



Creating a vibrant community that celebrates the *Arts*

An evening with fabulous Kimmy Beach highlights First Friday Red Deer in the Kiwanis Gallery!

April 1st, First Friday Red Deer features local writer, Kimmy Beach presenting a special April Fools' day reading to celebrate poetry in Canada in the Snell Auditorium from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Ms. Beach will be reading poetry from 6:00-6:30, her new novella from 6:45-7:15, and her new novel from 7:30-8:00.

April is National Poetry Month in Canada and the League of Canadian Poets' theme this year is *The Road*.

Join Kimmy Beach on April Fools' Day as she reads poems of April, road trips, and foolishness from each of her five books. Kimmy will also read from her forthcoming fable for adults, and her novel-in-progress, *Don't Go Away or I'll Really Have Nothing*: a study of 1970s romance comics, sad strippers, Sea Monkeys, and the music of Tom Jones.

The most foolish thing about KIMMY BEACH is that she insists on eating anything round in a perfect circle. Less foolishly, she has published five books of poetry, is completing the first draft of a novel, and has a novella forthcoming. She has been teaching, editing, and mentoring emerging and established writers for over ten years with nearly a dozen guilds and organizations. Kimmy is a professional manuscript evaluator, and edits for literary presses across the prairies. She is currently serving as Coach in Residence for the Canadian Authors' Association's Alberta Branch and is the Alberta/NWT Regional Representative on the National Council for the League of Canadian Poets. Visit her at kimmybeach.com or follow her on Twitter @kimmy_beach

Out of the Cupboard exhibit is continuing in the Kiwanis Gallery until April 24th. Make sure you see this wonderfully eclectic exhibit!



Kimmy Beach



My Favourite Cup, Watercolour,
Susan Barker



Dad & Andy,
Digital, Lorene Runham

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



Supporting the Arts Downtown



Red Deer Arts Council is happy to share this wonderful story about 11 year old Ainsley Nivens, a young, local ballet dancer who has been accepted to dance with the Professional Development Program at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet this summer. She is one of fewer than 100 kids – from a global audition pool of several thousand – who have been offered this opportunity. Everybody has their dreams but not many 11-year-olds have kept their dream alive since they were two, and worked like mad to achieve it by 11. Ainsley spends up to six days each week training, stretching, dancing, and working to make it to Winnipeg, and beyond.

Now she needs your help to make her dream a reality. She's done the hard part – she has been working for nine years, auditioned in October, and got her acceptance letter. Now, we need to fund it. The total expenses for this opportunity will come out to about \$5500. Should she be accepted into the full year program, that number jumps to just under \$30,000. We understand that there are a million good causes out there. This is a chance for you to support a young dancer with huge ambition, and to support Arts in Canada. She'll do the work; she just needs to get there.

Ainsley is deeply appreciative of whatever you can contribute, to help offset bottle-driving. 55,000 bottles is a bit intimidating. If you would like more information about Ainsley or her commitment to dance, please do not hesitate to phone us at [403-346-1865](tel:403-346-1865).

Thank you. Todd, Shannon, and Ainsley Nivens

Todd.nivens@gmail.com

Shannon.nivens@gmail.com

Ainsley's Gofundme page <https://www.gofundme.com/AinsleyRWB>

Here's what being part of the arts can do for you:

Sharing Benjamin Richards' story about Centrefest!

When I moved to Red Deer a little more than a year ago, we set about all the chores, errands, and tasks that accompany living in a new place. We arranged power, mail delivery, and Internet. We found jobs, set up a bank account, and got phones. For several months, the practicalities of traveling to work, purchasing groceries, and going home again was all that our life in Red Deer included.

Thankfully, changing seasons expanded our horizons. We visited the Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary, where my daughter saw her first moose. Red Deer's extensive trail system let us walk all over the city, yet stay in a forest. Summer brought festivals and events. We attended Westerner Days, saw the parade, and more. In particular, we spent a weekend in the heart of the city, with acrobats, contortionists, and roving impersonators.

The CentreFest Street Performer festival embodies all that makes Red Deer a place to LIVE, not simply to exist. CentreFest brings world-class performances to our city, adding vibrancy, richness, and exuberance to our life here.

Red Deer gives back, as well. Year after year, for 14 years running, the citizens of Red Deer have supported the artists that come to our festival from around the world. CentreFest is an event that performers want to join, because of the warm welcome and eager audiences that they find here.

CentreFest is a big part of why I am happy to say that my family lives in Red Deer.

**Delores Coghill and the Red Deer Cultural
Heritage Society
Interview by Paul Cowley**

Where you find culture you also find the arts.

That is at the root of Red Deer Cultural Heritage Society's long association with local arts groups, especially the Red Deer Arts Council. "I think when people think of the Red Deer Arts Council they think of the artists and musicians," said Delores Coghill, manager of the heritage society for the past four years. "It's more than that, it's about the different cultures and artists and art forms."

As the umbrella society for 13 different local groups, the heritage society is well positioned to help its members season local arts events with their cultural flavour. How best to do that is Coghill's passion.

Canada Day celebrations have been the heritage society's premier showcase for local cultural talent with almost two dozen groups represented last year. The society, which is based in Cronquist House, also oversees Festival Hall, which provides an affordable venue for its members' celebrations and events.

This is an important time for the society, which started out in 1969 as the Red Deer International Folk Festival Society before changing its name in 1996. When formed, the society organized the first Folk Festival Celebration in Western Canada. That celebration morphed into the Canada Day event that has been a local mainstay. Red Deer's first Canada Day celebration was held at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in 1969. It then moved to the old exhibition grounds where the city's curling rink is located before moving to Bower Ponds in 1980.

Another proud achievement of the original folk festival society was the preservation and moving of Cronquist House, an early 1900s farm house that was to be demolished by the developers of West Park Estates subdivision. The society recently recognized the 45th anniversary of the big move across the river that took place on March 27, 1971 and was a big local event at the time.

Many of its established groups, such as the Sons of Norway, have aging memberships and are not as active as they once were. At the same time, there are many groups started by new Canadians who are looking for more opportunities to showcase their culture.

Coghill always has her eyes open for new talent and opportunities to allow local community groups to show off their culture. She encourages any who are interested to give the heritage society a call.

Central Alberta Refugee Effort is a society member and Coghill hopes to use partnerships like that to encourage local groups to showcase their culture through society and Arts Council events.

As a bookkeeper by training, Coghill is used to making the numbers add up. But when she looks at the possibilities for arts and culture in Red Deer she envisions something that becomes more than the sum of its parts.

I am the Arts



Delores Coghill attended the first Alberta Girls Parliament when she was a Ranger. This photo is from the 45th anniversary which Delores attended in March, 2016. Photograph by Leslie Horton

I am a mother and long-time Girl Guides of Canada volunteer.

I love to read. I live on an acreage and love to decorate both indoors and out.

I am Delores Coghill, manager of the Red Deer Cultural Heritage Society.

I am proud to call Red Deer and beautiful Central Alberta home.

Join me in discovering the best our city has to offer.

Upcoming Exhibit in the Kiwanis Gallery:

April 26 to May 23

The 31st Middle Schools Awesome Art Show

First Friday Red Deer Opening: May 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

We welcome two new board members to our council. Karen Carle, with Let's Swing Red Deer, and Dale Tosczak, with ACDA Dance Studio have joined us.

Karen is the founder of Let's Swing Red Deer, Central Alberta's vintage swing dance club. She is excited to be on the board of the Red Deer Arts Council and looks forward to supporting the arts community in this new role.

Dale Tosczak was awarded Top Teacher Award at the 2012 Calgary Dance Stampede. He works with Amanda Fleet as part of ACDA Dance Studio. He is a two-time world champion in country dance and danced in "Brokeback Mountain," "Hell On Wheels" and "Amazing Race Canada." He also looks forward to getting more involved with the local arts scene.

Red Deer Arts Council

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