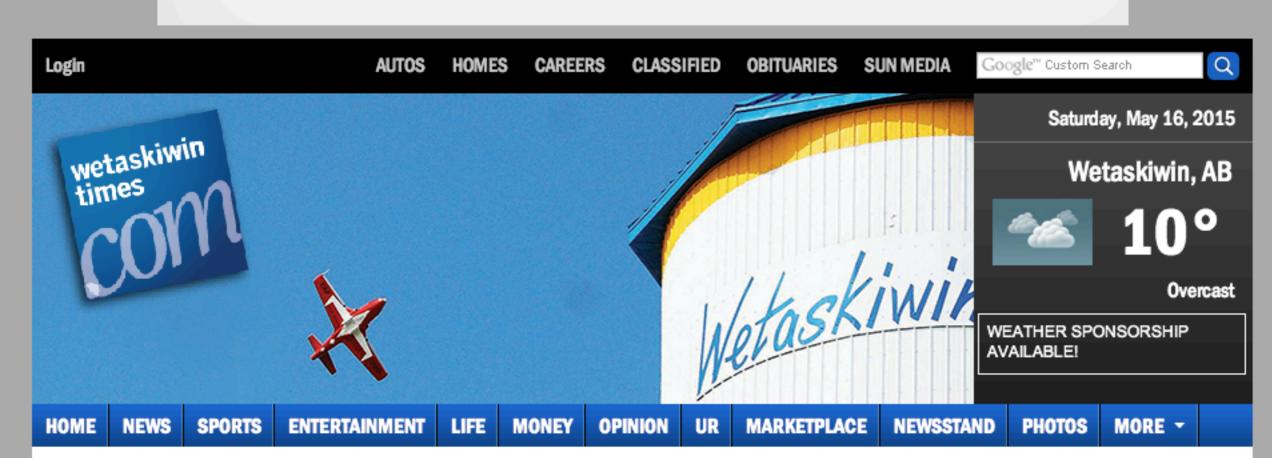
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## Pianofest gets started on the right note

Michael Chan/Staff writer Wednesday, July 10, 2013 12:07:10 MDT PM

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The Alberta Pianofest began its first of many concerts this past weekend.

On Saturday, the inaugural concert of the three weeklong festivals began with a recital performance by Edmonton native Jason Cutmore.

Alberta Pianofest is a festival and two week study course for master level

students from all around Canada, ages 12 to 18, held at Muhurst Bay. The program was created with the idea of sharing the knowledge of classical music and helping inspire the youths of the province. Pianofest was founded by Jason Cutmore, a world renowned pianist who has performed in concerts all over North America, Europe and India.

program he will be able to help guide the youths in the province he grew up "When I was younger I got an opportunity to take a similar study course," said Cutmore. "There aren't very many here that are geared towards

Cutmore has spent much of the last few years living down in the United States just outside of New York City, and he hopes that through this

students of that playing level.

"So that's why I wanted to offer that."

There were 12 young aspiring pianists who were selected for this exclusive program, which involved a selection process. The ones selected received a full scholarship to study at this academy. Ten of the 12 students are from Alberta with one from Ontario and the other from the U.S.

"An artist retreat like this at a beautiful lake side setting is a very wonderful way to engage young people in music, to make it enjoyable for them," said Cutmore.

"It's a short period of intense study where you leave all the concerns in life in the city behind and just focus on this one thing for a little while it makes it a unique experience."

Cutmore has many connections to Pigeon Lake and area as he spent much time during his youth around the area, it played a large part for selecting it as the destination for this musical retreat.

"I kind of great up visiting friends from Pigeon Lake and Sylvan Lake," said Cutmore. "So I always loved the location,"

"Naturally I thought of them as locations when I wanted to start a festival."

Cutmore noticed that despite Alberta being a vacation destination, there are not a lot of events for the classical music lovers. He hopes that through this festival he can give people around the Pigeon Lake area a chance to experience something that is a rarity in the province.

"I started this is because unlike the places I have performed at, it seemed strange that Alberta didn't have any great art festivals," said Cutmore. "Despite having great tourist destinations and vacation destinations."

Throughout the next two weeks there will be a total of six concerts performed by internationally acclaimed pianist that are from all around North America. Four of the six recitals will be held in Pigeon Lake, with the other two in Edmonton.

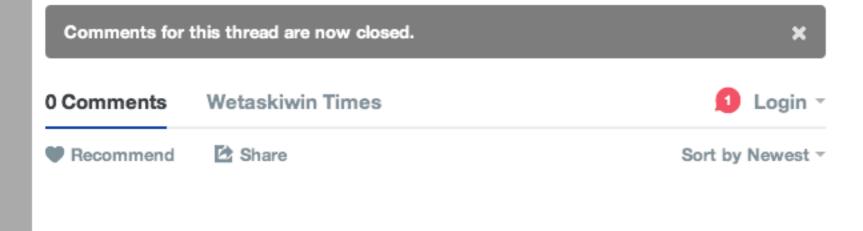
For more information and concert dates and time, please visit www.albertapianofest.com

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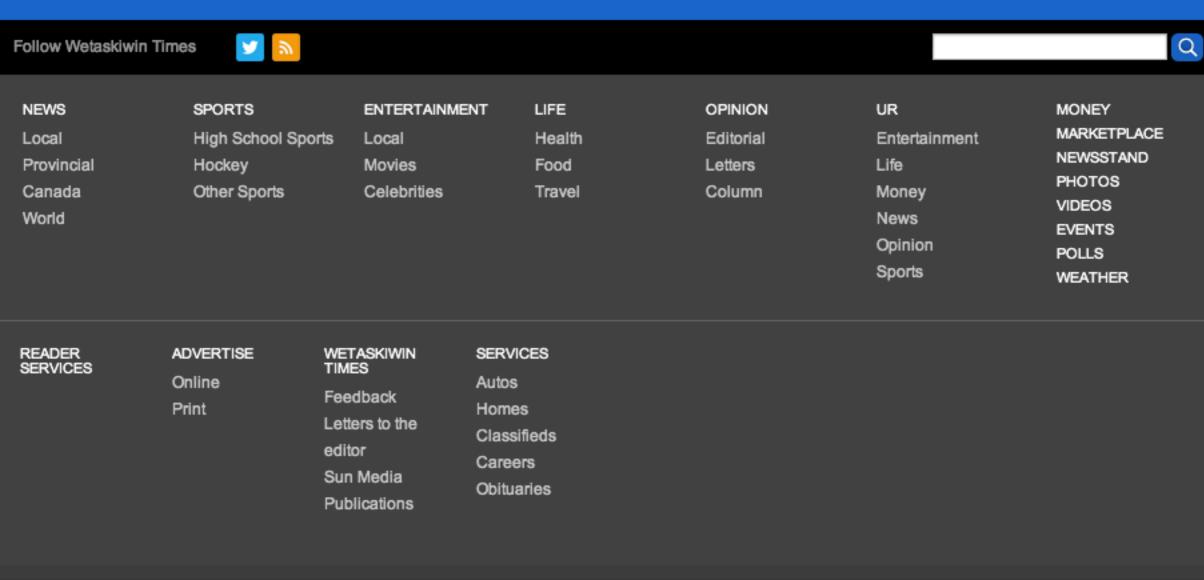
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