

**Nina Haggerty
Centre for the
Arts**



NINA HAGGERTY
CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Nina News

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**THE NINA NEWS IS PUBLISHED
6 TIMES A YEAR
BRINGING NEWS TO MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS OF NINA**

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Charitable Status Granted to Nina Haggerty Centre Art Centre poised for independence

The call came from lawyer Laird Hunter. There was a lot of static on the line, sounding like he might have been calling from the North Pole itself, but the message was clear.

On October 30, 2006, the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts became a Registered Charity!

Just shy of our 4th birthday (January 20), we are well on track with our five year plan. Last month, the Centre was approved to operate in Alberta as a non-profit company, the first step in the process of attaining independent status.

To this point, the Nina Haggerty Centre has been a project of SKILLS Society. SKILLS Board of Directors and Executive Director, Wendy Hollo, began the project in 2002, doing research and looking for a suitable location.

It all came together much more quickly than anticipated with the 'perfect location' found on the corner of 97 Street and 111 Avenue. The tipping point came when the project team discovered artist Paul Freeman already working in the city to provide art making opportunities for artists with disabilities.

The Board took a big leap of faith, signing a 5 year lease, and Paul quit other jobs to dedicate himself to establishing the studio and gallery.

When it came to selecting a name for the new art centre, the choice was an obvious one. Nina Haggerty had been supported by SKILLS during the last years of her life, and had given many people within the organization works of art that she had created. Nina had discovered art quite late in life, but it was clear that she had a gift. Had the Nina Haggerty Centre been there when she was a young woman, imagine the contribution she would have made.

The rest, as they say, is history. SKILLS will continue to provide accounting, payroll and some administrative support until the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 2007, and then the Centre will be on its own.

A small team of founding members are in place, forming the Centre's first Board of Directors. Over the next year, the Centre will expand the Board and hold its first Annual General Meeting.

**Gratitude, Excitement,
Optimism & a healthy
dose of Fear...**

The Centre is grateful for the incredible pro bono support provided by Lawyer Laird Hunter during the past year and a half, providing guidance and practical support as the Centre has moved towards its goal of independence.

The new independent status for the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts creates great opportunity for the future, but also increases the need to secure ongoing funding and fundraising opportunities. This year we must balance the budget, currently about \$20,000 in the red.

The Centre has had generous support in the form of grants from the provincial government (PDD), the Stollery, Allard and Edmonton Community Foundations and project support from Alberta Lotteries, along with generous and ongoing support from SKILLS Society. Beyond this, the Centre must raise almost one third of its \$320,000 operating budget. And so we move forward - with excitement, optimism and a healthy amount of fear!

Nina's Cake Walk a Sweet Success

"The consensus of the splitting-their-sides laughing, whistling, heckling crowd: the first Nina's Cake Walk was a sweet success." So wrote celebrity judge, Nick Lees in his Sunday column following the gala. Prominent members of the business, arts, culinary and media communities let their hair down (literally in the case of Grant Ericksen who wore a rock star wig) on the runway—all in the name of a good cause.

The initial idea for the event came from Nina Haggerty Lead Artist, Paul Freeman. "Everybody loves cake," he laughs. The idea was then developed at a martini party brainstorming session hosted by Lynn Mandel. It seems everybody also loves martinis, and a great team of planners came on board to guide the fledgling event.

One name that came up repeatedly during that session was local actress and singer, Sheri Somerville. "I was amazed when she agreed to help us out," says Centre Director, Wendy Hollo. Sheri opened the Cake Walk with a spoof on Johnny Cash standard, *I Walk the Line*—or in her case, *This Cake is Mine!*



Above, the Manasc Issac team presents its winning cake on the Cake Walk. Sheri Somerville and CTV's popular News Anchor Carrie Doll were given top marks as hosts of the runway affair.



(Top) Event judge Catherine Crowston and friend of Nina, Catrin Owen, share a moment with City Councillor Michael Phair. Michael took to the runway with Edmonton Northlands' entry. (Bottom) Nick Lees announces the winners on behalf of panel of celebrity judges. (Centre/Right) Cake Walk's Honorary Chair, Lynn Mandel, congratulates event planner Rona Fraser, and Mayor Mandel and Brad Stromberg await the runway show.

Artists display work, join the fun at gala

About a dozen pieces of art were on display at Nina's Cake Walk, many created by artists in attendance at the event. And when the lights dimmed on the runway, the audience was introduced to the Centre and some of its artists with a short film by Board member Yvonne DuBourdieu.



Above Paul Bellemare and friends admire one of his paintings, and (left), Mile Zero dancer chats with Judy Billard. Nina artists were able to purchase half price tickets to the event. Others were sponsored by patrons who bought tickets but were unable to attend.

Chefs, artists, celebrities and business leaders key ingredients in the Cake Walk

Twelve teams of four, each with a sponsor, a chef, a local celebrity and an artist, battled it out on the runway in a competition for best artistic presentation of a cake. Earlier in the evening, cakes had been pre-judged on taste, appearance, and creativity by a

celebrity panel that included Vinod Varshney (Nait), Nick Lees (The Journal), Gail Hall (Seasoned Solutions Loft Cooking School), Catherine Crowston (Art Gallery of Alberta) & Mary Bailey (City Palette Magazine). The runway was all about presentation.

There were many memorable moments. One won't quickly forget barefoot Pirate Richard Wong, the aliens from Manasc Isaac, or that long haired rocker, Grant Ericksen groovin' to a live performance of *Born to Be Wild!*



Bridget Ryan commandeered the mic while her team of Sutton Place Pirates (Gen. Man. Richard Wong, Chef Joe Srahulek and Nina's own artist Nicole Galellis) brought on the treasure trove of cake. Left, WebbCo International Team Chefs Brad Smoliak (CTV) and Patrick Turcot (Fairmont Hotel Macdonald) were positively angelic.



(Above) More pirates herald the RBC Royal Bank entry—an intricate mermaid. Paul Freeman and RBC's Molly-Ann Chan led the charge, flanked by Chef Patrick Gibson & WEM's Fashion Guy, John Chywyl. (Below) Gerry Morita of Mile Zero balances SKILLS' entry, & Harold Pearse paints a masterpiece on the winning cake (a futuristic building by Manasc Isaac Architects). Also on the winning team were architect Derek Heslop, Colette Freitas of Creative Cakes by Colette and actor/playwright Chris Craddock.

Top Marks for Media Sponsor CTV and City/Chum TV

CTV's Carrie Doll was an early sign on as MC for the event, a guarantee of success! Official Media Sponsor CTV ran continuous promotional spots on their In Touch segments and provided excellent coverage on the News at Noon and Six the day after the event.

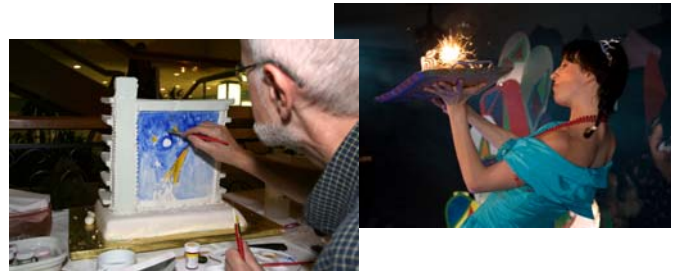
Bridget Ryan of Breakfast Television on City/CHUM TV was also an early entry as a team celebrity. She provided excellent coverage on the day of the event, broadcasting live from the Sutton Place Hotel.



Bridget Ryan pries secrets from Northlands' team members (left) Michael Phair & Northlands' Board Director Laura Gadowsky.

She captured teams as they put the finishing touches on their cakes and practiced their runway moves.

Many thanks to Carrie and Bridget, their stations, and to Nick Lees who also did a great job of covering the event in his popular Sunday column in the Edmonton Journal.



Thom Golub Trio and Mile Zero Dance entertained

The Thom Golub Trio, looking dazzling in their tuxedos (provided by Derks Formals), entertained the Cake Walk crowd throughout the evening. In addition to providing background music during wine and hors d'oeuvres, they accompanied Mile Zero Dance, backed up Sheri Somerville on her opening number, and even improvised accompaniment to teams on the runway.



Mile Zero Dance opened the runway show



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NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

"Creativity lies within all people and
is best expressed through the arts."

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Visit the Gallery:

Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

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Call 474-7611 or visit the website

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John Ralston Saul here for LitFest



John Ralston Saul invited the Nina Haggerty Centre to have art and artists present during his keynote at the Hotel Macdonald and at the Provincial Museum for his conversation with Edmonton writer Todd Babiak. (Above) he takes time to pose with Ryan Dowling and Paul Bellemare.

Up Next in the Gallery: Prints, Pottery & Paper

Just in time for Christmas, all new work, including experimental work in clay and print making, by Nina Haggerty artists. And you can wrap them up in hand made gift wrap, new this month.

The show runs from November 9 to the end of December in the Stollery Gallery. Join the artists for the opening reception on Thursday, November 9 from 4—7 p.m. Expect a few surprises— auction items and new gift bags from Avon. Come out and discover something new!



Big Enough Dreams Big Enough Launch

Over 250 people crowded into the TIMMS Centre on Sunday, October 15 for the book launch and film premiere of **Big Enough Dreams**. The book, an anthology of 29 stories written by over two dozen of Alberta's favourite writers, chronicles the stories of 31 people with intellectual disabilities. Three of those people are artists involved with the Nina Haggerty Centre. The event concluded Edmonton's LitFest, an exciting weekend celebration of creative non-fiction that attracted high profile writers from across the country, including long time supporter of the Nina Haggerty Centre, John Ralston Saul.

This week, **Big Enough Dreams** held the #3 spot on the list of best selling non-fiction books in Edmonton! This is based on sales through Greenwood's Bookshoppe, Laurie Greenwood's Volume II and Audreys. If sales included the 200 sold at the book launch (the event sold out), the book would have topped the charts for sure!

Watch the Sunday Reader between now and Christmas for Susan Ruttan's contribution to **Big Enough Dreams**, **An Obsession for Life**. She profiles Nina artist James Doran, a young man who has enjoyed critical and commercial success with his art.