

# The Pioneer

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Photo by Samantha Pyear

(L-r) Washington Capitals forwards Tom Wilson, Aaron Volpatti, and defenceman Connor Carrick prepare for a face-off during the Hockeyville NHL pre-season opener game between the Capitals and the Winnipeg Jets. The Capitals won the game 4-3 after a sudden death shoot-out.

## Stirling welcomes Hockeyville

By Christopher King

Kraft Hockeyville descended upon the town of Stirling-Rawdon and District for a second year on Sept. 14.

Hockeyville is a program that is awarded to the town that demonstrates its love for hockey and the ability of a community to come together to show that. Communities that win are awarded \$100,000 and two NHL teams host an exhibition game and Hockey Night in Canada broadcasts in the community.

Last year, the NHL lockout prevented any exhibition games. This year, however, the lack of a lockout allowed the Winnipeg Jets to compete against the Washington Capitals.

At the Stirling-Rawdon and District Recreation Centre, Kraft Hockeyville laid out the red carpet on the ice for the Stanley Cup. Four players, two from each team, attended a question-and-answer period before families took their turn taking photos of themselves with the cup.

Guests wrote down questions and the NHL players responded in person at the arena. The questions varied from the players' choice of video games to whether or not they would marry one audience member. They were asked about their routine and their favourite or least favourite parts about hockey.

"It varies Monday through Saturday. I lift sometimes... Usually during the whole week," said Zach Bogosian, defenceman for the Jets.

The audience laughed when Bogosian claimed that the worst part of his day was "getting dressed."

While the worst part of his day didn't seem so bad, he said the best part of his day was "walking around Winnipeg and people come up to me and say I'm their hero. It's been really humbling that way," Bogosian said.

The stack of question forms was thick and the community of Stirling-Rawdon had lots to ask the players. Their interest in every aspect of the game showed with their attendance and interest in the chance to directly engage with NHL players.

The bustling arena has the feeling of a big city, a lot more than 5,000 people that live in Stirling-Rawdon.

Jack Hewitt, vice-president of marketing insights and services for Kraft Canada, said he knows how this town exudes hockey.

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## Yardmen presents capital event

*Hockeyville finally arrives with pre-season game at Yardmen Arena*

By James Wood

Hockeyville finally came to an end this past Saturday, marking the conclusion of a classic Canadian story.

Because of the NHL lockout last year, Stirling was denied its big-time game, which was supposed to have been the icing on the cake to an already successful Hockeyville. How-

ever, the town got their game this past Saturday night, and celebrated in style before and after the match.

The night before the game, a late-night party was held in downtown Stirling, with some familiar faces making an appearance. Hometown boy Mark Dobson, now director of pro-scouting for the Winnipeg Jets, was happy to be back in his hometown and to see the turnout for the Hockeyville event. "Outstanding" was the word he used to describe the whole series of events.

Belleville was also the recipient of some prodigal sons. Winnipeg Jets Eric Tangradi and Austen Brassard and Washington Capital Philipp Grubauer

are all former Belleville Bulls players. Tangradi played for the Bulls for three years, eventually making it to team captain. In an interview with the Winnipeg Free Press, Tangradi spoke about having many happy memories in Belleville. Originally from Philadelphia, Tangradi said he feels he can guide other Americans around Belleville as a Canadian would.

The game itself was a spectacle to watch and the arena roared with the noise of the crowd. The Winnipeg Jets and the Washington Capitals clashed for three periods, going into overtime with the score tied at 3-3. The game was won in a shoot-out, with Washington Capital Mike Green scoring on

Edward Pasquale, ending the game 4-3.

As the crowd left, players departed and ice cleared, the Hockeyville saga drew to a close. However, Stirling will continue to reap the benefits of being chosen as the 2012 winner long after the spotlight has faded away.

A cheque for \$100,000 was given to the community from Kraft to be used for upgrades and renovations for the Stirling arena, and the banner proclaiming Stirling as the champion of 2012 will hang in the rafters of the small-town rink for years to come. It truly is a good end to a classic Canadian story.

(For more Hockeyville photos and story, see page 2).

## Vineyard hosts festival in a different tune

*Local food and wine make great mix with musical talent in Prince Edward County*

By Kaitlin Abeele

The Rosehill Run Vineyard held the first Red White and Blues Festival on Saturday in Wellington.

The weekend-long event showcased local wine and food from Prince Edward County, mixed with great Canadian musical talent.

Lynn Sullivan, co-founder of Rosehall Run, helped organize the event along with owners from Huff Estates, Closson Chase, and the Country Cider Company. Each of the vineyards hosted a different wine, food and music event throughout the weekend. Organizers wanted to offer a different perspective on wine-tasting in an attempt to appeal to a broader audience.

"We got together and the idea was to have a blues festival. I like blues, but I really wanted it to be loosely defined blues for Rosehall Run, similar to what they do in Ottawa for their Blues Festival," said Sullivan. "That way, more people will get that feeling that they can come to the winery, that it can cover all types of genres, different experiences, and you are not just sitting with a glass of wine and listening to a jazz band."

Headlining the festival was Born Ruffians from Midland, Ont., along with special guest Cold Specks, who is originally from Etobicoke but currently lives in London, England. While Cold Specks has roots in blues and gospel, Born Ruffians, at first listen, seemed an odd choice to headline a blues festival.

"We got asked in the summertime if we wanted to play this winery show. It sounded interesting. You never really know what it's going to be like unless it's a festival that you know about. It's always a roll of the dice with mystery shows," explained Ruffian singer/guitarist Luke Lalonde.

While Born Ruffians might be classified as indie rock, Lalonde explained that he still has an appreciation for what he describes as real blues music, and how it does partially influence some of the



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

Mitch DeRosier, bassist of the band Born Ruffians, uses both his body and hair to play bass on stage during a performance at Rosehall Run Vineyard on Saturday. Born Ruffians headlined a concert at the Vineyard as part of the first Red White and Blues Festival, along with special guest Cold Specks.

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Lynn Sullivan

band's own music. His own guitar solos have strong origins in old blues solos.

"I like some older blues...Lead Belly and Howlin' Wolf. I like the real blues, which is really a finite period in my opinion. When recording technology got too good, the blues started to sound really bad to my ears. It has to sound a bit dirty," said Lalonde.

The concert took place on a small stage nestled against the perimeter of the vineyard, while guests sat at picnic tables lit with tea lights and outdoor gas lamps. The overall atmosphere was of an intimate garden party rather than a traditional rock concert, set against the picturesque landscape of The County.

While listening to energetic melodies, guests tasted select pinot noirs and chardonnays in the tasting barn, along with appetizing and portable gourmet food offered up by local vendors. Slow Taco served up fresh tacos, while Pizza-Via! brought their own portable wood stove for pizza. Guests were also treated to Jamie Kennedy's Fries and cupcakes and other delectable desserts from The Pink Lunch Pail.

Sullivan said she hopes to make the event an annual festival offering great wine, food and music to the surrounding communities.

"We're really pleased with the success, we're happy with the people that came out and we hope that more people will get that feeling that they can come to the winery. Once we finish the weekend we'll get together and talk about it and figure out what went right and what went wrong and try to improve upon it for next year."

## Drums echo through Madoc

By Lacy Gillott

The energetic beat of a drum could be heard in Madoc on Sept. 14, when the annual Drum Nation Festival was held.

Many vendors, cultural artists, performers and local residents found themselves reconnecting to the universe and lost in the sound of music.

"Music takes you and leaves you there and you're fine. To me, that's what it's about, no strings attached," said Saikou Saho, who was managing a vendors' tent while teaching visitors how to keep a beat, hosting drum circles and playing music.

He travelled from Toronto and spent the entire day devoted to those at the festival.

"Music is life. It's like the air you breathe."

The festival took place at a new location this year, still in Madoc, just south of Hwy. 7. Everyone said they were satisfied with the new location.

"This is the first year of this location and I think it's the best place for it," said Saho, who added, "From the beginning, I've been there."

The sound of interactive performances flooded the park and surrounding area. One of many memorable and cultural performances was done by Thomas Starwalker Clair.

"Each performance, although the same style of dance, songs or what have you, is still performed and we perform them as though it is our first time. This way, it has the same amount of energy, the same amount of flow that we project out to our audience," Clair said.

The crowd was very involved in Clair's performance.

Parents and children were dancing and having a great time almost as if he connected to each member of the audience.

"We know we're doing good when it comes back and you actually feel that energy from the audience's laughter or the joy from their eyes watching us, reflects back," said Clair.