

Culture Days gets funding boost

Grant will allow more activities and special touches for local event

by Adrienne Tait

Chautauqua Edson Arts Council is one of 66 organizations across the province selected to receive a celebration site grant for the 2013 Alberta Culture Days.

Chautauqua applied for the grant on behalf of Edson arts and culture groups because Community Arts Network of Edson (CANOE) is not a registered society and does not handle monetary issues or fundraising. A number of Edson and area arts and culture groups submitted letters of support and agreed to host activities during the upcoming Culture Days.

Being selected a host celebration site means securing a \$5,000 grant for two days of programming. Receiving the funding will allow a few additions to the Culture Days schedule in addition to promoting the events.

CANOE representative Robyne Wilock said, "According

to Alberta Culture, the purpose of the grant is to stimulate community involvement and continue to support Alberta Culture Days. Receiving the grant means we will be able to offer more activities and add special touches to events during Culture Days."

The grant can be used to cover a wide range of costs such as artist, workshop, or performance fees, materials, marketing, food and beverage, wages, and rental equipment.

In addition to promotion, Robyne said, "These funds will support Culture Days activities including Arts on Fire (the Edson and Area Arts Awards), Light Play, Family-Friendly Drop-In Activities such as mask-making, pottery, visual art, and crafts, and a tipi-raising during the Rotary Sundays in the Park Wrap-Up Concert."

Alberta Culture Days is intended to showcase the province's cultural diversity, encourage

people to explore and celebrate Alberta's cultural expressions, promote the importance of culture, and ensure...

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Albertans have access to a wide range of cultural experiences.

Robyne says that while the funding is helpful, Culture Days is possible because of the support from volunteers, support from the town and local businesses, community arts organizations hosting activities, and the organizers who volunteer their time to coordinate Culture Days. "We have a lot of talented people in Edson and area who generously share their time and talents with our community, not only during Culture Days but throughout the year."

Funding from Alberta Culture for Culture Days has only been available for the past

three years. However, Edson has recognized Culture Days, formerly known as Arts Days, since the concept was introduced in 2008. Support from the Town of Edson helped cover expenses even prior to any provincial funding being made available.

"The town grant started at \$500 and has grown to \$1,000. Various businesses have also supported us with in-kind donations and reduced rates for services," said Robyne.

The Alberta Government is providing a total of \$375,000 in funding to organizations for the 2013 Alberta Culture Days. Five Feature Celebration Sites are eligible for up to \$20,000 in funding for three days of programming, while

Host Celebration Sites are eligible for up to \$5,000 for two days of programming. Alberta Culture days will take place September 27 to 29.

