

Porchfest delights spectators



Photo by Mandy Larade

Pedestrians and residents of East Hill neighbourhood enjoyed Porchfest, even through the heavy rains on Saturday.

By Mandy Larade

Despite a full rainy day, the spirit of residents in Belleville's East Hill was not dampened at this year's fifth annual Porchfest.

This year's Porchfest kicked off Saturday afternoon at Glanmore National Historic Site, with a special performance by local entertainer, Andy Forgie.

Forgie has been involved in Porchfest for four years, including this year's event. Forgie said he adores the atmosphere that this musical festival creates.

"Porchfest is, without question, the singular most charming music festival in the region. I love the concept of it."

Porchfest was started back in 2009 by husband and wife duo, Ken Hudson and Lucinda Pritchard. After a trip to New York and discovering the American version of Porchfest, the couple decided that it would be something beneficial to bring to Belleville. Porchfest has always solely been about community gathering and expression.

"For us, it's about community building. It's about giving people a chance to express themselves, and also for neighbours to walk around the neighbourhood," Hudson comments.

The couple had experience in Toronto producing theatre work and involving themselves in other music festivals.

"It was sort of the natural extension of us just doing something in our new neighbourhood."

Hudson and Pritchard are passionate about bringing a spirit of togetherness to Belleville, especially in the East Hill neighbourhood.

"The meaning behind it is about neighbourhood, community, humanity. Those sorts of things." The couple have a son, Callum, who is three. Callum and Hudson did the announcements at the opening ceremony, as well as a ukulele sing-along.

Belleville's East Hill neighbourhood was full of pedestrians of all ages, carrying umbrellas to avoid the downpour.

Many neighbourhood residents even set up tents with chairs underneath for others to sit and enjoy the performances. Others had food stands set up, giving out free chili dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, and hot chocolate. Maps of the event were provided at various locations.

The different musicians performing included Veranda 217, Sisterhood, and blue's singer, Shawn Dore. The intimate music festival had audience members listening to a mix of different styles.

"It's an open sign-up, so anyone who wants to can perform, whether you're two or 80. Any genre -- we're open to anything -- so it's an opportunity for performers to show their work," Pritchard says.

Pritchard has hopes for Porchfest to continue every year, growing steadily.

"We're just looking for it to kind of grow and continue, getting support from the community, and to build a strong community in East Hill."

Photo gallery:

Photos from last Saturday's Porchfest can be viewed at <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=29823>.

Students get evacuation experience with nursing home simulation

By Jonathan King

Belmont nursing home was ablaze with activity this past Tuesday when St. John Ambulance, Belleville Fire and EMS attended Belmont's tri-annual mock evacuation.

Loyalist students in the protection, security and investigation, custom border services and community and justice services programs participated in the exercise, taking on the role of the long-term care facility's residents. They were given the chance to learn first-hand what a mass evacuation exercise looks like.

"It was a successful experience," said Kevin Rowcliffe, co-ordinator of protection, security and investigation, "but it's always a success when people learn."

"It's impossible to get this experience in the classroom, and students get a chance to put all the theory into practice," said Tracy MacKenzie, faculty member of the protection, security and investigation.

The purpose of the mock evacuation was "to provide a safe and orderly evacuation of Belmont long-term care facility during an emergency event," according to a statement from St. John Ambulance.

The goals and objectives set that day were to evacuate to a designated area outside the facility, provide triage for injured staff and patients and, finally, provide transportation from the site to a designated location away from the emergency, which was the Belleville General Hospital if injured, and Sir James Whit-



Photo by James Wood

Loyalist College student Jennifer Anderson is flanked by retirement home staff and with St. John Ambulance worker Kristie McKay (left). It was part of a mock evacuation at the Belmont long-term care facility.

ney if uninjured or displaced.

"It's intense... all the steps needed to do it properly and all the co-operation," Amanda Rosebush, the unit chief of Quinte at St. John Ambulance, said in between shouting orders to her crew, a few hundred feet away from the long-term care facility.

Loyalist students were excited to be part of the test too. All volunteers were given a label with an ailment commonly

found in a nursing home, such as Alzheimer's, dementia, the use of a walker or wheelchair or required use of an oxygen tank. They had the chance to act their part out during the evacuation while also observing EMS professionals to learn first hand the teamwork and cooperation of all parties during a mass casualty event.

"It's not an easy job, everyone works hard," said Amir Ali, customs and border patrol student, "But we had fun."

Lancers looking to make a run for playoff spot

Women's soccer team heads into final three regular season games

By Adam Dietrich

Loyalist's women's soccer team is teetering on the edge of a playoff position as the team heads into its final three regular season games.

The team has struggled so far, winning one game out of six. Coach Steve Whitehead said it was partially due to scheduling overload at the start of the season.

"We played almost half our season in a week while some other teams in our division had only played one game," said Whitehead.

Whitehead said he is pleased overall with how his team has been performing, although he points to their first game of the season against La Cité as a trouble spot.

"We should have won but conceded two very weak goals after dominating much of the game," said Whitehead.

La Cité is currently ranked sixth out of 10 teams, in the eastern di-

vision, while Loyalist is ninth, according to the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association website.

Saturday's game against second place Seneca resulted in a 3-0 loss, but had a new addition to the Lancers. Denissa Palmer, wearing number seven, was added to the roster this week after registering late.

"Denissa was invited out to practice and made the team. She fit in well with our team and will help as she can play various positions on the pitch," said Whitehead.

With three Lancers Sarah Deschamps, Sarah Hubble and Steph Semark benched with injuries going into Saturday's game against Seneca, Palmer's addition to the team was well timed.

Going forward, the Lancers have three regularly scheduled games left. On Sept. 27, they play Cambrian in their last home game of the regular season. Oct. 2, they travel to Centennial and on Oct. 7, their final regular season game will be at George Brown.

Although the final standings will depend on how the other teams do, Whitehead estimates that two more wins could earn the Loyalist Lancers a playoff spot this year.