

# plrac arts beat

"Shaping Today, Inspiring Tomorrow"

www.PeaceLiardArts.org

## 150 Exhibited for Province's Anniversary

Once again our region has completed a very successful Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition bringing together the talents of visual artists from throughout Northeastern BC for an opportunity to exhibit and talk to jurors about their work. The Fort St. John Community Arts Council and the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council were co-hosts for this event, which circulates through five communities on an annual basis. This year, in celebration of BC's 150 years as a province, 150 entries were accepted for the exhibition. Three works were chosen for the EnCana Awards. "Blue Cliffs and Chokecherries" by Mike Kroecker was chosen for the Distinguished Award, "Rivers Edge" by Cindy Vincent received the Recognition Award and "Divine Retribution" by Jordan Rondeau was chosen for the Student Award. As well, nine Honorable Mention Awards were chosen. They include; "Vase" by Robert Young, "Hay Bales" by Eliza Stanford, "#4 Untitled" by Ilona Theal, "Mother and Children" by Helen Vokaty, "Body" by

Alana Hall, "Seed...seedling...true leaf" by Sarah Halse, "Waiting for Spring" by Marie Bernardin, "Treasured Antiques" by Pat Vossler, and "Tree Frog" by Shirley Kerr. As in previous years the event also included a People's Choice award, sponsored by the hosting committee, to be announced at the end of the exhibit. The Regional Juried Exhibit will be on display at Peace Gallery North until May 2nd. Juror Carrie Klukas chose the twelve pieces from an inspiring group of 150 entries. However, each and every artist that entered was a winner as the resulting exhibition was an impressive display of regional talent from throughout the Peace Liard area. EnCana representative, Jeff Beale, was on hand to present the Distinguished, Recognition and Student Awards.



Jordan Rondeau accepting the Student Award from Encana's Jeff Beale



Cindy Vincent accepting the Recognition Award from Encana's Jeff Beale



## M-K Artist Camp Seeks Artists



Members of the 2007 M-K Artist Camp

Applications are now being taken for anyone interested in being a part of a packhorse trip into the Northern Rockies or in attending the 2008 Muskwa-Kechika Artist or Naturalist camp.

The Muskwa-Kechika is a vast chunk of spectacular Rocky Mountain wilderness that still exists in the remote reaches of northern British Columbia, and the expedition and camps are intended to raise awareness of this important wilderness area.

For applications and information, you can visit [www.muskwakechika.com](http://www.muskwakechika.com).

### Dates of the 2008 Events:

**Muskwa-Kechika Expeditions** (Two week trips will take place from June 30 through to August 28, 2008)

**Muskwa-Kechika Artist Camp** (August 7-14, 2008)

**Muskwa-Kechika Naturalist Camp** with host Dick Cannings (August 14-21, 2008)

## Art Events Around the Region:

Fort Nelson: *Summer of My Amazing Luck* - April  
 Diamond Forever Neil Diamond Tribute - April  
 Chetwynd: *BC150 Homecoming* - August

Peace River Zone Theatre Festival - May  
 View details on these events and more online at [www.peaceliardarts.org/calendar](http://www.peaceliardarts.org/calendar)



## Hudson's Hope Celebrates BC Arts Week

The Arts and Cultural Society on the Edge (TACSOTE) of Hudson's Hope enjoyed a very successful Peace Festival of Cultures afternoon on Sunday, April 20th. The festival was sponsored by BC150 Years and the Assembly of BC Arts Councils.

Metis, Latin and Belly dancers from around the region turned out to perform to a full gym at The Pearkes Centre. The Graffiti Banner was filled, the School Foods Class' ethnic goodies were eaten off of biodegradable plates and cutlery.

The cutlery called Taterware is made from potatoes! The kid's craft table was a huge success! We had booths representing Wales, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Kenya and the Red River Metis Society plus throughout Arts and Culture Week there will be an ongoing Alberta Foundation for the Travelling Arts Exhibition entitled 20/20 Vision.

Submitted by Patricia Markin



Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council  
*Shaping Today - Inspiring Tomorrow*

Featured Artist: Mike Kroecher

Mike Kroecher's oil paintings reflect the depth of his roots in the Peace River country. On the hills near Fort St. John, his studio overlooks a panorama spanning the Peace River Valley and the Rocky Mountains, and his paintings reveal his love of this country. Mike's concern over the changes which would result from the development of the proposed "Site C" dam adds a further degree of urgency to capturing the local environment on canvas.

Mike was trained as an art teacher at UBC, and in 1965 moved with his wife to Fort St. John. The majority of his teaching career was spent teaching art at Charlie Lake Elementary until his retirement in 1995. While teaching and the concerns of home absorbed his time during his career, retirement offered an opportunity to start painting seriously. Mike's goal is to approach painting as a hobby, painting to suit his interests and passions, rather than to please the art market. However, his work is in



Mike Kroecher accepting Distinguished Award from Encana's Jeff Beale

demand with local art collectors. He exhibits every two years at the North Peace Cultural Centre, and has exhibited at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery in the past.

Future plans include reviving his original training in etching and woodcuts -- the classic printmaking process that has gotten lost in the current flood of mechanical reproduction and printmaking.

Mike most recently received recognition in the form of the Distinguished Award from the Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition for his oil painting "Blue Cliffs and Chokecherries".

## Dawson Creek Hosts Peace River Zone Theatre Festival

The Peace River Zone Theatre Festival is an annual competitive festival celebrating community theatre in Northeastern British Columbia. The Zone Festival is returning to host city Dawson Creek to proudly be part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Dawson Creek's incorporation as a city. What a week of shows! The line-up includes four plays competing for awards, plus a showcase performance by student Dallas Ashdown, performing his short original play, and a Saturday Night Salute to Community Theatre – Broadway style – with Adam da Ros and Friends.

The Zone Festival is professionally adjudicated. This year's adjudicator is Leon Potter, a professional actor and director who currently teaches at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo. Mr. Potter will deliver a brief public adjudication after each performance, sharing his insights with the audience about the play they have just seen. Mr. Potter will also teach a three hour acting workshop on stage status on Saturday afternoon (May 10th).

Just like the Oscars, festival plays compete for awards. The winning play, awarded the honour of Best Production, will represent the Peace River Zone at Theatre BC's provincial Mainstage Festival in July.

THE PERFORMANCES EACH EVENING:

Tuesday, May 6: **Dracula** (Suspense/Horror)

Writer: Steven Dietz

Director: Jeremy Beaulne

Club: North Peace Players



Wednesday, May 7: **A Tuna Christmas** (Comedy)

Writers: Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, Ed Howard

Directors: Tom Kirschner & Dennis Slazai

Club: Bridge to Broadway

Thursday, May 8: **American Buffalo** (Drama)

Writer: David Mamet

Director: David Ortynsky

Club: Stage North Theatre Society

Friday, May 9: **Legoland** (A Dramey)

Writer: Jacob Richmond

Director: Terry Boyle

Club: Stage North Theatre Society



Saturday Night Awards, May 10: **A Salute to Community Theatre**

North Peace Secondary student Dallas Ashdown will perform his short, original play about three quirky actors auditioning for a director, and Dawson Creek's own Adam da Ros & Friends will reprise numbers from last summer's hit show, Chicago. And more to delights to come...

Time: 7 pm each evening

Where: Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre (KPAC) Dawson Creek

Tickets: \$10 per night, available at the door, festival seating

Phone 782-9325 for ticket information

Contact Us!



The Arts & Cultural Society on the Edge (Hudson's Hope)	Patricia Markin	783-2393
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	Roxanne Rusin	719-0726
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**

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 ARTS COUNCIL**  
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