

Peel Region
Biology - B2

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Chosen to try for the top

By **CONNIE RAE**

Being one of 35 students from across Canada accepted into the National Ballet of Canada school is an achievement many girls dream about. For Nancy Marie Wtewaall of Cooksville it is a dream come true.

Because the National Ballet prefers its dancers younger than 15-year-old Nancy (they are easier to mold) and slim, Nancy wasn't certain of acceptance. She lost 15 pounds, arriving at the auditions with 95 pounds on her five-foot-two inch frame.

During the auditions, while some 20 people discussed the potential ballerinas, Nancy noticed that her strength and Russian training were a definite asset.

"The other girls were wavering with their foot at a 90-degree angle while I was able to keep mine steady due to my strength," she said.

Nancy began classes at the ballet school at Maitland and George Streets in Toronto on

March 7 and is hopeful she will be able to transfer some credits from T. L. Kennedy secondary school where she was enrolled in Grade 10. At the academy she takes several academic subjects and has from three to five hours of ballet a day.

She's out of the house by 7.30 a.m. and seldom returns home before 7 p.m.

Nancy began dancing more than 10 years ago but didn't learn the Russian technique until she attended the Cristina Pora Micalleff ballet school in Clarkson.

"Up to that time everything was concentrated on the legs," she said. "I had to learn to use my arms, my hands and my head to make the movement flow," she said.

There are many long and hard years ahead before it will be determined whether she has the intangibles that translate into greatness. She's glad she has the opportunity to find out.

