

Bye Bye Birdie opens Friday, continued from page 25

Avis is also feeling the jitters as opening night approaches.

"There's always nerves, absolutely. But it's just exciting to finally get it to the full production and to be able to put our costumes and makeup on

and really feel the characters," said Avis.

Neither cast member has been a part of a Bye Bye Birdie production previously but Avis does have a tenuous connection: her brother was part of a high school produc-

tion of the musical. The Alberta High School of Fine Arts in Okotoks did Bye Bye Birdie as part of their Main Stage program recently.

Bye Bye Birdie will have a two-week run at the High-

wood Memorial Centre ending with an evening performance Nov. 28. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$15 or \$12 for students and seniors.

Dinner theatre performances take place Nov. 19, 20,

21, 26 and 27.

Tickets are \$45 or \$35 for children 14 and under. The doors open at 6 p.m. A Sunday matinee is scheduled for Nov. 22. All tickets are \$12 and the doors open at 1:30 p.m.

The Broadway production of Bye Bye Birdie opened on April 14, 1960 starring Dick Van Dyke, who also starred in the 1963 film adaptation, as Albert Peterson.

rnorthrop@okotoks.greatwest.ca

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

HIGH RIVER TIMES

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bye Bye Birdie brings an army of seamstresses

■ *Second show on tonight*

BY DARLENE GOODWIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Putting on a musical is a huge undertaking and requires a great deal of time and commitment on the part of numerous volunteers. There are more than 27 dresses in Windmill Theatre Players' production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.

With a cast of 44 people playing multiple roles, Joann Newton, costumer, has created three times the number of outfits for this show.

Along with an army of seamstresses, Newton designed, cut and sewed clothing that would have been worn in the late 1950s.

The bevy of young gals in this show sport poodle skirts, rompers and leggings that seem

to come right out of a 1958 Sears catalogue. Complete with vintage hats, purses and gloves, the ladies have gone retro.

Putting together appropriate attire for the male cast members didn't create the same challenge; however finding just the right narrow tie, suit and argyle vest kept Newton busy.

During production, Nancy Barton and Erin Suitor take on the challenge of creating hairstyles appropriate for that time period, styles such as beehives, French rolls and the classic ponytails.

Also paying attention to detail is Christina Ersson, properties manager. Vintage suitcases, rotary dial telephones and a chrome kitchen table help take the story of Conrad Birdie, played by Tayte Mitchell, back to 1958 when he was drafted into the US Army. To complement the musical numbers, choreographers Taryn Mader and Karen (Lawrence) Stevenson

created dances and moves that add interest and fun to the songs sung by the teens and adults.

Musical accompaniment for rehearsals as well as performances is provided by Jan Darrah on piano, Christina Nickel on keyboard and Katie Colosimo on flute and bassoon.

Lighting and sound are being handled by the extremely capable Jamus Scheiris.

Once performances begin, Stage Manager Greg Smyth and assistant Stage Manager Jamie Penman run the show from behind the curtains.

Finally there are the parents who have spent numerous hours driving cast members back and forth to rehearsals. Their support is crucial to the success of a show like this as is the support of the community.

To purchase tickets for *Bye Bye Birdie*, contact Celia Penman at 403-652-7913.

Windmill Theatre starts rehearsals



Photos by Angela Hill

(Above) Alyshia Hobday, left, and Breighanne Branford rehearse the song "What did I ever see in him?" for the Windmill Theatre Players upcoming musical *Bye, Bye, Birdie* on Wednesday evening.

(Right) Breighanne Branford, who plays the character of Rose Alvarez, started rehearsals with the 46-member cast during the first week of September.



■ Elvis-inspired musical to hit the Memorial stage in November

BY ANGELA HILL

TIMES EDITOR

High River's Windmill Theatre Players are back on stage at the Memorial Theatre preparing for their upcoming musical *Bye, Bye, Birdie*.

Bye, Bye, Birdie is set in 1958 and was inspired by the phenomenon of popular singer Elvis Presley and his draft notice into the Army in 1957. The rock star's name in the musical is Conrad Birdie, which is a word play on the name of the popular country star Conway Twitty.

Prior to Birdie going overseas, his agent's secretary

Rose Alvarez comes up with a last-ditch publicity stunt to have Birdie record a song before he joins the Army.

Alvarez and agent Albert Peterson plan to have Birdie sing his new song "One Last Kiss" and give one lucky girl from his fan club a real "last kiss" on the *Ed Sullivan Show* before going into the Army. The kiss doesn't go over as planned and soon police become involved and a fight between teenagers and adults ensues.

Windmill Theatre's production of this Tony-award winning success has a cast of 46 players from Calgary, Claresholm, High River and Vulcan. According to Celia Penman, co-director, all actors have been in shows before and will be well known to residents.

Actors such as High River's Alyshia Hobday, who plays the girl to be kissed, and Breighanne Branford, who plays Rose Alvarez, are two of the 46 players back to entertain the crowds.

Steve Penman, co-director, said Windmill chose to do *Bye, Bye, Birdie* because he thought it would be "fun."

"We try to choose a show where kids and adults can be in it," said Penman. "We have a mom, a dad and two kids in this show."

Windmill Theatre Players will be presenting regular performances of *Bye, Bye, Birdie* on Nov. 19, 20 and 21. In addition, there will be a matinee performance on Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. with tickets at \$12, and one evening performance on Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. with tickets at \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

Payment for tickets must be received prior to Nov. 2 and refunds cannot be made after this date. Tickets for all performances went on sale on Oct. 5.

To make your dinner theatre reservations call Celia Penman at 403-652-7913 or order by e-mail at wtp@shaw.ca.

Local gets chance to meet country legend

BY EVAN CAREEN

TIMES REPORTER

A young woman from High River is getting the chance of a lifetime. Mallory McCredie is one of 25 finalists chosen to battle it out for the title of Reba McEntire's "Ultimate Fan."

The contest is held by Country Music Television (CMT) and the finalists entered a three-minute video about why they are the "Ultimate Fan." McCredie said she found out about the contest at the last minute.

"A friend of mine called me about three hours before the contest closed, so I was in a bit of a rush," she said. "I had to come up with the idea for the video, shoot it and enter it in just three hours."

For the video she did a "how to" video on how to cook McEntire's favourite meal, lasagna.

"I did some research, found out her favourite meal, which

luckily my mom had given me the day before (lasagna) and put different Reba song titles in what I was saying," said McCredie.

She found out she was a finalist on the website and said she was surprised.

"I didn't even know if I had the video in on time," she said. "I was so happy, if I won I wouldn't even know what to do."


The winner would get tickets for two to Nashville for three nights and attend the Country Music Awards. They would also meet McEntire and CMT would do a show on their experience. McCredie said her mother is probably the real "Ultimate Fan" and is whom she would take with her if she won. The 20-year-old said she wouldn't even know what she would say to McEntire if she met her.

"I would be awestruck," she said. "Although my mom would probably be asking most of the questions anyway."

McCredie said she has been telling everyone to vote,

which can be done as many times as you like. To vote for McCredie go to www.cmt.ca/ultimatefanaccess.

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANGELA HILL
TIMES EDITOR

The Windmill Theatre Players' version of the Broadway musical *Bye Bye Birdie* opened up on Thursday to a standing ovation proving it's a sure fire hit from start to finish.

The original production of this 1960 musical ran for 607 performances on Broadway, partly because Dick Van Dyke and Chita Rivera were so good in it and partly because Charles Strouse-Lee Adam's score was so immacutely crafted. After viewing the opening night of Windmill's revival of this farce about the coming of

rock 'n' roll to small-town America, one could see the potential for its own long musical run.

From the brilliant acting by such actors as Jim Goodwin as Albert Peterson and his love interest Rose Alvarez played by Breighanne Brandford to the hauntingly beautiful voice of Alyshia Hobday who played Kim MacAfee, this show keeps the crowd captivated throughout its two and a half hour musical comedy.

Tayte Mitchell played an excellent Conrad Birdie, drawing in the teenage girls as well as their mothers with his swinging hips and Elvis-like hairdo. Speaking of mothers, Nicole Lejeune's portrayal of Mrs.

Peterson, an overbearing, and interfering mother, had the audience in stitches as soon as she walked onto stage.

Equally as funny was Kim MacAfee's love interest Hugo Peabody, played by Jesse Primmer. Primmer's facial and body expressions of a high school boy with a major schoolboy crush was so believable and adorable that probably half the moms in the audience were ready to take him home to meet their daughters.

Not to be forgotten were the Conrad Birdie fan club members. The girls love for a rock 'n' roll star heading off to war, so reminiscent of the days of Elvis and the Beatles that you really felt taken back to

that era — from screaming every time Birdie crossed their path, to swooning and fainting when he shook his hips, they were true "fans."

Although the acting and singing was superb, the real star of this musical has to be the costumes. Costumer Joann Newton, along with her army of seamstresses, deserve a standing ovation for her 1950s fashion replications of poodle skirts, rompers and leggings, which enabled the audience to travel back in time with ease.

Windmill Theatre Players' revival of *Bye Bye Birdie* will be at the Highwood Memorial Centre until Saturday. To purchase tickets, contact Celia Penman at 403-652-7913.



Mrs. Peterson, played by Nicole Lejeune, tries to make her son Albert, played by Jim Goodwin, feel guilty for even thinking of loving his ever-faithful assistant Rose Alvarez.



Rose Alvarez, played by Breighanne Brandford, has been waiting for eight years for Albert to shrug off his overbearing mother, but when it seems it will never happen, she decides to leave him.



Conrad Birdie played by Tayte Mitchell leans in to give Kim MacAfee, played by Alyshia Hobday, a kiss with MacAfee's father, played by Herb Haekel, supervising.

High River TIMES

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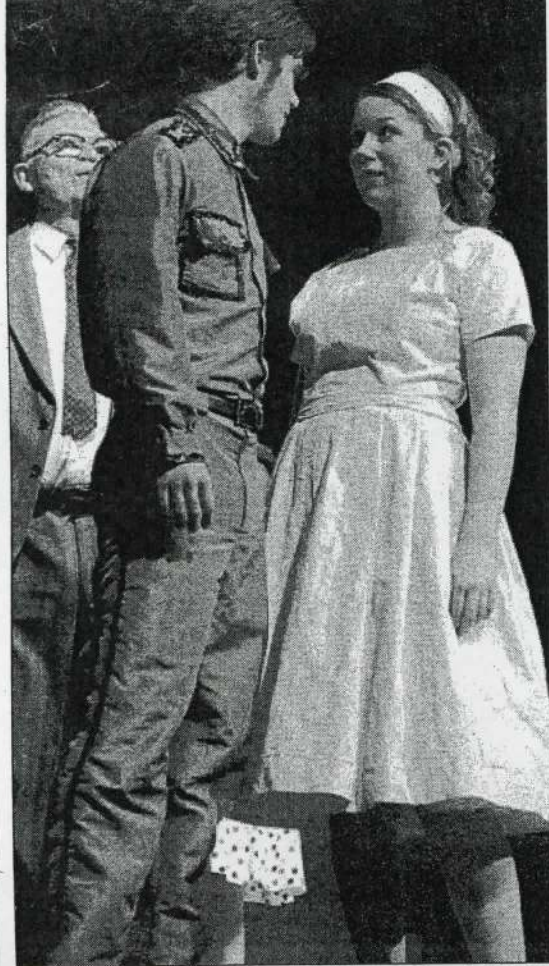
Photo by Angela Hill

BYE BYE BIRDIE — Conrad Birdie played by Tayte Mitchell gets his female fans dancing and swooning during Thursday night's performance of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Turn to Page 14 for more coverage.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

VULCAN ADVOCATE

BYE BYE BIRDIE...



Conrad Birdie, played by Vulcan's Tayte Mitchell, leans in to give Kim MacAfee, played by Alyshia Hobday, a kiss with MacAfee's father, played by Herb Haekel, supervising. The performance of *Bye Bye Birdie*, a satirical musical theatre play that dates back to the days of Elvis, recently took place in High River.

Angela Hill photo

Windmill Theatre Players
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H.R. TIMES

DEC. 31 / 09

Local girls take the stage in High River's Windmill Theatre Players

Three talented musicians are singing and dancing this week in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, set in 1957 and inspired by Elvis Presley's story

By Alicia Fox
Local Press Writer

Three girls are keeping busy acting, singing, and dancing at the Windmill Theatre Players in High River as they have secured roles in a musical entitled *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Camille Blott, 12, Gloria Boyle, 11, and her sister Emily Boyle, 16, are actors in the play which is based on the story of Elvis Presley, who goes off to war in 1957.

The three auditioned for the parts at the beginning of the school year, and each has her own experiences on the stage.

All three take lessons from music instructor Michelle Dedominicis here in Claresholm, but this is Emily's fourth musical, as she had roles in "Seussical the Musical" and "Music Man" in High River, as well as "Singing In the Rain" at the Carriage House Theatre in Cardston last summer; the third for Gloria, who had a part in *Seussical* and "Music Man"; and the first time Blott has ever been on the big stage outside of recitals.

"I think it's so fun," Blott said. "I like doing the choreography."

Blott and Gloria, who have been great friends for years, see each other almost every day now that they have practices on Mondays, Wednesdays

and Sundays and have already begun their performances.

Opening night was Nov. 19 and there are eight in total, ending on Nov. 28.

The musical is loosely based on the life of Elvis Presley, who was drafted in 1957. Conrad Birdie, whose character takes the name from Conway Twitty, another popular singer from the era, is the love of all females who can hardly stay on their feet when he sways his hips. When he receives his draft notice, his manager Albert, who has his own problems to deal with, decides to hold a contest to write a song entitled "One Last Kiss" and present it on stage after kissing one lucky girl.

Kim, another character in the play, is the lucky girl who wins the draw but her boyfriend, Hugo, is not so pleased. When Kim tries to kiss Conway, Hugo is prompted by Albert's girlfriend, Rose, to sabotage the kiss by punching Conway, since she is angry Albert won't go against his mother's will and become an English teacher instead of a music manager.

When everything falls apart, Kim ends up taking off with Conway, Rose breaks up with Albert, and Hugo is angry with Kim but in the end every-

thing is mended and all returns to normal, including a triumphant farewell to Conway who leaves on the train. Many of the cheers, however, come from adults who are happy to see this trouble-causing star leave town.

Emily Boyle plays the part of a crazed fan and the best friend of Kim, Ursula, who goes in search of the runaway couple and finds them in a remote location where Ursula proclaims her undying love for the star.

"My character is really fun to play 'cause she's really out there," Boyle said.

She has been singing since she was four years old and wants to pursue theatre after high school, though she's still debating what school to attend.

"I've always just loved acting and singing," she said.

Both Blott and Gloria said they would like to pursue it more seriously as well.

"I do want to be in musical theatre professionally," Blott said, adding she definitely wants to be in another production and that it's a great way to meet new people.

"It's a great group to work with," Gloria said, adding, "It's especially fun to do it with your

best friend and your sister."

Both Blott and Gloria are to play teen fans of Conway's and mostly have singing and choreographed dance parts throughout the drama.

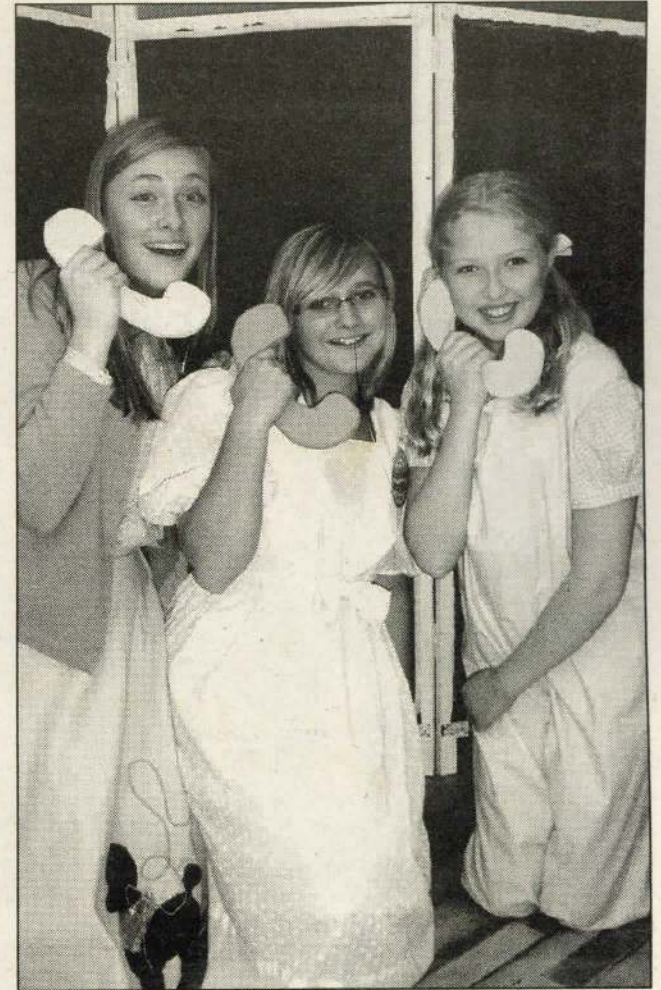
All three were very excited for opening night, each experiencing different levels of nervousness.

"I am very excited," said Emily before the big evening. "I'll probably get more nervous once I hear the crowd out there but for now I'm really excited because I know it's going to be a lot of fun."

Though the dress rehearsal didn't go very well, she said that's good luck in theatre and has high expectations for the performance nights.

Neither Blott nor Gloria felt particularly nervous, reiterating they were excited to be on stage and work with the group they've gotten to know so well.

More information about the play and tickets is available at www.windmilltheatreplayers.com



GOSSIPING - Emily Boyle, 16, Camille Blott, 12, and Gloria Boyle, 11, all have parts in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, currently playing at the Windmill Theatre Players in High River. Here, they sing "Telephone Hour" at practice. Photo submitted

Windmill review —

My wife and I took in the Windmill Theatre Players' production of *Bye Bye Birdie* on Friday at the Memorial Centre.

We were most impressed with the amount of work that must have gone into the play and how well it was presented.

This after a great buffet supper made for a wonderful evening.

Thank you,

Natalie and Alex Wilkinson

LETTERS to the EDITOR

The *High River Times* welcomes letters to the editor. Submissions must be signed, dated and include a telephone number for verification.

The *Times* reserves the right to edit submissions for taste, legality and brevity.

Mail your letter to:

The Editor

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H.R. TIMES DEC. 1/09

Regional

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

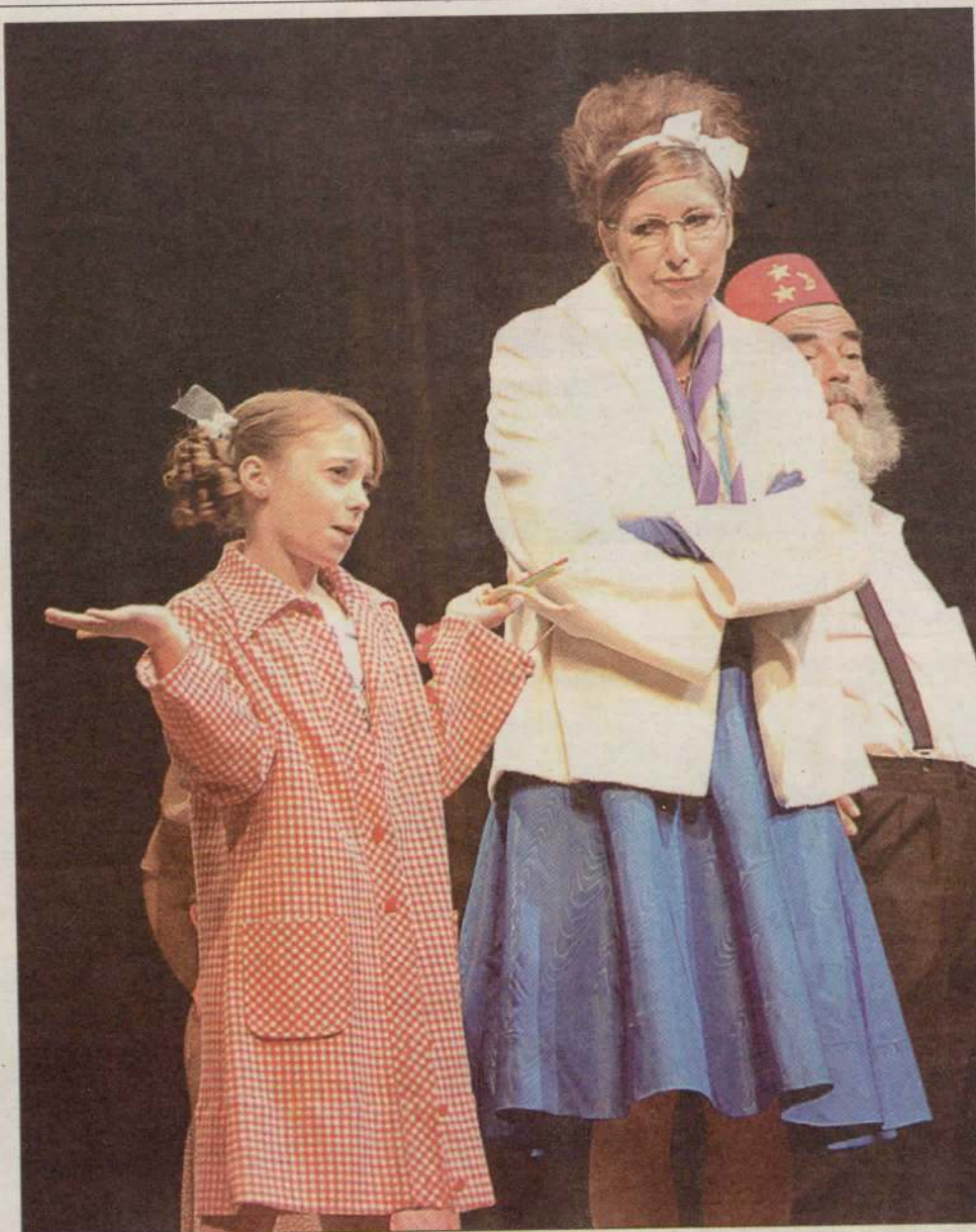
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Bye, bye birdie

PHOTO BY ANGELA HILL, HIGH RIVER TIMES

During Windmill Theatre Players' production of *Bye Bye Birdie* on Nov. 19 at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River, Kim MacAfee's little sister Randie, played by Corey-Dale Stevenson joins her mother, right, played by Charlotte Bouck, and the other parents in song about kids.



Auditions come before Opening Night

BY ALYSSA BURNHAM
TIMES REPORTER

A few good men and a trio of ladies are needed for Windmill Theatre Players' latest initiative. The High River-based community theatre group has selected *Opening Night*, a 1989 comedy by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, for their annual Spring production.

The play follows Ruth Tisdale and her reluctant theatre-going husband Jack to a play in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary and the play's director Richard as he deals backstage with a tizzy of problems and personalities. Essentially a play within a play, it's bound to garner some laughs from the real-life audience when it hits the Memorial Centre in late April, said producer

Hal Knox, who will be working closely with his wife and director Carol Knox. The couple became

involved in the Windmill Theatre Players soon after they moved to High River in 1980, helping out both on and behind the stage. Carol recently completed some courses in stage directing and is eager to undertake this responsibility with her husband.

Hal credits Carol entirely with the script selection and insists she's the "creativity" behind their pairing.

They already have a few ideas regarding set design and blocking

percolating in their minds, but Hal said specifics will have to wait until after auditions.



Things are starting to come together

— Hal Knox

"Things are starting to come together, though the key piece is once the actors are selected," he said.

The play calls for five male actors around the 40 to 55-year-old mark, and three female actresses ages 45 to 55, 30 to 40 and 20 to 25. The Knoxs truly are looking for

an all-ages, all-types cast.

Once selected, the actors and actresses will be responsible to attend up to three weekly rehearsals Sunday afternoons and

Monday and Wednesday evenings. It's a sizeable commitment, "but it's fun," said Hal. "Once you get into it, the time whizzes by."

Though the couple have never seen a live performance of *Opening Night* before, they're big fans of Foster and have seen several of his productions on stage. "They're usually fun plays — some laughing, but you still go away with thinking about a few things that are important in life, which is what theatre is supposed to be all about, at least for me anyway."

Auditions will take place Sunday at 2 p.m. and Monday at 7 p.m. Those auditioning will need only to attend one session, where they will be asked to read excerpts from the script. For more information visit www.windmilltheatreplayers.com.

Penmans are a class act

Celia Penman was born here in High River and lived here most of her life. In 1983 Steve Penman commuted to High River to work with Windmill Theatre Players (WTP.)

"I spent half my time commuting out to here to be involved in the theatre, I thought I'd rather live out here," said Steve.

Then he met Celia and knew he made the perfect choice! Celia loves the people in this town and said although it is a growing community, it

still has that small-town feel. She said the people of High River are very friendly.

"When you can say 'Hi,' to 10 people it means that it is a friendly place to be," said Celia.

Steve said the best thing about High River is that although it is a growing community there are a lot of connections that you make and keep over the years.

As many High Riverites know, the Penmans have been involved with WTP for over 25 years, helping create fantastic

works of theatre art. Celia is the treasurer and has performed in and directed several WTP productions, while Steve writes and directs many amazing plays. Likewise, Celia has also been singing beautifully with Riverwind for almost 11 years now and has been part of the High River United Church and their choir for the majority of her life. Furthermore, she works at the Delany and Co. here in town.

Steve has been on the board at the High River Centennial Library for 11



Celia and Steve Penman

years. In addition, Steve has done volunteering for Highwood high school and the Summer Games when they were in town.

The Penmans wouldn't want to make any changes to this wonderful town, but they would love to build a theatre and expand the library.

**DO YOU HAVE
SOMEONE IN MIND FOR
A SPOTLIGHT?**

If there is an individual or group that you'd like to see featured in "Spotlight," we'd like to hear from you! As for possible suggestions...the sky's the limit. It could be a profile on a local senior citizen, a student, a volunteer/group or a local athlete. You know the type, people who go that extra mile in the community. We want to acknowledge their efforts by way of this feat. E-mail the Editor of the High River Times at angela@highrivertimes.com with your suggestions.

DISCOVER High River

SPECIAL FEATURE

Torch reignites town's pioneering spirit

The town of High River and the Olympic spirit have a lot in common. Both exemplify that pioneering spirit of working hard, setting goals, and succeeding.

So when Bill Holmes Sr., a prominent member of a longtime High River-area family, was chosen to light the town's cauldron during its leg of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay tomorrow, it felt like a perfect fit.

"I'm honoured to have been selected – my grandfather came here in 1886, so we've been here awhile," says Holmes, best known for his 42 years in the local newspaper industry.

Holmes, who continues his community involvement volunteering at the local museum, says he's been following the Olympic torch's progress since it was lit in Greece three months ago, and says what it symbolizes fits in well with the spirit of High River.

"We were one of the early ranching communities in the foothills area," he says.

"Of course, we were on the railway from Lethbridge and Fort Macleod, and it was on the main route of the bull trains before that and as a stopping place where stagecoaches could rest. It has thrived through the years – we were even a training place for pilots in the Second World War."

Holmes says he's honoured to be included among other distinguished torchbearers, including lifelong town resident, businessman and 17-year volunteer firefighter Belf Quon.

Quon will be riding a restored 1908 Watrous horse-drawn fire wagon of the type that served High River a century ago. Local horseman Art Cox will man the reins.

Quon, best known for operating Quon's Grocery for 45 years, has said that the fact he'd be riding a vintage fire wagon came as a surprise, adding he'll have family coming in from as far away as Toronto and California to see him pass the torch to Holmes.

The choice of the fire wagon symbolizes the never-say-die, pioneering spirit of High River. In 1906, High River had no fire department, and a

My grandfather came here in 1896, so we've been here awhile

BILL HOLMES SR., WHO WILL LIGHT THE CAULDRON DURING THE HIGH RIVER LEG OF THE 2010 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

blaze destroyed much of the downtown core. A Watrous fire pump was then sent down from Calgary, but the town later bought its own.

The torch is expected to enter High River around 12:18 p.m., following a five-kilometre route through the town.

The route follows 12th Avenue from Highway 2 to 14th Street S.E., then heads north to go around Ecole Joe Clark School before returning back to 12th Avenue where it will continue on to the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex.

The official celebration will take place at the rec complex, including Quon's passing of the torch to Holmes and the lighting of the cauldron.

The party at the complex starts at 11:30 a.m. and continues to 1:30 p.m.

After the celebration, the torch will follow 1st Street S.W. to 9th Avenue S.W. around the hospital and onto Macleod Trail as it goes past Spitzee School and winds through downtown. It will then be taken onto Centre Street and leave the town to the north via Highway 2A.

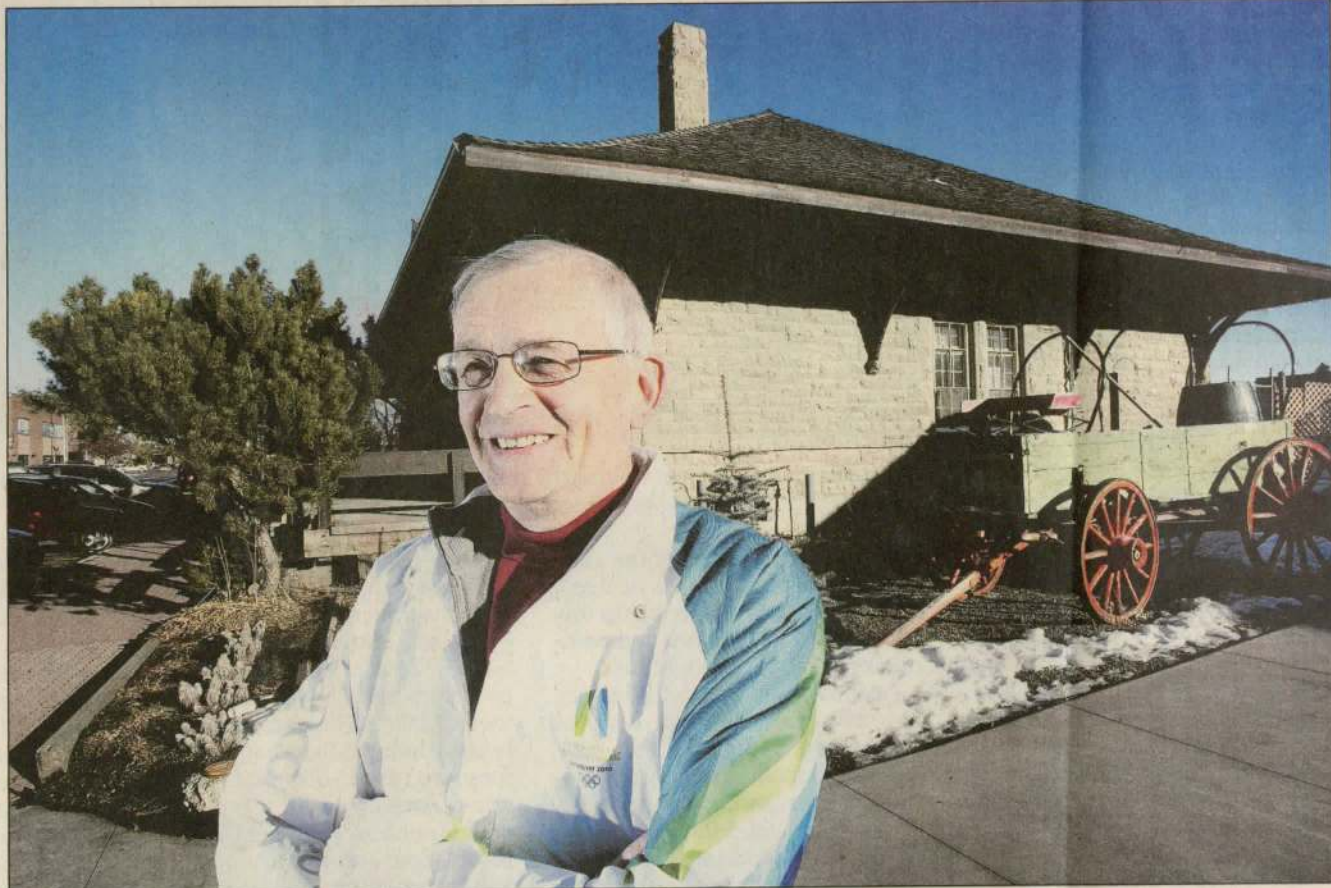
Juno and Canadian Country Music award-winner George Canyon – himself a High River-area resident – is the scheduled headline performer at the Olympic Torch Celebration.

"Having a musician of George's calibre, who is also a local resident, is especially significant," says organizing committee chair Darren Goldthorpe.

"It means a great deal to have him performing for this extraordinary celebration."

Also scheduled to perform is award-winning local singer Melanie Laine, whose hits include an new version of Queen of Hearts.

The Foothills Composite High School/Alberta High School of Fine Arts Mass Choir, and jazz bands from both High River high schools and middle school



Bill Holmes Sr. will light the cauldron during the High River leg of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. Holmes, who is best known for his 42 years in the local newspaper industry, says he's honoured to have been selected.

(It) symbolizes the never-say-die, pioneering spirit of High River

are also scheduled to perform.

With a population of more than 10,700, High River was the only centre between Lethbridge and Calgary to be chosen as a celebration community along the Olympic Torch Relay route.

The birthplace of former prime minister Joe Clark and one-time home to author W.O. Mitchell, High River is the main service hub for the many agricultural businesses, farms, and ranches in the region.

Major employers include the Cargill Foods beef-processing plant and Highwood Distillers.

Many might have also seen the scenic town and its surrounding area in shows such as CBC's Heartland and Nickelodeon's Caitlin's Way. High River also doubled for Smallville in Superman III.

For more information on the Olympic Torch Relay, including a map of the route, visit www.highriver.ca, click on News and Events, and choose Olympic Torch Celebration from the menu.



Country singer George Canyon, and High River resident, will perform at the town's Olympic Torch Relay celebrations tomorrow.



Windmill Theatre Players

COOKIES AND PLAYS
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H.R. TIMES

MAR. 5 / '10

MARCH 26, 2010

HIGH RIVER TIMES

Arts & Entertainment



Alyssa Burnham High River Times

Jacey Vincent, Braeden Pettigrew, Brittaney Hoffart and Cole Huber are straight-faced in character as the Muggle-Wumps, a family of monkeys forced into circus servitude, in Notre Dame's production of *The Twits*. The final two productions are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

NDC performs Friday

Continued from Page 6
 "It gives kids in junior high and senior high a chance to show off their skills," said puppeteer Jordan Pakenham.

Holle, Grade 10, said though she and the other performers are the ones on stage, the audience plays an important role in the production, as well.

"The show is solely based on audience participation, so the more you put in the more you get out of it," she said, noting that the interactive and thereby possibly improvised elements of the show are part of the fun.

Braeden Pettigrew, one of the Muggle-Wumps, agreed that the audience is what makes all the hard work and rehearsal time worth it.

"It's fun to see the kids' reactions when they

see the people," he said. "It's a good family thing. There's comedy, sad parts, participation and everything."

"Plus, it's admission by donation, so it's a cheap date," he said.

The Twits was performed Thursday night and will also run Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation at the door and will go to the Notre Dame Collegiate drama program.

"It doesn't matter how much, we just want bums in seats," Guenette said.

The High River Times

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Vol. 105, Issue No. 12B

Friday, March 26, 2010

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Lights, camera, action!

Jaden Holle, left, and Cameron MacCormack are the nasty, oddball title characters in Notre Dame Collegiate's production of Roald Dahl's *The Twits*. The final two productions are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Turn to Pages 6 & 7 for more coverage.

Regional ~
March 31, 2010



PHOTO BY ALYSSA BURNHAM, HIGH RIVER TIMES
Jaden Holle portrays the nasty Mrs. Twit in Notre Dame Collegiate's production of Roald Dahl's *The Twits*. The production ran March 18, 19 and 20 in High River.

NDC performs Dahl comedy

By Alyssa Burnham
TIMES REPORTER

Months of scene construction, blocking and memorization finally paid off this week as the curtain rose for Notre Dame Collegiate's production of *The Twits*.

Veering away for the first time from the musical genre, the students have spent the last three months perfecting a comedy by beloved children's author Roald Dahl. *The Twits* features a miserable, mean-spirited and obnoxious couple, played by Jaden Holle and Cameron MacCormack, who attempt to train a family of wild monkeys, called the Muggle-Wumps, to perform in a circus. While the Twits are distracted by playing a series of never-ending nasty tricks on one another, the Muggle-Wumps, hatch a plan to escape and teach their captors a lesson.

"This is like a bread and butter play," said Dan Guenette, director and drama teacher. "It is really just a good play for everyone in the family."

The production was not without its challenges, however. Bringing