

# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## A stompin' good time

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation is offering up a *Stompin' Good Time* as their latest palliative care fundraiser next month.

The foundation is bringing the Asham Stompers and Sagkeeng's Finest for an evening of fiddling and jigging at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler on Saturday, Feb. 15. The show will also feature the musical talents of local acapella group The Vocalese.

Asham's Stompers specialize in the traditional Métis dancing of the Red River Jig, combining it with Aboriginal square dancing. Also dancing the jig are Sagkeeng's Finest, a trio of Sagkeeng First Nation youth who won the 2012 *Canada's Got Talent* for their fancy footwork. Both groups are joined on stage by fiddler and dancer Shawn Mousseau.

It's something a bit new to our region, but foundation administrator Shannon Samatte-Folkett hopes the lively show will be a hit with local audiences.

"If we could get a full house that would be absolutely wonderful," she said, noting the funds raised by the show will all go to help provide end-of-life care to patients at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The BTHC Foundation's palliative care fundraiser on Feb. 15 will feature the dancing talents of Asham's Stompers (above) and Sagkeeng's Finest, winners of Canada's Got Talent in 2012.

BTHC.

For Arnold Asham, the man behind Asham's Stompers, the chance to share a taste of Métis and Aboriginal culture is what keeps him and his troupe performing shows across North America.

"I started jigging and it just took my breath away," the 63-year-old said, relating how he laced up his first jigging shoes just 13 years ago as a favour to a friend. "I danced that day and then the next night and then I joined his group and haven't looked back since."

The Red River Jig was created in the late 1700s to draw fur traders into the Métis colony located at the current site of The Forks in Winnipeg.

Today, the Stompers strive to keep the tradition alive by passing the dance onto the next generation of Métis and Aboriginal youth. The group includes 15 rotating dancers ranging in age from six to 63.

One of the highlights of every show for Asham is seeing the crowd's reaction as the dancers' feet start to really fly across the stage.

"When we're dancing we go so hard, so fast . . . everybody just loves it," he said, adding that each dancer must learn dozens of intricate steps to pull the dance off correctly.

Sharing the dance on the world stage has opened up opportunities for many Aboriginal youth, Asham said, including the trio of teenage brothers known as Sagkeeng's Finest with their national talent show win a few years back.

"And this is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "This is just starting to gain momentum."

Tickets are \$20, plus fees and taxes, for adults and \$10 for kids 13 and under and are available online at [winklerconcerthall.ca](http://winklerconcerthall.ca) or by calling 1-866-943-8849.

### > QUILTING, FROM PG. 3

stitching to finish off the bindings," Hayward said, noting it was great to be able to work on so many pieces in one place in one day. "We enjoy quilting, so it's just a matter of keeping up our energy, and this is a fun place to do it."

Hayward went on to explain that they make sure to make quilts for both boys and girls, as well as a range of different sizes for children of all ages.

"We know that there's at least 50 children, if not more, going through Genesis House in a year, so in order to make sure that they have something to cuddle with as they pass through our doors, that's just a natural sort of link to our volunteer commitment to the organi-

zation and the good that they do in the community," Hayward said, adding that some of them have made quilts for Genesis House for almost 10 years, but that this was the first time they have been able to have a quilting bee of this magnitude.

In addition to fabric donated by Quilter's Den, the ladies also had lots of fabric donated to the cause by other quilters in the area.

If you'd like to make a donation of fabric or quilts towards this project, drop it off at the Quilter's Den or contact Derksen at 204-822-3105.

"As long as people keep donating fabric and material to make quilts, we'll keep making quilts," Hayward said.



PHOTO BY CORI BEZAN/VOICE

Yvette Baron works at putting the binding on one of the quilts headed to the Genesis House women's shelter for the kids staying there.