



Photo by Kayleen Preston

Although he had laryngitis, Bob Rae came to the Caper's Restaurant in downtown Belleville Sept. 27, to inform the citizens of Prince Edward-Hastings of the Liberal party's plans for this year. Rae spoke to the public, then answered questions that was a concern to citizens. His bubbly personality intrigued the crowd throughout the duration of his speech.

Justin Trudeau plans to announce candidacy today

Liberals try to get back in the game

*Interim Liberal leader
Bob Rae speaks
at Belleville forum*

By Julia McKay

With the impending announcement of Justin Trudeau for the candidacy of the

leadership of the federal Liberals today, rebuilding is the name of the game.

Interim leader Bob "the builder" Rae spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at the Prince Edward-Hastings Federal Liberal Association bridge forum series last Thursday at Capers Brasserie and Wine Bar in downtown Belleville.

"The last election was a surprising tough result; the worst result we've had

since Confederation," said Rae during a press conference before his speech. "We've had a lot of rebuilding to do and I'm glad to have played my part."

Boasting more than 25,000 new supporters joining the party, the fund-raising event was an opportunity for local Liberals, and those interested in the Liberal party, to come out and hear Rae speak about both his and the party's future. During the last federal

election, the Liberals lost 43 seats in the House of Commons and are now down to only 34 seats.

With Trudeau's announcement planned, Rae said he wasn't backing any particular candidate. "The party will choose its next leader," Rae said. "We're really trying to create a sense that we want the public to be involved."

When asked why he chose not to run for the next leadership, Rae said he was

just following the agreement that was set out when he was chosen as interim leader.

"I'm happy to give all my skills and whatever I've learned and hand over something stronger and better to the next leader."

Even though he will be stepping back, Rae will still remain involved with the Liberal party and as the Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre.

NHL game moved to next year

Hockeyville, even without the game, is still lots of fun

By James Wood and Samantha Pyear

STIRLING – Despite an overcast sky and the threat of rain, the Stirling Hockeyville celebrations this past Sunday went off without a hitch.

The town showed great enthusiasm as a huge parade wove its way down West Front Street, ending at the Stirling District Recreation Arena. The crowds cheered as floats of young hockey players and marching bands went past, and it seemed like the whole town made an appearance.

Nick Saunders and his three daughters, Rosie, Katie, and Angie, were all decked out in blue wigs and big fall jackets for the occasion.

"We couldn't wait for this to happen," Saunders said, watching the parade go by.

The town of Stirling has put a great deal of effort into Hockeyville, starting last year with the nomination process. The town was nominated after participating in the first step on the road to becoming Hockeyville: writing letters that showcased just how much the community embodies hockey culture and how the sport is a part of the community.

These essays were evaluated and used to pick 15 towns, which were then voted on. In 2012, 762 communities across Canada participated in the contest. After narrowing down the list, 15 finalists were selected and voted on in a three-day period. Out of all these towns, five lucky candidates were chosen. Yarmouth, N.S., Amos, Que., Duck Lake, Sask., West Kelowna, B.C., and of course, Stirling. Out of these five, the final vote was between West Kelowna and Stirling. After receiving almost four million votes, Stirling became Hockeyville 2012.

For all the uproar over the NHL lockout this past month, Hockeyville in Stirling was untroubled by the latest developments. Decorations were up across town, with mock tailgate parties and straw hockey players stuck on lawns with jerseys and sticks at the ready.

When asked about whether the NHL lockout would impact the day's celebrations, Hockeyville Chair Cindy Brandt had no worries. "The lockout has had no effect on our party today and the parade, look at the turn out. People didn't care if there was a hockey game, they came to see that Stanley Cup."

After winning Hockeyville, an NHL game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Columbus Blue Jackets was scheduled to take place at the Yardmen Arena in Belleville. Due to the recent NHL lockout, the game will not take place until next fall. Brandt will be making an announcement when the lottery will open for game tickets later in the week.

At the end of the parade, the arena parking lot was set up. Stalls gave out free food, with long lines forming for hamburgers and nachos.

Awards were given to the organizing committee, led by Cindy Brandt. Later that night, a game between Team Stirling and Team Rawdon made up for the NHL game that had to be canceled because of the lockout. Team Rawdon won, seven to five.

With the Stirling Hockeyville done, it is now another community's turn to host the festivities and become Hockeyville 2013. Because no matter where you are in Canada, hockey truly lives here.



Photo by James Wood

Nick Saunders and his daughters Rosie, Katie and Angie were in the Hockeyville spirit this past Sunday, showing off their crazy hair.