

# Festival of Trees set to dazzle city

Nov 26, 1997

TANIA WILSON

For The Alaska Highway News

## Fort St. John

The first annual Festival of Trees is ready to dazzle North Peace residents.

Starting with a gala evening and auction tonight at 6 at the North Peace Cultural Centre – tickets are \$10 each which help fund cultural and artistic events year-round – the festival then continues through Sunday.

There will be 12 trees in the festival which will be judged. A variety of other Christmas decorations will add to the pageantry, said Cultural Centre publicist Sue Carson.

“It’s not just about trees,” said Carson. “There are also festive things like wreaths, teddy bears, gingerbread houses and other miscellaneous things like that.

“We have had a great response and support from the community for our first Festival of Trees. We’re looking forward to getting more people interested in the festival and in holding the event again next year.”

Although the purpose of the auction is to raise money to cover the costs of running the Cultural Centre each year, as well as creating a “winter wonderland” for the community to enjoy, there is no particular financial goal for the event, says Carson.

“We’re just hoping people turn out to see what the Festival of Trees is all about.”

# Music Week to celebrate talent

NOV 20, 1997

**HELEN WOOLLEY**  
Alaska Highway News

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## Fort St. John

It's time to give your ears a treat and once again celebrate Music Week in Fort St. John.

Canada Music Week, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association, is commemorated in the third week of November. This also includes Nov. 22, the day honoring St Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

This is the 60th Anniversary of Canada Music Week and Fort St. John has been

observing it for almost 30 years now.

We're hoping for a full house on Sunday, Nov. 23, at the North Peace Cultural Centre theatre to help us celebrate music in our city.

Hopefully, some students will play their own compositions and others will perform the works of more established Canadian composers. We would welcome hearing from any members of the community who would like to perform.

Please contact Monica Best as soon as possible at 787-2378 before the program has

become too full.

If you are or know of a musical person or group not yet ready to perform please note: The North Peace Music Festival will be held from May 4-9, 1998. It's a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate music together!

The philosopher Plato wrote, "Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

Come and see for yourself – if you agree – join us in Canada Music Week.





**PIPE BAND MEMBERS PLAY ONE FOR CANADA —**

Tania Wilson photo

*JUL 4, 1997*

The Fort St. John Rotary Pipe Band performed at the Canada Day festivities at the Derrick Tuesday.



# LOCAL

## Dancer taking his talents to new heights

*Brock Jellison has been dancing since he was a toddler*

FORT ST. JOHN (Submitted) — If you've taken the time to attend the Celtic Connection, Northern Dance Theatre Society's Dance Extravaganza or the Cultural Centre's Gala this 17 year old young man is no stranger.

He is a natural on stage and has delighted audiences with his humor and dance technique. Brock Jellison has been performing since he learned to walk.

With the guidance of his parents Noelle and Elward Jellison of Jellison Studios in



**Brock Jellison**

Fort St. John, Jellison has had the opportunity to perform and study with some of the best.

He has frequented such entertainment hot spots as Florida, Las Vegas and Los Angeles to take part in dance workshops and competitions.

Jellison trains in various dance mediums including ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, modern and contemporary dance. In his many years of performing, the dancer has come home with numerous awards and scholarships for his showmanship.

Last month, Jellison boarded a plane to New York City to study with American Dance Theatre for a two-week program. He studied with the best on Broadway. Classes included ballet, theatre dance and tap.

When he returned to the North Peace earlier this month he began study for two weeks here in Fort St. John with the North Dance Theatre Society Summer School Dance Program. The program concluded earlier this week.

The young man also studies Irish dance with the Watt School of Irish Dance. He has also toured with the group as a soloist.

Jellison will continue his dance studies here in Fort St. John commencing in the fall.

He and his fellow dance students are available for charity functions and other community events.

Inquires can be made through the Northern Dance Theatre Society, 785-4062.

# Beautiful blooms to be bountiful at horticultural society's flower show

AUG 21, 1997

*Entries to the Aug. 22-23 show, being held at the Cultural Centre, will be taken until Friday morning*

**TANIA WILSON**  
For the Alaska Highway News

## Fort St. John

It's getting bigger and better every year and bursting with beautiful blooms.

That's the spectacle you'll witness if you take in the 4th Annual Flower Show and Exhibition, being held at the North Peace Cultural Centre on Aug. 22-23.

Organized by the North Peace Horticultural Society, there will be two rooms filled with hundreds of plants, including 96 classes of cut flowers, a children's section, photography section, as well as a huge display of orchids, says former show organizer and past chairwoman, Peggy Staton.

"There is now an orchid society in town which is looking for new members who are interested in

orchids," said Staton. "This year, there is a bit of a competition among dahlia growers to see who can grow the best, which is a lot of fun."

There will be 26 classes of arranged flowers, 24 classes of houseplants (flowering and non-flowering), 14 classes of patio plant and 96 classes of cut flowers.

Admission to the show is free and there is no entry fee for anyone who wants to take part in the show and exhibition.

"You don't have to be a member of the horticultural society to enter in the show," said Staton.

"We want to encourage people to come out and it's worthwhile to see what other people have grown," she told the *Alaska Highway News*.

Entries will be taken from 4 to 8 p.m. today (Aug. 21) and from 8 to 10 a.m. on Friday. Judging will take place at 11 a.m. on Aug. 22.

"There will be something new this

year," said Staton.

"From 2 - 3 p.m. on Friday the show will be open to seniors only, and then it will be open to the general public from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.," she said.

"This will give the seniors a chance to look at the flowers at their leisure and enjoy the tea before everyone else arrives."

The tea will take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23,

throughout the whole show and exhibition. The cost of the tea is \$3.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and see what a variety of flowers and plants are

grown by enthusiasts in the area, and enter their own plants if they like, said Staton.

For more information on entering plants in the flower show and exhibition, contact John at 785-6023 or Ellen at 787-7998.

**"You don't have to be a member of the horticultural society to enter in the show."**

— past chairperson  
*Peggy Staton*



## Editorial

# Library survey reassuring

JUL 9, 1997

A look at the Fort St. John Public Library's needs assessment survey gives any newspapering lifer a reassuring picture of people around here.

First off, it seems we still read. And, the abbreviated spoon-feeding of magazines is not our favorite choice.

We read books.

The survey, which 441 respondents completed, also shows we read sensible things. The top three preferences in novels are mystery - 165, Canadian - 161 and adventure - 130.

Fantasy has its place too. Of course, since women were two-thirds of the respondents, the fantasy they have traditionally preferred - historicals - came out at 126, ahead of the 30 netted by Westerns, the fantasy which men traditionally prefer. Science fiction and fantasy, genres traditionally beloved of both genders, netted 103.

The response which is really cheering was the listing of unpopular topics for library books included fashion, and feminism. While feminism is a worthy topic, it's understandable

that those of us who would like an equitable division of labor and responsibility don't want to dwell on the particulars of our much-less-than-perfect world.

The cheering part is fashion is as disliked as it should be. It's hard to imagine anything duller and more offensive than being told what to wear with the implication that such trivia should be the pinnacle of any woman's interest.

The days when some bizarre fashion could be forced on women are clearly over here as well as throughout the world.

The elevation of trivia to tyranny may be beloved of some but clearly Fort St. John readers aren't interested.

Readers here, a majority of women, have gone to the trouble to tell the library what they want. We're sure the library staff and board will respond gratefully.

Thanks also to the library for their upbeat message to those of us who write for a living and want to avoid the dead zone of writing about drivel.

— Ann Harvey



# S...ON ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Watt school set to perform hot Irish dancing

'Celtic Fire' to feature accompaniment from Prince George band

TANIA WILSON  
For the Alaska Highway News

Fort St. John

You can see some of the hottest Celtic dancing this side of Ireland at the North Peace Cultural Centre this weekend.

The Watt School of Irish Dance, in conjunction with Out of Alba, will present *Celtic Fire*, a combination of Irish dancing and live music, said Jo Watt, who owns and operates the 10-year-old Watt School.

Performed by 30 dancers from Fort St. John's Watt School of Irish Dance and Out of Alba, a five-piece band from Prince George, the production highlights dances from such famous shows as *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*.

The dancers will present a colorful and entertaining display of precision, said Watt, who choreographed *Celtic Fire*, which has received much praise wherever the show has played.

Watt, who is a champion Irish dancer, has trained many dancers to strut their stuff in regional, national and international competitions. Her school is also known as one of the strongest Irish

dance schools in Western Canada. During the last year, members of the Watt School have been successful in obtaining two world medals and the overseas award. Three students have also been included among the world's top 15 Irish dancers in their respective age groups.

Out of Alba adds a little something extra to an already riveting performance, said Watt, with numbers from their soon-to-be released CD, *Stepping Out*. They will join the dancers in some numbers, adding their own driving rhythms and harmonies to the whirl of lively tapping feet.

Just three years old, Out of Alba is comprised of two Scots, an Irishman, a Canadian and a Welsh-American. They have performed with a variety of groups during this time, including their role as the opening act for Spirit of the West and The Mahones. *Celtic Fire* is the band's first collaboration with a dance company, which has so far proven to be successful, said Watt.

*Stepping Out* is the band's first CD, and combines original pieces with the band's own arrangements of traditional and Canadian Celtic pieces.

Tickets to *Celtic Fire* can be picked up at the North Peace Cultural Centre, (\$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students). Performances are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 and 28, at the Cultural Centre. Call 785-1992 for more information



Tania Wilson photo

Members of The Watt School of Irish Dance, from left: Aisling Watt, Tina Tuinukuafe, Chesea St. Jean and Crystal McDonald, rehearse a number from their upcoming *Celtic Fire* production, being held Sept. 27-28 at the North Peace Cultural Centre.



SEPT 5, 1997

# *Jellison Studios* *new classes set*

FORT ST. JOHN (Staff) — All ages are included in the wide variety of fall classes soon to start at Jellison Studios Inc. — along with some fresh teaching staff at the studio's new facility.

Aerobics classes for adults and teens will be added this year, taught by Shannon Shomody. The Body Shop will no longer be offering aerobics, and Shomody has acquired the aerobics equipment.

Kids in the Playhouse is another new class, and will include activities such as stage craft, dance, drama and song, leading to a full-scale musical theatre production. Under the direction of Ian Forsyth, a variety of ages will be welcome in the class.

Nine other classes are being offered this year; from Pre-School Babes for children three years old, and Pre-School Beauties for four year olds, to jazz, tap, ballet, Spanish dancing and acrobatics, there is something for everyone with an interest in dance and physical fitness.

In addition to dance classes, Jellison Studios offers an in-house apparel supply for dancers, hassle free recital costumes, fully accredited teaching staff, and yearly exam sessions that guarantee a recognized standard.

Registrations will be taken from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the North Peace Recreation Centre's One Stop Community Registration.





Tania Wilson photo

## PLENTY OF LAUGHS AT CULTURAL CENTRE —

June Ainsworth, left, who portrays Martha Brewster, Mary Telfor (Abby Brewster), and Mike Odowichuk (Mortimer Brewster) ponder their fate in a scene from *Arsenic and Old Lace*. The Stage North production, billed as a murder mystery/comedy that's directed by Teddy Forsyth, is playing at the North Peace Cultural Centre tonight, Saturday and Nov. 13-15.

Nov 7, 1997



# Young Jellison dancers making mark in competitive dance world

FORT ST. JOHN (Staff) — A couple of Fort St. John dancers are making their mark in the world of dance.

Jodi Lee Stevens, who has been dancing for nine years with Jellison Studios here in Fort St. John, and Kelly Beard, who has been training for 13 years with Jellison, spent part of their summer participating in an intensive dance program in Edmonton.

Stevens, 13, and Beard, 15, took part in the two-week dance program. Marr Mac Dance &



Kelly Beard

Theatre Arts and Cecchetti Dance Theatre brought together an impressive list of guest instructors including Veronica Tennant, who had the distinction of being the National Ballet of Canada's Prima Ballerina and international

star.

Tennant continues to excel in the arts as a dramatic performer,



Jodi Lee Stevens

*AUG 19, 1997*  
narrator, author and broadcaster. Classes included studies in ballet, jazz, and modern dance.

The girls recently returned to Fort St. John for a two-week intensive summer dance program, sponsored by the Northern Dance Theatre Society. It began Aug. 5.

Stevens will then fly to Los Angeles on Aug. 21 for another

dance workshop, which will feature top-notch instruction called "The Edge".

*AUG 19, 1997*