

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Georgetown brothers excel at World Irish Dance Championships



**PATRICK ANDISON**

Brothers, Nicholas and Patrick Andison of Georgetown, recently returned from the World Irish Dance Championships in Glasgow, Scotland with outstanding results.

Patrick, 16, was competing at the world level for the first time and posted a top 10 placing.

"We consider just making it into the finals as a major accomplishment for any dancer at their first World Championships," said Kathy Irvine of Georgetown, one of Patrick's teachers, "but Patrick really outdid himself. To be ninth is fantastic and sets him up for great results in the coming years."

The finish also gives Patrick an automatic invitation back to next year's World's competition which will be held in Dublin, Ireland.

Nicholas, 19, also made it through to the finals and managed a top 15 placing in the extremely difficult Under 21 men's category.

"Nick's age group is just brutal," says Irvine. "It is recognized as the toughest male group and is full of these extremely talented young men who are so committed to the sport

that despite university and job commitments just keep getting better and better."

Nicholas, is a full-time student in Performance Production at Ryerson University, but manages to squeeze in three or four dance classes a week, plus some training on his own. Nicholas is also the current Canadian Men under 20 Irish Dance Champion.

Nicholas and Patrick began Irish dancing 10 years ago with former World Champion Kathy Irvine of Georgetown as part of the Butler Fearon O'Connor (BFOC) School of Irish Dance. Both young men credit their very talented teachers as the key to their success.

Patrick describes Kathy is a great detail person, "she breaks every step and movement down in detail and focuses on us perfecting each bit."

"Rose Fearon, (the school's head) is a terrific choreographer," says Patrick. "She produces interesting and exciting steps that help us shine on stage."

"We are also very fortunate to have former world champion Brian

Grant coaching us," adds Nicholas. "Brian is an Irish musician and ensures our dancing is highly rhythmic and always in time with the music."

Irish dance competitions use live musicians so dancers have to be able to listen and respond to the musicians' playing as they are performing on stage in front of the judges.

This year's World Irish Dance Championships hosted over 4,500 competitors from 32 countries. The results of the Butler Fearon O'Connor School, which is located in Georgetown, Brampton and California, were among the best of all dance schools around the world with approximately two-thirds of its students getting into the finals and seven podium finishes.

Patrick and Nicholas, along with other dancers from Butler Fearon O'Connor will be next heading to the North American Irish Dance Championships this July in Orlando, Florida.

Boys and girls from Halton Hills who are interested in Irish Dancing can contact Kathy Irvine at 905-693-0765.



**NICHOLAS ANDISON**

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