

Carousel of Smiles reception this weekend



By Reader Staff

Join the Carousel of Smiles team at a reception to see some of the initial work in bringing this incredible machine back to life.

The reception will be located at 113 Main St. at the corner of Main and Second in downtown Sandpoint. Reception times are as follows:

Dec. 14: 5-8 p.m.

Dec. 15: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 16: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The first group of ponies that are “back in paint” (after 64 years in hibernation) and the first group of art-panel paintings done by some of our talented local

artists will be on display.

Friday evening will feature a champagne reception (donations always welcome!) as the team celebrates the first color and life coming back to Sandpoint’s Carousel and the volunteers that have been working so hard and with such enthusiasm.

Last December, The Carousel of Smiles project held an unveiling event where a curtain was drawn back to reveal to the public the fully-assembled (but un-restored) 1920 carousel. Since then, teams of volunteers have started the restoration of this incredible machine.

The “Godfather Squad” (so named because the heads of the ponies have to be removed for proper restoration) has been

busy restoring the wood aspects of the ponies. Fourteen of the ponies are in various stages of restoration: three of them were handed off to the painting team, known as “Painters of the Lost Art,” and these painted ponies will be on display during the weekend.

Also on display will be the first submission for the art-panel project. A carousel’s art panels are what create the character and theme — the heart and soul — of a carousel.

Panels will be done by various local artists who are excited to add their vision to the carousel.

The location for the reception is very fitting. After all, 113 Main is a historic

Painters of the Lost Art – Don Oak, Mary Day and Erin Cramer – paint a pony. Courtesy photo.

building which originally was home for the Sandpoint Interurban Railway. Most of us know it as the more recent home of Truby’s Health Food Market. The building is just completing a fabulous two-year renovation that recognizes its historic roots. It is a beautiful space and being able to preview it is an extra treat for those attending the receptions.

For further information, visit www.thecarouselofsmiles.org.