



Whistle Stop Gallery News Letter

October 2007

WOW What a fantastic year it has been. Sales are up this year and the visitors have been amazed once again at the variety and craftsmanship of the work coming from our own Robson Valley. Our family of artists and crafters keeps growing and each one of you brings an added something special to the Gallery. From new artists to long standing members you all deserve a pat on the back for the outstanding contribution you make to the Whistle Stop and to the community. Keep up the great work!

75th Anniversary



Thank you to all of the artists and members who brought their family and friends to the Whistle Stop to show off our arts and culture. A special thank you to Sheilagh Foster, who spent an afternoon in

front of the station holding an outdoor artist display. Sheilagh also designed the colourful banners that decorated Main Street. A banner hangs in the Train Station now for people to see year round. The Tales of the Robson Valley event was well attended and is an important oral history of our culture and what makes the Robson Valley the best place on earth to live.

Craft Fair

Good luck to all of our members attending the Highschool Craft Fair this year. It is a great event that really showcases the talent in our Valley. We will be making up plaques for all the Gallery artists at the fair this year. The plaques will read – **“Proud Member of the Whistle Stop Gallery Society –**

Visit the Gallery in the Train Station, open 10-4 seven days a week.

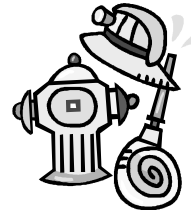
Paint the Town Beautiful Mural Project



If you haven't seen Glen Frear around the side of the ScotiaBank painstakingly finishing our first town mural, now is the time to stop by and take a look at the stunning job he has done.

Remember that we have much work ahead of us and this is just the first in a series of historical murals. We need Society members to pick up a brush and lend a hand as we continue in our efforts to Paint the Town Beautiful!

Fire Hydrant Project



The Whistle Stop Gallery Society would like to thank Bryony Griffiths, the artist who has done such a stunning job painting the fire hydrants

in McBride. We are grateful to Darrell and Diane Roth, they had a great idea and put their time and effort into making it happen. We now have a fire

hydrant page on our website – check it out at: www.whistlestopgallery.org/fire_hydrants.htm

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For more information or if you have any ideas for these or any other projects and want to help, contact the Gallery



News and Notes



Our newsletters are now posted on our website www.whistlestopgallery.org/members Along with our year end report and annual plan

The Barkerville Heritage Trust made a presentation McBride Village Council and to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board regarding an initiative to encourage the development of a new connector route to the Barkerville - Wells area. The Trust had engaged a consultant to evaluate three route options to create a circle route/tour which they anticipate will increase tourism both to the Barkerville area and to the region as a whole. The preferred route is the Purden Lake / Bowron River Road. I have put the study report on the website on the members page and have it available at the gallery if anyone wants to see it. If the proposed Barkerville connector actually happens we may see increased traffic and more circle route opportunities. I will be working with Barkerville and the Cultural Services Advisory Committee to take advantage of every opportunity to increase our profile and our market.

We have several new members and are always on the lookout for talented Valley residents. If you know one, tell them to drop by the Gallery and take a look at what we have to offer.

To The Artists.

I cannot believe that another year is just about over!

Our family just keeps getting bigger and better, with new artists, new ideas and new enthusiasm. I would like to thank the board of directors for their hard work and great ideas as well as their unfailing support of the arts and culture in McBride.

The Cultural Service Advisory Committee has adopted a logo and branding strategy that we are proud to be one of the founding members of. One of the concerns of the committee was the standards of quality all member organisations would be expected to adhere to. I inquired of the independent evaluation consultants as to our status and if there was anything that we needed to work on. Their reply was a resounding **two thumbs up**. They were highly impressed by our Station, our Gallery and the arts and crafts in it. Way to go!

Spirit of BC is celebrating British Columbia's 150th birthday in 2008. There are grants available for projects people are willing to take on. If you have an idea and need funding, come to the gallery - odds are good that we can find you the money you need to make your idea a reality.

The fire hydrant project was a huge success, the banners truly brightened up the town, the train station murals are looking great and the mural on the bank building is fantastic - the arts are making their mark on McBride, just think what we will be able to accomplish in the future - WOW

Remember - we are not finished yet -- like any good thing, our community is a work in progress.... We have many projects on the go and our members are working hard to make the Robson Valley a more beautiful place to live and work. Put those creative juices to work, pick a project and pitch in! Your enthusiasm and support are what it takes to make your mark on McBride.

I thank you all for everything that you do!

Danielle Alan

