

A vibrant community celebrating and supporting *Arts, Culture, and Creativity!*

Red Deer Arts Council & Red Deer Public Library are delighted to present

“gathering evocations”

art by **Karla Mather-Cocks**

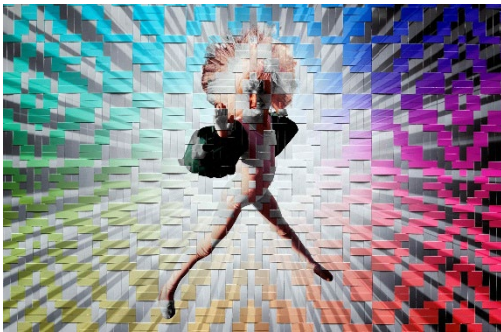
running in the Kiwanis Gallery until August 17, 2025

Karla Mather-Cocks “*gathering evocations*”, a powerful contemplative exhibition that explores the shifting terrain of memory. Featuring a blend of handwoven and digitally altered photographs, this immersive collection transforms familiar images into fragmented, textured reflections of how we remember — and misremember — the past. As traditional techniques merge with modern manipulation, “*gathering evocations*” invites you to

reflect on the emotional echoes of your own memories.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening reception July 4 with the artist in attendance from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Flowers and Innocence
Hand Manipulated Photo, 2025
Karla Mather-Cocks



Happy Apple
Hand Manipulated Photo, 2025
Karl Mather-Cocks

Gallery Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am–8pm, Fri 9am–5pm, Sat & Sun 10am–3pm

Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

Ink and Art Art by **Central Alberta Tattoo Artists**

at the Red Deer Arts Council’s Community Gallery until June 30, 2025.

Red Deer Arts Council invites you to check out this group exhibition featuring both tattoo designs and other artistic endeavours of some of Red Deer’s best tattoo artists, this exhibition, coordinated in partnership with Haley Wasdal of Wolf & Crown Tattoo.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer July 4 reception from 5 – 7pm
Community Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 10am – 5pm



Fred Bojangles
Kaitlin Helm
Prismacolor & Ink on Grey Paper



Tiger
Tommy Bertin
Watercolour



~ Celebrating over 50 years of Arts and Creativity in Central Alberta ~

Creative Happenings in July 2025



Join us at these *In the Neighbourhood Concert Series* shows!

Check out these free concerts around the city! Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy the show! Tips for artists are gratefully accepted! (Alternate rain/storm/heat/smoke dates listed in brackets at the same time as primary date)

Mike Roland at **GW Smith School** July 22 (or 29th) 7:30pm

Sign up for your own neighbourhood concert at RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/concert-series-register! They're free for your community association!

Celebrating our Scholarship & Award Winners!

On June 25, 2025 we were delighted to celebrate our fantastic award and scholarship winners at our office.

Mayor Ken Johnston attended to hand out the Princess Margaret Scholarship for Post-Secondary students to recent RDP Visual Arts program graduate Ashaya Hargreaves. The Centennial Scholarship winner is Hunting Hills High School grad Kayden Fredeen for his digital design and photography work. We were also pleased to be able to increase the award amount for these students from \$500 to \$1000 each!

For awards, we celebrated ceramics artist Kerry Tronnes as our Emerging Artist winner for 2025, and Andrea Swainson as our Artwalk



Developing Visual Artist Award winner.

Last, but not least, we honoured Diana Anderson, longtime staff member, and longer-time volunteer for her guidance,



strength, and service to the Arts Council over nearly 2 decades. Even after her retirement, Diana shepherded new staff in their roles and provided consistency and guidance for the operating of the Kiwanis Art Gallery.

Photos clockwise from top left: Board Secretary Annie Burik with Kayden Fredeen; Mayor Ken Johnston, Board Member Ian Warwick, and Ashaya Hargreaves; Kerry Tronnes with Visual Arts Lead Kristina Miko, Andrea

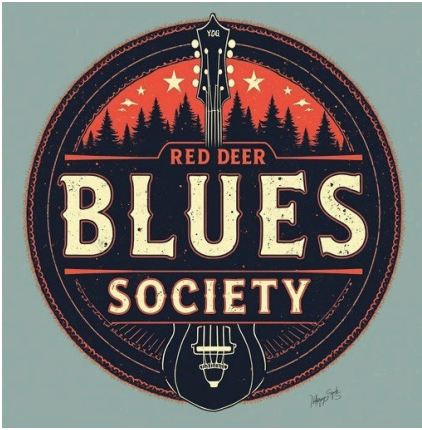


Swainson with Board Chair Ula Chauvet, and Diana Anderson with Mistress of Ceremonies and Board Member Ali Misener, along with nominator and former board member Janice Armstrong.

Congratulations winners!



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Healing Blues provide musical balm for our troubled times, says *Red Deer Blues Society* Co-Founder

More younger people are getting into blues music, said Susan Dahlseide. Besides offering them catchy beats, she believes blues songs deliver raw, emotional lyrics that can be a soothing salve in this politically turbulent era.

Blues artists sing about hardships, but resilience is part of the music. “It’s about oppression, but more than that, it’s about rising above it,” said Dahlseide, co-founder and treasurer of the Red Deer Blues Society.

The non-profit group was founded at the close of the pandemic in 2022. Dahlseide and other local musicians noticed that while folk, rock and other genres were making a comeback, local performance opportunities for blues music were lagging, mostly due to venue preference.

Several local musicians, including Dahlseide, Tyler Boutin, and Charlie Jacobson formed the society to help launch more blues concerts in Red Deer.

The Vat Pub became a supportive base of operations for shows that range from jump-jive and juke-style blues and boogie-woogie to Memphis and Motown revues.

Among the 16 bands featured, so far, at society events are some local favourites, including The Charlie Jacobson Band, Dahlseide’s Blue Honey, Juke Blues Band, and Clearwater (with Mike Szabo and Curtis Phagoo). Award-winning, out-of-town blues artists were also brought in, including Troy Turner (Tina Turner’s nephew), the Motown Tribute Orchestra with Thomas Alexander, and Johanna Sillanpaa’s Amy Winehouse tribute.

Dahlseide grew up in a musical family in the Cold Lake region. Nearly everyone played an instrument on her mom’s Cree/Métis side, she recalled, and her Norwegian dad was a honky-tonk piano player.

She started off singing in all genres. But, as a teenager, she was won over by the emotional intensity and authenticity of the blues.

With her Indigenous family background, Dahlseide said she could personally relate to its themes of oppression and rising above.

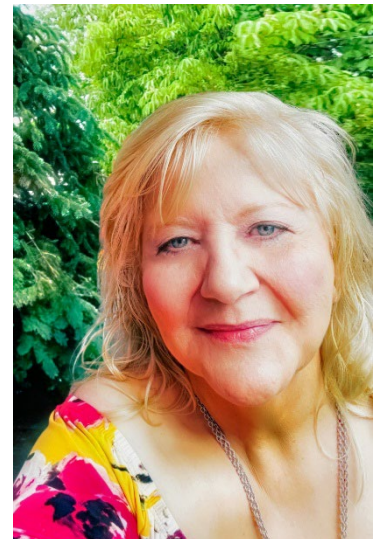
“I’ve had cousins and brothers who were picked up by police for seemingly no reason and carted off somewhere... They would come back and we would have a good laugh,” she recalled.

“It’s down-to-earth, honest music (and)... I go for the deep, not for the trite... I think when people get bored of other types of music that might not be as interesting, they go for the blues.”

The local swing dance club and other dance groups are among those who regularly attend the society’s concerts and Dahlseide feels audiences are getting younger all the time.

“We are building a community of people who like the blues,” she added. This includes holding bi-monthly educational presentations and workshops on various aspects of the music industry in partnership with the downtown public library.

This summer, Central Albertans have two opportunities to attend society concerts: The Austin Trio will perform on July 12, while the Ray Charles Tribute Orchestra will play on Aug. 16. Both events are sponsored by The Vat Pub.



Susan Dahlseide, Co-Founder of the Red Deer Blues Society

Tickets and more information are available through Eventbrite, or members of the society can e-transfer funds through the reddeerbluessociety@gmail.com.