'd**

JOIN US! Regular Members receive:

- ◆ One year of Arts North, the quarterly journal of the arts
- ◆ One year of Newslines, the up-to-date arts newsletter
- ◆ **Eligibility to be listed in our web site's Artist Directory**
- ◆ Early notice of special events, festivals and arts happenings
- ◆ Discount rates on special CIRAC events
- ◆ Opportunity to help shape arts development in the region by becoming a board member, attending meetings, volunteering and working on committees
- ◆ A chance to meet and share ideas with other people from around the province with similar interests
- ◆ Assurance that your views and interests are being actively represented to all levels of government and community agencies

Send: \$26.50 (includes gst) with name, address, phone and fax numbers, e-mail to: CIRAC, Box 4537 Williams Lake, BC V2G 2P1

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of



**Make plans to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
'ARTISTS IN THE GARDEN'  
Tour**

A Prince George Two Rivers Art Gallery Fund  
raising event

**Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Get your friends together to car-pool on this self-guided tour of 5 fabulous gardens in our city.

Every garden features its homeowner's own unique style and will highlight some of Prince George's finest Artists with work on display or sale, as well as enjoy the live entertainment and complimentary refreshments at each location. Melanie Desjardines, one of our own CIRAC members is one of this years Garden Hosts-and would love to invite you out.

**WHAT A GREAT WAY TO  
SPEND THE DAY!**

Tickets are available now at the  
Gallery for \$25.00  
or call 614-7800 to reserve.

Tickets prices increase to \$30 after June 30<sup>th</sup> -so get  
your tickets today!

Contact: Cat Siverten at 614-7849  
cat@tworiversgallery.

**STUDIO FAIR 2008**

Oct. 31- Nov. 02  
Prince George Civic Centre

This year's Studio Fair promises to be the biggest and best yet, with over 74 Top Quality Artisan Booths already booked. Mark your calendar to attend for the most exciting and unique shopping experience in the North!

For more information: Contact Studio 2880 @ 250  
-563-2880

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
Two Rivers Art Gallery:  
SCULPTURE COURT**

VISIT: [www.tworiversartgallery.com](http://www.tworiversartgallery.com) for details

attended the events in Quesnel knows. I wanted to send out huge kudos and appreciation to Bernice Heinzelman and the Quesnel Community Arts Council for hosting both Arts Fest 2008 and CIRAC's AGM as part of those events. Arts Fest was a wonderful opportunity to see just how talented the artists of the region area are and how fortunate we are to highlight so many of them in one venue with the support of the City of Quesnel. The lunch at Shiroy House was amazing and the seminars were very informative for all of us. We have come a very long way since the original events and I think the opportunity to move ARTS FEST throughout the region has been a good one.

The next few months will be full and busy trying to get the website up to snuff with the ability to update and create a place and presence on the web where our artists and councils can access and utilize up to date information. We look forward to providing much more of an advocacy service to everyone and I specifically want to thank every one of you for your patience and understanding over the last few months. I look forward to working with all of you as we work towards a bright future for Arts and Culture in the Central Interior Region, between all of ways we have some significant contributions to make to our individual communities and the arts as a whole. All the best to you in your artistic endeavors.

Anna Barley  
President - CIRAC

**Look for the ArtsFest  
Tour 2008 Coming to  
Your Community!**

Bella Coola	May 15-June 7
100 Mile House	June 11-July 7
Williams Lake	July 10-Aug 10
Burns Lake	Aug 14-Sept 13
Fort Fraser	Sept 16-Sept 30
Vanderhoof	Oct 3-Oct 20
Fort St. James	Oct 23-Oct30
Mackenzie	Nov 2-Nov 29
McBride	Dec 3-Jan 1

Two Rivers Gallery Prince George	Jan 4
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## ArtsFest 2009

We have the pleasure of announcing that ArtsFest 2009 will be hosted in Prince George, BC by the Prince George Community Arts Council and Two Rivers Gallery. Register Now! Contact 250 562 4526 for more info. See you there!

This article has been reproduced from  
"CommunityArtsConnect" Spring 2008  
produced by the Assembly of BC Arts Councils  
-unknown author

### The role and Value of Community Arts Councils

#### Are you being asked to justify your existence?

*Recently we received a call from an arts council executive director wanting to know how to respond to allegations from her municipality that the role and function of arts councils, as it was originally defined several decades ago, had been supplanted by municipal arts commissions and arts and culture programming through the recreation commission, and that arts councils now have "less clear mandates". If you are also being called upon to justify your existence, here is a slightly edited version of my response to her.*

I would not worry about why arts councils were formed in the first place. The point you want to make is that arts councils are in fact relevant today.

- Arts Councils represent the "real" grassroots arts community, and as such can identify and respond to changes in a timely manner and more effectively than can a municipality.
- Arts councils do not replace municipal arts commissions or cultural services, nor the reverse, rather they have complementary functions. The maximum "bang for the buck" is accomplished when the three bodies work together, each doing what they do best. (If you want to argue this, find out what the other two bodies do in your community and show how your activities complement them)
- Often Arts Councils are able

to provide certain services to the communities more economically than similar municipal functions because of their volunteers. By substituting municipal activities, you are replacing free labour (volunteers) with union wages. It is best to allow volunteer organizations to do what they do best, freeing up municipal staff to do what the arts council can't due to their usually very limited resources.

- The BC government has acknowledged the value of arts councils in their recent budget by increasing the funds available to the BC Arts Council. You can be certain that if the current government was not convinced of the financial benefits to be gained by supporting arts councils and other arts organizations, they would not have done this. If you check out the BC Government website at [www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/arts\\_culture/library.htm](http://www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/arts_culture/library.htm), there is a study on the Socio-Economic Impacts of the arts which says that the \$9.1 million investment of the BC Arts Council in arts organizations in BC has generated an estimated return of \$34-41 million to all levels of government because small arts organizations are remarkably efficient about their use of government funds—and because they use these funds to leverage more money from other sources. Note that this isn't just money into the economy, this is money direct into government coffers. On page 13 it says: "The 300 arts and cultural

organization in BC which received \$9,560,009 in total grants from the government of BC generated a very significant stream of government revenues:

1. The government of BC received in the range of \$10,040,674 to \$13,008,696 in provincial taxes;
2. Local governments received between \$1,265,464 and \$2,156,734 in property taxes;
3. The federal government received revenues in the range of \$23,166,466 to \$26,150,462."

The Socio-Economic Impacts study and others available on the same webpage paint a very clear picture of the value of arts and culture in the province.

*A Case for Investing in Arts, Culture and Heritage Infrastructure* shows clearly why governments should invest in museums, galleries, theatres, arts centres, etc., and may be useful if you are trying to convince your municipality to save or refurbish an old heritage building, particularly one that could function as an arts centre or something similar.

*The Artists Survey-2007* has questions about the value of subsidies and supports for emerging artists, and includes comments that imply or state outright that many artists who are currently financially successful needed support and funding early in their careers to reach that level of success. If you need more information of this sort, please ask us—we have stats and studies for almost every occasion!

## Highlights from CIRAC's 2008 Annual General Meeting

- This year's AGM was held during ArtsFest in Quesnel on April 12
- Cherie Lynn Bailey was introduced to the council as the new CIRAC coordinator. You can contact her at (ph) 250-243-2350, (f) 250-392-9757, or (e) cherielynnbailey@yahoo.com
- Discussed "cross pollination" of ideas between communities, such as the creation of an artist directory which will index art and artists in the region.
- Recommended that a procedures manual be created for the next community hosting ArtsFest. This will help create continuity and structure for the exhibit, and ease its movement through various communities. Also, it was discussed that workshops and seminars be opened to the public, rather than just members, to enhance activities.
- CIRAC offices will now be located in the new Cariboo Arts Centre in Williams Lake. This will allow the President and Coordinator to work more closely together and get things back on track.
- CIRAC's long term planning as new opportunities arise with CRD, other Regional Districts and BC Arts Council. Possibly organize a Board member retreat with a brainstorming session in the fall.
- Revamp the website over the summer and have resources and information published online on the CIRAC website.
- Completion of the new Williams Lake office will facilitate greater regional representation
- Accumulate a list of teachers and workshop leaders.
- Simplifications and improvements were discussed for BookNook
- Next meeting scheduled for September 27 and/or 28.
- AGM concluded with Anna Barley again voted in as President, Leanna Carlson as secretary (potter from Prince George) and Lindsay Read as treasurer (Director of Finance from Wells)

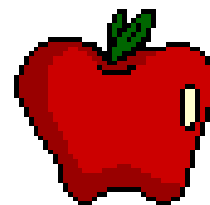
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## NOTICE

### **FARMERS' MARKETS NEAR YOU!**

Please join us in supporting local producers

100 Mile	8:30am-1:30 pm	Fri.	Hwy 97 and First Ave
Williams Lake	10am-3pm	Fri.	Boitanio Park
Quesnel	8:30am-1pm	Sat.	Corner of Kinchant and Carson
Prince George	8:30am-2pm	Sat.	Wilson Square
Fort St. James	12noon-5pm	Fri.	Stuart Drive



## Community Arts Councils and BC Arts Council Grants

Graham Kelsey

[This article is excerpted from a presentation given to the Regional Meeting of CIRAC in Quesnel on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2008]

The Arts in B.C. are getting a significant funding increase, thanks to the government's recent creation of the \$150 million BC150 Endowment Fund for Arts and Culture. What might that mean for Community and Regional Arts Councils?

In deciding how to use any increased revenue, the BC Arts Council will be guided by its legislated mandate, its mission and its recently developed set of core values. I suggest you read them and recognize their importance for your grant application. In this presentation I want to (a) refresh your memory about the way Council decides on the grants it awards and (b) suggest what you need to do to make sure your application is well received.

### How Does the BC Arts Council Decide on its Awards?

If you have ever applied to the BC Arts Council for a grant you will have spoken to one of their coordinators in Victoria. Those coordinators are highly qualified and very knowledgeable in their fields. *But they don't make decisions on who gets an award and how much the award is.* Those decisions are made by your peers: either by juries or by the Council itself on the recommendation of advisory committees. Every application for funds goes through three or four stages:

In the first stage it is reviewed in detail by the appropriate coordinator. The coordinator makes sure the application is complete and checks with the applicant on anything that is unclear or that seems to be ineligible. She may ask for additional information or explanations of unusual items.

In the second stage the application is passed (along with all others in the same program) to four or five peer reviewers. They are asked to read each application carefully, judge it according to the criteria specified for that program area, and be prepared to discuss their judgement with the other reviewers in the same area. The peers are carefully briefed on Council's core values and the criteria relevant to their discipline or program area and *are required to judge according to them.*

The third stage is where decisions or recommendations on the applications are made. The peer reviewers attend a one or two day meeting with the coordinator, the Associate Director of Council and the Council member assigned to that discipline. The Associate Director chairs the meeting and ensures that the proper criteria and procedures are used. The Coordinator's role is to clarify issues or answer questions about the technical aspects of an application. The attending Council member acts as a bridge between the peer reviewers and the Council, but takes no part in the evaluation of the applications. Each application is discussed in detail and the reviewers are asked to give reasons for their views. Judgements on the applications are made only by the peer reviewers and they usually reach consensus.

In this third stage a distinction is made between applications for "operating grants" (the Community Arts Council annual grant is an operating grant) and "project grants" (grants to fund only a particular one-time project). When project grants are considered, the reviewers are called a jury and they make the final decision on each project.

*(continued pg. 7)*

Graham Kelsey cont'd

When operating grants are considered,

## Calls for Entry

Attention all Central Interior BC Authors!!

- \* The Prince George Studio Fair on Oct 31-Nov 2, 2008 will include a CIRAC booth (BookNook) which will be dedicated to representing regional authors and promoting sales. Please submit your literature so we can assist the region in getting excited about local talent! *Contact Studio 2880 for more info 250 563 2880*

Attention all Central Interior BC Artists!!

- \* CIRAC is currently working on creating/updating a directory of artists in our region. We want to compile a list of artist names combined with their chosen mediums, and their regional location. This will make artists and their work more accessible for participation in festivals, workshops, general interest, and sales. This is a great opportunity to make art in the Central Interior more accessible for everyone! *Please Contact Cherie Lynn Bailey for more info cherielynnbaily@yahoo.com 250 243 2350*

the reviewers are called an advisory committee and they make a recommendation on each application.

The fourth stage applies only to these operating grants. In this stage, the advisory committee's recommendations are brought to a full meeting of the Council and it is the Council who decides to accept or reject the recommendation. (Rejection of an advisory committee's recommendation is very, very rare.)

My point in reviewing all this is to stress the fact that it is your peers who make judgements about your application. It is your peers that you must convince of your merits, not the Council or the Coordinator.

### **Making Sure Your Application is Well Received.**

Two years ago I wrote an article called "Grant Getting: A Different Sort of Art" One of the key points in that article is that your chances of success depend on how well you do what the granting agency asks for. In the case of community arts council operating grants, the BC Arts Council is asking for data about your programs and how they serve your community. It's also asking that you show how you are helping to fulfill the core values of Council.

Community Arts Council operating grants have two basic components: Local Government Matching and Basic Assistance. Local Government Matching is self-explanatory. The Basic Assistance is in two parts: the formula-determined basic assistance and an annual Performance Award. The formula portion awards grants according to the size of your population and its distance from Vancouver. The performance award may compensate for population changes that reduce the formula portion of the award. But its main purpose is to ensure that those arts councils that perform well in their communities get rewarded. You don't have to apply for the performance award, but you'd be foolish not to because it can provide up to \$10,000 in increments of \$2,500.

I was very surprised to learn that one third of all applicants in 2007 simply did not apply for the Annual Performance Award—a fact all the more surprising in that you don't need to do anything very special to get it. All you have to do is to describe how the activities of your organization address the core values of Council.

In the new Guidelines which will be appearing at the end of June you will find the following statement:

*An essential element of any application is insightful, critical self-reflection. The Council believes that artists and arts organizations are well placed to assess the quality of the work they produce. Members of advisory committees and juries want to hear the applicant's own assessment of the problems faced and the creative solutions under consideration.*

This is a very important statement and applicants would do well to heed it. The lack of such critical self-reflection has been a major complaint by reviewers in every advisory committee meeting I have ever attended.

In preparation for this presentation I asked the Council's community arts Coordinator what would be the most important messages she would want to give. Her answers were clear:

- Recognize that Council is moving to more merit-based funding. Council will not entirely abandon the formula based on population and distance, but advisory committees are being asked to give a lot of attention to the performance award part of the application. Those who take risks tend to do well in getting

performance awards.

- Explain how the community arts council fits into its community. (We get reams of statistics, she said, about the population and demographics of a community, but very little about who those people are and what they do.)
- Pay attention to the core values of Council and lose no opportunity to involve the First Nations and other cultural groups in what you do.

### **In Conclusion**

The British Columbia Arts Council is going to be advising the Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts on how substantial additional money should be spent in furthering Council's purposes. Some of the additional money will almost certainly go to community and regional arts councils. But it will not be an across the Board increase. When the new Guidelines come out in June, you'd be well advised to read them carefully. Pay heed to what they ask for. Do apply for the Annual Performance Award. And don't be bashful about saying what you have done, how it has enhanced your community, and how it has responded to the diverse cultural groups that you live with.

Graham Kelsey is Past President of CIRAC and a member of the BC Arts Council.

### New CIRAC Coordinator

Hello, my name is Cherie Lynn Bailey and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Central Interior Regional Arts Council Coordinator.

I am very excited to have the opportunity to work in the arts community. My previous career was in dentistry but I have always pursued the arts in my personal time. I am now a mom and have decided to make a lifestyle change. My husband Damon Zirnhelt, our 11 month old daughter Julia, and I live on the family ranch in Beaver Valley, one hour east of Williams Lake. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, questions, or concerns at [cherielynnbailey@yahoo.com](mailto:cherielynnbailey@yahoo.com)

This is a wonderful opportunity for me as I have the flexibility to work from home and/or from the new CIRAC office which is located in the new Williams Lake Art Building. As we are still in transition with moving into the new office, a new CIRAC phone and fax number will be posted as soon as we have one. Until then, please contact me directly by email. Previously, CIRAC has had a website at [www.cirac.ca](http://www.cirac.ca). We are currently updating, so stay tuned for the new improved site.

I appreciate the opportunity and look forward to the challenges and successes in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Cherie Lynn Bailey

### Upcoming Arts Events in Our Region

100 Mile House Contact: 395-3555

June 28 Dinner Theatre at the Valley Room 6pm

Nov 7/8 South Cariboo Winter Arts and Craft Fair-100 Mile Junior Secondary School

Barkerville/Wells Contact: Theatre Royal 994-3225 [www.theatreroyal.ca](http://www.theatreroyal.ca) to preview summer shows. Also visit [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca) or [www.imarts.com](http://www.imarts.com) for more events

July-Aug Sunset Theatre: Live theatre/live music

July 17-20 End of the Trail Cowboy Festival: Poetry, music and more

Aug 1-4 ArtsWells Festival

Mid August: Mid Autumn Festival

Burns Lake Contact: Wayne Brown Process 4 Gallery: 692-3434

July 4-July 31 Tom Dean painting exhibition: Old Ranger Station Gallery, Telkwa, BC

August Spirit Square/ 150 Year Celebration

Sept 5-7 "August" Folk/Roots/Comedy performance at Eagle Creek Fair Grounds

Sept 19 7:30 pm "New Orleans North"

Traditional New Orleans Jazz and more-with energy enthusiasm and humour

Fort St. James Contact: 996-7449

July 7-11 Summer Band Camp with Michael Butterfield

July 18-20 8th Annual Cottonwood Music Festival

Mackenzie Contact: 997-4323

June 27 Cowichan Spirit Pole and Multi Cultural Event

Aug 20-24 Morfee Mountain Music Festival McBride

Contact: Sheilagh Foster 569-2758

Aug 23/24 Robson Valley Fall Fair

Bella Coola

Contact: Pauline Russell 982-2126

July 19/20 10th Annual Discovery Coast Music Festival

Vanderhoof contact: Vanderhoof Public Library 567-9011

Oct 3-20 ArtsFest 2008 Tour:

Vanderhoof Public Library

Prince George Contact:

Two Rivers Gallery 614-7800 or:

Contact: 562-5426

[www.studio2880.com](http://www.studio2880.com)

June 30-Aug 8 Summer Preschool of the Arts

July 2-Aug 22 Summer Day Camp of the Arts

July 20 10am-3pm

Artists in the Garden Tour

Quesnel Contact 992-8200

July 17-20 Billy Barker Days

Aug 4 Cottonwood House/BC Day Interactive Theatre

Aug 26 Rivermania: Free Music Concert-Tillers Folly

Williams Lake

Contact: 392-9737

[www.stationhousegallery.com](http://www.stationhousegallery.com)

July 4-5 Horsefly Arts on the fly

Festival: Music/Dance/Art

Aug 15-Sept 8 ArtWalk: local art in participating businesses

Aug 16/17 First Annual Music Festival at Elysia Resort.