



**Creating a vibrant community  
that celebrates the *Arts***

## Connections: Fiber Art by Dawna Dey Harrish in the Kiwanis Gallery

August 27 to October 6, 2013  
Connections: Fibre Art by Dawna Dey Harrish

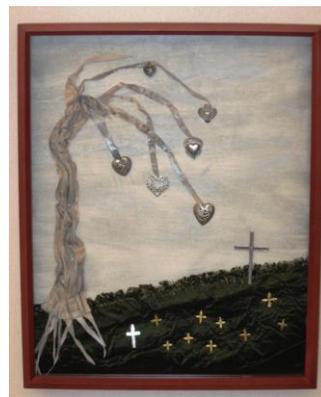
In this series of wall hangings and soft sculptures, Sherwood Park artist, Dawna Dey Harrish examines relationships between people through a lifetime as well as the values and emotions that shape memories and family relationships. Dawna is inspired by her ever-growing collection of vintage objects she incorporates into her multi-media constructions. Her three-dimensional collage artworks, rendered in shadow frames, wall quilts and soft sculptures, feature stuffed, distressed and painted gloves. Dawna uses familiar materials and processes, but deploys them in unexpected ways, engaging the viewer in a visual dialogue that addresses issues of life, loss and hope.

First Friday Red Deer  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

First Friday Red Deer October 4  
Details to be announced



Community  
Soft Sculpture, 2009  
Dawna Dey Harrish



Heart and Soul  
Assemblage, 2008  
Dawna Dey Harrish

First Friday Red Deer is sponsored by the  
Red Deer Downtown Business Association



## Red Deer Arts Council Open Letter to the Membership

Have you been downtown lately? If the answer is no, you should treat yourself. Beginning in June, the downtown core has been a focal point for the City of Red Deer's "Best Summer Ever", and it's living up to the hype.

Head down on any Wednesday afternoon and enjoy a concert on the award-winning Ross Street Patio. As offerings include a myriad of our own artists, the concert series has been a boon for both local musicians and citizens alike, pairing summer sunshine and patio atmosphere with community in ways that the downtown core has never seen before. Then stroll over to Little Gaetz for the delectable treats offered at the Downtown Farmer's Market. If you missed the music on Wednesday, an encore performance is held on Thursday morning, further cementing the relationship between our local artists and Red Deer's fine citizens.

Food Truck Fridays has been a great success, allowing patrons to sample the culinary offerings of many specialty food trucks in the city. Come back Friday night for the resoundingly successful Best Summer Ever Concert Series held on the Ross Street Patio the first Friday of every month, as again local bands grace a temporarily constructed stage set up on the patio. Come early, grab a bite from one of the many wonderful restaurants (or food trucks!) and pull up a lawn chair, provided by the City.

There has been extensive revitalization work in our downtown core, increasing walkability and creating a vibrant atmosphere where people come together in pedestrian and family friendly splendour. Our core has been transformed into a community space that hasn't been seen in this city for decades, and first up on the list of reasons for this success is the Ross Street Patio. Launched as a pilot project last year, and brought back by popular demand this year, the Ross Street Patio is already making international waves. The City of Red Deer was recognized by the International Downtown Association's "Downtown Merit Award" for the work and initiatives related to the Ross Street Patio. This category recognizes capital improvements that enhance the urban design, physical function, or economic viability of downtown and the community. "The Ross Street Patio brought a whole new dynamic into our downtown. As a pilot project it was very successful in showing how streets can be transformed into vibrant gathering spaces. The Ross Street Patio is a shining example of excellent downtown management that delivers real results." ~ Craig Curtis (City Manager).

Believe it or not, the future of the Ross Street Patio is in question. This fall, our newly elected City Council will revisit the Ross Street Patio Project, to be included in the Capital Budget for 2014, and suggesting a permanent summer seasonal installation. There is even talk of a new Pilot Project to utilize the Patio during the winter, complete with fun and exciting winter programming.

With the October Municipal Election looming, we've noticed many new City Council candidates declaring an opposition to this award winning, city enhancing community space, and we at the Red Deer Arts Council are urging our membership, and all forward-thinking citizens to launch a letter writing campaign in support of this valuable addition to our Core.

Write your City Council. Write your Mayor. They won't know your thoughts unless you tell them. It's up to us, the residents of this city, to guide their decisions. In this case, it's imperative. And easy! Six words is all it takes; **"I support the Ross Street Patio"**.

Your voice matters!

Diane Hermary, Secretary, Red Deer Arts Council

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## Red Deer Celebrates Alberta Culture Days

Red Deer Arts Council and its partners for Alberta Culture Days, September 27 to 29 are pleased to announce we have been awarded a grant of \$20,000.00 as a Feature Celebration Site.

The City of Red Deer, The Hub on Ross, The Native Friendship Centre, Red Deer College, Central Alberta Retired Teachers Association, Central Alberta Refugee Effort, Central Alberta Women's Immigrant Association and Red Deer Cultural Heritage Society join us for this three day celebration of arts, culture and heritage in our city!

Red Deer Arts Council works with local schools to place artists in the schools and to host a performance at Red Deer College. Alternating each year from elementary to middle school children, the performances span the range from children's theatrical groups, to locals like Bull Skit and Tree House Youth Theatre. This year Tree House will be presenting *I Met a Bully on the Hill* - by Martha Brooks and Maureen Hunter for elementary school children at the RDC Arts Centre on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Artists in the schools will be presenting workshops at the middle and high schools in a variety of disciplines, including theatre, visual arts, performing arts, and music.

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Larry Reese's *Mapping Creativity* will be shown in the newly renovated City Centre Stage (CCS), our main festival site. Art works and face painters in CCS as well as ethnic food vendors in the parking lot adjacent to CCS will enliven the downtown core. As well, look for a number of events around downtown like live music, chalk art, a dance extravaganza at the Scott Block and a Native Showcase by the Native Friendship Society at the Hub on Ross. Look for a Pop-Up-Gallery and find out about local visual artists, performing artists and literary artists with this one unique space for one unique time. The Central Alberta Retired Teachers will be showing their art at the Pioneer Lodge from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Surprises are in store for those folks taking in the events and we hope to see lots of you out and about. Most of the events are free and very family friendly!

On Sunday, City Centre Stage will showcase the movie *Older than America* presented by the Native Friendship Society. A woman's haunting visions reveal a Catholic priest's sinister plot to silence her mother from speaking the truth about the atrocities that took place at her Native American boarding school. Director: Georgina Lightning; Writers: Georgina Lightning, Christine K. Walker; Stars: Adam Beach, Tantoo Cardinal, Bradley Cooper. This is your chance to see this award winning movie! Georgina Lightning will be in attendance!

Times and events listings will be on the **Alberta Culture Website**:

<http://culture.alberta.ca/culturedays/> and also on Red Deer's **Culture Services Facebook** page once all details are finalized.

Join us for this wonderful festival that celebrates arts, culture & heritage in our fair city!

Red Deer Arts Council Members will be at the **Public Market** every Saturday throughout the Market Season; you can see them in Stall #81.

|              |                                   |              |                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| September 7  | Red Deer Scottish Country Dancers | September 14 | Dawn Candy, Artist              |
| September 21 | Wendy Meeres, Artist              | September 28 | Red Deer Symphony Orchestra     |
| October 5    | Wendy Meeres, Artist              | October 12   | Kerry Wood Nature Centre (WEES) |

# You are the Arts



Watching and listening to a musician playing at Alberta Culture Days, 2012

You are children, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbours and just plain folks.

You read books, go to movies or plays, watch singers and dancers, look at art all around you, sing songs, drive all manner of vehicles, play on your iPad and wear t-shirts with logos. You appreciate gardens, good food and interesting buildings. You have fun at festivals and generally enjoy a good time. You are part of the arts and culture of our country and might not even know it!

You are proud to call Red Deer home.

Discover the best our City has to offer.

**Scott Barnabé, Chair of Red Deer Arts Council, wins the *Ed Johnston Community Citizenship Award* for PDD (People with Developmental Disabilities) Central Community Recognition Awards.**

Scott organizes weekly jam sessions at the Hub on Ross in Red Deer that includes persons with developmental disabilities. Scott initiated The Music Gallery four years ago. It features a lively mix of folk, roots, blues and bluegrass music. He encourages persons with developmental disabilities to take a lead hand in these sessions. He sends out weekly e-mails inviting people to attend, people with disabilities and those without, thus exposing a wide variety of citizens to The Hub and what folks with developmental disabilities are capable of doing. Scott hosts this activity with Roland, who lives at Michener Services and plays harmonica in the jam sessions.

As a member of RDAC, Scott provides many networking opportunities for The Hub on Ross and this connection gives adults with disabilities a voice on various committees planning special events in the city.

## Red Deer Arts Council

[www.reddeerartscouncil.ca](http://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca)

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@RDArtsCouncil



Thanks to the City of Red Deer for all their support through Culture Services!