



Celebrating Cariboo Arts and Culture for 50 Years!

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President's Message

This Land is Big Sky

Reframing the view
Removing the
power lines
The roads wash out
The roots are deep

Coordinators Update

Hello again, Arts Community! It will be ever so wonderful to see your faces again, and I am sending out heartfelt wishes that you remain healthy and safe in the early days of 2021.

Outside of the wonderful concert put on by Evan Catalano and Potato House, held on the patio of Fox Mountain Brewery (photo above!), there are few "events" to tell you about. The second half of 2020 saw this arts organizer turn towards arts administration – writing grants, planning, contemplating efficiencies and generally missing the rush that comes from setting up arts events and opportunities.

These quiet times allow for visioning – hopes for our arts community, places to grow and things to achieve.

Much of my personal and professional focus landed on "Arts-based Reconciliation". Briefly, this work sees arts-based practices integrated into teaching models, in this case to further the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. This means investigating racial biases in myself and my community through art. This

Standing at perspectives
To catch the sky and honour the sage
The spindles of burned trees
Weave the fog

Cloud shadows of mountaintops
And star maps to futures
The climbers notice the way
Sunrise shifts across a valley

This land is the root
Growing all our stories
Each point a tale lit up by fires
Remembered in the right seasons

Sonya Littlejohn

means honing the Arts and Culture lens on what we can do in our creative practices to understand, then affect change.



Chiefs in New Westminster, 1867 (from NSTQ website)

Our first project, supported by the Cariboo Regional District and the City of Williams Lake via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society, will ask individual artists to investigate these issues, supporting their work alongside Indigenous mentors who will assist in guiding these artists towards right relationship with the land and its People on Secwepemcúl'ecw. Artists will enroll in the course, Awakenings (facilitated by Margaret-Anne Enders), designed to engage with anti-racism, privilege and allyship.

Further, we are seeking funding to expand more programming to schools, bringing arts and dialogue to our young people, so that they can foster right relationship to their Indigenous neighbours and lands.

We've got more on the plans, as well, stay tuned as we move into the warmer months that

will allow us to get outside and safely co-create.
Venta Rutkauskas

Upcoming Events

Artist Salons

This spring (weather will determine the dates!) we are hosting a series of talks with local artists in the spirit of the famed get togethers in Bohemian Paris. Formally and according to Wikipedia, A **salon** is a gathering of people held by an inspiring host. During the gathering they amuse one another and increase their knowledge through conversation.

We do indeed intend to inspire! Our artists will pair up and discuss projects, passions and issues close to their hearts, enlightening us about their creative processes.



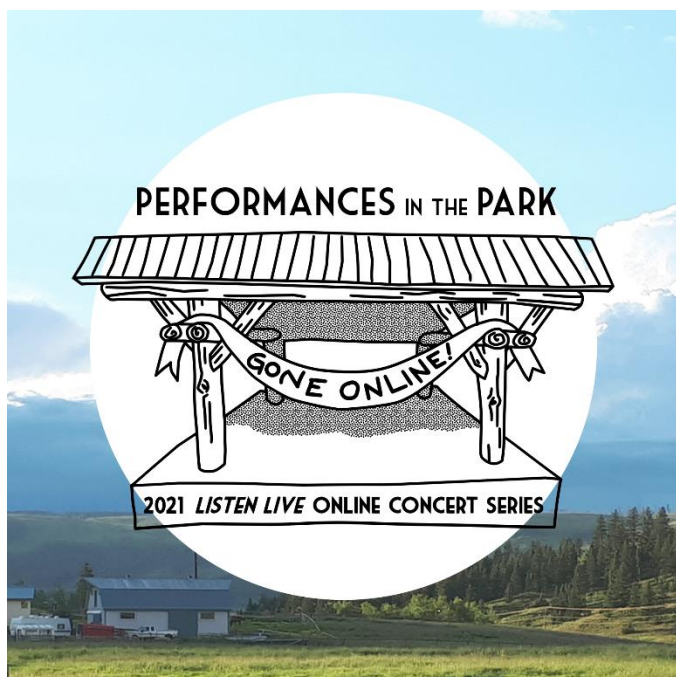
La Reunion des Dames, Abraham Bosse, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

This project is assisted with some funding from the City of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Regional District, via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society. CACWL feels fortunate to have their ongoing support for our forays into the public community arts.

A few artists have signed on, though we shall keep the names secret for the time being.

These will be ticketed events held in a location that allows for fresh air and lots of distance between patrons. Keep an eye out to our Facebook page and local media for more info in early spring.

Performances in the Park



2021 logo designed by Brandon Hoffman

The 2020 season of Performances in the Park took the unique turn away from the live stage in Boitanio Park and onto the YouTube platform as a way to cope with pandemic-era restrictions. We created 9 beautiful films that capture a range of talent and received well over 7,000 views to date!

We're at it again for 2021, folks... and though we're excited, it's a little melancholy to imagine another summer without lovely large gatherings in the park.

As we build our capacity for this next round, we're putting a call out to sponsors!



Do you or a business associate you know want to get involved with Performances in the Park? A large part of our annual budget comes from supportive businesses, contributing to this fantastic FREE event series.

Sponsors are well broadcast on our websites, social media and YouTube. Learn more about sponsorship benefits and tiers at:

<http://www.centralcaribooarts.com/performances-in-the-park/>

'We Acknowledge' Arts Based Reconciliation

A public 'Call for Artists' is forthcoming from the CAC. We'll be seeking up to six artists in any medium who are committed to learning about inherent racial imbalances and biases, and their relationship to Secwepemcúl'ecw, through a guided process.

Steps include a six-week course promoting anti-racism and a dialogue partner from Secwepemcúl'ecw. Our hope is that these steps lead each artist to create conscious and meaningful work that explores the themes of right relationship as settlers.

Only serious applicants need apply – our goal is to ignite a conversation about Truth and Reconciliation in our community.

Summer and Autumn Highlights

The Giving Tree



Sharon Hoffman leads the Giving Tree (Photo for the Tribune by Monica Lamb Yorski)

This is the 8th season that the Giving Tree has been providing warm clothing for our vulnerable citizens. Warm donated items are hung in a tree in our city park. Chilly people are invited to take something if they feel the need.

I was concerned that donations would be way down this year, as the bulk of our items have been donated through the Art Centre, especially through the Earth Friendly Holiday Event. I was disappointed AGAIN when the outdoor Wreath Making CAC/ CCCS workshop was cancelled due to COVID. Participants had been asked to donate unused old warm clothing to this. I had no need to be concerned. In the winter of 19/20, just over 200 items were bagged and hung in the tree at Boitanio Park.

For winter 20/21 people are being asked to leave their items in the tub on the porch at the Potato House. To date, there are almost 300 items that have been bagged up. The socks, mitts, toques, scarves etc., are individually bagged and labelled. I group together a mixed bag of around 12 items. Every few days I will

restock the tree. What amazes me is that I very rarely find the plastic bags littered about.

People have been so incredibly generous. Since the Tribune article, people have phoned me and asked if I am still taking donations. The answer is a big YES! One lady spent a year making 100 toques. 20

of these were donated to the Giving Tree Project. I have also received coats and warm footwear. These items I pass on to a friend who distributes them through a church group. Until the shutdown, folks participating in workshops at the art centre were told that they could donate items if they wished. A bin was put up inside the art centre to collect these. Many items from here have been bagged up.

Last year the Library was a great place to collect items. It was especially handy as not only would folks drop things off, but others would also claim things directly from the bin. Again, due to COVID, the library bin was not allowed this year, but the other avenues for donating have been successful.

In the past, various members from the CAC groups would join me for a bagging and labelling blitz. I miss the camaraderie, I look forward with bonding with the posse next year when we can hopefully be back to normal, but I have been so pleasantly surprised by the way folks in Williams Lake have come forward to help those in need. Check out the article in the Tribune [here](#).

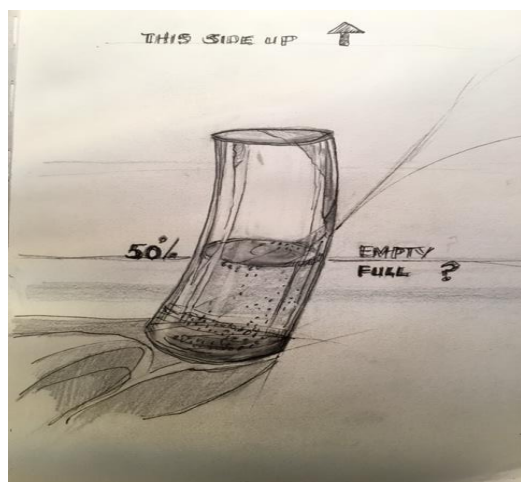
Submitted by Sharon Hoffman

Member Group News

Cariboo Art Society

We participated in our AGM later this year at Rose Lake with Cat Prevette's last duty as President. We had a few gatherings for updates, artists sharing and a Discovery: colour RED exercise.

We are back in our creative mode of communications through social media with the # 1 start Project "A Glass Half Full". The artists are asked to work in any medium and to share the project on the Facebook group. Members also continue to post interesting and creative project ideas or just simple visuals to add to our artsy minds.



Work submitted by Linda Bachman

Definitely looking forward to being together in warmer weather at special plein-air locations and our special outdoor exhibition opportunities planned. (Submitted by Linda Bachman)

Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society

Happy 2021, arts community of Williams Lake! While there were still many things to appreciate about 2020, despite its challenges, we are very much looking forward to a new and improved (or adapted) 2021.

One event that we usually get a lot of help with from the Community Arts Council every year is our Earth Friendly Holiday Event, where months of natural materials-gathering and community group spirit culminates into 2 days of non-stop natural holiday crafting. We usually have around a dozen or more different craft tables set up, hosted by our own team members and volunteers, as well as those from various community groups such as Scout Island Nature Centre, the Potters Guild, Spinners and Weavers, and many more. This year, it had to be cancelled entirely, other than helping out some keen students and teachers at Chilcotin Road school get enough materials together to make their own wreaths. We were excited to still be able to do a small fraction of an Earth Friendly event this year! We will see what 2021 brings.



Wreath making with students at Chilcotin Road School (Photo B. van de Wijngaard)

Big thanks to the Community Arts Council for being willing to help us with this event yet again this year.

As for our very near future, we are still working on some Water and Waste Wise events and projects in the new year, in case we are still able to host them in some adapted form. For example, we are hoping to do another Waste Wise clothing swap sometime in February or March: we have done two clothing swaps already in previous years and they have been one of our most popular events. So please hold onto your gently used clothing items and stay tuned for updates on this event on our facebook and Instagram accounts.

Thanks, everyone. Stay happy and healthy!
(Submitted by Amber Gregg)

Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society

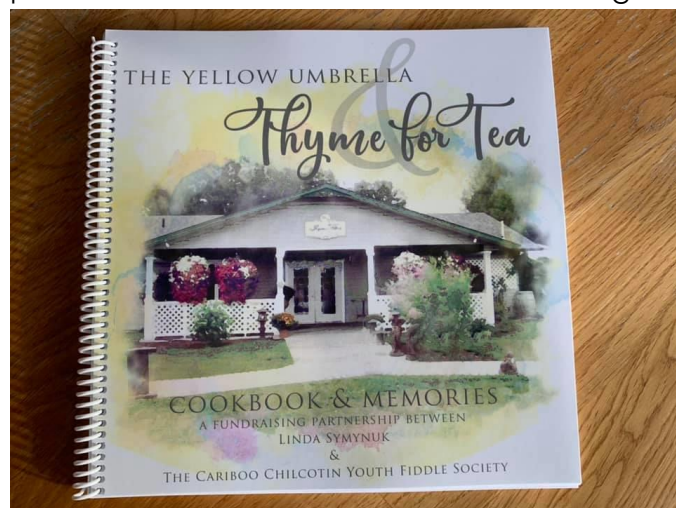


Senior CCYFS performers (Photo by Leslie Rowse)

The CCYFS has had a very slow winter season due to the ongoing pandemic. While we would normally have a lot to report at this time of year, our updates are very limited.

We had adapted quite well to the Covid guidelines and protocols around health and safety in the fall and had resumed our bi-weekly Group Practices. The kids were happy to see each other again and get back into their music! Unfortunately, those practices were short-lived, as the increasing Covid numbers and stricter guidelines affected our ability to manage the practices and secure a rental space. We made the difficult decision to discontinue our Group Practices, and they remain on hold until it is safe to resume.

Several of our senior students continue to raise funds for a future trip to.... Ireland? For now, we are hanging on to this long-term goal, with the realization that our trip might be significantly different than we had hoped. We have other options that are closer to home, but won't be making a final decision until we have a better idea of if and when international travel will be possible again.



Our main fundraiser for that trip has been the creation and sale of the Yellow Umbrella and Thyme for Tea cookbook (above). This partnership with Linda Symynuk has been a fantastic experience.

We managed to hold a Covid-friendly curbside pick-up "event" in the Tourism Discovery Centre parking lot on November 28, 2020 (thank you, Discovery Centre!) and both the weather and the sales were brisk!

Since that event, book sales have continued at our beloved local bookstore, The Open Book. Angela Rankin and her fabulous staff have patiently counted, sold, and restocked the cookbooks since the end of November, and we are very grateful for that! The cookbooks are still available at The Open Book, as well as via etransfer for out-of-town customers, or those who choose not to venture out too much!

Email inquiries can be sent to teahousecookbook@gmail.com.

We are hanging on to hope for a proper tea-party event in the late spring but will only be able to this if it safe to do so. We are grateful for support funds from the Community Arts Council of WL for this future event and appreciate their flexibility with when and how we host that event. When we can offer an event that celebrates the cookbook while following proper Covid protocols, you will hear from us again!

Our Board continues to check in via Zoom and email to brainstorm and consider different options moving forward. At this point, all CCYFS activities are on hold until the provincial health orders support in-person group practices and events. We are still here, hoping for the best, and looking forward to our next opportunity to play for all of you and entertain our supportive community. Thank you for your interest and support and take care!

Find [Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society](#) on Facebook to keep in touch. (Submitted by Kendra Rogers-Calabrese)

Cariboo Potters Guild

Members of the Cariboo Potters Guild, like so many artists, have drastically changed the way we conduct our group activities. Over the past year, we have suffered the loss of sales, workshops, and open daily work at the guild. Being ever resourceful, we have embraced alternate forms of keeping connected and supporting each other. In that, the Cariboo Potters Guild is "alive and well".

The Guild has had a lot of interest in people wanting to join. Because we can't offer classes or individual instruction we have had to put them on hold. We have had some former members and experienced potters join. We look forward to when we will be able to open our doors to all.



A Raku Mask created by one of the Potters of the Guild (who wish to remain anonymous)

To accommodate the current protocols an efficient member, Melissa Normandin, created an online calendar for members' use. This tool enables those wanting to use the studio the ability to easily book their time slot while adhering to the rules/restrictions.

In December our guild hosted two activities which were fun and beneficial. We drew names for a Secret Santa gift exchange. Many wonderful creations and thoughtful gifts were given, and we posted our thank you along with a photo of the gift on our Facebook page for all to see. At the same time, non-perishable food donations were dropped off at the guild. We delivered two large boxes of food to the Salvation Army Food bank.

The new kiln has been successfully set up. It has had a test fire, and a cone 5 glaze firing was done a few days before Christmas. All is well. Due to Covid it has not been possible to train firing teams, but individuals have stepped up to provide backup wherever possible. We look forward to using it more in 2021.



Many pieces of incredible new equipment were rolled into our studio and kiln room! Many

thanks go out to the Community Arts Council of Williams Lake, the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society via the Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake for their support.

The Cariboo Potters Guild has entered 2021 with hopes for recovery and an eventual return to the studio with the ability to gather, share skills, offer instruction, enjoy workshops and freely utilize our new equipment. *(Submitted by Jill Crosina)*

Cariboo Gold Dance Band

The CGDB continues to abide by all the recommendations of the Provincial Minister of Health and remains on "pause" as all of us deal with what we hope is the last few months of restrictions. Thankfully, vaccines are starting to arrive in our community and the inoculation program is underway. With that in mind, the band is planning for a possible summer of near-normal rehearsals and anticipates a fall program of performances.

With lock down and group gatherings not permitted to reduce COVID transmission across the province, the dance band ceased rehearsal in March of 2020 and the members did not get together until the fall as the Ministry of Health began to allow limited gatherings.

We began to rehearse with some of the band members on October 19th, implementing strict hygiene protocols – hand sanitizing upon entry to the Seniors Activity Centre (SAC) room, distancing and masks. It should be noted that not all band members were comfortable with gathering as a groups as yet, and did not attend rehearsal. During rehearsal, wind instrument players removed masks and remained seated a minimum of 2 m from others. Members of the rhythm section wore their masks

for the duration of the rehearsal. Following the rehearsal, a major sanitizing of the tables, chairs, light switches and other points of contact were carried out. In addition, a list of members that attended and their contact information was left at the SAC in the event contact tracing was needed.

We met again as a group five more times, through to the end of November, even planning to play a few Christmas charts to help us all get into the holiday spirit. Though several members did not attend any of these limited gatherings, those of us that did, were very careful to adhere to hygiene protocols, as required by Min of Health and the SAC.

However, November 16th as it turned out, was to be our last rehearsal for 2020. Once again, the province was put on "pause", with restrictions imposed on gatherings, travel and most other social activities. CGDB rehearsals were halted for a second time this year.

So, no Christmas concerts, no holiday performances, and no playing of Christmas music for the Salvation Army kettle.

On January 11th, the band had its first ZOOM meeting. Once again, not everyone attended. Some forgot, some couldn't figure out the technology and some just weren't up to it. But for those that made it, it was nice to check-in with others and see their faces. Al Balogh, the CGDB Treasurer shared with the band that we had received an Central Cariboo Arts and Culture grant in the amount of \$3000. With these funds, the band executive continues to plan for a major fall performance event with the well-know jazz vocalist, Steve Maddock. The final format of this Sinatra Tribute has yet to be determined but the executive has a couple of

options proposed depending on COVID protocols required at that time.

Being cautiously optimistic, the CGDB is anticipating the restart of rehearsals before the start of summer and developing a range of Sinatra charts for the fall event with Steve. In the meantime, members will continue practice on their own and if permitted, in small sectional 'bubbles'. Hopefully, we will all be able to get together on November 14th, 2021, for an amazing Sinatra Tribute Show with Steve in the Gibraltar Room.



*Here is the CARIBOO GOLD playing at the Club 27 on 2nd Ave in the spring of 1986... getting ready to head down to play the BC Pavilion Stage at EXPO 86
(Photo from CGDB Facebook)*

(Submitted by Murray Hoffman)

Community Band

We were not permitted or able to do anything last fall. However, director Laura Eilers is organizing a Zoom concert for the Band members, planning to play "Under the Cherry

Blossom" by Randall D. Standridge, hopefully in the middle of February. *(Submitted by Harry Jennings)*

Cariboo Festival Society

Last year's Festival, as with most things in 2020, was cancelled due to Covid. The 2021 Festival, however has been organized in large part to the extra hard work of our President, Robin Ford, will be done Virtually.

Our syllabus was posted in early January listing the many changes to be able to comply with present health regulations. Registration closes on Feb 8 with the Repertoire submissions date of March 5.



Unfortunately, this year, the Speech Arts component will not be offered due to lack of volunteers.

All three Adjudicators are set to adjudicate from the comfort of their own homes. Our participants will perform from various facilities here in Williams Lake where cameras/computers will be set up to live feed their performances. Unfortunately, spectators are not allowed at this time.

The dates of each of the disciplines are Vocal - April 12-15, Piano - April 19-22 and Instrumental/Band - April 16,17. The annual Honours Concert is slated for early May IF health regulations permit by that time. *(Submitted by Raeleen Campsall)*

Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin

As we dive into the new year of 2021, looking back at 2020 we experienced a year of challenges, learning, and growth. Just as we prepared to welcome guests into the Museum to host the annual City of Williams Lake birthday tea on March 16th, COVID-19 took a turn and we found the tea cancelled and a few days later the Museum closing its doors to the public on March 20th until later reopening June 1st. While this has not been a normal year for the world, the Museum did not host any events such as our birthday tea, wreath workshops, craft fairs, and BCCHF induction ceremonies to name a few, and while we missed seeing our members and community, we found opportunities to dive deeper into our collection, working to improve our conservation efforts, assist in public research requests, transform some of our exhibits, and rotate some displays. We also opened our new exhibit "Cariboo Strong, Resiliency in the Face of the 2017 Wildfires" with support from the Canadian Red Cross. In the opening of our Cariboo Strong Exhibit, we also teamed up with BC author, Claudia Cornwall who had just recently published her book on the 2017 wildfires "British Columbia in Flames".

The Museum was also fortunate to have four staff members join us for the summer months, who helped us relocate the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame exhibits inside the log cabin within the Museum to better showcase the cowboys and cowgirls of the Cariboo Chilcotin in a space of their own. Displays were also added upstairs that showcase the stopping houses of the Cariboo Chilcotin, as well as Ed & Marta Deak's 1951 Douglas Motorcycle, and we even brought our popular white life size horse back for guests to enjoy! Even though we were not able to host any of our own events due to the public health orders conflicting with the time of events throughout the year, we were fortunate to be asked to join the Williams Lake Stampede Association and the Rotary Club of Williams Lake where we set up a booth for passing breakfast patrons to view, and it allowed us the opportunity to interact with the community once again.

We also recently bid farewell to our Manager, Alex Geris at the end of November as she returned home to Ontario to be closer to her family. However, we are excited to welcome our new manager Carmen Vermeulen to the Museum team. She joins us with six years of museum experience and is eager to learn about the Cariboo Chilcotin region and make our community her new home. She has a strong interest in cultural heritage and the unique history that can be found in every community. We hope you will join us in giving her a big Williams Lake welcome, and we encourage you to pop by and see our new Cariboo Strong exhibit (also available online at www.cowboy-museum.com) and meet our team!

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin recently was a recipient for the 2020 Fall Intake CCACS Grants Program which secured funding allowing us to move forward with our new project, "The Laketown: Downtown Williams Lake Past to Present". This new project will showcase the evolution of downtown Williams Lake through our collection of photographs. Spearheading the new project will be Museum staff member Casey Bennett. We are excited to commence work on "The Laketown: Downtown Williams Lake Past to Present" project and we look forward to being able to share it with the public once completed. We would also like to recognize and extend our appreciation to the Cariboo Regional District, The City of Williams Lake and the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture for this funding.

We are looking forward to the future with a positive outlook for days when we can host events within the community and get to see everyone's friendly faces once again in a safe environment. (Submitted by Davana Mahon)

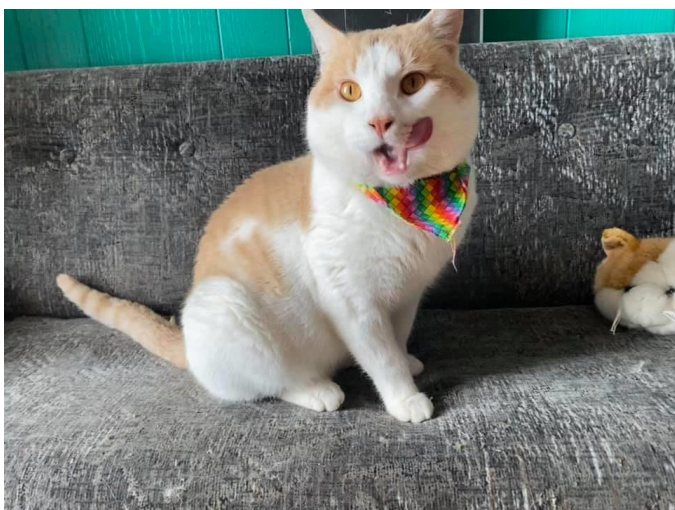


A blast from the past image from the Museum staff - Stampede Grounds circa 1950s.

Potato House

Hello fellow arts and culture community!

What a year it has been for all of us! As many of you know, the Potato House depends on fundraising events for a portion of our annual expenses, most of which we had to cancel to follow guidelines and keep each other safe! There is no doubt that even without financial incentive, our dedicated team would continue to do this work if only to see it benefit the community. We look forward to the day that we will once again be able to gather in the gardens, sip a refreshing beverage, dance, and listen to live music in the company of friends!



Welcome Spudz Mackenzie! Potato House has adopted a stray (Photo from Facebook)

Thanks to our grant writer, Joe Borsato, we were able to secure funding from NDIT and Heritage BC to complete a successful restoration and renovation project. The side room on the main floor has been completely renovated and revitalized to make more effective and efficient use of space. The overall interior of the house is now more functional for tours, events, and exhibitions. Upstairs, we have installed new windows and doors which, combined with

previously blown in insulation, make this once freezer or sauna like space comfortable. The floor and walls have been completely finished. We used laminate plywood instead of drywall for the walls to be in keeping with the original shiplap lathe finish and saved some of the original pressed paper wall tiles to make a heritage feature wall on the gable end window along with its original wood mouldings. Each element of this restoration has been with the conscious choice to reflect on the materials of the past while conforming to modern code and sustainability of materials and their application. The renovation will allow us to have a comfortable meeting space for community organizations for meetings, art nights, and more!

We have had a number of summer students join us at the site through Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works. Having students allows us to continue to develop our programs and giving us a chance to pass on the legacy of the Potato House to local youth in the area. We have just submitted applications for our 2021 summer students and we are hopeful that those will be successful.

Our amazing grant writer Joe Borsato has moved on to pursue a PhD. We are grateful to Joe for all his hard work and dedication over the time that he worked with us. With his combination of knowledge, experience and skills, we were successful in securing over \$100,000.00 in funding to complete projects in 2020. We will miss Joe very much but wish him all the best as he continues to advance his studies! With Joe's departure, we needed to find someone to fill the grant writing gap. We were able to secure Amber Gregg, the current Program Coordinator at the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, who has over six years of

Non-Profit management and grant writing experience. Welcome to Amber, we look forward to working together!

For 2021, we have plans to develop project ideas such as installing a commercial kitchen to develop sustainable cooking classes, a documentary detailing the development of the Potato House Project from the initial days to now, continue to develop our drive-through compost program, and of course, host community events! We have a fun, free, family day event coming up so see our [Facebook page](#) for those details!

(Submitted by Amber Gregg)

Quintet Plus

This year has been very odd for singers. Quintet Plus executive members contacted each other via email, it has been decided that, much as we truly miss getting together to sing, it just isn't safe for us. The church where we practise is not able to take us, and even though some singing groups have been very successful with Zoom practices, this just was not a suitable option for us.

I polled our members. A couple of members are singing with recordings or youtube sites. They can see sheet music and sing along with a choral group. Some members are able to sing in their church, socially distanced from the accompanist and minister. The services are recorded and sent out on Zoom. Two women from Quintet Plus recorded their music privately, then through technical magic, their parts were put together into a youtube link for their church congregation (See it on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/2LsnzDw>). All agree that this just isn't the same as getting together as a group.

Singing publicly during COVID has been quite the interesting experience. Three Quintet Plus members regularly sang at a long term care home this summer. They were masked, on the patio and distanced from the residents. Two of the singers were also ukulele players. Fortunately the music was large and bold so that glasses were not needed during the early days of getting used to a mask. If glasses were worn, a musician would be looking, unsuccessfully, through the steam on the lenses. When the restrictions were lessened a bit, the singers returned indoors, but sang socially distanced behind a 5 m sheet of poly. This was easier than having a mask. Restrictions tightened up again and the singers no longer had the poly, but wore surgical masks. These masks have a nose piece and the glasses are not as steamy. The voice is muffled to the audience and the singer does have to sing a bit harder risking a vocal strain. Our director works in recreation at the care home. She sings with residents using a surgical mask.



A sample of a singer's mask from the web

Fortunately, I discovered the singers mask. (Find the link for the patter here!)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GQep8AHll-aco7zSIQOWTkz6aTHc1ri8/view>

This has been used outside, distanced in a busking type situation. The mask makes you look like a duck as the front is bill shaped, but there is room between your mouth and the mask for air to move. The mask keeps its shape with the help of 2 zip ties. The clasp part of the ties are cut off, the straps are then threaded through sewn channels top and bottom forming the 'bill'. Without the air space, the mask moves about your face when you breathe. The singers masks are made of 2 layers of 100% tightly woven cotton. The pattern calls for a polypropylene liner, but the jury is still out on the safety of breathing through this product. This fabric is the same fabric used in reusable grocery bags. Please see the link for the pattern. This pattern has a nose piece, it also has adjustable loops that go behind the ear. Many of the masks I make have a tie that goes behind the neck, up the sides and then ties on the top of the head. A stretchy polyester fabric is quick and easy to make ties from as there is no sewing of the individual ties that takes forever. Just cut the pieces and thread them through the sides! Try singing and playing 'Miss Foggerty's Christmas Cake' ...outside...on a ukulele with steaming glasses and a mask that won't stay in place! Yay Singers' Mask!

We are all truly looking forward to getting back together to sing as a group. There is something special about standing close to others and hearing your voice blend with the voices around you. (Submitted by Sharon Hoffman)

Station House Gallery

2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the Station House Gallery Society! *"It isn't often a whole community comes together for the common good. But, 40 years ago, that was the case when a group of art lovers had a vision for an*

arts space where they could display and sell fine art and crafts," Pirjo Raits describes.

The current building was in disrepair, but a loving and dedicated group of volunteers tuned it right up, and the legacy continues today. Ongoing expositions of fine arts infuse the city with culture, while local artisanal goods are in high demand year-round at the gallery shop.



The much-loved Christmas market – so many gorgeous things! (Photo from Facebook)

As the stream of events in our collective society dictate we live in a different fashion, so too have our public spaces been made to adjust and compensate for the good of the community. The Gallery remains a hub for the

arts in Williams Lake, if in a subdued fashion – the main gallery has shown local artists over the summer and autumn, inspiring visitors who trickle in in small groups. Opening nights for new artists are sorely missed, but the support and cheer of our extended Christmas Market made up for the loss.

The Middleman show saw a vast array of art and goods traded, with profits going towards the Society. We thank the community for their goodwill, especially for items donated to the gallery and sold on our behalf. It was a success!

In October, we featured Corey Hardeman's work, Found Poems. It was one of the first in the gallery's history to be featured in a short whole-show video produced by Rick Magnell. This delighted viewers who were not able to get to the paintings in person and may have even drawn a few visitors to the space. We'll continue to feature artists online in this way for future shows, so stay tuned to our Facebook page. (Here is a link to Corey Hardeman's virtual tour at SHG: https://fb.watch/3tqE9BQ2_0/)



As mentioned above, the annual Christmas Market began earlier this year, in response to the many cancelled markets. In mid-November, the doors opened many a masked and distanced shopper graced us with their presence, purchasing presents from a wealth of artisans on display. We'll say it again – we are

grateful for the community's continued support, both of the gallery and the artists we represent!

We have a wonderful show up currently, *On Our Walls* – a selection from Directors' and Members' private collection and works. It is also Membership Renewal time!! Stay tuned to Facebook for upcoming shows. (Submitted by Venta Rutkauskas)

Williams Lake Spinners Weavers and Fibre Artists



Some beautiful handi-work by Jane Bettles, Chamomile poncho, knit, - silk, mohair, wool.

The Spinners and Weavers don't have much to report. We met yesterday, January 6 at the park so we could socially distance with masks on and chat and have some show and tell. It was lovely to see some of the guild members.

We have plans to load the 100-inch loom with cotton that arrived in November before Dr. Henry requested the close down on November 9. It will be an overshot that will be raffled to assist us with rent. To date we have not been

able to proceed with the plan but are hopeful it won't be too much longer.

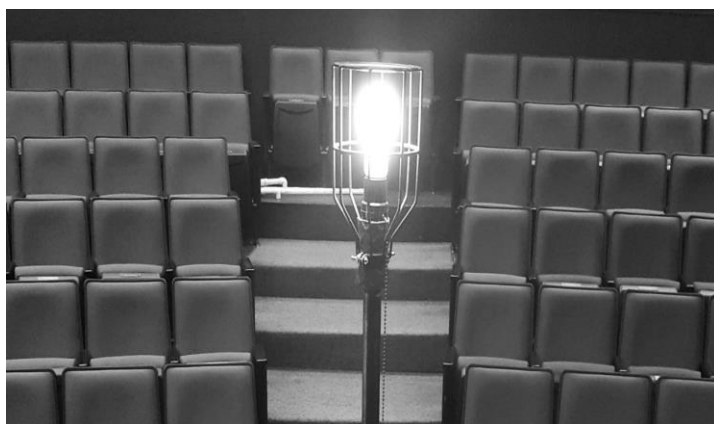
We are also hopeful that we will be able to proceed with an outdoor Garage Sale at the CCAC on the last weekend of May.

Unfortunately, we will not be having our Spin-in in May again this year. With most of our group in the high-risk category it will not happen till next year, 2022. (Submitted by Barb Bowles)



Knitted Christmas Balls!! From Barb Bowles 😊

Williams Lake Studio Theatre



Williams Lake Studio theatre stays active throughout the pandemic, coping with restrictions by staying active on Social Media.

The most important issue at stake for the WLST is the sale of their performing space, the old Glendale School, which has served as their 'home' for three decades.

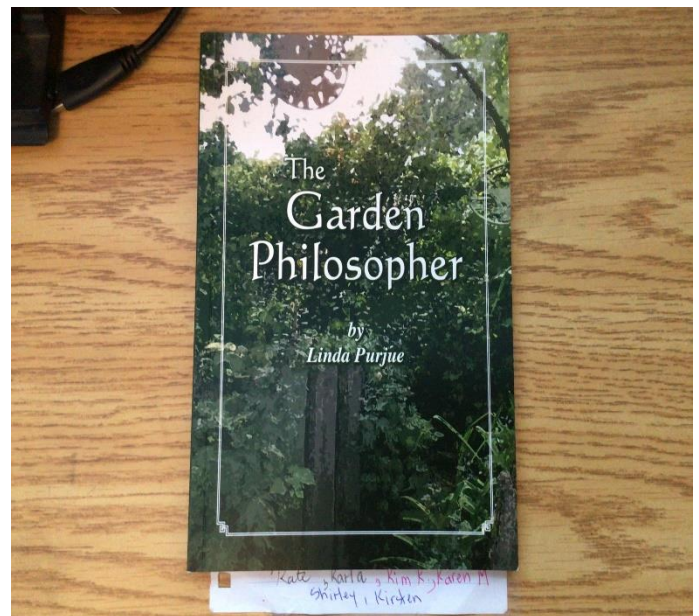
"I would like to take a moment to express immense appreciation to School District #27 for providing us constant support and a home for these past years. We could not have built what we have without you. What you have provided for us and for the community will not be forgotten and we will honour your contribution for all our years to come."

"We provide a service that is inclusive for race, gender, orientation, age, and class. We are one of the only nonprofessional companies in the province that provides a full season of 4 shows for our community's viewing pleasure. Our season provides a platform for the businesses big and small in our community to advertise to the broad reach that we have established. Through that sponsorship and support, we have the ability to increase our membership and patronage therefore nourishing the diversity of programs within the community. Our 4 show season runs 4 – 5 productions per week for up to 3 weeks, providing a minimum of 48 – 60 opportunities each year for the people in our city to engage in. We also hold workshops and events throughout the year to provide knowledge in a safe learning environment. Over the years we have held improv, costuming, 10 minute play readings, lighting, sound, Shakespeare, set design, vocal, hair, make-up, script writing, directing, and open forum workshops at little to no cost for the public to enjoy and have an opportunity to experience the various facets of what our society has to offer."

Williams Lake Writers Group

The Writers' Group has been severely affected by the Covid lockdown and suggested protocols, in that we have shut down completely. We had not met since February, and the last meeting we had was in the Fall with only two previous members attending as well as one new one. I cannot say what other people have been doing in the way of writing during this time of isolation. I personally made it a time to complete a project I have been thinking about for some time. I gathered together a selection of my own poetry into a book I call "The Garden Philosopher" (See image at right) and had it printed by Progressive Printers here in town. They do quite an acceptable job. I am also in the process of writing new poems and hope to have enough together to have a second book printed in a couple of years.

I can only hope that once the pandemic is under control and we can resume some form of our previous lives that the Writers' Group will once again meet regularly, and maybe even proceed with our plans for a regular Writers' Cafe. (Submitted by Linda Purjue)



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CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING THE
INCREDIBLE TALENT WE HAVE IN OUR
REGION; WE DEDICATE THIS PAGE TO
OUR MEMBERSHIP.



Shawl created by Barb Bowles



Williams Lake Studio Theatre online rehearsal (from Facebook)



Artwork by CCYFS instructor Ingrid Johnston



Spinner and Weaver Katelyn Henry's beautiful handiwork