



Photo by Emily Cumming

Elizabeth, a patient at the Victorian Order of Nurses day program in Trenton, hugs Bandit, a therapy dog from the St. John Ambulance in Quinte. Bandit's owner Joyce Fowler brings him to visit patients in hospitals, nursing homes and other health facilities throughout Trenton. For story and photo, see page 2.

Food banks benefit from drive

By Patrick Callbeck

Tim Hortons restaurants in Belleville are trying to feed more than just their customers this season as they seek food donations for local charities.

Winter is coming and with it comes a large increase in demand at local food banks. Tim Hortons locations across the city are currently asking residents to join them in collecting non-perishable food items to donate to city food banks to make sure there isn't a shortage over the

winter months.

Brown paper donation bags were distributed to houses across the city in the Nov. 15 edition of The Community Press. Between now and Sunday, Nov. 25, everyone is encouraged to fill the bags with non-perishable food items

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Gleaners director of operations
Susanne Quinlan

and bring them to their nearest Tim Hortons location, where they can find a clearly marked donation bin.

All of the food collected in Belleville during the food drive will be donated to Gleaners Food Bank and Salvation Army's Community and Family Services, here in

Belleville. The two organizations alternate pickup days throughout the donation period.

"It's a good little food drive," said Susanne Quinlan, director of operations at Gleaners Food Bank. "Tim Hortons has already donated \$1,200 and half a ton of apple juice, orange juice, and coffee," she added.

It isn't the largest food drive in Belleville, but it does provide much needed supplies at a crucial time of year. The annual food drive is part of a nationwide

community initiative sponsored by Tim Hortons.

The food drive takes place across the country at different times of the year and is only one of a variety of different programs sponsored by the company. Currently the food drive is taking place in over 200 communities across southern Ontario.

"It's great that a large corporation like Tim Hortons helps out their local community -- plus everyone loves coffee," said Quinlan.

Foster family Christmas lights display gets new location

By Lyndsay-Lee Quinn

Hundreds of people gathered to kick-off Christmas Friday evening at the new home of the Foster family display.

Just after 6 p.m. on Nov. 16, the lights were turned on and the music started to play in Jane Forrester Park for the Christmas at the Pier Light Display.

It was almost as if it were a scene from a movie. It seemed everyone had a coffee and donut in hand, provided by Tim Hortons, all gathered around the Foster Family display.

The crowd joined city council members in counting down, "Three...two...one!"

The lights came on, the music started to play, and the crowd of approximately 1,000 people cheered.

"This community has never had a full-blown Christmas light display," said Councillor Garnet Thompson.

The Foster Family display has been happening for decades in honour of Billy Foster, son of Don and Rita. Foster and friend Art Culloden were killed in a car accident on Christmas Eve 1958. Foster's parents started the light display to remember them every Christmas.

The original display was held every year at Tom Gavey Alemitte Park, but this year with a larger budget, organizers wanted more room to be able to expand in years to come.

"We really toyed with leaving it there because the residents really enjoyed it. The committee got together and this is the right place for it," said Mayor Neil Ellis.

"This is more of an accessible park, and you see the amount of people tonight."

The display spans throughout the park, with the refurbished Foster Family display taking centre stage. It's the only part of the display that is fenced off, with signage explaining the display and a photo of Foster.

"We had the Foster display, but we never built on that display," said Thompson.

Taking a stroll through the park, you can interact with many of the new additions to the display. On Friday, after the

official ceremony, many people did just that, taking photos in front of the displays, and enjoying quality time with friends and family. Some new additions include pieces such as animated deer, Christmas trees and specks of green and purple light

on the sidewalk, coming from projectors on top of light standards.

The lights are as impressive as the budget, which was \$135,000 this year, with \$25,000 of that being public donations. Thompson said organizers plan on dou-

bling the display next year.

"The joy for the kids is really what will make this a long lasting display for the people," said Thompson.

Young and old will be able to enjoy Christmas at the Pier, located at the bot-

tom of South Front Street until the first Monday in January.

The lights and music come on every day at 5 p.m., and turn off at 10:30 p.m. Closer to Christmas, you just might be able to see the lights even earlier.



Photo by Lyndsay-Lee Quinn

Councillor Garnet Thompson shows off the new Christmas at the Pier Lights display, which he is managing. The display is located in Jane Forrester Park, just north of Meyers Pier. Thompson who is also chair of the accessibility committee, chose this location so that everyone can enjoy the Christmas spirit.