

# BC POTTERS

February 2008

Volume 44 No. 1

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## CONTEMPORARY CRAFT IN BC: EXCELLENCE WITHIN DIVERSITY

The Vancouver Museum invites you to experience contemporary craft in the Craft Association of British Columbia's (CABC) newest exhibition, *Contemporary Craft in BC: Excellence within Diversity*, presented at the Museum from February 7 to April 6. Celebrate the diversity of over ninety BC artisans using mediums of fibre, glass, wood, metal, ceramic and mixed media to create vibrant pieces with West Coast flair.

"This is the largest fine craft exhibition in British Columbia that features a broad range of mediums and artists," said Yvonne Chui, CABC Executive Director. "*Excellence within Diversity* celebrates the technical skill and creative excellence required by the craft makers to create pieces that are a combination of function and aesthetics. Some of our artists are people who have had previous careers as doctors, nurses, teachers and engineers or recent graduates of art and design colleges and have been drawn to become craft artists to express and comment on identity, place and social issues. Craft is all around us and has been produced for centuries. The exhibit celebrates how ordinary objects made by hand can be extraordinary."

Artists featured in the exhibit are inspired by the natural environment, cultures around the world, current events, science, history and architecture. This exhibit promises to be filled with unique, one-of-a-kind pieces created by makers who have reached the peak of their

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Sheila Morissette, one of many BC potters featured at the show



# Gallery of BC Ceramics

www.bcpotters.com

Brenda Beaudoin,  
Gallery Manager  
galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com  
604.669.3606

## Hours

10 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Gallery Assistants**  
Sarah Belley,  
Roxanne Gagnon and  
Samantha MacDonald  
staff@bcpotters.com

## Gallery Committee

Maggi Kneer  
Sheila Morissette  
Pia Sillem  
Jinny Whitehead  
Celia Rice-Jones



## 2008 Featured Artists

The featured artist spot provides an opportunity for one ceramic artist / PGBC member to have a small display of non-juried ceramics for sale at the gallery for the period of one month (one time only). Artist must comply and sign Gallery Policy before they can be listed as a featured artist. Sign up for 2008 is complete. The featured artists for this year are:

- **February:** Claire Henry
- **March:** Vin Arora
- **April:** Carol Demers
- **May:** Julia Greares
- **June:** Nathalie Strul
- **July:** Stephanie Simpson
- **August:** Craig Walker
- **September:** Dawn Vachon
- **October:** Jackie Frioud
- **November:** Gabrielle Burke



*Brenda Beaudoin*

## 2008 Gallery Exhibitions

Exhibition Openings/ Artists Receptions are on Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m., the first day of the exhibition. Refreshments served.

### March

Martin Peeters,  
March 1 to 31  
Functional pottery in the  
tradition of 60s and 70s pots

### April

Alison Tang,  
April 5 to 28  
Architectural themed sculptures

### May

St. George's Student  
Exhibition,  
May 3 to June 2  
Functional pottery in the  
tradition of 60s and 70s pots

### June

Laura McKibbin and Jasna  
Sokolovic,  
June 7 to July 1  
Se Souvenir /  
Creating Memories

### July

Matthew Freed,  
July 5 to 28  
Contemporary functional  
pottery for everyday

### August

Holly McKeen,  
Aug. 2 to Sept. 1  
Crystalline Colour  
and Curves

### September

Group Show of  
Kootenay Artists,  
Sept. 6 to 29  
KSA Out There: Samantha  
Dickie, Robin Dupont, Maggie  
Finlayson, Julia Gilmore, Garry  
Graham, Katharine Hofmann,  
Lise Kuhr, Sarah Lawless,  
David Lawson, Pamela Nagley-  
Stevenson, Donna Partridge,  
Tanis Saxby

### October

Second Annual  
Vancouver Collects,  
Oct. 4 to 27  
TBA

### November

Meg Ida,  
Nov. 1 to 24  
New works

# President's Message

How quickly January comes round again! It's that time of the year when we take stock of what we have achieved over the past year and look ahead to new and exciting works in the next one. I hope everyone had a joyful holiday and I wish everyone a creative and productive 2008!

The New Year, once again, brings change for the Guild. Our newsletter editor, Amber, has found she has too many demands on her time and has to give up our publication. Thank you, Amber for bringing your fresh style and energy to the newsletter – I wish you luck in your endeavours and I hope you will find some time for your own clay creations.

I am so looking forward to our new BC in a Box exhibit! This is our opportunity to showcase the Guild's many outstanding artists and to build a shared awareness within our own community of potters and the wider B.C. public. Mark your calendars for the opening on March 27 at the Blackberry Gallery in Port Moody. Check out our website for dates as the juried exhibit tours the province to: Quesnel, Invermere, Kelowna, Kamloops, Prince George, Fort St. John and Dawson Creek



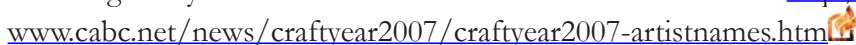
*Jinny Whitehead*

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peak of their creative skills. Photographs are available of the exhibit pieces and an e-catalogue will be available by February 7 at [www.cabc.net](http://www.cabc.net).

The exhibit is open during regular Vancouver Museum hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Closed Mondays. Tickets are available at the Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street in Vanier Park. General admission is \$11, students and seniors \$9, youth \$7, and children's admission is free. For more information visit [www.vanmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.vanmuseum.bc.ca) or [www.cabc.net](http://www.cabc.net).

To view a complete list of BC artisans included in the exhibit—including many members of the Potters Guild of BC—visit: <http://www.cabc.net/news/craftyear2007/craftyear2007-artistnames.htm>



## Gallery Update

Happy New Year!

Gallery artists, this is a great time to review your 2007 sales and plan for your success in 2008. Keep the gallery stocked year round so your display is always full and fresh. Make sure we have extra ceramics weeks ahead of our busiest selling months: July, August and December, especially with ceramics that are your top sellers. Make sure your codes are accurate before you deliver your stock. Staff time is better spent on sales and displays, not re-coding inventory.

I'm pleased to report the gallery has come in on budget for 2007 despite our numerous challenges over the past year such as the drastic rent increase and strong Canadian dollar. I continue to be excited and inspired working at the Gallery of BC Ceramics—a gallery for potters, by potters.

*Brenda Beaudoin*



# THE MAD POTTER

**The Store for all your Pottery Needs.**



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

**Tel: 604.244.3734 ~ Fax: 604.244.3757**

**Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm**

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## **First Thursday: Artist Talk Stan Clarke**

The Surrey Art Gallery Association is presenting an illustrated talk by Surrey-based artist Stan Clarke on Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Surrey Art Gallery. Stan has been involved with different art media for many years. He has been an oil painter, potter, art glass blower, and for the past twenty years a wood turner or “wood lathe artist”, creating functional and arty work from local and exotic wood. He co-founded Greenbarn Potters Supply and the Potters Guild of BC. Stan will discuss how and why his various creative activities took place and show some of his work.

There will be time for questions and conversation after the talk. The event concludes by 9 p.m.. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. Refreshments are provided.

This event is presented in partnership with the Surrey Art Gallery, and with support from the Arts Council of Surrey.



### **Surrey Art Gallery:**

**13750 - 88 Avenue,  
1 block east of King George Hwy.  
Surrey B.C.**

# Tehno-Tips: Getting the Most from Your PC

Ready or not, we're in the information age; all this electronic communication brings both good things and bad.

I work with computers and networks every day and a recent security session I attended just emphasizes the need to stay alert and keep up with all the bad guys. Staying on top of security is not especially easy, but it's not that complicated either.

Being on the Internet and receiving e-mail has its share of dangers. There's one going around with Sue Griese's e-mail asking to send some money to Nigeria; beware, it's a scam. Its arrival in my inbox made me think it's a good time to remind everyone about security and protection for your computer. Here is a list of things you should know or do:

- Keep your computer up to date with software patches. Windows Update is a good thing; you should get it up to date and regularly download and apply the fixes and patches. Not doing so can leave you open to the bad guys.
- Have an Antivirus program installed and loaded at all times (and have it regularly updated.)
- Have a firewall program installed and activated at all times. Windows XP comes with one or you can load one of the free ones available on the web.
- Have a spyware program installed and activated at all times and regularly updated.
- Do not open any attachments in any e-mails that you do not trust or are not expecting.
  - Excel, Word, PowerPoint, executable programs (.exe) are very dangerous. PDF, text and JPG files are relatively benign.
  - Do not click on any links in any e-mails that you do not trust or are not expecting. Don't click on it just because it says "I love you" or "Free ..."
- Do not respond to any e-mails that ask for personal information of any kind (That's your name, userid, passwords, account numbers, address, etc.) They will be very deceptive and look very official. These are called *phishing* e-mails and are an attempt to get sensitive information from you in order to gain financially.
  - It does not matter where the e-mail comes from! The from field in the e-mail can easily be changed. If they ask you to click on a link which says 'TD BANK' or something official sounding, that too can be easily changed... so don't do it. It's only safe if you initiate the

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**“Do not respond to any emails that ask for personal information of any kind (That’s your name, userid, passwords, account numbers, address, etc.)”**

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## Clay Workshops at the Surrey Art Gallery

Winter 2008

### WORKSHOP WITH JIM ETZKORN

#### From Handle to Spout Workshop

In this hands-on workshop, you will explore a variety of ways to create handles and spouts as you make a series of vessels with handles that pour. Learn how to place these components for practical purposes, and to achieve aesthetic balance.

2 Sessions \$80 | #591152

Sat, Mar 1, 10am - 4pm & Sun, Mar 2, 12noon - 4pm

#### REGISTRATION

604-501-5100 | [www.register.surrey.ca](http://www.register.surrey.ca)

Registration deadline: 4 days prior to start date



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13750 - 88 Avenue  
604-501-5566  
[www.arts.surrey.ca](http://www.arts.surrey.ca)



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

### POTTER'S HOLIDAY with ARCHAEOLOGY!

Last call for potters and others to join a custom-made 13-day trip to meet some of Britain's best-known potters, see lovely countryside and enjoy the company of like-minded clay keepers.

Call to register soon as we finalize the plans for this one-off, not-for-profit holiday.

Itinerary, accommodation and price now available online at:  
[www.portmoodytravel.com](http://www.portmoodytravel.com)

You can also contact us by e-mail or phone:  
**Gillian McMillan**  
[mcmillan@sfu.ca](mailto:mcmillan@sfu.ca) 604 937 7696

# Kelowna Clay Festival

British Columbia, Canada

August 8-12, 2008

Kelowna is a vacationer's paradise of galleries, wineries, sandy beaches & golf courses! Visit: [www.tourismkelowna.com](http://www.tourismkelowna.com)

[www.kelownaclayfestival.com](http://www.kelownaclayfestival.com)



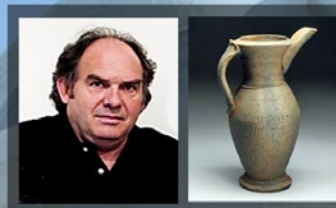
**Jim Robison, UK**

2 day demonstration and 2 day hands-on workshop. Jim draws on the textures and patterns of the landscape in Yorkshire for much of his inspiration.



**Paul Andrew Wandless, USA**

2 day demonstration and 2 day hands-on workshop. Monoprinting, screening, relief & stenciling on plaster & clay slabs, along with stamping & embossing.



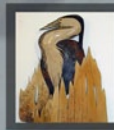
**Tony Clennell, Canada**

2 day demonstration. Tony will teach the fine points of making great pots including throwing techniques & surface embellishments.



**James Hibbert, Canada**

1 day demonstration on throwing technique, adding texture, stretching & making alterations to the form



**Lorel Sternig, Canada**

1 day demonstration covering the various methods of creating large clay sculptures or wall pieces.

2 days of demonstrations, fun day openhouse, 2 days of hands-on workshops and exhibition at the Art Ark Gallery



Festival sponsored by The Okanagan Potters Association with the generous support of Greenbarn Pottery Supply and Aftosa



Kelowna Clay Festival, c/o 2663 O'Reilly Lane, Kelowna, BC Canada V1W 3B7

connection, not by clicking on some link that was sent to you.

- Creators of phishing scams are getting craftier all the time and I'm not talking about pottery! In the one I just received, they've obviously taken hold of some of Sue Griese's e-mails and are sending e-mails to her contacts, pretending to be her. It's still a little rough, but the stories are getting better and it's conceivable that one day they'll craft an e-mail that sounds perfectly credible.
- Beware! Always confirm an e-mail is from who it says and they mean what is said if it asks for any kind of money or favour.

Already clicked on a nasty link? Your computer is now infected with some form of spyware or virus. If you've followed the rest of the list above, hopefully, your antivirus program will catch it or if you scan your hard drive, it can remove it. If your PC starts to act weird, contact your computer helper and get some help to clean it up.

If you responded to one of those phishing e-mails, you should report it and change any userids and passwords that you've compromised. If the scam you've fallen prey to involves a credit card, then obviously you'll need to cancel and replace it.

For those members who haven't got the antivirus, firewall and spyware utilities, there are good free ones available for personal use, so there's no excuse for not having them installed on your computer.

Everyone that uses a computer should have an antivirus program loaded to ensure you don't get infected by those nasty things out on the Internet and coming through your e-mail. There are a few free ones: AVG and Avast antivirus get the top honors. Click or go to <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/> for AVG or [www.avast.com/eng/download-avast-home.html](http://www.avast.com/eng/download-avast-home.html) for Avast. With Avast, you need to register as a non-commercial home user to get a free license key to use it for one year. You'll need to re-register once per year to continue using it for free...still a great deal.

## Tax Time

It's also getting around to that time of year again: tax time. Here is a list of useful, tax-related links I compiled last year:

We all want to save a bit of money don't we? Being the techno geek that I am, I use tax preparation software to do my taxes. The math is all done for you and if you are just a little web savvy, you can file over the Internet with the governments Netfile service. File online and your humongous tax refund (hopefully, you'll get a refund!) will be processed and deposited into your bank account in a matter of days.

The one I'd recommend is Studiotax: click or go to [www.studiotax.com](http://www.studiotax.com). The best part is... it's free. If it works for you and you're feeling generous after your tax refund, you can donate something to the author.

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**“Beware!  
Always confirm  
an e-mail is  
from who it says  
and they mean  
what is said if  
it asks for any  
kind of money  
or favour.”**

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If you don't like this program (I can't imagine why...it works great and it's free), you can check out several other programs that do the same thing. Click or go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NETFILE> for a list of products available. They cost about \$7 to \$40 to download and use. A few of these programs you don't need to load on your PC—you just use the web browser and enter all your info online. I'm not crazy about doing that and putting my financial data on their website and database, but that's up to you. (Of course, you can always go back to pen and paper or pay a professional to do it for you...What options eh!)

## Free "Office" Software

If you don't have Microsoft Office on your PC already, don't go and buy it—it costs a bundle of cash. Instead, use the free program Open Office (from Sun Microsystems). It will work with Excel and Word documents and does drawings and presentations too—probably 95% of the things you'll ever need. Click or go to [www.download.openoffice.org/2.1.0/index.html](http://www.download.openoffice.org/2.1.0/index.html)

One caveat on these software packages: They are rather big and if you don't need them, don't clog up your PC with them (antivirus is a must though). I hope you have a high-speed Internet connection, as downloading software takes a bit of bandwidth. You can request a CD with the install software to be mailed to you but they'll charge you a bit for the convenience.



**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](http://www.greenbarn.com)**

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Saturday 9-1  
Closed Long Weekends  
[greenbarn@telus.net](mailto:greenbarn@telus.net)

## Glaze Chemistry Software

A wonderful potters' tool is the glaze chemistry software, Glazechem. It's shareware; that means it's free to try for 30 days and after that, a registration reminder message will pop up when you launch the program. You can use it and try the software this way; if you find it useful, then you can pay for it, and it's fairly cheap (about \$30). I use it a lot for formulating and changing glazes. Glazechem <http://www.dinoclay.com/software/glzchem.html>


If you want to analyze your glaze to check if it has sufficient silica and alumina or to substitute an ingredient, this will do it for you. You can organize your glaze recipes, check expansion and do oodles of other technical stuff to boot.

*continued on page 9...*



## Other Helpful Links

Some of you may not have explored the Internet much; there are some very interesting and helpful services and programs available. Here are some for you to check out... all FREE (although some with ads and nags):

- Firewall <http://www.netveda.com/consumer/safetynet.htm>  
Windows 95-XP, 4.3MB
- Basic firewall <http://www.zonelabs.com/store/content/company/products/zna1m/freeDownload.jsp> Windows 2K-Vista, 205KB++
- Spybot Anti spyware – <http://www.spybot.info/en/index.html> (removes spyware, excellent, highly recommended)
- Spyware Blaster - <http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html>
- Google Maps - <http://maps.google.ca/?hl=en> (Great for directions to a gallery)
- Canada 411 - <http://www.canada411.ca/> (find any phone number or address)
- XnView for photos - <http://www.xnview.com/> (edit, crop, and fix your digital photos)
- Skype - <http://www.skype.com/intl/en/> (phone calls over the internet around the world for free)
- Google Sketchup - <http://sketchup.google.com/> (cool 3D building design/drawing tool)
- Ultra Hal Text to speech reader - <http://www.zabaware.com/reader/> (relax and have e-mails read to you)
- Google Earth - <http://earth.google.com/> (satellite view of any spot on the earth—see your neighbourhood from space!)
- Firefox - <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/> (an alternative browser if you don't like Internet Explorer, or use a Mac)
- PhotoPlus 6.0 (sort of like Adobe Photoshop) <http://www.freerisefsoftware.com/software/PhotoPlus/>
- Picasa 2 (neat, powerful, from Google) <http://picasa.google.com/> 

Don Jung

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**“Ever  
wanted  
to see your  
neighbourhood  
from space?  
You can  
with Google  
Earth!”**

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# Clay Lines

## Celebrating Success in Our Community In Gratitude: Editorial Farewell

Being the editor for BC Potters has been an incredible learning experience. As I pass on the job to a new set of hands, I wish to thank the members of the Guild and the board for the opportunity to contribute to this extended community of potters.

I owe a special thanks to Don Jung and Andrea Maitland for their support in the production of the newsletter. Andrea is a first-rate proof-reader with a delightful sense of humour—the newsletter wouldn't be what it is without her extra attention to detail. Don not only makes sure the newsletter—and bulletins—go out via e-mail each month, but the articles he has consistently shared in the past year are definitely worth a public thank you.

Also in need of recognition for their continuing efforts in making BC Potters possible: Brenda Beaudoin, Sheila Morissette and Jinny Whitehead. Without their regular submissions, we'd all miss out on what's going on, in Vancouver and throughout the province (not to mention Australia!)

As writing is a passion of mine—nearly as much as making pots!—you'll likely find more articles from me in future issues. I look forward to sharing my next adventure in ceramics with you.

The newsletter does not exist without the insight of our whole community; I encourage each of you to step beyond your comfort zone and share your experiences. Write about what inspires you to make, to collect and call yourself a potter—BC Potters is the collective voice of people with aspirations and frustrations just like yours. Why wouldn't you want to sing your part in this fabulous choir?

It has been an honour. Thank you. 🏺

*Amber Alyne Kennedy*

## Unclassifieds

### Free Kick-Wheel.

Estrin kickwheel, no motor, a bit rusty but useable for waxing, decorating or throwing. Horseshoe Bay.  
Call Ronda: 604 921-9888.

### Studio Equipment for Sale.

I'm downsizing and changing directions. So I'm selling off some things that I have duplicates of.

Pictures and details are available on my Craigslist ads at <http://vancouver.craigslist.ca/> for "Display Shelves", "Ceramic Extruder", "Ceramic Slump Molds", "Large Kiln", "Ceramic Tile press" and "Ceramic Monthly Magazines"

You can contact me through the ads or at [winegummo@hotmail.com](mailto:winegummo@hotmail.com)

**For Sale: Lockerbie Kick-Wheel with Motor**  
\$570. Purchased new 1998, excellent condition, barely used. Call: 778-858-5776

### Short term Raku Teaching Opportunity in Victoria

In May 2008 our grade 10 students are having an experiential pilot program where they will be either out of school doing community service or they will be working at things not normally covered in the timetable. One of the things we are going to do is raku, and I am looking for someone with some experience of this type of firing to work with us for a couple of days. This is a paid opportunity! The kids are going to build a piece with raku clay and then fire it, having built the raku kiln themselves—at least that's the theory. Please contact Anna Forbes, Head of Art, St. Michaels University School, 3400 Richmond, Victoria V8P 4P5 B.C.  
[anna.forbes@smus.bc.ca](mailto:anna.forbes@smus.bc.ca) 250 592 2411 local 7500

## MOSAIC/QUE

The Pottery Supply House in Ontario has put together a fine calendar for 2008 to celebrate their 50 years of service to clayworkers in Canada. On each day of the year a Canadian pot is featured, with many British Columbia potters included. It's lovely!

If you'd like a copy for \$15, place your order by calling 1-800-465-8544  
[www.psh.ca](http://www.psh.ca) 🏺

## Medal of Bravery

Potter and CBC reporter Vincent Massey is one of three men who will be awarded a medal for saving the life of a 'stranded ice sailor' at Green Lake in Whistler in 2005.

*(from the Vancouver Sun, Thurs Jan. 17)* 🏺

## Showbiz

Vancouver artist Suzy Birstein has made 'motion pitchers' to be tucked into the gift bags being presented to the non-winning Academy Award nominees at the Oscars.

*(from the Vancouver Sun, Thurs Jan. 17)* 🏺



## Potters Guild of BC Board

**Jinny Whitehead**, President  
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**Janet Smith**, Treasurer  
604.738.2954 · jrsmith@shaw.ca

**Sheila Morissette**, Secretary  
604.484.5090 · sheilamorissette@mac.com

**Matthew Freed**, Membership  
604.899.3383 · freed\_matthew@hotmail.com

**Don Jung**  
604.873.1836 · don.jung@shaw.ca

**Leon Popik**  
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generalinfo@bcpotters.com

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**Kathryn O'Regan**  
koregan@novuscom.net



## Potters Guild of BC Newsletter

Published 10 times yearly, the PGBC Newsletter is an information link for members.

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

**Advertising Rates:** *All ads are payable upon receipt of invoice*  
Full page: \$170, 2/3 page: \$115, 1/2 page: \$85,  
1/3 page: \$55, 1/6 page: \$30 (not including GST)  
*Please submit ads as .tiff, PDF or .eps files. Ad rates are for files requiring no further work by our staff. Ads that are not the correct size, or that need formatting or basic design work will cost \$10 extra.*

**Unclassified Rates:** Members FREE! Non-members: \$20

**Insert Rates:** (not including GST)  
Members: \$75. If overweight, pay additional postage costs. First come basis.  
Outside groups: \$200 corporate/\$100 community.  
Guild Committees: free within postage; pay for overweight.

## Membership

**Matthew Freed**, Chair  
604.899.3383 · membership@bcpotters.com

**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'

## Communications Committee

**Don Jung**  
604.873.1836 · webmaster@bcpotters.com

**Amber Alyne Kennedy**, Editor  
604.781.1940 · editor@bcpotters.com

**Andrea Maitland**, proofreader

*\*Advertising and insert rates subject to change*