



A dynamic community that celebrates and supports the *Arts*

## Experience young Kvitka dancers performing classic Ukrainian dance at the Kiwanis Gallery!

Watch in awe as these young performers showcase their Ukrainian dances in the Snell Auditorium for this special First Friday Red Deer event at the Kiwanis Gallery. If you haven't seen these young people perform, then you are in for a real treat!

The young dancers, aged 10 to 12, will be performing Volyn and Bukovynian dances, each from a separate region of the Ukraine, on April 6th from 6 to 8 pm in the Snell Auditorium at the Kiwanis Gallery. They will perform 5 dances each running 2 to 3 minutes in length. Sets will be repeated numerous times throughout the evening so people can watch them regardless of when they arrive, truly making this part of your gallery stroll for First Friday Red Deer.

Our dancers are: Makayla Rhodes, Danielle Uebell, Vita Fesik, and Ashley Korenchuk.

The adjacent Kiwanis Gallery, hosting the exhibit, *My kid could do that!*, will also be open from 6 to 8 p.m. on our First Friday Red Deer April 6 event. Refreshments will be served. Donations accepted.

First Friday Red Deer is the monthly event where downtown art galleries hold show openings and special events. The Kiwanis Gallery and Snell Auditorium are located in the basement of the Red Deer Public Library, Downtown Branch, 4818 49 Street, Red Deer.



*Fairy Trees Warm*,  
Alcohol Ink, 2018  
Theresa Potter



*Horse*,  
Ink and Pastel, 2018  
Lorene Runham



Our AGM, held on March 13th, was a great success. Thank you for the continued support of the community, and the continued service of current Board members. Welcome to all new and returning board members.

We say a fond farewell to outgoing board member, Janice Shimek, who has guided us over the past six years as our Vice-Chair and Fundraising Chair. But, we are also happy to say that she is continuing in her capacity as Fundraising Chair for this year as we work towards a successful Arts & Craft (Beer) Fundraiser in June. Thank you Janice!

### Welcoming two new members to our Board!

#### Suzanne Hermary

Suzanne grew up in Red Deer, studying French Immersion and performing in shows at a school that was built upon her family's homestead on the North Hill. She loved to perform from a young age and worked with Tree House Youth Theatres in her teen years while also participating in school shows. She studied music and completed the Theatre Studies Performance diploma program at Red Deer College, then continued her studies at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario completing her Advanced Diploma many moons ago. She's wrapping up the degree upgrade program that became available to alumni in the past 4 years.

Living in Toronto and Paris and many travels abroad developed Suzanne's love of fine arts, architecture, food, history, culture, music and literature. Her desire to share these passions with others led to her career as a travel agent, helping others to discover new experiences at home and abroad. Recently, Suzanne served a term as a board member with the Red Deer Players Society, volunteering as assistant producer (under mentorship) for a very successful play and directing a musical revue with a strong cast of local talent from Red Deer and Central Alberta. She looks forward to a return onstage in the near future. Red Deer has both a vibrant music community and a theatre community, but somewhere in there she knows there are folks like her who love musical theatre, and she would love to see this art form return to local stages. She is excited to share her passion for arts and culture with the broader community as part of the Board of the Red Deer Arts Council.

#### Ranjit Mullakady

Ranjit grew up in Mumbai, India. Filmmaking is a way of life for many there and Ranjit was surrounded by Bollywood as he grew up. He worked in Bollywood for approximately 6 years. When Ranjit came to Canada in 1998 and settled in Red Deer, he did not find an active film industry, so he temporarily put aside his ambitions to work in the industry. In 2015 he founded Central Alberta Film Festival Association as a platform for filmmakers to showcase their work and as a place to network and show appreciation for local films.

As a husband, father and businessman, Ranjit has built connections in the community over the last couple decades, and understands the importance of people and groups working together. It can and will make a positive impact on the community as a whole. In bringing his love of film to CAFF and sharing it with Central Alberta Ranjit has made new friends and met more people with similar interests in arts and culture. He looks forward to sharing his ideas and passion for this area by serving on the Red Deer Arts Council board over the next few years.



**FRIDAY FAMILY**  
*Dance*

Live & DJ Music ♦ Everyone Welcome

**Friday April 27 2018**

Live Music By The Troy Gates Band

**Festival Hall 4214 58st RD**

Doors open at 6:15pm, DJ starts at 6:30pm & live band at 7:00pm.  
\$20/family/ household of four; \$10/adult; \$5/youth; 3 years and under free.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.COUNTRYPRIDEDANCECLUB.CA](http://WWW.COUNTRYPRIDEDANCECLUB.CA)  
AND AT THE DOOR

You don't have to be Ukrainian to get a kick out of Kvitka.

In fact, only about half of the dancers in the 33-dancer-strong Red Deer Ukrainian Dance Club have ties to Ukraine.

What all the dancers have in common is a love for the joyful style of dancing.

"It's fun and it's high energy," says Melissa Rhodes, Kvitka president. "It's different. There's no dance like it.

"It's got a ballet base, but it's very vibrant and bouncy," says Melissa, who began dancing with the club when she was six. She returned five years ago and now her daughters are following in her dance slippers.

"I love the music," she says. "It's a fun dance and they're fun people — and it's good exercise," she says with a laugh.

Kvitka was started in Red Deer in the 1970s. Two of the founders, Vic and Doris Pobihushchy, are still going strong.

"They're both in their 80s and they're the most amazing couple ever," says Melissa.

Dancers as young as three have also put on the gorgeous authentic traditional Ukrainian costumes and performed. Many Red Deerians will have seen the dancers at the annual Canada Day celebrations at Bower Ponds, where Kvitka also has a food booth every year.

"We are a club that showcases the Ukrainian culture. We showcase that through our music and dance primarily."

The dancers are led by a professional instructor, who returns frequently to Ukraine to participate in workshops, where she learns more about the many regional variations of dance to bring fresh new ideas back to her home club.

For the first time, Kvitka dancers will be travelling to Ukraine themselves. A dozen have signed up for the July trip.

"It's pretty exciting," she says.

The club is also gearing up for its Year End Concert at the Memorial Centre on April 29 at 2 p.m. Entrance by donation.

Those interested in the club can contact them at [www.kvitkard.ca](http://www.kvitkard.ca). The club can be booked to appear at local functions.

# We are the Arts



Canada Day 2017 at Bower Ponds with Mayor Tara Veer, Photographer Unknown.

We are a non-profit organization that promotes Ukrainian Culture.

We enjoy high quality instruction, great friendships and sharing our love of the music and dance.

We are Kvitka Red Deer Ukrainian Dance Club.

We are proud to call Red Deer our home.

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

## Upcoming Exhibits in the Kiwanis Gallery:

April 24 to May 21, 2018

The 33rd Middle Schools Awesome Art Show

First Friday Red Deer: May 4 from 6 to 8 pm.

**Excerpt from:** Culture Days Newsletter, March 16, 2018 and Hill Strategies survey.

Did you know that 3 times more children sing in a choir than play hockey in Canada? People are catching onto the benefits of joining choirs. The 3.5 million choral singers would constitute the largest city in Canada, 27% larger than the population of Toronto in 2016 (2.7 million, according to the 2016 census).

It has been reported that those who sing in a group express higher well-being than those who sing alone, and 68% of Canadian choir groups undertake community outreach initiatives (such as singing at hospitals, support facilities or other community events), and 62% performed at charity concerts or singing engagements in 2016. There are about 28,000 choirs in Canada!

## Red Deer Arts Council

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

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