

Watt School of Irish Dance gears up for World Championships

FORT ST. JOHN — Every year as April approaches, Irish dancers from around the globe gear up to attend the most prestigious dance event of the season, the World Irish Dance Championships. This annual competition, or Feis as they say in the world of Irish dance, represents the last hurdle of dancers who have already participated in a regional qualifying competition and been selected to represent their region on the world stage.

This spring three local talents from the Watt School of Irish Dance will represent the Western Canadian Region at this major event.

Hailey McGuire, Stevie Mazur and Patricia Robertson will be heading to the World Championship to represent not only their country and region, but also Fort St. John.

These seasoned dancers have achieved numerous successes within the competition circuit, with all three taking the podium at the 2009 qualifying. These achievements are the result of the admirable persistence and impeccable work ethic, both of which are driven by the dedication to the art of Irish dance.

These young ladies would normally be packing their bags for a trip across the Atlantic to the Emerald Isle, but this year the flight will be a little shorter as 2009 marks the first time in history that the World Irish Dance Championship will be staged outside of Europe. North America will be looking to do this event justice and certainly kick off on the right foot with over 2,000 dancers performing at the renowned Kimmel Centre for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. For each of these dancers the World Irish Dance Championships taking place in will represent the ultimate challenge when the opportunity to take the stage comes knocking.

Back in Fort St. John, the younger dancers of the Watt School will be



submitted photo

Watt School of Irish Dance members Ciara Watt, Crystal McDonald, 16-year-old Stevie Mazur, 15-year-old Patricia Robertson, 17-year-old Hailey McGuire and teacher Jo Watt T.C.R.G. at the Western Canadian Qualifier.

cheering their senior counterparts all the way, while taking inspiration as they look to forge their way to future World Championships.

Bailey Haugan, Sarah Scott, Megan Hanson, Lindsay Surerus, Erin Gee, Paula Brash, and Jessie and Robyn Bickford all recently returned for competition on Edmonton with medals and trophies

abound. With the Watt School achieving success not only at regional competition but also at international, 2009 promises to be an

exciting year

*SUBMITTED BY CIARA WATT AND
LAURENCE WARRINER ON BEHALF OF
THE WATT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE*



Contributed photo

Above: Fort St John's Taylor deChamplain (#185) performs at the Edmonton Feis during the Valentine's Day weekend. Below: Pomeroy School of Irish Dance's Jessica Telizyn #497 and Shaun Parks #401 await their turns to dance at a feis in Edmonton at the River Cree Casino.





Hailey McGuire, Patricia Robertson and Stevie Mazur practice their world class moves with other dancers from the Watt School of Irish Dance.

Kelly Lapointe/AHN

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Irish Dancers progress to North American Nationals

FORT ST. JOHN -- The Pomeroy Academy of Irish Dance is pleased to announce that two Fort St. John Dancers have qualified to compete in the North American Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee in July 2009. Sisters, Marin and Callan White were born and raised in Fort St. John and have been Irish dancing for eight years. They have just recently started competing and quickly have advanced to the level where they can now compete nationally. Both girls work very hard to dance at this level.

Practice must be done daily and both girls still have been able to maintain honor roll status in Junior High. Both girls are working very hard to raise the money needed to attend this competition by collecting bottles and doing odd jobs for various people. If you have bottles that need to be recycled or have after-school jobs for these girls they would be very interested in earning the money necessary to attend the National Competition.

-Contributed



Contributed photo
The two sisters who have been Irish dancing for eight years, Marin and Callan White, will compete in the North American Nationals in July.



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

FANCY FOOTWORK

Dancers from the Pomeroy Academy of Irish Dance provided entertainment at the SuperWalk for Parkinson's disease at Northern Lights College on Sunday.

