



Photo by Brianna van de Wijngaard

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Celebrating Cariboo Arts and Culture for 50 Years!

President's Message

Once again we begin again, 2019, how will we recreate ourselves, our communities, our lives? Someone mentioned that January with its shortened days and long periods of darkness, was more suited to resting and recharging, possibly a time for curling up by a fire with a good book, forget the more energetic, inspirational changes until Spring?! Another friend responded that in the year 45 BC, the Roman

calendar actually did begin in March but was changed to the 365.25 day calendar the next year.



It does make you wonder how so often we are ruled by calendars, and if the new inspirations happen easier closer to spring, then maybe we should treat ourselves to renewing what we started- like the knitting I began last year, I would love to join in the Weavers monthly Saturday morning knitting sessions and refresh my skills (currently somewhat lacking), or my guitar, recently restrung, is close at hand and beckoning.

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Member Group News

We do, however, have some planning to begin now for the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake's 50th Anniversary, begun as a registered Society on February 20th, 1969! We have funding assistance for this from the CCACS and are willing to add ideas from member groups to help celebrate and further promote the arts and culture of our community, the start of our next 50 years.



Earth Friendly crafters (Photo by Don Evans)

A quick note that the Earth Friendly Holiday Event this December was the busiest yet, and first year we collaborated with the Williams Lake Downtown Business Improvement Association Winter Lights festivities. Photos are view able at this site https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ak_EGzFW0lfhDnVUf19-wkJSIZB , and as ever the joyful hours of creating festive decorations were complimented by locally produced soups, cider and treats enjoyed by all. There were many new participants to the event and the Arts Centre, thanks to the WLBIAs added promotions and new Banners. Our on-going partners in this event being the Conservation Society as well as the Nature Centre, with most of our other member groups partaking either in arts and craft activities, music and food for the event. A truly wonderful community effort.

Marg Evans

Coordinators Update



Happy 50th CACWL!

To weigh a 50-year history for an organization I am relatively new to, it is a great benefit to discover binders and scrapbooks of archives from this coloured story called the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake. Officially founded in February 1969, each of the initiating members had actively engaged in bringing a unified front together in the arts community, seeing that a shared space and common vision could build momentum to further their separate modalities.

Consider two of the exceptional women leading the charge, Gwen Ringwood and Sonia Cornwall, artists and community activists, sharing their talents as mentors and teachers, striving for a Creative Community rich in opportunity. Their establishment of the Allied Arts Council in 1958 grew to include not only the Players Club and the Art Society, but eventually the Glee Club, too. Eventually, over the course of a decade, this teamwork led to a desire to incorporate as a society, to build an organization that could represent the voice of arts groups in the region and maintain a common arts centre.



GWEN RINGWOOD'S CREATIVE WRITING- course discusses the finer points of one of the student's story plots. Mrs. Ringwood is imparting her much admired knowledge of writing to John Roberts, Marion Poole and Barbara Vanderburgh (front)

A photo from CAC sponsored workshops circa 1970, featuring CAC founder Gwen Ringwood (Photo from CAC archives)

Seated at my desk in the Central Cariboo Arts Centre, an electricity stirs in me, a moment of recognition and gratitude for the efforts and foresight of our founders. With that, I sense the continued dedication of community members working to see arts thrive in our small town. We now have this community arts hub because individuals advocated to our local governments, steering policy and joining Boards because that, too, is needed to create longevity and evolution.

If you're reading this, please consider joining a community organization you care about. We all have Boards that need concerned individuals, and I can assure you most Boards are conscientious about busy schedules! Let's keep this Creative Community network healthy, vibrant and inspired.

Venta Rutkauskas, Coordinator

Winter and Spring Highlights

New Directors on Board!

Please join me in welcoming our newest team members, elected at our October 20th Annual General Meeting:

Niki Cockwill joins us as our new Vice President, shoes left vacant by the esteemed Mary Forbes. Niki, mother of two lovely children, is keen to learn about the non-profit sector, and we at the CAC are happy to show her the ropes and encourage more involvement in our Creative Community.

Niki and Oliver both volunteered at the Earth Friendly Event in November



Oliver Berger is representing the Potato House Society, and is the man about town regarding recycling, compost and the green revolution. We are excited to include his exuberance on the Board this year.

Emily Clearwater, the new Central Cariboo Arts Centre Administrator, is also a Williams Lake Spinner and Weaver who offers her creativity and no-nonsense perspective to our future plans. I see great things for this thoughtful, caring human!

Murray Hoffman is a very talented and busy fellow, pursuing musical projects and enjoying retirement with the inimitable Sharon Hoffman, CAC Secretary for many years.

Finally, we welcome Rebecca Solomon, a talented musician and producer, from the Tsilhqot'in Nation. Discovering new pathways requires fresh ideas and our hope is that CAC will continue to flourish with the addition of our new Board members.

Art in the Park



A sample of banners crafted this summer (Photo by Laura Ulrich)

How lucky are we at the CAC that Laura Ulrich and Kiera Dolighan once again took the reins of our much-loved Art in the Park program! We are grateful to them and can see by the colourful creations that many little hands were busy and inspired. Kids got a chance to paint Conservation Society Golden-Lawn critters and potato house fence-post covers, Origami Cyclops Eyes, Paper Bead Jewelry, a Hot Air Balloon papercraft and Pop-up Turtles.



The summer was not free from challenges, notably the smoke that set in for several weeks, eventually prompting the Performances in the



Our facilitator Laura Ulrich poses with the new banners (Photo by Kiera Dolighan)

Park series to move indoors. The number of kids served in August dropped way down, but still,

300 participated in the program throughout the summer!

As a way to create something with lasting power, Laura and Kiera facilitated and strung up a tie-die bunting banner. From Laura:

We wanted to create something that was eye-catching and lightweight this summer, which could be hung high and be clearly visible from anywhere in the park's amphitheatre. We upcycled an old bedsheet into triangular pennants, which kids, teens, and a few creative adults experimented on using sharpies and rubbing alcohol. Each participant could make two pennants, one to take home, and the other to be added to our strand. This activity was also a huge hit at the farmers market! This piece of community art is easy to hang up between the trees in the park, or along the frame of the tent.

Earth Friendly Holiday Event



*Member of Quintet Plus provided festive music for friendly revelers at Earth Friendly in November
(Photo Don Evans)*

As part of the CAC's mandate to support local Success is measured in many ways, whether by the attendance at an event, smiles on participants faces, or that warm feeling a volunteer has after serving the public in a

meaningful way. These are the measures that the Earth friendly Holiday Event has lived up to for years, now, and it's what keeps The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, Scout Island Nature Centre and the CAC promoting our sustainable vision of holiday fun.



Best to arrive at the wreath room early, like Terra Grady did. (Photo by Don Evans)



Leaving with hands full of hand-made crafts (Photo by Don Evans)

Held over the November 30 – December 1st weekend, Earth Friendly hosted more new faces and first-time visitors to the Central Cariboo Arts Centre than ever! Our theory is that partnering with Winter Lights, put on by the Williams Lake

Downtown Business Association, is a benefit to spreading the word about this family fun crafting event.

In addition to offering this fantastic family-friendly event for free, our participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items, warm winter clothing for our Giving Tree, and even raised \$250 by donation. Thank you to all who helped support their local community and groups that serve them.

As ever, a giant Thank You to our volunteers, who bring food, play music, run the craft tables, source the natural materials, set up and clean up. It's a team effort and on behalf of CAC, we are happy to be involved.

The Giving Tree

Before I share CAC Secretary Sharon Hoffman's report on this wonderful initiative, we call the Giving Tree, I wanted to offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Sharon for her dedication to service. In addition to being on several Boards and organizations, Sharon's huge heart sees her direct this giving to those in need. Whether it be spearheading our collection of warm clothing, or countless concerts with her musical groups that raise funds for a variety of

community organizations, Sharon's found a way to pair her love of the arts with generosity and concern. Sharon, you're a gem...

Williams Lake Business Improvement Association and the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake have been in partnership with the Giving Tree Project for 4 years. The BIA office set up donation bins for 'woolies' at Cariboo Memorial Complex and at Williams Lake and District Credit Union starting in mid-November. The CAC did most of their collecting at the Earth Friendly Holiday Event Nov.29 and Dec. 1. Instead of just collecting toques and gloves etc., we decided this year to also collect coats.

On November 30, 30 items were bagged and placed around town in 6 different trees for the BIA Winter Lights event. 20 of these items were claimed within 24 hours. The left-over items were removed. This year the city requested that we not hang items on the trees which had perennial garden beds around them. The plants had shut down but there were underground watering systems that were a concern. I was not aware of these, and totally respect the request, but the trees we used were in an area that was not as busy and fewer items were claimed. I think that if the parade route is changed next year, more items will be claimed. Or if temporary Christmas trees were set up in the busy areas, these could be loaded with the woolies.

In total 72 toques were donated 21 scarves, 22 pairs of gloves and 14 pairs of socks. Approximately 29 coats, heavy sweaters and heavy outdoor vests were donated. A number of people from the CAC and from my Gadzukes Ukulele group got together and we bagged and labelled the items. Most coats went to St. Vincent De Paul and they were given directly to



people in need. A few women's fashion items were also donated, these went to the Woman's Contact Centre.

There is a designated tree in our city park where several of our homeless people congregate. I always keep a variety of bagged items in my car, if I see that the tree is empty, I stop by and restock. The people claiming items are very grateful. This is a feel-good project and I am very appreciative of the community support.

CR Avery in Concert and Upcoming Events



(Photos of CR courtesy Williams Lake Tribune/Patrick Davies)



East Vancouver's notorious beat-boxing poet wandered through town not long ago, maybe you got a chance to see his show? The night of November 13th, CR and Danny Bell graced us with their talents, and I can assure you their

efforts were, well, gallant. Wonder why I feel the need to rhyme? It's just that when I see a good show, I want to rhyme all the time!

Enough? All right.

CAC is excited to be presenting live music to the community this season, and we're going to keep it up! After a great turnout for CR Avery and Danny Bell, our Board has agreed that we'd like to invite more artists to perform for you. So, coming up on **Wednesday, March 20**, Vancouver based songstress **Nasti Weather** will be accompanied by her False Predictions and the talented Danny Bell. We'll have tickets at Open Book and Red Shreds, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To learn more about Nasti Weather, visit her website <https://nastiweathermusic.com/>

Community Arts Council of Williams Lake presents:

NASTI WEATHER
(VANCOUVER, BC)

DANNY BELL

Central Cariboo Arts Centre
90 North 4th Ave.
www.williamslakecommunityartscouncil.com

MARCH 20th
Doors 7^{pm} Showtime 7:30^{pm}
Advance Tickets 15^{\$} at the door 20^{\$}

A Longing Wayside Tour
Tickets available at Open Book and Red Shreds

Later this year, as part of our continued 50th Anniversary Celebrations, we'll be bringing you a workshop and performance by our Cariboo darlings, Pharis and Jason Romero, recently awarded TWO Canadian Folk Music Awards, and another Juno nomination! Congratulations to the hardest working musical duo I know. We'll be spreading the word about this workshop and performance soon, likely held in late November. <http://pharisandjason.com>



(Photo by Rick Magnell)

Member Group News

Cariboo Art Society

We had a full year contributing our time and supporting many events with the arts community celebrating earth day etc.

We had our workshop with Anne Kohut with great participation and are planning another for January.

Another area we have been working on is two separate Facebook pages, one was developed for our own members to share on and the other regular info to interest our

audience and perhaps new members.



A packed artists guild filled with Earth Friendly patrons

We've focused and continued getting our work out into rotation displays in various venues. Suitable select offices and the Tourism Discovery Centre are under a contract benefiting both parties. Our efforts are showing to be successful in selling and motivating our members to get their work out.

We participated in the "Bird" exhibition in 100 Mile House Parkside Gallery and at the Station House Gallery fall exhibition on "How I spent my Summer Evacuation".



In other news, the Artists Guild gets a facelift!

We have enjoyed time out plein-air painting with a couple of field trips to historical sites, packing lunches and enjoying our time together as a group.

This year we joined the potters in putting on a Xmas showcase in November and participated in the Earth Friendly Holiday Event. *(Submitted by Linda Bachman)*

**Cariboo Conservation Society
Trash Art Project**

Trash Art: Thanks to a grant from the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake, we were able to pay Oliver to run the "Trash Art" project. With the benefit of Oliver's passion and dedication to all things Waste Wise, the project garnered 30 pieces of wood waste art from Lake City Secondary, 20 pieces of used textile art from a local resident, and countless pieces of glass and thrift store art from Maranatha. With a display a vacant storefront in Downtown Williams Lake, we received a lot of attention within the media and online.

We have now received a second installment of funding from the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society which will enable the project to be extended this fall to other secondary students within the Central Cariboo. Stay tuned for more Trash Art!



Artists Linda Bachman, Suzie Ambrose, Kevin Easthope, Joan Beck and Maureen LeBourdais each contributed to the Salmonid Exhibit *(Photo Vanessa Moberg)*

Pool Art Exhibit: Marg's idea to see some form of art at the new Sam Ketcham Pool will soon (finally) come to fruition! With funding from the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, we have commissioned five pieces from local artists with a Water Wise/Salmonid theme. Installation will happen through November with the gala opening tentatively set for early December.



Trash art storefront exhibit by Maranatha School *(Photo by Oliver Berger)*

Healthy Lawns: Based on a perceptive observation by Val Biffert, we decided to rebrand our Golden Lawns signage campaign to "Healthy Lawns". In a nervous post-wildfire Williams Lake, we may be criticized for encouraging people to let their lawns go brown, so we have tweaked our signage to encourage people to only water "just enough" and of course to refrain from using chemicals. Because of the rebranding, we did not run the campaign this year, but Pat Teti did cut our critters and Mary was able to get them painted

by children at **Art in the Park** at Performances in the Park, and as such we will have the new signage ready to launch in early 2019.

Parks Guide: Our new Parks Guide is complete and was distributed throughout the region this summer. To celebrate the 15th year of the guide, we applied for funding from the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society to run a photo contest and purchase the rights to 10 new images. Along with an array of donated photos and some updated content, the guide is looking pretty spiffy. Please stop by the CCCS office or the Williams Lake Tourism Discovery Centre to pick up your copy!

Green Events: Waste Wise was on the scene at Arts Well, Arts on the Fly, and Performances in the Park this year to see that no good recyclable (or food scrap) went unnoticed.

Earth Friendly Holiday Event: In partnership with the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake, efforts to plan the 8th annual Earth Friendly Holiday Event were very fruitful! Lots of discussion after the event will see us work towards streamlining our preparations. Save the date for December 6th and 7th, 2019! *(Submitted by Vanessa Moburg)*

Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society

What a year the Cariboo-Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society had in 2018! In addition to our regular workshops, performances and events, our WL-Nova Scotia exchange with Experiences Canada was a huge success. Thank you to everyone in this amazingly generous town for your support, encouragement, and donations. Fourteen of our older students, three instructors, and several chaperones had a whirlwind week of music, food, sightseeing, and culture on the

trip. They came back with fantastic tales to tell, and interesting experiences to share!



Busking at the waterfront in Halifax (Photo from Leslie Rowse)



CCYFS Visiting Peggy's Cove (Photo by Leslie Rowse)

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society started 2019 with our second annual "Frozen Strings" workshop at TRU and Gavin Lake. We invited Lea Kiersten, a new guest instructor, to join us and she brought a dynamic, creative, and fun energy to our group. We look forward to inviting her back!



Performing at the Onward Ranch last fall

We loved performing at the recent Robbie Burns Night at the Legion, and we thank them for the invitation! Many of the kids (and a few parents!) tried haggis for the first time and appreciated the warm welcome we were given!

We continue to work on a big production for this year. Celtic Routes will be performed at the Gibraltar Room on May 4 and 5, 2019. Join us on a musical fiddle journey, as we follow the routes of Celtic music around the world. Imagine dandelion seeds, blowing in the breeze. Each seed carries the Celtic music traditions of its homeland. The seed lands, settles, sprouts and grows in its new country. The music of Ireland, France and Scotland begin to merge and blend with the melodies of the new country. Experience music as interesting to play as it is beautiful to hear... Tickets are available at the Open Book.

If you would like more information about the CCYFS or its upcoming events, please contact us at ccyfsinfo@gmail.com or find us on Facebook by searching Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society Public Page. *(Submitted by Kendra Rogers-Calabrese)*

Cariboo Potters Guild



A gorgeous array of pottery and art on display in the Graham Kelsey Room for the Fall Show and Sale put on by the Cariboo Art Society and The Potters Guild

The Earth Friendly Event was immensely successful for the Potters with dozens upon dozens of happy children, parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, adults and friends attending over the two days. Clay creations were made by the hundreds and it was a joy to see the happy faces leaving the guild room

Annual beginners' classes are now underway. Weekly classes run through to the end of February with members of the guild teaching their specialty to the group. The guild sees the students' projects through the building processes, glazing and firing. Thus, students take home completed projects. This ever-

popular set of classes sells out rapidly each year and is a perfect opportunity for members of our community to find out what pottery is all about.



A group of the Potters Guild artists display their work after a workshop

All the while, members are making plans for the Empty Bowls Fundraiser. Workbees are underway making bowls for this well supported community event. With support from the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake, bowls are made for February 14. Visitors will be provided a handmade pottery bowl, which they will keep, and have a choice of several soups which are donated by local restaurants and bread to enjoy. The Legion has donated their facility for the lunch which will happen from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The profits of this event go to the Salvation Army "soup kitchen". (Submitted by Jill Crosina)

Cariboo Gold Dance Band

We started the season off with a wedding out at Sunshine Ranch (Franz/Sylvia Laffer) and that was fabulous. Then we did the OKTOBERFEST at the Senior Activity Centre - dinner, silent auction and dance to fundraise for Canadian Cancer office. We played at the Rawluk Benefit on November 24th at the WL Studio Theatre. The following week, December 1st we had Donnie

Clark up for a workshop session and then show that night at the Limelight Theatre. Finally, on December 17 we have a Christmas concert with Quintet Plus at Retirement Concepts. Most of our events for spring are still 'up in the air'... except POPS in the PARK at the end of June. (Submitted by Murray Hoffman Music Director, CGDB)



Cariboo Gold pose with Donny Clark at the Limelight for Swing Night (Photo by Casey Bennett)

Community Band



The Christmas season was a busy one as usual. The band participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Gibraltar Room, Medieval Market and our own Christmas concert at City Hall while individual members participated in the Tuba John's Christmas evening and the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign kick-off. Upcoming events include a

full day workshop and community concert with guest conductor Douglas Macauley of the West Vancouver Youth Band, musicians from local and 100 Mile House high school bands will be participating as well as adult musicians from the 100 Mile House Community Band. *(Submitted by Harry Jennings)*

Cariboo Festival Society

The Cariboo Festival Society is gearing up for our 2019 Season. Behind the scenes our committee has been working hard organizing each of our four disciplines which are taking place in April.

First will be Vocal/Choral on April 8, 9, 10 at the Evangelical Free Church. The adjudicator is Sarona Mynhardt who hails from South Africa and now lives in BC.



Sarona Mynhardt makes her home on the Sunshine Coast *(Photo courtesy her website saronamynhardt.wixsite.com/mysite)*

Next will be Speech Arts on April 11 & 12 also at the Evangelical Free Church with Caroljoy Green as Adjudicator. She lives and works in Prince George. She teaches drama & speech arts to Grades 5-7 as well as high school drama.

Our Piano section will be held April 15, 16 & 17 at the Calvary Church on Carson Dr. The adjudicator is Maureen Hollins from Surrey B.C.

Susan Aylard is the adjudicator for our Band/Instrumental section happening on April 16, 17 & 18 at both Lake City Secondary Schools and the Anglican Church on Carson Dr.

The 2019 Festival will culminate with our Honours Concert on April 27 at the Cariboo Bethel Church. At this time, our Award winners will perform and receive up to \$1800.00 in Scholarships and Bursaries. At the end of the evening, those students that have been recommended to participate in the Provincial Festival will be announced. *(Submitted by Raeleen Campsall)*

Quintet Plus



Quintet Plus performed at the Medieval Market last November

Quintet Plus is Williams Lake's only mixed adult choir. We currently have 29 members.

We have a very full schedule that will take us up to Christmas. One of our seasonal highlights will be our performance at Tuba Christmas on Dec. 12. We perform with other choirs and members of the WL Community Band to raise funds for the Festival Society and the Salvation Army. The

evening concludes with all of the choirs singing The. Hallelujah Chorus.

Here are links to their recent performances:

<https://youtu.be/6PwsAYPLtdc>

<https://youtu.be/nsEGe017ulo>

We invite new members to join us in January.
(Submitted by Sharon Hoffman)

Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is looking forward to the many great arts and culture programming events coming to Williams Lake and the area in 2019. To begin, the Museum will be hosting the City of Williams Lake Birthday Tea on March 15, 2019, at the Museum (1660 South Broadway). Everyone is welcome to join us to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the municipality's founding. There will be tea and coffee as well as a small civic history display. The Museum Society volunteers will also be hosting an evening coffee house in April so stay tuned for the specifics!

CAN YOU NAME ALL OF THESE LOCAL COWBOYS?



Image of cowboys from Museum's Facebook Page, visit [@Museum-of-the-Cariboo-Chilcotin](https://www.facebook.com/Museum-of-the-Cariboo-Chilcotin)

The new year brings new inductees to the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame, including a new category of achievement for "Builders of Western Culture." This year there are six inductees: Hilbert Deleeuw & the Deleeuw Ranch under the category of Ranching Pioneer & Century Ranch, the Gun Granberg Ranch under Century Ranch, the Moon Family under Family, Philip Camille under Working Cowboy, Lawrence Elkins under Competitive Achievements, and Willie Crosina under Builder of Western Culture. Everyone is encouraged to come visit the Museum to learn more about this year's inductees. The latter three will be inducted at the Williams Lake Indoor Rodeo at the end of April. For anyone interesting in submitting a nomination, the information is due by November 1, 2019, for the next intake cycle. Forms are available at the Museum or online at www.cowboy-museum.com.

The Museum is also undergoing some major renovations led by the City of Williams Lake in its lower display areas. By the onset of the summer season, the Museum will have newly finished exhibitions in the basement of the building for public enjoyment and education. The renovations also ensure that the Museum has an artifact workroom for performing restorative work on the collection, a staff room, office, and a dedicated meeting and training space. Everyone is encouraged to come check out the space once it is completed later this spring. Many thanks go to the City for funding and organizing this exciting upgrade.

For the summer, the Museum will be presenting two entirely new permanent exhibitions in addition to its traditional community, ranching, and rodeo ones. Thanks to the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society, the Museum will be presenting a cartographic history exhibition that

examines the history of the Cariboo through maps. Additionally, as part of the calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Museum will present a community-led exhibition on the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in its rotunda space. This project is supported by the Heritage Legacy Fund of BC, and the Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society. These exhibitions will be open to the public by the summer season. *(Submitted by Joe Borsato)*

Potato House



Potato House compost program draws local wildlife, too!

Potato House is providing photos with Santa at the Medieval Market in Partnership with the LCSS Photography class but will not be hosting photos at the Potato House during Winter Lights Weekend. The Escape Rooms for Halloween at the Potato House were a terrifying success and we plan to run them again next year for longer than a one-week window. This was a very successful fundraiser and provided a great time for the groups who participated.

Potato House is in grant writing mode right now and getting ready for spring when our first event

will be an Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be held on April 21st, between noon and 3 pm, and is free for all involved. Keep in touch and thank you everyone for all your support this fall. *(Submitted by Mary Forbes)*

Station House Gallery

The Station House had a booming year. From our first shows in February to the current and final 2018 show, Mia Italia, Kathy Lauriente-Bonner's tribute to her beloved Italy, we had positive responses from locals and visitors alike for all 15 shows.

Our openings are always well attended, generally 50 and sometimes 75 guests attend and our out of town artists tell us that our openings exceed any they've had in other galleries.



February's upstairs gallery will be taken up by local artist Kevin Easthope's show, dealing with Indigenous – Settler relations.

There was a noticeable increase over the past few years of Summer and Autumn visitors this year, the Station House had 2037 visitors during July and August and almost that many in September/October.

We are gearing up for the Christmas market setup on the 28th of this month – birch theme this year. Each year we are amazed by the amount of people that come through the market and we are grateful to them and all the artists and artisans that keep the gallery an important contributor to the arts and culture sector in our community.

In October, we sold tickets for a chance to win an authentic 5 course Italian dinner prepared by Kathy Lauriente-Bonner (held October 24th). We encouraged everyone to support the gallery and buy a ticket which were limited increasing the odds of winning. The dinner was held in the gallery, amidst Kathy's paintings and seated at a wonderful handcrafted table it was an ambience par excellence!



Christmas Market was wildly successful again this December, a wonderful showcase for all things local.

Next year the Station House building celebrates its 100th Anniversary, we hope that the City of Williams Lake will help us celebrate the occasion in a big way. (Submitted by Diane Toop)

Williams Lake Spinners Weavers and Fibre Artists

Vonny Johnson, our president of the past few years has stepped down, and Barb Bowles is taking her place.

In April, the intro to knitting and crochet course was well attended, and everyone went home with wool, needles or crochet hook, a partially finished item, and lots of enthusiasm to keep at it. There were a lot of requests for a follow up class which we will hold this winter. We were hoping to gain a few members as a result of the class, but none eventuated. Having our main meetings during the daytime on Wednesdays probably inhibits many new members, it may be that we need to focus more effort on making our Saturday get togethers more consistent and busier.



Such talent in the Spinner and Weavers guild! These blanket beauties are for sale, \$350 each.

In July we participated in the Williams Lake Garden Club's annual Garden Tour, spinning in one of the gardens. We had a fun time at the Harvest Fair in September, there was a lot of interest in our sample items and our spinning demonstrations. We are holding a similar display

and demo at the CRD library on October 27th, 10-2pm. Our annual Christmas sale was held on Saturday 3rd November 10 – 4 pm. The 2 large blankets on the 100" loom are finally finished, they will be displayed at this sale. We helped children craft pom poms and gods-eyes again this year at the Earth Friendly event Nov 30 & Dec 1.

All the looms have been busy this year, lots of blankets, rag rugs, tea towels and napkins have been produced. Members have been busy crafting at home too, with many scarves woven and socks and sweaters knitted. We have a large stash of wool in the guild room, which we plan to knit up into toques and scarves for the giving tree later in the year.

There is a lot to look forward to for the coming months, as the guild prepare for the annual Spin-In in May. It's a wonderful chance to catch up and socialize, spinning challenges, prizes up for grabs and vendors to peruse. Join us Saturday May 5 2018, Location: Mackinnon Hall under the United Church in Williams Lake, Time: Doors open 9am, festivities beginning at 10am. Registration details to come. *(Submitted by Emily Clearwater)*

Williams Lake Studio Theatre

Williams Lake Studio Theatre is celebrating its 64th year. We thank the CACWL for their purchase of a 2nd theatre seat. We are in rehearsal for 3 plays. First up will be 'November' which will be on stage Nov. 7-17. Next up will be 'Table Manners' Hitting the stage in January. *(Submitted by Sharon Hoffman)*



The cast of Table Manner, directed by Michael Rawluk, takes their final bow at the Studio Theatre's first show of 2019

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 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 are examples of the kind of writing exercises we do during our sessions.

1. Write a descriptive paragraph using the words alien, black and thrifty.
2. Write a short, short story starting with As I stepped out the front door....
3. Write a dialogue between one of the following pairs of characters:
 1. an old woman and a policeman
 2. a cowboy and a preacher
 3. a little boy and an astronaut*(Submitted by Linda Purjue)*

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and culture society

Community Art brings individuals together, shows off beautiful objects and educates! The Salmonid Exhibit at the Sam Ketcham Pool's waiting area is a perfect example of all these threads coming together. (Photo by Vanessa Moburg)

