



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Students of the Angela Maracle School of Dance take part in a flash mob in front of Century Place Friday. This was in conjunction with the Belleville Culture Days that took place last weekend. A variety of free dance classes were part of the festivities.

Culture...

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Friday night was the Music Crawl which featured local bands playing at different locations around the city. There were six bands at five different locations. The Starpainters Duo and Vince Thornton were just a couple of groups that performed.

"There was also the Doors Open, which is the historical event. This ran

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Buildings with historical significance were open to the community and people came in and viewed the space and learned about the history," said Tummon.

Everywhere were people of all ages gathered at the many displays on Front Street. They sat in chairs and on the curb watching the live music performed by local artists like Derek Morris who performed a tribute to Johnny Cash and the Wrought Iron Roots which featured fiddler and step dancer Lynzi Couch.

Another big hit was the pumpkin carving. Flavours of Fall volunteers showed the children how to use the carving tools and they made their creations. After they were done carving their pumpkins, they got to bring them home.

There was also an art walk. The Belleville Public Library, Quinte Arts Council, and Gallery 121 were just a few of the places having group art shows. The Six Shooters photography club also offered a photography workshop at the Belleville Club.



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Ruby Uddenberg concentrates on her canvas at the paint workshop that was part of Culture Days Sunday.



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Emily McIntyre, 3, goes in for a hug from Sparky, the Belleville Firefighter's mascot, at the Belleville Culture Days last weekend.

Taste Community Grown a celebration



Photo by Lacy Gillott

Elliot Reynolds is the chef de cuisine for The Hubb Eatery and Lounge, one of the hundreds of vendors celebrating community at the Taste Community Grown festival in Picton.

Local merchants highlighted during special event

By Lacy Gillott

Over 100 volunteers and approximately 100 different vendors, plus area residents and tourists could be found celebrating a sense of local at the Taste Community Grown festival.

The annual festival took place in Prince Edward County at the Picton Fairgrounds last weekend. It is now successfully 12 years strong and has a positive impact for local farms, artists, food and beverage vendors.

"It's important because when you

support local, your local economy prospers," said Jeremiah MacKenzie, CEO of Taste the County, the organization that put together Taste Community Grown.

"Like anything, you have your ups and downs and last year, we saw it dip a little. So, the team worked really hard to build a bigger vendor footprint and build a bigger farm market and put on Friday night programming and Saturday night programming. And so there's a lot of new here right now," MacKenzie said Saturday morning.

The wine and cheese sampling located inside was crowded. Visitors were offered the option of purchasing a wine glass and tickets for samples upon entry along with a plate for cheese, which had a convenient wine glass holder.

Small, seasonally decorated tables could be found all over the fairgrounds where people enjoyed their samples of choice.

It was a beautiful weekend for getting outdoors.

"I couldn't be happier. The sun is shining, everybody is smiling and we're here today celebrating something that has a lot of value and I think far too often we forget how powerful community is," MacKenzie said.

Taste the County is an incorporated not-for-profit destination marketing and quality enhancement organization for Prince Edward County.

"We also put on Countylicious and Maple in the County. These events are meant to drive tourism, economic development and also enhance the businesses that are located here in Prince Edward County," MacKenzie said.

Doors...

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Glanmore National Historic Site, one of the buildings associated with Doors Open, was built in 1882-83, and was a museum featured at the festival. This house showcases a collection that includes 40 pieces of porcelain gifted from Queen Victoria after Prime Minister Sir Mackenzie Bowell's retirement.

"It's audience building. We get a lot of visitors that come in and say they've never been here before and before they've walked through the door, they are already taken aback about how incredible it is. Then they always come back again. It's important for the community, too, to remember what is different about

our community and what is special," said Melissa Wakeling, education and marketing coordinator at Glanmore.

Many of the heritage sites in Belleville and their historical collections are not only important to the region's history, but also to the nation as a whole.

Hastings County Historical Society worked with the Hastings Prince Edward Regimental Museum bringing in exhibits that included uniforms, weapons, medals, photographs, and other military equipment that dated as far back as 1863. Exhibits and artifacts located in the museum are significant to Canada's national heritage.

"Knowing our history, our buildings, and our community full of these wonderful sites better improves all of us. We need to see

them and also come out and enjoy them," said Sharon White, head archivist for the historical society. "It shows our community spirit on a nice day, talking to people maybe you haven't talked to before."

The 13 sites that participated in this year's Doors Open event included: The Parrott Centre at Loyalist College, Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Belleville's Art Association, The Cat's Meow Salon, Belleville Public Library, Plug N Play Electronics, Quinte Arts Council, Belleville Club, Bridge Street United Church, H.P.E Regimental Museum, Belleville City Hall, St. Paul's Anglican Church, and Glanmore House.

This year was the sixth year for Doors Open Belleville, and the first year the city decided to combine the three events, making it the more successful than years before.