

Bancroft performers to headline in Haliburton



Bancroft will have a number of performers in the Highlands Summer Festival production of the famed musical Oliver! Front and centre is Carson Winnill, who will play the title role. Behind him are Jenny Moffitt, Emily Young, his mother Diane, and his sister Sydney, all of whom are also in the cast. TONY PEARSON Special to This Week

By Tony Pearson

Oliver! is among the most successful musicals ever, having played long runs on the London and Broadway stage, before becoming an Academy Award winning movie. Based on Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist, it tells the story of a young lad thrown into the slums and workhouses of Victorian England, and of his eventual salvation.

And Bancroft's own Carson Winnill has been chosen to play the lead role in the Highlands Summer Festival production this July. He will be joined in the cast by his mother and sister, as well as two music students from North Hastings High School.

Carson is a Grade 5 student at Our Lady of Mercy, who has studied piano and voice for several years and is a regular performer at the North Hastings music festival. His mother Diane is of course the music teacher at NHHS, well-known for leading the various high school bands in concerts around the area.

Jenny Moffitt and Emily Young, who are also in the NHHS music program, will join Carson's sister Sydney in the ensemble. They will be part of the chorus that sings of their desire for 'Food, Glorious Food' while starving in the workhouse, and later form Fagin's criminal gang of child pickpockets, who welcome Oliver in the famous number 'Consider Yourself At Home' and outline his new life for him ('You've got to pick a pocket or two?').

The other juvenile lead, Fagin's assistant The Artful Dodger, will be played by Jordy Schell of Minden. Interestingly, his mother and Carson's mother went to school together, so there are already close ties.

The total cast numbers more than 30, so it promises to be a lively and tuneful performance. The musical will run for 10 performances from July 4 to 14.