



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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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."