



Rob NEWELL PHOTOS/Langley Times

Clockwise from top: Patrons of last Saturday's Arts Alive festival consider the exquisite social commentary of sculptor Stefan Rogenmoser. His life-sized pieces were the talk of the show, with some saying his art was disturbing, others calling it beautiful. To see more go to www.simplyartist.com. Painter Karine Guyon finds a shady spot to work under an umbrella on Fraser Highway. She was one of many artists creating art on Saturday. The band Avencho entertains visitors of the Arts Alive celebration from the Fraser Highway stage. L-R: Boe Ducayen, Joe Molina and Josh Dubland.



Arts alive and well in the City

Event draws crowds of more than 8,000

MONIQUE TAMMINGA
Times Reporter

Langley City came alive last weekend when art enthusiasts descended on downtown to take in the sights and sounds of the 12th annual Arts Alive celebrations on Saturday.

More than 8,000 people came out to the popular event that saw painters, sculptures, pottery makers, singer, bands and other entertainers display their talents for everyone to see and hear.

"It was a beautiful day. The street was full and there was a really good caliber of artists this year," said Pat Price Weibelzahl who founded Arts Alive and was one of this year's organizers.

Organizers made a conscious decision this year to raise the level of talent displaying art and performing.

"We solicited artists and pounded the pavement," she said.

What they got was a combination of visually stunning art pieces being created before the visitors' eyes. One artist created some controversy with his unique life-sized wood sculptures (see above-left picture). Artist Stefan Rogenmoser's pieces were found to be disturbing by some, said Weibelzahl.

"That's true art though. Art should stimulate thoughts and conversation," she said.

For the first time, Arts Alive grew to a week long celebration of the arts, offering events every day and evening.

Offering open house evenings at art gal-

leries, art tours at wineries, live art demonstrations going on throughout downtown, the annual Art Walk and a five-evening art show with 40 different artists' work staged in the foyer and ballroom in the new Cascades Coast Hotel Conference Centre.

"We have a lot of creative people here in Langley so it was nice to have things going all week," she said.

"The gallery nights were great. The Fort Gallery had a full house. . . We need to be doing this sort of thing probably more than once a year."

Local businesses benefitted from the huge crowd on Saturday too.

"My store (Heritage House Pottery) was full. I

was run off my feet," she said.

Organizer Teri James, of the Downtown Langley Merchants Association was a big part of Arts Alive's successes, said Weibelzahl.

There was also a great group of hard working volunteers, said James.

Langley has one of the strongest artist communities in the Fraser Valley, and enthusiasm for the arts continues to grow, with more galleries opening, more schools supporting fine arts and Kwantlen University College planning to move its art program to the Langley campus.

The City has also chosen to make the arts its priority by being a supporter of Arts Alive, encouraging and supporting galleries and artists and creating events centering around arts. The City is also looking into the need for a performing arts centre.

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Pat Price-Weibelzahl
arts alive founder