

# art

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*A Publication for the Visual Arts*

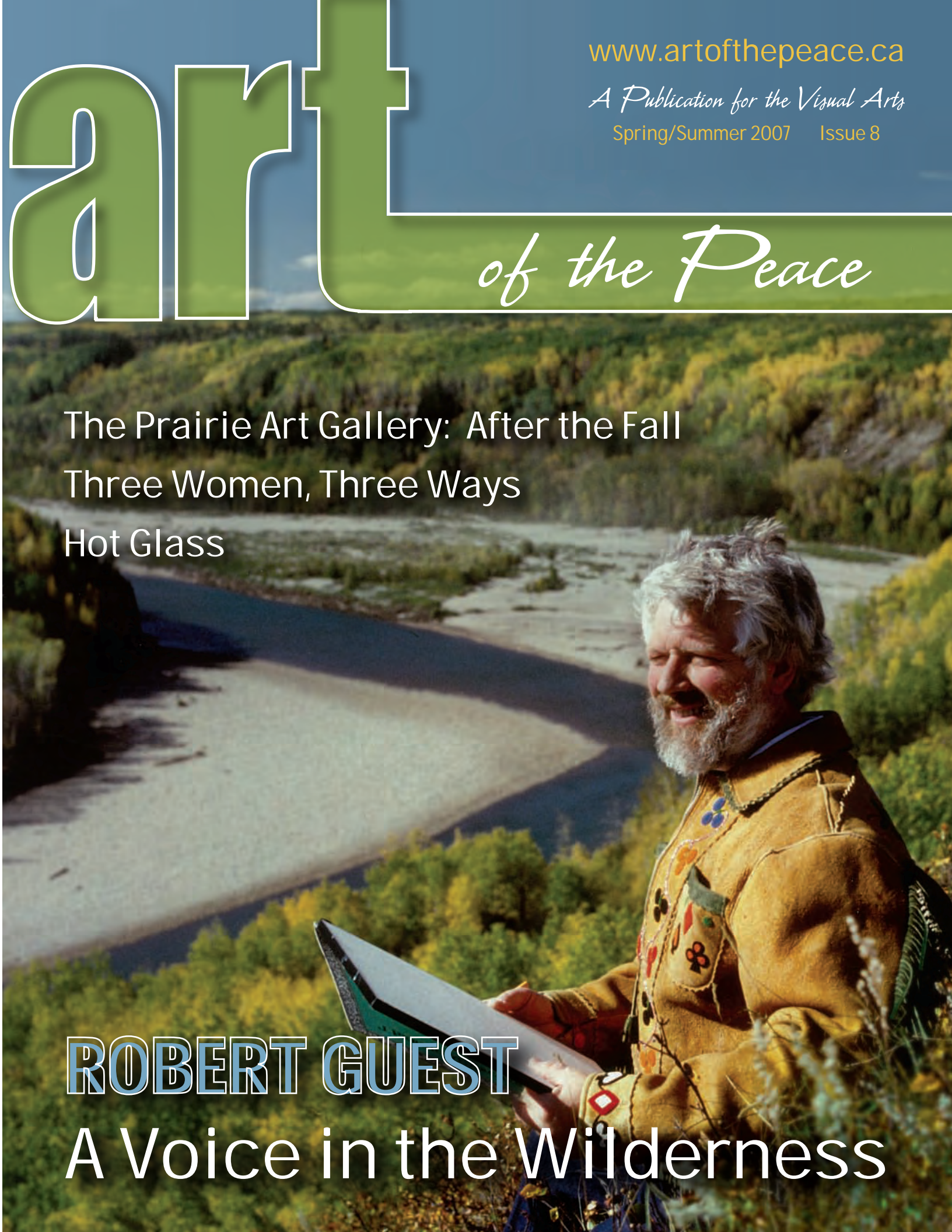
Spring/Summer 2007 Issue 8

## of the Peace

The Prairie Art Gallery: After the Fall  
Three Women, Three Ways  
Hot Glass

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The Prairie Art Gallery:

art out there...



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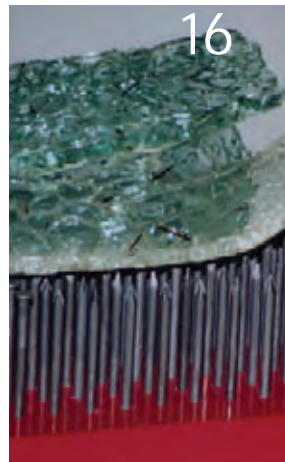
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# art out there...



Donna Kane's portrait of Dahlen, *Under the Influence*

## Dawson Creek Commemorates Laine Dahlen

Throughout an artist's career a number of experiences can have a profound influence on his/her life in general and his/her work in particular. Central to those experiences can be the presence of a mentor that will lead the artist through the fundamental considerations: the materials, the techniques, the styles, and the ability to see and feel the subject matter in a new and innovative way.

The Dawson Creek Art Gallery chose to honour Laine Dahlen, from March 5th to 31st, for inspiring many artists throughout his 30 years at Northern Lights College in the Visual and Graphic Communication Arts program. Laine also taught programs in Fairview and throughout the BC Peace Region. Past students were invited to submit work to a 'retrospective' exhibit in which they could express the various ways his mentorship has inspired their creativity. In addition, many of the students donated pieces to a permanent collection started by the Art Gallery for Northern Lights College.



Terri Hansen, 1404 Westmount Road



Campers gather around the campfire, while their horses look on.

## Art from a Wild Place

Last summer, 14 artists from across Canada travelled to the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness area in the northern Rockies near Fort Nelson, to take part in the first Muskwa-Kechika Artist Exploration Camp. Travelling into Mayfield Lake by float plane, they spent 7 days in this remote area, horseback riding, canoeing, hiking, viewing wildlife, and making art. Evening campfires provided a setting for informal discussions about their experiences.

On Friday, February 9th, an art exhibition displaying work inspired by the camp was opened at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery to a crowd of over 200 guests.

The event also acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the Canada Council for the Arts, a supporter of the Muskwa-Kechika Artists' Camp. Geneviève Landreville, Special Events Coordinator with the Canada Council for the Arts, travelled from Ottawa to take part in the celebrations.

This year's Muskwa-Kechika Artists' Camp will run from July 28th to August 4th. To be a part of it, go to [www.donnakane.com](http://www.donnakane.com) and click on Community Events, before April 30th.

## Out of Africa Art Auction

The Dawson Creek Art Gallery will be hosting its 26th annual Art Auction on May 4th at the Kiwanis Arts Centre. Each year the gallery themes this event and this year the auction will be 'Out of Africa'. Local South Africans will be providing the authentic cuisine and over 60 pieces will be offered on the live auction block. The evening will also include a silent auction, live entertainment and good fun.

## Grande Prairie Becomes Hollywood North

From March 23rd to 25th, Grande Prairie became Hollywood North as eight visiting filmmakers screened their films at Grande Prairie Live Theatre's Reel Shorts Film Festival. Audiences enjoyed five packages of short films including the Oscar-winning Canadian film *The Danish Poet*, as well as *Fido*, a feature-length Canadian zombie comedy that received rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival.

Filmmakers came from as far away as New York city, and presented workshops on filmmaking to complement the screenings. Notably, the filmmaking team of Scott Belyea, Riley Percy, Dereck Toker, and Derrick Doll, all of whom grew up in Grande Prairie, screened two of their award-winning short films and taught a workshop on The Filmmaking Team in Action. Their film, *idaho*, was first screened here at the Art of the Peace Symposium on Oct 14, 2006.

Other Grande Prairie filmmakers brought home for the event included Darby Guise and Kyle Robson. The youngest filmmaker in attendance was 15-year-old Clinton Wietzel from Valleyview who screened his film, *Street Demons: Failure to Break*, winner of the 2007 Lions Amateur Film Festival.

Many of the films shown at Reel Shorts made a repeat performance at The Grassroots Film Festival in Fairview on April 13th and 14th.



Screen from the Canadian Zombie movie, *Fido*.



Barbara Amos and Lori Czoba at the last Prairie North.

## Prairie North Returns

After a hiatus last year, Prairie North is back! Prairie North Creative Residency is a two-week event run by Grande Prairie Regional College. During the residency, artists from the Peace and across the country will be creating their own work in an intensive open studio environment. Guest artists Laura Vickerson, who exhibited at The Prairie Art Gallery last year, and Harold Klunder, whose work is featured in the spring 2007 issue of *Canadian Art*, will be in attendance to provide feedback and inspiration.

Prairie North runs from May 18th to June 1st this year. The last day to submit applications is April 27th. For more information visit [www.prairienorth.org](http://www.prairienorth.org).

## Ark for a Cause

If you picked up the January/February issue of *Wildlife Art*, or *The Artist's Magazine* in March, you likely saw the work of a number of Peace Country artists and might not even have known it. Both magazines featured the mural mosaics of Lewis Lavoie and Phil Alain. The most recent of these, *Earth's Treasure Chest*, includes panels by regional artists Kim Boychuk, Cheryl Bozarth, Eileen Corraine, Holly Crichton, Charity Dakin, Paula Fiorini, Miriam Gair, Carmen Haakstad, Vi Isaac, Cindy Kilani, Lee Ann Jones, Ada Lovmo, Paul Martel, Kristine McGuinty, Joanne McQuarrie-Salter, Kerri-Ann Schaatz, Joanne Moen, Tanya Sedore, Erin Stelmaschuk, and Jessie Wolski.

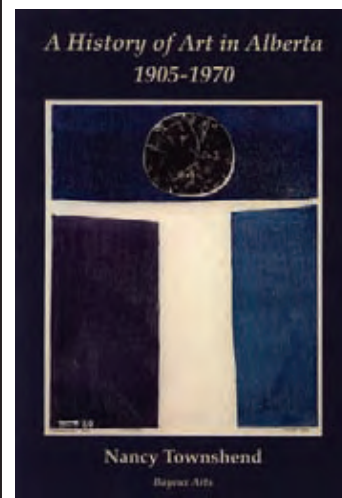


*Earth's Treasure Chest*, mural mosaic

For this, the fifth large-scale mural mosaic project by the Alain-Lavoie team, artists were asked to paint wildlife images on individual 16" x 16" panels. When all 216 panels were assembled, they formed a cohesive image of Noah's ark. What is new about this mural is that it is being dismantled, and individual pieces sold in an online auction to raise money for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. To bid on your favourite panel, you'll want to visit [www.muralmosaic.com](http://www.muralmosaic.com) before May 10th.

## Brush Up on Alberta Art History

The Euphemia McNaught Homestead Preservation Society has organized a book tour through the Peace Country by Nancy Townshend, author of *The History of Art in Alberta, 1905 to 1970*. Townshend will present a slide show and talk on the topic of Alberta art history with particular emphasis on Euphemia McNaught who was an influential and active artist in the Alberta art scene during those years. Townshend will visit Beaverlodge, Dawson Creek, Peace River, Fairview and Grande Prairie during the week of May 29th to June 1st. For more information, contact Marjorie Henn at [ghenn@telusplanet.net](mailto:ghenn@telusplanet.net) or call 780 -354-2165.





Recent art show and sale by Jim Stokes, Carmen Haakstad and Dale Syrota at the Heritage Discovery Centre. Photo by Richard Podsada

### Living Artists in Museums

**3**Painters 3 Views opened in the Kin Gallery at the Heritage Discovery Centre at Centre 2000 in Grande Prairie on February 15th, 2007. Artists Carmen Haakstad, Jim Stokes and Dale Syrota showed about 40 new works in three media. Carmen's large oil paintings on wood were dramatic and spiritual. Jim's painterly acrylics showed his mastery of the prairie landscape with the juxtaposition

of brushy strokes against sharp edges. Dale's subtle watercolours complemented the mix. The Kin Gallery easily accommodated the large crowd in a warm and welcoming space. This was one of the first contemporary art exhibits to be held in this venue.

At the same time, the Peace River Art Club held a group art show called "Where Art Meets History" at the Peace River Centennial Museum. This was also the first time an art show had been mounted in this venue. Artists and museums seem to be finding ways to partner which are beneficial to them both and which bring in receptive audiences in the process.



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Waterton Lakes

## Jim Stokes

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### Dawson Creek Hosts Peace Country Summer School of the Arts

**D**awson Creek is hosting the fifth annual Peace Country Summer School of the Arts during July and August of 2007. A wide range of programs will be offered in the visual and performing arts including dance, music, artistic welding, stained glass, drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, photography and many more.

The Peace Country Summer School of the Arts provides an opportunity for kids, teens and adults to get involved in creative expression. Out of town students can access dorm accommodation at Northern Lights College.

For more information phone the Dawson Creek Art Gallery at 250-782-2601 or visit our web site: [www.pris.bc.ca/artgallery](http://www.pris.bc.ca/artgallery).

### The Canada Council Comes to the Peace

**O**n Wednesday, May 23rd, representatives of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts will be at the Peace Library System facility in Grande Prairie, presenting an information session for professional artists and arts organizations. The session will cover the programs which are offered by both bodies, how to complete grant application forms, how to submit support material, and how an application gets processed.

The session runs from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. It is free and advance registration is not required. For more information, contact Heather McAfee of the Canada Council at 1-800-263-5588, or the Peace Library System at 780-538-4656.

## Dale Syrota

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# The Prairie Art Gallery: *After the Fall*

## Historic building's collapse is felt nationwide.

by Jody Farrell

While Albertans have sometimes felt that national newspapers ignore much of what goes on west of Toronto, the airwaves and print media across Canada were all over the collapse of Grande Prairie's historic Prairie Art Gallery building on Monday, March 19.

The demise of the Gallery, which was built in 1929, and designated a historic site in 1984, affected a lot of people. Though no one was hurt, staff, art lovers, and history buffs are grieving the loss of the dignified brick building that served initially as a high school and was used by the Grande Prairie Regional College before becoming home to the Gallery, whose Class A status allowed it to exhibit national and international artworks.

When this magazine went to press in early April, it was still not clear exactly what had caused the building's collapse. Investigations by structural engineers were underway. Grande Prairie had had over 200 centimetres of snow over the winter, and it was snowing that morning. Robert Steven, Director Curator at the Gallery since October, 2006, had come in just after 8 am on that day and noticed water on the floor in the Central Gallery on the building's south side. Looking up, he saw a beam protruding through the ceiling.

Steven proceeded to make several calls, first to city officials and then to staff members, who

were advised against coming in to work. He removed paintings currently on show and also notified Cygnet Playschool, which hosts morning and afternoon sessions in the Gallery basement, that the building was unsafe. Steven then posted danger signs at the Gallery entrance. Emergency crews were called in and measures taken to secure the area and neighbours. The Central Gallery, which now stood empty, had housed an exhibition by Calgary artist Terry Reynoldson. Adjoining galleries featured the works of Vancouver's Michael Dowad and Edmonton's Julian Forrest.

Shortly after 10 am, following the arrival of city emergency workers, the south rooftop and walls of The Prairie Art Gallery crumbled into ruins. Nobody was in the building at that time. Witnesses from adjacent buildings, some with tears in their eyes, filed into the street in disbelief. A steady parade of pedestrians and vehicles took in the wreckage.

The north side of The Prairie Art Gallery basement contained over 500 artworks that made up its Permanent Collection. Well-known regional and provincial artists including Euphemia McNaught, Thelma Manarey, John Snow and Allen Sapp had donated works to the Collection. In the days following the collapse plans were being made to move the artworks. Art conservator, Tara Fraser was contracted to assess them for possible damage. No matter what

the decision, the heritage of the building will be honoured.

It remains unclear whether the building will be salvaged by the city or demolished. The municipality, province and Prairie Art Gallery board maintain that whatever the decision the historic quality of the building will be respected. Plans are still afoot to begin construction of a nearly \$30 million Cultural Centre this spring. The project initially included an 8,000 square foot expansion of the former gallery, and the addition of a new, 37,400 square foot Grande Prairie Public Library. A 4,200 square foot community hall will connect the two centres. The plans are to continue with the project as scheduled.

The Prairie Art Gallery's extensive programming, with its popular tour and hands-on art workshop for regional schools; summer camps; after school and evening art programs; the Alberta Foundation for the Arts' Travelling Exhibition program, as well as its gift shop, resource materials and exhibitions for all ages, have all been put on hold as staff scramble to find means and locations to continue their work. Steven, whose quick-thinking prior to the collapse garnered praise across the country, was flown to Ottawa where the Canadian Museums Association honoured his actions.

Images of The Prairie Art Gallery collapse showing the destruction of the Central Gallery, photos by Wen-Shu Huang





# Hot Glass

## Three Peace Area Artists

by Jody Farrell & Wendy Stefansson

### Beadmaking: Cheryl Brown

Grande Prairie artist Cheryl Brown, widely known for her unique pottery and playful children's furniture, says her recent passion for glass beadwork is partly fuelled by its immediacy. In no time, she fires up her small studio torch and taking a skinny glass rod from a well-organized assortment of materials, melts it into a bead. From there, she does all manner of pulling and prodding, using "stringers," or thin, taffy-like wisps of glass to make dots and stripes to render the bead a tiny glass treasure. Further manipulation turns the beads into perfume bottles, witches' brooms, and glass bobbles. Imaginative new creations appear to Brown in her many "bead dreams."

"It's fun to watch," she says of the process, in which the glass changes colours as it heats and cools. Future plans for the ever-inventive Brown include combining the beadwork with pottery.

### Lampworking: Jonathan Kostuk

For Grande Prairie artist Jonathan Kostuk, "playing with fire" is admittedly part of the intrigue of lampwork. While this small-scale version of glassblowing, named for its original use of oil lamp and foot pump, has emerged as a leading artform, Kostuk only knows of a handful in Alberta who do the work, particularly using the plastic-glass medium borosilicate (Pyrex.) The artist works over a specialized torch, manipulating and blowing the molten material into finely crafted art including wine glasses, bottles, and pipes. Elaborate lampwork creations are listed online for thousands of dollars.

The interactive process, with glass colours reacting differently to differing flames, demands constant movement and a keen sense of chemistry. Split-second decision-making and skill in using a myriad of special tools is required for turning and blowing the glass. "It's like getting to make a little universe inside a bubble," Kostuk says of his love of the work, which he currently does full-time. "It requires using both your brain and your emotions."

### Slumping and Fusing: Geri France

Peace River artist Geri France might be better known in some circles for her work in clay, but the kilns she uses for her pottery are also central to her practice as a glass artist. In them, France fuses together fragments of hand-cut glass, the heat causing the melded mass to slump into the clay or metal mould in which she has placed it. Many of the moulds are themselves Frances' creations, creativity in one medium spilling over into another. The results are small sculptures or luminous and functional vessels; solid glass suspending bubbles of air, colour and light in elemental forms.

Through years of trial and error the medium itself has been her best teacher. "The more you do it, the more predictable it becomes, but there are always surprises," she says. Spurred on by the surprises France continues to try new things. "Even something that breaks in the kiln teaches me something that I didn't know before." She will look at it and think, "Here is a starting point for something totally original and new."

Top to Bottom: Cheryl Brown, Johnathan Kostuk, Geri France.



# the artbox

## Glasswork: What You'll Need

by Jody Farrell

Many glass artists have found the medium in a roundabout way. Cheryl Brown happened into a Red Deer 'Series' course on stained glass when the one she'd already paid for didn't fly. A few courses later, and she was hooked, first on stained glass, later on beads.

Brown advises taking a few courses before purchasing glasswork tools. Glass manipulation includes stained glass, beadwork, slumping or fusing glass, or lampwork (glass blowing), to name just a few. Each of these approaches has its own set of specialized tools, with pincers for pulling, paddles for pushing, and a wide range of torches, kilns and safety gear.

For glass beadwork, Brown's favourite go-to book is *Passing the Flame: A Beadmaker's Guide to Detail and Design*. She does stained glass as well, and is partial to Moretti (Italian) and Lausha (German) glasses. Her materials often come from ART Glass Studios and Bedrock Supplies, both in Edmonton. "I find loads on the net, too," she adds.

Lampwork artist Jonathan Kostuk also advises would-be glassworkers to begin by taking a few workshops. The tools required for blowing glass are

different, and the glass itself is something the artist will develop preferences around. He likes borosilicate (Pyrex) for its shorter 'annealing' or time in the kiln, heating, cooling and setting.

Kostuk's own lampwork 'bible' is Bandhu Scott Dunham's *Contemporary Lampworking: A Practical Guide to Shaping Glass*. He also buys *The Flow* magazine, which can be found online as well at [www.theflowmagazine.com](http://www.theflowmagazine.com). Another favourite is *The Melting Pot*,




Jonathan Kostuk at work in his studio.

*Melting Pot*, [www.gldg.com](http://www.gldg.com), whose home page reads "Where All Glass Addicts Meld Together." It offers advice and workshop information, and is invaluable

as a resource on lampwork. Kostuk finds supplies online, and at Phatty Glassworks, ([www.phattyglassworks.com](http://www.phattyglassworks.com)) in Victoria and Andrighetti Glassworks in Vancouver.

The Centre for Creative Arts, Grande Prairie, has offered stained glass, fusion and slumping classes in the past, and is looking into getting torches which would permit lampwork and beadwork courses in the future. While renovations may affect some of its classes, interest is welcome. Call 814-6080 for more information.



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# the BUSINESS of Art

## Why arts councils matter

by Jody Farrell

In a sea of arts clubs and guilds, provincial art and craft associations might sound like a bigger, less personal version of a local group. They can however, serve a larger purpose.

Tom McFall, Executive Director with Alberta Craft Council ([www.albertcraft.ab.ca](http://www.albertcraft.ab.ca)) in Edmonton says his is the umbrella organization for fine craft groups throughout Alberta. If people are looking to learn a craft or take a workshop, it's the local chapter of glass, or pottery, metalwork or weavers they would access. Alberta Craft can be of help there too, with its extensive links to the province's galleries, clubs, and member associations. But the Council's main focus surrounds professional development and support for artists looking to establish themselves in the market. Exhibitions, retail exposure, workshops on setting up shop and marketing wares is where Alberta Craft kicks into gear, says McFall.

Heather Forbes, Grande Prairie artist and Alberta Craft Council member, says the provincial group's publicity and networking opportunities hugely benefit its members. She credits McFall along with Council members Simon Wroot and Joanne Hamel for having offered "absolutely wonderful" guidance in getting her started in her own studio and commercial outlet Forbes and Friends. And because the artist often works in isolation, it's a welcome relief for Forbes and others to connect and share with like-minded souls through the Council's newsletters, magazines and directories.

"It's a great way to feel connected to what's going on across the province, especially when you live in the north," says Forbes. With 2007 having been officially listed The Year of Craft, the Council and fine craft artists will be featured in many exhibitions throughout the province over the next several months.



Visual Arts Alberta Gallery.

Visual Arts Alberta Association ([www.visualartsalberta.com](http://www.visualartsalberta.com)) is another organization providing resources for visual artists across the province. VAAA Executive Director Allison Argy-Burgess says the Edmonton-based centre is not only member-based; its mandate is to provide as much information and support to visual arts students, emerging artists or art enthusiasts as it possibly can. Its professional development classes, directories, scholarships for young rural artists, and budget minded programs

are all designed to enhance the flourishing arts scene in Alberta. Its artcard program, which has seen 170,000 cards printed since its inception in 2002, has helped get artists' names and images out into the communities. "Our goal is to help anyone in any way we can," says Argy-Burgess.

*British Columbia arts and crafts councils will be discussed in the next issue.*



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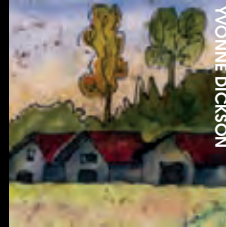


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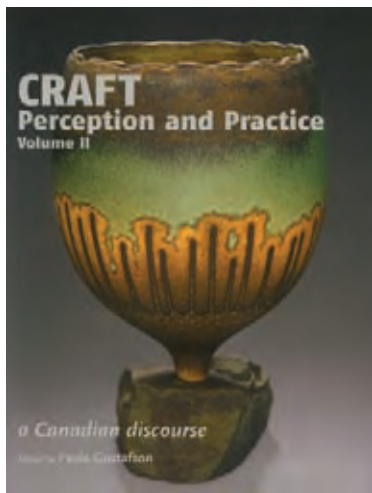
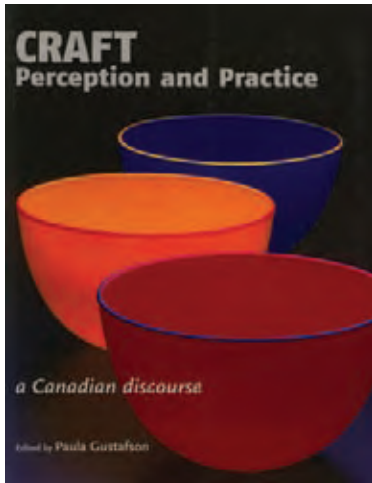
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# Art Books in Review

## Craft Perception and Practice: A Canadian Discourse, I and II

by Wendy Stefansson



The short series of books entitled *Craft Perception and Practice: A Canadian Discourse*, opened my eyes and gave them a lot to feast on! Compiled by the late Paula Gustafson, long-time editor of *Artichoke* magazine and more recently *Galleries West*, these two volumes are filled with reflective, critical and passionate articles about craft theory and practice. They are generously peppered with full-page, colour pictures of gorgeous fine craft objects in diverse media. These books are delicious. They're breathtaking. They're challenging and engaging.

That there even *is* a discourse about craft is relatively new to me. "Discourse" is something we often associate with art; the discussion around a work of art adding to its meaning in the way that layers of nacre accumulate around a grain of sand to form a pearl. A craft object, many would contend, just *is*.

Its meaning comes from its function, its role in our daily lives. A bowl doesn't need an explanation.

Yet the grace of a bowl – of any beautiful, well-made object – sometimes needs to be defended; both against the often graceless forms of the mass-produced object, and equally against the almost objectless discourse of contemporary art. And that's what these books do. They lift up and celebrate the exquisitely beautiful object.

*The third volume in this series is due out this fall, edited by Gustafson's daughter Nisse. All three are published by Ronsdale Press in Vancouver.*

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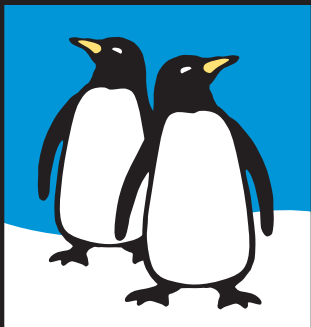
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# Robert Guest: A Voice in the Wilderness

by Wendy Stefansson

When Robert Guest speaks of the wilderness it is with a passion others might reserve for a lover. He speaks of her changing moods; the subtle shifting of light over her surfaces; her colours, tones and textures.

He knows of what he speaks. Guest has spent 23 summers

working on fire lookout towers where it is his job to observe nature. Adam's Creek Lookout, where he has been stationed for the last 10 summers, is located atop a 7000 foot mountain in Willmore Wilderness Park. Willmore lies just north of Jasper National Park in the northeastern slopes of the Rockies. There, his tower is accessible

only by helicopter.

He spends his summers alone except for his dog, and goes months without seeing another human being. You would think this would give him lots of time to paint, but not so, says Guest, if the summer is warm and dry. His first job is to watch. Reporting on everything from fire starts to the weather, from lost backpackers to the incidence of the mountain pine beetle; the entire ecosystem, from the upper atmosphere to the bedrock is his to observe.

No wonder, then, that this is what he paints. Guest reflects on the remote landscapes in which he has been privileged to live: "From an artistic point of view, it was all fresh. It wasn't something in books and postcards. You would have to start from scratch, and learn from nature."

So learn he did "...of the mosses and the crusted rocks, and weathered, gnarled trees; of the erosion channels and crusted and drifting snow. These things have character. They reach out and you can feel them, and trust me they're gritty. They're sharp. They make a noise if you walk on them like a scree slope or loose rock." In observing and in painting the landscape. Guest absorbs its sights, its sounds and its *feel*.

When Guest leaves the fire tower in the late fall, he takes with him a sketchbook full of drawings, about 40 oil paintings, and his memories of the place. Having trained his eye to take it all in, and his memory to contain it, Guest works from these sources to create finished paintings during his winters at home in Grande Cache, Alberta. Guest chooses not to work from photographs. Working from memory helps him to simplify his subjects which, he feels, helps him to get to the essence of things. He is not trying to be exactly literal in his work; his desire is not for realism. Rather, he tries to convey the feeling of a specific place and time, and the mystery, "...especially the mystery." Guest is widely known for his nocturnes, painting the landscape as it appears at night as well as in the daylight. In these works in particular, the sense of mystery is palpable. Like musical nocturnes, they are quiet and moody works. In them, Guest captures the light, the colour and all the nuances of the darkness.



Interpreting the landscapes he loves and distilling them to their essences, Guest achieves a kind of symbolism. Like Tom Thomson's *Jack Pine*, Guest's trees and mountains and moons stand for what is still wild in the world. Perhaps in the case of the pine tree, these paintings will be a sort of requiem.

Guest cites Tom Thomson as one of his greatest influences. He points to Thomson's "colour enrichment, strong composition and rhythms" as qualities which he has made his own. In many ways, Guest picks up where the icons of Canadian landscape painting, the Group of Seven and Emily Carr included, left off; not following in their footsteps, but rather breaking new ground. Like them, he follows his love of the land into increasingly remote wilderness areas, makes sketches *en plein air*, keeps the works small because they need to be, and returns to his studio to make richly interpretive finished paintings which depict and honour the places where they began.

Guest's art career has spanned more than four decades, and placed him first on the scene of many significant developments in Alberta art. Born and raised in Beaverlodge, Alberta, he graduated from the Alberta College of Art and Design in 1963. Following that, he was on the original staff of the Provincial Museum (now the Royal Alberta Museum) as a display artist when it opened its doors in 1967. He was one of the nine charter members of the Alberta Art Foundation in 1973. He obtained his degree in Art Education from the University of Alberta, but never taught in schools. Instead, in 1974, he went on to become one of the original instructors at Grande Prairie Regional College. In 1975, he was one of the cofounders of the Prairie Art Gallery in Grande Prairie, having presented a brief to the Northern Alberta Development Council about the need for an art centre in the community. Then the fol-

lowing year he co-founded the Peace Watercolour Society, and continues to exhibit with them today. In 1995 he moved to Grande Cache and went on to found the Grande Cache Watercolour Society.

Over the course of the 1980s and 90s, Guest completed two large series of oil paintings, 66 in the series *Winter on the Wapiti*, depicting the Beaverlodge area landscape in which he grew up, and another 74 collectively called *Landmarks of the Hinton Trail*. The latter were featured in a coffee table book for which Guest also composed the text. Published in 1995 under the title of *Trail North: A Journey in Words and Pictures*, it tells the story of the historic Hinton Trail, which once stretched from Hinton, Alberta to the Peace Country. This is something Guest cites as one of the highlights of his career.

In 2001, Guest created the artwork for the *Passport to the Peaks* program in the Grande Cache area. He painted a stylized portrait of each of 21 different mountain peaks in exterior paint on metal.

These were displayed at the summits of the same mountains, where hikers could collect impressions in their 'passports' to show they had been there.

More recently, a retrospective show of Guest's art work was exhibited at Picture Perfect in Grande Prairie. About this, Guest humbly says, "Life's only so long, and that requires a celebration!"

*This page: Morning Sun on Adams Lookout, watercolour, collection of Wayne Werstiuk, Edmonton; Moon Over Grey Wolf Summit, oil on masonite; 8 of 21 heavy metal hand-painted 'Stamp Boxes' to go on tops of local mountains at Grande Cache for the on-going sports challenge 'Passport to the Peaks'.*

*Opposite page: Robert Guest in the high country on a summer sketching hike; Changing Weather, oil on canvas, collection of Dr. C. Torbey, Grande Prairie.*



# Many Shades of Green: Art and the Environment

by Wendy Stefansson

Artists have been honouring their environments for centuries. Every landscape painting is a celebration of a specific place and time. That in the year 2007, we still have so many new places to discover and to celebrate is a gift. Robert Guest has shown us that. What we have to learn through the landscape tradition in art is not finished. The wilderness has more to teach us.

In Guest's life, this perhaps has been the impetus behind his work in conservation. In 1968, he and his wife Myrtle founded the Canadian Wolf Defenders, "a conservation society that achieved success internationally in improving the image and

vides key habitat for Alberta's largest population of mountain goats. In the name of the Wild Kakwa organization Guest wrote to Dr. Donovan Ross, then Provincial Minister of Lands and Forests of Alberta, and successfully lobbied to have the region protected. In 1996, it was officially designated Kakwa Wildland Provincial Park.

Guest is not alone. Other artists celebrate and protect the environment in their own ways. The artists who attended last summer's Muskwa-Kechika Artists' Camp did so in order to bring our attention to this remote but remarkable place. The participants in Phil Alain and

LewisLavoie's *Earth's Treasure Chest* mural are contributing a portion of their sales to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Peter von Tiesenhausen creates art literally out of his landscape;

and both he and many other artists express their concern for the environment by making art out of reclaimed materials, reducing the pressures that the consumption of new materials puts on our natural resources.

Perhaps this last approach to artmaking is, in the end, a logical extension of the tradition of landscape painting.



Lori Czoba, *The Glass Slip-on*, mixed media including reclaimed glass

protection of wolves." (*Trail North: A Journey in Words and Pictures*)

Then in 1970, Guest initiated the founding of Wild Kakwa, an environmental organization committed to preserving the wild lands around the spectacular, 30-metre Kakwa Falls. Located 160 km southwest of Grande Prairie, the area pro-



'Peace Country in Winter from a Small Plane'  
Oil, 8 x 10", 1980

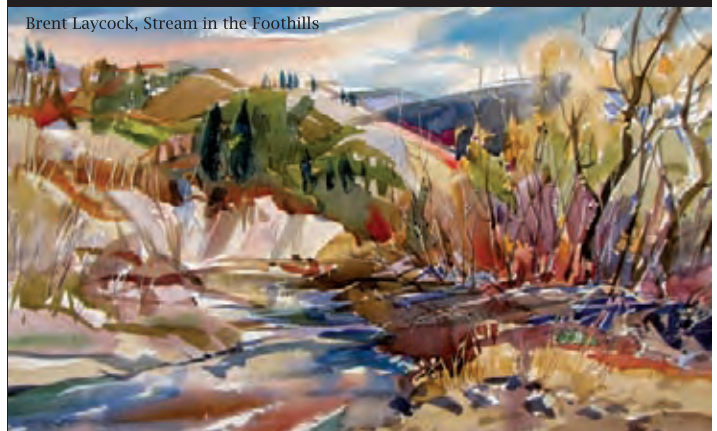
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# Three Women, Three Ways

## Three Beaverlodge Artists

by Catherine McLaughlin

### Darlene Dautel

“I love having a ‘Mary Moffat’ kind of day!” Darlene Dautel exclaims, explaining that Moffat was her maternal grandmother who delighted in multi-tasking creative activity.

Dautel lives on a farm near Goodfare and is the Education Coordinator at Beaverlodge Area Cultural Centre. She teaches a variety of creative arts and enjoys working with children.

Clockwise: Marjorie Henn, *Winter in the Peace*, Watercolour; Vivian Farnsworth, *Dreaming of Spring Series #1*, Mixed media on Yupo; Darlene Dautel, *Simple Elegance*, batik on rice paper.



Although she works in a variety of media, Dautel is perhaps best known for her batik. She has made it her own by exploring different tools than those typically used, including air brush. “Batik is a thought process,” explains Dautel. “I have to have a plan and think it through.” She tacks up pieces in progress so she can see them wherever she is in the house and studies them often. Dautel paints for herself and sees the piece finished before she starts.

As a child Dautel was encouraged to the utmost whatever her endeavour. Born and raised in the Kootenays, she was surrounded by creative, resourceful people. At age 13 she took her first art-related class as an extra-curricular option at school.

“I love to take a class!” exclaims Dautel, who attended her first adult art class in Grande Prairie in her early twenties. “Can I try that?” she asked, eager to have the brush in her hand along with the new materials. “I need to try it, do it for myself, see how it’s done,” she says. “Creative work is a passion, a fire, something I need,” she explains.



## Vivian Farnsworth

Keys, locks, doors and hinges are the subjects of many of Vivian Farnsworth's paintings, a fascination that began when she was a child, collecting the small keys from canned meat. Her paintings usually depict objects, people, flowers and pets.

In 1999 Farnsworth attended a watercolour class taught by Marjorie Henn and became excited by its magic, the science of pigments and their reactions with the paper. "My head was reeling," she exclaimed. Watercolour is her main medium today, although she also works in oil pastels and charcoal and has tried many other media, crafts and art forms.

For the last four years Farnsworth has operated Artsy Fartsy Custom Framing from her home on the farm north of La Glace. This business reduces the cost of showing her work and allows her to help other artists "finish their visions."

Teaching art is a pleasure for Farnsworth who has been an Artist in the Classroom in Grande Prairie and given many other classes.

Farnsworth says she must make art. "Deep down, it has something to teach me. I make art over and over, like a dog with a bone."

## Marjorie Henn

"I'm not happy when I'm not making art," explains Marjorie Henn. "I need to do it, no matter what else is happening. It's an emotional, spiritual kind of thing," says the full-time artist who lives in Beaverlodge. The power of place dominates her work. "The Peace Country is so deep in me," she states, referring to the landscape, the shapes and structures of hills and cliffs. "This is something I can see into."

As a very young child, Henn made art. Her mother studied art by correspondence, then taught Marjorie the lessons. Her father, who encouraged as he critiqued, made her really look at things and challenged her to "show me!" "I have to know about a subject," Henn explains when describing her habit of intensely studying her subject matter.

Henn's diploma in commercial art from the Alberta College of Art in Calgary led to a 25-year career as a commercial artist, creating architectural illustrations from plans for houses and public buildings. Attention to detail is expressed in Henn's work today. "Where does the eye go?" asks Henn, who is interested in realism and design, detail, drawing and composition in her preferred medium, watercolour.

Experiencing nature in solitude is her preference; she produces her best work while alone. "Getting into my studio and making art is like soft water flowing over me," says Henn.

*These three Beaverlodge Art Society members have exhibited their work in many venues including the 2004 Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition (TREX) curated by Prairie Art Gallery.*



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780-532-2573 Jim  
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## ARTISTS

### ADRIAN-CLARK, Carol

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judybrown@robbtech.com  
*My paintings reflect the peacefulness and serenity of our landscape.*

### COWAN, Corinne

RR3, Site 2, Box 6  
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780-532-6643  
den\_cor@telusplanet.net  
*Because watercolour lends itself to a wide range of values and freedom of movement on paper, it is my choice of medium.*

### CRAIPLEY, Sheila

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780-568-3754  
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### CRICHTON, Holly

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holly\_crichton@hotmail.com  
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### DEMUYNCK, Inez

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Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4A1  
250-782-6363  
inez@pris.ca  
*Teacher/Artist specializing in creative watercolour and handbuilt clayworks.*

### DICKSON, Yvonne

10015 - 89 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2Y9  
780-532-1629  
*Watercolours with a Peace Country theme.*

### DITCH, Valerie

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780-538-9238  
serendipiditygirl9@yahoo.ca  
*Primarily working in watercolour with attention to light and detail. Originals, giclée prints and cards.*

### DUPERRON, Frances

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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0H7  
780-532-2753  
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### ENFIELD, Janet

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jenfield@cablerocket.com  
www.jenfield@cablerocket.com  
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780-538-1499  
jody.farrell@gmail.com  
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### HAAKSTAD, Carmen

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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2V2  
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indigog@telus.net  
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**HENN, K. Marjorie**  
Box 262  
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0  
780-354-2165  
ghenn@telusplanet.net  
*Countryside and wilderness themes are my inspiration, watercolour is my main medium.*

**HOLLER, Colleen**  
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780-766-2567  
choller@telusplanet.net  
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**KAUT, Donna, BSc, FCA**  
Box 675  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A8  
780-532-6468  
ddakaut@xplornet.com  
www.pictureperfectfineart.com  
*"I focus on oil paintings of wildflowers and berries of Alberta."*

**KLUKAS, Carrie**  
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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1Z5  
780-532-0102  
carrieklukas@yahoo.ca  
*Dramatic abstracts in acrylic which display luminescent richness of colour and texture.*

**LAURIN, Ray**  
9637 - 113 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1W4  
780-532-5232  
quadgrannie@yahoo.ca  
*"With acrylics, I can capture what nature has to offer us which is a panorama of colour."*

**LE CORRE, Lynn**  
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780-538-4046  
skyrock@telusplanet.net  
*Painting in miniature simplifies the landscape to colour and painterly forms.*

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**MCGUINTY, Kristine**  
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**SANDBOE, Suzanne ASA, PWS**  
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**STAFFORD, Cathy**  
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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0Y8  
780-402-8860  
sweetcap@telus.net  
*Abstract/expressionistic oil painting.*

**STEFANSSON, Wendy**  
10509 - 81 St.  
Peace River, AB T8S 1M7  
780-624-8522  
wstef@telus.net  
*Working conceptually, employing photography, acrylic paints and sculptural techniques.*

**STOKES, Jim**  
10417 - 110 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1S8  
780-532-2573  
*Quality, original paintings, drawings and prints. Contemporary representational work.*

**STROM, Brenda**  
10205 - 76 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8W 1Y6  
780-532-8930  
strombrenda@hotmail.com  
*Watercolors, oil, monoprints of florals, intimate landscapes and hockey players.*

**SWANSTON, Nan**  
RR3, Site 4, Box 6  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 5N3  
780-532-6745  
nan@imagedesignpros.com  
*Watercolours of landscapes, florals, people and close-ups of nature and still life.*

**SYROTA, Dale**  
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Grande Prairie, AB T8W 1Y7  
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hsyrotad@cablerocket.com  
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**WILLIAMS, Susan**  
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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2S8  
susane@telusplanet.net  
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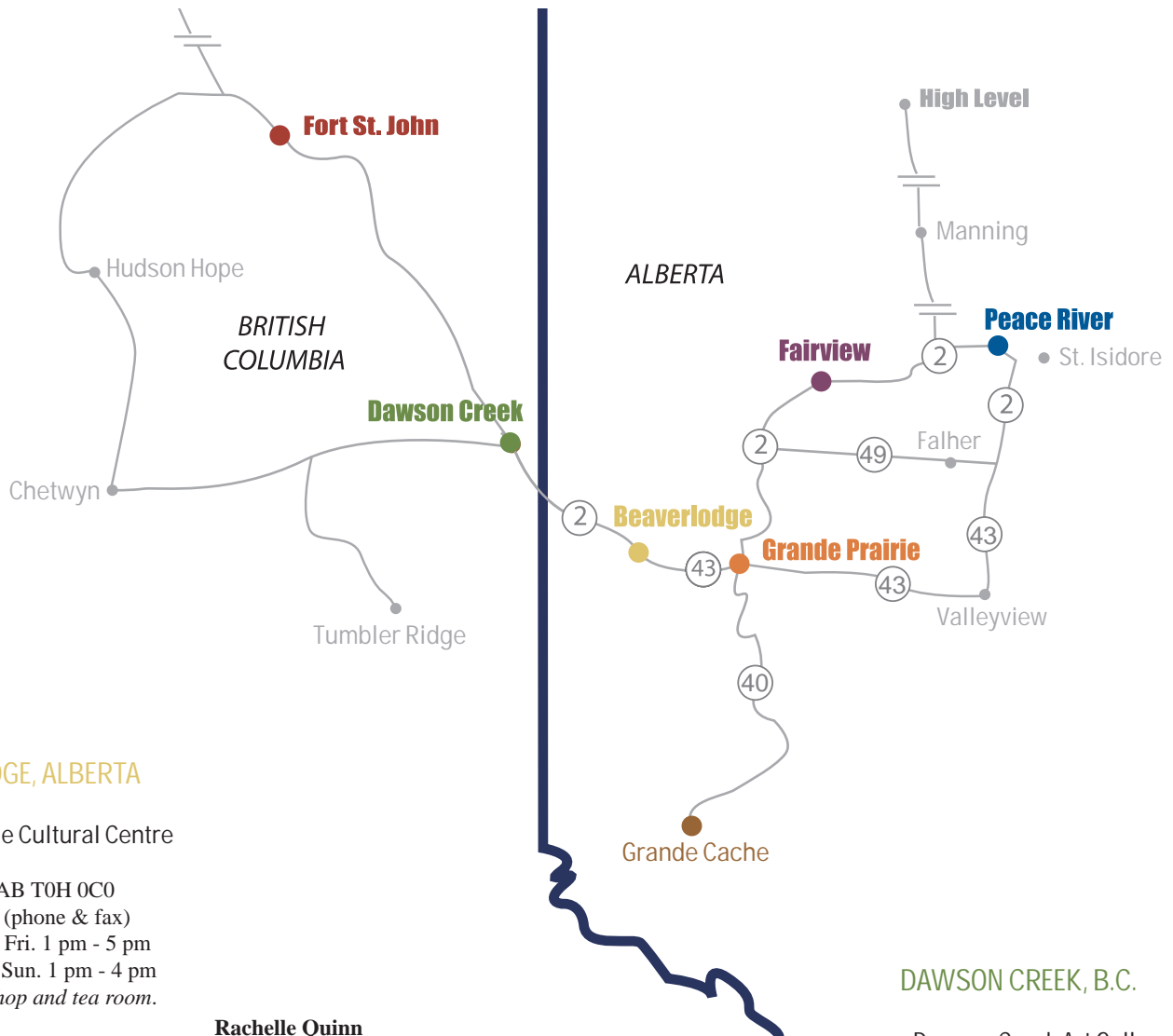
## PHOTOGRAPHY

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780-402-6211  
cmclaughlin@telusplanet.net  
*Photography, freelance writing.*

**PETTIT, Don**  
1204 - 103 Ave  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 2G9  
250-782-6068  
1-866-373-8488  
info@peacephotographics.com  
www.peacephotographics.com  
*Peace Region nature photography, graphic design, publishing, marketing, product development.*

# where it's all at . . . galleries of the Peace

## Peace Region Gallery Events and Exhibitions



### BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA

• Beaverlodge Cultural Centre  
512 - 5 Ave.  
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0  
780-354-3600 (phone & fax)  
Hours: Tues. - Fri. 1 pm - 5 pm  
Sat. & Sun. 1 pm - 4 pm  
*Gallery, gift shop and tea room.*

#### Exhibits & Events

All shows & sales open at 2 p.m. at the Centre

#### Leona Cochrane

*Show & Sale*  
April 29 - May 25, 2007

#### Beaverlodge Regional High School Art Students

*Show*  
May 27th - June 14th

#### Clothesline Art

*Show & Sale*  
June 17th - June 29th

#### Tammy McGee

*Show & Sale*  
July 1st - July 27th

#### Rachelle Quinn

*Show & Sale*  
July 29th - August 31st

#### Jean Wagner Retrospective

*Show*  
September 2nd - 28th

#### Ruth Heijne

*Show & Sale*  
September 30th - October 26th

#### • McNaught Homestead

Located 4 miles southwest of Beaverlodge  
Box 180,  
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0  
780-354-2165  
Marjorie Henn at  
ghenn@telusplanet.net

#### Nancy Townshend

**Book Talk Tour**  
*The History of Art in Alberta 1905 to 1970*  
Dawson Creek, Peace River and Fairview, Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge  
May 29th - June 1st

#### McNaught Festival

*In Grande Prairie at the same time as the Street Performers Festival*  
July 20th - 22nd

#### Strawberry Tea

*Art, art activities and artists in attendance at the Homestead.*  
July 29th

### DAWSON CREEK, B.C.

• Dawson Creek Art Gallery  
101 - 816 Alaska Avenue  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4T6  
250-782-2601  
www.dcartgallery.ca  
The Gallery and Northern Treasures Giftshop are open 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday to Friday; 12 - 4 pm Saturdays, from May to Sept.  
*Year round, artist run centre; gift shop; 13 exhibits per year; art rental; education programs.*

#### Exhibits & Events

**Students from the Visual Arts programs in School District #59 Middle and Senior Schools**  
*"Mixed Media"*  
April 23rd - May 12th, 2007

**Tabitha Logan, Melina Jacques,  
Shannon Butler**  
"Image 3"  
May 14th - June 10th

**"In the Summertime"  
Members of the South Peace Art  
Society**  
"In the Summertime"  
June 11th - August 12th

**Fonda Sparks**  
"Regards from Mountains"  
August 13th - September 8th

**Vicki Hotte**  
"Bush Pasture"  
September 17th - October 20th

**Heather McNair**  
"New Leaf"  
October 22nd - November 10th

• Picture It  
920-102 Ave.  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 2B7  
(250) 782-4101  
*Gallery, framing and art supplies.*

## FAIRVIEW, ALBERTA

• Fairview Fine Arts Centre  
10801-103 Ave.  
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0  
780-835-2697;  
fax 780-835-5561  
www.fairviewfinearts.com  
finearts@telusplanet.net  
Hours: Tues. - Sat.  
12 pm - 5 pm  
*Gallery, fine arts gift shop and edu-  
cation programs.*

### Exhibits & Events

**Heather McNair.**  
*Spring Garden Show*  
April 20th - May 12th

**Bibi Clement and & Japanese  
master Yasuo Terada**  
*Earth and Fire*  
May 18th - June 8th

**Artists at School**  
*Members Summer Show and Sale*  
Dates TBA

**AFA Travelling Show**  
*Photographic Light Experiments*  
August 3rd - August 25th

**Agriculture Society**  
*Quilt and Fiber Show and Sale*  
Dates TBA

**Erin Stelmaschuk  
& Paula Fiorini**  
*Show and Sale*  
October 5th - 27th

## FT. ST. JOHN, B.C.

• Sonlight Gallery  
9312 100 St.  
Ft. St. John, B.C. V1J 3X4  
250-785-9099  
sonlight@telus.net  
*Art, framing and home decor.  
'Get the Big Picture.'*

## GRANDE CACHE, ALBERTA

• Grande Cache Tourism &  
Interpretive Centre  
Home of the Palette Pals Art Club  
Highway 40 South  
Box 300  
Grande Cache, AB T0E 0Y0  
780-827-3300  
1-888-827-3790  
tourism@grandecache.ca  
www.grandecache.ca  
Summer hours May - October  
9 am - 6 pm daily  
*Wildlife and historical displays, art  
gallery and gift shop.*

### Exhibits & Events

**Death Race & Death Fest**  
August 4th - 6th

Check our website for an up-to-  
date schedule of exhibitions and  
events.

## GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA

• Centre for Creative Arts  
9904 - 101 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0X8  
780-814-6080  
www.gparts.org  
*Check our website for current in-  
formation about our education  
programs, drop-in studios, artist  
run studios and cafe.*

• Forbes and Friends  
9918A - 100 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0T9  
780-513-1933;  
fax 780-513-1949  
*Gallery of Alberta crafts. Pottery,  
glass, jewellery, accessories, hand  
painted silk, home decor.*

• Grande Prairie Museum  
& Heritage Discovery Centre

**Sole Serenades**  
*History of Radio*  
April - September  
Grande Prairie Museum

**Saskatoon Island Provincial  
Park 75th Anniversary**  
*Parks & Protected Areas exhibit*  
May - August  
Heritage Discovery Centre

**Boy Scouts of Canada**  
*100th Anniversary Exhibit*  
July - August  
Heritage Discovery Centre

• Picture Perfect Frame  
& Gallery  
9934 - 100 Ave.  
Grande Prairie, AB  
780-539-4091;  
fax 780-539-4554  
picperf@telusplanet.net  
www.pictureperfectfineart.com  
*Artists supplies and custom fram-  
ing. Local artwork, prints and re-  
productions. Home decore.*

• Prairie Art Gallery  
10209 - 99 St.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2H3  
780-532-8111;  
fax 780-539-9522  
info@prairiegallery.com  
www.prairiegallery.com  
*Class A gallery, education pro-  
grams, art rental and gift shop.*

### Exhibits & Events

**House & Garden Tour & Gala**  
June 22nd & 23rd  
For tickets and information phone  
780-532-8111

**Due to the recent collapse of  
the Prairie Art Gallery roof, the  
gallery is presently closed. Ex-  
hibitions and programming are  
expected to continue in the near  
future. Please visit our website  
for current information.**

• Queen Elizabeth II Hospital,  
The Courtyard Gallery  
Lower Level, QEII Hospital  
10409 - 98 St.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2E8  
780-538-7585  
*Original works by local artists.  
In affiliation with the QEII  
Foundation.*

### Exhibits & Events

#### GALLERY

**Artists in Healthcare:**  
*Staff of the QEII Hospital*  
April, 2007

**Marian Jacoba Shilka  
Catherine Mc Laughlin**  
"Bridges"  
May - June

**Teachers as Artists**  
*Travelling Exhibition*  
July - Aug

**Janet Enfield**  
September - October

#### SHOWCASES

**Angie Patterson**  
*Photo cards*  
**Antique Photography  
Memorabilia**  
April, 2007

**Leslie Bjor**  
*Sculpture*  
May - June

**Gerri France**  
*Dragons, hand-sculpted clay*  
July - August - September

• Unique Gallery  
9929 100 Ave. Grande Prairie, AB

**Point of View**  
*Grande Prairie Guild of Artists*  
May 10th - 26th

## PEACE RIVER, ALBERTA

• Claire's House of Frames  
10029-101 St.  
Peace River, AB T8S 1S8  
780-624-0063  
Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 am - 5:30 pm  
Thurs. - 9 am - 7 pm  
*Custom framing, local original art  
and giftware.*

• Frameworks Custom Framing  
& Gallery  
9903 - 100 Ave.  
Peace River, AB T8S 1S4  
780-624-1984;  
Fax 780-624-1984  
*Custom framing and ready-made  
framing supplies. Original art-  
work, prints, posters, photographs,  
pottery, and other local handi-*

## BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA

Beaverlodge Arts Society

### Annual Miniature Show & Sale

Call for Entries - images cannot be larger than 16 square inches.

Winter 2008

Open to all artists.

Call Darlene at 780-356-2128 for information.

# education & opportunities

Beaverlodge Cultural Centre

### Clothesline Art

Show & Sale

June 17th - June 29th

Open to all artists.

Call 780-354-3600 for details.

Ongoing programs in pottery, stained glass, batik, weaving, acrylic, oil and watercolour painting classes for a variety of ages.

Please call Debbie, 780-354-3600 for dates and details.

Gallery exhibition and gift shop sales opportunities are available. Please call Debbie at 780-354-3600 for further information.

McNaught Homestead

### Following Betty's Trail Spring Workshops

Brent Laycock

*Plein Air Watercolour Workshop*

June 7th, 8th & 9th

Fee: \$250

Don Petitt

*Photography as an Art Form*

June 9th

Fee: \$65

Nature Trail Walks & A Writer's Group Retreat will also be featured.

Information and registration please contact Marjorie Henn at:

ghenn@telusplanet.net

780-354-2165

or mail to: McNaught Homestead

Preservation Society

Box 180,

Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0.

## DAWSON CREEK, B.C.

Dawson Creek Art Gallery

### Out of Africa Art Auction

Authentic cuisine, 60 live auction pieces, silent auction, entertainment, and good fun.

May 4th

Tickets at 250-782-2601

### Peace Country Summer School of the Arts

Visual, performing, and special interest classes and workshops will be offered including dance, music, artistic welding, stained glass, drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, photography and many more. Programs for a variety of ages.

Dorm accommodation available.

July and August, 2007

For details on these and other courses and registration visit [www.pris.bc.ca/artgallery](http://www.pris.bc.ca/artgallery) or phone 250-782-2601.

Opportunities for exhibition in the gallery are available. Guidelines for exhibitions can be viewed at [www.dcartgallery.ca](http://www.dcartgallery.ca).

Northern Lights College

The College offers a one-year program, leading to a graduation Certificate in the Visual and Graphic Arts, to prepare the student for a wide variety of career opportunities. In addition, a two-year program is also offered leading toward an Associate of Arts Diploma. The primary focus is to build a portfolio for job preparedness or to continue education in another institution. Phone 250-782-5251 for more information.

## FAIRVIEW, ALBERTA

Fairview Fine Arts Centre

The Centre offers fine art courses on an ongoing basis. Spring courses include the following:

Beginners Oil Painting

Janet Enfield

April 21st, 22nd & May 5th, 6th.

Gazing Ball

Heather McNair

April 27th, 28th, & 29th

Garden Stepping Stone

Heather McNair

May 11 & 12.

Call the Centre at 780-835-2697 or email [finearts@telusplanet.net](mailto:finearts@telusplanet.net) for these and other program details and registration information.

## GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA

Centre for Creative Arts

For registration and up to date class information, check out our website at [www.gparts.org](http://www.gparts.org) or contact us at [info@gparts.org](mailto:info@gparts.org). You can also call us at 780-814-6080.

Courtyard Gallery,  
Queen Elizabeth II Hospital

For information about exhibitions contact Karen at the QEII Foundation office 780-538-7583. Display cubes (showcases) are also available for collections or 3-dimensional art.

Grande Prairie Regional  
College

### The Fine Arts Department

Offers students a wide range of career and learning opportunities in the Fine Arts. These include Diploma, University Transfer programs, and courses in Music, Art, and Drama. Students in all programs may also fulfill their Fine Arts option requirements with FAD credit courses. Non-credit Visual Arts courses include drawing, painting, digital arts, and photography.

### Prairie North Creative Residency

Mark your calendar! From May 18 to June 1, 2007, Prairie North is back on. The visiting artists will be Laura Vickerson and Harold Klunder. Submit applications by April 27th. For more information - [www.prairienorth.org](http://www.prairienorth.org).

The Prairie Art Gallery

Due to the recent collapse of the Prairie Art Gallery roof, the gallery is presently closed. Exhibitions and programming are expected to continue in the near future. Please visit our website for current information at [www.prairiegallery.com](http://www.prairiegallery.com).

### TREX

For information about the Traveling Exhibition Program contact

The Prairie Art Gallery

780-532-8111

[www.prairiegallery.com](http://www.prairiegallery.com)

Robert Guest Gallery, Picture Perfect Frame & Gallery

Robert Guest Gallery is available for exhibitions - call Allan at 780-539-4091 for information.

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Snap Gallery

Visit [www.snapartists.com](http://www.snapartists.com) or call 780-423-1492 for more information about the Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists (SNAP).

The Visual Arts Association of Alberta

An inclusive arts service organization mandated to provide support, services and advocacy for all visual artists in Alberta. For more information call toll free:

1-866-421-1731

or visit [www.visualartsalberta.com](http://www.visualartsalberta.com)

Alberta Craft Council

Join one of Canada's leading craft arts organizations and start reaping benefits today! For more information toll free in Alberta: 1-800-362-7238 or visit [www.albertacraft.ab.ca](http://www.albertacraft.ab.ca)

## *On Drawing*

*Drawing is central to my art. It relaxes me. It puts me in a different frame of mind than the every day sort of thing. How does drawing happen? The first part of it is, you need to practice it. The other part of it is just pure mystery.*

*Abe Koene, Peace River, Alberta*





Check our website  
[www.prairiegallery.com](http://www.prairiegallery.com)  
 for up-to-date information.

coming soon...

## 2007 HOUSE & GARDEN Tour & Gala

June 22nd & 23rd



John Kerl

Presented by



&



For ticket information call 532-8111

## HOME N' HANGIN'

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Ph: (780) 835-3308 Cell: (780) 835-9279

11840 102 Ave. Fairview, AB T0H 1L0

## PICTURE FRAMING

## NEWS or COMMENTS?

Art of the Peace is interested in your news and art happenings.

Send your information or suggestions to  
[art@artofthepeace.ca](mailto:art@artofthepeace.ca)

# The Last Word: Grieving a Gallery

by Wendy Stefansson

Learning about the Prairie Art Gallery's collapse this week was surprisingly like learning about the death of a friend. Not that I am in any way confused about the value of a life in comparison to the value of bricks and mortar, but there was still that sense of the surreal. Something that was there one minute, suddenly was not there the next. And in its dust there was an absence and a silence that was palpable.

On the other hand, Prairie Art Gallery is more than a building. It is a network of artists and art lovers, of curators and teachers. It is the passion and the energy and the will of this collective. And these things are still intact. I am sure a new gallery building will be raised from the rubble of this catastrophe, and it will be our epicentre once again. The exact form that will take, of course, remains to be seen.

Our sincerest thanks go out to Robert Steven for preventing the loss of lives, and saving our artwork to boot!

Wendy Stefansson, Editor  
 Art of the Peace  
 March 23, 2007

## Letters to the Editor

We are excited to receive your comments and queries about the *Art of the Peace*.

Please write or email us at  
[art@artofthepeace.ca](mailto:art@artofthepeace.ca)

Hi Wendy,

I recently picked up a copy of 'Art of the Peace' and was interested in the article you wrote about Peter von Triesenhausen and copyrighting the land. I hope you don't mind if I pass it on to a friend who is a lawyer specializing in copyright laws, as well as fellow artists. The idea is intriguing, particularly in a place like the BC Peace where there is so much industrial activity affecting the land.

As well, being an artist in the north, it can sometimes feel like all the training and exhibition opportunities are further south, so I was excited to find your magazine. I now feel like I'm part of an established community of northern artists. Keep up the good work.

Chandra Wong,  
 Creative Writer, Photographer, Painter  
 Fort St. John, BC

Hi Chandra,

Thanks for your comments! You're very welcome to share our magazine with anyone and everyone!

Wendy Stefansson, Editor

imageDESIGN 

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**GRANDE PRAIRIE'S CULTURAL CENTRE**  
a destination for discovery, enrichment, inspiration and education.

In the near future, an exciting new public facility is scheduled to open. Grande Prairie's Cultural Centre will provide a new Library and Art Gallery for our growing community.

Our fundraising campaign is now underway. Your support for this landmark cultural space will be an investment in our region's rich cultural landscape.

We invite you to visit [www.MakeItGrand.ca](http://www.MakeItGrand.ca) or call 532-3580 to learn more about the features of this new facility or to donate to this vital civic project.

GRANDE PRAIRIE'S

*Cultural*

CENTRE

*Grand* MAKE IT  
*rand*.CA

*Thank you* to the community for the outpouring of concern following the collapse of the Prairie Art Gallery. We look forward to your continued support as we move forward with the campaign for Grande Prairie's Cultural Centre.