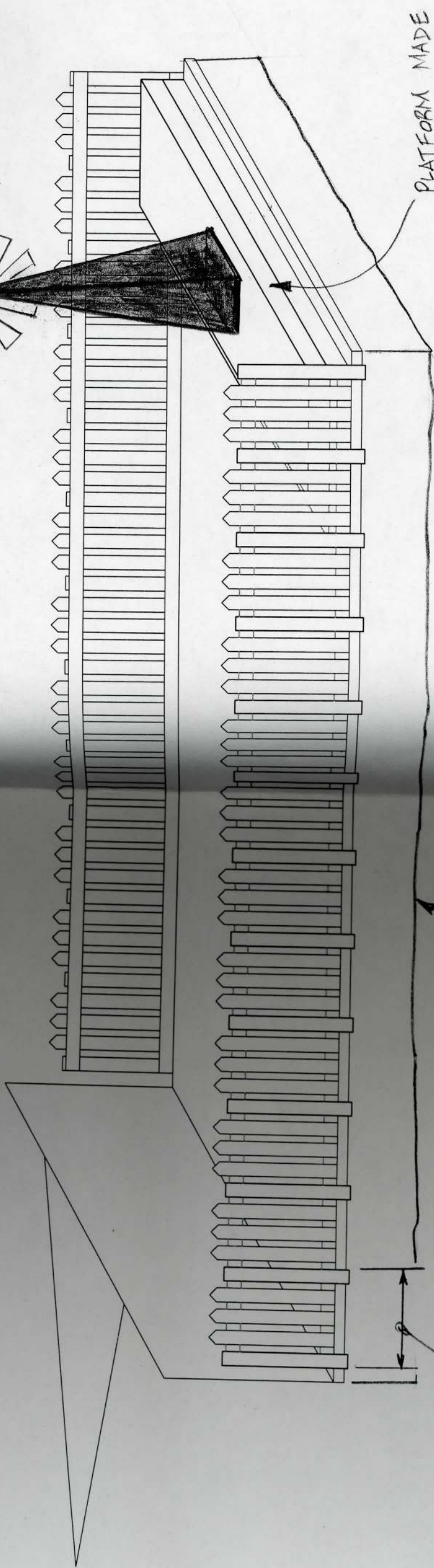
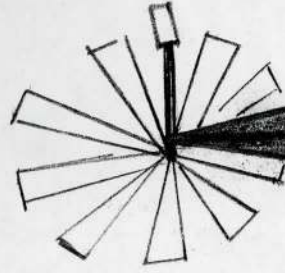
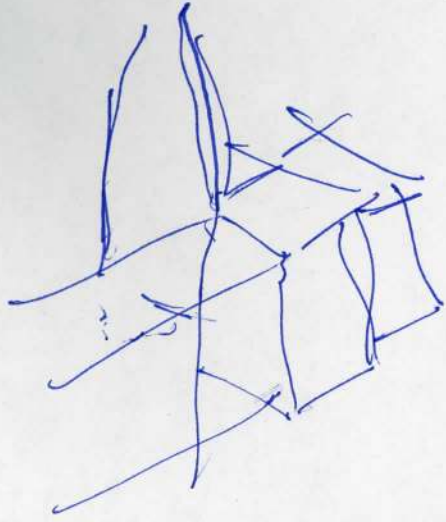


12:00 Sunday  
7:00 AM - Monday



PLATFORM MADE  
OF TWO 6" HIGH  
RISERS

SKIRT

REMOVABLE SECTION  
FOR RIDER ACCESS

TRAILER - 25' x 8'

WTP 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FLOAT  
FOR 2009 LITTLE BRITCHES PARADE



# Little Britches parade results

The Little Britches parade was a great success despite the weather. A total of 76 entries graced the streets of High River. This includes floats, riding groups, shriners and other clubs and organizations. According to Lynette McCracken, executive director of the High River Chamber of Commerce, this year's parade took one hour and 11 minutes because it was a little smaller than previous years.

"Some of the big bands cancelled out," she said. "However, very few cancellations over all."

McCracken is quite pleased overall with the parade turnout saying "people lined the streets."

However, George Lane Park's beef on a bun luncheon didn't see the turnout they were expecting.

According to Lions club member Murray Phillips, only 20 customers braved the pouring rain to chow down in George Lane Park.

Parade results were as follows:

## Best Overall

- UFA

## Best Commercial Float in Town

- Servus Credit Union
- Highwood Golf & Country Club
- On Second Thought

## Best Commercial Float, Out of Town

- Town of Okotoks
- MD of Foothills #31
- Action Auger

## Organizations — Churches

- Salvation Army

- Gideons International
- **Organizations**
- Step 'n Fun Line Dancers
- High River Handicraft Guild
- Windmill Theatre Players
- **Organizations — Schools**
- High River Nursery School
- Brant Christian School
- Holy Spirit Academy
- **Organizations — Youth**
- Scouts
- Four Directions Foster Parent Association/Calgary Junior Star Dancers

## Wagons

- Western Life
- North West Mounted Police — Red Serge
- Four Directions

## Riding Group

- Fort Calgary
- Millarville Riding Group
- High River Stetsons 4-H Club

## Walking Groups

- Cadets
- High River Baseball
- Parent Link

## Antique Cars, Trucks & Tractors

- Nanton Booster
- Gerrit Top Vintage Car
- Dee Alta Tires Limited — Antique Tractor

## Honourable Mentions

- Town of High River

## Honourable Mention Kids Choice

- High River McDonalds Restaurant



The Cadets and Parent Link won prizes for best walking group.



The Step 'n Fun Line dancers were recognized for their fun attitude.



Holy Spirit Academy students wave to the crowd of parade goers.

Photos by  
Kevin Rushworth



Servus Credit Union's float won for best commercial float in town.



Windmill Theatre Players kept the parade crowd entertained.



Gitter's Pub entertained parade goers with some tunes.





# Windmill Theatre Players

presents

# BYEBYE BIRDIE

Book by Michael Stewart, lyrics by Lee Adams, and music by Charles Strouse

Bye Bye Birdie is presented through arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

## Dinner Theatre

Nov. 19, 20, 21, 26 & 27, 2009

Adults: \$45.00 Children 14 and under: \$35.00

Doors open at 6:00pm, Curtain 8:00pm

## Regular Theatre

Sunday Matinee: Nov. 22, 2009

All tickets: \$12.00 Doors open at 1:30pm, Curtain 2:00pm

Evening Performance: Nov. 28, 2009

Adults \$15.00, Students & Seniors \$12.00

Doors open at 7:30pm, Curtain 8:00pm

## To Purchase Tickets

(Dinner Theatre & Regular Theatre)

Contact: **Celia**

**Tel:** 403-652-7913

**Email:** wtp@shaw.ca


All performances at the Highwood Memorial Centre, High River

[www.windmilltheatreplayers.com](http://www.windmilltheatreplayers.com)







 35  
WTP

# BYEBYE BIRDIE

Book by Michael Stewart, lyrics by Lee Adams, and music by Charles Strouse  
Bye Bye Birdie is presented through arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

November 19 - 28, 2009  
Highwood Memorial Centre, High River







OCT. 14 / 2009

REGIONAL

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presents





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Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

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Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts 787-REG63739

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Doors open at 7:30pm, Curtain 8:00pm

All performances at the  
Highwood Memorial Centre, High River

28 • Wednesday November 18, 2009 • Okotoks Western Wheel



**A GOOD POINT** — Rose Alvarez, played by Okotoks' Breighanne Brandford, lets Albert F. Peterson know a thing or two in Windmill Theatre Players' Bye, Bye, Birdie. Peterson is played by Jim Goodwin of Aldersyde. The Windmill Theatre Players' production of Bye Bye Birdie opens its two-week run at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River on Nov. 19 and continues to Nov. 28. See page 26 for show schedule. *photo by Bruce Campbell*



# Vulcanites join *Bye Bye Birdie* cast

BY SIMON DUCATEL

CONTRIBUTOR

*Bye Bye Birdie*, a musical stage performance that was originally a Broadway show in 1960, has since been remade into movie and television versions, and has also become a popular choice for theatre groups.

The Windmill Theatre Players (WTP) held auditions for its own production of the musical, and one Vulcanite and one former resident have parts.

But it wasn't until the first rehearsal that they discovered which parts they'd play.

"I was pretty pumped," said Tayte Mitchell, who got cast as Conrad Birdie, the show's lead role, about being selected after auditions. "I like the songs — they're pretty funny."

Being on a stage performing has always appealed to him, and a successful performance with WTP in another show last

year prompted Mitchell to audition again this year.

Ex-Vulcanite Richelle Flitton, who now lives in High River, also auditioned for the WTP production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, and while hers isn't the lead role, her character Gloria Rasputin plays a pivotal role in one scene, she said.

Having done several other shows in previous productions with WTP, Flitton, who enjoys musical theatre, said being a part of something like *Bye, Bye, Birdie* is good community involvement.

"We're just getting really busy with rehearsals now," she said. "The show's starting to come together, it should be a lot of fun."

Musicals usually have difficult music, but it's all about having fun, said Mitchell.

"I don't think of it as a challenge," he said. "If you do your part and everyone does their part, you just have a blast!"

Being part of a production with people

who have a passion for entertaining and performing on stage is partly what motivates Mitchell.

"Everybody's got a good vibe," he said, adding that it can rub off.

But as much as it helps to feed off of other people's energy, stage performers also need some innate talent.

"You must have a knack for remembering the lines and choreography and be able to carry a tune all at the same time," Flitton said.

*Bye Bye Birdie* takes place in the late '50s, and is a kind of spin off of the Elvis Presley phenomenon, she said.

But the story is not about Elvis himself, but rather fictional rock star Conrad Birdie, which is a word play on the name of Conway Twitty, a country music star who was also a rival of the King.

Part of the look into American society of the '50s includes an exploration of the impact the mainstream introduction of telephones

had on teenagers, Flitton said.

A musical number in the production is actually dedicated to the phone craze that developed when the new technology became part of every day life, she added.

"It's a really, really fun show," Flitton said.

The cast and crew have been rehearsing at the Highwood Memorial Centre — where the show itself will take place — in High River on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

There will be dinner theatre performances on Nov. 19-21 and on Nov. 26 and 27 starting with supper at 6 p.m. and the show starting at 8 p.m.

There will be a matinee at 2 p.m. on Nov. 22, and a regular evening performance on Nov. 28 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the Nov. 28 performance are available by contacting Celia Penman of WTP at 403-652-7913.

"Come see it!" said Mitchell.

**CHAMBER** of  
**COMMERCE**  
H·I·G·H·R·I·V·E·R  
& D·I·S·T·R·I·C·T

The High River &  
District Chamber of Commerce  
cordially invite you to attend our

**2009 Annual General Meeting  
President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony**

**Friday, November 6, 2009**

**HIGHWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**

**5:30 PM Mix & Mingle**

***Wine Tasting - Dinner - Entertainment***

Entertainment provided by

**The Windmill Theater Performers**

*Sneak a Peek - showcasing their November Production 'Bye-Bye Birdie'*

**Tickets \$35 per person**

*payment can be made by cash, cheque or visa*

*Table reservations available (8/table)*

*10% early bird discount prior to October 19- 2009*

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CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

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**Contacts**

Servus Credit Union

Jim Dayman 403-652-2919 e-mail [jdayman@communitysavings.ca](mailto:jdayman@communitysavings.ca)

Western Mortgage Services Inc

Yousra Jomha 403-652-1997 e-mail [yjomha@shaw.ca](mailto:yjomha@shaw.ca)

Chamber office

Lynette 403-652-3336 e-mail [hrdcc@telus.net](mailto:hrdcc@telus.net)

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**Prime Rib - Chicken - Vegetarian Meal**



Okotoks Western Wheel • Wednesday November 18, 2009 • 25

Western Wheel

# Scene

• people • visual arts • theatre • music • literature • film •



# Rockin' score keeps play rollin'

By Rick Northrop  
STAFF REPORTER

The Windmill Theatre Players are bringing a Tony Award-winning play to High River.

Bye Bye Birdie, which says a big hello to the rock 'n' roll sounds of the 50s, opens at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River starting Nov. 19.

Okotokian Heather Avis, who plays Edna, the wife of the Mayor of Sweet Apple, the fictional small town setting of Bye Bye Birdie, said all generations should appreciate the musical even though the music emanates from the rock 'n' roll heyday of Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Chubby Checker.

"I think it's going to be a good play to appeal to most ages, there will something in it for them whether it's the costumes or the style of music," said Avis.

Bye Bye Birdie won the Tony Award for best musical in 1961 and follows an

Elvis-like figure, Conrad Birdie, who decides to give a fan club member one last kiss before going off to war.

Taryn Mader, a first-year member of the Windmill Theatre Players, is part of the play's chorus. She said the young high school-aged cast understands the 50s era music despite not being born until after Elvis died.

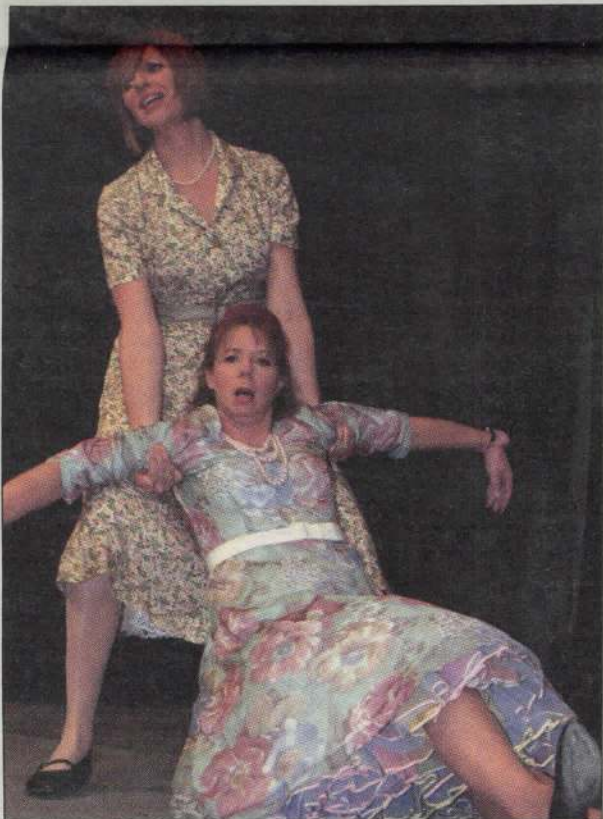
"I mean it's all pop culture, they all know it. It's great to see them getting involved with it," said Mader.

The cast has been practicing three nights a week since September and with opening night fast approaching Mader said she is feeling some nerves.

"I'm just realizing that it's coming up pretty quick and we only have a couple run throughs left until we start," said Mader.

Avis' character swoons over the handsome young Birdie when he comes to town. A role Avis said is small, but fun.

*Continued on page 26*



The mayor's wife Edna, played by Heather Avis, is dragged off stage by a Sweet Apple resident, played by Richelle Flitton. Edna had been swooning over Conrad Birdie in Windmill Theatre Players' production of Bye Bye Birdie.

*photo by Bruce Campbell*