

Library offers magical March break

By Hannah Yoon

The Belleville Public Library kicked off March Break with a morning of laughter and intrigue by Captain Corbin the Magical Pirate.

The 30-minute show was sold out, with more than 125 children and parents in attendance for coin and card tricks, flowing scarves and boisterous audience participation.

With a pirate ship backdrop in the background, Captain Corbin, in his black pirate hat, a loose-fitting poet shirt and gold chains, entertained from his treasure chests and wooden barrels.

He entertained the crowd with six different tricks and with each trick Captain Corbin invited a participant from the audience to be involved. Loud shouts of "Nos" and "It's not there" could be heard across the room from the children.

Madison Marchment, 8, of Pembroke was in Belleville for March break visiting her dad.

"I liked when we all made the map together and it was so funny when he got his head stuck in the stock," said Marchment.

"I realized if they think they know how it's done and then you show them it's not done that way, you've opened their world just a little bit more. And then they become really interested, too," said Corbin.

Captain Corbin travels across Ontario to entertain adults and children alike with illusions and mystery. This wasn't always the case for Corbin. Originally a nurse, he spent many night shifts teaching himself tricks and started to do parties.

What was once a hobby 20 years ago has become a business and way of life for Corbin.

"I found I was doing more parties than actual nursing. So I transitioned and started doing it professionally," says Corbin.

He found his niche with children. He felt he was able to entertain the children better than other magicians in the field. It's the energy from the audience that mo-



Photo by Hannah Yoon

Captain Corbin, the Magical Pirate, performed an entertaining show for children and adults at the Belleville Public Library Monday. This was the kick-off for the series of events planned at the library.

tivates the magician to keep doing what he's doing.

"Magic is unimportant, in my mind. It's the back and forth with the audience I enjoy the most," said Corbin.

Captain Corbin was the perfect way to lead the lineup of activities planned at the Belleville Public Library.

Soyoung Lee, the library's coordinator of children's youth & reader's service, was

extremely pleased with the turnout and the performance.

"It was a great kickoff to bring a big crowd."

Lee said she wants to see more children

come out to the library and is confident the magic show was the best way to start the break. Call 613-968-6731 or visit www.bellevillelibrary.ca for details of library events.

Documentary brings call for action

Girl Rising screening shown in honour of International Women's Day

By Sarah Vissers

A documentary screening on International Women's Day was for more than entertainment: it was a call to education and action.

The Prince Edward room at the Core Centre in downtown Belleville filled up on Saturday morning for the screening of the documentary *Girl Rising*, shown in honour of International Women's Day.

The film tells the stories of eight girls from various developing nations, from Haiti to Nepal and Afghanistan. The purpose of the film is to prove and encourage the education of girls in these nations.

The documentary was directed by Richard Robbins, and incorporates statistics in between the personal stories of girls and their experiences, explaining the economic and social benefits from investing in girls.

Some of the stories were disturbing, some hopeful. All were powerful. All the girls were in desperate economic situations; some were also victims of

sexual violence and child marriage for the purpose of financial gain for their family. They were all impressive with their resilience spirits in such tough circumstances (a 12-year-old girl nearly killed her rapist with a makeshift knife she made out of glass and tape — all because she believed she was a superhero).

Sheri McCahery-Divitt and her husband Jason Divitt brought their three children — two daughters and a son — to the screening.

She said she wanted to enlighten her children about how women are treated in other countries.

"I thought the movie was very well done. My youngest is 9, and I was wondering how far things would go, and I thought it was done very suitably. There wasn't anything harmful. It got the message out."

Mieke Thorne, an organizer of the event, was pleased with the turnout of people and saw the film for the first time with the rest of the audience.

"It tore my heart out. It's so very important. And we don't realize here. I mean, the statistics are, in fact, in today's age, pretty bad. The way people have to live. But the girls that are fighting for it, that is uphill, triumph."

Thorne said her biggest hope is to educate people,

particularly youth.

"We are each other's neighbours ... We have to do things here, but somehow we have to educate our youth to do more, to be aware more."

She believes the documentary should be shown in schools, perhaps somehow incorporating it into sex education. She acknowledges that some parts of the film are a bit intense for a young audience.

"Why would the children here be protected from the reality that children over there go through, you know, having to be married at the age of 10 years old, those kinds of things? People have two different ideas. Some people want to protect and keep their children, children."

She also acknowledged Canada's own shortcomings in how girls and women are treated.

"When you talk to the Sexual Assault Centre, Three Oaks, you realize how much assault, rape is still happening, in this area. The standing up of women against that is very difficult. Standing up against the abuse, here, locally. Young boys, young men, need to be educated, that this is not acceptable."

Despite the long road ahead, Thorne said, "I just think that we are keep doing this ... We are lucky that we have the right to stand up."

We even race some of the little kids too!" said Bishop on whether he gets to enjoy any of the snow-shoe activities.

Retired volunteers also provided a helping hand as Jon King, a retired worker at Sandy Flat Sugar Bush, helped children up onto the hay barrels on the sleigh rides across the snow-covered fields.

The real treat is the free maple syrup donated by Sandy Flats for delectable delights such as maple

syrup cotton candy and free snow taffy demonstrations. The cold snap of this long winter has not settled in the hearts of volunteers and patrons from around the Warkworth community who all rallied together to make the festival a huge success.

See a video view of this story at: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=35492>

Maple Syrup...

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Despite the work to help keep the festival going, the atmosphere is that of fun and celebration.

"We've already done it! We've done it a bunch of times.

Pileups...

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If all of the resources were drawn into emergencies like that onto the 401, the EMS would rely on part-time staff or off-duty staff and ask them to assist with normal day-to-day operations until the event is over. This is accounted for as a contingency in the budget, called up-staff hours.

"We might have four to five ambulances on the scene on the 401. Where the locations they are pulled out of, we have to bring in people to handle the normal day-to-day operations," said O'Donnell. "It put the strain financially that way."

County Council added an additional ambulance to the service in July and approved an increase on the department's upstaff budget as well. O'Donnell believed it helped to keep the department reasonably on budget while responding calls for service.

"We have to be cognizant that tax-payers in Hastings and Prince Edward counties help pay for paramedic services on the tax bills so we have to govern ourselves accordingly and as our mission statements says '...by responding to emergencies in a coordinated efficient manner, ...' he added.

The Quinte West Fire and Emergency Services, which normally respond to accidents on Highway 401, do not have to budget to the increase of events.

They bill the provincial government for every call they respond to on the highway, \$420 per truck per hour.

An average of three trucks will respond.

Similar to paramedics services, when resources were drawn to a particular incident, surrounding fire stations were on standby.

"We have automatic aid with surrounding municipalities," Whelan said.

Resources from were staged near Quinte West regions while Brighton, Stirling and the county were on standby in case "something big" was to happen during the recent 150-vehicle pileup.

Quinte Symphony marches into spring

By Kaitlin Abeele

The Quinte Symphony Orchestra coaxed spring out of hibernation with the March into Spring concert on Sunday night at Bridge Street Church.

Musicians of the 43-piece orchestra, led by veteran music director Gordon Craig, proved their skill with demanding arrangements by Rossini and Beethoven.

The night started with a bang as the *William Tell Overture* ricocheted off the church walls, filling the room with overpowering sound. The orchestra then catered to the younger audience with the *Symphonic Suite for Lord of the Rings*, whose iconic compositions were arranged by John Whitney. The final piece before intermission was the *Colonel Bogey March*, the whistling tune made famous by the film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

The highlight of the evening was a full performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6*. Light, airy notes drifted through the room, conjuring images of flowers and lazy waters rippling in a light breeze. The warm atmosphere of the room mixed with the sweet melodies was enough to make listeners forget that winter was still upon them, as large, wet flakes of snow fell outside.

The night was well-received by the audience, with a standing ovation after the final flick of Craig's baton.

"It made me feel like spring might



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

Music director Gordon Craig for the Quinte Symphony Orchestra leads musicians during the final movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 on Sunday evening at Bridge Street Church.

come, eventually. It was so springy and happy, and joyous. I especially liked the Beethoven. It was wonderful," said Bonnie Gayda of Belleville.

While the evening was well-attended, with close to 300 people in the audience, magic has been strug-

gling in the past year for support and funding. Poor weather and competing events have meant a decreased attendance for performances. The Quinte Symphony was nearly forced to disband in 2012 from lack of support, until a new board of directors stepped

in to save it.

"There are fund sources out there, we just have to go after them, knock on doors, ring bells, and sell our need to the community," said Jack Evans, president of the symphony's board.

"It's an asset to the community be-

cause having an orchestra like this is an important factor in attracting new residents and new investment."

Gordon Craig has been the music director for the Quinte Symphony during the past 24 years, and said that it has grown tremendously in his time.

"It's gone from a very small group of people who played concerts at parks and at the Legion to holding a four- or five-concert series using international soloists from time to time. So the orchestra has grown tremendously," said Craig.

Craig also serves as a professor and music director at Queen's University in Kingston. He said that the symphony at Queen's receives nearly \$85,000 from the city each year, while the Quinte Symphony receives no public funding.

He said he would like to see Belleville contribute more to the arts, as well as growing the number of patrons in the community.

"We're desperately in need of more funding. We don't get any funding from the city. And we're desperately in need of more patrons. Only about one-third of the income of an orchestra comes from bums in seats, and the rest comes from corporate sponsorship and from individual donors," said Craig.

The Quinte Symphony will be playing its next and final show of its 2013-2014 season, titled *Musical Memories for Mothers and Others*, on May 11 at the Regent Theatre in Picton.