

# ARTS NORTH

Volume 33 Issue 2

Fall 2008

## Book and CD Nook Relocates to the Lakecity

Cherie Lynn Bailey from Beaver Valley, the new coordinator for the Central Interior Regional Arts Council, is looking for authors, musicians and artists. With her appointment to CIRAC this year, the headquarters for the CIRAC has moved from Prince George to Williams Lake. It will be located in the Williams Lake Arts Council building, formerly Heritage House Lodge.

Bailey says the main purpose of CIRAC is to promote and develop the arts in the region from 100 Mile House to Burns Lake and from Bella Coola to McBride. With this in mind, Bailey says CIRAC is partnering with the Medieval Market at Columneetza School gymnasium in Williams Lake, Nov. 15 and 16 where the arts group will establish a Book Nook to promote the work of regional writers and musicians. Books and CDs will be sold at the Book Nook stall at a 15 per cent commission, and a selection of authors and musicians will do readings and perform live music at the Market.

Bailey is looking for more local authors or musicians who would like to market their work in the Book Nook, or who may like to drop by and do a reading or give a musical performance. If you have a book or CD contact Bailey at 250-243-2350.

Christie Mayall, one of the organizers of the Medieval Market, says she is thrilled to have CIRAC's partnership.

"It will be a wonderful addition to the Medieval Market promoting literacy in the community."

She says the theme this year will be a low-light show.

"Booths will be lit, but the lighting in the Columneetza gym will be turned down to offer a more intimate atmosphere," Mayall says.

As in past years, the members of various student groups from Columneetza will be working at the Market to earn a portion of the revenue from the event to put towards specific school projects.

"The home ec class will be serving home made food," Mayall says. "Their specialty is mulligatawny soup."

There is still room for a few more vendors, Mayall says, but spots are filling up fast.

To register for a booth or to inquire more about the Medieval Market call Mayall at 250-398-5485. The cost for a booth at this much acclaimed market is \$135 for the two days.

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### Look for:

- President's Report
- Upcoming events
- Diversity Workshop Summary
- CIRAC Membership Renewal Form: Please cut and send in!

### Theatre Northwest Annual Wine Festival

Saturday, Nov. 8th 7:30- 10:30 p.m. at Exploration Place. Tickets are \$35.00 ea available at Theatre Northwest or Books and Co. Not to Miss!

# ARTS NORTH

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

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**ARTS NORTH** is published quarterly in Williams Lake, British Columbia, by the Central Interior Regional Arts Council. The **copy deadlines are January 17, March 16, May 18, September 19. E-mail submissions and photos welcome.** Annual subscriptions (\$25 + 1.50 gst) are available through the office of the regional arts coordinator:

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## Presidents Report – October 2008

The past few months have been very active for CIRAC. We have launched our new website, please visit us at [www.cirac.ca](http://www.cirac.ca), and stay tuned for updates, news and additions as we move forward. The BC Arts Council grant was completed for September 30, 2008 and we are looking forward to the results and feedback from that application.

We also held our Fall regional meeting and conference in Prince George on September 27, 2008 at both the Prince George Civic Centre and the Two Rivers Gallery. Both were very well attended we were very excited and pleased to hear of all the new initiatives from each of the communities. We are moving into a future that is becoming more attuned to arts and culture given the dramatic changes facing our region, our province, our country and our world. Arts and culture has a place in that future and some very definite appreciation for that notion is coming forward through the actions and initiatives of our local arts councils. As part of the conference Roopchand Seebaran from the School of Social Work, UBC, presented a workshop called REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITIES which outlined cultural diversity in our communities. He begged the questions :

- How aware are we of the range of cultural diversity in our community?
- How can we best understand the cultural traditions and interests of different groups ?
- How well do our programs reflect the diversity in our community ?
- How might our programming better reflect the interests of different cultural groups in our community?

## JOIN US! Regular Members receive:

- ◆ One year of Arts North, the quarterly journal of the arts
- ◆ One year of Newslite, 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 2V5

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of



## **Patricia O'Callaghan**

Based in Toronto, Patricia O'Callaghan is a world class cabaret singer. Her show is an eclectic and theatrical blend of repertoire ranging from Edith Piaf to Rufus Wainright, and from Leonard Cohen to Kurt Weill. Drawing on her knowledge of French, Spanish and German, Patricia peppers her concerts with these languages, with a core of English offering accessibility and a refreshing approach to whatever great song she may be singing. She has four CD's to her credit, and performances on opera and concert stages across Canada. We expect Patricia to be one of the most polished and exciting performers we've presented. Don't miss her show!

January 21st, 2009 7:30 pm First  
Mennonite Church  
Burns Lake

### **Medieval Market 2008**

Nov 15th and 16th

Columnneetza Highschool  
Gymnasium, Williams Lake  
This year's Medieval Market promises to be the biggest and best yet, with several top quality artisan booths, live music and food prepared by our own Home EC department. Mark your calendar to attend the most exciting and unique shopping experience in the North!

## President's Report Cont'd

I encourage all of you to read the excerpt provided by our renowned speaker in this publication of Arts North and ask yourself the above questions, all of which are relevant to these changing times and the need to better reflect our communities. We are hopeful that with the development of this program through Arts Now and others, we are better able to assist and provide better tools to help answer these questions.

We have also made some changes to Book/CD Nook which should prove interesting. It will be held in Williams Lake this year at the Medieval Market at Columneetza High School on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and I hope we can all get out and support our local artists. What a great idea for some Christmas shopping a good book or CD from our regional talent, a great gift idea or treat for yourself.

Speaking of Christmas, our next issue will not come out until the New Year so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, Merry Christmas and the best of the New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you in 2009 and hearing about all the wonderful things everyone is up to, good luck in all of your art endeavours.

Best Regards,  
Anna

*"I think that one's art is a growth inside one. I do not think one can explain growth. It is silent and subtle. One does not keep digging up a plant to see how it grows."*

*Emily Carr*

## ARTS FEST 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. Early Registration is Encouraged! Please Contact David Persad at Studio 2880 email [executive@studio2880.com](mailto:executive@studio2880.com) or call 250 562 4526 for more info. Reminder: All registrants must be a member of CIRAC to participate. You will find the 2009 membership form on the last page of this newsletter! We look forward to all the diverse talent in the 2009 show. See you there!

### **CIRAC Workshop** “REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITIES” September 27/08, Prince George

This is a report of a workshop conducted for the Central Interior Regional Arts Councils (CIRAC) on September 27, 2008, in Prince George. The workshop was sponsored by CIRAC, in collaboration with 2010 Legacies Now, and facilitated by me, Roopchand B. Seebaran, Emeritus Professor, UBC School of Social Work.

The three-hour workshop, attended by 21 participants, was open to all members of CIRAC, those representing their Community Arts Councils, as well as other community leaders.

#### **WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE**

In planning for the workshop it was determined that the objective of the session would be for participants to share and learn about ideas to help their organizations better reflect the cultural diversity in their local communities.

#### **WORKSHOP TOPICS**

Consistent with this objective, the content included the following topics.

##### **Understanding:**

- the concept of cultural diversity
- the implications of cultural diversity for

Community Arts Councils

- the imperatives for engaging diversity
- the benefits of engaging diversity

##### **Identifying ways to learn about:**

- the range of cultural diversity in your community
- the traditions of specific cultural groups

##### **Assessing:**

- how well your programs reflect the diversity in your community

##### **Considering:**

- an action plan to increase the involvement of diverse groups
- two cultural groups to focus on in your community
- ways to reach out to these cultural groups
- ways to involve them in your organization/ programs

#### **Re: The Concept of Cultural Diversity**

The following description of diversity by William M. Chase (*The Workbook*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 1994) was handed out to participants.

*Diversity, generally understood and*

*embraced, is not casual, liberal tolerance of anything and everything not yourself. It is not polite accommodation. Instead, diversity is, in action, the sometimes painful awareness that other people, other faces, other voices, other habits of mind, have as much integrity of being, as much claim on the world as you do...And I urge you, amid all the differences present to the eye and mind, to reach out to create the bond that...will protect us all. We are meant to be here together.*

In addition, I presented some of my personal views of diversity, which included the following.

- Diversity is not an issue, it is a reality.
- Each of us has diversity in us.
- The diversity in our community is one of our greatest resources.
- Diversity is not only

what we think it is; it includes how we feel about it, and how we behave in response to it.

- Diversity is at the core of nature.
- Denying diversity is impossible and unnatural.

I also mentioned that, in discussions about diversity, a question frequently raised is: “Why don’t we just look at the things we have in common?”. My answer to that question has always been that, indeed, we should look at the things that we have in common.

However, we should also acknowledge that one of our greatest commonalities is that we are all unique and different. This truth is often missed.

### **Re: The Implications of Cultural Diversity for Community Arts Councils**

I stressed that no organization can ever completely reflect the full diversity in its community. However, organizations that serve the public must constantly make serious efforts to reach out to, and include, cultural groups that are not currently involved.

### **Re: The Imperatives for Engaging Diversity**

I identified the following imperatives for engaging diversity.

- Legislative imperative: Legislation such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and B.C.’s Multiculturalism Act require inclusive responses in program and service delivery.
- Demographic imperative: The demographic profiles of communities in Canada demand it.
- Professional imperative: Professional codes of conduct require service providers to be inclusive.
- Community accountability

imperative: Accountability to the community dictates that organizations be culturally responsive in the services they provide to the community.

- The public funding imperative: Organizations that use public funds for their operation and service provision have no choice but to be inclusive.

### **Re: The Benefits of Engaging Diversity**

I noted that the organization itself, including its staff and volunteers, and the community as a whole experience the benefits of engaging the diversity in the community. While the tasks involved are not easy, being aware of – and valuing – these benefits can help in facing the challenge.

### **Exercises: Understanding the concept of cultural diversity**

To further engage participants in understanding the concept of diversity, they were divided into groups of two or three to share individual commonalities and differences. As well, every person was asked to identify one thing from their own culture that was a key part of their personal identity. This sharing of the diversity within each individual, as well as the diversity among all the participants, helped to demonstrate the visible and non-visible diversity within the workshop.

A “Values Check” handout was given to all the participants. Because of time limitations, they were asked to complete it at their convenience after the workshop. The purpose of the “Values Check” was to help participants to get a sense of how they personally respond to differences. I demonstrated the exercise by using an example in the handout to show how the list of options should be completed.

### **Re: Ways to Learn About the Cultural Diversity in Your Community**

The following exercise helped participants to realize both how much they currently knew about the cultural diversity in their community, but also how much they still needed to know.

### **Exercise: Developing a Community Diversity Map**

Participants were asked to:

- list all the cultural groups that they were aware of in their community
- identify which of these groups were actively involved in their organization or its programs
- identify the various areas of their organizations (e.g. board, volunteer, staff, program participant, other) in which members of these groups were involved.

Participants were then engaged in a discussion to offer ways in which they could learn about their community. Some of the suggestions included: document analysis, key informants, direct observation, direct participation in cultural events, asking others, surveys, focus groups, face-to-face interviews, etc.

At the end of this segment in the workshop, participants were asked to consider how well they thought they knew the cultural diversity that exists in their own community.

### **Re: Ways to Learn About the Traditions of Specific Cultural Groups**

In terms of getting to know the traditions of specific cultural groups, I mentioned the value of making direct contact with the particular group, seeking their assistance in learning about their traditions and customs, consulting with the group on a continuing basis, communicating with them on a regular basis, developing relationships with members of the



# **Bridges**

## *A festival of art & culture in our city*

**Bridges** is looking for community partner organizations interested in making presentations showcasing the richness and diversity of Prince George arts and culture.

The festival will take place at the University of Northern British Columbia on June 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. There will be displays and performances of original work by Prince George visual artists, writers, and musicians, academic presentations on the cultural economy of small cities and the culture of small cities, with a focus on Prince George, and workshops for both artists and community organizers. Local artists and arts organizations will be in the spotlight as they share audiences, network and build new partnerships with one another.

Bridges represents one aspect of a larger project being undertaken to explore the key cultural realities and mediations that give form and meaning to life in Prince George. That project aims to employ knowledge about cultural organization and expression, sense of place, and community development to help understand the relationship between culture and quality of life, to document community stories, and to identify cultural assets and processes. In this way, we seek to bridge Prince George's cultural past, present, and future, its several arts scenes, and its different generations of artists and audiences with UNBC's arts and cultural institutions.

The foundation for this project was laid in late 2005, when Thompson Rivers University (TRU) put together a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA). This proposal built off of an earlier very successful CURA project involving the Arts community in Kamloops and TRU. The goal of this second CURA was to work with other small cities, including Prince George. The Community Development Institute at UNBC offered to coordinate UNBC's involvement.

Over the next year, various cultural research inquiries will be undertaken in partnership with the members of Prince George's arts and cultural community to show and demonstrate its multi-faceted contribution to the city. A number of projects focusing upon creative cultural expression will also be undertaken through individuals, the UNBC Arts Council, and community-based organizations. The festival will feature a mix of cultural studies and cultural expressions, bridging the arts and academy.

Come help us celebrate and strengthen the artistic and cultural communities in Prince George. To discuss your organization's potential involvement, or for more information, please contact Jeremy Stewart at 250 617 2115 or [jeremydstewart@gmail.com](mailto:jeremydstewart@gmail.com) or check out our website at [www.unbc.ca/cdi/bridges](http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/bridges).

Festival of Bells Craft Fair  
 The **Biggest** craft fair in 100 miles  
 November 15, 2008  
 10 am to 4 pm  
 Morfee School Gym

310 Nechako Drive, Mackenzie, B.C.  
 Contact: The Mackenzie Community Arts Council  
 Phone: 250-997-5818 Fax: 250-997-5815  
 Email: arts01@telus.net  
 Co-ordinator: C. Skulmoski 250-997-4323  
 Email: cskulmoski@persona.ca

**CIRAC 2009 Membership  
 Renewal Form  
 (\$25.00 +1.50 GST)**

**Name:**  
**Address:**  
**Postal Code:**  
**Ph #:**  
**Email:**

**Artist? Yes No**

**Medium:**

**Would you like to be included in our online artist registry?**  
**Please Circle Yes No**

**Please send this form and a cheque for \$26.50 to  
 CIRAC Box 4537 Williams Lake, BC V2G 2V5**

**Upcoming Arts Events in Our Region**

**100 Mile House Contact: 395-3555**

**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 to  
 preview summer shows. Also visit www.  
 barkerville.ca or www.imarts.com for  
 more events**

**Dec 20th Wellworks** exhibit opening and  
 coffee house-Island Mountain Arts

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

Ongoing: Burns Lake Artist Guild-members  
 works can be found on a rotating basis at 6  
 different businesses around town: (medical  
 clinic, public library, dental clinic, CIBC, NC  
 Insurance

Southside and local artist work displayed:  
 Southside Wellness Centre, Grassy Plains,  
 BC

Nov 6th: Silk Road Music 7:30pm LDSS  
 MPR. Flamenco guitar, mideastern oad,  
 Indian flutes and percussion. Provides a  
 look at the relationship between Chinese  
 and World music.

Feb 5th Thursday: Dust Poets 7:30 pm  
 LDSS MPR. Five piece acoustic folk-pop  
 group with Canadian prairie roots.

**Fort St. James Contact: 996-7449**

**Mackenzie Contact: 997-4323**

Festival of Bells Craft Fair Nov 15th 10 am 4pm  
 Morfee School Gym

**McBride**

**Contact: Dannielle Allan 250 569 8891**

**Nov 28th-Festival of Lights-Village**  
 Office to Train Station

**Bella Coola**

**Contact: Pauline Russell 982-2126**  
**Nov 15th and 16th Annual Arts and  
 Crafts Fair at Lobelco Community Hall.**

**Vanderhoof contact:Vanderhoof  
 Public Library 567-9011**

**Prince George Contact:**

**Two Rivers Gallery 614-7800 or:**

**Contact: 562-5426 www.studio2880.com**

**Oct 31st -Nov 2nd -32nd Annual Studio  
 Fair Prince George Civic Centre:  
 Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-8  
 Sunday 10-5. 30 new Artisan  
 Booths. Entrance Fee \$5 Adults  
 \$3 Students and Seniors**

**Nov 8 Saturday: Theatre Northwest Annual  
 Wine Festival 7:30pm-10:30 pm at  
 Exploration Place. Tickets available at  
 Books & Co. or at Theatre Northwest \$35  
 Each.**

**Quesnel Contact 992-8200**

**Nov 7th-Dec 31st** Christmas Show @  
 Arts and Rec Centre

**Nov 22nd/Nov 30th/Dec13th** 10-4:  
 Christmas Farmers Market at Arts and  
 Rec Centre.

**Feb 7th/8th 2009:**Hands on Pottery  
 workshop with Cathi Jefferson. Call  
 Maggie 250 992 8200 more more info.

**Williams Lake**

**Contact: 392-9737**  
**www.stationhousegallery.com**

Nov 1st and 2nd Annual Christmas  
 Show and Sale 10-4 Cariboo Arts  
 Centre

**Nov 4th 7pm:** Connie Caulder Concert  
 @ the Gibraltar Room.

**Nov 8th-9th** The Cariboo Kids Fiddle  
 and Guitar Workshop at the Cariboo  
 Arts Centre

**Nov 8th** Roxanna Sabir and Craig  
 McGregor Concert 7pm @ Gibraltar  
 Room in association with the Cariboo  
 Kids Fiddle and Guitar workshop

**Nov 7th-29th** Station House Gallery  
 Eleanor Friesen and Shirley Sharpe "In  
 Praise of Women" and in the upper  
 gallery "Wrap it up"

**Nov 15th and 16th** Medieval Market  
 with Artisan Booths, Book and CD  
 Nook, Live Music, Food and more!  
 Located in the Columneetza Gym.