

ARTS NORTH

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 36 Issue 1 - Winter 2011

In This Issue

Arts Fest 2011	page 1
President's Report	page 2
Funding Announcement	page 3
Island Mountain Arts	page 4
Emerging Artist	page 4
CIRAC Raffle Winner	page 5
CIRAC Joins Facebook	page 6
Space For Art	page 7
Space For Art	page 8

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)

CIRAC kindly acknowledges the support of:



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL**
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Arts Fest 2011: Celebrating The Visual Arts



The Central Interior Regional Arts Council and the South Cariboo Arts And Culture Society are pleased to announce the "Call For Entry" for the 2011 Arts Fest.

The regional juried art show will be held at the Parkside Art Gallery in 100 Mile House from April the 15th to May the 14th.

This years jurors will be acclaimed photographer Chris Harris and visual artists Judith Copeland. You can visit their websites at www.chrisharris.com and www.judevisualart.com

Please contact CIRAC Executive Director Thomas Schoen at tschoen@lincsart.com for your "Call For Entry" package.



We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



Locally owned and operated since 1977.

Email: williamslake@papyrus.ca
Phone: (250) 392-4744
Fax: (250) 392-3030
Toll Free: 1-888-334-4744

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: Carol Skulmoski

NECHAKO VALLEY 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: Ginny Alexander

LAKES DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL:

Wayne Brown

ROBSON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL:

Danielle Allan

ARTS ON THE FLY:

Monika Schlepfer

Contact Us

Central Interior Regional Arts Council

Executive Director:

Thomas Schoen

Box 4537

Williams Lake, BC

V2G 2V5

250-305-4464

tschoen@lincsat.com

Presidents Report

by Sheri Ukrainetz

Season's greetings! Another year has passed and we are looking forward to the new one and all that it has to offer. AF 2010 is winding down with the last 2 stops being Vanderhoof and Prince George (Groop Gallery). AF 2011 launches in 100 Mile House in April and we are excited about having it in the southern most area of the central interior.

Cuts to arts have forced us to be more creative as to how we fund our activities. A successful auction in the fall was able to provide funds to carry us through the year. As well, we have forged new partnerships with other groups e.g.. IMA and Arts on the Fly and are hoping that these partnerships will strengthen the groups involved financially as well as professionally in their promotion of the arts. I would like to thank Thomas our executive director for steering us through a difficult year. We were able to fulfill our mandates (advocacy and mentorship) as well as carry out our core activities (Arts North, AF, BookNook).

We are looking forward to 2011 with optimism and hope, for all and of course for the arts.

Sheri Ukrainetz

President CIRAC

About CIRAC

The Central Interior Regional Arts Council (CIRAC) is a not for profit charitable organization funded by membership fees, donations and grants, the most significant of which is an operating grant from the BC Arts Council. We serve a vast area from MacKenzie in the north to 100 Mile House in the south, from Valemount in the east to Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, Fort St James and Bella Coola in the west. Our mandate is to initiate and promote the cultural enrichment of the lives of the people in the central interior. Our membership consists of the various Community Arts Councils in the region, together with sixty individual members. We serve the members through communication, coordination and education. This mandate means that we must not duplicate what the local arts councils do, but rather seek opportunities to showcase regional work.

2011 Membership Invoices

Dear CIRAC Member and Arts Supporter,

If you have received your copy of Arts North in the mail please note the included 2011 membership invoice.

Your ongoing support is highly appreciated.

Thank You!

GREAT News For CIRAC Member: \$8.7M PROTECTS HISTORIC BARKERVILLE AND FORT STEELE

Barkerville Heritage Trust Past-Chair Neil Vant, Barkerville CEO Judy Campbell and MLA Donna Barnett



VICTORIA – The Province is investing \$8.7 million to preserve and protect two of B.C.'s historic treasures: Fort Steele and Barkerville, announced Donna Barnett MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin on behalf of Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Investment.

The funding will upgrade sewer, water and fire suppression systems over the next four years to safeguard health, safety and the environment, and to prevent the loss of irreplaceable artefacts at the two heritage sites.

"Our historic buildings, structures and cultural landscapes attract tourists from all over the world, creating jobs for British Columbians and supporting sustainable communities," said MacDiarmid. "This \$8.7-million investment reflects government's commitment to preserving these irreplaceable sites, which help us appreciate and understand our heritage, as well as being crucial to the prosperity of our tourism sector."

Visitors to Fort Steele and Barkerville generate over \$5 million in provincial tax revenue

each year and contribute more than \$21 million to the province's GDP. For the two properties, the Province has allocated an infrastructure budget of up to \$6.87 million for Barkerville, and up to \$1.83 million for Fort Steele.

"Support for B.C.'s heritage sites is a vital investment, not only in the preservation of our history, but in the strength of our local economies," said Barnett. "Key signature heritage attractions such as Barkerville and Fort Steele play an essential role in the diversity, sustainability and attractiveness of our communities. They entice visitors to stay longer and spend more which in turn supports and creates jobs for our residents."

A recent economic impact study showed Barkerville creates the equivalent of 156 full-year jobs in the region for B.C. residents, with wages and salaries totalling \$6.6 million in 2009.

"This funding is a great investment in our local economy," said Judy Campbell, CEO of Barkerville Historic Town. "Barkerville is one of our foremost tourism destinations in the

Cariboo region, and it stands as a monument to the people and events that have shaped British Columbia and Canada's history."

Fort Steele supports the equivalent of 295 year-round jobs for residents in the region, according to the Conference Board of Canada.

"Heritage sites like Fort Steele offer a wealth of historically rich and fascinating stories to our visitors and residents," said Laura Williams, CEO of Friends of Fort Steele Society. "We are thrilled to have this funding for upgrades that are critical to the future conservation of Fort Steele."

Barkerville and Fort Steele are two of 11 provincial heritage properties open to the public. They are operated and managed in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment through heritage site management agreements with community organizations. Since 2001, the Province has invested \$28.3 million in provincial heritage properties around British Columbia.

ISLAND MOUNTAIN ARTS

2011 ISLAND MOUNTAIN ARTS GALLERY
EVENTS

Drive By Landscapes -

Annerose Georgeson and Barbara Scholz

May 13 – June 12

Claire Kujundzic

June 17 – July 10

Toni Onley Artists' Project Exhibition

*July 15 – August 7*Toys in the Attic - Melanie Desjardins,
Maureen Hamilton, Elaine Kerr & Heather
Kostovich*August 12 - September 12*

On December 12, 2010 Island Mountain Arts hosted its 14th annual Wells Works Exhibit and Coffee House. This is a fabulous event in which IMA is able to encourage and promote local artists' work. This year there were 13 artists taking part in the exhibit including long time Wells residents, newcomers, professional artists and up-and-comers (some of which had never before

exhibited in a gallery). "This is a very important event for us" states Yael Wand, the president of the organization, "we are always so proud to show off the wealth of talent that Wells holds."

There was a great turn-out for the Coffee House portion of the event as well with stellar performances by local musicians Bob Campbell, Yael Wand, Karyn Ellis, National

Treasure and Mark Sheilds. The exhibit will be up until mid-January at which point the 2010 ArtsWells Mini-Murals will be presented in the gallery, followed by the Wells/Barkerville School Student Exhibition. The gallery is open Friday to Sunday throughout the winter, so if you are in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by and take one of these incredible displays if local talent!

EMERGING ARTIST

Emerging Artist is a label often used by art galleries to describe a "new artist" or an "unknown artist". An emerging artist is someone who is in the early stages of their career, who's caught the eye of an art critic and/or a gallery.

CIRAC Member Cara Roberts, a visual artist from Prince George entered Arts Fest 2010 and has been busy painting throughout the year. Her painting "Dandelions" is pictured here. While drinking a glass of wine Cara got inspired by a macro photo of a single dandelion. It is part of an acrylic series Cara worked on in 2010.





Raffle 1st Prize Winner: Laura McGregor-Hayes

Laura McGregor Hayes, pictured here, won the CIRAC Raffle first prize. An original painting by Lindsay Read valued at \$700.00.

Congratulations Laura and "Thank You" Lindsay and all other price donors for their generous donations! CIRAC raised some much needed additional funding by holding the fall raffle.

Update - More funding for BC Arts Council

VICTORIA, December 9, 2010

The Province is providing the BC Arts Council with \$750,000 in additional funding from the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy.

The funding supports the Council's current strategic goals and priorities. With this additional support, assistance will be provided for community and professional arts festivals to engage more B.C. artists. The Council will revise its existing Community Arts Festivals Program to encourage events across the province to present the work of professional B.C. artists, and will launch a special program for Professional Arts Festivals to support enhanced programming and the commissioning of new work.

The additional funding will be allocated through the Council's established peer adjudication processes.

The latest funding follows Government's decision last September to provide the Council with an additional \$7 million and increases the Council's grants budget to \$16.8 million for 2010/2011.

Details of the festivals program, including guidelines and application forms, will be available by January 7, 2011 on the council's website.

The 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy provides \$60 million over three years to enhance sports, arts and cultural opportunities for all British Columbians. Of this amount, \$10 million per year has been allocated for arts and culture.

Wendy McKernan became CIRAC's latest member in December.

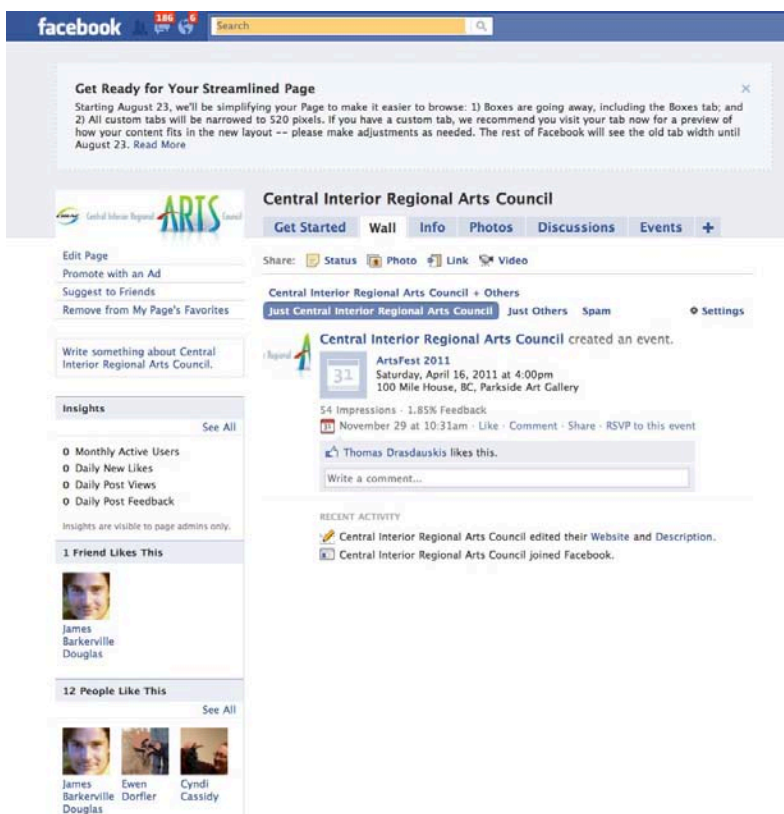
Wendy is a television producer who has used her creative talents to write the picture book *The Thing I Say I Saw Last Night: A Christmas Story*. The humorous rhyming text and vivid full color illustrations, together with a surprise ending, create a magical Christmas story. Wendy grew up in Williams Lake and now resides in Vancouver where she can be reached at www.littledragonpublishing.com.



The Central Interior Regional Arts Council Joins Facebook

“Social Networking” - Two words that have become a buzzphrase over the past couple of years. Why would CIRAC join the hype?

Nicole Ellison, assistant professor of telecommunication, Information Studies and Media at Michigan State University writes: “Anecdotal evidence of positive outcomes from these technologies — such as political activities organized via Facebook or jobs found through LinkedIn — is well-known, but now a growing corpus of academic research on social networks sites supports this view as well.”



Facebook has always been a great place to share information. When a group member or moderator posts to the group, everyone in the group will receive a notification about the post.

We encourage all CIRAC members to join the CIRAC page and to start posting events, interesting links, funding opportunities and general Arts & Culture related news.

An Overview of Facebook

Created in 2004, by 2007 Facebook was reported to have more than 21 million registered members generating 1.6 billion page views each day. The site is tightly integrated into the daily media practices of its users: The typical user spends about 20 minutes a day on the site, and two-thirds of users log in at least once a day (Cassidy, 2006; Needham & Company, 2007). Capitalizing on its success among college students, Facebook launched a high school version in early September 2005. In 2006, the company introduced communities for commercial organizations; as of November 2006, almost 22,000 organizations had Facebook directories (Smith, 2006). In 2006, Facebook was used at over 2,000 United States colleges and was the seventh most popular site on the World Wide Web with respect to total page views (Cassidy, 2006).

CIRAC On Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
 pages/Central-Interior-
 Regional-Arts-Council](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Interior-Regional-Arts-Council)

Canadian arts and culture organizations rely on volunteers to fulfill many roles. A report shows that 698,000 Canadians age 15 or older volunteered 73.5 million hours in arts and culture organizations in 2007. The 73.5 million hours volunteered in arts and culture organizations is equivalent to about 38,000 full-time, full-year jobs, valued at about \$1.1 billion.

Source: Hill Strategies Research Inc.

Space for Art

The Case of Williams Lake and the Central Cariboo

Graham Kelsey

Where is art made in your community? Where is art taught in your community? Where do artists get together in your community? Where do people sing, paint, weave, throw pots? Where are the galleries, rehearsal spaces, exhibition halls and performance venues? Where is the public art?

The Research

There is an increasing body of research to show that communities which have recognizable “arts space” see an increase in artistic activity and corresponding economic and social benefits. When their arts space is blended with, and not separate from, their businesses and other public spaces (and, in many cases, their older residential areas) communities see improved social cohesiveness. They see what one author has called “the spillover effects of cultural and other forms of civic engagement”. It is these effects which are an important part of the justification for municipal spending on art and art spaces.

While almost all of these studies focus on art space in larger cities, they also have lessons for the smaller communities and cities that characterize our own Central Interior. The case of Williams Lake and the surrounding area provides an interesting example of both civic investment and not-for profit sector involvement in the creation of art space.

Financing and Facilitating

When Williams Lake decided to build a new fire hall the question naturally arose of what to do with the old one. While its central location right beside the City Hall made it attractive for a number of purposes, its design (truck bays, cramped basement office space, a spacious but shabby upper recreation room, a hose drying tower) severely limited its suitability. However, three arts groups in Williams Lake (the spinners & weavers, the potters and the artists) were soon to be

homeless. Could there be a match here? And could the match serve more than the three soon-to-be-homeless groups? Not without a lot of renovation. And renovating the aging structure would be a costly business. This, of course, suggested the need for some grant funding. Grants these days require partnerships and the allocation of matching funds.

Now, the facilities of the City of Williams Lake serve not only the city, but also a populous surrounding area. For this reason, many of the City’s recreational, tourist and cultural facilities are jointly funded by the City and three areas of the Cariboo Regional District. Two years ago the City declared arts and culture to be one of its top four priority areas and the Cariboo Regional District passed a by-law providing tax revenue for arts and culture in the three central Cariboo areas. Given these factors—an old, vacant building, three well-respected arts groups seeking a home, two authorities committed to arts and culture—the shape of a grant application became clear and the City and the Regional District were successful in obtaining sufficient funds to renovate enough of the fire hall to create studio space for the three needy groups. In May of 2010 the old Fire Hall was re-named the Central Cariboo Arts Centre and the three groups moved in.

Creating an Arts Centre: A Work in Progress

Two problems remained. Serving the three needy groups fell somewhat short of providing a regional centre to serve the arts, and the City (which owns the building) did not want to get into the business of managing an arts centre. Enter the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society. This new non-profit society (it was registered in June, 2010) was created to manage the Regional District’s arts and culture function. Although it was very new and had no funds whatever, it was representative of the region’s arts community and was potentially well placed to manage the new Arts Centre.

Space For Art

... continued from page 7

To cut a long story short, negotiations between the Society, the City and the Regional District resulted in the Society's being given a contract to manage the Centre from November 15th. The City pays a quarterly management fee, the three tenant groups pay rent now to the Society instead of to the City, and the Society is responsible for all operating costs.

More importantly, however, the Society is responsible for turning this partially renovated, semi face-lifted, older building into a welcoming, vibrant, exciting home for arts in the region. In contrast to the very well renovated ground floor studio spaces, there was nothing welcoming, vibrant or exciting about the potentially fabulous upper room. Its carpet was torn and stained, its walls and windows dirty and pock-marked where nails, tacks and tape had once been. The site of the former pool table showed suspected asbestos beneath the cracked lino and the small kitchen was at best grimy. Assessing what work was needed and obtaining cost estimates was easy but time consuming. Fortunately, City Council and the CRD Board saw the need and released the funds to allow the necessary re-flooring, painting and window covering.

The work is due to start in January.

In the meantime, the Society is working on strategies to ensure that the Centre becomes truly a Central Cariboo Arts Centre—one that serves places like Horsefly, McLeese Lake, Miocene and Likely as well as Williams Lake itself. The work is both mundane and very exciting. Mundane because of supervising contractors, setting fees for room rentals, finding tables and chairs, seeing to security and access and so on. Exciting because the ultimate vision is of a place where something is always happening. Where the great upper story room houses exhibitions, readings, performances, displays and concerts. Where people come to breathe arts.

The Central Cariboo Arts Centre is a work in progress. It is also a tangible manifestation of the commitment of the City and the Regional District to show that arts and culture are important to healthy communities in small places as well as in big cities.



**The old Williams Lake
Fire Hall now re-named
The Central Cariboo Arts
Centre**

