

FRIENDLY GAME: Second year education student Michelle Snook gets ready to peg her points in a game of four-handed cribbage Tuesday night at the Smallwood Centre at Memorial University in St. John's. Snook and her friends were participating in games night as part of Winter Blast activities. The annual winter carnival ends Friday.

including Rodney Pond and First and Second Burnt Ponds. The season will run from Feb. 1 to April 1, with the daily bag limit reduced to six trout or two pounds plus one fish. The possession limit will be the daily catch limit.

sources and Agrifoods in Wabush or Happy Valley-Goose Bay will provide details. Details will also appear in the 2002 Anglers' Guide.

The non-scheduled waters for Newfoundland and Labrador will close

The daily bag limit in the province is 12 trout or one fish, with the daily bag limit in the Bay watershed, St. John's and First and Second Burnt Ponds where the daily limit is two pounds plus one fish.

TELEVISION

Random Passage cracks million-plus viewer mark

BY MARK VAUGHAN-JACKSON

The Telegram

Random Passage, the epic mini-series on the struggle of Newfoundland settlers, seems to have caught the attention of Canadian television viewers.

Close to 1.2 million viewers tuned in to the opening episode on CBC Sunday night. And that was despite the fact incorrect TV listings in Atlantic Canada caused some to miss the first part of the program.

Episode 2 on Monday night upped the ante, weighing in with 1,245,000 viewers.

Barbara Doran, one of the Newfoundland producers of the eight-hour mini-series, said the news was most welcome — especially coming as it did after the listings errors.

"I'm in a much better mood today," a buoyant-sounding Doran said Tuesday.

"They called me from the CBC and said they were bouncing off the walls there. They're really happy."

What makes the strong ratings even better is the fact they show a vigorous national interest in the series, Doran

said.

They'd always expected interest from Newfoundland viewers, but viewers elsewhere in Canada were more of an unknown quantity, she said.

"It's obvious that the appeal went far beyond what we had thought. If we'd come in with maybe even 700,000 we would have been happy. And there's not 1.2 million Newfoundlanders out there ... or maybe there was, maybe they're all Newfoundlanders," she said with a laugh.

Based on Newfoundland author Bernice Morgan's books Random Passage and Waiting for Time, the mini-series follows the struggle to survive in Cape Random, an isolated fishing station on the Newfoundland coast.

Random Passage saw a reunion of John Smith and Des Walsh, the director/writer team from the award-winning series The Boys of St. Vincent, and features performances by Colm Meaney, Aoife McMahon, Deborah Pollitt, Daniel Payne, Mary-Lynn Bernard, Ruth Lawrence, Brenda Devine, Phil Dinn, Mary Walsh and Andy Jones.

The final two two-hour installments of Random Passage air Feb. 3 and 4 at 8:30 p.m. Newfoundland time.

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Sara Rostotski



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