

Boofest a spooky success

By Dayna Lefebvre

The 32nd annual Boofest Halloween Party was a smash this year, as hundreds of costumed kids, and parents, headed out to the Duncan McDonald Memorial Gardens arena in Trenton to enjoy treats, games and more.

The event took place on Thursday night from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. and featured a pumpkin carving contest, pumpkin bowling, Halloween music, arts and crafts, spooky stories and of course – candy. It provides a safe alternative to traditional house-to-house trick or treating, especially for younger children. The indoor event also provides shelter from the elements.

The lineup was out the door and down the street to get inside. Many families had umbrellas to protect against the rain.

“This year we’re expecting more kids than normal because of the rain,” said Colleen Vickers, the special events co-ordinator for Quinte West. “At least a couple thousand.”

Downstairs, a row of volunteers handed out a variety of treats to children of all ages, most of whom were accompanied by parents in costumes as well. Upstairs featured games such as pumpkin bowling and pumpkin carving where the kids could win even more candy or toys. The Trenton Golden Hawks were in attendance for a free skate as well.

“Every single person is donating their time to hand out candy and play games with the kids,” Vickers said. “It really is a community event, because everybody comes out for it by donating time, money or products.”

Boofest is entirely volunteer-based, with everything from the candy to the decorations being donated by businesses and individuals in the community. The event receives no government funding.

According to a 2012 Statistics Canada



Photo by Dayna Lefebvre

Dorothy Maine smiles as Liam receives his candy from Margo Thompson, a volunteer at the 32nd annual Boofest Halloween Party in Trenton on Thursday. The event attracted hundreds of children on the rainy Halloween night for a safe, indoor alternative to house-to-house trick or treating.

study, an estimated 3.7 million trick-or-treaters ages five to 14 roam the streets of Canada on Oct. 31, visiting 13.3 million households across the nation.

Canadians also spend \$21.6 million on costumes and \$355.9 million on treats for the holiday.

Dressed as a pirate, Vickers smiles and says her favourite part is the costumes.

“They are so creative too!” she laughs. “Every year you get to see the kids in new costumes and you wonder wow, how do they come up with that!”

Vickers says they are always looking for more volunteers for the event.

“I start thinking about it late summer and start the planning around August,” Vickers explains. “Sending out letters for

sponsorships and donations, getting the shopping done, decorating, everything. It’s entirely businesses and individuals.”

It took two days to decorate the arena for the event.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the 33rd annual Boofest Halloween Party in 2014 can visit www.quintewest.ca to contact Vickers directly.

Photo club...

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Not totally satisfied with the extra-curricular activities that Loyalist offers, Sundarakishnan said he is hoping that starting a photography club with spark a change, but agreed some work will need to be done before his idea becomes a reality.

“I don’t think Loyalist will be receptive to a photography club because we will be offering free services to people. One problem I see is whether they will fund this club because photography is about money. You need money for the lenses and the cameras in order to work. We’re just trying to involve the school as much as possible.”

Sundarakishnan said he knows that creating a photography club will be no easy task, but he said he is still determined to give it a shot anyway. Trying to get as many people as possible on board, he is looking at the photojournalism program and students as a starting point.

“Someone in photojournalism can teach you something, like lighting for instance. I think we can also find creative people. Someone who is in sciences might be interested in photography but they never got the chance. This is one chance for him to show he is good as well.”

Patience will be key for Sundarakishnan, something he said he is prepared for.

“The first step will be to sign the forms and get people to join, but before that we need to get more ideas. So I’m trying to get that this semester.”

“Next semester I will get a proposal done, and that proposal will go in to start the club.”

For anyone who is interested in the idea or would like to help, Sundarakishnan can be contacted at aaryaman-sundarakis@loyalistic.on.ca.



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

(Above, left) Jim Compton of West Virginia braces himself while competing in the log lift at the Stronger Than Cancer Fundraiser held at the Travelodge in Belleville Saturday. Compton placed fifth out of 14 total competitors in the strongman competition, which was held in co-operation with the World’s Natural Strongest Man Federation. With his finish, Compton has qualified for the Brazil Grand Prix championship which will be held next year.

Photo by Solana Cain

(Above, right) Rain pours down on Padraic Moore as he attempts to pull a semi truck that is harnessed to his back. Moore was one of 14 men who participated in the Strongman Competition. Proceeds from the competition went to Belleville General Hospital Foundation. Moore finished in sixth place overall.

Photo by Jonathan King

(Bottom) John Pasanen, Swedish strongman, warms up for the log lift at Travelodge Hotel for Belleville General Hospital’s Stronger than Cancer fundraiser on Saturday. Pasanen was the only competitor from Sweden among the American and Canadian teams.



Strongman competition held in Belleville

This past Saturday, the Travelodge Hotel in Belleville was taken over by the Stronger than Cancer Strongman Fundraiser. Fourteen competitors from Canada, the United States and Sweden were on hand to demonstrate great feats of strength, such as truck pulling and log lifting. Originally scheduled in October, the event was moved to Nov. 2 due to travel difficulties. The top eight competitors advanced to the Brazil Grand Prix which will be held next year.

