



Sunday Smiles engage kids with Mystic Drumz

By Jon Thompson, The Enterprise

Like a collective heart beat of life, the drums of the world are our culture, our history and our rhythm. This weekend at Sunday Smiles, that heartbeat is going to patter as children take in a fantastic global search for a giant frog with Mystic Drumz. Lorne Lampert is the founder and chief drummer officer of the edutainment children's program that leads learners to the corners of the earth with video and live instruments.

He befriends frogs and pigs on a tour de force on planes, trains and roller coasters as they learn about countries, cultures and the percussion instruments that express their beat. As with any fun drumming circle, there is a chance a dance party could break out.

"We get the kids dancing to get to the different countries", he explained. "There's call and response games. It's a lot of calling and singing."

Lampert has been a drummer since the age of 12 and studied at the post secondary level in Toronto under master Indian drummer, Trichy Sankaran. Playing with a cultural pomegranate of international players, he gradually learned the intricate differences between international drumming forms and an appreciation for the cultural roots of the sounds. After he finished the education program at York University, Lampert went on to establish a chain of Mystic Drumz one-man shows in Chicago, Mexico and French Speaking Eastern Ontario.

When he comes to Kenora this weekend, he'll be bringing the original show that concludes with a cliffhanger. "I've always had an amazing rapport with children," he said. "I've always had a unique talent for engaging the kids, making things fun and being one step ahead. As a drummer, you try to be quick and play fast. It's the same thing with the thought process working with children. You need to be two or three songs ahead of them and guide them where the story and edu-tainment is going... If we can engage, then we can entertain, then we can educate".