



Photo by Jessica Nyznik

A Trent Hills firefighter, along with groom Ken Dehne, helps bride Ginette Dehne out of the Trent River after a beachside vow renewal in Campbellford on Saturday. Joined by their original best man and maid of honour, Earl McLean and Kim Ray, as well as Rev. Dave Stephenson, the group took the leap off the icy shore as part of Campbellford's 21st annual Polar Plunge.

Polar plunge a frosty end to vow renewal

By Jessica Nyznik

It wasn't your typical day at the beach Saturday as a bride and groom renewed their vows and jumped into the icy Trent River.

The Campbellford Memorial Hospital Auxiliary hosted the 21st-annual Polar Plunge at Lions Park Beach in Campbellford.

The estimated \$7,000 to \$8,000 raised to be used to help purchase a central monitoring system and upgrade the hospital's computer system.

Bride and groom Ginette and Ken Dehne, along with best man Earl McLean, maid-of-honour Kim Ray and Rev. Dave Stephenson, were the first to jump off the frozen shore.

Ken Dehne was dressed in a used tuxedo, while

Ginette wore her original wedding gown. Married for 20 years, the two decided to renew their vows at the plunge in an effort to drum up some attention for the event that they first participated in last year.

The 18 brave participants, down from 24 last year, stepped, dove and even cannonballed from the frozen bank into the waist-deep water, while under the watchful eye of a crew from the Trent Hills Fire Department's 1100 station.

After performing an ice rescue demonstration, two

'It's for the hospital and my bucket list, of course. You start early, you get a lot more done.'

Hayley Gale

firefighters waded into the water while two stood along the edge of the ice to attend to the jumpers.

Plungers ranged from first-timers to seasoned veterans.

Hayley Gale, 18, and Margaret Bodri, 48, both from Campbellford, jumped together for the first time.

"It's for the hospital and my bucket list, of course. You start

early, you get a lot more done," said Gale. "I've always wanted to do it and I love polar bears ... I wanted to see what the polar bears feel," said Bodri.

Not only was best man McLean a member of the wedding party that was Campbellford's most unique plungers to date, but he has also been taking part in the polar dip for 20 years.

"It was not bad, actually. The clothing helped," said McLean, who took the leap while wearing long johns, a white-collared shirt with a suit jacket, and red tie.

"You can't breathe or talk while you're out there. It's such a shock to the system," added McLean.

In the past, money raised by the auxiliary has helped to purchase an ultrasound machine, a bone density machine, and more for the hospital.

"They give us a wish list and we fill it," laughed Pat Bannister, co-president of the auxiliary and convener of the Plunge.

Protesters gather at convention

By Richard Barclay

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 unionized workers gathered in Toronto on Saturday to protest the Liberal Leadership Convention.

The protest gathered at Allen Gardens located in-between Gerrard Street East and Carlton Street at 11:30 a.m. to hear speeches made by different union representatives. Unions taking part in the protest were from a wide range of industries. Among them were the Canadian Auto Workers, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and of course, the teachers' unions. The rally was organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Among the thousands of protesters was Karen Fisk, president of the Hastings-Prince Edward Local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. Along with Fisk was Pierre Martin, second-vice president, and approximately 30 elementary school teachers from the Belleville area. "I feel that it was very important for us to come down to Toronto while the new premier was being elected to make our voices heard," Fisk said.

Martin organized buses for teachers who wanted to participate in the rally. Teachers met up at Franklin Bus Terminal at 9 a.m. Saturday morning to take a bus from Belleville to Allen Gardens. There were another two buses that Martin organized that were leaving from Bancroft, one for elementary teachers, the other for secondary school teachers.

"From my point of view, I felt that Saturday was successful. We were able to send our message that the rights and freedoms of the people of Ontario must be upheld. It was extremely energizing to be among 10,000 to 15,000 people standing up for their rights," said Martin.

After the buses arrived, protesters armed with picket signs and sporting ETFO clothing made their way to the rally area.

By 1 p.m. the park was a complete sea

of protesters from many different union groups. Leaders of the union groups made speeches about many issues including austerity policies, Bill 115, and Idle No More. At the end of the speeches, the crowd began chanting, "Stop the war on the poor. Make the rich pay!"

The protesters then began their march, going west along Gerrard Street East to Yonge Street. They then continued north to Carlton Street to their final destination, Maple Leaf Gardens, where the Liberal

Leadership Convention was taking place.

The streets were packed shoulder to shoulder with people waving the flags of their unions, as well as picket signs with slogans aimed directly towards the Liberal party. The slogans of choice that the teachers unions decided to go with were "Teachers Always Put Students First," "Respect our collective bargaining rights" and "If you work in Ontario, this is your fight. Stop Bill 115."

Bill 115 removes the affected teachers'

unions right to strike. By doing this the cabinet is able to intervene to prevent a strike before or after it has started. However, an ETFO article published on their website, states that the legislation does not specifically remove the right to take strike votes and action under the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

The protest came to an end at around 4 p.m. The teachers from Belleville made their way back to their bus to head home after a very long day.



Photo by Richard Barclay

Karen Fisk, full-time president of the Hastings-Prince Edward Local of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, marches along Gerrard Street East towards Yonge Street with other protesters on route to Maple Leaf Gardens where the Liberal convention was taking place this past weekend.

Justin Trudeau to tour media wing at Loyalist College

By Jessica Nyznik

Belleville is expecting a visit from Justin Trudeau on Valentine's Day, so dump your date and head to Loyalist College.

Trudeau is scheduled to make an hour-long stop at the college on Feb. 14, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

According to Lenore Begley, president of the federal Liberal riding association for Prince Edward Hastings, Trudeau's visit will begin with a tour of the media studies wing followed by a question and answer period at 10:30 a.m., which will be held in Alumni Hall.

Trudeau is looking to make a connection to a younger audience, which is why he chose Loyalist to host this event, said Begley. She said she feels Trudeau has "an obvious appeal to youth" because he is energetic and hopeful and that "causes people to have a lot of hope".

The MP of the Montreal riding of Papineau, Que. is currently making his way across the country for his Liberal leadership campaign.

In a public statement, Trudeau said he would be talking with people about the challenges and concerns that affect Canadians and offering ideas how to overcome these issues together.

Trudeau is one of nine candidates running for the leadership in the April 2013 election.

As the son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, Justin Trudeau said he hopes to win this election by his own merit.

"... I don't expect anybody to support me because of who my father was. I intend to earn it," said Trudeau in a personal message on his website.

The college welcomes the public to attend the Q&A period in Alumni Hall in room 1H6.