

Bulls score big for Lung Association

By Jeff Peters

The Belleville Bulls knocked down some pins on Sunday in support of The Lung Association of Canada.

The event allowed fans to bowl with their favourite Bulls players while supporting a great cause.

The affair drew fans of all ages. Zach Ellis, 12, got the opportunity to meet his favourite Bulls player.

“I met Malcolm Subban. That was pretty fun and that’s exactly who I wanted to meet,” said Ellis, a Grade 5 student at St. Joseph Catholic School in Belleville.

Quinte Bowling volunteered its facilities to the association’s fundraiser, as it has for the past nine years.

“It’s a great event. We host it and they get the whole building for free. The advertisement is great for us and it’s great for the fans,” said Ron Jones, manager of Quinte Bowl.

Participants were asked to pledge a minimum of \$125 per five-member team. The entry was \$25. The top five pledges were awarded with a night of hockey hospitality in the entertainment suites at the Yardmen Arena for an upcoming Belleville Bulls home game, courtesy of Foley Bus Lines.

The fundraiser gave the Bulls a chance to let their hair down and have a good time after a 3-1 win over the London Knights last Saturday night.

Originally from Rexdale, Ont., Bulls defenceman Jordan Subban participated for the second year in a row.

“It’s always fun, meeting our fans and people in the community and giving back,”

This year’s fundraiser appeared to have twice as many volunteers and raised double the amount of money as last year, said Debby Nolan, volunteer and fund development coordinator of the Belleville Lung Association.



Photo by Jeff Peters

Belleville Bulls goaltender Malcolm Subban throws a shot during a game at Quinte Bowl for the Lung Association of Canada’s fundraising event, Bowling With the Bulls.

Council asked to come up with some dough

Good Food Box helps people of Belleville who don’t know where next meal will come from

By Lyndsay-Lee Quinn

Since 1995, the Good Food Box program has been helping the community and would like to continue, so they’re asking city council for a little help.

Ruth Ingersoll, executive director of the Community Development Council of Quinte, spoke to council Monday night, asking for fees to be waived, so the Good Food Box program can continue to help the community.

“Even though we’re doing lots of good work, we know there’s still lots of good work to do. We know that Hastings and Prince Edward counties have the highest rate of food insecurity in Ontario,” said Ingersoll.

The mission of the Good Food Box program is to improve the quality of life of families and individuals in our community. They’re doing this by offering a box full of nutritious foods for \$15, as well as \$5 fruit baskets. These are available to anyone in the community. You don’t have to prove how much money you make, or don’t make.

To buy the same items that are in the \$15 food box at a local grocery store, it costs over \$32 Ingersoll told council members. The program is able to keep costs low by buying food wholesale.

The Good Food Box program recently lost its packing space at a local church, and is now using space at Hillcrest Community Centre, but that comes with a monthly fee of \$282.50.

The fee may not seem like an absorbent amount of money, but having to pay this fee means the program will either have to raise the price of the good food boxes, or officials will have to take out some items, giving less food

to people. Ingersoll asked council to waive the fee until officials can apply for a grant later this year and council agreed.

In 2012, a total of 1,630 families or individuals used the Good Food Box program, resulting in 6,270 good food boxes and fruit baskets being sold.

“Our community is giving back to this program tremendously,” said Ingersoll about their volunteers. There are over 30 volunteers giving 204 hours each month, which is 2,448 volunteer hours every year.

Councillor Garnet Thompson asked, “How do people get a hold of you that need food baskets? We all know that there is a problem in our community. We need the food bank and there are people going hungry.”

People can call the office and there are also 10 other locations within the city where food can be picked up. There are flyers in the food bank, so people using their service know there

are other options as well, Ingersoll explained.

People pay at the beginning of the month, and then they pick up their boxes the third week of the same month. This way, people can pay for food when they are more likely to have money at the beginning of the month and will get their food when they are maybe starting to run low on money for food.

The Good Food Box program receives funding from United Way and from Hastings County, but on top of that, they raise \$25,000 – 30,000 a year by doing charity bingos and in-house fundraising.

“People are out there pinching every penny, trying to stretch their dollars and we want to give them the most food in their box, give them the best way to stretch their dollar, and eat healthy nutritious food, which will make for a healthier community,” Ingersoll said.

Chorus shares its passion for singing

Sweet Adelines held open houses to get more members

By Jennifer Robertson

The Bay of Quinte Chorus held open houses through the month of January, for women of any age to come and join them in song.

The chorus is part of Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organization of women singers. The groups practise and perform together at any events that welcome their unique performances. Members of the organization are spread around the globe, with more than 500 choruses in the United States as well as choruses in 14 other countries, including Canada.

The Bay of Quinte Chorus is made up of 17 women who have a passion for singing, music, and performing. The chorus sings a unique type of music – four-part harmony, barbershop style. Cheryl Street, the director of the Chorus, describes their choice of music.

“We sing four-part harmony a cappella, which means unaccompanied, so it’s a little different. It’s not like singing along with a piano,” said Street.

The chorus host their open houses hoping to have some new members come to join them. The group is always open to new singers, even if it is just for a short period of time.

“We get guests off and on all year long. People just come up to us in rehearsals. Sometimes they know someone who’s in the group,” said Street.

Over the years the group has grown. “We have been formed for 37 years. November 1975 was when the chorus started,” said Street.

During a recent open house, the chorus practised several different songs they will be performing. The women love singing at events and put in a lot of hard work before any show.

“Well we do perform quite often. We entertain throughout the community, usually within an hour radius of Belleville because that’s where we rehearse.

“We perform at different events, nursing homes and retirement homes sometimes, and last year we put on a Christmas concert and in the spring, we also have a fashion show where we entertain.”

The singers do not only perform together as a chorus, but are good friends as well. They take the time to get to know one another, making the experience of singing together as enjoyable as possible. Street talks about how they like to keep their singers happy.

“Once a year, we also survey all the members. We gave out a written survey that just went out last week and everyone is asked to complete it and bring it back. So we keep current on how our members are feeling or what they might want to see different or what they like, what they don’t like, that kind of thing.”

Pinnacle Playhouse play offers modern twist on life

Bedtime Stories a Canadian production by playwright Norm Foster

By Laura Boudreau

A Norm Foster play will be performed at the Pinnacle Playhouse, hoping to make the audience both laugh and cry over the course of mind-boggling events.

Phil Bowerman is directing Bedtime Stories, a comedy by Canadian playwright Norm Foster at Belleville’s Pinnacle Playhouse from Feb. 7-23. Bowerman said he hopes to fill all 154 seats every night with the 13 performances they will be presenting.

“The play is Canadian and I like to put on Canadian plays as much as I can,” said Bowerman.

The play was written in 2006 and is about modern day-to-day life with a bit of a twist. The show starts with a middle-aged couple being paid \$5,000 to make love on national radio. The rest of the scenes vary from a stripper getting fired, to a break-in, a rock star trying to pick up a groupie, and a high school girl visiting the kid she bullied on his deathbed.

“All the characters are unique and interrelated, so the mother of the groupie is the woman making love on the radio,” said Bowerman.

There are no real lead roles in this play, but there is the middle-aged couple who make love on the radio who could be considered leads in this play, said Bowerman.

The actors in this production are mostly “Bellevillians” with one exception who is from Colborne. Bowerman said all the actors are from the Quinte area who try out for his plays with a few exceptions.

The cast includes, Scott Roodvoets, Linda Tipper, Colin Leonard, Dave Henderson, Amy Pero, Marvin Tucker, Richard Bly, Terry Boyd, Maija Thompson, William Dauphinee, Heather Barker, Mary Lou Stogre, Mike Wilcox, Alexandra Bell and Phil Bowerman.



Photo by Laura Boudreau

The Pinnacle Playhouse is presenting a production of Bedtime Stories in February. On Tuesday night, the cast rehearsed with director Phil Bowerman. Terry Boyd is the actor playing the rock star in this scene. The teenage groupie is played by Maija Thompson.

“The cast is great, I mean we have only had five-six weeks of rehearsals two nights a week and we are pretty much ready to go out there and get an audience,” said Bowerman.

Bowerman is not your average director.

“I’m not like other directors. Rehearsals usually take up six nights a week for many weeks prior to opening night. But not me, six weeks, two nights a week and

the cast still has the nerves which makes the reality come through and it doesn’t look all planned and rehearsed.”

The Belleville Theatre Guild has chosen Bedtime Stories for its festival entry in the Eastern Ontario Drama League.

“I’m so excited, our play is Canadian and we get to showcase a piece of art and our skills as proud Canadians,” said Bowerman.

Bowerman has worked on eight Foster plays in the past and he said they have been a hit every time.

“The Pinnacle Playhouse has been around since 1969 and has had a group of followers ever since it opened. The people who go to the plays that are put on always come back for more.”

“If comedy is what Belleville wants it is exactly what I want too.”