



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Kids look out the window on board the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Belleville on Saturday. The train travels and makes stops across Canada raising food and cash donations for local food banks. For more photos, see page 4.

Food bank gets boost at benefit

*Canadian Pacific
Holiday Train
arrives in Belleville
for musical morning*

By Jeremy Mckay

The train arrived at Kiwanis Bay-shore Park at 10 a.m. with live music performed by The Odds and Roxanne Potvin. The event was considered a success in raising money and non-perishable food.

The decorated train brought

smiles on the faces of children and adults as they enjoyed free hot chocolate and candy served by Gleaners volunteers.

“It’s for the kids. Coming here shows Christmas through their eyes for me,” commented Christina Brinklow, who has been supporting the event for a couple of years.

A \$7,000 cheque was presented by a CP rail representative to Susanne Quinlan, director of operations for Gleaners food bank. A further \$671 was collected onsite.

“This event brings families together to understand the issue of hunger

is not only in Belleville, but across Canada as well,” commented Quinlan.

The donations will be distributed among all of the food banks in the Quinte region.

“Twenty-five per cent of the money will be spent on hearty, healthy food,” said Quinlan. The hearty-healthy food will be coming from local farmers in the Quinte area.

Belleville residents donated a total of 1,056 kilograms of non-perishable goods at the event. As well, sponsor Medigas donated 210 kilograms of non-perishable goods alongside Kel-

logg’s, who contributed 18 skids of cereal and granola bars.

The CP Holiday Train has been chugging across Canada since 1999, and has been stopping in Belleville for the past 11 years. Since the Holiday was started, over \$9.5 million and 3.3 million pounds of food has been raised for North American food banks to date. The train itself is about 1,000-feet long and a combined total of 14 cars.

“I’ve been coming to this ever since the train has been coming in,” commented Armin Quickert, a retired business man and honorary colonel

at 8 Wing/CFB Trenton.

Quickert says he has shown support over the years for the event because he wants to help people get started since he himself was in such a position when his family immigrated from East Germany in 1951.

There are eight food banks in operation in the Quinte region. There are also food hampers for students at Loyalist College, made available at the financial aid office. More information can be found at the Gleaners website: www.gleanersfoodbank.ca or contact them at (613) 962-9043.

Youngster gets help in cancer battle

*Head shaving
by Loyalist student
Adam Strickland
raises over \$2,000*

By Sarah Robertson

Friday was a big day at Loyalist College, as students and staff came together to support nine-year-old Thomas Martin. In June, he was diagnosed with gliomatosis cerebri, a rare form of brain cancer.

Lancers volleyball player No. 8, Adam Strickland, had been growing his hair out for over a year and finally decided he wanted to cut it.

“Adam came in with the idea of shaving his head and wanted to do something with it. Not just your average haircut. Jordan McConnell knew about Thomas and his family,” said Amy Hoskin, the athletic assistant at Loyalist.

During half time at the women’s basketball game, Martin and his family were greeted with loud cheers from the crowd. “Let’s go, Thomas!”

“The gym was in an uproar. Adam and Thomas stood together in the centre of the court with the biggest, happiest smile on Thomas’s face,” said Gareth Martin, a friend and teammate of Strickland’s.

“It was heartwarming. I think everyone felt that way. Seeing the happiness on Thomas’s face when he got called out, to the time he was cutting Adam’s hair. He was always laughing and totally stoked to be there with everyone’s support.”

To help with medical expenses, Loyalist sponsored a fundraiser selling Team Thomas T-shirts and held a spaghetti dinner, which was a huge success.

The goal was to raise \$1,000, but as everyone came together, they surpassed that goal and raised over \$2,400. Even rival team the George Brown Huskies got in on the action to help support the worthy cause.

“Seeing the crowd was overwhelm-



Photo by Bryan Eneas

Thomas Martin, 9, shaves Adam Strickland’s hair during the Together We Are Stronger event hosted at Loyalist College on Nov. 28. Martin is battling gliomatosis cerebri, which is a rare form of brain cancer. The event raised over \$2,000, with proceeds going to the Martin family.

ing and very exciting at the same time. I knew that everyone was there to support Thomas through his time of need, which

made me feel really good about what I was doing,” said Strickland.

“I really like my new hair too! It’s a

huge difference obviously but it’s a lot easier to deal with. Plus my mom loves it!” he laughed.

Memorial tree campaign helps to remember loved one

By Michele Weisz

Dec. 1 marked the start of Hospice Quinte’s annual memorial trees campaign.

The campaign, which occurs every year just before the holiday season, is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Each year, hospice volunteers and staff set up a booth and two large Christmas trees inside Belleville’s Quinte Mall. For each donation made in memory of a lost loved one, a symbolic dove is placed on the branches of one of the two memorial trees. Hanging from each dove is a card with a name honouring a lost friend or family member.

“It’s an opportunity to remember a loved one.. Stories are exchanged.. We keep a box of Kleenex under the table because people become emotional,” says Hospice Quinte Executive Director Helen Dowdall.

Last year, the campaign raised \$5,000 in one week and Dowdall hopes to surpass that number this year. For the first time in its 15-year history, the campaign will run for two weeks instead of one. Eight Hospice volunteers per day will work in shifts at the mall from Dec. 1 to Dec. 14. According to Dowdall, the campaign is especially meaningful to the hospice’s many volunteers and it was they who requested the extra week.

“We each wanted a chance to volunteer for this campaign,” says long-time volunteer Sue Thoms.

Hospice Quinte is the largest visiting hospice in southeastern Ontario. A total of 70 per cent of its funding is raised through donations during the course of the year.

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Photo by Bradley Ruszkowski

Ross Livingston checks the lights in Centennial Park in Trenton on the day before the Santa Clause parade last Saturday.

Yes, there is a Santa Claus

By Bradley Ruszkowski

For anyone who ever questioned if Santa was really real, I assure you he is. I have met him.

He lives in Trenton, Ont. and by day, he goes by the name Ross Livingston.

How do I know he is real some may ask? There are many defining characteristics. For one, “Santa Ross” has a huge affinity for toys. In fact, an entire room of his mother’s war-time house is dedicated to his rare collection of die-cast NASCAR replicas.

He really does like to fly with the same ancient methods from times past. This may be why he lives so near CFB Trenton. His eyes light up as he recounts photographing parachutes dropping from the

rear end of military aircraft like presents being sent to chimneys.

He really will put a lump of coal in your stocking, if you’ve been misbehaving. It’s coal he saved from his last job at the processing facility that he was working when the greatest honour of representing Christmas was naturally bestowed upon him.

They said, ‘Ross, we need you to be our new Santa!’”

“So, like any Canadian 89-year-old mother is inclined to do, “We got him a suit from the Sears catalogue,” Said Santa’s mom. “ You love doing it and you’re good at it, and really what else would you do!”

Christmas is his time to shine. At Halloween, he and his mother hand out apples and juice boxes, clearly not understanding the routine.

Ross shook when he laughed “like a bowl full of jelly” as he recounted stories of how he and his mom went all over town in mid-October to purchase every single can of white aerosol hair dye to save it, clearly sabotaging the festivities.

He knows whose dogs prefer Timbits over doggie treats, and of course, Ross knows who’s been naughty. He would have kicked them out of the park while working security!

His cheeks really are red and rosy, if not from the altitude of international flights, a little bit of blush never hurt the complexion.

He definitely rides a sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer, but a lesser-known fact is that there is also an 18 wheeler involved to keep low and in view of the

spectators, of course.

Ask any of the thousands of children who light up when that white big rig pulled down Quinte West’s main drag if Santa is real.

The excitement was as real as it gets as Ross appears magically into view of downtown as the sleigh soars high above the Trenton River over the bridge, past the illuminated Centennial Park, capturing the imaginations of all, even those being slightly hardened with age.

Eyes of all onlookers twinkled like the thousands of lights Ross personally set up, of course with the help of some the slightly-smaller-in-stature helpers (some call them elves). Ross and his helpers worked tirelessly for weeks in advance, perfecting and shaping the twinkling display in his secret workshop to ready

characters of the nativity, a menorah, Thomas the Tank Engine, and gingerbread man and women alike, under the red trails of an electric north star mingled with reflections of the real stars in the nearby river’s ripples.

All the children in Trenton know that Santa is real. They saw him. They heard him from miles away wish a merry Christmas to all. They pulled on the glistening white beard and know that it is really real.

As for the allegations that he is not real, or even the rumours that he may retire any time soon, Ross says, “As long as I have someone to do my makeup for me, I’ll keep doing it”

I guess even a guy as big and famous as Santa still needs him mom’s help now and then.

Try disputing the realness in that.

Hospice...

Continued from Page 1

The hospice’s staff and 130 trained

volunteers provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to individuals who are facing life-threatening illnesses as well as bereavement support to families who have lost a loved one.

They travel to homes throughout

the community to lend their support and help ease the strain felt by the patient’s family. There are over 400 clients who rely on the services provided by the hospice.

The hospice provides care in the community free of charge. Many of

those who used Hospice Quinte’s services in the past go on to become volunteers themselves. Last year its volunteers logged over 13,000 hours of service. Their Memory Tree campaign has raised \$40,000 since its inception.

Meter fees go to feed hungry

By Carla Antonio

Residents of the Hastings and Prince Edward counties might actually be happy to pay parking fees this holiday season.

The month of December hosts the annual Feed the Meter campaign. For the entire month, parking will be free throughout downtown Belleville, Picton and Trenton. Any money collected by the parking meters will be donated to help decrease hunger in local schools. The campaign is co-ordinated by Food for Learning, an organization that aids the Hastings and Prince Edward County District School Board in the administration, organization and finances of student nutrition programs.

“The benefits of participating in a student nutrition program are immeasurable,” said Maribeth deSnoo, executive director of The Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation in a recent press release regarding the event.

“Many students depend on our programs for their daily nutrition. Feed the Meter allows us to continue to provide quality food choices for all students.”

It has become evident that for various reasons, students often don’t meet their nutritional requirements, which hinders their learning potential in the classroom. Whether it’s because of poverty, long commutes to school, early morning practices or simply a lack of appetite in the morning, student nutrition programs in public and separate schools reduce malnourishment by offering healthy breakfast, snack and lunch programs to students.

“The Hastings and Prince Edward Counties have the second highest rate of food insecurity in the province of Ontario,” said deSnoo.

“Food for Learning programs are necessary for the students in our area. We know that children learn better when they are properly nourished.”

In the breakfast programs, volunteers prepare and serve breakfast to students before classes begin. Schools that offer a healthy snack program will often have a bin of accessible nutritious snacks. Lunch programs ensure that students who did not bring lunch or have forgotten it are fed, so that they may keep their energy levels up and continue to perform successfully throughout the day.

The target for this year’s Feed the Meter campaign is to raise \$30,000 to top the \$28,657 raised last year through donations and sponsorships.

Volunteers kicked off the event last Saturday by putting campaign posters on the meters. A community breakfast and campaign launch event was planned for 7:30 a.m. today at the Greek Hall on Harder Drive.

Belleville high school hosts historical event at AA Football National Capital Bowl

La Salle Black Knights win championship against Sydenham High School

By James Paddle-Grant

Last Wednesday, Belleville hosted the high school AA Football National Capital Bowl.

The games took place at Mary Anne Sills Field at noon and 2 p.m., with the senior game proceeding after the juniors.

Contesting for the junior match on this day were the La Salle Golden Knights and the Fenelon Falls Falcons.

La Salle came out for both halves of the game strong, as they got the first three touchdowns in the first quarter.

Fenelon Falls retaliated with three touchdowns, but it wasn’t enough as the La Salle Black Knights recorded three more touchdowns as well as a touch back to boost them past the Falcons with a final score of 44-21.

Afterwards came the senior National Capital Bowl game, between the Sydenham High School Golden Eagles, and the Crestwood Secondary School Mustangs.

A series of mistakes made by the Mustangs allowed Sydenham to make three quick touchdowns in the first quarter. But later in the second quarter, Crestwood managed to bring themselves back into the game trailing to the Golden Eagles with a score of 24-21 at the half.

Sydenham woke up in the second half as they scored two touchdowns and two touchbacks pushing them out of reach from the Mustangs. Crestwood later recorded a final touchdown but it was not enough as



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Sydenham Golden Eagles’ Defensive Back, Thomas Withey (right) blocks a Crestwood Mustangs throw in the fourth quarter of the National Capitol Bowl. Sydenham finished the game on top 40-27.

the Golden Hawks outscored them 40-27.

Both victors in Wednesday’s match were from the KASSAA, the Kingston Area Secondary Schools Athletic Association, division. Wednesday’s Capital Bowl was also marked as historical since it was La Salle Secondary School’s first-ever national cham-

pionship with the junior victory.

With only seconds left on the scoreboard in the junior championship, the La Salle Black Knights dumped their Gatorade drinking fountain over their Head Coach Karl Hammer, congratulating him on the victory.

“For a small school with 638 stu-

dents, we’ve done extremely well in the football game against big teams, and we’re on a good track,” stated Hammer.

Soaked, and with his face filled with excitement and joy, Hammer concluded by saying, “We’re National Capital Bowl champions for the first time ever and it feels great.”



Photo by Andrew Johnson

Blazing crash

A driver was killed Monday after his dump truck rolled over and caught fire on Hwy. 401 at Bowmanville. The 32-year-old man was thrown from the vehicle after slamming into the median, sending chunks of concrete hurling towards oncoming cars. The truck's trailer tipped and spilled gravel and debris over the highway, closing it down for hours.

Loyalist offers aboriginal construction program

By Annie Sakkab

The aboriginal construction renovation program is halfway through its second session after a successful start in February. The 16-week program is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Students gain hands-on experience in the construction and renovation field, preparing them for employment opportunities. Graduates of the program may also choose to continue to further their education in the construction renovation program at Loyalist. Tuition is free for those accepted, and is geared towards unemployed or under-employed aboriginal students.

This year's second session of the program started Oct. 6, taking into consideration that a few students had some preparatory work through the summer, while others needed to wrap up their hunting season to provide meat for their families.

The program is based on a total aboriginal way of life.

Paul Latchford, co-ordinator at the aboriginal resource centre at Loyalist, explains that the program is not inclusive, it's more or less exclusive, in the fact that "we're trying to be respectful of the culture."

"We have basically taken the mainstream program and just changed the process of how we achieve those outcomes, while trying to address the needs of the learner, being more or less conscious of, for the lack of better word, of where they're at and where their family comes from," explains Latchford.

"It's the tools and resources to make change. So really the program is all about empathy for the learner," Latchford adds. "In most cases, we are finding multiple gifts and strengths. So when they come to apply that to this opportunity, all of a sudden the learner is empowered."

"One of the key opportunities is to provide them with lots of training, so they get their fall arrest," Latchford says.

Fall arrest is a key component for students to allow them to get a job. It's a basic training for health and safety regulations.

'We are trying to give them an opportunity. Not only that, we see future opportunities in the community for more housing to be built.'

Co-ordinator Paul Latchford

Other components to the program are fork lift, high lift, boom lift and scissor lift. Students also get some basic training in CPR, first aid, propane tanks as well as WHMIS training, a health and safety information course associated with chemicals.

"We are trying to give them an opportunity. Not only that, we see future opportunities in the community for more housing to be built. There is a housing crisis, and we think that with the new water plant coming, there will be more opportunities. So they're starting to understand that this is an opportunity for them," explains Latchford.

The housing crisis on reserves is a huge obstacle for natives. For off-reserve land owners, a deed is given to show ownership. For the native population, however, they are given a certificate of possession, and the land is held in trust by the government.

"You actually have ownership to the first six inches of land. The government owns everything above that and everything below that. So you can never have a clear title. I can't go to the bank for a loan and say here's my certificate of possession, my equity," Latchford explains.

"So it's how you work around that. It's about understanding our limitations. With this course, we teach them the building code so they can get funding from the bank."

One other aspect to this course is the pre-auto apprenticeship program. In a short period of time, students master some core skills that may have taken other people a lot longer time to learn, giving them a head-start to go out into the working environment.

"They learn, from a native perspective, that group cohesion," Latchford says.

"We've turned it around from the mainstream. We ask them what would you like to learn and how would you like to learn it."

"We've taken away the one biggest fear, virtually no tests. Because they display their learning by doing projects and activities, we do evaluations and they evaluate themselves. They can mark each others papers and open books."

"All of a sudden the stress goes way down, and then they have success, and then you see the attendance comes up."

"I can't even start to touch on what I've learned, I've learned so much, but now I know I can be great," says Mandy Smart, a native student from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory attending this year's program.

"I definitely hope to retain enough knowledge to go home and build myself a home, and do some renovation work on the side for family members, giving them a fair and an honest deal."

With this program, Smart hopes to give back to the community the knowledge she's acquiring.

"It's wonderful and magnificent. I absolutely enjoy it."



Photo by Graeme Murphy

Belleville crash

A paramedic comforts the victim of a single-vehicle collision at 5:10 p.m.w in Belleville on Sunday. The vehicle collided with a hydro pole at the intersection of Sidney and College streets.



Cole Kritzer, 2, licks the fence while watching Odds perform Christmas carols during the CP Holiday Train stop. The train travels and makes stops across Canada raising food and cash donations for local food banks.
Photo by Amanda Cheung



(Above) Candadian alternative rock band the Odds performs at the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train event in Belleville. The event raised \$7671.00 and well over 1266-kilograms in non-perishable goods.
Photo by Jeremy Mckay

(Right) Desmond Clark receives a candy cane from Santa during the CP Holiday Train stop.
Photo by Amanda Cheung

(Below) Gleaners volunteers take non-perishable food donations. The event raised \$7,671 and well over 1266-kilograms in non perishable goods.
Photo by Jeremy Mckay



(Above) The decorated Canadian Pacific Holiday Train arrives at 10 a.m. last Saturday.
Photo by Jeremy McKay

(Below) - Doug Elliott, bass player with Odds, a Canadian alternative rock band, jams with Santa during the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train stop.
Photo by Amanda Cheung





Photo by Alyssa Lloyd

Team MaNick of Hampton, Ont., whips past spectators at Iron Bridge Stage. Nicola Narini is the team's driver, and Massimo Narini is the co-driver. The team has been together for 13 years, reaching their peak season in 2010.

Bancroft hosts Rally of Tall Pines

By Alyssa Lloyd

For a week, the Dungannon Recreation Centre just outside of Bancroft was transformed into an overcrowded whirlwind of roaring cars and bustling people.

The petrified grass of summer soccer fields, depressed under the weight of trucks and trailers, were loaded down with gas and spare parts. The main attraction was the souped-up rally cars, half-hoisted off the ground with technicians sprawling under them tinkering with last-minute changes.

In the small rural area of Bancroft, the Rally of the Tall Pines was about to bring just the right amount of havoc to the town.

Thermometers dipped to a brisk -12 celsius while the cars warmed up. Workers hustled in and out of rally headquarters with schedules, timers and radios, getting ready to hit the small back roads of the Bancroft area to begin the first stage of the rally.

On the first stage of the day, Upper Hastings, media and rally officials already lined the sides of the road with an intense anticipation. When Car No. 000 went through, traffic stopped, and people got to their designated spots. Car No. 00 passed through, stopping to kick people off the wrong sides of the road knowing that, if the rally drivers did go off, that's where they'd land. The air was so crisp that you could hear Car No. 0 flying through the track a couple kilometres away, with crowds cheering as the officials would make their own vehicles lift off the jumps.

The course was officially opened and soon after, North American Rally Champion Antoine L'estage was tearing past spectators nearly extinguishing their road side fires with dirt.

The frostbit roads were harder to navigate than the year prior's foot of fresh snow. Ice patches challenged drivers' skill. Without knowing what was around the next corner, they only had their co-driver's instructions to go by.

Eleven teams had to drop out before the end of the day, complete with one incredibly harsh rollover confirmed. Martin Rowe of Whistler B.C., and Nathalie Richard of Halifax, N.S., were driving their brand new Subaru Impreza WRX STI when they lost control, sending them to the hospital right before the night stage of Golton. Their injuries were unofficially reported as non-life threatening.

Antoine L'Estage of St. Jean-sur-Richilieu, Que., finished with the fastest speed on almost all of the stages, taking the No.1 spot of the Rally of the Tall Pines with his co-driver Alan Ockwell.

Coming in a close second with only a five-second difference between him and L'Estage, Alexandre Beland of Val-d'Or, Que., and co-driver Philippe Poirer of Saint-Rédempteur, Que.

Even though the rally committee pushed back the date of the event by a week in hopes to uphold the rallies reputation of "winter roads, summer ditches" there was nothing more but a skiff on the roads by the morning of the rally, and that didn't last more than two passes of rally cars.

Considered another success, the Rally of the Tall Pines has come and gone from Bancroft for another year and



(Above) Nicola Narini and co-driver Massimo Narini lift off as they speed past spectators having a campfire on Lower Hastings stage of the Rally of the Tall Pines.

(Left) "Crazy" Leo Urlichich and his co-driver Carl Williamson cruise past spectators on Upper Hastings stage at the Rally of the Tall Pines. Urlichich is known for pushing the boundaries of his rally car and pleasing the crowds.

Photos by Alyssa Lloyd

Antoine L'Estage and co-driver Alan Ockwell slide through the first corner of Golton Stage in the Rally of the Tall Pines. L'Estage is an accomplished rally driver, winning seven Canadian championships as well as winning 2010 Rally America.

