



Photo by Maggie Naylor

He shoots, he scores!

Jeff Butler plays on one of the rinks at the CFB Trenton pond hockey classic tournament between games on Sunday. For more on the pond hockey event, including a story and multi-media presentation, look for Thursday's Pioneer.

Showgirls strut stuff at Belle Pub

By Mary Barber

Brightly lit faces emerged from the Belle Pub, illuminated by Friday night's lights.

The bar in downtown Belleville boasted a colourful, vibrant environment in support of Belleville's Pride in the Park festival with performances from The Showgirls.

The travelling drag queens performed their signature uncensored comedy act, featuring singing and dancing, as well as lip-synching to songs while in pantomime, a staple in drag shows.

Sadina Kature, who was originally born in Quinte West, started performing in drag while living in Ottawa, but always wanted to return home. "Every time I hit that stage, I always thought of how amazing it would be to perform in Belleville," Kature said. "We

always want to come back and show the people we went to school with who we became and how strong we are today."

Headliner Dixie Landers had approached the Pride in the Park committee about promoting a drag show in support of their cause.

"We all voted in favour," committee member Sarah Michelle Ogden said happily.

All of the event's proceeds went towards Pride in the Park 2015, Belleville's own pride celebration in support of the LGBTQ community, which includes all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning people.

"We have so many people in here," said Ogden, who said around 100 tickets were sold. "And we are creating an amazing and positive place to be."

The evening garnered approximately \$13,000 for 2015's upcoming Pride in the

'We always want to come back and show the people we went to school with who we became and how strong we are today.'

Performer and Quinte West native
Sadina Kature

Park festival. The majority of the crowd identified as LGBTQ, but all were welcome in the safe and welcoming atmosphere in the pub, which had been transformed for the occasion.

In the spirit of things, gender-neutral signs were splashed on the restroom

doors, and brightly coloured rainbow bands were strung along the walls.

For many people, the night was about liberation. For the youngest performer of the night, a local lady by the name of Josephine, this was a debut performance. Landers and the rest of the Showgirls were gladdened by the support Belleville showed to its own queens.

Kature said she knows that in areas such as this one, knowledge and acceptance of different sexualities is very low. For many people living in Belleville, transsexuals and drag queens are very alien, she said.

"Many people are hateful because it is something new that they have been exposed to," she said. "People like to feel comforted; they are scared of change."

Despite the many preconceived myths about drag queens, Landers and her Showgirls say they believe that through

patience and explanation, people can understand more about what they do.

There are many reasons why people might dress in drag, including self-expression and as a creative output. Not all drag queens are derivative of one sexual orientation. The exaggerated femininity and gender roles, as well as physical appearance, can all be for comic or satirical effect, and sometimes it can be a means of self-exploration.

"The number one rule that I've always told myself is that if you are being completely honest with your friends, then you are being completely honest with yourself," Kature said.

"I wanted to show the people in the audience that if someone from Belleville could go out and make a name for themselves, then anyone from Belleville could do that, anyone can make a change."

Hockey prospect Max Domi brings out large crowd

Father Tie Domi attends Yardmen Arena to see son in action on the weekend

By Kayleen Preston

Saturday night brought in the largest crowd the Yardmen Arena has seen this season and one of Canada's biggest hockey prospects from the Canadian World Juniors.

Although most of the 3,291 fans were cheering for the Bulls, the chatter among the crowd was about the Domis.

Max Domi of the London Knights, who had recently played for the Canadian World Junior team, was on the ice. His father, former Toronto Maple Leafs player Tie Domi, was watching.

Despite being one of the highest-scoring players of the Canadian World Junior team, none of Domi's shots on Saturday went into net. In spite of this, the Knights still won against the Belleville Bulls 5-3.

"We had our best players against him. He's maybe the best player, or one of the best players in the country right now, and I thought our team, for the most part, did a pretty good job," said George Burnett, general manager and head coach of the



Photo by Kayleen Preston

Max Domi of the London Knights prepares for the puck to drop during second period play at the Yardmen Arena against the Belleville Bulls last Saturday.

Belleville Bulls.

Burnett said about the team's efforts against Domi during Saturday's game.

"He's not somebody you can completely stop. I thought he played a very strong game; played a lot of minutes. But we were fortunate to keep him off the score sheet."

Looking back on his experience with the World Juniors, Domi said, "It was exciting. Obviously it was a dream come true to be a part of that team, and to finish off the right way and winning gold. And being part of such a special group was awesome and a lot of fun."

The Canadian team won all of their games of the championship, making it the first time since 2009 that Canada had won gold.

When asked who his favourite team to play against was he said, "Either the Russians or the Americans, but every game was fun, but those two stand out for sure."

"(The) New Year's Eve game is always fun and you look forward to that, and obviously the gold medal game was the top of the list."

During the gold medal game, Domi scored one goal and two assists as the Canadians beat the Russians 5-4.

Domi was asked when asked if he is noticing a difference playing in the Ontario Hockey League again after playing for Canada.

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Photo by Gabrielle Smith

Georgette Fry belts out an Etta James ballad at her show, *Georgette Sings Etta*, at the Empire Theatre in Belleville, Ont. on Jan. 23. It took a look back at performer Etta James.

Etta James has influence on performer

Show offers a high-energy tribute to influential artist

By Gabrielle Smith

Georgette Sings Etta, singer Georgette Fry's two-hour high-energy tribute to Etta James, enchanted the audience at the Empire Theatre Friday night, providing a look back at one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

Etta James produced a repertoire of more than 600 songs in a variety of genres during her 58 years in the industry.

If you ask Fry about her musical influences, all roads lead back to Etta.

From Fry's first introduction to James as a teenager, through her bar-singing days, and into her days as a voice teacher and the creator of the *Shout Sister* choir, Etta has always been there.

"My first recollection of her was when I was about 14," said Fry. "I heard *Tell Mama* on the transistor radio, and because I have such a deep voice, I sort of focused on that and went, 'Oh!'"

Fry, now nearing the end of her performing days, explained that *Georgette Sings Etta* is exactly the sort of show she wanted to put together at this point in her career.

"I started getting pressure from people

to go back up and do something so I thought 'OK, well, if I'm going to go back and do anything, what I want to do now is a big stage show with the biggest band I can afford, and I want to do a bunch of really great arrangements of Etta James' material."

Another element Fry decided to incorporate in the show was a showcase of other young talent. Her three backup singers, affectionately called the Etta Ceteras, each performed their own solo pieces during the show.

For Anna Sundac, who sang a rendition of the 1963 James hit *Pushover* as her solo, doing a show with Fry celebrating James' music could not be more fitting. Fry began teaching Sundac to sing at

age 11. She used James' music as a starting point to get Sundac out of her shell.

"One of the first things she taught me was Etta James," explained Sundac, who has gone on to become a musical theatre school graduate, singer-songwriter, and creator-performer of educational musicals about Canadian history.

Being featured in the show is a great opportunity for Sundac and the other two Etta Ceteras, Anna Robertson and Kevin Head, and one Fry said she is happy to provide. She said she wanted to ensure each soloist had a song that made them shine.

"There's a lot of really fine young talent out there and it's not often that you get to be on stage with an eight-piece band full

of these amazing musicians, so I'm really hoping that this show can start to develop into giving them more and doing a concept where maybe each of the four of us gets to do five songs."

Fry said she intends to continue evolving and running the show until no further venues will book it.

The influence James has had on Fry is obviously a strong one, and she speaks passionately about her respect for the late artist.

"I think she was one of the most important singers of this century. She's inspired everyone from Janis Joplin to Adele. That's pretty significant.

"I think most female singers follow their natural inclinations and end up back at Etta."

Walk for Memories raises funds for Alzheimer Society

By David Fransky

Sunday's Walk for Memories that happened on at the YMCA in Trenton has been a tremendous success, raising more than \$14,000 for the local Alzheimer Society's branch.

The event was organized by staff of the Alzheimer Society of Belleville, Hastings and Quinte.

The foundation has been around since the 1980's and has helped a lot of people around the area. The Walk for Memories has been happening in the Belleville area for 20 years. This was the second walk in Trenton.

Hannah Brown, the fund development coordinator, talked about what the society has done to

help others.

"I like to learn all I can about Alzheimer's so I can talk to patients and clients and when someone comes in, I can answer questions."

"We like to talk about Alzheimer's but really it is dementia and dementia is sort of a symptom," Brown said. "People see short-term memory loss and cognitive difficulties and personality changes. And Alzheimer is part of dementia... There are different plaques and tangles that happen and that is how Alzheimer's starts."

Brown said the money raised during the walks will help people affected "If dementia is an umbrella, each spoke is a different kind of dementia. One spoke is Alzheimer's, another is vascular de-

mentia, mixed dementia, Lewy body disease, and Alzheimer is the most commonly known and that is why we use it."

Lisa Fairman spoke at the walk and she told of how Alzheimer's has affected her life. "My mom was diagnosed in 2000 and then my dad was diagnosed in 2002," said Fairman.

When asked how the Alzheimer Society helped her, Fairman said, "For me, personally, it was someone to talk to, resources and something to read and avenues and someplace to go and get help."

There are 10 warning signs that can help others to figure out if a person has Alzheimer's. They include memory loss that affects day-to-day activities, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems

with language, disorientation in time and space, impaired judgment, problems with abstract thinking, misplacing things, changes in mood and behaviour, changes in personality and loss of initiative.

The walk is also a way to raise awareness about Alzheimer's.

Fairman said, "I think people should learn about the disease, raise money and become aware.

You never know when it is going to affect you and people should do their best to understand it.

People should understand that it is not a bad thing or a horrible thing and nothing to be ashamed of having Alzheimer's. Just come on out and maybe someday there will be a cure."

Women score victory in volleyball

By Thomas Surian

The Loyalist Lancers women's volleyball team came out on top with a 3-2 victory against George Brown Loyalist College.

It was a thrilling game. The Lancers game began with a 10-0 score and came back to win the first and second sets.

George Brown turned it up in the third and fourth sets, narrowly winning both by two points.

The Lancers broke the tie in the fifth with a 15-11 win.

"Our girls really came out as a team," said Lancers coach Dominique Dawes.

"We've been playing a bit as individuals but today that was our main goal ... to pick each other up and support each other out there. Didn't matter who was on the court; they really came together."

The team sits in seventh place in the west division with 10 points, 16 points away from the division leader Georgian College with 26 points.

"We're going for that last playoff spot. Our girls are hungry and willing to work," said Dawes.

The Loyalist men, meanwhile, set out to repeat their November win against George Brown.

"They played well," said assistant coach Joe Stilwell.

"We didn't have our best game of the year but we played well," he said. "We battled back, but unfortunately we didn't pull it out in the end."

The game ended after only four sets with a score of 3-1.



Photo by Thomas Surian

Loyalist Lancer, Jillian Robinson spikes the ball while George Brown's Devon Bosada and Julia Vit Jump to block. Loyalist won the game 3-2 on Saturday. The Lancers sit in seventh place in the OCAA East Division.

"We beat them back in the first half of the semester and we expected to win again today," Stilwell said.

"We were surprised, but it gave us some things to work on and move forward from there." The Lancers sit in last place in the east

division with four points. The Lancers face off against the Seneca Sting on Jan. 28 at Seneca College in Toronto.

Domi...

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"Of course it's a lot different in the sense of pace, I mean everybody's going pretty hard every shift in the World Juniors, so it's a little bit different in that sense, but nonetheless, the OHL is still a great league and you got to bring it every night," Domi said.

Although his father attempted to stay out of sight at Saturday night's game, fans found Tie Domi near the media booths. During the intermissions he spoke with and posed for photos with fans.

During the second intermission he did not meet with many fans since he went to check on his son, who had been in hit below his left eye with a stick during a play.

The Bulls' Brody Morris received a two-minute penalty for high-sticking.

Max Domi's efforts have not gone unnoticed; he is a prospect for the Arizona Coyotes.

"It's exciting for sure," he said. "They've got obviously a good team, a good young group of guys, and great management staff and great coaching staff, so hopefully one day I'll get the chance to play for them."

He chuckled when asked if he would ever play for the Leafs.

"I don't know about that. I mean, I'm with the Coyotes right now so, I'm worried about making that team."

Unconditional companions

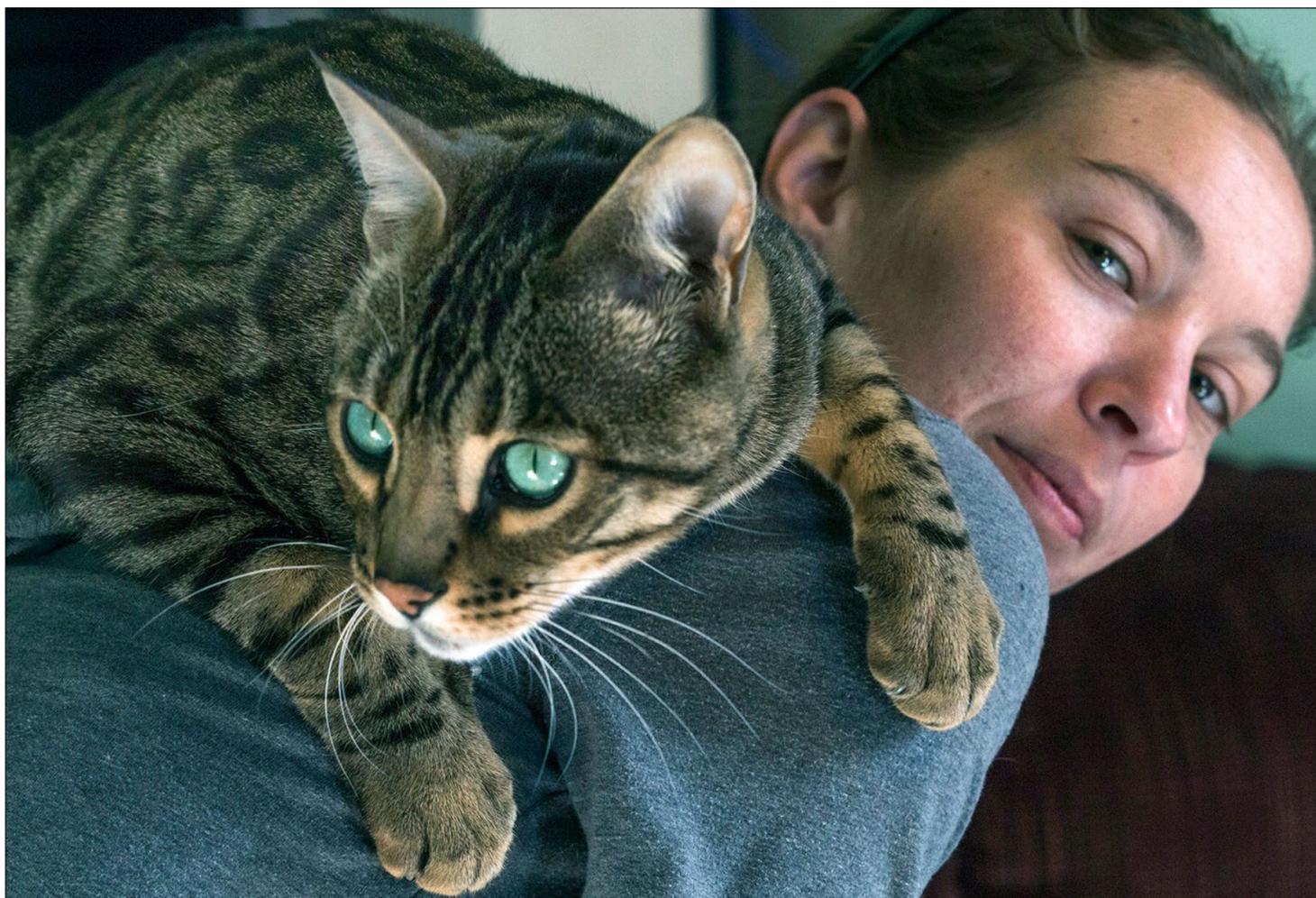


Photo by Elaine Bombay

Quantum, a male Bengal cat, sits on April MacFarland's back. MacFarland says she can't imagine life without animals.



Photo by Andrew Meade

"Having animals around me just seems to calm me down and make me feel more comfortable. He is the first pet I've had since my cat died so right now he's just floating around making me happy," says art and design foundations student Lydia Lambert, describing her black moor goldfish Captain Jack.

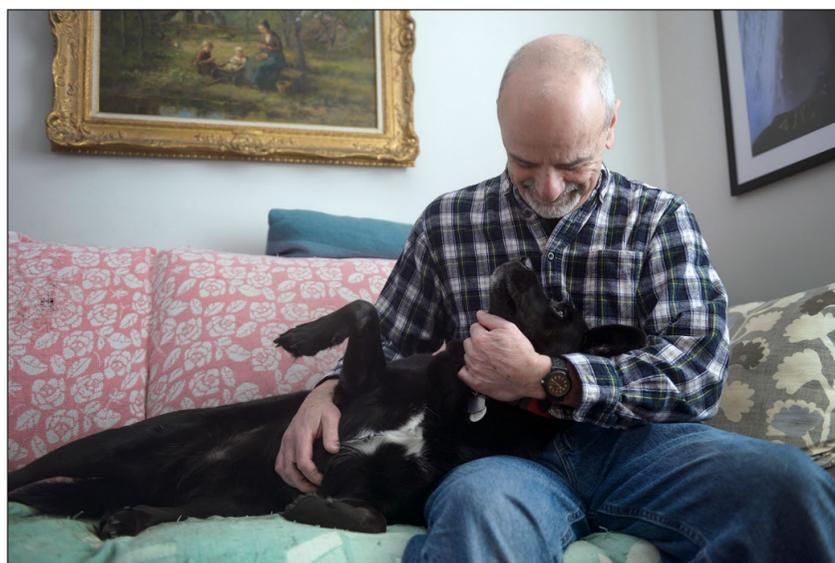
By Mary Barber

The bond between humans and their pets is primitive and deep rooted. Our furry friends have evolved with us for thousands of years. Our innate connectedness to these creatures has compelled us to understand and care about all nature's inhabitants.

We attribute to our pets their inherent personalities and in turn they define ours. This complex evolution allows us to share personality traits, compassion and hugs. Whatever makes your heart swell at the sight of your critter, it's undeniable. We want them in our homes, in our beds. They are family.

When photojournalism students at Loyalist College were asked to capture the relationship between owners and their pets, they asked, "Describe the special bond you share with your pet, how have they impacted your life?" Here are some of their responses.

For a look at some of the owners describing their relationships, go to <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=48208>



(Above) Gerry Fraiberg sits with his eight-year-old black lab/ brittany spaniel Roxy in his home in Belleville. Roxy is Fraiberg's first dog, and came to him by chance after reading a story in the newspaper about a podiatrist that was fostering a litter of puppies looking for homes.

Photo by Franki Ikeman

(Left) Tracey Brooks and her dog Penny pose in the Belleville dog's park. Although the temperature felt roughly like -30, Tracey did not skip her morning walk with Penny.

Photo by Giovanni Capriotti

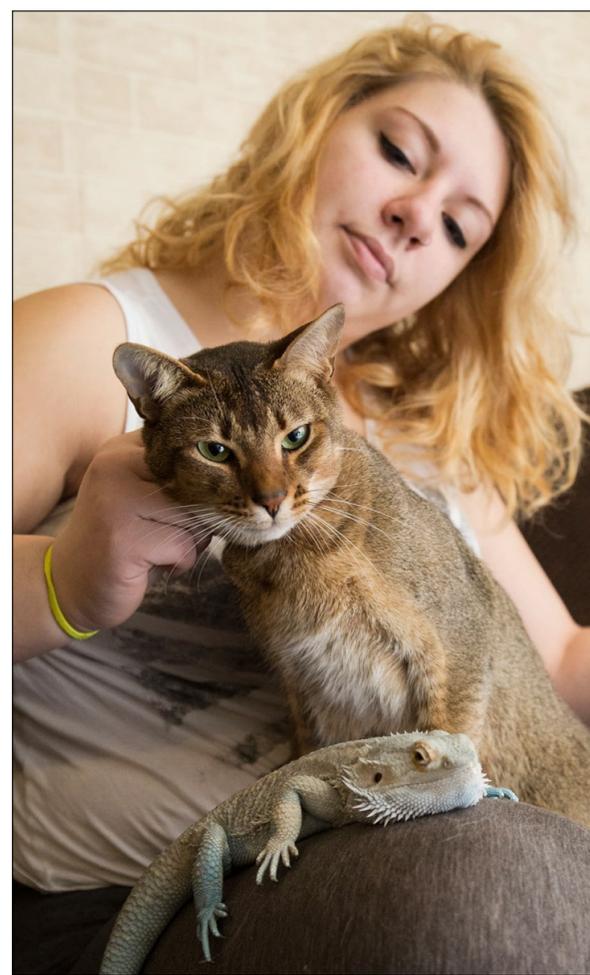


Photo by Amanda Paulhus

Sam Caissie sits with Bug the cat, an Abyssinian Bengal, and Rio the bearded dragon. She said her pets are important to her because they make her feel better when she is upset.