

POTTERS

BC POTTERS

November 2006

Volume 42 No. 10

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POTTERS WITHOUT BORDERS: LOCAL INVOLVEMENT GENERATES INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

This summer, a group of like minded friends worked to establish PWB as a new non-governmental organization. Potters Without Borders (PWB) was formed out of our desire to establish a Canadian organization that would be a part of an international non-profit network which provides socially-responsible assistance to pottery groups and individuals. We offer technical training and consulting services and facilitate research, development, and commercial application of technology in the field of ceramics in developing countries.

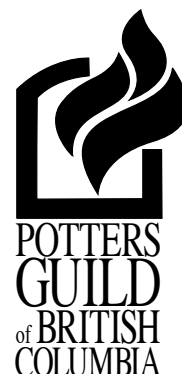
We are also excited to be involved with research and promotion of ceramic water filters. These filters are a result of a marriage of two known technologies, porous ceramics and colloidal silver. These simple effective filters make bacteria-free water economically using indigenous materials. We provide support to field technicians and help to set up to ceramic water filter workshops overseas. A portion of Northfire Pottery workshops at the O'Keefe Historic Ranch outside of Vernon B.C., is now used for ceramic water filter research and development. .

We have now entered into relationships with the engineering faculties at both Seattle University and Gonzaga University in Spokane. In August, we were invited by Derek Baker of The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) in Calgary, Alberta, to conduct ceramic water filter training at and exchanged ideas on the promotion of household water treatment (visit: www.cawst.org for more info.)



PWB: Welding a new kiln frame

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Gallery of BC Ceramics

www.bcpotters.com

Brenda Beaudoin,

Gallery Manager

galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com

604.669.3606



Hours

10 p.m.–6 p.m.



Gallery Assistants

Sarah Belley,

Roxanne Gagnon,

Anusha Balram and

Samantha MacDonald

staff@bcpotters.com



Volunteers

Shari Nelson



Gallery Committee

Maggi Kneer

Sheila Morissette

Pia Sillem

Jinny Whitehead

Celia Rice-Jones



Gallery Manager's Report

Resonant Earth Featured on CBC

Check out CBC Radio 1 (AM 690) for coverage of Resonant Earth! Sheryl MacKay's North by Northwest (found online at www.cbc.ca/nxmw) features a segment on the Musical Instrument Exhibit and interviews with the participating artists: Jinny Whitehead (didgeridoos), Keith Lehman (pod drums), Ron Robb (ocarinas) and Jan Lovewell (shakers).

North by Northwest airs each Saturday and Sunday morning. Host Sheryl MacKay introduces you to places you've never been, people you've never met and ideas you've never considered. North By Northwest presents artists, writers, performers and just plain folks, talking about what they do and what others do. It's musical, theatrical, literary, artistic and delicious



Resonant Earth opening performance

Customer Appreciation Day

Coming Saturday, Nov. 18, gallery customers will enjoy 25% off everything currently in stock.

Gallery Welcomes New Assistant

The gallery welcomes a new friendly and helpful assistant: **Anusha Balram**.

Holiday Notice for Juried Gallery Artists

Heading into the busy holiday season, juried gallery artists are strongly encouraged to drop off pieces to the gallery as soon as possible. Delivery prior to Dec. 1 would be advantageous to all! 🍷

Brenda Beaudoin

2006 Gallery Exhibitions

October/November

In the Palm of the Hand—
BC to Japan touring Exhibit
Oct. 19 to Nov. 15

November

Jay MacLennan

Nov. 2 to Nov. 27

December

Holiday Exhibition

Various artists from the
Gallery of BC Ceramics

All December

President's Message

I just returned from the Wood Fire Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona—I am so inspired! We were immersed in every aspect of wood firing from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for three days. Well, maybe three days was a bit long to be sitting inside when it was sunny outside—but there was so much to learn from the presentations, the slides, the discussion panels, and just the chatting with other people! As Mark Lancet, author of the recently published Wood Fire Book said: “We are all searching for an external expression of an inner vision, and endeavouring to make creations that will endure the passage of time.” There was a great feeling of shared friendships and experiences as we journeyed down the same path.

I highly recommend attending a conference or symposium to get your creative juices running and inspire you to incorporate some new element in your work. And you don't have to go too far afield or wait too long, as we have the next Clay Symposium in March, 2007, at the Shadbolt Centre in Burnaby. I hope to see lots of you there! 🔥

Jimmy Whitehead



Joy MacLennan



Joy MacLennan

Techno Tip: PDFs and Your PGBC Newsletter

As we get closer to December, we're getting nearer to having the newsletter sent only via email. If for any reason you're not able to receive the email copy or you're simply not at home, you can view a downloadable copy from the website from any Internet connected PC. Just go to www.bcpotters.com and navigate to the members only page or click on this link www.bcpotters.com/membersonly/Guild_Membersonly.htm. The User ID and Password is **member** and **pottery**. It'll be updated next year to be more user specific.

For those of you that have not been receiving the guild newsletter by email in the last few months, please let us know as soon as possible and we'll see if we need to make some adjustments to ensure that you do receive the emailed versions.

The emailed newsletter is sent as a PDF attachment. PDF stands for portable document format and is a standard for exchanging and viewing documents over the internet. These PDF documents can be viewed with a program called Adobe Acrobat Reader. This is freely available on the Internet. If you don't have it, please download and install it from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html. It's actual quite a bloated program at 20MB but it's worth downloading the latest version. You don't need the toolbar or photo album so uncheck those items unless you want them. The PDF reader will help display the newsletter articles and images as intended on practically any PC. It also assures a level of security for both the author and for those

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Important Notice: Only One More Paper Issue to Come!

This newsletter should also be coming to you via electronic mail (email); beginning in 2007, the paper version will be phased out.

If you have not received an email newsletter, please assist us by updating your membership information and sending your correct email address to membership@bcpotters.com.

If you are receiving the email newsletter, then you don't need to do anything as we have your correct information. If you do not have an email address and/or a computer, now would be a good time to get yourself one. 🔥



Canadian Clay Symposium

Surfacing: Saturday, March 24, 2007

Registration for the Canadian Clay Symposium: Surfacing, is underway. Hopefully, you've received the brochure for the symposium. Brochures have now been mailed to many guilds and teaching facilities throughout the province; it's a great piece that will look most excellent on a wall and has more information for you to peruse.

The presenters that will talk about all aspects of the ceramic surface and much more are: Robin Hopper, Karen Burk, Sam Ulrick, Kinichi Shigeno, Diane Creber, Mark Hewitt, Bob Kingsmill, Jeannie Mah, and key note speaker Magdelene Odundu.

Surrounding the symposium are other exciting ceramic events and presentations to take advantage of. Mark Hewitt will be doing a one-day workshop at the Shadbolt Centre on the Sunday, the day after the symposium (March 25). You may want to register for both at the same time! Starting on Monday, March 26, Diane Creber will be doing a three-day, hands-on crystalline glaze workshop. Sam Ulrick will be doing a workshop at the Delta Potters Guild on the Thursday and Friday prior (March 22 and 23) as well.

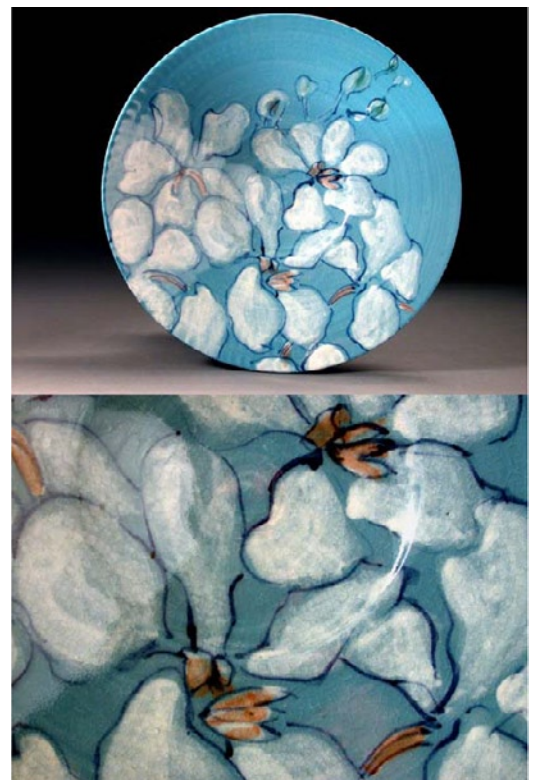
The Burnaby Art Gallery is planning a retrospective show of Tam Irving's work that will coincide with the symposium. Tam has agreed to do an informal walkabout with Carol Mayer in the afternoon to talk about the work.

We will once again have the Ceramic Roadshow at the symposium, so start thinking about bringing your favorite, first, oldest, newest piece you've made, bought or received—it's up to you! This is always an amazing show and it will be exciting to see what gems will be part of the 2007 show.

We are asking for mugs for the Maureen Wright Educational Fund. We will sell mugs for \$15 each so it's a great opportunity to support an educational fund as well as take home a fine handmade mug.

Remember your registration includes your lunch and this year will include pizza/appetizers from 5 p.m.–7 p.m. as well for a social at the end of the day. Each symposium has been a sell out, so plan to register early. 🍽️

Cathi Jefferson



Karen Burk

**To register call:
Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
604.291.6864**



Karen Burk

Presenter Profile: Karen Burk


I was born in Lawrence, Mass., in 1948. I had many interests on my way to and through University but very little exposure to art. In the process of finding my way to clay, I dabbled with nursing school, got a BA in Psychology and Russian Literature from Boston University, worked for a psychiatrist, taught English in high school and generally did absolutely nothing related to art or craft. It was completely by accident, while pursuing a Master's degree in yet another career foray, that a friend who needed company asked to me go with her to a pottery night class. My story is the one I hear from many of my students and colleagues who have also put their hands into this material by chance and suddenly found the switch for the "what am I supposed to do with my life?" light bulb.

Over the last 28 years, I've operated my own business as a potter, growing gradually into high-end functional work, and exhibited widely. I am indebted to many mentors and teachers and have been a teacher myself since 1983 at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design where I am currently the head of the Ceramics program.

I come from a blue-collar background and love the sense of workmanship and purpose I get from making pots. I'm reassured by the domesticity, the civilized effort of it all, the promise of order and home and the intimacy of well-worn, well-loved objects.

I like the tension of contrast: form that is restrained and severe but surfaces that are slathered, softened, and seduced with rich plant and floral decoration. In my latest work, and in much of the work that came before, I'm chasing a hybrid of strong and gentle, male and female, solid and ethereal. I also like to play with the tension between art for the wall or art for use. Most of my plates and large bowls are designed to be hung with the idea that the wall becomes not only a place for display but convenient storage for a pot equally at home on the table serving that special rice dish. It's my answer to the art/craft debate.

I love the jittery calligraphic line and fill of Matisse and Dufy and their sensual and outrageous colours. Medieval Islamic pottery has been a strong influence of late. I'm unashamedly drawn toward beauty but would like to give it the strong form, bones and stamina to stand up for itself in a dangerous world and earn its keep in the kitchen.

I use a technique I borrowed from the Iznik (Turkish) potters (who also lent the idea to William De Morgan) called pouncing to transfer designs to my work and these are subsequently painted with engobes and oxides at the bone dry stage. After bisque firing, the pots are glazed with a clear feldspathic crackle glaze and fired to cone 10 in light reduction. It's this group of techniques and materials I plan to demonstrate at the workshop. 



Karen Burk

THE MAD POTTER

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are Available**

#6 - 3071 No. 5 Road, Richmond, BC (Near Bridgeport)

Tel: 604.244.3734 ~ Fax: 604.244.3757

Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm

The Guild Library and Down Under


This might seem an odd combination, but I recently received some interesting information about an exhibition by Steve Harrison, a remarkable Australian potter who lives just outside Mittagong where I had my Residency at Sturt. But where's the connection?

After his visit here in 2005, Paul Davis sent a copy of Steve's book: *Australian Woodfiring* for the guild library (and I brought back Steve's books: *Laidback Woodfiring* and *Fibre Reinforced Clay Bodies*.) Steve's excellent book is one of many excellent books in the guild library.

The guild library is a great resource for members that sits unused in the guild office. This is because we have not had a guild librarian for many years, as our volunteer base has been stretched too thinly on other issues. We recently managed to have the library catalogued and put on a database by a student on a work program.

For the time being, we will try to operate this resource on a trust basis with a sign-out sheet that I will check and follow-up every month. I will put details with the sign-out information and try to feature something from the library each month in the newsletter.

If this works locally, we will try to set up something so that out of town members can access the resource. This is not remotely an area of expertise for me; if there is someone who would be willing to take on the librarian role, please step up to the plate!

Steve Harrison will be at the International Woodfire Conference at Sturt, Spring 2008. Look for details in upcoming newsletters. 

Keith Rice-Jones



Steve Harrison



Steve Harrison

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Since our recent beginning, Potters Without Borders has been busy. In June of this year we were featured prominently in the Footprints Exhibition at the Roundhouse Community Arts Centre, which was mounted in conjunction with the World Urban Forum and the World Peace Forum in Vancouver. (www.roundhouse.ca/footprints/waterfilter.html) Under the title *The Water Filter Project*, the Vancouver Parks Board partnered with Potters Without Borders to bring Burt Cohen to Vancouver to introduce the concepts of ceramic water filter technology to community potters. This initial project was very successful in capturing the hearts and minds of many potters in the Lower Mainland and has resulted in our developing a Vancouver-based chapter. Please contact Nicole Riedmueller at nicole.riedmueller@vancouver.ca for information or to brainstorm on new fundraising ideas.

Take a moment and visit our website, www.potterswithoutborders.com there you will find links to our very experienced sister organization, Potters for Peace—as well as information about our work in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Our organization is committed to an open source philosophy; all of our publications are available to any interested parties I hope that you will consider supporting us and becoming involved. 🏡

Nicole Riedmueller



Contact PWB Directly:

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PO Box 1006
Enderby, BC Canada
V0E 1V0
E-mail:
info@potterswithoutborders.com

Greenbarn's catalogue is
now available online.

In an effort to be more environmentally
friendly, by reducing our use of paper, we
are phasing out our printed catalogue,
in favour of a downloadable version
available on our website.

Now you can check prices and item
descriptions just by logging onto
www.greenbarn.com

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Techno Tips: Clay & Computers

To Flocculate or Deflocculate?

At first, I had a bit of difficulty remembering if I'm suppose to flocculate or deflocculate... a glaze that is. After thinking about it, I try to remember that "birds of a feather, flock together". So to flocculate a glaze is to make it come together, clump, gather, thicken, attract.

The opposite is to deflocculate or repel, spread, thin out, disperse or run. With glazes, we usually want to flocculate and make the glaze thicken and stay in suspension. Why?

- prevents the glaze from settling and turning into a rock at the bottom of the bucket
- improves glaze application with a consistent thickness all over
- glazes resists running and dripping so you get a smooth layer
- helps the glaze dry faster on the pot
- helps the glaze adhere better

The easiest method of flocculating a glaze is to use a solution of epsom salts. In a medium-sized jar, melt several tablespoons in hot water. You can put in as much epsom salts as will dissolve but a 1 to 4 ratio is fine. You can use calcium chloride or muriatic acid but epsom salts is by far the easiest and safest way to floc a glaze. You also need some fine clay particles in your glaze for the epsom salts to work. If there is little or no clay or gerstley borate in the glaze recipe, add a bit of bentonite (up to 2%) and you're good to go.


After mixing up a new bucket of glaze, you need to add the epsom salt solution a teaspoon at a time. Stir after each teaspoon and you'll see a thickening of the glaze right before your eyes. It doesn't need much, so don't over do it or you'll end up with some inedible jello. An over flocculated glaze can also crawl after application and crack/crawl while drying.

It's not often, but sometimes, there's a need to deflocculate a glaze. Why?

- helps the glaze to spread or run easily. (to paint designs on bisque pots and not have the brush dry out and clump all the time)
- makes the glaze or clay settle to the bottom. (to make terra sigillata)

You can use calgon, sodium silicate, soda ash or sodium carbonate to defloc a glaze. A solution can be prepared in a similar fashion as epsom salts.

There are some additives that are commonly called for to improve glazes but don't actually flocculate a glaze. Ingredients like CMC, glycerin, gum, macaloid and veegum make the water thicker and slicker and have a slightly deflocculating quality. These ingredients improve the painting qualities of a glaze and helps hardens the dried glaze layer so that it can be handled more easily.

Hopefully, I remember and researched all this stuff correctly. Perhaps these techno tidbits will help you understand how your glaze goes onto your pots and enable you to make the glaze do the things you want it to. 

Don Jung


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downloading the document.

The guild newsletter attachment will probably be about 1MB in size and we'll try to keep it close to 1 MB so it won't take too long for those with dialup connections. You should expect a 1MB attachment to download with the following speeds:

Cable / DSL	< 10 seconds.
112 Kbps	40 – 60 seconds
56 Kbps	80 – 120 seconds
19.2 Kbps	2.5 – 3 minutes
9.6 Kbps	5 – 8 minutes

It would be advisable that you get at least 56 Kbps (Kilo bits per second) dialup speeds. In the last five years, most if not all modems are capable of 56 Kbps speeds. Please check your modem and with your Internet Service Provider if this is not the case.

Please help us get your email addresses correct by sending a note to update your membership information at: membership@bcpotters.com or communications@bcpotters.com. 

Don Jung

Letter to the Editor: Dealing With Change

In the last issue, the editor wrote about change and I wrote about process. It strikes me that we were really writing about the same thing. The whole process that we potters pursue is really all about change. We take the material that is created through geological change, re-form it and make it permanent rock again through a series of changing processes. When the changing is complete we are done with it. Change is the essence of life and we can easily apply that as a metaphor for our organization. If we stop changing, we will be done with it.

Last year was the guild's 50th Anniversary and it was remarkable to look back to our beginnings and celebrate the growth and changes. Some of the changes have not been the most comfortable and on a personal level, I have been in the role of President at a couple of particularly difficult times of transition.

Currently the guild is vital and exciting with great energy. This energy comes from a relatively few dedicated individuals who really believe in potters having a provincial voice.

A new editor will bring new ideas and the newsletter will change again. I have been around long enough to have seen it evolve through many changes. Gisela Kaempffer has seen many more—she has every edition, all carefully filed. One could forgive Gisela for wanting hard copies to archive with her collection. If she has problems with her printer I am sure the guild will oblige, as it would with other special requests.

I am really new to the electronic world having made it through a whole teaching career with a pen, and sure, I'd rather have the newsletter to curl up with over a coffee rather than reading it on a screen but I can always print it off it is that important. How much easier it will be to store it though and what a boon it will be to far flung guilds. Printing and postage is killing us—let's put the money to better use for our guild and community.

It is the new ideas and fresh energy that new personalities bring to an organization that keeps it vital—and it's great to see some younger blood on the board! Unfortunately, there are always the nay-sayers, the ones who are “too busy” to contribute and can only complain about the efforts of volunteers trying to do the best they can for our guild.

A long time ago, I found lots to complain about what I saw wrong with the guild and gallery. It was suggested that if I saw so many problems, perhaps I could become part of the solution. It began a long involvement with the board and an increasing understanding of the challenges but tempered by the huge positives of being part of the action.

In the words of Robert Frost from his poem, “The Road Not Taken”: “And that has made all the difference.”🔥

Keith Rice-Jones

**“The challenge
for us is to take
the traditions of
the past and
adapt them to
the present day”**

**—Chester Nealy,
Flagstaff
Oct. 2006**



Studio Sale Listings

November/December 2006

Studio 3 Open House

Joan Barnet, Hsiao Chen Peng, Pia Sillem,
Cheryl Stapleton, Jinny Whitehead

Saturday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
Nov. 24–26 (and during the Culture Crawl)

25 – 975 Vernon Drive, Vancouver
Contact: 604.708.3390

Chosin Pottery

23rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE

Works by Robin Hopper and Judi Dyelle.
Join us in our studio for some hot mulled
cider, coffee and cookies while browsing
through the vast selection of sale items.
Our latest work will be available in our
gallery.

Special opening weekend:
Nov. 25 and 26;

Sale continues until Dec. 3.
Open daily: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

4283 Metchosin Rd., Victoria.
Contact: 250.474.2676
Visa, MC, Interac, Amex

Delta Potters Annual Christmas Pottery Sale

Choose a unique Christmas gift—to give
it away or keep for yourself!

A wonderful, diverse selection awaits,
lovingly crafted by 28 potters.
PLUS free cookies and beverages!

Nov. 10–12.


Friday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.;
Saturday: Noon–6:00 p.m.;
Sunday: Noon–4:00 p.m.

Delta Potters studio at South Delta Rec Centre:
1720 56th Street, Tsawwassen.
Contact: Susan Hunt 604.946.9580

FABULOUS SALE *A collection created by the
Aberthau Potters Club.
The work of over 50 artists.*

West Point Grey  Community Centre

Saturday
December 2, 2006
10 am - 3 pm
4397 West 2nd Avenue
Vancouver



Capilano College Potters Group Annual Christmas Sale

Don't miss out on the biggest sale of the year!

Dec. 8–10, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Maple Building at the top of Skeena
Road, Capilano College,
North Vancouver.

Directions: follow Lillooet Road from
Mt. Seymour Parkway up past Purcell
Way; turn right onto Skeena Road.

Free parking spaces will be marked.



Creek Clayworks Christmas Pottery Sale and Studio Open House

Elaine Futterman & Mike Allegretti invite
you to join them for lots of pottery and
tasty goodies!

Nov. 25–26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1738 Lockyer Rd. in Roberts Creek on
the Sunshine Coast
Contact: 604.885.2395

Greendale Pottery: Christmas in Greendale

Potter Holly McKeen
presents unique gift ideas,
door prizes, Christmas
treats and a relaxed
shopping atmosphere
in conjunction with the
Christmas in Greendale
studio tour!

Nov. 9, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Nov. 10, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Nov. 10, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Holly McKeen is also
featured in the Christmas
Craft Crawl:

Nov 24, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Nov. 25 and 26, a.m.–5 p.m.

Greendale Pottery &
Country Guest House
42245 South Sumas Road
Chilliwack, BC
www.greendalepottery.com
Contact: 604.823.6430


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Clay Lines

Celebrating Success in Our Community

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Jinny Whitehead: In A Quiet Place

Jinny Whitehead has had her work "In a Quiet Place" accepted to the 3rd international Ashes to Art exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 15–Nov. 3, 2006. The show features 100 pieces in different mediums. 



Christmas Open House & Stinking Fish Studio Tour

Ann Semple presents her work at the annual Clayfoot Crockery Christmas Open House and Stinking Fish Studio Tour

Nov. 25 and 26, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

4531 Lindholm Road, Victoria

250.478.2341

www.clayfootcrockery.com

Visa/Mastercard

Also check out the Stinking Fish web site at: www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com

Jinny Whitehead—In a Quiet Place



Unclassifieds

For Sale: Kiln and Casting Table

Olympic oval kiln 2027.208 volts, single phase, 49 amps

Inside dimensions: 27" deep x 20" wide x 30" long,

Cone 8. Includes 3 extra elements and 5 shelves.

\$400 o.b.o.

Casting table: Lily Pond "Big Puddle": 1/2 hp mixer, pump and nozzle; holds up to 70 gal., 2' x 6' casting table surface. \$500.

Contact: Kathryn Youngs, 604.506.0602,

kyoungs@telus.net

Dawson Creek Potter's Guild Christmas Sale

Dec. 16, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Cash or cheque accepted.

Contact:

Shannon Butler, msbutla@hotmail.com

Arrowsmith Potters Guild Pottery Sale

One day only!

Nov. 25, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Parksville Community Centre

132 Jensen Avenue,

Parksville, BC



Potters Guild of BC Board

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Potters Guild of BC Newsletter

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Submissions: send articles, reviews, images, member news, letters and information to: newsletter@bcpotters.com by the 8th of each month. Submissions may be edited for space.

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1/3 page: \$55, 1/6 page: \$30 (not including GST)
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Shari Nelson
604.987.2779 · database@bcpotters.com

Membership Fees

For 12 months, including GST:
Individual: \$50, Full-time Student: \$25,
Senior (over 65): \$30 Family Studio (2 max.): \$70,
Institution/Group/Corporation: \$100

Renewals

- In person: pay by Visa, cheque or cash at the Gallery of BC Ceramics OR
- By mail: pay by Visa or cheque and mail to the Guild; mark the envelope and cheque with 'Membership Renewal'

New Membership

Use the two methods above. If you submit by mail, mark the envelope 'New Membership'

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**Advertising and insert rates subject to change*