

Church Groups Share Evening

Members of women's groups of Forbes Presbyterian, Christ Church Anglican and St. Paul's United Churches shared an evening of fellowship and entertainment Dec. 8.

The auditorium of St. Paul's church was gay with lighted candles and Christmas decorations.

"Mixer" games were followed by a pot-luck supper, presided over by Mrs. S. T. Pinder of St. Paul's U.C.W.

Mrs. F. W. Beairsto led a brief worship service, and Mrs. Mel Howie conducted a program of carols with Mrs. Jean O'Brien at the piano.

Mrs. Maxine Olson gave two humorous readings. Two Christmas trios - by Mrs. J. Higa, Mrs. W. Bowes and Mrs. I. Hassall, rounded out an enjoyable program.

Ladies' spiel draws 56 rinks

Fifty-six rinks will be chasing prizes in different events when the annual Grande Prairie ladies open bonspiel starts at the Grande Prairie Curling Rink tomorrow night.

Again this year the spiel is made up mostly of local rinks with just 16 of the foursomes coming from out of the city.

First curling takes place at 6 p.m. tomorrow with the final opening round games going Friday at 10 a.m. The finals will be held Sunday evening.

Saturday from 7-8:30 p.m. there will be a banquet at the

Elks Hall while Friday there is a luncheon from 11 a.m.-2:30 at the rink as well as a social Saturday. There will be bands upstairs in the rink both Friday and Saturday evenings.

Here is the opening draw:

THURSDAY

6 p.m. - Faye Gaboury vs. Cindy Klatchuk. Marg Hennigar vs. Alice Hennig. Emily Schudlo (Sex) vs. Marie Martin. Genie Larsen vs. Erna Talbot. Judi Kozak vs. Helene Stretch. Joyce Hawkes (Wem.) vs. Judi Sanders.

8 p.m. - Wanda Johnston (Wem.) vs. Vi Miller. Edna Sazwan (BL) vs. Gwen Turner. Hilda Bisgrove vs. Audrie Hennig. Lil Calvert (BL) vs. Martha Kimpe. Perky McCullough vs. Rose Sinclair. Mary Norton vs. Alvina Grove.

10 p.m. - Jill Bateman (Cal.) vs. Genie Krupka. Annabelle Funnell vs. Pat's Oil Field (Swan Hills). Betty Nellis vs. Velma Edgecombe. Marg Head vs. Joyce Brown. Bev Dunne vs. Betty Sinclair. Maxine Olson vs. Sally Bablitz

(SR).

FRIDAY

8 a.m. - Joyce Remple vs. Betty Fenton. Marg Johns vs. Alice Ross (VV). Lil Haines vs. Shirley White (BL) Shirley Buckler vs. Marg Haggart (SR). Hilda Ireland vs. Genie Hagglund.

10 a.m. - Mary Reber (VV) vs. Lorraine Sharp. Norman Gordon (VV) vs. Edna McPhail (DC). Emy Halterman vs. Audrey Anderson (ED). Ella-Mae Sawyers vs. Verna Block (SR).

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Quality of drama at music festival wins high praise

Walter Kaasa, provincial drama director who adjudicated drama during the Grande Prairie and District Music Festival, had high praise for the quality as he announced winners Friday.

"I don't know when I've seen the level of drama come up so high in a community, as the plays I have seen here this week. A few years ago it wasn't here."

"People are fighting the world over for the opportunity to learn to speak, to communicate with each other. These young people will never have to search at 40, for a way to express themselves."

The play given the top prize was "The Boy in the Meadow" a Montrose Junior High production directed by Joan Cote. The play received high commendation from the adjudicator, and a mark of 92.

The play judged a close second was "Tom Sawyer" another Montrose Junior high production, under the direction of Maxine Olson, with a mark of 90.

Chosen as the best actor for the performances was Kevin Marcy, as "Tom Sawyer" and as best actress, Sheila Patterson, who played Mary in the play "A Witch is Burning."

Honorable mention was given by Mr. Kaasa to the characters in the play "Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil." They were Phillip Hieger, as the young boy, Frank Dautel, as the blindman, and Darryl Mosley as the ballad singer.

High commendation was given Yvonne Bowman, as the grandmother in "The Boy in the Meadow" and Linda Olley as Marta in the same play.

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TOURIST BOOTH LOGS SELECTED — Logs for the city chamber of commerce tourist booth were selected yesterday from the North Canadian Forest Industries lumber division

yard. NCFI manager Roy Bickell (left), contractor **Don Olson**, chamber manager Deane Toews and Harold Harkness size up the logs, donated by NCFI. The city is donating the land

on the south side of Highway Two west of the city. An artist's conception of the building appeared in the March 9 edition of the Herald-Tribune.

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Hamilton captures second straight spiel crown

Winning the Grande Prairie men's open curling bonspiel is starting to turn into a habit for Ken Hamilton and his foursome from Grande Prairie.

Last night Hamilton and his crew made it two in a row when he defeated Marcel Joberty of the city 6-5 in the first event final.

Unlike last year's win, a 7-2 decision over Bill Scammell, Hamilton was hard-pressed to emerge the winner.

He had to take advantage of last rock to kill Joberty's counter on a take-out on the last stone of the game.

Earlier in the day Hamilton had defeated Ben-J-Holdings of Grande Prairie while Joberty advanced to the finals with a

win over Cam Cronk of the city in the Brown Brothers Clothiers first event.

Howard Schwindt of Grande Prairie laid a three-ender in the final end to defeat Hosker of Fort St John 11-8 in the second event Lee's Sheet Metal final.

Heading into the final frame the two rinks were tied at 8-8 but Schwindt filled the house with four rocks, all counters, and forced Hosker to try and make an impossible shot on his last rock. It knocked just one stone out and Schwindt picked up three.

The old master, "Uncle" Joe Storcer, executed a last-rock extra-end take-out to perfection to give his rink a 6-5 win over Herb Griffiths of Sexsmith in the Independent Insurance third event final.

Storcer had to come around a guard to take out the counting Griffiths stone in order to grab the winning point with the final rock.

It was a back and forth game all the way. Storcer scored two in the first and singles in the fourth, fifth, ninth and 11th ends while Griffiths picked up one in the first and third ends, three in the seventh and one in the tenth.

Third place in the third event went to Bob Pisatcky of Grande Prairie while fourth was won by Granco of Grande Prairie.

In the most lopsided final of the night Bryon Calvert of Beaverlodge downed Larry Johns of Grande Prairie 13-5 after nine ends in The Herald-Tribune fourth event.

Calvert was never behind in the game. He started off with two in the first end, added one in the second, three in the fourth and seventh ends and finished off with four in the ninth.

The Jack Berg-skipped Golden Star rink took third place in the fourth event while fourth went to Gerald Willis of Beaverlodge.

It took Bill Scammell of Grande Prairie just nine ends to dispose of Al Geib of the city in the Northern Van Hoy Stationers fifth event final.

Scammell, runner-up to Hamilton last year, downed the Geib foursome 8-4.



Fifth event - Skip Bill Scammell (left), third Bill Robertson, second Tom McColm, lead Don Olson.

The paper got it reversed, it should be: , lead Don Olson. second Tom McColm,

Top area musicians attend Alberta finals

Seven musicians who won honors in the recent Grande Prairie Music Festival will compete in the Alberta finals in Banff later this month.

Winners at the province-wide festival, scheduled May 26, will go on to the national competitive level.

The local finalists, chosen by adjudicators from the city and district festival include pianists Merelyn Webber and Janice Waite, cellist Laurie Hoag, viola-player Fred Mast, bassoonist Laurie Emch, trumpeter Roy Townend and Robert Mast in speech

arts.

The adjudicators did recommend other competitors but they were unable to go to Banff. They include Charlene Anderson, French horn; David Archer, trombone; Darron Berg, violin; Doug Bruestle, cello and tuba; Peter Gibson, flute; and clarinetists Marlene Kulhawe and Greg Schoepp.

Also at Banff from Grande Prairie will be music festival president Sydney Larter and festival adjudicator committee chairman Maxine Olson.



TOURIST BOOTH CONSTRUCTION — **Don Olson** wields an axe at the city chamber of commerce visitor information booth west of the city. The booth was scheduled to be opened in mid-June, but an end-of-month opening seems more realistic at this time. Work on the booth is strictly volunteer.

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City hosts Music Festivals meet

Grande Prairie won't necessarily reverberate with song at a weekend meeting of the Alberta Music Festivals Association, but decisions made will influence next spring's festival programs.

The one-day annual meeting Saturday will unite about 30 delegates, including Sydney Larter and Maxine Olson of Grande Prairie, from the city, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Camrose, Red Deer, Fort Saskatchewan and the Crowsnest Pass.

It is being hosted by Grande Prairie and district Music Festival which puts on the largest program of its kind in the Peace Country each spring.

It's a business meeting, festival association executive member Hew Kidston says.

"I believe it's the first time the annual meeting has been held outside Edmonton and Calgary," he said. "Certainly it's the first time the association has ever met in the city."

MAIN TOPICS

He said discussions were scheduled to focus on the provincial association's constitution, fees, and changes proposed for the syllabus of next year's festivals.

He indicated that instead of competitors choosing their own music from a broad list, specific selec-

tions will be set out. He said his would simplify judging and ease the availability of music for competitors.

The meeting, starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at room nine of the Grande Prairie College, is open to observers, and Mr. Kidston urged all GPMF members to try and drop in on the sessions.

There is an informal social Friday evening when the delegates arrive, and another one Saturday before they leave by bus.

It is hoped that part of the entertainment for the association will include performances by the South Peace Stage Band which was a smash hit on its formation last spring.

Balderston captures mixed spiel

A rink skipped by Gilbert Balderston won the annual closing mixed curling bonspiel held in the city curling rink last week.

Balderston's foursome topped Rodger Ireland in the first event final. Third in the first was taken by Rene Knoblauch while Doug

Stenberg took fourth.

The Lee Merlo rink defeated Ron Wolbeck in the final to win the second event. Don Olson grabbed third in the second and the Marg Strynadka-skipped Blake Gemill rink won fourth.

Marcel Joberty skipped his rink to a win over Jack Sutherland in the third event championship game. Ray Robideau took third and Larry Drysdale fourth in that event.

A total of 32 rinks took part in the spiel which began last Tuesday and ended Friday.

Smoky River boat race suffers casualties

By SHAUN FLEMING
of our staff

Two boats had to be towed across the finish line in yesterday's leg of Marathon '75, the international power boat race on the Smoky river this week.

Rod Ditch of Grande Prairie and Gerry Voight of Grande Cache are in the handicap class and both needed the tow because of drive shafts broken earlier in the day.

Co-organizer of the race Dorman Ditch of Edmonton said the problem was not uncommon with smaller boats and they would be repaired in

time to start the 72-mile leg from Smoky bridge to Watino this afternoon. They were given the time of the slowest boat reaching the finish line under its own power plus a 20-minute penalty.

Time trials for the boats in the handicap class are planned for Peace River, completion point for the 312-mile race, tomorrow. They were to be held in Grande Cache before the start of the race but this was postponed because the quarter mile distance needed was not marked out.

The 13 boats in the race are ex-

pected to leave Smoky bridge at 2 p.m. this afternoon for the trip to Watino where they will spend the night.

During the lay-over at Smoky bridge the racers and support personnel came to Grande Prairie for a beer garden, steak fry and calcutta at the County Fairgrounds last night.

A total of \$1,005 was bid during the calcutta with the largest bid being \$520 for a boat driven by Wayne Grove of Grande Prairie. He is in first place in the 21 feet or over jet boat class. The bid was made by **Don Olson** of Grande Prairie.

If Grove goes on to win the race Mr. Olson will receive a percentage of the total prize money bid on the seven boats in the class.

This is Mr. Grove's first race and he said after the bidding, "I think they have more faith in me than I have in myself."

Jim Martin of Edmonton recorded the fastest time in yesterday's leg. He now has an aggregate time of 2:41:25, almost 14 minutes ahead of Fred Chrnyk of Red Deer in second place.

Mr. Chrnyk's wife Barbara is the navigator of her husband's boat and the only female crew member in the race.

This is her first attempt at being a crew member and she said that although she isn't ready to navigate the rough water, she does fine along the smoother stretches.

A real estate saleswoman in Edmonton she was "volunteered" to do the job after the regular navigator was unable to make the trip. She said she decided to do it, "to find out what turns the guys on."

She wouldn't want to do it full time because it's too rough, she said, pointing to the numerous bruises on her arms and legs.

The aggregate standings for three laps of the races are:

A Class (open) — 1. Jim Martin, Edmonton, 2:41:25; 2. Fred Chrnyk, Red Deer, 2:54:08.

B Class (21 feet up) — Wayne Grove, Grande Prairie, 3:12:20; 2. Wayne Romans, Edmonton, 3:16:26; 3. Ken Clements, Red Deer, 3:30:1; 4. Peter Pocklington, Edmonton, 3:32:13; 5. Barry Brennand, Edmonton, 3:32:58; 6. Dave Titherington, no address, 3:51:15; 7. Gerry Moseley, Grande Prairie, 4:18:16.

C Class (handicap) — 1. Rod Ditch, Grande Prairie, 7:26:41; 2. Gerry Voight, Red Deer, 10:31:1.

D Class (outboard) — 1. Walter Buckley, Red Deer, 9:49:9.

E Class (rubber rafts) — 1. Eric Madsen, Red Deer, 6:39:32.

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C'mont Rd. strip virtually assured

By **SHAUN FLEMING**
of our staff

A change in Grande Prairie's General Plan which would create a special commercial strip for four blocks along Clairmont Rd. south is almost assured.

The area, along the west side of the road from 97 to 93 Ave., is presently designated low-and-medium-density residential but only one resident attended a public hearing at city council last night to oppose the change.

Peter von Stackelberg of 10012 - 96 Ave. said he objected to the change because it would detract from the residential qualities of the neighborhood and was not really needed.

"A commercial strip already

extends for more than 2½ miles from near the city's northern limits south to the railroad tracks," he said. "The land in this strip and in the Central Business District is not being used to its fullest possible extent."

AUTO CLINIC

The hearing and proposed change was initiated following a request by **Don Olson** of Grande Prairie to construct an automotive clinic at the intersection of 95 Ave. and Clairmont Rd. A house on the land has been moved out already.

Lawyer George Repka, speaking for Mr. Olson, agreed with Mr. von Stackelberg's comment that there was a good deal of land available on Clairmont Rd. north and downtown, but added that most of this was either overpriced or badly

situated for a commercial venture.

Mr. Repka added he was not sure the property involved should remain residential. The owner had attempted to sell it a number of times but with no success, he said.

The property is also adjacent to Clairmont Rd., "perhaps the busiest traffic artery in the city," Mr. Repka said.

Mr. Coad said he would have to agree with Mr. Repka's statement that a low-density residential designation is not compatible with Clairmont Rd. because of the traffic and existing commercial developments.

COUNCIL ACTS

Following the hearing city council, during its regular meeting, passed two development

control resolutions governing development in local commercial area.

Although they would eventually apply to all such developments in the city, they were drawn up by the Municipal Planning Commission specifically for the Clairmont Rd. strip proposal.

The resolutions clearly define what types of developments are allowed under a local commercial designation and place a number of conditions on the developments.

They would be used in conjunction with a proposed amendment to the General Plan. A bylaw needed to change the plan has received first reading and is now in the hands of the Peace River Regional Planning Commission (PRRPC) for study.

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Land use change wins approval

By SHAUN FLEMING
of our staff

A bylaw that would change Grande Prairie's General Plan to allow special commercial developments along a strip of Clairmont Rd. received final city council approval last night despite some strong objections.

The area, along the west side of the road from 93 Ave. to 97 Ave., was designated low-and-medium density residential.

The change was initiated a number of months ago following a request by Don Olson of Grande Prairie to construct an automotive clinic at the intersection of 95 Ave. and Clairmont Rd.

The change will make possible such uses as bowling alleys, drive-in refreshment stands, liquor stores, nursing homes, radio and television repair shops and restaurants.

Opposition to the proposal was filed by the Peace River Regional Planning Commission (PRRPC).

It was presented to the council for consideration during last night's meeting but the bylaw received second and final readings nevertheless.

In the letter PRRPC director Grahame Allen said the area concerned is predominantly residential and any commercial uses allowed should be designed to serve

the neighborhood.

Mr. Allen said there is lots of room to the north and west for special commercial developments. He added that developments such as those allowed under the special commercial designation would attract traffic south of the railway tracks which would not normally be in the area.

"This will only add to the often congested and confusing traffic patterns which now exist in the downtown area," Mr. Allen said. "Train movements which seem to occur at peak traffic hours will not help this situation either."

He admitted there will be a need for a special commercial area in the city's south end eventually but said it should be much better planned.

A better area would be farther south and adjacent to one of the main city entrances such as the Wapiti or Resources roads, he said.

Hotel planned for Clairmont

The county of Grande Prairie has accepted a bid from a developer to purchase four lots in Clairmont and will recommend to its Municipal Planning Committee that designation of the site be changed to commercial from residential.

County council yesterday passed a bylaw allowing Olfred Holdings Ltd. to purchase the lots with its bid of \$40,200.

Don Olson and Ed Fredborg, representing the company, said a hotel is planned for the land.

Mr. Olson said if the company could get a development permit and get land use changed to commercial from residential, the site could be the home of a hotel featuring 10-rooms, a licensed beverage room, a

restaurant and a banquet room to seat 300 people or more.

He said building would be two storeys in the hotel room section, the beverage room would be one storey and a full-size basement would accommodate the banquet facilities.

Council expressed some concern over the company's proposal for the site in relation to parking space, water and sewer, and how the citizens of the village would accept the concept of the hotel.

Council made it clear that whether or not there was a hotel on the property, the property now belonged to the company.

A development permit and land use application are still to be applied for.

Honored for tenure

Eleven city public school board employees were honored with long service awards at a board social Friday.

Twenty-year awards were made to Bill Frissell and Hazel Evenrude, while 15-year awards went to Marcy Moffett and Maxine Olson.

Those receiving 10-year recognition included Bill Turnbull, Dick Moore, Doreen Barabash, Aileen Warren, Birgit Anderson, Mary Harms and Dale Saunders.

Gals hit the ice

By GARY HICKLING
of our staff

The new Grande Prairie Curling complex will resound with the noise of brooms starting tonight as the women's annual bonspiel commences for the next 3½ days.

The first of 62 rinks starts at 6 p.m. in the new rink. All eight sheets of ice will be utilized as the girls get underway.

At 6 p.m. tonight, Ethel Drysdale from Clairmont goes against Onagh Currie of Grande Prairie; Em Halterman of Grande Prairie tangles with Emily Schudlo of Sexsmith; Marion Braumburger of Sexsmith meets Shirley Buckler of Grande Prairie; Dianne Gacik of the city meets Bill Maksymitz of the city; Gwen Turner of Grande Prairie meets Lucy Klatchuk of the city; Marg Johns goes against Rena Kyle; Mae Gorman against Bev Walker; and Evelyn Feil meets Lois Nellis.

The winners and losers meet at noon tomorrow.

The second draw goes at 8 p.m. today and features Dona Wolbeck against Helene Stretch, Helen Ellis against Martha Kimppe, Ursula Delfs of Woking against Joyce Remple of Grande Prairie, and Joyce Hawkes of Wembley against Bev Dunne of Grande Prairie.

Verna Block of Spirit River meets Pat Kimble of Grande Prairie, Hilda Bisgrove goes against Linda Graber, Judy Kozak meets Erna Talbot, and Vi Miller meets Lorene Sharp.

The winners and losers meet around 10 p.m. tomorrow.

The final draw today goes at 10 p.m. with Perky McCullough against Jean Hagglund, Maxine Olson against Velma Edgecombe, Judy Morgan of Dawson Creek against Audrey Hennig of Grande Prairie.

Carol McCreary will meet Pat Lees, Gwen Alstad of Wembley meets Maxine Peters of Grande Prairie, Joanne Prodnuk meets Marilyn Ross of Spirit River.

Dora Fidler of Valleyview and Genie Krupka of Grande Prairie will probably play against each other if there are no more entries before tonight's start. Both were to have played against other teams but they dropped out.

Winners and losers of this draw will probably play again tomorrow at 4 p.m.

VISITORS START

Out of town rinks, from further distances, will start tomorrow morning at 8 a.m.

Terry Glens of Whitehorse meets Peggy Sather of Wanham, Rita Boyer of Grande Prairie meets Joyce Vavrek of Sexsmith, Nancy Whalen of Edmonton meets Ann Moran of Dawson Creek, Alice Henning of Valleyview goes against Edna McPhail of Dawson Creek.

Janny Merwin of Fort St. John meets defending champion Betty Fenton of Edmonton, Helen Brown of Fairview meets Joan Sharlow of Grande Cache, Norma Gordon of Valleyview meets Myrna Jacques of Grande Prairie, and C. Giddes of Hudson Hope meets Shirley Talbot of Edmonton.

The winners and losers of this draw would meet at 2 p.m.

Hythe will get new hotel

By MARY ANN BARR
of our staff

The community of Hythe will see a new \$1.5 million hotel built as the Horse Lake Indian Band has decided to use some of its oil and gas royalties to enter the business world.

Construction has started for the 24-room hotel which will also feature a licensed dining room, lounge and bar. It is expected that the hotel will be complete by spring, 1981.

The lounge, dining room and lobby will be unique in that they will feature teepee shapes, all tied together, says contractor Don Olson of Grande Prairie. The hotel will be two stories

and located at the extreme south end of Hythe.

The band lives on a reserve 9.6 km southwest of Hythe which is 56 km west of Grande Prairie. Chief Jim Horseman says the band has decided to invest some of its royalty money. Presently the main source of revenue for the band is farming.

Mr. Horseman says that \$800,000 will come from royalties and the rest will be borrowed.

The Alberta Liquor Control Board has provided a letter of intent that if the hotel meets all standards, a liquor licence will be provided, says Mr. Horseman.

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Summer production almost set to go

By JACKIE MARSHALL
of our staff

Grande Prairie's Heritage Productions is gearing up for another historical production this summer.

In keeping with their theme of plays historically relevant to the area, The Pronghorn County Bandit will be performed in August.

The folk-musical is by Grande Prairie playwright Jim Nelson, who also wrote Heritage Productions' play last year, The Ballad of Knobby Clarke.

Knobby was performed several years ago but was rewritten by Mr. Nelson for a larger cast and larger stage.

"We wanted a play that had never been done before and was historical and people of the region could identify with it," explains Gary Humphrey, chairman of the organization.

NOT SPECIFIC

"This play doesn't refer specifically to a historic moment in Grande Prairie, but a lot of people have come up the Edson Trail and homesteaded and can probably identify with what is happening," he said.

In keeping with the flavor of the play, the organization is hoping to hold it in various locations, more as a community event than a single performance.

Organizers are hopeful the play can open Aug. 10, Heritage Day, with a couple of performances outside in Bear Creek Park, at the Pioneer Museum and perhaps the college.

Hopefully the community could really get a feel for the play, Mr. Humphrey says, by touring the museum before the performance, dressing up in period clothes and going to garden parties.

MUSEUM PERFORMANCE?

"We want to have some performances in the museum to get people into the spirit of heritage of the Peace area. We'll have some shows outside for sure, but when and where hasn't been finalized."

The whole concept of Heritage Productions, which is a province-wide organization with clubs in St. Albert, Lethbridge, Jasper and Stony Plain, is the performance of an outdoors historical production.

The Grande Prairie Theatre Club, an offspring of Little Theatre, joined Heritage in 1979.

"We're planning to become a separate society from Little Theatre," Mr. Humphrey said. Belonging to Heritage Productions puts them indirectly under the wing of Alberta Culture.

ALMOST READY

This year's performance is still in the infant stages with only the barest details worked out.

A director and producer will be named sometime soon and June 15 is the date set for auditions.

"We want a local person for director and it's possible we'll have a musical director also."

The theme for this production is History of the Peace, but all future performances will be called Ballads of the Peace, to give the club a consistent theme.

Mr. Humphrey is hopeful summer historical performances will become a permanent event in Grande Prairie, giving people something to come to the city to see.

"We're looking for one play that's informational, exciting and identifiable to this area, that can be done over and over again each summer.

"Most productions of this type are done from June to September. Hopefully, with enough interest and if this group can become what it should, we might get an amphitheatre in the city so we could perform July and August."

This year's production is expected to run eight or 10 performances.

"It's not a college play, so we want to bring it out of the college to the community," Mr. Humphrey said.



Board members Mel Burt (left), Tom Hawkesworth, Jennie Tetreau, Gary Humphrey, Bud Portwood, Sheila Humphrey and Maxine Olson



Gift to hospital

When the library of the new Queen Elizabeth II Hospital opens, it will have a new 22-volume set of World Book Encyclopaedias gracing a shelf. World Book's senior area manager Maxine Olson (left) acquired the set, given annually by the company to a limited number of non-profit organizations, and presented it to the hospital earlier this week. Ladies Auxilliary president Anne Richards (right) accepted the donation on behalf of the Hospital.

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Lots of busy brides in Bezanson area

By BEA FELLS

The weatherman has finally smartened up and put a happy face on many farmers.

Saturday, Oct. 11, was a beautiful day for weddings. Congratulations to Mel and Marlene Schmitke's daughter Dianna (former resident of Bezanson, now of Valleyview). Reception and dance at Bezanson, with a good turn-out, and lovely supper and dance.

Also congratulations to Tracey and Robert. She's the daughter of Doug and Evey Stark of Grande Prairie.

Also to Tammy and husband (daughter of Don and Maxine Olson of Grande Prairie). All three brides have many relatives in the Bezanson area. Best wishes to you all!

On Oct. 7, crib was played instead of whist. There were six tables and the winners were: Frances Goodland — high (937), and Bell Heasler — low (848). Men's high was Willie Monroe, high of 946 and Bob Arnold, low of 820.

The first Tuesday of the month will be cribbage and whist for those who don't play crib.

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Montrose reunion being planned

Herald-Tribune staff

Montrose Junior High staff are gearing up for a farewell party for their 30-year-old school.

Several veteran staff members are planning a reunion next July. Maxine Olson, Karen Burgess, Lorraine Glendinning, Barb Smith and Eunice Shreenan began planning the reunion last spring. Shreenan has since moved out of town.

Olson, a teacher/librarian, says they wanted to find a way to say goodbye to the school that

was their home for two decades.

"It's the end of this school," said Olson, who has spent 20 years at the school beginning in 1966.

"So we thought since some of us have been here a long time that we'd like to have a reunion here with some of the teachers."

The reunion committee has scoured old yearbooks recording the names of former staff members. They have divided the names into lists and begun the time-consuming task of tracking down staff members, some of

whom haven't worked at the school in decades.

The committee has identified about 300 people who worked at the school as teachers or support staff.

The reunion is planned for the first weekend in July. Although final details haven't been worked out, it will likely kick off with a wine and cheese Friday night with a dance on Saturday night. A church service may be held Sunday morning.

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STEADY AS YOU GO PROGRAM

Seniors helping seniors

CAROL DORSCHIED

Service Leader, Volunteer Resources

The Steady As You Go Program was developed and conducted for seniors throughout Mistahia Health Region from Oct. 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998.

It is a seniors helping seniors program designed to reduce the risk of falls of well, community-dwelling seniors.

Seniors become group facilitators presenting to fellow seniors. The program is administered in two parts, one activity/discussion and one follow-up session.

The activities at the sessions involved exercise to a video and awareness of the risks of falling.

Volunteers were able to promote the awareness in each of the communities.

Since its inception in October, with Terry Vavrek as co-ordinator, the program has involved over 725 volunteer hours providing to over 500 seniors in 22 communities. A huge thank you to volunteer co-ordinators throughout the Mistahia Health Region:

Mistahia Health Unit

Juanita Knight - Valleyview and area

Harry Turner, William Stanley - Worsley and area

Ron Jackson, George Lott (Jim) - Grande Cache and area

Della Zahara, Dolly Barnhardt, Audrey Laughy, Helen Sideroff, Nina Czaban, Evelyn Lewchuck

- Spirit River and area

Dollye Cooper, Joan Bentt, Bill Brown, Earle Guertin, Doreen Fletcher - Fairview, Grimshaw/Berwyn and area

Phyllis Sherk, Gayle Borgedahl, Audrey Robertson, Betty Welter, Flora Thiessen, Elvera, Grotkowski, Marion Leggatt, Maxine Olson, Mary Robinson, Jean Polasek, Jean Smith - Grande Prairie and area

Your participation is appreciated and recently I was informed that a number of the areas are prepared to maintain the fitness component of the program.

Thank you very much as your contributions are greatly appreciated. Keep up the excellent work!

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Visitor Information Centre celebrates 25th anniversary

SANDEE WONG

Herald-Tribune staff

For the 25th anniversary of the Visitor Information Centre, about 60 past volunteers were treated to a barbecue lunch and cake cutting on Saturday.

Don Olson, 68, was there when the centre, a log cabin, was first erected. In fact, he was the one who built it.

"I'm a builder by trade and several people from the chamber of commerce asked me to build a tourist booth," he said.

"Logging and lumber was one of the first industries in the area, so that's one of the reasons why I thought a log cabin was fitting."

He said the only drawback with the visitor centre is that it's not located along a main road, a common concern that has prompted the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce to plan for a new site located north of the bypass.

"You've got real high traffic along that road, so it'll be great location for it," Carmen Haakstad, head of fund raising for the Visitor Centre 2000.

The new centre, at 5,000 square feet, will be 10 times larger than the log cabin and will house the cham-

ber's offices.

Construction on the \$2.6 million project is set to begin next spring with the grand opening in November 2000.

"Our city has grown large enough now to have a visitor's centre all year round," said Haakstad.

Open from mid-May to the end of August, the current centre has been run by four full-time employees, mostly summer students, for the past few years.

For the fourth year, the chamber of commerce has a contract to manage the centre and will create an ambassador program in which volunteers will be able to greet tourists for about two hours a day during peak hours next summer.

Over the last three years, more than 64,000 visitors have been to the centre.

Although the 1999 stats won't be compiled until the end of August, centre coordinator Tina Lewis says the May and June figures are on par

with last year's.

The centre is visited not only by tourists from all over but also by Grande Prairians trying to determine where to go on their holidays.

The best part of 21-year-old Kyla Barnfield's job at the centre is meeting new people. The worst? "Grumpy tourists," she said.

Olson has built a large part of Grande Prairie and a building in every town in the Peace Country. He said the Swan City is a popular spot for tourists and an excellent place for young people to come and establish a future.

"It'll keep growing — there's no end to its growth," he said.

"Grande Prairie has been an excellent place to live. It's always been progressive."

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Donald Ivan Olson, 70, of Grande Prairie



Donald Olson, resident of Grande Prairie for 70 years, passed away at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital on Friday, April 27, 2001.

Don will be forever missed by; his loving wife Maxine (nee McColm), his children; Tamara (Witold Gutter), Trent (Debbie Klein), Terril (Tim Finley), his grandchildren; Bohtan, Tohler, Deklin, Julie and Cassandra.

Don was predeceased by his father Alfred Olson, his mother Inga (nee Bredeson), a baby brother Edwin and four brothers-in-law; Carl Flohr, Bob Ray, Bill Griffiths, and Walter Waldner. Surviving him are his sisters; Edna Flohr, Elsie Ray, Violet Griffiths, Angie Waldner, Allie (Tyke) Ames and his brother Gordon (Glenda) Olson as well as many nieces and nephews.

Don's life was spent designing and building in Grande Prairie and around Alberta, where he designed many homes and commercial buildings.

His favourite activities included woodworking, fishing, hunting and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

His good nature endeared him to all who knew him, and he will be missed by his family and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2001 at 2 p.m. from St. Paul's United Church (10206-100 Ave.) Grande Prairie with interment to follow at the Glen Leslie Cemetery near Bezan-son, close to the church built by his Dad.

Luncheon to follow at the Golden Age Centre (10222-101 Ave) Grande Prairie.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Don Olson Memorial Award in Forestry c/o Grande Prairie Regional College Foundation office, 10726-106 Ave. Grande Prairie, Alberta T5V-4C4.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**

Alien lands in Grande Prairie next week

Fundraising theatre production deals with life forms of all types during run at St. Joe's High School

DIANA RINNE/ENCORE!

Parents, teenagers, in-laws, hot flashes and life forms from another world all come together on stage in the new play *Alien*, which opens next week at St. Joseph's High School.

Written by local playwright Terry Scerbak, the production has been directed by Cliff Mitchell as a fundraiser for three local charities.

"Basically I put together an alliance of groups to fundraise for and then I started to look for a play," said Mitchell in an interview last week.

"I looked and I looked but I couldn't find anything that I liked. And then I thought of Terry," he grinned. "I called her and, lo and behold, she had one in process, and it was a good one."

"The genesis for the idea was aliens and menopause and I put them together," said Scerbak, who actually wrote the first draft of the play to enter in Grande Prairie Live Theatre's Centennial playwrighting competition, which was announced last year.

"In January, I wrote the first draft of this script, which, I thought at the time, was absolutely brilliant," she laughed. Unfortunately, the contest was cancelled, and Scerbak's dreams were dashed.

When director Mitchell approached Scerbak about adapting and localizing a play for the fundraising event, she pulled out the play and offered it up.

"You should always have something for those occasions," she smiled.

While Mitchell liked the script there was one character he wasn't too enamoured with. "I showed Karla Kordyban (the drama instructor at GPRC) the script and sure enough she didn't like the same character," explained Scerbak. She went back to the drawing board, dropped two of the original characters and did a complete rewrite of the play. "The final script is like the 13th draft," she said. "I finally got it right."

A comedy, *Alien* takes light and funny look at the dynamics of a family one winter's evening when it is discovered that aliens have landed in Grande Prairie.

"Really, the question it raises is what is a family and what keeps families together?" said Scerbak. "It's not that sugary and saccharine answer, love. It's too simple an answer."

"This family ... you can tell they love each other,



(top, l-r) Maxine Olsen, Taylor Pardell, Harold Friesen, Brad Sidoruk and Deborah Haiworonsky rehearse a scene from *Alien*. The play was written by local playwright Terry Scerbak (right)

but they do drive each other crazy, which I think probably applies to families everywhere."

Mitchell agrees, noting the play is lighthearted, but packs a good message.

"It does talk about family and it does talk about the young and it does talk about the old," he smiled.

Writing the play was a challenge for Scerbak, who has written a number of plays for her daughter's junior-high drama class, as well as last year's Christmas pantomime, *Cinderella*.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever written because, first of all, it's close to home."

This family, which is not my family, but is still so close to my family ... things start intruding that aren't supposed to be there and other things that are supposed to be there are getting hidden," she explained. Another challenge for Scerbak was the length of the play and the number of characters for which she had to write dialogue.

"The first scene is an hour and most of the time there are five or six characters on stage who are all interacting," she explained. "To have a scene that long, with that many characters, and to have it

flow, was difficult."

Having Karla Kordyban serve as dramaturge for the play was very helpful, noted Scerbak.

"I had lots of help," she smiled. "It is so much better than what I could have done (on my own)."

Seeing her play produced on stage has offered Scerbak another perspective on the work.

"It changes so much it erases what was in my mind (when I wrote it)," she said.

"You know it's in my imagination and I write it down, but then the actors kind of bring it to life - they take ownership of it and it becomes their play. I get to sit back here and I really enjoy it," she said.

Those actors include Harold Friesen, Deborah Haiworonsky, Maxine Olsen, Derek Dyck, Taylor Pardell, Brad Sidoruk and Dalea Rotenburger.

"I think what they bring to it enriches it tremendously,

because then it becomes an amalgamation between my imagination, Cliff's vision and their talent."

Mitchell is very excited about play, and particularly the community aspect of the production, which will raise funds for Sunrise House, Catholic Family Services and Voice for Life.

"It's a totally community-driven thing," he said. "All of our material has been donated, the paint has been donated, the school has been giving us the space for free for rehearsals and for the production and the IA lab at the school built the set."

He is confident that all the proceeds from ticket sales will be able to be presented to the

three charitable organizations once the run of the play is complete. *Alien* opens next weekend, Nov. 4 and 5, at St. Joseph's High School. A dessert buffet will open at 7 p.m. with the play beginning at 8 p.m.

The run will continue Nov. 18, 19 and Dec. 2 and 3. Tickets are available in advance at Sunrise House, Catholic Family Services, Voice for Life or by calling 532-9381.

"It's very light and funny. People will have a good time," smiled Mitchell.



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Alien takes aim at family dynamics

Fundraising production written by local playwright Terry Scerbak continues this weekend

FRED RINNE/Encore!

What do extraterrestrials, menopause, politics and the family dynamic have in common? Curious?

In fact, they are the threads weaving together the storyline for *Alien*, a production by local playwright Terry Scerbak, which is currently being staged at St. Joseph's Catholic high school.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the staging (which goes Fridays and Saturdays until Dec. 3) is a fundraiser for Sunrise House, Catholic Family Services and Voice For Life.

The underlying theme in the play is appreciation for family. Through often comical dialogue, audience members will recognize some all-too-familiar discourse of dysfunctionality that makes all family units unique.

In spite of this, and regardless of the tension and disagreements that infiltrate all family relationships, we are reminded how special and all-too-often fleeting those relationships can be.

Alien is set in the ever-so-average household. It represents the stereotypical four-person unit: Mom, dad, sister and brother. Throw in the interloping and politically-strong-willed mother-in-law, the widower next door and a special visitor and you have the grounds for the play.

Veteran stage actor Harold Friesen is Albert, the husband and father. As he is also the narrator, one appreciates what a difficult role this is. There is plenty of dialogue and remembering it all, especially when interspersed in discussions with multiple family members, is a tough gig.

Deborah Haiworonsky plays his wife Wanda. She is going through the change of life and this volatility of emotions and body temperature leaves Albert guessing most of the time, as he boldly seeks to find the path of least resistance.

Maxine Olson plays Maya the mother-in-law, who has made the decision to move in permanently – though Albert is again the last one to know.

While he isn't juggling his wife's mood swings or arguing with his mother-in-law, Albert is coming to grips with fatherhood where it pertains to teenaged kids. Brad Sidoruk plays Lonny, portrayed as a loner and computer geek, whose intelligence baffles and even annoys his fellow family members.



Brad Sidoruk and Taylor Pardell play feuding siblings Lonny and Corrina in *Alien*. The fundraising production continues this weekend at St. Joe's High School



Deborah Haiworonsky and Harold Friesen star as Wanda and Albert in *Alien*.

Photos courtesy Terry Scerbak

This would be especially true of his sister Corrina, played by Taylor Pardell. A few years younger than her brother, Corrina is the stereotypical high school diva, with a cell phone and an attitude to match.

Derek Dyck plays Harold, an aged widower who has recently lost his wife of 54 years. He is questioning his worth and purpose, while also trying to get the attention of Maya.

Into this family's life walks Valderna, played by Dalea Rotenburger.

She comes from an all-female planet many light years away from Earth. On her planet, the male has become extinct, and, as part of a study, she is collecting a male specimen to bring back.

Through this, the family members grow closer together in spite of themselves.

This production is really helped by the experience of the cast. It leans on Friesen heavily and that's a good thing. He is steady and brings a sense of organized calm.

The youngsters in the cast are pretty good too, especially Pardell who brings off very believable cell dialogue and is indeed a good "drama queen".

The dynamic between Haiworonsky and Friesen and between Olson and Dyck is quite entertaining.

Truly, it's hard to imagine anyone not recognizing someone from their own family in this production.

Directed by Cliff Mitchell and co-produced by Kim Fenton and Erma Moon, the play has real potential.

The only downside, from a critical perspective, is that there might be too much dialogue in spots, depending a little too much on clichéd one-liners. The first act drags at times – there could have been some more editing done and this would have helped the players – especially in the few places where they seemed to struggle with lines, searching for whose turn it was to speak. But that's OK. Later in the run, these problems will likely be diminished.

The second act zips to a conclusion. We won't spoil it for you, but suffice to say, it poignantly points out and reaffirms what is important about family. Scerbak attempts to do this without too much sap and, for the most part, it does work.

As a fundraiser for some very worthy community organizations and penned by a local playwright, I very much encourage you to support the production.

You might learn something about your family along the way too.

Phone 532-9381 for tickets or information.

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