

Living dead come alive



Photo by Annie Sakkab

Zombie Jerica Roach is waiting for the walk to start at Toronto's Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade that kicked off from Nathan Phillips Square on Saturday. For more characters of the undead, see page 3.

By **Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix**

Thousands of zombies, monsters, ghouls and vampires gathered at Nathan Phillips Square on the weekend for Toronto's 11th annual Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade.

The event began Saturday at noon, when hundreds upon hundreds of zombies, both old and young, with painted faces and masks, started to fill up Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto. Despite the cold and rainy weather, people were extremely excited to participate.

This year, the Toronto Zombie Walk committee decided to invite all other monsters to join in the fun and participate in the parade for the first time in the event's history.

Jerry Thistle is part of the committee that makes the flyers for the event. Despite the cold weather, he knew the event would still be a great success from seeing how devoted people have been in the past years.

"[The obsession of zombies and monsters] I think has something to do with the way society is, honestly. It's that everyone gets on the same playing field when you're a zombie...or a monster. There's no class or anything like that."

Couple Kate Robinson and Patrick Barker participated in the event and were often swarmed by people taking their photographs. Barker is a veteran of going to the Zombie Walk and was in full zombie makeup. He said he loves to dress up, hang out with people and of course, scare people.

Robinson, however, had never attended the event and was interested in going this year.

"This year it's not just a zombie walk, it's also a Halloween parade so I didn't have to dress as a zombie and it's really cool to check out and pose for some pictures."

This year's zombie walk and parade were in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and their CPR Makes You Undead campaign.

There were many members from the Toronto EMS in full zombie makeup who attended the event. They had their own tent with information on the campaign and were bringing awareness to the public.

"Bystander CPR is key. In the event of sudden cardiac arrest, you have four minutes before brain death starts to occur," explained Don Meikle, one of the many members of Toronto EMS.

"What we want the public to start to understand is that the sooner you get on the chest and the sooner you start CPR, the better chance we have once we get there to bring someone back from the dead."

During Saturday's zombie event, as time went on, more and more terrifying faces filled the square to socialize and browse through the zombie market made up of many different vendors until the long-awaited parade through downtown Toronto that finally began at 3 p.m.

This year's parade marshal was actress, Linnea Quigley, who is best known for her role as Trash in *The Return of the Living Dead*. There was an estimated 10,000 people who participated in the event.

The parade left Nathan Phillips Square and went north on Bay Street, east on Grenville, south on Yonge to Queen and returned to Nathan Phillips for more festivities.

Sheila Copps shares political experiences

By **Mitch Ward**

The long second floor hallway of the Belleville Travelodge Hotel was filled with noisy conversation and laughter as the members of the Hastings County Historical Society met for their annual members' dinner this past Saturday.

The theme for the evening was women in politics, as well as the preservation of local history. The guest speaker was Sheila Copps, the former deputy prime minister, among other positions, under Jean Chr tien.

Hastings County has a high number of women in political positions. In attendance were two mayors, Bernice Jenkins and Vivian Bloom, mayors of Bancroft and Hastings Highlands respectively, Councillors Jackie Denyes from Belleville and Margaret Walsh from Tyendinaga, the Reeve of Carlow-Mayo Township, Bonnie Adams, and Leona Dombrowsky, former Liberal MP for Hastings and Prince-Edward counties. Denyes, a city councillor for Belleville, said she enthusiastic about meeting Copps.

"She's been in politics for years and years and years, and is really the milestone for women in politics."

After the dinner of garden salad, roast beef, and mocha cake, society member Orland French, a former colleague of Copps when they worked at the Ottawa Citizen, introduced Copps and invited her to begin her speech. She was applauded as she rose, and hugged French



Photo by Mitch Ward

Sheila Copps is applauded as she rises from her seat to speak at the annual members' dinner of the Hastings County Historical Society in Belleville. Copps spoke on the rise of women in politics and the importance of history.

on her way to the podium. Her talk focused on several themes, starting with her experiences and thoughts on politics, her memories from Hastings County, and the importance of keeping history alive and funded, by all levels of government.

"When I was in Azerbaijan, I also had a chance to see an historic site, where six

thousand rock paintings from the Stone Age, are still there. A testament to the love of culture, that has passed between generations and races. In the Stone Age, they were painting pictures of people dancing together. Will we be able to tell our grandchildren that we nurtured our heritage and history? Or will we have bulldozed it

over?"

She went over her involvement in politics and how she worked to bring the preservation of historical places into the main political conversation in the capital. She displayed her dismay and disappointment with the current state of government neglect of the countries historical sites.

Richard Hughes, the president of the society, said he was happy with the evening's turnout and the guest speaker.

"We always try to bring a provocative speaker, a national level speaker, and I find that our political leaders who have had many years of high level politics, are very intelligent people. Generally they can pass on information to us that just amazes us, so it's very enjoyable. The evening was excellent."

Belleville resident Rosalie Spargo, a passionate history buff, said she was very happy after the evening. About Copps speech, she stated enthusiastically, "I thought her speech was excellent. It just gave such broad perspective of where woman have come from in politics and leadership, and she's a role model to all of us. It's been a great evening."

After her speech, Copps talked to anyone who approached her, chatting about history, and how to get into politics and what lessons she has learned. She took time to talk about the speech.

"Because it was an historical society, I wanted to kind of focus in a little on some specific issues to history, but I think the general participation by women was fantastic and the number of women councillors who were here and the number of women here in active political life is very inspirational."

She also mentioned her desire to write more books, but with a focus on fiction rather than non-fiction memoirs.

‘Queen of supernatural’ pays visit

Bestselling author Kelley Armstrong shares latest work

By Taylor Hermiston

Crowded with all ages, The John A. Parrott Art Gallery was buzzing with excitement as Kelley Armstrong, a #1 New York Times bestselling author, greeted the people of Belleville Saturday.

“We are very, very grateful to have a #1 New York Times bestseller in the library. It’s amazing, because of the generous sponsorship from the Canadian Council for the Arts, that we are able to host ‘the queen of the supernatural’ today,” said Cheryl Holland-Hughes, an employee from the Belleville Public Library.

The sponsorship was made possible because of Ontario Library Week, which is celebrated annually during the fourth week of October. Communities and schools are invited to celebrate the many resources and experiences that their public library offers.

The experience that Armstrong brought was uplifting and humorous. She discussed her newest novel *Omens*, about a woman who finds out her biological parents are convicted serial killers.

She read the first chapter of her first young adult novel *The Summoning*, of the *Darkest Powers Trilogy*. Armstrong confessed that she will be ending most of her series and starting all new projects over the course of two years and bribed the audience to ask questions about it.

“You may have seen me come in with books and bags, well those are my bribes. When I ask “Does anyone have any questions?” and I pick you, that’s when you get a prize. When my talk or my reading gets boring, please zone out to think of questions,” Armstrong laughed.

Eager fans waved their hands in the air to get their favourite author to pick them. One fan, Jemini Baragar, 21, won Armstrong’s novella, *Amityville Horrible*, after she asked if she was going to be releasing more graphic novels. Armstrong confirmed that there will be a few more.

As she waited with her suitcase full of books, during Armstrong’s signing,



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

An excited Victoria Kaiser, 18, watches #1 New York Times bestselling author, Kelley Armstrong, sign her collection of novels at the The John A. Parrott Art Gallery in Belleville. Kaiser has been a fan of Armstrong’s since 2003 and enjoys reading her books because they are creative and unique.

Baragar said, “I am very excited to get this book. They only published 15,000 copies and I have only been a Kelley Armstrong fan for a year and a half now and I own almost all of her books.”

Armstrong’s appearance attracted an unexpected number of fans to the gallery. People swarmed in for a chance to buy her

newest book and waited over an hour for their books to get signed.

Michelle Flaherty, 27, expressed to Kelley, as she signed her book, how her books got her through the stages of depression in her life. They helped her mind wander away from sadness and into a better place.

“The Stolen series is my favourite series by her, because of the supernatural in-

trigue it brings. I have been a fan since her first book came out and I haven’t stopped since,” added Janet Phillips.

Armstrong has been an avid storyteller all her life, and had her first book, *Bitten*, was published in 2001. Following the huge success of her debut novel, she has written a total of 12 novels and numerous novellas in the world of the *Women of the Otherworld* series.

Armstrong also has two successful young adult trilogies, *The Darkest Powers* and *The Darkness Rising*, which were inspired by her daughters because she didn’t want them to read her more adult novels. She is currently co-writing a new young adult series, *The Blackwell Pages*, with American author Melissa Marr.

Dairy farmers worried about EU agreement

By Christopher King

Twenty minutes before sunrise, Mike Kamink, 35, and his father Bill, 63, have already begun milking their cows at Kamink Farms Ltd.

The Kamink family has been in the dairy business since 1957 and their markets are being challenged by a distant competitor.

The European Union and the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement will help the EU to poise themselves on the Canadian market.

On Oct. 18, 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper made CETA official with ink, in Brussels, Belgium. The trade agreement covers many sectors of industry, some of which are automotive, chemical, forestry, mining and investment banking.

The dairy industry is included in this deal and groups like the Dairy Farmers

of Ontario (DFO) are feeling a little pressure.

“We heard about it in the papers... It’s kind of frustrating, I guess,” Mike said. “It’s going to translate into probably a 2.5 per cent decrease in our quota over time, which is 2.5 per cent less income. No one wants a pay cut so that’s kind of frustrating.”

Mike and his father work quickly and quietly while they milk cows and clean the barn.

The trade agreement increases the quota of tax-free cheese into Canada from the European Union by 17,700 tonnes, reaching a total of 31,971 tonnes of cheese sold in Canada. This amount will decrease the amount of Canadian cheese sold in our market by approximately 2.25 per cent according to the DFO.

Dairy farmers currently are stabilized by supply-management provided by the

‘I don’t know how many local cheese factories there were at that time, but all the communities had one and now there’s only basically one cheese factory in all the county for cow milk. It’s all a trickle-down effect.’

Bill Kamink

DFO, which was originally known as the Milk Marketing Board.

“In the ‘60s, when supply management started going, it helped the dairy industry

quite a bit.” Bill said. “Before that we were at the mercy of the processors, they could take your milk or leave it.”

Currently, their milk is picked up every other day for regular distribution, and twice every two weeks, milk is picked up specifically for Black River Cheese in Milford, Ont. Supply management has translated into a steady income and a steady life for the Kamink family.

Another aspect of CETA that is receiving a lot of attention is the increased quota Canadian beef and pork that will be exported tax-free to the E.U.

Canada will now have access to a total of 65,000 tonnes of tax-free beef that can be sold to the EU.

“They want our beef and pork, in order for us to ship it over there we have to give something up. So beef farmers are happy,” Mike said.

In 1957, the Kamink family moved

from Holland to Prince Edward County. Bill’s father moved to Canada in search of farming opportunities where there were none in Holland.

“My dad actually, he always wanted to farm, but the opportunity wasn’t there. He moved to Canada so he could have the opportunity to farm,” Bill said. “We started in dairy right away and it went to the local cheese factories.”

Mike said they don’t receive any subsidies from the government and are worried about how the reduction in Canadian cheese sold will affect the other economies involved in farming such as the cow feed industry.

“I don’t know how many local cheese factories there were at that time, but all the communities had one and now there’s only basically one cheese factory in all the county for cow milk,” Bill said. “It’s all a trickle-down effect.”

Amnesty International group taking action to help those who can’t help themselves

Local organization meets monthly for letter-writing campaign

By Suzy Willig

Amnesty International is an organization focused on human rights with over three million members and supporters in many cities in Canada, including Belleville.

The Belleville team, Group 111, writes urgent action letters for prisoners of conscience. On the first Friday of every month, the group gets a case to work on from Amnesty’s head office.

Jan Sosiak receives details about a new case each month, and then emails it to the members of the group. The group meets at the Belleville Public Library on the first Tuesday of every month to do their letter writing, as a drop-in type of event.

Some of the members do the letter writing on their own, however, and email them on their own, because some people can’t make it to a meeting mid-day during the week.. The members are sent contact information to send their messages to the appropriate authorities.

The group will often email or send their letters by conventional mail. Sosiak explained that the most effective method would be to fax, but it’s too expensive, and Amnesty members just don’t have the money.

The group will be celebrating International Human Rights Day, Tuesday, Dec. 10, at The CORE. The group has gotten together to do the greeting card campaign for around eight years on this day. This event is very touching, because of the kind, optimistic things that the event goers write to the prisoners, said Sosiak. “It’s really wonderful what they’ve written to these people.”



Photo by Suzy Willig

Jan Sosiak (standing) and Mieke Thorne go over a case at the urgent action letter-writing event. This event happens once per month, the first Tuesday of every month.

One prisoner in particular, Troy Davis, stuck out to Sosiak.

“We had written him two years in a row, sent greeting cards, and he wrote back a lovely letter in his own handwriting, thanking us and saying he was so happy so many people were praying for him and thinking of him.”

“This is a feel-good thing. You’re given a list of people who they are hoping will receive the cards, and they’re not religious cards because not everyone is Christian.

“We just send a greeting card, just to send best wishes from friends in Canada, and it’s just really interesting the way peo-

ple will write.”

The greeting card campaign not only makes the prisoner feel good, but also the card writer, especially when they receive a thankful response, said Sosiak. “It makes people feel really good, that they’ve touched somebody suffering in another part of the world.”

Comic-Con comes to city

By Micah Bond

You may see your favourite sci-fi or fantasy character around town next weekend.

The first-ever Quinte Mini Con is happening Nov. 9 and 10. The event is a local variation of Comic-Con, a collection of events that are held in many cities around the world.

“It’s basically a celebration of everything geek. Anime, Manga, video games, comics, science fiction, fantasy, steam punk, you name it,” said Gabrielle Wilson, one of the organizers.

One of the hallmarks of these events is costume design. Wilson said that while many guests will come in regular attire, there will also be a range of fantasy inspired costumes and props to see. She noted that the Belleville Police Service has requested that all weapon props be left at home.

The event will be held at the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre on Cannifton Road in Belleville.

There will be several attractions including panels that will discuss topics like breaking into the fiction writing industry, costume design and even Japanese music, she said. There will also be gaming demos comprised mainly of tabletop card games.

She said there will be about 10 special guests coming for the weekend, she said. Among these will be Erin Cossar, a graphic designer and comic artist. There will also be two fantasy authors in attendance, Amanda Sun and Wanita May. In addition, there will be several skilled cosplayers—artists who dress and act as fictional characters—from Ottawa and Toronto.

Wilson said she is hoping that the event will help provide an accurate picture of what these art forms are really about.

“For people that aren’t in the geek community, I’m kind of hoping that they see that not everybody is insane because unfortunately that’s what they show on TV,” she said.

At least 150 people will attend the event, said Wilson, but added she would like to see an even higher turnout.

Zombies haunt Toronto streets



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

A zombified bride and groom take a deserving rest inside Toronto City Hall after participating in the Zombie Walk. Zombies from all over the city gathered Saturday in Nathan Phillips Square and marched through the streets of downtown Toronto in ghastly getups.



Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

(Above) Participants of the 11th annual Toronto Zombie Walk, Stevana Bosnjakovic and Mila Sodic, warmed up in a Starbucks near Nathan Phillips Square.



Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

(Right) There were many elaborately painted faces at the 11th annual Toronto Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade.

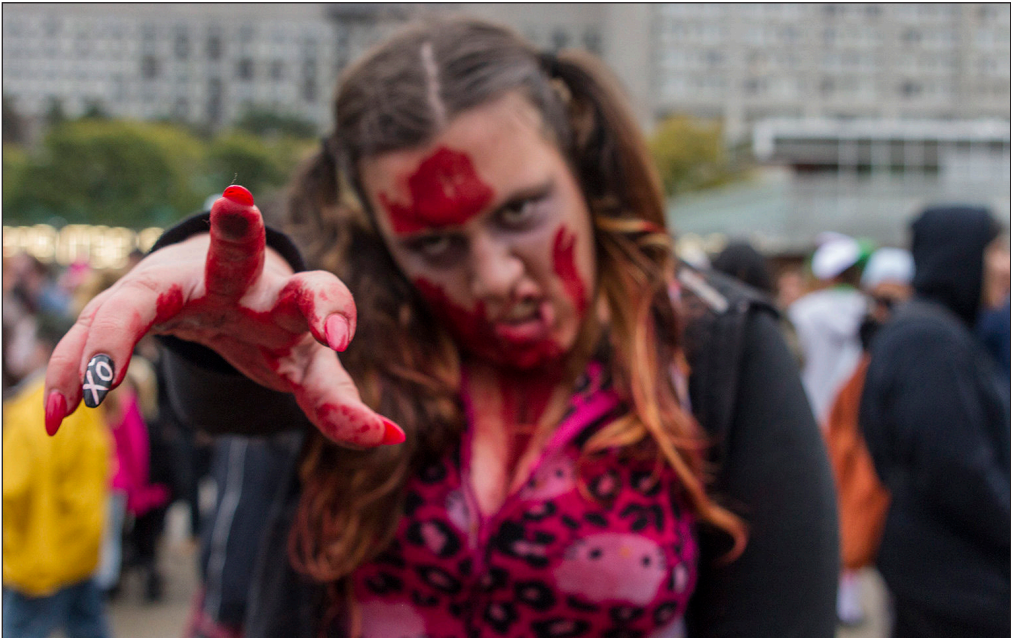


Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

A zombified woman in footie pyjamas stayed in character during the entire Zombie Walk event.

Photo by Annie Sakkab

(Left) This zombie girl turned on her zombie face during the 11th annual Toronto Zombie Walk and Halloween Parade. This year's event featured marching bands and bike floats.