

December 2008/January 2009



## Chetwynd Hosts Littlechild Workshop

George Littlechild will be in Chetwynd in January to conduct a four day painting and writing workshop. Catering to First Nations and non-natives of all ages, this workshop will explore memory through both watercolour painting and a written memoir which will be produced by each of the thirty participants.

A grant from BC150 was awarded to the Chetwynd Community Arts Council, partnering with Chetwynd's First Nations Liaison for School District 59, to finance this exciting opportunity. Application forms to attend workshop sessions will soon be available.

## carve or cheer at the high on ice festival

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council is busy planning for its upcoming High On Ice Festival. This year the event will run from Jan. 15-18, 2009. Ice carving will be held in Centennial Park, downtown Fort St. John.

This year's theme is *Ice Age: Frozen in Time*, conjuring up images of gigantic mastodons and glaciers, two things that the North Peace can be sure existed in abundance in the region's past.

As in past years, there will be both amateur and professional ice carving competition. The professionals can compete individually in the Single Block



High on Ice 2008

Competition, or combine their skills for the Team Competition, or both.

Registration is currently underway with forms available on the FSJ Community Arts Council's website at [www.fsjarts.org](http://www.fsjarts.org). Registration deadlines for professional carvers is Dec. 19 and Jan. 9 for amateur contestants.

Join the Fort St. John Community Arts Council in what is sure to be a fun filled event for the whole family. Come marvel at the wondrous ice sculptures, cheer your friends on, or try your own hand at ice and snow carving (beginners and children welcome too!)

submitted by Tara O'Donnell

## Dawson Creek Hosts Overture Concert Series

This season the South Peace Community Arts Council is pleased to announce the following concerts as part of the Overture Concert Series:

January 24th - **Patricia O'Callaghan**  
Tickets \$25.00 each

Called "the most promising cabaret performer of her generation" by Billboard, soprano Patricia O'Callaghan brings her own distinctive brand of art/pop song performance to a broad-based audience.



February 23rd - **The Nylons**  
Tickets \$30.00 each

Gold & platinum recording artists The Nylons, a four member vocal group, are a true international success story. Known for their great acappella sound, dazzling harmonies and smooth arrangements, The Nylons' immense appeal has taken them across North America, Europe, Australia, China, and Japan. The group is celebrating their 25th anniversary in the recording industry with the release of their 14th CD, *Sterling*. The Nylons continue to perform worldwide to passionate audiences and critical acclaim.



March 15th - **Pacific Baroque Orchestra**  
Tickets \$25.00 each

One of North America's most exciting and innovative ensembles, Vancouver's Pacific Baroque Orchestra has consistently held to its mandate of presenting music of the past in lively and imaginative performances. Recognized as one of North America's leading early music ensembles, the PBO was founded in 1990 by a group of West Coast musicians specializing in baroque and early classical repertoire.

April 30th - **Matilda and Patrick**  
Tickets \$25.00 each

Patrick Murray, comedian, ventriloquist and puppeteer, brings his unique show "Jamaican Me Laugh". This laugh filled, multi-cultural show highlights the sexy, sassy, vibrant observations of this hip comedienne.



Season's tickets make for great birthday and Christmas gift ideas! Tickets are available at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery and KPAC.

Single Ticket Price/Concert - \$25 or \$30

Single Season's Pass (4 Concerts) - \$90/person,

Double Season's Pass (4 Concerts) - \$170/couple.

## artist profile: Edna McPhail

On October 20th, Dawson Creek was sorry to lose a driving force in the arts community. Edna McPhail was a dynamo, someone who believed in community and took action to see its needs fulfilled.

Edna established the first kindergarten in Dawson Creek and was the chairperson of the Dawson Creek library board at the library's conception. In 1982 Edna was the first to envision creating an Art Gallery from a discarded prairie grain elevator. She started the "Save the Elevator Project" and, with her group of dedicated volunteers, brought to life an idea that has given Dawson Creek an international reputation and provided one of the icons that city is known for. With the help of her husband Jim, Edna successfully applied for numerous grants to establish the South Peace Art Society as a solid and financially secure organization operating the art gallery for the city. She helped coordinate the first Art Auction and donated two pieces to the auction every year for over 25 years.

Edna volunteered tirelessly in the arts, forming the first arts council in the early 1980's, bringing much needed provincial funding into the region for local groups and organizations. Edna taught seniors' art classes every Wednesday afternoon for over 20 years, inspiring countless artists to explore painting and to find pleasure in the act of creating beautiful things. In her own work, she was experimental, embracing all types of creativity. She was an innovator and, through her paint brush, a story teller. Her work reflected the splendour that she saw all around her in the landscape and the people of the Peace that she loved.



Always up to a new challenge, in 1991 Edna formed the Beautification Committee to prepare for the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Building of the Alaska Highway for the following year. With her group of tireless and energetic volunteers, she brought her sense of beauty and balance to the project and began the work of enhancing our public parks and green spaces. Though the anniversary concluded, Edna and her volunteers decided to continue and her handiwork is seen throughout the community. She has touched our natural space in a way that will live with us forever.

On a personal level, for many of us, Edna was a mentor and counselor. She was the person that we wanted to "be when we grew up". She was flamboyant; her ideas were new, fresh, and visionary. She never lost her enthusiasm for life. Edna had a way of cutting through it all to see the real issues that needed to be laid on the table. She taught us the value of volunteerism, optimism and perseverance. Her friendship transcended the generations. Edna touched many people, young and old, from all walks of life. The Peace Region will miss her terribly.

## Tumbler Ridge Brings Entertainment North

The community of Tumbler Ridge is pleased to announce the purchase of a movie license by the District of Tumbler Ridge, which will allow public movies to be shown at the Community Centre. In conjunction with the District, the Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council and the TR Public Library will assist in hosting a variety of genres.

The Community Centre will focus on pre-releases, whereas Library and Arts Council will likely focus on Art House, nostalgia, documentary and the like. The unique ambience of the theatre experience is a draw that home theatre can't emulate.

December will, of course, host Christmas events, such as Holly Jolly Christmas on December 4th, which is done as a community Christmas celebration. All events take place at or near the TR Community Centre with a children's Christmas party, tree lighting and carol sing along and concert in the evening.

December 6th will be the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party, which will include dinner, a full length Christmas play by Theatre on the Ridge Grizzly Valley Players and a live band for the dance.

Theatre on the Ridge will repeat the Christmas play for matinee the next day, available for the general public. The play, a first for the adult drama company, is a comedy called *An Amateur Christmas Carol Adaptation*. It features the 14 members of Grizzly Valley Players, known for their annual presentations of Rocky Horror Night, *Monkman Musings* and the TR *Time Travel* series.

On December 12th the fantastic annual Banff Mountain Film Festival takes place at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. Tumbler Ridge is the only northern community to host the international film tour, sponsored by the Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council and Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society.

The month of December events finish off with a traditional Christmas movie held at the Community Centre on the Sunday before Christmas, yet to be named. Last year there was a *Sound of Music* sing along that was quite successful.

*submitted by Erin Hanna*

## Contact Us!



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We would love to hear from you! If you have any comments or information to share, contact the

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
 ARTS COUNCIL**  
The leading body to support the Province of British Columbia through its British Columbia Arts Council