

Mintz, Bud

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Belleville native Mintz honored in B.C.

Belleville's Bud Mintz was a strong supporter of helping struggling native artists reach their full potential.

A special bursary fund has been established in British Columbia in memory of Mintz to help native artists reach their artistic talents.

The bursary fund bears the name of Mintz, who died in late recently in Langley, B.C.

He was 57.

Mintz was a collector and dealer of art for the northwest coast. He's been credited with helping develop and revive the west coast indigenous art and culture. He founded Vancouver's Potlatch Arts and, for the past 15 years, showed the works of many native artists.

Mintz's sister, Marian Madden of Deseronto, said she's proud of her brother.

"I'm proud he made something of his life," she said this week. "He brought out the best in native artists by helping them realize their full potential. He's probably the best friend they ever had."

Mintz was born and raised in Belleville. He attended King George and Bayview Schools before entering Belleville Collegiate Institute.

Mintz joined the army while in high school and later moved to British Columbia. He enrolled, and later graduated, from the University of British Columbia. He left graduate studies in history and cultural geography at Simon Fraser University to establish the B.C. Studies Resource Centre at Vancouver City College. He later became that institution's co-ordinator of native studies.

Mintz set up Potlatch Arts in Vancouver in 1979.

His reputation in the art world grew. For example, the National Gallery in Ottawa used his expertise in appraising and acquiring pieces for their collections.

Mintz will be remembered for designing British Columbia's centennial coin.

Even though he left Belleville 41 years ago, Madden said her brother still considered the city "his home."

"He never left Belleville. He was always returning to visit with old friends and keep current with what was happening in the city," she said.

Mintz is survived by his wife, Gene Ann Joseph, and five of six children from a previous marriage.

He has three sisters, Madden of Deseronto, Janice (Ralph) Mumby of Stirling and Ruthann Spencer of Kingston.

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