

SOCIAL

Royal welcome

By ASHLEY FITZPATRICK

THE TELEGRAM

Charles Philip Arthur George, the Prince of Wales and heir apparent the British throne, and Camilla Parker Bowles, the Duchess of Cornwall, are being formally welcomed on their visit to Canada with a big "to do" in St. John's ... and everyone is invited.

Visiting the country from Nov. 2 to Nov. 12, Charles and Camilla are flying into St. John's just before the start of Monday's opening event.

Their official, public welcome to Canada will include flowers presented to Bowles by Jeremy Jones and Olivia Power, representing Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as musical performances by the Nunatsiavut Drum Dancers, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band and Shallaway: Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus.

The Se't Anewey Performance Choir from the Miawpukek First Nation in Come River had been scheduled to perform, but pulled out of the event after some members came down with H1N1 flu.

Susan Knight, founder and artistic director of Shallaway, said the choirs were asked "months and months" ago to perform at the event and the group has been practising all this week on their selected performance piece.

"Shallaway is about the culture of the place, so we obviously presented a Newfoundland repertoire (for consideration)," Knight said, adding that final selections were made by federal representatives.

"We're going to be singing 'Take Me Back to Cape St. Mary's,'" she said.

"It's an honour to be asked to represent the province in this way," Knight said. "(For the choir,) I think this will be a particularly memorable event in their lives."

Speeches slated

In addition to performances from the choirs, the ceremony will include speeches from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Danny Williams and Prince Charles. The Prince will also inspect the 100-person honour guard and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band.

"I encourage young and old alike to come out and ensure we give a warm welcome to our special visitors as only Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can," Williams said in a news release.

On potential H1N1 flu fears, provincial Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dave Denine said cancelling the ceremony at Mile One Centre is not something that has been considered by the province.

"Basically, what we're telling the public is to use common sense," Denine said late Friday afternoon. "If you're sick, stay home."

Knight said she is encouraging everyone who can to attend the Mile One ceremony.

Deputy Mayor Shannie Duff said the regularly scheduled city council meeting will be held an hour early, at 3:30 p.m., instead of 4:30 p.m., so city councilors can attend.

"It is not a city function. It is a provincial function, a federal function," Duff said. "The city's role has been as a facilitator. Where we have been able to help or co-operate, we have been happy to do so."

As well, the city will fly the Prince of Wales flag while the prince is in St. John's.

The city will be the first stop for the Royals in a visit that is scheduled to include 11 Canadian communities in four provinces.

"On this visit, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will meet Canadians who are making a real difference in people's lives, and who have become stewards of our

history and heritage by conserving and preserving it for generations to come," said federal Minister of Canadian Heritage James Moore.

Some of those Canadians include archeologists in Cupids, researchers at the Marine Institute, workers at the Stella Burry Community Services Centre, and teachers and students at the Association for New Canadians in St. John's.

This is the first visit to Canada by the Duchess of Cornwall. It is the 15th visit for Prince Charles.



Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, ride in a carriage during a state procession at Windsor Castle, England, Tuesday. — Photo by The Associated Press