

## Engaging Families in Visual Arts



The Shuswap Art Gallery Association (SAGA) is always trying to find new ways to engage families in the visual arts. A \$1,270 grant from the Gertrude and Ludwig Klein Memorial Fund and the General Fund funded a new “Be An Art Family” membership program.

The first workshop in November 2007 was “Reconstructing T-shirts” led by local youth artist Risa Bissenden. Families at subsequent workshops have drawn a family portrait, built birdhouses and created mosaic tiles for the Ross Street Plaza fountain.

Tracey Kutshchker, SAGA’s administrator, describes the response to the program as “fantastic” with workshops filling up fast.



## Family Learning Centre Opens

The Family Learning Centre at Salmon Arm West School held its official opening in December 2007 with a round dance, storytelling by First Nations Teacher-Counsellor, Meredith Rusk, and freshly baked bannock made by grandparent Linda Gaze.



Storyteller Meredith Rusk and her puppets, Bear and Coyote, tell the tale of how Bear lost his tail.

A new program, the Family Learning Centre is open to children up to five years old plus their parent or caregiver. This free program is an opportunity for a child to learn early literacy, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development through play with carefully selected materials and activities. The program is under the guidance of Early Childhood Educator, Mary Regier.

The Centre serves the entire Salmon Arm region.

Purchase of toys and furnishing for the Centre was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation’s Wainwright-Mobley Memorial Fund and the General Fund. The program is supported by School District #83 and, in principle, by the Adams Lake Indian Band and the Neskonlith Lake Indian Band.

