



Photo by Mary Barber

(From left) Katie Closs Couchie, Rachel Dawson, and Zoe Bevan, professional division students at Quinte Ballet School of Canada, make last-minute costume adjustments before a 1950s-themed dance performance to *Boy From Ipanema* by Peggy Lee. This year's Mad Men-themed gala helped raise funds to support the QBSC student scholarship and bursary fund.

## Mad Men theme for Quinte ballet gala

By Samantha Quinn and Mary Barber

Boldly-lined brows and dramatic colours filled the Greek Hall on Saturday as ladies and gentlemen wiggled about the dance floor in a 1950s romp.

The Quinte Ballet School of Canada held their annual fundraiser on Jan. 25 in Belleville. This year's gala theme was based on the AMC television series *Mad Men*.

"Dance fundraising is important because at an early age they have an idea of where they want to see life go. It's rare. It needs to be supported," said Catherine Taylor, artistic director at the QBSC.

The event was held to raise funds for bursaries and scholarships for young dancers pursuing their dreams.

The school put together two performances, held by the recreational and professional divisions, respectively. Both numbers were dedicated to the evening's theme, choreographed by Kristina McIntosh and Taylor. The accompanying music came from the *Mad Men Suite*, by David Carbonara, and *Boy from Ipanema*, by Peggy Lee.

Creating choreography to fit with the 1950s theme was a challenge for Taylor, who is used to working in the classical music genre. The contemporary con-

cept, though successful, was a longer process for the students who were not familiar with the music from that era.

"Helen Wells, administrator at the recreation desk, helped me decide on the song to use. I have always loved the song *Girl from Ipanema*," said Taylor.

"Then I saw Peggy Lee singing *Boy from Ipanema*, same words, changed gender, which was perfect to incorporate Isaac, our only male student."

The event included special guest MC Orlena Cain from Mix 97 FM. Cain was the mistress of ceremonies and auctioneer. Mayor Neil Ellis, who was also

in attendance, was auctioned off as a lunch date by the Political Knights.

With sales from the event's \$125 tickets, which included dinner, performances and dancing, a cocktail bar, and live and silent auctions, the school was able to raise \$12,000. This was significant compared to last year's Frosty Fiddle Frolic Fundraiser, which raised \$4,000 without the live auction.

Auction items were donated to the gala by places such as the Belleville Bulls, Tim Durkin, the Belleville Public Library, the Stirling Festival Theatre, Boretski Galleries, as well as many more businesses and independent donors.

## Retirement home holds mandatory fire drills monthly

By Adam Dietrich

The small town of L'Isle-Verte, Quebec, is struggling to understand a sudden, tragic fire that took place at the Résidence du Havre retirement home on Jan. 23. The whole nation watched in horror for a week, as firefighters entered the frozen remains to search for bodies. In the end two are missing, presumed dead.

The questions a dumbfounded country

has been asking is: How could this happen and how could it have been prevented? Those will be answered in the coming weeks, but until then, what about the safety of our seniors already in retirement residences?

According to a 2011 Statistics Canada report, approximately 352,205 seniors in Canada live in some kind of collective dwelling devoted to seniors, or 7.1 per cent of the country's total aged population.

A large and increasing number of people

are left under the care of government-licensed facilities.

In Belleville, there is Amica at Quinte Gardens, an independent retirement home. They conduct monthly fire drills, according to their general manager, Pierce Ivan.

"We practice fire drills once a month," said Ivan.

"The drills are conducted across all shifts and all departments with all resi-

dents." The emergency evacuation drills are provincially mandated.

With 180 plus residents and 118 staff members at their facility, Amica at Quinte Gardens is one of the largest independent retirement homes in the area. As part of their emergency contingency plan, Ivan said that they have made arrangements with another retirement home and a church in the area, in case of a fire in the winter that destroys the retirement home.

"The safety of our residents is obviously priority number one," said Ivan, who talked about some of the home's other safety measures. According to Ivan, all contractors, visitors and residents sign-in and out of the home, which helps keep a running tally of people on the property.

"All of us at Amica at Quinte Gardens are watching this carefully. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and the community," said Ivan.

## Puppet show tells story of pipeline opposition in light-hearted way

*Kingston company will be at Belleville library for February show*

By Victoria Thoms

Enbridge Inc. is planning to reverse the direction of the Line 9 pipeline to carry diluted bitumen from the west to Ontario and Montreal, but has faced opposition.

The struggles faced by the opposition will be presented in a more light-hearted manner at Birdbone Theatre's puppet and clown production entitled Tar Sands Dragon Opera. It will take place Feb. 15 at the Belleville Public Library at 2:30 p.m.

Looking for ways to bring new awareness to communities across the country, Birdbone Theatre of Kingston will be travelling across Ontario and Quebec putting on the Tar Sands Dragon Opera to attract new supporters.

Activist, John Lewis of Brighton, will definitely be in attendance.

Lewis has been involved in past protests and petitions against Line 9, and is involved with a group called Toronto East End Against Line 9.

The Line 9 pipeline runs through all major communities north of Lake Ontario, including Belleville.

Lewis's grandchildren live in Belleville, and he is worried about this toxic threat to the communities' drinking water and air quality.

Lewis has been involved in the fight against Line 9 for many months now, and doesn't plan on quitting anytime soon.

"As a young worker, I was outside all the time. From the 1960's onward, there was always more stuff to worry about,

including smelly air, nuclear threats, poisoned water, and the unrelenting pressure to consume and make more money. There was a gradual reduction in sound, solid jobs for most people around me," said Lewis.

Lewis is retired now, and said the world has drastically changed from when he was a boy. He is committed to the fight against Enbridge, and passionate about bringing awareness to his community.

The process of tar sands extraction uses three to six barrels of fresh water for every barrel of oil that is produced. The water is not recovered, remaining poisoned, claimed Lewis.

Lewis is concerned about First Nations communities living near the tar sands projects, as cases of unusual cancers have been reported. Allowing the reversal of the flow in a pipe that is already 38-years-old could increase the risk of a toxic spill.

Birdbone Theatre says they are looking to talk with local communities about the expansion of the tar sands industry and how it directly affects the amount of carbon emissions that the country produces.

Educating young people about what exactly a pipeline reversal would mean can be a challenge. Birdbone Theatre's solution is to approach the issue in a more creative and unconventional way.

The puppet show is geared towards all ages, and discussion about the Line 9 reversal and tar sands industry is set to follow.

After raising \$1,560.24 through donations to finance their trip, the team will be on the road from Feb. 1 until Feb. 28.

Donations will be accepted at any of the shows along the way to help support Birdbone Theatre.



## Instagram pic of the week

Thanks to @andrewjbmeade, winner of this week's Pioneer Pic depicting the heavy snowfall on residence this week. Don't forget to follow us at @Loyalistcollegepioneer!

To check out all of the week's submissions, search #Pioneerpics on Instagram. The deadline for submissions is every Wednesday by noon.