

**Travel**  
with  
*Bruce Hood*

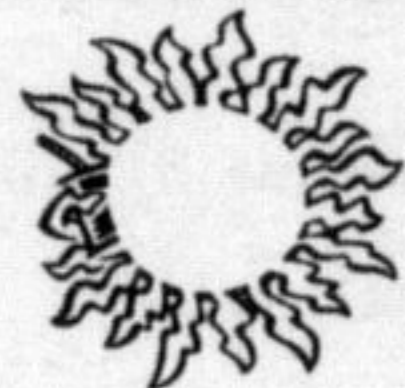


**THE BEACHES OF MEXICO - INVITING!**

CANCUN...ACAPULCO...PUERTO VALLARTA...COZUMEL - just the mention of these well-known VACATION RESORT AREAS in Mexico brings thoughts of beaches with warm tides from the Ocean rolling onto shore, and lots of sunshine. TEMPERATURE of 31 Celsius, warm breezes, cool beverages, lots of sightseeing both on the beach and inland, or curl up under a palm tree with a good book - this is what many Canadians are doing or planning to do over the next months. OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE FROM CANADA annually make their way to these and the many other popular areas of Mexico which keep developing to welcome even more of us.



IN PUERTO VALLARTA (one of our favourite areas!) there is the five star SIERRA PLAZA GOLF RESORT, an all-inclusive property which includes a free round of golf. Great place to try the game out if you have never played before. A SWIM-UP POOL BAR AND GRILL is the place to be when you have finished hitting that little white ball around! IN ACAPULCO - there is the DREAM CLUB AT THE PIERRE MARQUES - a 'village' of villas, bungalows, and low-rise buildings set throughout lush tropical gardens and flowing fountains! SOUND INVITING? They also offer golf on their championship course or that of the ACAPULCO PRINCESS close by, which 'winds among exotic trees and silver lagoons'.



IF YOU ARE GOING SOUTH TO ENJOY THE RAYS OF THE SUN we have some advice for you in this regard. BUILD YOUR BASE TAN before you leave home - it only requires a few minutes at a time with visits six to eight times to a tanning spot in the couple of weeks before heading to your flight. There are many great locations where tanning is their specialty and they can give you advice, such as SUN HAVEN TANNING SPA in Milton. You can tan standing up or lying down, or a combo of both is a good idea. THEN, when you get to your sun destination - ALWAYS WEAR SUN SCREEN to protect your skin from day one when you are exposed to those warming rays - not only mid-day but always.

\* \* \*

A DID YOU KNOW/TRAVEL TIP: WHY BOOK THROUGH A REGISTERED TRAVEL AGENCY IN ONTARIO? Here is a recent 'press release' - 'TICO APPROVES \$6,500 PAYMENT - The Tourism Industry Council of Ontario (TICO) has approved payment of \$6,534 to eight passengers who didn't receive their travel services because of the failure of Shalom-K Tours of Toronto.' A very good reason - you are protected if you don't receive the goods you have paid for in situations such as this.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Dancer carries on Celtic traditon

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
*The Champion*

**B**y day, Milton's Kerrie-Lee Brown is an assistant editor for a national magazine produced out of Mississauga.

At night, she graces the stage as one of the Irish dancers in the Mirvish Production of 'The Needfire' at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

Running eight times a week since December 28, 'The Needfire', which features an all-Canadian cast, is a musical extravaganza that has left the audience in tears, smiles and on their feet at the end of every performance.

And Ms Brown is in the middle and loving every minute of it.

"I have always been a dancer. I love

dancing. I am the first one on the dance floor at any club," she said.

'The Needfire' is about a 100-year-old Celtic tradition that would take place once a year in towns and villages throughout Ireland. On that day, all the fires and candles in the village would be extinguished. One person would then start a fire — called The Needfire — and every villager would take an ember or piece of coal from it to light their own fire.

"Every home would have warmth and good luck throughout the year," she said.

The purpose of the musical is to tell the story of the Celtic tradition that still occurs in some communities in Ireland.

Ms Brown said the tradition brings warmth to the hearts of everyone who watches the show.

Actors, musicians and Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton Step dancers bring the story of The Needfire to life.

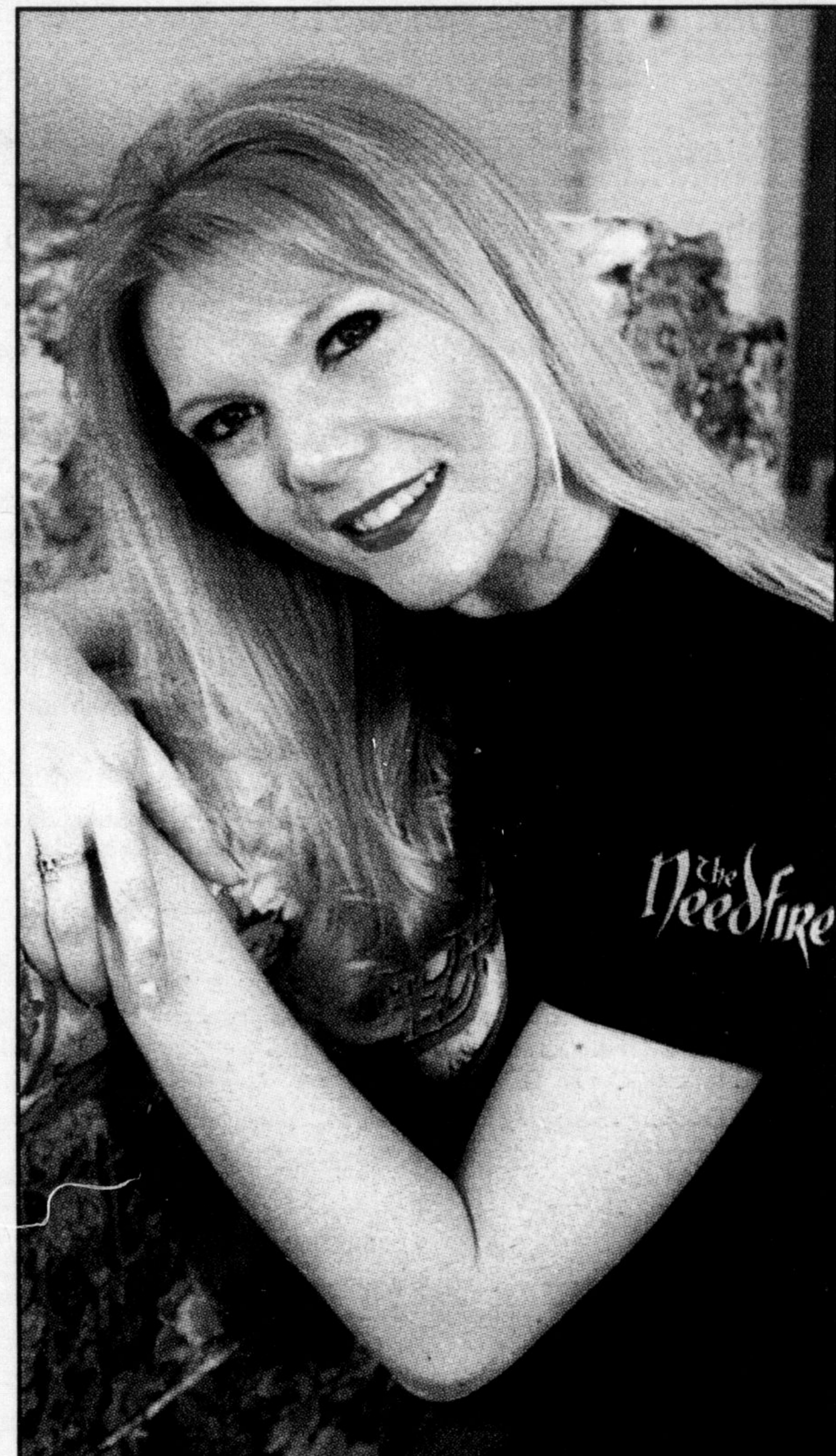
Ms Brown, 26, is one of 10 Irish dancers in the show.

Dancing since the age of six, she was put into Irish dancing because her father, who is Irish and her mother who is Welsh, wanted her to learn some of their traditions.

Growing up Ms Brown also took ballet, tap, jazz, modern and gymnastics but Irish dancing was her specialty. She competed for 13 years, becoming the Canadian and North American Irish dancing champion. She qualified three times to go to Ireland for the International championship. Although she never placed, just going was an honour, she said.

"The top three (dancers) from North America in your age group go. It's just a thrill to go."

For tickets, call the Royal Alexandra box office 1-800-461-3333.



Kerrie-Lee Brown performs as one of the Irish dancers in 'The Needfire' currently on stage at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

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*Bill Currie*

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