

ARTS NORTH

A JOURNAL OF THE ARTS PRODUCED BY THE CENTRAL INTERIOR REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

A Quarterly Newsletter

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CIRAC Executive

President: Sheri Ukrainetz
(Mackenzie)
Vice President: James Douglas
(Barkerville/Wells)
Secretary: Leanna Carlson
(Prince George)
Treasurer: Lindsay Read
(Wells)
Past President: Graham Kelsey
(Big Lake)

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Art Matters In British Columbia

by Julie Fowler

This last year has been one of the most challenging to be an arts organization in British Columbia. Like so many galleries, museums, festivals, theatre groups etc., the cuts (or I should say the all out denial of the arts as being worthy of money that is targeted for community vitality) through the Direct Access Gaming Funds and the projected cuts to the BC Arts Council grants are monumental. Along with these major cuts to core funding other sources have also become difficult to access such as monies from sponsorship and foundations. Frustrations are growing across the province as groups struggle to keep their doors open and offer

their programming, while also needing to work even more overtime to initiate new fundraising and work on advocacy campaigns.

As a worker in the arts who is passionate and willing to regularly work more than I'm paid for (as I know so many of us do) it becomes absurd to think that I will have to subsidize the work that I do even further, or even worse, leave the sector all together. I don't think the government has any clue of the value they get for each dollar that they put into arts and culture. We have all heard the dollar amount that comes back directly in tax dollars collected

on arts and culture activity (from \$1.01 to \$1.38), but if one was to start thinking about all of the hours of work that go unpaid – that we all do because we believe in the work that we do – the value becomes astronomical. And of course the value of the arts cannot simply be calculated in dollars and cents, it goes far beyond that. It provides us a window into what it means to be human – an experience of the inexplicable. The reason we make art is not easily rationalized or explained – which is why is it is easy to discount its value.

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The Benefits of CIRAC Membership

People sometimes ask what they get for their membership in CIRAC. There are three kinds of answers. There are answers about the formal aspects. There are answers about the less formal aspects. And there are answers that are less about what people get than about what they bring.

Formally, members get to vote at CIRAC general meetings. They receive a copy of the quarterly publication, Arts North and other communications bulletins that are put out from time to time. They are invited to regional meetings, seminars and workshops. Organizational members have access to organizational help, consulting and trouble shooting that would cost them a great deal if they were to hire a consultant. Members also benefit from the arts and culture advocacy that CIRAC does on their behalf. Sometimes this is in the form of submissions to municipal bodies or grating agencies like the BC Arts Council, sometimes it comes through membership on advisory committees or working groups.

Member Arts Council Representatives

BELLA COOLA COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Pauline Russell
 BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN: James Douglas
 FORT ST. JAMES COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Pat Gauthier
 MACKENZIE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Vacant
 NECHAKO COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Azucena Rudland
 PRINCE GEORGE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Wendy Young
 QUESNEL COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Bernice Heinzelman
 UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BC ARTS COUNCIL: Dr. Rob Budde
 WILLIAMS LAKE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Harry Jennings
 100 MILE HOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL: Vacant
 LAKES DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL: Wayne Brown
 ROBSON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL: Dannielle Allan
 ARTS ON THE FLY: Monika Schlepfer
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE: Laurie Walters,
 Williams Lake

Somewhat less formally, members are able to draw on a very broad range of ideas and suggestions for practice. Sometimes the ideas are sparked at regional meetings or workshops, sometimes they arise in casual conversations over coffee or lunch. Essentially, however, they all come from the very extensive networking opportunities that membership in CIRAC brings.

But none of these benefits would be there if it wasn't for the strength that the members themselves bring to CIRAC. The strength of CIRAC is the strength of its members. Every attempt at advocacy, every grant application depends on CIRAC's having a strong membership base. Granting agencies always ask how many members an organization has, how extensive is the community it serves. Municipal bodies listen more carefully to submissions from groups with a lot of members and a broad regional representation. They are more likely to seek the opinions of such groups.

By joining CIRAC and by renewing your membership you help to create that strength that benefits us all and keeps the flame of the arts alive in dark times.

Contact Us:

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"Alpineglow" by CIRAC member Laurie Landry

CIRAC ONLINE
for events, news and announcements
WWW.CIRAC.CA

Prince George Arts Fest 2010

Celebrating the Visual Arts In the BC Interior

The *Central Interior Regional Arts Council*, in partnership with the *Community Arts Council of Prince George and District* and *Tourism PG*, presented the Arts Fest 2010 exhibition in the Tourism PG visitor centre.

The following ten artists had their work chosen to tour the Central Interior for the next few months:

1. **Crystie Tarr - Improv**
2. **Ute Wilder - My Side of the Fence**
3. **Hugh Perkins - Golden Forest**
4. **David Marchant - Lupine**
5. **Tom Dean - Untitled**
6. **Elmer Gundersen - Distant Storm**
7. **Bryan Hannis - Pseudo Vase #2**
8. **Caroline Anders - Perpetual Clown**
9. **Lindsay Read - For Us All**
10. **Azu Rudland - Finding Peace**

Arts Fest Touring Schedule:

June 15-July 9	100 Mile house
July 15-Aug 12	Bella Coola
Aug 16-Sept 4	Williams Lake
Sept 7-Oct 7	Quesnel
Oct 12-Nov 12	Wells
Dec 1-Dec 31	Mackenzie
TBA	Prince George

ArtsFest 2010 in Prince George was a quality event. A huge "Thank You" goes to Wendy Young and her team and our jurors. Congratulations to all of the artists chosen to go on tour and thanks to all artists who submitted their work. Your vision and creativity is what encourages others and keeps us motivated. Our entire region benefits from your work.

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Pseudo Vase #2
by Bryan Hannis

Introducing the 2010 CIRAC Executive Directors



Graham Kelsey (Past President) has been associated with CIRAC since he undertook a strategic planning exercise with the organization in 1999 and 2000. He served as Vice-President from 2002 to 2005 and as president from 2005 to 2007. He is a Professor Emeritus of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia and now lives in Big Lake on the old Gold Rush trail. He has been a frequent consultant to not-for-profit boards in the arts and culture sector across the province. He has served as Vice President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education and the Social Science Federation of Canada. In 2002 he was appointed to the British Columbia Arts Council, an appointment he held until 2008. He has also narrated and directed award-winning museum audiotape guides.



Sheri Ukrainetz (President) has been interested in art and the arts for as long as she can remember, whether it was playing with beads, cutting and pasting, or creating things from found objects. She believes that there can be beauty in everything we do, such as creating a nice meal, growing flowers or painting a house. Sheri feels that it is important to promote and to mentor people to develop their artistic side and sometimes in today's society that tends to be forgotten. Sheri has been with CIRAC for about 8 years, initially starting out as the Mackenzie Arts Council rep, then Vice President and now President. She is a member of the Mackenzie Potters guild and is involved with the Mackenzie Arts Council.



James Douglas (Vice-President) originally received acting training at the University of Victoria and the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York. As a performer he has appeared in stage plays across North America, including *The Marowitz Hamlet*, *Seven Stories*, *Filthy Rich*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Fred Wells Show*, and many short films. In 2004 James completed a directing internship with renowned theatre practitioner Charles Marowitz at the National Theatre of the Czech Republic.

In 2005 he traveled to the Netherlands to write, produce, and direct *The Tulip and the Maple Leaf*, a short documentary film celebrating the enduring post-WWII friendship between the Canadian and Dutch peoples, which premiered at Ontario's Royal Botanical Gardens in 2006. Since then he has been in production of an epic documentary feature about Canada's theatrical wunderkind Charles Ross and the international mega-hit *One Man Star Wars Trilogy*, as well writing historically-themed scripts and screenplays for organizations like the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, Hatley Park National Historic Site, Barkerville Historic Town, and the BC Provincial Capital Commission. James was also the on-air host of Shaw TV's BC150 Years series of historical documentaries in 2008, and is set to reprise that role in 2010.

James is currently the Marketing and Communications Specialist for Barkerville Historic Town, western North America's largest heritage site. He is pleased to have commenced his inaugural year with the Central Interior Regional Arts Council as Vice President.



Lindsay Read (Treasurer) lives in Wells, BC where she divides her time between motherhood, painting, volunteer work and gardening. She has been the Treasurer for CIRAC since 2007 and is also a board member of Island Mountain Arts in Wells.

Arts On The Fly - July 9th & 10th in Horsefly, BC

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life" (Red Auerbach) so come and get washed. Friday July 9th, the first day of the Fifth Annual Festival, is coming closer, fast, it begins at Horsefly Community Hall at 6 pm with a Show of Children's Art. If you haven't been to Horsefly before this would be a good time to visit, the Festival takes place in the centre of Horsefly with the stages being set up in the school grounds, the Saturday market is in the ice rink alongside school and the workshops and art show are in the Community Hall just across the road.

The main outdoor stage will be showcasing a variety of performers all weekend, and this year there is a second smaller stage alongside the main stage where local artists will perform between the listed artists, so there will be non stop entertainment. The music starts at 6.30 p.m. on Friday 9th July, there is lots of local talent this year, why not come and check it out—there is music to suit all tastes.

Groop Gallery: Prince George's Newest Art Venue

by Melanie Desjardines

I moved to Prince George with my husband and children in 1995 to start up a sheet metal business with my husband's father's used equipment. It was a slow start, but now, 15 years later, S. Desjardines & Assoc. is going stronger than ever. We now serve the entire region from Williams Lake to Prince Rupert, doing custom stainless steel and metal fabricating, restaurant kitchen exhaust systems and designing architectural metals. As a 'ma and pa' operation, my husband and I have made a very good team, I run the office and he runs the shop.

About 6 years ago, when my children reached the age of independence, and the business was running smoothly, I began to fantasize about my younger days and realized that I was missing out on doing some of the things that I used to truly enjoy. I remembered the thrill of entering drawing competitions, and getting published at the age of 12. I also remembered with great fondness, how my grandmother encouraged my artistic talents by buying me all the art supplies I ever wanted and happily framed every painting I did- Bless her heart! Suffice it to say, that I realized I had been missing out on my 'creative outlet' for so long but had been too busy to notice. So in order to find myself again, I enrolled in a beginner course at the artist's co-op to re-acquaint myself with painting. I was like a fish to water! The intrinsic need to express myself came on like a tidal wave, having been suppressed for over 20 years. I not only was spending all my spare time doing art, but was also joining the Artist workshop, the Community Arts Council, the Central Interior Arts Council, and the Two Rivers Art

Gallery in an effort to share with like-minded people. Along with membership came volunteering on the various boards, councils, and related events. I was also finding myself entering every possible call for submission and challenging myself to create pieces for themed exhibitions. Owning a sheet metal shop began to come in handy as I created new and inventive ways to use some of the materials in my art. I have since become somewhat known locally for my paintings on metal, and rusted or assemblage creations.

My travels in the past few years have focused on visits to public and commercial galleries where I gobble up the visual excitement of the work and study the esthetics of the art spaces. As a result, a couple of years ago I began driving my husband crazy looking for just the right building that we could invest in that could eventually become my 'retirement project'. The dream of having an art gallery had become an obsession and finally less than a year ago, we settled on the purchase of a building on 3rd Ave.

With the state of the downtown, some people thought we were crazy, but we took the plunge anyway, holding on to the strong vision for the future. Suddenly our long range plans became short-range when our one tenant in the building gave notice, propelling us to a decision to seize the opportunity sooner than later. Hence the 'groop gallery' was born. I believed the timing was right, as I have been hearing the frustration for so long from local artists who have difficulty getting their art to market and from frustrated buyers who can't seem to find the art. I intend to work hard to bring these two components together.

The only stumbling block I have now is how to juggle my commitment to our established sheet metal business, while launching a new venture. I have confidence however that with my strong vision, and a supportive art community, that I can manage to make this work and provide a much needed venue and cultural contribution to the downtown and the art community as a whole.

With the combination of my love of the arts, a background in customer service, business, and marketing, personal interest in the improvement of our downtown, and financial leverage seemed to make this the perfect fit.

Basically, I'm doing this because I can.



"Groop Gallery" call for submissions:

September 10th will be the opening night For "RUST AND FOUND"

All local and regional artists are urged to put their creative heads and hands together to submit original artwork surrounding this theme. Rusted images, objects and/or found items are the key. Two-dimensional and three-dimensional works encouraged!

Let's Get Together

by Bill Horne

"Don't mourn – organize" is a famous union quote attributed to the martyr, Joe Hill. And this is exactly what BC artists need to do to have any chance of persuading the government with the public onside to reverse its cuts to arts funding.

Right now the government can get away with this, because our sector lacks clout economically, politically and especially, organizationally. Of the thousands and thousands of artists in BC, just over 250 are members of CARFAC BC (*Canadian Artists Representation/le front des artistes canadiens*).

By contrast, in provinces like Saskatchewan and Québec where membership in CARFAC and its sister organization RAAV (*le Regroupement des artistes en arts visuels du Québec*) is much higher, arts policies tend to be progressive and the public far more supportive. It's a simple equation between numbers and influence.

It's therefore no surprise that BC's pathetic level of arts funding has lagged behind most other provinces for so many years. There's been a chronic shortage of venues that pay exhibition fees to professional artists. Now it's going from bad to worse. We have let the government do this.

Imagine, though, if two thousand BC artists joined CARFAC. If senior artists of renown – the ones whose names make the news occasionally – were all members and we could count on them to speak out publicly on policy issues or during elections, like senior writers, actors and musicians do.

Imagine if college and university faculty associations required all professors and instructors to be members. In turn they could encourage their students to join.

Imagine that instead of being weak and divided, artists could speak with one voice. A louder, stronger voice. CARFAC's ability to attract members has been hamstrung by legislation. Whereas people at a union workplace must join the union to work there and receive the union wage, artists can receive the exhibition fees which CARFAC struggled to establish, without joining!

Without any legislative incentive, we have to rely primarily on goodwill, persuasion, education, and solidarity. Membership does have its benefits, though, and many of the advantages of joining CARFAC and its copyright collective are summarized online at carfac.ca. CARFAC's advocacy work isn't just about arts funding. As an artist-run arts service organization, it aims to promote general acknowledgement of our work's value. CARFAC Saskatchewan has launched a pilot project of "best practices" in visual arts, which offer a model for other jurisdictions.

Some artists may say, "but I'm not political; why should I join?" Make no mistake: our government is inherently political and is relying on apathy and indifference to strip the arts of funding. Joining CARFAC is one political act you can do to make a difference.

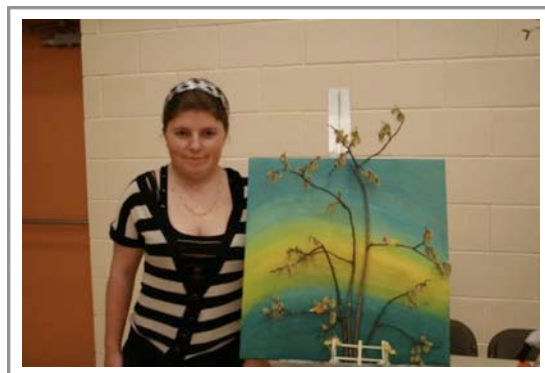
I invite you, the reader, to join now, and to get your fellow artists, instructors, former teachers and friends to join. If you're a curator, invite your exhibiting artists to join. Don't hesitate. We need each other more than ever if visual art is to flourish in BC.

Bill Horne is Vice-President of CARFAC BC. He lives in Wells where he operates Amazing Space Studio and Gallery with his partner, Claire Kujundzic.

ARTS AND CULTURE WEEK - YOUTH ART SHOW IN THE FORT

As their contribution to the 11th annual Arts and Culture week in British Columbia, the Community Arts Council of Fort St. James hosted a Youth Art Show, on Saturday April 24th 2010, from 10am to 4pm, at David Hoy school gym.

Open to all local school children from Kindergarten to grade 12, the show had a "Green" theme of recycling old, broken and/or used toys to make 3D art pieces, ornaments, new games and toys, and so forth. In total, 74 students from David Hoy, Sowchea and the FSJ Secondary participated in the event, as either single or group entries.



Show entrant, Casey Rahko displays her 3-D acrylic painting

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Art Matters In BC

...continued from page 1

But now, more than ever we need creative and critical thinking skills in order to find solutions to the issues facing the planet.

I also don't give much credence to the attitude that these are tough economic times and the "frills" (as the arts are often referred to) must be cut. There is money, and in general this government prefers to spend it on tax breaks for large corporations rather than on grants to non-profits. But we are a business too, and if the logging and mining industries deserve to be subsidized, so do the arts. We generate revenue, create jobs and build healthy and vibrant communities – communities that people want to live in. How often have you heard about a situation where artists move into a poor community and then revitalize it through opening galleries, creating funky venues for music and performance and adding colour to the streets? As the community is revitalized it then becomes attractive to more people; people that are craving that connection to something creative and vibrant (don't we all crave that!?) and soon enough property values rise and the artists move on to the next affordable place and start again.

I see this very situation happening in Wells, where property values are on the rise and real estate has been sold directly because of the work that Island Mountain Arts does.

Essentially Island Mountain Arts, over the last 33 years has created the arts community that the town is now getting recognized for, and building an economy around – it didn't just magically happen either. Tourists are now coming to Wells specifically for the galleries, the Sunset Theatre, the School of the Arts and the ArtsWells Festival – we are not just the "host town to the ghost town," anymore. We are an economic force, but we need "tax breaks" (aka funding) too. The amount that is being cut from all of our budgets is beginning to cripple our abilities to continue the important work that we do and once these structures are dismantled, it will be a huge challenge (or impossible) to build them up again. What will be lost is immeasurable.

So, what can we do? There are some advocacy initiatives that are being planned by an ad-hoc group that has come together (mostly South Coast based) that is being led by the Alliance for Arts and Culture, which include a "Arts Summit" coming up

on June 24 and 25 in Surrey, BC. There is also the "Day at the Legislature" that was being planned for the fall, but since the government has decided not to sit now until the spring, it is being re-scheduled to then. Beyond that I think it is up to each of us to continue to support and advocate for arts and culture – talk to your neighbour, talk to your local politicians, go to your local galleries, attend a concert or theatre show. Get your children involved, provide them an experience of the arts, and let them find out why it's important. Experiencing arts and culture changed my life for the better – I imagine if you are reading this, it changed your life too.

And if you are looking for an opportunity to introduce someone to the magic of the arts please come on down to Wells and Barkerville for the 7th Annual ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art from July 30 – August 2. Experience over eighty acts on eight stages over four days in two towns, plus tons of workshops, an ArtWalk and fun activities for kids. Also consider taking a workshop from our great lineup of courses at the Island Mountain Arts School of the Arts.

...continued from page 6 (Arts & Culture Week)

There was no juried judging of the pieces submitted, but a draw was held among the entrants and seven gift baskets of artist supplies were awarded to the students whose names were drawn by David Hoy principal Max Marshall.

The Assembly of B.C. Arts Council's annual Arts and Culture Week spotlights the vital contribution art and culture makes in learning and in life. Our local students certainly showed excellent use of their skills and their imagination, in the construction of their entries. We saw several mobiles, lots of robots and monsters of all sizes and shapes, doll houses, constructions, and paintings with toys or natural items added, items made from old hockey sticks and many ingenious ways of combining old toys with cardboard, egg cartons, wood, metal and traditional art supplies such as tempera, acrylic and water color paints, markers, and crayons.

The event was a joint venture between the Arts Council, event organizer and local visual artist Pat Gauthier and the local schools.

Process 4 Gallery in Burns Lake will have a variety of local artists exhibiting their artwork throughout the summer. This will include amazing scratchboard art by Lorna Hawnett; a variety of oils, watercolours and pastels by Rene' Jaspers, creative acrylics and handmade paper art by Sue Chretien; rural scenes in acrylics by Katie Blair; a variety of landscapes done in watercolour on canvas, acrylics and chromacolours by Ronnie Berndorf; wondrous photographs by Ray Fletcher; chromacolour fantasies by Samantha Young; surrealist/landscape stylings in acrylics and oils by the late Frieda Diesing.

Please visit **Process 4 Gallery** this summer for an experience of talented local artists of the Lakes District

Upcoming Events

Williams Lake: The Station House Gallery:

July 9 – 31, 2010

Bob Preston - *The Cariboo Chilcotin Portrait Project*

Victoria based photographer Bob Preston's photographic portraits. Preston will be in the Cariboo Chilcotin for the month of June with the aim of engaging the entire community in creating a multi faceted portrait of the area through its people.

August 6 – 28, 2010

Sponsored by: Westline Harvesting

Claire Kujundzic - *Cariboo: Message from the Beetle*

An Upper and Main floor installation of canvas trees and paintings. Cariboo is an interpretation of the changing landscape as a result of the pine beetle epidemic.



Barkerville Historic Town

Open now for the summer season



Smithers

June 29th - July 24th

"Patterns on Linen", Mixed Media paintings by former Burns Lake resident (and soon-to-be Coordinator of the Terrace Art Gallery) Laura McGregor. Congratulations, Laura! The exhibition is on at the Smithers Art Gallery, at the corner of Highway 16 and Main Street in Smithers, 250-847-3898. Hours Tuesday to Saturday, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.

July 14th

Second Annual Seniors BBQ and Live Music Event at Spirit Square. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Music by 'Just Us' from Smithers and 'Lone Spur' from Francois Lake. Hamburgers and all the trimmings, a selection of salads, desserts made by local seniors, coffee, tea, water, etc. Outdoor games. Seniors (50+) and guests from across the region are invited to attend!



ISLAND MOUNTAIN ARTS Wells/Barkerville, BC



VISUAL ARTS

Painting with Lori Golberg
Life Drawing with Evelyn Armstrong
Art for Elementary Teachers
Plein Air Landscape with Glenn Clark
Digital Photography & Photoshop
Toni Onley Artists' Project
with John Freeman and Lyndal Osborne



PERFORMING ARTS

Guitar with Tim Williams
Songwriting with Ken Whiteley
International Harp School
Cello with Morag Northey

LITERARY ARTS

Writing: The Story We Need To Sing
with Patrick Lane



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