

WEATHER

Wednesday
H 1 L -5
Flurries
Wind N 28 km

Thursday
H 3 L -2
Cloudy periods
Wind SE 24 km

Friday
H 5 L 2
Showers
Wind SE 22 km

Saturday
H 6 L 2
Cloudy periods
Wind N 23 km

Sunday
H 5 L 1
Cloudy periods
Wind SE 25 km

INDEX

Business Directory 9
Classifieds 11
Crossword 14
Horoscopes 14
Kidzone 14
Lifestyles 15
Looking Back 12
Obituary 11
 Weber, Mavis
Opinions 4
Sudoku 14

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WADENA NEWS

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Trio of fiddlers delight!

BY CHARLENE WIRTZ

There is nothing better than a well-played fiddle – unless it’s three! Add in Canadian step dancing and you have an experience, not just a concert.

The stage floor in the Watson Community Hall has a few new scuff marks, after the third and final Quill Plains Arts Council concert of the season. The Fitzgeralds, a sibling trio from Ontario, not only entertained the audience with their amazing music, but with their awesome dancing as well.

Julie, Kerry and Tom Fitzgerald, had the help of step dancer and long-time friend Alanna Jenish, Canadian Bluegrass Fiddle Player of the Year, on guitar; and in-demand Toronto bassist Charles James. They played a mixture of fiddle classics and their own original music during the afternoon. Separately and together, they played, step-danced and wowed the crowd and had them clapping along. They told stories, shared experiences, and demonstrated their competitiveness with a dance-off between Julie and Kerry. They also displayed their mastery of both fiddle and dance, when they did both at the same time.

While their parents are both musical and played in bands, it was their cousins who introduced them to the fiddle, explained Julie in an interview with the News. They



CHARLENE WIRTZ | WADENA NEWS

CAN'T SIT STILL. Left to right, Kerry, Julie and Tom Fitzgerald came up with a new way to dance while fiddling.

joined the fiddle and step dance competition scene in Ontario during their very first year of learning, and have stuck with it, winning awards and acclaim. Julie is a 2-time Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion and a 2-time Open Step Dance Champion, and she has even produced a step dance instructional DVD, as well as offering online dance instruction. Kerry is an Ontario Open Step Dance Champion and Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle finalist, and experiments with electronic arrangements. Tom is a Canadian Grand Master Fiddle Champion, as well as playing other string instruments. All three teach music, among their other activities, when they are not touring. Biking, swimming, and hockey help keep them fit, Julie said.

With only a few shows to go on the OSAC (Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils) tour, Julie also said they were enjoying it, for several reasons. “It’s been amazing for multiple reasons; the main thing is, Saskatchewan is

the first place we were touring when we did Everything Fitz [the family band]. I think there were 32 concerts that season, through OSAC, and we actually loved it.” She enthused about the whole experience, including the people they met, and the hospitality and kindness. “We just had such a positive experience with all the communities and the presenters and everyone we met.” She also pointed out how good it was to be touring again, especially in a place where they know they will be appreciated.

The not-quite-full capacity crowd certainly did appreciate it, reflecting the exuberance of the performers on stage. There may have been some dancing at the back of the hall! The show even included an “ah how cute” moment when auntie Kerry left the stage and came back with Julie’s nine-month-old daughter for a waltz.

The concert ended with four dancers, as Jenish joined them for some a capella step dancing, and a collaborative set of songs, starting with a song written by Jenish and moving into a Fitzgerald tune, with accompanying step dancing.

The Quill Plains Arts Council concert series is scheduled to start again next fall.

BHP CN Jansen CN Rail Spur – Open Houses

CN and BHP invite you to learn more about next steps related to the proposed Jansen CN Rail Spur, which will run from near the Village of Jansen to near the Town of Nokomis.

Open houses will be held in Jansen and Nokomis from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with a project presentation at 6:30 pm, on the following dates:



| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 26 April 2022 Jansen Community Hall Holloway Street | Wednesday 27 April 2022 Nokomis Community Hall 105 3 rd Avenue |
|--|--|



ROSEBUD GREENHOUSE OPEN HOUSE
May 7 & 8
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. DAILY

- House Plants • Bedding
- Plants • Vegetables
- Perennials • Succulents
- Hanging Baskets

INTRODUCING Rosebud Candles
Made with 100% soya wax & essential oils.
Hand-poured in Wadena, SK.
PLUS Mother's Day Special Draw

FREE* 4-paks with \$25 purchase of vegetables or bedding plants. *These dates only. Limit 1 per household.

On Lone Tree Road 8.3 km east of Wadena OR 2.2 km north of Kylemore and 1.6 km west
306-338-3335 | 306-338-8423

Local rider scoops three awards



PHOTO COURTESY ASHLEY WATT, LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College Rodeo Club recently hosted its alumni rodeo on April 8, and Wadena was there, as Karlee Althouse scooped up three awards. On top of earning third in pole bending and fourth in barrel racing, Althouse was recognized as a top volunteer and rodeo supporter. Left to right, Ashley Watt, Manager of Equine and Rodeo Operations, recognizes Karlee Althouse as a top volunteer.