



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

### *GlassEarth continues in the Kiwanis Gallery; Scholarship Award Winners Take the Stage!*

June 23 to August 24, 2014

**GlassEarth: Mixed Media by Larissa Blokhuis**

Join us for our second First Friday Red Deer, with Larissa's show, on August 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We feature a live musical performance by **Vincent Millward, a singer-songwriter** fresh from a previous gig on the Ross Street Patio and special events at Parkland Nurseries. Vincent will be performing his own work as well as music from different genres, including blues and Bruce Cockburn.

August 16 & 17 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Pioneer Days** at Sunnybrook Farm Museum. Step back in time with your family and enjoy a Pioneer breakfast, tractor pulls, tractor parade, threshing demonstrations, homemade pie, children activities, concession, face painting and much more. This festival celebrates the history of homesteading and farming in rural central Alberta. Ph. 403-340-3511



Billow  
Mixed Media, 2013  
Larissa Blokhuis

#### Guess Who?



August 23 & 24 - 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, **Fort Normandeu Days**. Have a blast in the past as we celebrate life as it was at the Crossing, circa 1885! Admission by donation. Ph. 403-346-2010

First Friday Red Deer is sponsored by the Red Deer Downtown Business Association for Red Deer Arts Council.



On June 24th, our 2014 scholarships were awarded by Mayor Tara Veer at the Mayor's Recognition Awards ceremony at the Black Knight Inn.

The City of Red Deer's **Princess Margaret Scholarship** of \$500.00 is awarded to the top-scoring submission from a post-secondary student. The Scholarship was awarded to Brock Beal for his dancing.

The Red Deer Arts Council's **Canada Centennial Scholarship** for Post-Secondary Students of \$500.00 is awarded to the top-scoring submission from a post-secondary student in a medium other than that awarded to the Princess Margaret Scholarship. The Scholarship was awarded to Erin Pettifor for her acting.

Brock Beal, from Olds, Alberta, is a first-year student at Red Deer College in the Theatre Performance and Creation program. His focus is dance and he has competed in dance competitions. He received the most outstanding individual in a performance at a competition in Calgary. He is actively involved in theatre outside of his school work. He is the first to volunteer at Red Deer College and puts in extra effort and hours to support the arts programming at Red Deer College.



Brock Beal accepting his scholarship from Mayor Tara Veer .



Past Scholarship Chair Dennis Nault and Erin Pettifor, after Erin accepted her scholarship from Mayor Tara Veer.

Erin Pettifor, from Red Deer, is a second-year student at Red Deer College in the Theatre Performance and Creation program, focusing on being an actor. She has been passionate about the arts, a versatile performer and a role model for her fellow classmates. She sets a high level of achievement for herself and works tirelessly at her craft. She has been performing in a co-production with RDC and *Butt Ugly*, touring grade six classes in Central Alberta. Erin also is the creator and an actor in a show called *Sonder*, which will premiere at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival in August. She is talented and ambitious and dedicated to being an exceptional actor.

**Red Deer Arts Council at East 40th Pub on Thursday, August 7, 14, 21, and 28th.** Meat Draw Raffle; includes 6 draws, plus one bonus draw and one \$25.00 gift certificate: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. East 40th offers a BBQ dinner this night with a steak, baked potato, salad, dinner bun, fixings and a drink for all of \$12.50 - a steal of a deal and the steak is great! Thursday nights only! Come and help the Arts Council raise funds plus enjoy a night on the town!

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## Country Pride Dance Club: Interview by Annette Gray

A community dance can be an exciting time – for those who are comfortable on a dance floor. If thoughts like, “I wish I was a better dancer,” or the horrifying, “What if I flub up on the dance floor in front of all my friends?” have ever crossed your mind, there is a simple remedy: the Country Pride Dance Club. This dance club not only teaches dance steps, but focuses on making dancing fun.

Country Pride’s president and co-founder, Rob Ironside, and partner, Kathie Chernetski, say the Red Deer-based club officially began in 1991. Yet the idea started a few years earlier. Rob, growing up in the Everdell area southwest of Rocky Mountain House, began going to community country dances with his parents when he was about 10 years old. It didn’t take him long to realize dancing was something he really enjoyed. So, he began taking lessons and training with instructors, such as the well-known David Getty. Rob entered and won a variety of dance competitions in Edmonton, Red Deer, and as far away as Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Las Vegas.

Competing as a couple and with a dance team gave him a perspective that has helped build the dance club to where it is today. “In 1989, myself and three others decided to form a dance club,” Rob goes on to explain. “Word got out, and more dancers joined us, and we danced once a week in a basement room at the old Capri Hotel. New members kept coming, and before long we had over 300 members, from all over Central Alberta – from Rocky in the west to Stettler in the east.

“Shortly after the club was incorporated, we formed a dance team that competed at one of the first festivals in Alberta and won in our division. The club went on to form a performance team that performed at pancake breakfasts, parades, rodeos and concerts. We even opened for bands such as the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band,” Rob remarks proudly.

Rob was also the founder of the *Red Hot Dance Festival* which ran from 1992 to 2002. “In 1995 we had 1,500 people come through the festival with thirteen dance teams participating,” he says.

How has Country Pride kept up with the times? Both Rob and Kathie are quick to say the club has changed its focus from dance competitions to promoting dancing for enjoyment. “We love to dance, and we want to pass on that love,” says Kathie. “We want our beginners to relax and have fun. We focus on the ‘grass roots,’ the people that are going to become part of this growing dance community.” Currently, Country Pride has 60 members. Of these, 25 belong to the club’s dance team. Spectators may have seen the team dancing in their red and black costumes this year on Canada Day at Bower Ponds, or seen their spectacular Peavey Mart Barn Dance performance on Gaetz Avenue.

Every Sunday evening, from 8:15 to 9:15 PM (September to June), Country Pride welcomes the public to Red Deer’s Festival Hall. “We teach all levels and all age groups, everyone from beginners to advanced dancers,” Kathie adds, “and we teach the waltz, two-step, six-step, cha-cha, night club, east and west coast swing, jive, polka, pony, and many different line dances. The team performance features nine of these dances. We are always looking for people that want to learn to dance and/or join the team.”

Still feeling intimidated by dancing in public or can't fit Sundays in your schedule? You can always take private lessons from Rob and Kathie in the comfort of their home-based dance studio.

To find out more about this wonderful form of exercise and entertainment, check out [www.countrypridedanceclub.ca](http://www.countrypridedanceclub.ca) or phone Rob Ironside at [403-357-0483](tel:403-357-0483).

# We are the Arts



Country Pride Dance Club Members at the Calgary Dance Stampede, 2014

We are sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, friends, neighbours.

We love to be active, meet new people and make new friends.

We are dancers.

We are Country Pride Dance Club.

We are proud to call Red Deer home.

Join us in discovering the best our City has to offer.

## Upcoming Events:

August 26 to October 19 - *Common Threads: Works* by the In-Definite Arts Society

**Red Deer is Ready!** Join the Canada Winter Games Bid Committee on August 22nd to show the evaluation committee what a great community we are to host the Canada Winter Games in 2019. The action is on Ross Street from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Wear Red and show your support!

Spend a hot summer's evening at the last **Bard on Bower, Sunday, Aug. 3** at Bower Ponds Stage. Join them for a supernatural summer evening as Mad Men meet Woodstock in a presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Set in 1960s New York, the antics of this play are set against the music of the 1960s! Play starts at 7:00 pm.

Meet some of our Red Deer Arts Council members at the Red Deer Public Market throughout the season at booth number 81. They will enjoy sharing their passion for arts and culture with you.

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