

# Former resident taps out at Olympic *Feb 9, 2010* opening ceremonies

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ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Brock Jellison, a 29-year-old former Fort St. John resident, had some idea of what to expect when he stepped out onto the stage to perform in the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics last Friday, in part, because he helped choreograph the number.

He was way off.

“For the first time in my life, the expectations I had were completely wrong,” Jellison said. “But in all the right ways.”

Jellison was invited to tour with “Tap Dogs” fresh out of North Peace Secondary

School in 1998. That gig lasted eight months and when it wrapped up, he rejoined his family, who had recently moved to White Rock to further his sister’s dance training.

He conceived of and produced a live show full of dance and song, 77 Minutes, which premiered at the 2006 Vancouver International Dance Festival to record crowds.

That, along with other work he has done, put him on the radar of 2010 Olympic opening ceremony organizers.

“I have a dance company out here, we have done a bunch of shows so that popu-

larity got me an email from them, requesting my assistance with their volunteer tap auditions.” Jellison said.

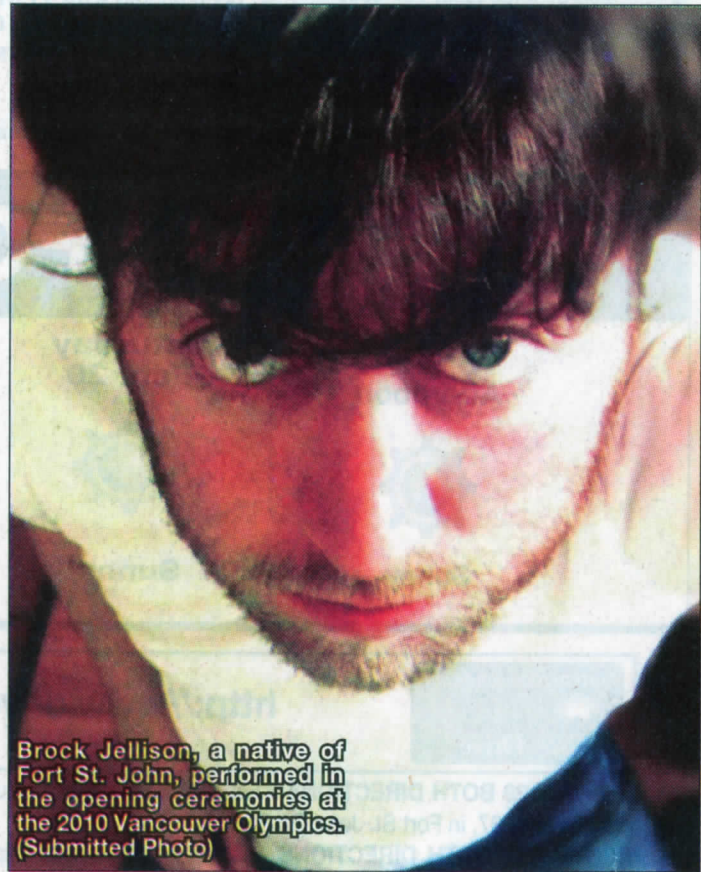
“We auditioned about 4,000 people, it was crazy.”

During a break in auditions, Jellison found himself chatting with a one of the producers.

“I was with Ignatius Jones at a cafeteria and he said he was looking for a fusion of Celtic dance, Irish hard shoe, clogging and tap dancing...I told him that I was the guy he should hire for the choreography, he gave me a cheeky look and walked away.”

Jellison was soon invited to join the team.

• SEE JELLISON ON A3



**Brock Jellison, a native of Fort St. John, performed in the opening ceremonies at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. (Submitted Photo)**

Feb 19 2010

# Jellison still flying high from performance

• CONT. FROM A1

David Atkins, another producer, pitched a different idea that Jellison felt qualified for.

"He said he wanted a soloist, a character he saw. I told him the same thing, I said 'I think I am the guy for the job and would very much appreciate an invitation to that audition.'"

He got the role despite stiff competition from nine other dancers.

After a lot of choreography and practice, the opening ceremonies finally arrived on Feb. 12.

"To be honest I was thinking, 'Slow down,' I was so pumped up I didn't want to rush. Other than that, it was a real trip to walk out and have 65,000 people screaming. It vibrates through your entire body, I don't have a word in my vocabulary that can sum it up," Jellison said.

"It is almost a week later and I am still not quite on the ground yet."

He thinks this could be one of those defining moments in his life.

"I hope this will be the point in my life that catapults me into where I have always wanted to be, I want this, to be that memory."

To young people, his message is straightforward.

"While you are young keep your hands busy, try a lot of things...but if you find something you love to do, do it. It doesn't matter how much money you make. Keep swinging until there is nothing left to hit and when you get there, turn around and start swinging some more."