

Local teenagers win international dance competition

'Teenagers' hip-hopped to gold in Las Vegas

By Ann Davidson

The five-member dance troupe called "Teenagers" from the dance school, Tendance Dance Studio out of Granby soared to the podium with a gold in the junior division at the 15th annual International Hip-Hop competition in Las Vegas in August after a rousing and energetic dance routine.

The team has been working out together since September 2015. Their effort paid off in a defining moment when in June 2016 they qualified at the national competition to represent Canada at the world championships in Las Vegas. While most audiences were glued to the Rio Olympics coverage of the world's top

athletes, few were aware of the competition happening amongst the world's top dancers. One of the members explained that it didn't matter because their competition felt just like they were at the Olympics in consideration that 50 countries were being represented by dancers, and opening ceremonies were similar to the Olympics with dancers proudly flying the national flags as they entered the arena. And the winners are expected to stand on the podium to receive their medals while the national anthem of first place is played, à la Olympics-style.

On the Canadians' heels in second place was J.B. Star Varsity from Japan while New Zealand's The Bradas took bronze.

The celebrated seven-day event that is responsible for MTV's "America's Best



COURTESY

Left to right: West Bolton resident Alison Frenco and her teammates, Coralie Dubois, Kilianne Ruffange, Isanne Fleury, and Alexia Hébert.

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Dance Crew" drew 3,000 dancers and choreographers to Nevada. The prestigious event claims to adhere to the values of hip-hop culture. Hip-hoppers went to the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas to compete for the world title sponsored by Paul Mitchell Sports.

According to HHI, the organization has emerged as the world's largest and most respected street dance organization. With an international judging panel exercising a standard procedure the competition allows for a level playing field and the event serves to launch dancers into professional careers in entertainment. Cirque Du Soleil holds casting sessions during the championship each year and hires choreographers and dancers for its shows worldwide.

Clad in black T-shirts, khaki jackets, camouflage pants, and shining gold boots, the energetic young ladies killed their routine in front of 10,000 spectators and clearly won the approval of the judges who apply a standard procedure to evaluate the competition and thus allowing for a level playing field.

Twelve-year-old West Bolton resident Alison Frendo, who is one of the team, is no stranger to dance having taken up dancing at the age of four with lessons at the TBL Community Centre. From there she went on to Tendance in Granby and more recently became a member of the Massey-vanier dance concentration program under TBL'S supervision. Tamara Burcombe's

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