



Artist Profile: Joan Zimmer

Artist Joan Zimmer has lived in Tumbler Ridge for nearly twenty-five years, and has taken "making her mark" literally. Mainly self-taught, Joan's love of the region and its history shows in the murals she has painted in the town. Joan is the artist behind the large Theropod dinosaur on the side of the hardware store, the dinosaur scenery on the Co-op fuel tanks, and in the works is a thirty-six by seven foot mural, which will be showcased on the front of the community center this summer, celebrating the many recreational opportunities in Tumbler Ridge. In addition to painting murals, commissioned

portraits and landscapes, Joan has a passion for education, and has created a two year art program for children eight and up. She currently has eight students in the program and delights in seeing their knowledge and creativity increase with each lesson. Visit Joan's web site at JoanZimmer.com.



arts beat

www.PeaceLiardArts.org

Spirit of BC Week celebrated in the Peace

Spirit of BC Week is a celebration of British Columbia and its unique communities.

Held annually in February, it's a week of events and activities showcasing our pride in our province and profiling local programs and services that strengthen sport and recreation, healthy living, arts and culture, literacy and volunteerism.



committees, in partnership with local government, business, educators, First Nations, and community-based organizations.

In 2009, Spirit of BC Week will take place February 6th through to the 14th. It will also be an opportunity for communities throughout the province to mark the one-year countdown to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Spirit of BC Week events and activities are organized by the Spirit of BC community

5th Annual High On Ice a Success

The 5th Annual High On Ice Festival was a success even though the weather was unseasonably warm. Fort St. John saw more international ice carvers than ever before; double the intermediate teams as well as more amateurs carving ice this year. The crowd of spectators turned out for the opening reception on Thursday and continued to grow over the course of the weekend, culminating in a great turnout for the exciting Fire and Ice Celebration. The Fire and Ice Celebration is a giant bonfire inside a huge pillar of ice. It was an incredible sight to be sure! The ice and snow carving events were highlighted with performances such as 'Throat Singing' by Margaret Fenton and drum circles formed by various local performers.



High on Ice mascot Frozen John showing off the 'Ice Age II' piece (a commissioned work by Takashi Ito and Stephen Chung).

Hudsons Hope Writing Competition

Our Spirit of BC Committee received funding approval for a number of events during Spirit of BC Week. Most are physical activities as this week is promoting the Winter Olympics. The Committee included a writing contest and asked The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge to organize and administer it.

Though still in the planning stages, the writing contest is to be an essay on the theme, "How Can I Make a Difference?" The three categories for the

competition are the elementary grades (e.g. 4 or 5 to 7 or 8); secondary grades (9 to 12) and an adult category. Essays are required to meet the length minimum of 500 words for elementary, 750 for secondary and 1,000 words for adult.

Thursday, February 12th is the tentative deadline for the essay competition.

For more information, call The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge at (250)783-9351

The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge (Hudson's Hope)	Patricia Markin	783-9351
Phoenix Theatre (Fort Nelson)	Doug Roper	774-2241
Chetwynd Community Arts Council	Yvonne Elden	788-2792
Fort St. John Community Arts Council	Tara O'Donnell	787-2479
South Peace Community Arts Council	Ellen Corea	782-2601
Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council	Erin Hanna	242-3364

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

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council
Phone/Fax (250) 782-1164
Box 164, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4G3

Contact Us!



Spirit of BC Week Events in Dawson Creek

In Dawson Creek the arts community is getting involved with an number of exciting events throughout the Spirit of BC Week.

February 6th: At 7:30pm at the Kiwanis Arts Centre there will be a Coffeehouse to kick off to the Spirit of BC Communities Week, featuring the *Potluck in the Basement Singers*.

February 7th-8th: The Spirit of BC Signature Event, *Spirit of Literacy*, begins at 9:00am at Northern Lights College with keynote speakers. There will be free learning throughout the weekend at various venues in the community. Take part in workshops such as vocals, theatre, drumming, scrapbooking, quilting, pottery, silk scarf painting, and more.

For more information, check out the web site at literacy.dc.googlepages.com or phone Christabelle at 250-784-8800.

February 7th: 7:30pm at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, Oma Productions presents the 4th annual *South Peace Potpourri*.

February 10th: The Dawson Creek Art Gallery will be hosting an opening for its exhibit

Connections featuring the fabric art of Edmonton artists Dawna Harrish, Cathy Tom, and Sharon Rubuliak.

February 11th: The Dawson Creek Art Gallery will be hosting a Culture Café with fabric artist Dawna Harrish. Dawna will be giving a PowerPoint presentation about her work and the process of jurying quilting exhibitions. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. Please phone 782-2601 to register.

February 11th: "Reel Wednesdays" presents *Changeling*, starring Angelina Jolie. This show will be shown at 6:50 only at the Centre Cinema. Regular admission at the door is \$9.00 each.

February 14th: 6pm at the Kiwanis Arts Centre, the Dawson Creek Community Band's annual Valentine Dinner and Dance. This year's theme is *Bella Italia*, and features gourmet Italian cuisine. Tickets are \$40 each, available at KPAC and from band members.

For any information on the events above, phone the Kiwanis Arts Centre at 782-9325 or the Dawson Creek Art Gallery at 782-2601.

Chetwynd Community Arts Council

Yvonne Elden will be attending the Regional meeting in Prince George on January 21st at which the BC Arts Council will be soliciting input from northern and central BC Arts Councils concerning the allocation of funds from the grant established last year for the BCAC by the Government of BC.

The George Littlechild/Richard Van Camp 3 day workshop was a wonderful event. 24 participants from age 10 to 60 came together to paint and write. The closing ceremony - a soup and bannock supper provided by the Moccasin Flats Metis Society and Tansi

Friendship Centre followed by presentation of the artworks by the artists - was attended by 80 family and community members.

On Feb. 14th, celebrating BC Spirit Week, the Chetwynd Community Arts Council and the Chetwynd Spirit of BC Committee will be hosting a tea for the charter members of the Little Prairie Ladies Club and their families, the Chetwynd Public Library board and staff, and old-timers from those early years when the Little Prairie Ladies Club built the first Library and Health Centre in this community.

M-K Artist Camp Update

The third M-K Artist Camp, held August 7-14, 2008, saw 14 talented artists experience the wilderness of the Muskwa-Kechika. From poet, philosopher, and Governor General Literary Award winner Tim Lilburn to Chetwynd artist Cherie Stocken, an aboriginal artist whose films have been screened both nationally and internationally. It was an experience filled with inspired ideas, wonderful wilderness trekking, campfire chats, and great companionship.

2008 also marked the beginning of a partnership between Writing on the Ridge and Athabasca University to create an online repository of all the work being created from the artist camps. Images can now be viewed at <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/muskwa/>. In 2009, past artist camp participant Don McKay, who recently received the Order of Canada, is set to release his book of poetry and essays, titled "The Muskwa Assemblage," with Gaspereau Press.

And if that wasn't exciting enough, an exhibit showcasing the work from the 2007 and 2008 artist camps will be held at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, May 11th to June 7th, 2009.

The fourth M-K Artist Camp will be held from August 1-8, 2009. For more information on these camps you can contact Donna Kane at www.donnakane.com.



Art & Drama in Tumbler Ridge

Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council will proudly host the Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit in 2009. While a firm date has not been confirmed, it is likely to take place simultaneously with BC Arts and Culture Week towards the end of April. Interested artists may contact TR Arts Show Committee coordinator Maureen Sywolos at 250-242-4174.

On March 14th, Theatre On The Ridge - Grizzly Valley Players will be hosting a Murder Mystery Party titled "Murder at the Juice Joint." The drama group will participate alongside audience members. Tickets are limited due to character parts, however, observer tickets are

also available. You may purchase tickets at the front desk of the Community Centre or by calling Erin at 250-242-3364.

Also in March, the Mid-Winter Review Crew finally resurrects after several years' hiatus. This group of musical and improvisational live performers are well known in Tumbler Ridge for putting on a fabulous show. For tickets, contact Rose at 250-242-4567.

Keep informed of the Tumbler Ridge events by visiting the Tumbler Ridge News website (Entertainment/Town Crier) as well as on Facebook at Tumbler Ridge Events Notice.