

2nd Northern Drama Festival a Huge Success



Congratulations to the four northern drama groups involved in the Northern Drama Festival on April 23 & 24 at Rossignol High School in Ile a la Crosse! The plays were: *The Perils of Chief Cimāgisik of Cīciganīhk* by Charlebois Community School in Cumberland House (a comedy revised by Lana Patterson with permission from playwright Duncan Ball); *A Scar That Never Heals* by Rossignol High School (A Collective Creation by the Rossignol High School Drama Students), Ile a la Crosse; *Frumpled Fairy Tales* by Dene High, La Loche Community School in La Loche (A Comedy by William J. Springer); *Annie Jr.* by Pre Cam Elementary and Churchill High Community Schools in La Ronge (A Musical by Thomas Meehan). The Festival started with rehearsals on Friday, followed by the performances from all four groups that evening. The Northern Drama Festival was emceed by Maureen Belanger, aka “Ernestine” who kept the audience laughing in between the four drama group’s performances. The support from the host community of Ile a la Crosse was fantastic, with an estimated audience of 200 people in their beautiful facility. On Saturday, there were production workshops with the adjudicators for all four groups, as well as other drama workshops and crafts, and the weekend concluded with an awards program.

Although the competitive aspect of the Festival was minimized, congratulations to Cumberland House drama group, who came away the winner of the Northern Drama Festival for the second year. They will represent the north (Region 12) at the Provincial Drama Festival on May 6-8, 2010 in Regina. Runner Up was La Loche. All four drama groups received several other awards and certificates presented to actors, for visual and technical aspects of production, stage management, spirit of the festival awards and most courteous cast and crew, which went to the host community drama group from Rossignol High School in Ile a la Crosse.

“I would definitely do it again. The people and the food in Ile a la Crosse was awesome. It was a good weekend and a lot of fun”, says Scott Schooley. Schooley was in charge of the sound with the La Ronge (Pre Cam and Churchill schools) Drama Group. Schooley took home the Technical Award of Merit for Sound – one of several (predominantly technical) awards won by the La Ronge group. Danley Misponas was one of the several youth from Ile a la Crosse not only performing in the drama festival, but doing a great deal of the host responsibilities as well. “I had a really good time at the festival again this year. We tried our best to make everyone feel welcome and help out wherever we could” says Misponas. Mission accomplished.

“Ile a la Crosse were exceptional hosts again this year – special thanks to Alice Ratt, Lon Borgerson, Vince Ahenakew and Ted Flett for all their work as host. All of the participating youth were incredible people on and off the stage. The drama program directors/leaders received a loud, well-deserved round of applause. The NSCRD is proud to be part of this Northern Drama Festival with the Saskatchewan Drama Association and working with the participating communities. Thank you again to Saskatchewan Drama Association and this year’s adjudicators. We look forward to next year”, says Judy MacLeod Campbell, Program Manager for Culture and Community Development with the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District.