



FEB 6, 1984

Sue Popesku was one of those citizens who received an honourable mention during Saturday night's Citizen of the Year awards at the Musher's Ball. She was cited for her dedication in promoting the arts locally. Accepting her plaque, she said that it was wonderful for the community to recognize contributions in this way, but that she felt herself to be just one of many who had contributed and accepted on behalf of all.

Popesku promotes Pavilion show

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By Shelley Browne

Peace Country people have good reason to be proud of their area of the province — and the time has come to show that pride.

The B.C. Pavilion, a 6039 square-metre exhibit space on the Expo 86 site, will showcase the different regions of the province during the world transportation and communication fair being held in Vancouver May 2 to October 13, 1986.

Each of the nine tourist regions in British Columbia will be highlighted in a regional week in the main plaza of the B.C. Pavilion. Themes or storylines which make a statement about the unique and indiginous character of each area will be portrayed by regional performers during these weeks.

Communities in the individual regions will have 15 to 20 minutes to show the rest of the world why their area of Expo's host province is so special.

POPESKU HIRED

Regional Program Producers have been hired to assist each region in the preparation of its show. Region H, the tourist area into which Fort St. John falls, is represented by producer Sue Popesku.

Popesku is responsible for locating talent to represent Region H at the world fair next summer.

Since being hired in July, Popesku has already introduced many communities in her region to the opportunity they have to showcase their areas at the B.C. Pavilion next summer.

She has been travelling throughout Region H — the area of

northeastern B.C. north of McLeod Lake and south of the Yukon border — and encouraging individuals and groups to become involved in their region's week at Expo.

"It is very important to make people aware of the regional weeks being held at the B.C. Pavilion during Expo because we want everyone who wishes to have an opportunity to audition," Popesku said in an interview last week.

AUDITIONS HELD

Auditions for regional week programs will be held in the January to March, 1986, time period. Applications for regional auditions must be submitted to regional producers by September 30, 1985.

The audition deadline doesn't mean performances must be ready for the stage by end of September, Popesku said. Performers will still have until January to refine and polish their acts.

"We want to start scheduling auditions for the New Year so we must have all names in by the end of next month. People still have four or five months to work on their performances, however," Popesku said.

Other than the stipulation that performers reflect the theme or nature of their region, there are few restrictions on performance proposals.

MANY CATEGORIES

Performance categories can include music, dance, theatre (short sketches), native, multicultural, storytelling, sport performance (figure skating or gymnastics, for example), and

general entertainment.

In addition to presenting their individual 15 to 20 minute performances at various times throughout the week, people representing the different communities of each region will also join together for their Regional Show, a communal extravaganza in which all the performers from each region participate.

REGIONAL SHOW

Regional Shows will be interspersed throughout the various community group and individual performances during each regional week.

While these shows will be researched and produced by Pavilion staff, regions are encouraged to suggest themes for their area's show. As with the individual performances, themes which reflect the unique nature of each region are being sought.

As well as coordinating talent for the individual and group performances, Popesku is also responsible for canvassing Region H for ideas for its Regional Show.

MAGNITUDE

"Region H is known for magnitude, for big things," Popesku said. "The oil industry, the Bennett Dam, the Alaska Highway, our big game hunting — all of these things represent largeness."

"We're looking for ideas that we can call our own, ideas that specifically reflect the unique nature of our region and its people, places and activities," Popesku said. "The more creative and imaginative these ideas are, the better."

In suggesting possible theme

concepts, Popesku said that Region H is widely known for its magnitude.

"The oil industry, Bennett Dam Alaska Highway, wide sky country and our big game hunting — all of these things represent largeness."

Popesku also referred to the northern lights and festivals such as Mukluk Rendezvous as potential ideas around which to build the script for Region H's show.

WELL-KNOWN PLAYWRIGHT

John Gray, a well-known Canadian playwright who penned such pieces as 'Billy Bishop Goes to War', will write the script for Region H's show. Gray met with representatives from the various communities in Region H earlier this week to discuss script ideas for the Regional Show.

Fort St. John will be treated to a special preview of all the skits and acts, including the Regional Show, being performed at the B.C. Pavilion next summer by Region H representatives. Heritage Festival '86 will showcase all Region H Pavilion appearances next July.

Approximately 300 performers and technical support crew will represent each region during its week at the Pavilion.

Performers will be provided with honorariums for travel expenses, free admission to Expo each performance day and a complimentary three-day pass to the exposition site.

Further information about B.C. Pavilion activities and auditions may be obtained by contacting Sue Popesku at Fort St. John's B.C. Pavilion Office at 785-1986.