

# General



ALL SMILES, this couple with the Charlie Lake Little Squares group danced to the live sounds of "Honeycomb" provided by their instructor Mrs Zoerb, at the Grand Finale of the Fort St John

Arts Festival. The Charlie Lake grade three and four students won first place in the square dancing competition and tied for first place in the group dancing entry.

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# Arts festival a success

Fort St John Festival Association's Arts Festival, April 16, 17 and 18 featured local talent competing in a variety of categories of art and adjudicators travelled from as far away as Sechelt to be on hand in judging the entries.

Singing, dancing, instrumental, writing, reciting and speaking covered the wide variety of displays of talent during the three day festival. A grand finale, held at the North Peace Secondary gymnasium Friday evening, rounded off the arts festival with the presentation of trophies. A lively entertainment program featured some of the entries for public viewing.

On behalf of the Fort St John Festival Association, Jean Thompson thanked the adjudicators for the role they played in making the Peace River North arts festival the success it was. Ald Annette Pearson welcomed the public at the grand finale, on behalf of the town and expressed appreciation to those who worked so hard in bringing the arts festival to life after a dormant period of five years.

Acting as master of ceremonies at the grand finale, Bob Bennetts proved to be part of the entertainment as he announced the various events scheduled in the program.

The festival association did work hard in bringing the arts festival back into the Fort St John community and they have expressed the hope that the

festival will continue on an annual basis.

The following is a list of trophy winners, sponsors and donors.

Winspear, Higgins, Stevenson & Co — Grand Aggregate trophy to the most deserving entry or entries; Karree Phillips 10 yrs old. She received one of the highest marks in the festival in her Junior Vocal class. She received two golds in the Junior Poetry Solo class and red certificates in Acrobatic dancing and Bible Reading.

Fort St John Co-Op Store — Best entry Solo dancing. Susan Longstaff.

Fort St John's Lion's Club — Junior Piano Solo, June Westhauser.

CC Brooks Realty Ltd — Best entry couple dancing, Ulla Wilmanier & Susan Maison-neuve.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 102 — Best entry group dancing, A tie: Airport Elementary & Charlie Lake

Beefeaters — Best Traditional & Folk Dancing, Margaret Wilkinson & Dorothy Forester group.

Mackenzie Inn — Best performance dancing, Terpsichorean Studios, "Toy Soldiers."

Westcoast Transmission Co — Junior Vocal solo, Karree Phillips accompanist Sheri Esau.

Order of the Royal Purple Lodge No 84 — Senior Vocal Solo, Pauline Hopkins accompanist Sargent.

Pat's Home Furnishings — School Choral Group, Ambrose School Choir.

United Church Women — Junior Church Choir, Lutheran Junior Choir.

Hamilton's Stationers Ltd — Senior Church Choir, Lutheran Church.

Dairymen's Association — Vocal Duet, Joan Thompson, Shirley Harris.

Fort Music Ltd — Family & Community Chorals, Lehmann Family.

North Peace Music Teacher's Association — Piano Sonatinas, Tie: Carolyn Schmidt & Sheridan Klassen.

North Peace Music Teacher's Association — Piano Bach, Carol Ljuden.

North Peace Music Teacher's Association — Quick Study Best Performance, Milton & Carolyn Schmidt.

The Bay — Best Piano Performance, Duet or trio: Sheridan Klassen, Cheri Wilson, Carolyn Schmidt.

Fort Motors Ltd — Senior Piano Solo (14 & over) Brenda Krause.

BPO Elks — Beginners Piano Solo, Amanda Gammage

Westend Grocery — Best Instrument Solo (other than piano) Bob Thola.

People's Drug Mart — Best Group Instrumental, Dr Kearney School Band.

Debbie's Fashions — School Choral Speech Group, Clearview School, Grade 5.

Fort Pharmacy Ltd — Junior Poetry Solo, Karree Phillips.

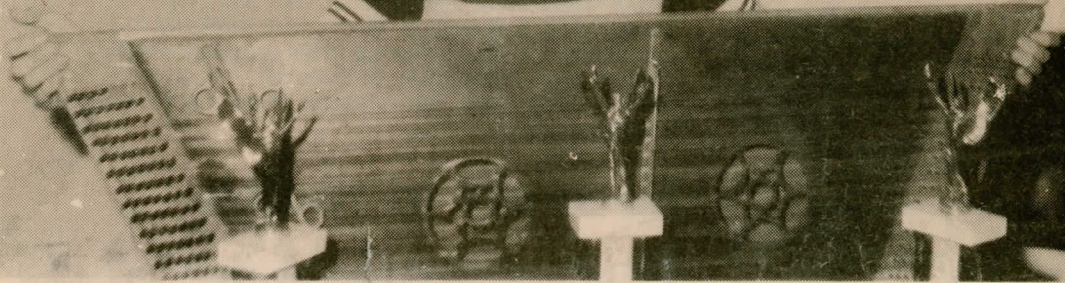
Peace River North Teacher's Association — Senior Poetry Solo, Spoken Verse, Ruby Macbeth.

Beta Sigma Phi — Primary Poetry Solo, Cathy Fedoruk.

Girls Guides Association — Open class, speech solo, Michael McLaughlin.

Workshop Players — Best performance drama, Bob Bennetts (Robert Ogilvie School)





METRO SEMENIUK — with his dulcimer and the trophies he took home.

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## Metro wows them in Edmonton

June 7 was a very special and exciting day for young Metro Semeniuk as he captured three top prizes at a dulcimer contest in Edmonton, Alta. In so doing, the prodigious youth stole the show.

Ten-year-old Metro, a student at Central Elementary School in Fort St John, won a trophy for being the youngest player, another for having travelled the longest distance to reach the competition, and a third after being named best novelty player.

The contest was sponsored by

CFCW a radio station in Camrose, Alta.

The dulcimer is a centuries-old instrument consisting of 126 steel strings strung across a wooden frame. In the novelty contest, Metro covered his instrument with cloth so that he couldn't see the keys and played a tune almost as if he was blindfolded.

That method of playing, and the proficient manner in which he executed it, led him to be declared winner in that category over the nine other contestants.

The victory for Metro was particularly interesting because he was 14 years younger than the next youngest competitor. Other than himself, contestants ranged in age from 24 to 72.

Some had played the dulcimer for as long as 47 years, compared to the two years in which Metro has been playing the instrument. The songs he played at the contest were Burnt Potato Polka and Mushroom Polka.

The songs were taped by the radio station for broadcast at a later date.

Instructed by his father, the 10-year-old can play a wide range of musical instruments including the chord organ, guitar, bongo drums, spoons, Jew's harp and recorder. His father says his son is now "trying to play the violin."

If he follows the success he encountered in only two years of playing the dulcimer, young Metro will not have to try too hard.



CONNIE HEBERT is presented with a trophy for the best entry in the arts festival creative writing category from Mrs M Hazlett, vice-president of the Fort St John Women's Institute. Marks in this category had not been finalized during the arts festival finale and Connie had to wait for her trophy. However, it was well worth waiting for and Connie captured the honor with her short poem titled, "The Ladder of Life."



# and Places

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JEAN THOMPSON RECEIVES the Ambrose Elementary trophy for the school with the highest number of points in the recent Arts Festival. Jim Collins, president of the Ambrose

PTA present the trophy to a surprised Mrs Thompson, while Bill McColl of Ambrose School shares her big smile.

## FORT ST. JOHN

The North Peace Festival held here recently proved to be a learning experience for all concerned. Though size is, of course, not a prerequisite for quality, chairperson Dorothy Pickell feels that we have made just a start in terms of the number of entries received and that the program will expand. The adjudicators were pleased with the quality of the work and with the enthusiasm with which it was presented. The general public is realizing that there is a vibrant arts community here, growing in appreciation and competence.

The second annual Art and Craft Fair in Fort St. John is scheduled for June 13 and 14. We're looking forward to it and to once again having the opportunity of sharing thoughts with out-of-town participants. Of course, we'd like to see as many as feel they can make the trip.

The concert-going public and the school population were tremendously pleased to have the U.B.C. Chamber Singers in the North recently. They were reviewed for Performance by Ed Sergeant, a resident of Fort St. John, having come from Holland five years ago, who teaches piano and voice.

In closing, news of municipal involvement with the arts in Fort St. John. The town council allowed an alderman to attend the Canadian Conference of the Arts seminar, "Municipalities and the Arts," held in Vancouver in April, which others from here attended also.

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