

When Irish toes are dancing

By Rosaleen Garneau
Special to HHTW

Well, she did it again. Kathy Irvine, a Grade 8 student at Holy Cross School in Georgetown has back-to-back Canadian Irish Dance Championships titles.

On Nov. 14, Irvine danced her way to first place in the Under-13 category at the Canadian Irish Dance Championships held in Niagara Falls. To win, Irvine outperformed 25 dancers as they competed in three dance types - reel, treble jig and set dance.

Irvine went into the championships having won the Under-12 title last year, and placing second in the North American Irish Dance Championships in July of this year.

To prepare for the event in Niagara Falls, Irvine practised about nine hours a week at home, while spending another 12 hours a week in lessons at Fearon School of Irish Dance, alternating between its facilities in Brampton and Toronto.

She has been dancing since she was four and not surprisingly finds the practice hours the most difficult part. Irvine says she enjoys "dancing in competition and meeting other people" as well as the traveling involved.

Irvine has competed all over Canada, the United States and twice in Ireland. She was born in Ireland, however, she has lived in Georgetown since she was six-weeks-old.

Irvine's 10-year-old sister, Sinead, is also a competitive dancer winning eighth position in her age category at the North American Irish Dance Championships. Unfortunately she has been sidelined by a knee injury and is undergoing extensive physiotherapy.

Although Irvine will continue with classes, she is on a holiday of sorts as the next scheduled competition does not take place until mid-January.



Kathy Irvine - National Champion

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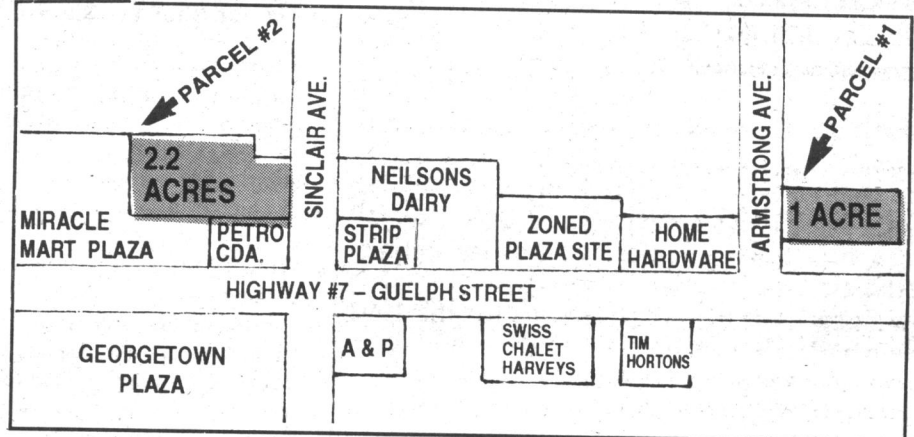
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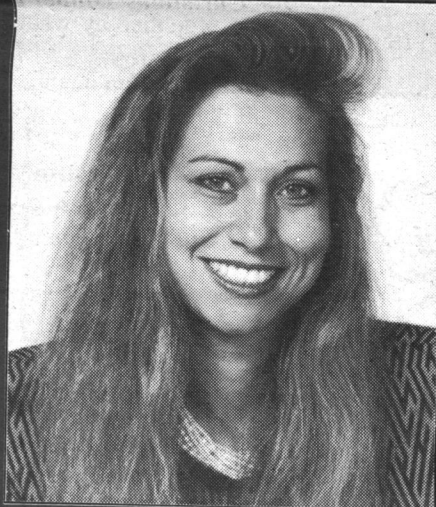
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