

Provost Man to Return

From P. 20
drama.)”
He added that “great Canadian songwriter Julie Blue “nailed it” in the film.

Friesen hopes through the film to bring a message aimed at youth around the world that even if they are “down” they can with effort, achieve and excel. Plans are being made to have him talk to students in Provost on May 4.

Pete Friesen, despite hardship as a young boy and only able to attend school to Grade 8 went on to become a serious but humble world class achiever.

Another famous move involved one of the only houses to survive the 1871 Chicago fire. The

Widow Clarke House — Chicago’s oldest was moved by the former Provost lad 27 feet up, and then across the elevated railway commuter line and 27 feet safely back down. Other moves included: the Fairmont Hotel in San Antonio, Texas (another Guinness record) as the heaviest structure to be moved on wheels. It weighed in at 3.5 million pounds and Friesen moved it five city blocks; the Gem Theatre

in Detroit set another Guinness record when he moved it away from the wrecker’s ball. Weight of the theatre: 5.4 million pounds. Next Friesen broke his own record in Minneapolis when a fragile Shubert Theatre at almost six million pounds was successfully moved; in 2000 Friesen found himself moving the Newark, New Jersey air terminal building which was 280 feet long, 70 feet wide and two stories high

Pete Friesen (seated) signs a special premiere edition DVD for Gem Theatre guests in Detroit last week. “Think things through, and you can achieve anything” – it’s a simple motto that Friesen cultivated through his experiences and has lived by. And, reports the *Lynden Tribune* (Washington) newspaper—It is also powerful enough to have led him to build a legacy: Friesen is a world-renowned although self-made engineer whose innovative work has allowed for the preservation of numerous monuments of American history. The newspaper also reported that by sharing his personal story from his birth in Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine to his immigration across Europe, Canada and eventually to retirement in Lynden, Friesen is avidly dedicated to spreading his message to the youth of today. “If they see that I could do it, maybe they’ll think, ‘I can do it, too,’” Friesen said. “I did a little poem for the kids in Idaho and impressed them. It went something like this, ‘For the end, when the road is rough and the going is tough. Then think it through. Oh, yes. Please do. When you’ve done all you can to visualize, then go to the major of earth and skies. Ask him to be your guide. And surely you’ll be in for a smooth ride.’”

plus the control tower weighing in at 13 million pounds. He used 167 rubber-tired dollies with 1,312 wheels. When one of Friesen’s moving team members and him were on the roof of the building sizing up the job, he said “Pete, it’s too big.” Friesen replied “Jerry, think of it as a small job that needs more equipment to do it.” Friesen visualized the job and then did it. He also was involved in the moving of entire light-

houses inland from the sea that was eroding banks including the famous Cape Hatteras (the move was featured in National Geographic some years ago) and others that were in danger of being swallowed up by the waves against crumbling banks.

Tickets, die cut in the shape of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse and one foot tall, are now on sale in Provost.




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