



Leading a dynamic community celebrating the *Arts*

So who doesn't love a road trip? Susan Barker explores the world by motorcycle - in the Kiwanis Gallery?

June 22 to August 23, 2015

Goin' to California: My Motorcycle Diaries, Watercolours by Susan Barker

Road trip? Just those two words can evoke feelings of adventure, excitement and exploration. Susan and her husband John travel by motorcycle, where the feeling of freedom is compounded by the wind, open air, sights and smells that delight one's senses. As they ride along the secondary highways and through small towns, Susan explores her world through a travel diary notebook in which she records where they rode, stopped, people they met, and things they saw. This exhibit is the culmination of the many trips they took to the USA, so come and explore this world through this Red Deer artist's eyes!

"I like to portray the quirky, unusual, interesting and what I see as beautiful. These won't be your typical landscapes, but what I see up close and personal, accompanied by my diary notation." Susan in her artist statement, June 2015

Each watercolour will be accompanied by notes from her diary.

Join Susan for our First Friday Red Deer, July 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. in the Kiwanis Gallery.



Yellowstone,
Watercolour, 2015
Susan Barker



Have a Seat
Watercolour, 2014
Susan Barker

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



Verna Allison: Inspired by the Land
Interview by Paul Cowley

Potter Verna Allison is a life-long farm girl and wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'm very proud to have lived on the land all my life," says Verna, 84, who grew up one of two daughters among four sons in a farm family near Delburne. A son, who lives just down the road, is keeping the family farm tradition alive.

As closely connected to the land as her farm tradition made her, pottery opened her eyes even wider to nature's offerings.

"Things you didn't notice before are suddenly very evident to you," says Verna. A breeze-caressed leaf and the texture of tree bark become inspirations. A visit to Australia to visit her daughter spawned pottery sculptures evoking sea life and the Land Down Under's beaches.

Sculpting first became a part of her life long after she had married and been busy raising her two children on the farm with husband, Lowell. The local school decided it needed to offer an arts program, and the job fell on the industrial arts teacher, a shy bachelor reluctantly co-opted into teaching pottery to local women, she recalls with a chuckle.

Verna was among that first group of students in 1967 and so began a pottery passion that is still going strong nearly five decades later.

"I loved it right from the start," she says. "It's a wonderful hobby, or part-time job, however you want it. There are so many areas that you can go into that it never becomes boring."

Verna soon went out of her way to soak up as much about pottery as she could. She took a workshop at the Banff School of Fine Arts and, for two years was a regular part-time student until the late 1970s at the Red Deer College in the Art and Design Program. She took many Series courses until the late 2000s.

In 1973, she helped organize the Delburne Pottery Club, which is still going strong today. She was also involved with the Alberta Potters' Association at the time of its inception.

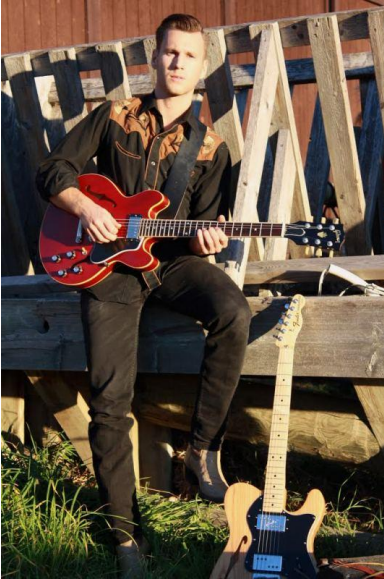
The student soon became the teacher and she led many workshops over the years, offering guidance on everything from glazing, decorating and wheel throwing to mould-making and the ins and outs of extruders.

During the 1980s, she taught all through Central Alberta, and as far afield as Whitehorse. Verna says it was a different time then. When someone needed help, they couldn't turn to the Internet for quick answers as one can do now.

Her talents were recognized at shows throughout Central Alberta for many years. She has a piece in the Alberta Potters' Association permanent collection and her pieces are available at the Gallery on Main in Lacombe.

Public Market 2015 Season

Red Deer Arts Council Stall 81, (3rd aisle from the east entrance) watch for Red Deer Public Library - July 4, Prime Stock Theatre - July 11, Strive Dance Academy - July 18, Kerry Wood Nature Centre - July 25 and August 1.



Charlie, dressed for a gig and raring to go!
Photograph, 2015

Announcing the winner of our 2015 Emerging Artist Award, Charlie Jacobson!

Charlie was born and raised in Red Deer in a musical family. He has been writing and performing as a solo act and in bands since he was five years old. As a youngster, he studied piano, drums and violin, before he found his strongest musical voice through the guitar. He's also a great rock and blues singer. For the last several years, Charlie has been building his audience and developing his song-writing abilities, while playing venues across western Canada. And he is only 22!

Our jurors said, "We were encouraged by his maturity, his zest for life, and the high quality of his work. We love the fact that he is giving back to the community by teaching. We look forward to the maturing depth in his voice that will come with more worldly experience. We are sure that, as he matures, he will be 'sure to leave Red Deer in the dust' and hope that he continues to be an ambassador for our city."

We are pleased to announce the winner of this year's Princess Margaret Scholarship: Erin Pettifor, of Red Deer.

Erin Pettifor is a second year student in the Theatre Performance and Creation program at the Red Deer College. One of her instructors said of her, "Erin has a strong work ethic, is passionate about the arts, is a versatile performer, team player, a role model for her classmates and an up and coming leader."

Erin has consistently been on the Dean's and President's Honour rolls and the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including the Connie Massing Award for exceptional achievement. Her singing voice is outstanding, as is her acting ability. Erin is humble, incredibly talented and strives to be the best she can be.

The juror's for this scholarship agreed that Erin shows exemplary promise for and understanding of her chosen field. Her focus on her career path and exhibited dedication to life-long learning underscores the heart of a true artist.



Erin Pettifor with
Mayor Tara Veer at the
Mayor's Recognition Awards,
June 18, 2015.

I am the Arts



Verna Allison in her garden,
June 2015
Photograph taken by
her granddaughter
Katelynn Allison

I am a teacher, mother, grandmother and soon-to-be great-grandmother.

I enjoy gardening, walking and spending time with my grandchildren.

I am involved with my local church Great Bend Church of Christ (which is built on land my father farmed). I am proud to have lived on the land all my life.

I am Verna Allison, ceramicist.

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:

August 25 to Oct 18 *Prairie Circus Series:
Figurative Works by Dawn Saunders-Dahl*

Guess What? Red Deer Arts Council is again at East 40th Pub on Thursdays throughout July and August with a Meat Draw Raffle; includes 6 draws, plus one bonus draw and one gift certificate. We start at 6:00 pm and go to around 8:00 pm. We had a blast last summer and expect this one to be even better! Come meet your board members and get in on the draw. See us on July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23 and July 30 ! Which board member will you meet?

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!

Red Deer Arts Council

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