



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Gavin Calis, 4, rolls maple syrup onto a popsicle stick during Warkworth Maple Syrup Festival's taffy tasting. This past weekend was the 28th year for the festival. Along with taffy tastings, the festival had horse-drawn sleigh rides, log-sawing contests, an animal-petting farm and much more. Participants also had the opportunity to enjoy pancakes and sausages with maple syrup.

## Spectators enjoy a Canadian classic

*Good weather brings hundreds to maple syrup festival*

By Hannah Eden

Buses drove frantically up and down the icy streets of Warkworth Saturday, working hard to deliver the hundreds of patrons from the town centre to Sandy Flat Sugar Bush for the 28th-annual maple syrup festival.

The Town of Warkworth has been working in cooperation with Sandy Flat Sugar company for 28 years to create a maple syrup festival of the sweetest kind. Children and adults pile into school buses

donated by C. Smith Bus Lines to catch a free ride to the bush in order to experience a little piece of Canadian winter.

Derek VanStam, owner of the Sandy Flat Sugar Bush, said good weather was the reason for the hundreds of patrons this year.

"It's nice, it's busy. The weather has worked out for us. If the weather is sunny and nice, people like to be outside after a long winter."

However, the deep freeze that swept across Ontario may have an effect on the amount of maple syrup produced this year as harvest is slow due to the effect of a cold winter.

"We got a quick thaw and we got a little bit out, but none has come out of the evaporator yet," says VanStam on this

**'We got a quick thaw and we got a little bit out, but none has come out of the evaporator yet.'**

Owner Derek vanStam

year's production.

The sudden turn from frost to sunshine means that maple syrup companies such as Sandy Flat are now rushing to meet quotas. "Hopefully this week picks up and we start boiling now," VanStam said.

Despite the concerns from farmers

in regards to produce, the syrup was in large supply at the taffy tasting stall on Saturday's festival. Children crowded to the front of long planks of fresh snow to twizzle the sweet sticky syrup onto popsicle sticks.

Tree tapping marks the start to the spring season, not only for farmers but for Canadian citizens too with festivals like the Warkworth Maple Festival bringing out of town guests to the Sandy Flat Sugar Bush.

"I've worked at the festival forever. I was in public school when I started working," said Janet Rusk, a volunteer at Sandy Flat Sugar Bush. "It seems to get bigger, more and more people from Toronto as well!"

Maple syrup tasting isn't the only de-

light in store for guests of the festival, as children pile onto snowbanks with sleds to slide into the forest below or wait in anticipation of the sleigh rides and take a tour through the maple trees.

Volunteers from around the local area are to thank for the success of this community event with local sponsors such as The Warkworth Community Service Club and Cold Creek Cloggers dance group who put on a toe-tapping performance at the sugar bush.

"It's been awesome!" said Curtis Bishop, a local resident who volunteered his time to help with the children's snow-shoe racing on Saturday afternoon. "This is the first day of the festival and we'll be here tomorrow too."

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## Protest blockade leads to arrests

*No word on whether blockades will continue*

By Candice-Rose Gagnon

The week-long protest on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory escalated Saturday, leading to the arrests of four men.

The Ontario Provincial Police broke up the blockade, and there is still no word yet if protests will continue.

Protesters moved from Shannonville Road to the CN Rail lines that cross at Wymans Road, south of Hwy. 2 on Saturday. Several passenger and freight trains were stopped for over two hours.

Police reopened Airport Road at Shannonville Road Saturday morning shortly after 10 a.m., and at 11 a.m. several OPP officers moved in on the protesters that set up on the main Canadian National rail lines.

Protesters caused damage to an OPP cruiser by breaking a window. Four people were arrested, including organizer Shawn Brant. He was charged with two counts of mischief and Matthew Doreen was charged with obstructing police and mischief.

Marc Baille was still being held in bail courts, and was charged with assault with a weapon, possession of a dangerous weapon, mischief over \$5,000, and breach of probation. A court date for Baille was not released and is still pending. John Fox was also arrested but then released in exchange for the protesters leaving the CN line.

The protest was called to begin an inquest by the federal government into the missing and murdered aboriginal women across the country. Brant sent a letter to the prime minister asking for the government to begin the inquest, and



Photo by Dillan Cools

Protesters from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory face a wall of OPP officers at the cordoned CN Rail crossing on Wyman Road just south of Old Hwy. 2 on Saturday.

gave him until Feb. 28 to respond. The blockade of the CN line also featured men and women who had lost loved ones in recent years.

CN Spokesperson Jim Feeny said that CN was aware that the protest was moved to the rail lines but would not tell media how they found out about the illegal blockade.

After OPP officers broke up the protest, CN officials inspected the rail lines to ensure that the rails were safe for travel. Rail traffic resumed around 1 p.m.

Feeny added that court orders have been served over the weekend to Brant regarding this protest and another protest that blocked rail traffic in 2011. Officials and officers have stated that Brant

is to appear before courts on April 1.

Police presence in the area has been elevated since last Monday, and OPP spokesperson Kristine Rae stated that they would "remain in the area until deemed necessary."

A police helicopter stationed out of Orillia and unmanned air vehicles were also used for surveillance in the area for the last week. Aside from the mischief, OPP commented that the protest was "relatively peaceful and calm."

OPP and CN have been prepared for the protests and have planned ahead. This isn't the first time that Brant protested on the CN line. In the past he has blocked the line for over 30 hours, shut down the 401, and Skyway bridge con-

necting Prince Edward County to the Mohawk Territory.

"We've been here before," Rae said. Brant stated last week that "things are pretty calm here at the protest, and that is a pretty rare for an issue on Tyendinaga. We are a feisty community that takes things seriously."

It is unclear why protesters moved suddenly to the CN line, and why emotions got heated between protesters and OPP officers.

Brant was unavailable for comment.

The blockade also coincided with International Women's Day on Saturday.

For a video look at the protest, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=35505>

## Highway pileups this winter a costly venture

By Justin Chin

Multiple pileups on Highway 401 this past winter have emergency workers thinking about next year's budget.

"We have responded to 23 accidents on Highway 401, around 10 more than previous year to date," said Chief John Whelan of Quinte West Fire and Emergency Services.

The Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services normally budget for one major incident a year. However, there was a significant increase in the last couple of weeks.

"It strains resources at the time," said John O'Donnell, the acting chief of the service.

"This was a trying year but in my estimation we did the best with what circumstances we were dealt," O'Donnell said.

He said it's difficult to predict whether the department would be over the budget this year as it may just be an "anomaly with the rash of incidents."

"Multiple weather related incidents causing the multi-vehicle pileups historically occur in low numbers and so far this year we have seen more than has been the norm," he said. "We know that major incidents are going to happen but we cannot exactly predict their location or frequency so we design our deployment to best service the needs when they occur."

O'Donnell declined comment on the upcoming budget as they will be reviewed by the EMS committee and the county council.

"Sometimes you are ahead of the game (financially) and sometimes you are not," he said.

Currently, there are 13 staffed ambulances that are continuously on the road and serving Hastings and Prince Edward counties.

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# 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](http://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 Visser

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.”

## 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.

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>

## 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, the symphony has been strugg-

ling 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.