



(Photo by Venta Rutkauskas)

*Celebrating and Promoting Arts and Culture in the Community*

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**President’s Message**

I believe many of us anticipate this coming summer with less unbridled joy than previous years, wondering if our plans of swimming at the lake, hiking throughout the Cariboo or attending a festival will once again be interrupted by smoke and evacuation orders. I am always amazed at the things I take for granted. If this past year has taught me anything it is to acknowledge with gratitude what good fortune I have in living here.

So more directly to the arts, I was impressed with Pharis’ song workshop, hoping her busy life allows for another one this fall;

the Cabin Fever knitting session was amazing; and the multi group events like Earth Friendly, Giving Trees and Pops in the Park remind me of the rewards collaboration brings. The hard work of all the groups to keep enriched programs and festivals running year after year, and all those people who work quietly behind the scenes cannot be overlooked.

My wish is that come what may, we have our music, painting, potting, weaving, performing, and cultural events to bring us together - an invisible web of ongoing support! Have a wonderful summer, and thanks for all you do to enrich this community.

*Marg Evans*



*Eloise Hobi performs at POPS in the Park to a captive audience (Photo by Marg Evans)*

## Coordinators Update



*My daughter in the burned forest on the Mountain House Road, photo taken this May. (Photo by Venta Rutkauskas)*

I love my job... Why, you might ask? Well, it isn't glamorous or anything, but the small ways I am able to contribute to a community's colour and well-being make me feel really good. After last summer's stress and overwhelm, the reflection that came afterwards helped me to simplify and prioritize. Life really is so sweet and so short. If it feels good, do it. It feels really good to be a part of the Arts and Culture community in the Cariboo.

As mentioned by our brilliant and devoted President, Marg Evans, our arts events continue to inspire us, as well as bring new opportunities to various groups, artists and the public. It's worth mentioning the incredibly organized (and fun!!) knitting workshop we co-hosted with the **Williams Lake Spinners, Weaver and Fibre Artists**. Events like these promote the idea of skill-sharing and creativity, while strengthening our own organization's web of membership. We've also been continuing our support of our member groups through internal funding for their diverse programs and projects. We are grateful to all of our supporters, mainly the BC Arts Council, the City of Williams Lake and the CRD via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society. It is through grants and support that we can share the wealth to our groups!

Read on to discover the other ways we've been supporting individual artists in the community, and providing an array of educational and artistic opportunities for people of all ages. I'm always excited to see how the next half of the year will unfold as we put the feelers out for new ideas and programs.

Please get in touch with us! Have a course you'd like to offer, or know of a certain someone who leads a dynamite workshop? We'd love to hear about it...

*Venta Rutkauskas, Coordinator*

## Winter and Spring Highlights

### Cabin Fever! Knitting Workshop



*(Photo by Monica Lamb-Yorski)*

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, CAC partnered with the Spinners and Weavers guild to offer a workshop for those interested in learning to knit and crochet. The FREE workshop filled up, with 14 eager learners arranged around the Open Studio at the Central Cariboo Arts Centre.

To our delight, the guild members came out in force! Each student was well cared for, as there was an instructor for every one or two of us. The guild provided needles, yarn and some handouts for instruction on the basic stitches, casting on and off, etc. Even baby bouncing☺

We are very happy this round in the Cabin Fever series was so successful. A round of applause to the dedication the Spinners and Weavers put into the lovely affair. Let's do this again, soon!

### 1001 Recipes For Ashes

Why would anyone need so many recipes for ashes? In a whimsical turn, our partnership with poet, performer and facilitator **Sonya Littlejohn** turned this title and a workshop series out, in a creative response to our wildfire season last summer.



*Advertising for the workshop series included Gabriel Holmes  
(Photo by Venta Rutkauskas)*

Our partnership with Sonya began in January, when Sonya came by the CAC office to propose ideas for our upcoming season. One idea had our Board of Directors very excited. With so much energy stirred up from a summer of wildfires, Sonya imagined that a series of creative writing workshops could assist interested parties in giving voice to the experiences that our collective community journeyed through, whether it was fighting fire, evacuation, or all that transpired upon re-entry. The end goal would be to publish these stories in an anthology.

In this light, stay tuned for an open call for submissions! We are working on ways to reduce

barriers to submission, including songs and oral stories.



*The first group of writers included Thea Fast, Carol Thiessen and Linda Purjue. Facilitator Sonya Littlejohn is on the left.*

The workshops got underway at the Central Cariboo Arts Centre in June. We hosted three workshops and were joined by 16 individuals over the series. The workshops focused on writing through and about trauma or stressful experiences, and assisted the writers in developing an expressive or healing writing practice. As an experienced facilitator, Sonya guided the group with strategies for creating safe space, exercises to strengthen resilience, and techniques that allowed the writers to create poems or stories out of their personal journeys.



*Our second workshop group included Jean Wellburn, Leah Henderson, Sharon Hoffman, Carol Thiessen, Thea Fast, Didi Henderson and Anne Munroe.*

In the next several months, we are working to set up more workshops in various communities around Williams Lake, in particular with First Nations, and with Interior Health. We are working on grants with the Red Cross in order to continue the series.

We'd like to offer a big thank you to the City of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Regional District via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society and Fidelity Clearing House for their support of our first series of workshops.

### Miss White Spider Arts

As part of the CAC's mandate to support local arts and artists, we partnered with Miss White Spider this season. Al-Lisa McKay is a multi-media artist and musician who is of mixed heritage and focuses on multi-cultural story telling through her various projects.

In June, Al-Lisa introduced four Grade 7 classes at Columneetza to a Global Masks and Puppets presentation. Here is Al-Lisa's report from this program:

*This year I presented two global mask and puppet workshops to the grade 7 students of Columneetza school.*

*I first explained that the word Columneetza means The Meeting Place and informed the kids that the school was built upon Secwepemc territories. I explain to the kids a little bit about what I do for my art business and also about what we were going to discuss throughout the workshop.*

*I started with an original Secwepemc Shadow show of my own design and then merged into a PowerPoint presentation of world masks with questions and answers with each region of masks being displayed. I then presented a PowerPoint presentation about puppets around the world, the different types of Puppets, where certain puppets originated and also shared with the kids different buskers around the world. I wanted them to know that they themselves could transform into types of*

*Puppets and or works of art...i.e. through dance and theater arts.*

*My goal was to inspire them towards the creativity of the realm of puppets and masks. My Hope was that they would recognize the similarities and admire the differences of these particular arts through the different regions of our globe.*

*My highest hope was to bridge any separation that the kids might be feeling or experiencing due to race, heritage or color of skin. Throughout the workshop, I asked the kids various questions about their grandparents and parents heritage and bloodlines. I encouraged them to find out more about their particular family bloodlines.*

*I am pleased with how the workshops transpired and I look forward to doing future workshops of Multicultural design.*

In addition to this workshop, CAC sponsored a performance of Al-Lisa's shadow theatre show, titled *The Selkie Bride*. Drawing from her ancestral heritage from the Orkney Isles of Scotland, the show tells the tale of Selkie, or seal woman, whose magical sealskin is stolen by a man, who falls madly in love with her human form.



*Image of the Selkie projected during Miss White Spider's performance (Photo by Gabriel Holmes)*

*Al-Lisa uses shadow puppets and her own form to create scenery against her self-created film projections (Photo by Gabriel Holmes)*



The performance on June 20<sup>th</sup> took place at the Williams Lake Studio Theatre, and we offer our sincerest thanks to them for covering the rental of the space. As this was Al-Lisa's first hometown performance of her theatre piece, she was delighted by the turnout and the support from the community.

### POPS in the Park

The second annual POPS in the Park took to the stage Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> to raise money for youth to pursue music lessons. Founded last year, POPS is headed up by William Wallace and CAC Secretary Sharon Hoffman. Together, they build the team and the performers, bringing together a quality night out on the town.

Here is Sharon's report for the CAC:

*This project is so rewarding.*

*The second Annual Pops in the Park took place on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Before the event, we secured \$3700 in corporate sponsorship funds. We are very grateful to our sponsors. Then it was all up to the community. Unfortunately, the weather was not terrific on the day of the event, but at least there wasn't a downpour. The Rotary donated the profits of their BBQ, and the community chipped in so the event took in over \$4600. This is down*

*from last year, but last year the crowds were huge as the weather was ideal. Regardless, this is enough for 12 students to receive \$300 each to go toward their music lessons, and we will have enough funds left over to pay for group music lessons through the Boys and Girls Club. There will be a little cushion for advertising for next year.*

*After the fires of last summer, many families were struggling. People had lost employment, or they had to deal with other financial issues that were fire related. Music lessons are a luxury, and one of the first things that have to go if a family is strapped financially. Because of Pops, 12 children were able to continue with their lessons. Another eight had group introductory guitar lessons, and there will be group Brazilian drumming lessons this summer.*



*(Photo by Marg Evans)*

*The CAC groups really step up to the plate for this event. Members of WL Studio Theatre were MC's, Quintet Plus, Synergy, Cariboo Gold Dance Band and the Cariboo Youth Fiddle group performed. We had solo acts performed by students who competed in the Cariboo Festival. To round out the program, we had the high school tour band perform a set. The Art in the Park ladies provided art entertainment for the little ones, and 2 children whose Mom is the director at the Potato House were passing the hat*

*(Butterfly nets) to collect donations from the audience. We Thank FBB for taking care of the financials for us. We had volunteers from Studio Theatre and the Boys and Girls Club helping with the Rotary BBQ.*



*6-year-old Phaedra Maillette cheerfully collects donations for POPS (Photo by Marg Evans)*

*As mentioned, this is truly a feel good program. It is truly a shame if deserving students cannot get musical instruction because of finances. It is our pleasure to help support these kids.*



*Quintet Plus performs for an enraptured little guy! (Photo by Marg Evans)*

## **Shut Up and Make a Record 2**

Brandon Hoffman was back in the teaching chair for this Level 2 sound recording, mixing, magic making course held this spring at the Arts Centre Open Studio. Five dedicated musicians attended,

in all styles and ranges in age, and Brandon describes the experience here:

*The second round of SUMAR home recording classes went great. While we had a smaller enrollment than the first round, everybody was thoroughly engaged. We dug into the more nuanced topics of home recording and the questions and comments from the students illustrated that they were totally on track with the material the whole time. It was great having a bit of time to dig into the students' personal projects in-class, which is something we didn't do during the first round. The nature of all the students was supportive and cooperative.*

*The first class in this term was focused on something I recognized as a huge omission from the first round of classes. While we spent a great deal of time looking at the tools and techniques available to make a great sounding record, we didn't really talk about what a game-plan or timeline for recording an album might look like. The diverse musical backgrounds in the room let us explore a handful of completely different recording approaches. Ben and Linda come from a background of folk music, which must be approached from a very different angle than hip-hop (like Damien), or experimental ambient / electro-acoustic (Yasha), or psychedelic rock (like James). We talked about practical approaches to each musical style, which is highly dependent on instrumentation and song structures. The group had many thoughtful points on how borrowing from different recording styles could be helpful for their own projects.*

*The last class was unfortunately scheduled for the same day as the high school graduation ceremonies. We only had Yasha and Matt (who wasn't even in the class but asked if he could come by for the final episode) in attendance. I wish we could have offered a make-up date to those who didn't make it, but that was right before my summer work schedule started going nuts. I would*

like to offer something to the students in the fall if possible to make up for it. This is the only minor disappointment for the five-week course. Many thanks to the Community Arts Council for hosting the class!

## Member Group News

### Cariboo Art Society



Gathering for an AGM can be fun! (Photo by 12 yr. old Sarrah Harras)

Since Christmas, we have been producing paintings for our seven rotating galleries around town.

We had a drawing workshop facilitated by Anne Kohut in February that was a great fundraiser for us as she volunteered!

One of our members, Mathew Harras got us two Facebook sites; one closed to members only, one public.

Ten of our members participated in a Bird Show in the 100 Mile Parkside Gallery in April.

Matthew Harras attended a CCACS workshop on marketing, social media and web presence.

CAS is considering two art teachers to put on a workshop in the fall.



On tour in the Cariboo Chilcotin (Photo by Dean Jeffries)

The group went out to Beecher's Prairies and drew, painted au plein-air ending with dessert at the Chilcotin Lodge - a lovely day!

We served 87 participants at the Children's Festival again this year (our 8th consecutive time of giving in this way!).

The spring season ended with our AGM at Prevette's at Rose Lake, pot-luck and water lily painting this Sat. June 16th. (Submitted by Cat Prevette)



Water lilies offer an inspiring sketching opportunity at Rose Lake (Photo by 12 yr. old Sarrah Harras)

### Cariboo Conservation Society Trash Art Project

We can now officially say that our Trash Art Project was a huge success! Thanks to a grant from the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake, we were

able to pay Oliver Berger, our Chief Green Officer, enough hours to organize, promote, support, and install the exhibit in the empty storefront on Second Avenue between Sandtronic and Hub International. The display space was provided by a member of the Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association.



*A hunt for treasure in the wood waste area of the Frizzi Rd. transfer station (Photo from Vanessa Moburg)*

The first installment came courtesy of Andrew Hutchinson's woodworking class at Lake City Secondary with about 30 pieces of art made from upcycled wood scavenged from the wood waste pile at the Frizzi Rd. transfer station. Oliver accompanied them on their visit to provide education around wood waste. These students then expertly created works of art including furniture pieces, planter boxes, beautiful wall hangings, and picture frames. One of the picture frames even used aluminum pop can tabs on the back to secure the photo in place." Please see attached photos.

The second installment came from Tammy Parker's class at Maranatha Christian School. They learned how to cut and sand glass, and then set out to collect old wine bottles, dishes, teacups, wine glasses, as well as old cheese graters, light bulbs, pipes, and many other pieces of "junk" from various locations, mostly the Share Shed. These items were then fashioned into about 40 pieces of beautiful art including junkbots, bird feeders,

garden flowers (some with solar lighting), and the cutest little collection of owls.



*Wood waste transformed (Photo from Vanessa Moburg)*

We have also received of about roughly 20 pieces of textile art from Stephanie Tweedie who has sewn fashionable, trendy new clothing from old clothing. Her pieces include skirts, bustiers, purses, jewelry, a jewelry box made from an old suitcase, and memory quilts made from sentimental items. With wood, glass, and textile submissions, our exhibit quickly became a beautiful collection of multiple forms!

We are excited to share that our proposal to the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society has been approved which will allow us extend the Trash Art project to rural schools in the fall including Horsefly School, Dog Creek School, and GROW/Skyline. Stay tuned!

### Water Wise Salmonid Art Exhibit

We are delighted to announce that our funding proposals to the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society and the Pacific Salmon Foundation were approved which will allow us to install a permanent art exhibit (5-10 year timeframe) within the pool-viewing area of the Sam Ketcham Pool at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex in Williams Lake.

The details have not yet been finalized, but we are hoping to access a larger breadth of media, possibly including clay sculptures, fibre arts, etc. in addition to paintings and photography, making for a more dynamic exhibit, which would be critical for the long-term timeframe. We will request minimum and maximum dimensions, and a maximum weight per piece, as we would mount each piece on a standard sized piece of canvas-covered plywood, dimensions to be determined.

We hope to acquire five pieces for this exhibit, chosen by a judging panel made up of representatives from the partners involved. We will engage in fair negotiations with the artists, paying what we hope to be a fair price for each piece. The theme of the exhibit will incorporate the CCCS's well-known Water Wise branding, and encourage salmonid habitat protection as well as salmonid education. The space we have chosen in partnership with the CMRC is above the glass in the viewing area where parents are often watching their children swim. We will also install a plaque introducing the exhibit, recognizing partners and funders, and providing some interpretation including facts about salmon and water conservation tips.

### 2018 Reprint of the Conservation Field Guide

Our ever-popular Conservation Field Guide has now gone to press! Entitled "BC Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas of the Cariboo Chilcotin and Central Coast" this 100-page guide includes sections on parks and protected areas, recreation sites and

trails, local nature centres, backcountry ethics, mountain biking, ecological integrity, ecosystems restoration, water wise, waste wise, invasive plants, fish and wildlife, birds, species at risk, salmonids and salmon sensitive habitat, marine ethics, marine parks, and wetlands. With lots of help from our staff and many partner groups, the guide has been edited, updated, and refreshed for 2018.

New this year is a section on invasive plants and species including information on small mouth bass and other invasive fish as well as feral pigs. We also have a new page right at the front of the book on the Wildfires of 2017. And just in the nick of time, we learned that the Grey Jay will be renamed the Canada Jay as of July 2018, so we made that change at the very last minute! Our most exciting addition to the guide, however, are the many new photos via donations by local photographers, and our Parks Guide photo contest. Each of our 10 winning photos was awarded \$100, with the prize money coming courtesy of a Support Grant from the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society. We can't wait to receive the new hot-off-the-press guides, hopefully by mid-June - watch for them at local visitor centres, or come by the office to pick up a copy!

### *Cariboo Potters Guild*



The Potters have held three mini workshops. A member who is skilled and willing to share

techniques to a small group of 5-8 members holds these. Two senior members held three workshops, which are typically half a day long. One member did a throwing workshop and another weekend did a crystalline glaze workshop, and the other member hosted a lid-making workshop. All three were popular and well received by the group.

The guild held their annual Spring Sale outside the Arts Centre in May. Several members were involved through the organization, setting up, selling their wares and cleaning up.



*Mugs from right to left by Joan Beck, Judi Prevost, Bev Pemberton, Cary Burnett, Judi Prevost, Cary Burnett and a goblet by Christy Richardson (Photo courtesy of Station House Gallery)*

The next day saw members sell "seconds" which is held in conjunction with the weavers' garage sale.

As well, the Potters hosted a clay booth at the Children's Festival. Four or five members volunteered with this activity, which we've been involved in for many years.

Another highlight included the two-day workshop in which we brought Linda Doherty in to teach hand building. This workshop also involved slide show on Friday evening, which was open to the public.

The Potters were involved in the Lilac Festival in that we made and donated cake plates, which became prizes for the cake decorating contest. As well, some were auctioned. All proceeds were in support of the Station House.

### *Cariboo Gold Dance Band*

The Cariboo Gold Dance Band has had a very busy year. Since the last annual meeting of the CACWL, the band has played eight performances and has already booked three more for the fall of 2018.

On December 15 along with Quintet Plus, the CGDB played a Christmas concert at Retirement Concepts. This has become another musical tradition in the community and is something the dance band always looks forward to. The evening concert finished with the arrival of St. Nick and the singing of a few Christmas Carols by Q+.



*A view from backstage of the Gwen Ringwood stage in Boitano Park (Photo from Sharon Hoffman)*

To start the New Year off with a bang, the CGDB formed a "PEP" Band and provided some musical entertainment for two Coy Cup qualifying games, with the Kelowna Rockets playing our own Stampeders. The band attended these two important games January 5 and 6. Of course, the energy generated by the music and "charges" played throughout both games, resulted in two victories for the home team.

This was the first year for the band to participate in the Cariboo Arts Festival. Wednesday April 18, the CGDB entered as a community band and was adjudicated by Alan Mathison. The band played two challenging pieces and achieved 88% for their efforts. The highlight of the night was 'working' the

charts with Alan to make the songs even better for their next performance.

On May 5, the Dance Band was scheduled to play the BC Mason's Gala in the Gibraltar Room. Unfortunately, the tickets sales for this event were very poor and as a result, they cancelled it.

We are looking forward however, to two more performances this spring before taking a break over the summer. On Monday, May 14, the CGDB will play a spring concert with Quintet Plus at Retirement Concepts. It will be an opportunity to highlight some of our new material and introduce our new vocalist, Kirsten Sandberg. We will finish the evening with the band backing Q+ in a Big Band arrangement of "ALL OF ME".



*The band performs to raise money at our 'Music for Youth' concert in June (Photo by Marg Evans)*

Friday, June 15, will be the second annual POPS IN THE PARK. Last year this event was a major success, generating in excess of \$5500 for music programs for youth in our community. We anticipate that POPS will become an annual tradition as well, as a fund raising activity to support the various music programs available to the children and young adults in the Williams Lake area. A few of these talented youth will also be performing that night and the CGDB will be the closing act, with a great set of swinging big band standards.

Our schedule for next fall is already beginning to fill and CGDB has two performances currently on their calendar. September 1<sup>st</sup>, they will be playing at the Sunshine Ranch in Horsefly for a private wedding - Kirsten is getting married ! Our lead trumpet Ingolf Sandberg has been looking forward to this milestone for many years.

The Senior Activity Centre is planning a first ever OKTOBERFEST at the SAC on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be a dinner and dance with CGDB providing all the polkas and waltzes they can handle.

Finally, the CGDB Executive is in the early planning stages for another Swing Night at the Limelight II... with a guest performer... TBA. Like the show last November, it promises to be simply fantastic. *(Submitted by Murray Hoffman Music Director, CGDB)*

### **Community Band**

The Williams Lake Community Band has been very busy leading to the end of another great year. Great thanks to our fearless leader and director, Laura Eilers, for her boundless enthusiasm, energy and musical know-how. Members of our band, particularly John Chistoffersen on percussion, helped out and performed along with the high school bands at various events, including Pops In The Park. We organized our own year-end concert in Boitano Park, the weather mostly co-operated, and the audience that showed up had good fun.

Next up was the Stampede Parade, a tradition now for the Band going on several years, but NO marching.



A shot of the Band's 3<sup>rd</sup> place float as it travels along Oliver St. (Photo sent in by Harry Jennings)

Our float garnered 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the band category, we survived the bit of rain on the parade, our new driver was gentle and smooth with no lost Band members or casualties, and we kicked off the Stampede in style.



A Stampede Tradition! (Photo submitted by Harry Jennings)

Finishing off our 2017-2018 season was the Canada Day celebration again in Boitano Park, organized by the City of Williams Lake, with the now traditional giant Canada cupcake flag, and a selection of local musical talent including the Williams Lake Community Band. The weather again co-operated eventually, more and more folks came

by to listen, and we finished off the year on a "high note", no pardoning the pun!



Happy Canada Day! MC Harry Jennings ☺

### Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society has followed a very busy 2017 season with an even busier 2018! In addition to our regular workshops, we have a lot going on!



In February, we held our first annual "Frozen Strings" workshop at Gavin Lake with guest instructor James Stephens. This was a fantastic

opportunity for families to skate, ski, read, eat, and play music together!

In May, we held our Pink Lemonade Mothers' Day dance. This event is one of our main fundraisers, and we are grateful for the support of many! We received a generous grant from the City of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Regional District, via the Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society which helped make this dance a great success.

In June, we enjoyed playing at the second annual Pops in the Park concert. This event raises money for local kids to participate in music lessons and is a celebration of the amazing talent in our town.



*Performing for Pink Lemonade, the CCYFS raise funds to pursue camps, workshops and design their next major performance (Photo from Kendra Rogers Calabrese)*

One of our Board members, Leslie Rowse, has taken on the huge challenge of organizing a group exchange for our kids. From July 7-15, we are hosting 13 youth and their chaperones from Nova Scotia. They will be immersed in Cariboo culture while they are here, including a trip to Barkerville, river rafting to Farwell Canyon, and a day at Onward Ranch, as well as fishing, hiking, and an Amazing Race challenge. In October, 14 of our youth and several chaperones will travel to Nova Scotia. They are so excited to explore that beautiful province, and will be attending the Celtic

Colours music festival in Cape Breton while they are there.

On May 4 and 5, 2019 we will be performing a Celtic-inspired show at the Gibraltar Room. This will be another one of our full productions, with costumes, choreography, narration, and fantastic music so save the date!

This will be one of our busiest and most exciting years so far, and it would not be possible without the financial and social support of our incredible community! Thank you to everyone who buys (and sells!) our tickets, eats at our concessions, enters our raffles, and cheers us on! We appreciate each and every one of you! We would like to acknowledge the significant grants and/or financial contributions of the City of WL and the CRD via the Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society, the CACWL, DWB Consulting Services, Fraser Construction Services, the West Fraser Truckers' Association, and Monster Industries for their support with this year's program. We are truly grateful!

Registration forms will be available soon for the 2018-2019 season, so please email [ccyfsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ccyfsinfo@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you have any questions. (Submitted by Kendra Rogers Calabrese)

### ***Cariboo Festival Society***

The 2018 Cariboo Festival, which was held during the month of April (Vocal/Choral April 9-11, Speech Arts April 12-13, Piano April 16-17 and Band/Instrumental April 18-19), was once again very successful. Our participation numbers were slightly up from previous years.

All three adjudicators were excellent. Norene Morrow (both Vocal/Choral and Speech Arts), Alan Crane (Piano) and Alan Matheson (Band/Instrumental). The students definitely came away from each of their performances with excellent suggestions for ways to improve.



*Alan Matheson engages with a performer at this year's Festival (Photo submitted by Raeleen Campsall)*

The Festival culminated with the Honours Concert on April 28, which was held at the Cariboo Bethel Church. During the evening, the audience was entertained with the best twenty-four performances from each of the four disciplines. A total of \$2000.00 in bursaries were presented throughout the evening.



*Piano adjudicator Alan Crane and a young player (Photo submitted by Raeleen Campsall)*

This year the Cariboo Festival sent four students to the Provincial Festival, which was held in Victoria. Congratulations to all four students. They

performed extremely well. They all should be proud of themselves.

The Cariboo Festival would like to extend a huge thank you to its loyal financial supporters. The Festival would not be possible without the generous contributions of our community.



*Eloise Hobi performed 'Part of Your World' from the Little Mermaid (Phot submitted by Raeleen Campsall)*

As with most non-profit organizations, we are looking for volunteers to help with our 2019 Festival. We have qualified mentors who are willing to help you learn. From behind the scenes jobs like inputting computer information, driving & pick up of adjudicators, or helping with our Honours Concert coffee bar. Every little bit helps!!! Please go on line to Cariboo Festival Society to get our contact list.

### **Quintet Plus**

Quintet Plus is Williams Lake's only mixed adult choir. The other adult choirs in the community are groups for either men or women. We find it quite rewarding having the mix of male and female voices. Our director is Michelle Erlandson and our accompanist is Heather Froese. We are so grateful to these two women for leading us. We only take new singers in twice a year, in September and January. We have 34 active members.

We do not charge admission when we perform. When money is brought in, it goes to such groups as the Salvation Army, or Hough Memorial, which collects donations for cancer imaging equipment. We are grateful to the Williams Lake and District Credit Union. They gave us \$1000. With this, we lowered the dues to our members for the winter/.spring session, and we bought a keyboard

Our first performance of 2018 was at the Hough Memorial Parade of Choirs. This is an annual fundraiser for cancer imaging equipment. It is a huge fundraiser for this group. Our local choirs sing, and a very skilled choir from 100 Mile, Eclectica participates. The final song at the event was a mass choir performance of 'We Rise Again'.

In April, Quintet Plus participated in the Cariboo Festival. We earned gold standing. Quintet Plus members really step up to the plate and help at the festival. Many members were helping in the lobby during the Vocal/Choral component of the festival. At the Honours performance, Quintet Plus organized and ran the coffee bar, which brought in \$300 for the festival society. Several members also are part of the Cariboo Festival Committee.

Quintet Plus regularly performs with Cariboo Gold Dance Band at Retirement Concepts. We had a very appreciative audience in May. We also sing for the residents a Deni House.

The last big event for Quintet Plus and Synergy, an offshoot of Quintet Plus, was the second annual 'Pops in the Park'. This is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls club, to raise funds for music lessons for deserving youth.

You can Find Quintet Plus on Facebook.

*(Submitted by Sharon Hoffman)*

### ***Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin***

Since moving into the Tourism Discovery Centre in July 2017, the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin has been working diligently to prepare new exhibit spaces and programs for public education and

enjoyment. The British Columbia Cowboy Hall of Fame, a collection of photographs, artifacts, and text narratives on local ranchers, rodeo competitors, and cowboy artists, has taken a central place in our new exhibition areas. At the centre of the main upstairs gallery, the BCCHF remains a major draw for locals and tourists alike. In addition, the museum has established new exhibits throughout the building, including ranch life, First Nations, and the history of Williams Lake displays. Many of these displays are new and updated from the former site, ensuring that there is very new and familiar material for visitors to appreciate.



*Making a new home takes effort, and the Museum is excited to show you around the new displays at the Discovery Centre  
(Photo Courtesy of WL Tourism Discovery Centre)*

The Museum has continued many traditions from its previous location while also encouraging new ones. As it has every year for the past several years, the museum hosted the City of Williams Lake Birthday Tea on March 15, commemorating 89 years of the municipality. On November 24, the museum society, the organization's governing body, will be once again hosting the annual Cowboy Christmas Concert and Trade Show at the Gibraltar Room. Proceeds go to supporting the museum. In addition, school tours remain central features of the museum in the springtime as they have for many years. The museum is excited to be starting a new education outreach program that includes kits with replica

artifacts, archives, and photographs for use in local schools. These new initiatives help to bolster the museum's traditional programming in new and exciting ways.

With a large increase in visitor numbers at the new site, the museum is now promoting the heritage and culture of the Cariboo Chilcotin to a broad audience, which demands a high standard of collections management and conservation. We have an excellent cohort of summer students for 2018 who are working hard to inventory and catalog the museum's collection of over 30,000 items, including artifacts, archives, photographs, and reference library materials. This project is ongoing and eventually will ensure that the entire collection is easily accessible not just to museum staff and volunteers but also public researchers and students. In the long term, a more accessible collection will make the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin a recognizable centre for local and provincial heritage education. *(Submitted by Joe Borsato)*

### **Potato House**

Potato House hosted its AGM Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Potato House with record attendance and 4 new board members voted in by acclamation. Pat Teti, Anne Carter and Misty Schulz will continue forward joined by Jazmyn Douliard, Hattie Tanis, Niki Cockwell and Sarah Schiemann.

Our Director Misty Schulz (aka the Sound Kitten!) organised and promoted our self-proclaimed Garden Gigs with funding from the Province of British Columbia Arts and Culture Resilience Fund has been a great promoter of the Potato House and brought in great attendance and amazing performers in our community garden. With Oragami Army, Party on High Street and Chase the Bear as our headliners and lots of local opening acts our little stage sees a lot of action. Potato House collaborated with the WLCBIA for the Four Directions Festival and the Art Walk wrap up party for a great summer bookends. We are receiving

many requests from artists to perform at the Potato House and we are thrilled by our little projects success this summer.



*Potato House 'Four Directions Festival' Garden Gig under cover from June 30<sup>th</sup> rains (Photo by Mary Forbes)*

In 2016 Potato House was nominated for a Governor Generals Award for excellence in community programming and again in 2017 we have been nominated to be considered and notified by the end of July. Wish us luck!

Potato House is now operating EGOR a Canadian Designed and Manufactured composting bioreactor at Festivals and Community Events that processes food waste and paper plates in remote locations courtesy of a Honda Generator and surge protector with a super long extension cord and a great social media following. EGOR debuted at Arts on the Fly July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and will be performing again at Bella Coola Music Festival and Arts Wells August long weekend with more requests rolling in.

Our Halloween successes of 2016 and 2017 will carry onto this October with more terrifyingly good times on the horizon, details to be released shortly, keep your eyes on our social media page for all upcoming events and opportunities to enjoy this grass roots project.

## Station House Gallery



*Tea and good company at Station House's Lilac Festival in May (Photo by Laureen Carruthers)*

This spring, Station House Gallery celebrated the City of Williams Lake's official flower: the Lilac! Events included art for children, cake decorating contests and auction, flower sale, tea and music, all held in and around the gallery on Mackenzie Avenue. Even tea leaf fortunes were told by Dorothy Ingalls!

Funds were raised to promote the Gallery's ongoing programming, bringing exhibitions to Williams Lake eleven months of the year. Highlights from this year's schedule included Miss White Spider, Simone Buck, Dorothy Ingalls, Gabor Gasztonyi, Terril Welch and the Breastfeeding Art Expo.

Coming up this September is the curated show "My Summer Evacuation" featuring art and other works inspired by last summer's wildfire experiences. With a focus on the journey, the Gallery hopes to look at the themes of community, aid and resilience.



*Cake decorating entry by Yanina Williams, yum! (Photo courtesy of Station House Gallery)*

Summer art classes for youth are underway with Ciel Patenaude, for ages 7-12 throughout the summer months. \with support from community groups and donors, programs like this continue to offer arts experiences to talent of all ages!

We'd like to offer a thanks to all of our sponsors, including the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake for their sponsorship of our April show featuring Terril Welch and Simone Buck.

### *Williams Lake Spinners Weavers and Fibre Artists*

This winter and spring saw the guild room very busy, indeed. Back in February, Linda Purjue reported that every loom was in use, while others in the guild crowded in to work on knitting or other projects. As the spring crept closer, the guild prepared for two very popular events. The first, scheduled in April, was the Beginner's knitting course, which saw over a dozen folks curious about fibre arts join the guild members in the Open Studio at the Arts Centre. With lots of preparation, the students were well underway by midday, learning the basics of the casting on, knitting and purling. A great session for all.

In May, the Annual Spin-In took place, with a big turnout of spinners from near and far. Vendors joined in the fun, allowing the busy spinners to stock up on their supplies for another year! The event lets us all catch up with our community, while sharing talents in the craft we love.

Coming up, the guild plans to display at the CRD Library this fall, while all the while setting up projects in the guild room, such as a tea towels that will be sold during the Fall Sale. We look forward to that!

### *Williams Lake Studio Theatre*

Williams Lake Studio Theatre celebrated its 63<sup>rd</sup> Season. We are a very vibrant club that produces 4 plays a season.



*The ensemble of Anything That Moves (Photo by Michael Rawluck)*

In January and February, WLST produced the musical “Anything That Moves”, directed by Mary Jo Hillier. This play has only been produced once before.

The greatest challenge was for our two musical directors, as the score was not officially written out. The directors had to work with the chords and recordings to get the music to work for the musicians and actors.



*The classic Oscar Wilde play ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ showed in spring. (Photo by Michael Rawluck)*

We preformed the show 8 times at our little theatre, and then moved the set during blizzard conditions to perform four more times at dinner theatre. This show was fun, a comedy and received great reviews from the audiences.

Next up came the classic, “The Importance of Being Earnest” Directed by Becky Strickland. The set and costumes were stunning. I’ve never attended a show where the curtains and lights received an applause from the audience. Again, this was an audience pleaser.

Our final play for the season was “Hand to God” directed by Jay Goddard. This play was quite edgy. Fans of ‘Earnest’ would not necessarily love ‘Hand to God’. BUT. The play was raved about. At the Central Interior Zone Drama Festival, it was chosen to represent our zone at Mainstage, the provincial festival. This play won best set and best actor. The director received an honourable mention.

Our next season is set. Our first play “November” will be on stage in October and November, directed by Shane Tollefson.



*The popular and award-winning Hand to God (Photo by Michael Rawluck)*

Please note! WLST will be producing Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' this season. We will be looking for people to help out with some sewing. Please contact Sharon Hoffman at CACWL or Williams Lake Studio Theatre if you can lend a hand.

*(Submitted by Sharon Hoffman)*

### **Williams Lake Writers Group**

The Williams Lake Writers' Group is a gathering of people who want to hone their writing skills with the possible goal of some day being published. We gather once a month, on the third Thursday, at 2:00pm, where one member chairs the meeting, which among other things, means they have to come up with an interesting writing exercise. We also send in writings to The Stew each month, centred around their theme for that month.

We are presently a group in flux, as most of the original members have moved on, and the few new members are still 'trying the waters'. We have dwindled somewhat of late, and would be very much like to welcome a few new members who would be interested in sharing their writing skills and learning from others.

We have decided to recess the meetings until September. Perhaps we can restart with new vigour in the Fall.

The following is an example writing sent in to The Stew.

### **Theme: Barter**

*I am a fibre artist. I spin the wool fleece of sheep, or the fluffy fibre of alpacas, into yarn that I can then weave or knit into beautiful and useful works of art. One year, I acquired some Shetland sheep unspun fleece in three natural colours: rich creamy white, bright copper brown and subtle chocolatey grey brown. I spun each of these into slender yarns I felt very good about. Shetland is my favourite breed of sheep fleece to spin; it slips gracefully and gently through my fingers as it is spun and drawn onto the bobbin of my spinning wheel, so fine, so soft. It almost spins itself into fine, even yarn.*

*I took these three yarns and knitted patterned hats with them, ear flap hats that came down to cover a person's jaw and tie under the chin to keep the wind and chill out of their ears. I took these hats to the Annual Big Creek Jamboree and entered them into the mini Fall Fair there. Also at this Fair, a friend, Hazel Henry, had a display of several of her watercolour paintings. I fell in love with one that depicted a dirt lane stripedly shadowed by brilliantly yellow autumn aspens and blue spruces, ending in a log gate. It resembles, in atmosphere if not exactly physically, my own driveway. Hazel was selling this picture, for hardly more than the frame alone was worth, but which was still more than I had.*

*Rather hopelessly, I offered her a hat in exchange for this lovely painting. To my surprise, she eagerly accepted! She chose the hat she preferred, and handed me the picture.*

*This picture hangs in pride of place on my living room wall. I frequently admire it, and it*

*never fails to infuse me with a gentle peace and joy. I love it.*

*Hazel departed this life several years ago now. I truly hope she enjoyed her hat even just a fraction as much as I enjoy my painting.  
(Submitted by Linda Purjue)*

*Thank you to our surprise donors!  
After the fires last summer, Christina Milarchuk, of Fidelity Clearing Canada, reached out to our organization. We are so very grateful for your donation of \$2,500. It means so much to our creative efforts to help Williams Lake thrive...*



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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF



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with the support of the  
Cariboo Regional District  
& City of Williams Lake

via the

central cariboo

*arts*  
and culture society

