

ENTERTAINMENT

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Prince George's
BEST BETS

► Cat still has it

Cat Stevens

The Very Best of Cat Stevens

I don't usually give any attention to Greatest Hits albums, but this is worth an exception.

It is a worthy reminder that Cat was one of the best singer/songwriters of the modern age. It is his most comprehensive retrospective available and perhaps it signals a comeback from obscurity for the man now named Yusuf Islam, who still records music (mostly for charity).

► Party with the Brothers

Chemical Brothers

Brother's Gonna Work It Out

Great sample choices, the usual Chem. Bros. mix talent, a lot of commercial appeal but it tends to go on and on and on and... It's a great album to toss on at a party or on a long drive, but it's not for intent listening pleasure.



Play Time



► More from Englishman

J. Englishman

Poor Li'l Rock Star

The Canadian rock music scene has been maturing lately, with the likes of Jet Set Satellite, Tal Bachman, Matt Good Band and now J. Englishman. You've probably heard his hit single "More" but the album is much more varied and creative than that one fine tune alone. Loaded with equal parts attitude and sensitivity, and buckets of great production, it is a sure way to remember the good times of summer 2000.

The halt has been halted. The Canadian Northern Children's Festival suffered from a mild case of performance interruptus, which shut the family festival down for a year, but that illness has passed. As of this week, the show is back on again.

"The response from people has been great. The response from schools has been really great. We were able to catch them for their spring plans. I think they were very happy to see us back again. I think people realized that the festival is an essential part of Prince George. A real landmark for the city," says Melony Forster, the rookie president of the all-new festival board. She and about a half-dozen other key organizers have done almost all the work themselves to re-establish the festival in a new, contemporary, efficient package. It wasn't

The Canadian Northern Children's Festival is back in a new, sleeker format

easy. Momentum doesn't just kick in again.

"It makes planning a wedding look easy. We're talking about 45,000 guests, plus volunteers. It sure is bigger than arguing over what kind of wedding cake you want," Melony says, laughing. The only reason she jumped on board at all was because she is a children's entertainer by occupation and couldn't stand to see the premier kid's event in Northern B.C. go down the tubes.

It was lonely work. Only a few people cared to join her in the rescue

effort. She says it was frustrating to have such overwhelming responsibility forced on them, but she also appreciates the freedom that allowed. All the ideas on the table were new ideas. The festival could not survive the same old way, so they felt no pain throwing out old notions and inserting new ones.

The first thing to get the axe was the old Fort George Park location. The park was lovely, but the tents required to hold the entertainment cost about \$45,000. The Kin Centres, however, were cheap, available and decked out with all the trimmings a family festival could want.

Next came re-vamping the line-up. There was hardly any money available for expensive talent, so they lined up local acts plus a few strategic headliners. Their little bit of money went

PLEASE TURN TO FESTIVAL, PAGE B4

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