

50th 50th 50th 50th

Ross & Margaret Ballentine
50th Anniversary on May 1st, 1997



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50th 50th 50th 50th

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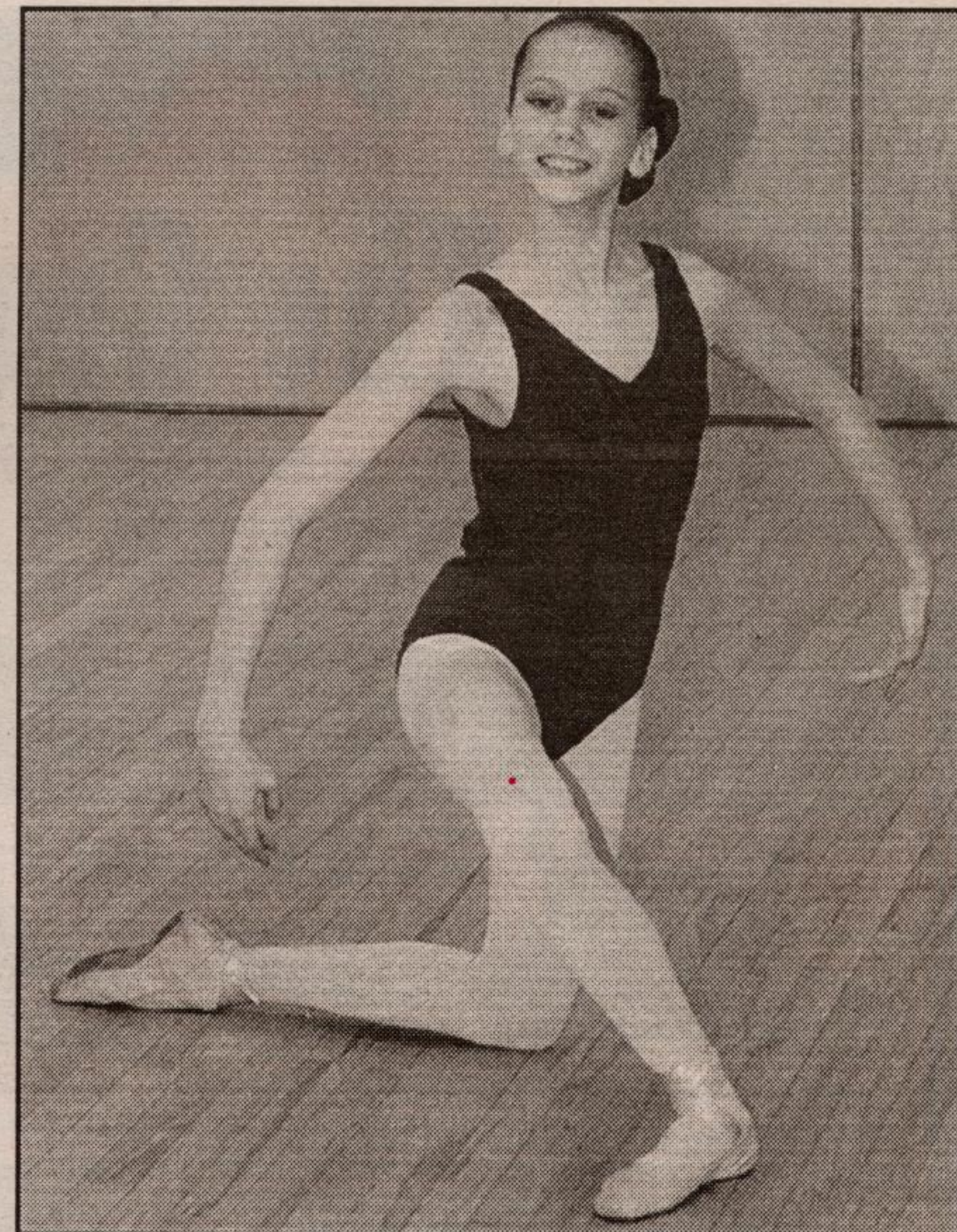
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JENNIFER PALICHUK

Local dancer eyes spot with elite ballet school

Jennifer Palichuk has taken the first step to joining Canada's elite dancers. The 12-year-old dancer has made the second round of auditions for The National Ballet School. Palichuk is one of approximately 200 dancers who will audition in July for admission into the school, located in Toronto.

Palichuk was asked back after an open audition in Waterloo. The school holds auditions in 24 cities across Canada each year with approximately 1,000 dancers taking part. Palichuk said she was a little nervous heading into the audition.

"Everybody looked so much better and flexible," she said.

As many as 50 dancers will be chosen to attend the school's full-time Professional Ballet/Academic Program in September. Palichuk will now attend the Spectrum United Summer School where according to Stephen Johnson, the school's manager of public relations and marketing, after the initial evaluation, the summer school allows the school a better opportunity to assess the dancers.

"It gives us a chance to see more in depth what the child's capabilities are and whether they really do love (dancing)," he said. "There is also more physical testing because it is pretty rigorous and we want to make sure it is safe."

Though she is looking forward to the summer school, Palichuk is still hesitant about leaving home. Should she make it through the second round and decide to go to the school, Palichuk would be following in the footsteps of her favorite dancer, Karen Kain, who graduated from the school. The Grade 6 student at Centennial Public School did a school project on Kain and admires her dancing.

"I saw her once before," Palichuk said. "She was on her toes all the time. I don't know how she does it. It hurts so much to do it for five seconds."

Johnson said even for dancers who don't make the school's full-time program, the summer session is still valuable.

"It's always good to train with different people," he said. "On its own it's a good program. It also gives them a chance to meet kids from across the country."

— By Herb Garbutt, staff writer




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With happiness, the engagement is announced of **Marilyn Noreen Jones**, daughter of Noreen and the late "Jim" Jones of Georgetown, to **Gerald Stuart Inglis**, son of the late Elva and the late Clarence Inglis of Carrying Place, Ontario. Wedding to take place at Knox Presbyterian Church, Dec. 5, 1997.