



Photo by Solana Cain.

Balder, a pure-bred German shepherd, curiously investigates Polly, a yellow-naped Amazon parrot, perched on owner Tina Pennacchio's shoulder. Both pets, and many others attended a special pet blessing service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday morning. For more photos, see page 3.

Pets get blessed at church event

By Sarah Taylor

It was not your typical Sunday morning gathering. Around 9:30 a.m., people began crowding inside the church along with their leashes and shoulder-perched friends to the sound of barking and many people gawking.

This past Sunday was Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's first annual pet blessing.

Members of the church were invited to bring their pet, whether it be dogs, cats, pigs or parrots, before the traditional Sunday service. Pastor Rob Wienser first said a prayer to the congregation and then proceeded to come around to each owner to bless their pets.

"On Friday, in different Christian churches, they commemorated St. Francis of Assisi...he was a carefree bachelor. He got sick and tired of that life and part of his process was suddenly this realization of a real profound connection to nature and animals and pets in specific," said Wienser.

The event was to commemorate not only St. Francis of Assisi and his relationship with animals, but also to share man's unconditional love and bond with the animals in our lives.

"In a way on the bigger scale we say that God gives us, people, unconditional love and all these wonderful gifts of the world in our lives so pets and

animals are another way for us to share that."

For Wienser, the day was very much to show compassion for the "bigger picture" in our chaotic society today.

Although Wienser came unaccompanied to the blessing, he and his wife own two cats.

Jeremy Davis, who bought his 10-year-old cat Scooter, said he was very appreciative of the blessing, adding it was "a very unique experience."

"Animals are a very important part of our world. Without the love and compassion there would be something missing in our life. Animals complete us."

Dale Holland brought his two dogs,

Honey, 15, and Michael Jackson, three.

"It's not so different. It's just not common for us around here."

The pet blessing is something Wienser has wanted to do at the church for a long time, but said only this year have they found the time. Many other congregations in Belleville have been holding pet blessings for years.

Wienser's previous congregation in Kitchener/Waterloo held a pet blessing. "An Anglican congregation and our church got together and there was a cow, there was a horse, there was a tarantula, snakes, geckos, gerbils, it was unbelievable."

It was a nice opportunity for the

church members to share their beloved pets with each other and get to know each other that much more. The variety of pets interacted and put on quite a show at times.

The only pig to show up, Rebecca Haan's five-week-old pet who is yet to be named, was not a fan of the crowd. Grunts turned into squeals as the group of animals and people admired the rare event of a pig being at the church.

The event's turnout was better than anticipated and the blessing continued for close to an hour rather than the estimated 15 minutes. Wienser said the church hopes to continue the event next year.

Bowling connects fans with Bulls

Lung Association benefits from yearly fundraiser

By Hannah Yoon

For the 10th year, the Belleville Bulls joined their fans for an afternoon of bowling fun at Quinte Bowl Oct. 6 in support of the Hastings-Prince Edward Lung Association.

About 80 people came out to bowl with the Bulls team. The energy was obvious as children ran around to get as many signatures from the Bulls, as fans bowled with their favourite Bulls players and as photos were being taken all across the room.

This is a special event for both the Bulls and the community. It's not every day you get to bowl with your favourite hockey player.

"It's kind of an exclusive opportunity when you rub elbows with your favourite players and spend some time getting to know them more outside of the rink," said Kerry McCloy, area manager for the lung association, under the auspices the Ontario Lung Association.

For some families, it was their first time at the annual event, but for someone like Sebastien Waters, 7, it was his fifth time joining the Bulls for a few rounds of bowling. This means he's been participating in this event since he was two years old. He came with his aunt, Michelle Moore, and her foster children.

"He started coming with me to the games when he was 18 months old. Some of his first words were 'Go Bulls Go,'" said Moore about her nephew.



Photo by Hannah Yoon

Sebastien Waters, seven, gets ready to bowl against Jake Worrada, defenceman of the Belleville Bulls at the 10th annual Bowling with the Bulls event for the Ontario Lung Association on Oct. 6.

Both Moore and Waters try go to as many home games as they can.

"I get to see the Bulls without their costume on," said Waters, explaining why he keeps coming out to the event. The Bulls are more human to him when off the rink.

The commitment of the fans is what fuels this event. Ten years implies "that it's an event that the com-

munity absolutely loves," said McCloy.

"Because of the fans and the people in the community love this event, they're always coming out to step up and pay the fee to be here."

A total of \$9,776 was raised this year, almost doubling last year's amount. Organizers said it is important for the Ontario Lung Association

to continue to raise funds for research in treatments and cures.

"If you breathe, lung health matters," emphasized McCloy. One in five people in Ontario are living with a serious lung disease. Although young fans such as Waters may be coming out to have fun with the Bulls, he is also helping with a greater cause for people in Ontario.

Zombies run, not walk for cancer

By Mandy Larade

The term "run for their lives" took on a literal meaning this weekend at the first annual zombie run for cancer in Belleville at Riverside Park on Saturday.

The run was for the Canadian Cancer Society in Belleville, and participants were to run five kilometres, including an obstacle course that was set up in the playing fields at the park.

Each runner had one flag, which was their life, and they had to get it signed for each station they completed. Other volunteers were dressed up as zombies, and their goal was to try and take the lives of those running.

Lisa Anne Chatten, who headed up the event, said she is very passionate about seeing the community gather to make a change.

"We have a commitment as a community to actually do something to help these families. We can't just cover our eyes and our ears and pretend it's not happening - it is," Chatten said.

According to Chatten, there are 28 families registered with the Canadian Cancer Society in the Belleville and Quinte area. Funds raised from this event went straight to those families, helping out with costs such as transportation to and from treatments.

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