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LOCAL ARTIST/LOCAL ARTIST 2001

My name is Kyle Philibert and I live in Kamloops B.C. This year I am finishing my grade eight year at Brocklehurst Secondary School. I am an artist and I enjoy learning as well as having fun with my friends.

My Heritage Fair project this year as well as last year is about local artists in Kamloops and the immediate area surrounding Kamloops. I have included the basic history and lives of local artists in Kamloops through interviews, for there is close to nothing in the archives about artists. I also included information about the art community in general including programs, opportunities and the Community Arts Council. I had chosen to research this topic for my project because I have a strong interest in art and I wanted to learn more about the artists and the opportunities in my community.

In researching for my project I first attempted to research in the archives, but I was directed to the Community Arts Council. I then went to the CAC and talked to Melodie MacIntyre. She had given me ideas of how to receive information on my topic. I later went back and interviewed Melodie. After that I interviewed artists such as Donna Houston, bj arnaSon, Chuck St. John and Melissa Gilbert.

In the process of developing my project I attended two art classes in Brocklehurst Secondary School to see how it was like in high school art classes and to interview the students. I also collected the "Mosaic", which is a magazine based on art. I even included newspaper clippings in my project. Next, I joined the CAC, participated in Art Walk and Art in Action. Lastly, I visited the Arts Council, the Art Gallery, Oasis Gallery and the Artists Studio and Gallery. All of this is included on two retractable boards attached to each other and about six booklets.

When doing this project I learned many things. I learned about the Community Arts Council, the Artists Studio and Gallery, and several artists in Kamloops. I had learned about the origin of the Arts Council and the programs the Arts Council puts on. I also learned about the

artists in the Artists Studio and Gallery and what kind of work they do. Finally, I learned the rough history of a few local artists.

The more specific details of what I learned are mostly about the artists, the CAC and the various programs here in Kamloops. First of all, I learned that we had a CAC and you pretty much have to be a part of the "art community" or otherwise the programs and opportunities go unnoticed. I learned that the CAC organizes programs such as Art in the Park and Art Walk. I also learned that a group of artists make up the Artists Studio and Gallery, which is located in Sahali Center Mall. Finally, I was told by numerous artists to not be told what to do, but paint what I want.

I have come to the conclusion while doing this project that there are programs and opportunities in my community, but you pretty much have to be within the "art circle" to know about most opportunities for artists. I concluded that there are many artists of many different kinds of art here in Kamloops. Also, I concluded that this subject is very broad and hard to keep under control.

If I were to expand my project, I would include programs from the College and maybe even expand into the performing arts. While doing this project my definition of an artist has changed.