

The Pioneer

Vol. 47 • Issue #21
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
Loyalist College • Belleville, ON • Canada



Judge Roger Boisselle explains his critique of a cat at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour during Sunday's cat show. For more photos and a multi-media link, see page 3.

Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Kitties take the prize at cat show

By Andrzej Terrence

There were cats here, cats there and cats everywhere in Kingston last weekend, during the Canadian Cat Association's National Cat Club Show at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour.

Breeders of all kinds showed their prized specimens, ranging from hairless varieties to short- and long-haired kitties.

Some other breeds included the energetic Bengals, cuddly Balinese and the flat-faced exotic shorthair.

Ribbons were awarded to each group according to the CCA rules for the first-, second- and third-place winners.

Other felines received credit for the

best colour, breed and merit given to them by an official CCA judge.

Merit is determined by the health and the cat's willingness to be handled.

"For each breed there is a description for each part of the cat – every detail of the breed, colour and shape," explained CCA judge Roger Boisselle.

The cute and fuzzy creatures were not dressed to the nines in costumes, but were there to show true pride in their natural coats.

Professional breeders from across Canada came for the weekend, not only to show but also to sell their kittens.

Sophie Calvalido came to the show with several prize-winning Bengal kit-

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Judge Roger Boisselle

tens with the price set between \$800 and \$1,500.

One of her little Bengals made it to the finals in its class.

"The one I can show and win in shows is \$1,500 dollars; she did two finals. I work

with every colour, all year around. I have some blues and in the near future I will have some silvers," Calvalido said proudly with a chuckle.

Echoes of meowing at the Olympic Harbour joined with the unmistakable smell of some 120 cats.

The classes were divided between non-championship, championship and premiership, each with their own standards.

In the non-championship division were kittens, household pets, and experimental breeds.

The championship division was limited to purebred cats, while premiership was for new purebred breeds.

The judging area held a special table for

viewing the felines.

Surrounding the rear of the table sat a row of plain cages where the prized cats were placed prior to being judged.

Every segment of the judging gathered a crowd of breeders and cat fanciers.

As expected, some antics ensued as kitties pawed at ribbons and neighbouring cats.

On top of that, the judges waved a feather-tufted wand in the faces of the caged felines.

The best performers ignored the wand and gained merit points.

At a showing like this there were no lack of laughs and merry cheers for the incredible creatures.



Serving up balance

Amber Kent snowboards down Batawa Ski Hill with a hand full of trays during Batawa's Wait 'N Ski Charity Server Race on Jan. 21. Fifteen people in total participated in this event and all proceeds from the race went to the Quinte Children's Foundation, 'Playing for Keep' program. For story, see page 2.

Working relationship hits the right notes

By Giovanni Capriotti

Back in 1991, Doug Wicken met Peter Snell for the first time.

Wicken's book, *Nicaragua*, had just been published. Snell and his wife, Carol, interviewed him for a newspaper in the Quinte West region.

Eventually Snell became a teacher at Loyalist College where Wicken, at the time, had been teaching for few years. In the School Of Media Studies the two mingled with Joe Callahan, another teacher with a passion for songwriting.

After 24 years the trio of now-retired teachers is still together. The teaching currently goes on and off and is no longer the core of their lives, but their passion for music is still alive and vibrant.

JOPÉDO, which stands for Joe, Peter and Doug, is the name of the band they formed roughly one year ago, and so far the three have been extremely active in composing new music as well as gigging.

They're planning to begin the recording of their first album in April. Before being swallowed by the studio duties, a few more gigs are on the way, one of which will be at Loyalist on Thursday, Feb. 26.

This will mark the former teachers' first performance at the college where they have taught for years.

"In the photojournalism program, there is a documentary photography award that carries my name," Wicken said.

"This gig has the purpose to add some kind of 'value' to it, if you know what I mean," he said with a smile.

For as little as \$5 at the door, it will

be possible to listen to the original folk and blues repertoire of Joe Callahan and JOPÉDO powered by Callahan's socially-aware lyrics, Snell's saxophone and Wicken's double bass.

"The last gig at the Beaufort Pub was one of the best ever with this band. We were able to fully express ourselves in front of a very enthusiastic crowd," Wicken recounted proudly.

Callahan, the singer and guitarist, has always had a feel for social issues, fully reflected by his lyrics.

Snell is a multi-instrumentalist. He spent a lot of time living and playing music in the U.K.

"When the music is cooking and I'm playing well it is like a sort of natural high," Snell said enthusiastically.

"Getting there is fun, too. I mean getting in the zone and avoiding playing mechanically. I love when I get the right flow with the other band members," he said.

As a photographer, musician and writer, Doug Wicken said there is no difference between music and any other creative endeavour. The drive behind them is always the same and belongs to the same one.

"I started playing saxophone in high school," he said.

"Then when, I turned 21, I grabbed my first upright bass. Ever since I studied and practised the instrument. One of my teachers has been Ron Carter who played with Miles Davis," Wicken said humbly.

This Thursday's show is at 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall.