



Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Participants in the Cracking-Up the Capital snowmen-building contest broke the Guinness World record for the most snowmen built in an hour at TD Place in Ottawa, Ont. on Sunday. Within the hour, 1,299 snowmen were made, claiming the record previously held by United States, with 1,279 snowmen.



Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Teammates at TD Place in Ottawa complete a snowman in an attempt to beat a world record for the most snowmen built in an hour.

Canada breaks record for group snowmen

By Andrzej Terrence

TD Place in Ottawa bustled with people and snowmen alike as participants in the Cracking-Up the Capital attempted to beat the Guinness World Record for most snowmen built in an hour.

With the start of Winterlude on Friday, the Cracking-Up the Capital festival group worked tirelessly to produce events and activities that brought comic relief to the middle of a harsh winter.

One such event was to challenge a record created in Salt Lake City, U.S.A. for building 1,279 snowmen within an hour on Jan. 15, 2011.

Ottawa's teams beat the record by building 1,299 snowmen, which were three feet high, with two eyes and a carrot nose.

Cracking-Up the Capital set a goal of 1,500 snowmen made by nearly 500 people but fell short because of the poor snowman-making conditions and participants had to improvise with buckets of water-drenched snow.

In comparison, Salt Lake City had around 350 participants in their record setting event.

Ottawa's participants joined teams created by organizations under the CUTC, such as the Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre, the Salvation Army, and the Causeway Foundation.

The organization has been using funds raised throughout the course of their events to de-stigmatize mental illnesses in Ottawa.

For 11 years, the CUTC has been held at Centrepoint Theatre but has recently expanded to TD Place at Lansdowne Park.

The festival now attracts a wide variety of comedians from around the world.

Rick Mercer appeared at the snowman-building event to film a segment for the Rick Mercer Report.

The CUTC's finale event this Saturday, Feb. 7, will feature Canadian comedic talents like Mike MacDonald, Derek Seguin, Johnny Bagpipes, Dave Hemstad, and Eman El-Husseini.

Batawa hosts day of skiing fun

By Bryan Eneas

Every year, Batawa Ski Hill hosts a race which shows that combining creativity and skiing isn't so simple.

The annual Batawa Ski Day started off with a burger-eating contest and wrapped up with a downhill ski race in which the participants were haphazardly constructed figures strapped to skis.

Ranging in age from 18 to 24, five people were either volunteered or were volunteered to eat a two-pound hamburger and a pound of French fries for lunch on Saturday.

The scene inside the ski lodge was organized chaos. Five three-patty hamburgers and a mountain of fries were placed in front of each participant and the countdown began. Each participant was to eat as much of the plate as they could in twelve minutes.

All five participants took their time as opposed to gorging themselves as fast as they could. People inside the lodge cheered wildly during the first six minutes, and then the true test of durability began. Eventually the pace slowed for the participants, and the realization of just how much food they were in the process of consuming set in.

As the twelve minutes came to conclusion, the decision was made, the contestants had eaten enough beef to earn two free tickets each to a Belleville Bulls home game.

"Well, some co-workers kind of pressured me into it," said Brianne Melanson, 17, a snowboard instructor at Batawa.

"So I thought, 'OK, I'll do it anyways!' Even though I didn't really want to do it."

After the eating festivities wrapped up and awards were presented, teams who had constructed a downhill race dummy began the final preparations. Duct tape was added, ropes were tied down, and extra weight was added in preparation for the high-speed journey down the hill.

Teams representing Loyalist College, Mix 97, Rock 107, the Frontenac Zone Ski Patrol, the rental shop at Batawa, the Batawa ski racing team, the Hastings



Photo by Bryan Eneas

The Ontario Dairy team pushed an inflatable cow down the slopes during the Batawa Ski Day on Jan. 31, 2015. The miniature dairy cow didn't fair well during the race, as it had to be pushed over the jump at the end of the track.

County Dairy Producers, and the Nancy Greene Ski League pushed a dummy down the hill.

"We made our racer in about 15 minutes this morning," said Caitlin Nelles of the Batawa rental shop.

"We see a lot of people come through here, so we thought it would be something good to get involved in. A lot of other people on the operations side (of the ski hill) decided to make a dummy too, so we wanted to get one out there," said Nelles.

With plenty of fresh powder following the Thursday-evening snowfall, the hill was freshly coated.

Each dummy was pushed by its respective team to give onlookers a chance to fairly judge the dummy. Some were successful and flew down the hill quickly, while others barely made it a quarter of the way before veering wildly off-course.

In the end, the Batawa Ski Racing Club walked away the winners, as their dummy moved down the hill the fastest, and flew the farthest off the jump constructed at

the end of the course.

Participants in the race were judged based on creativity, realism, durability, airtime, as well as distance travelled down the slope.

The day wrapped up as participants and organizers ventured off to ski other parts of the quaint hill. The dummies were deconstructed and loaded into the trunks of cars, and packed away for another year.

For a video look at the event, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=48806>

QFA...

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International movies part of repertoire during bi-weekly screenings

According to Braun, the board believed that the community would share their enthusiasm for these types of small-budget films.

They believed that these films would fill a void in the cultural make up of Quinte. They were right.

The inaugural film was a hit. All the screenings were sold out and the QFA has never looked back.

"They look forward to the bi-weekly screenings that take them to faraway places where they can laugh and cry. For some, it's their only mode of 'travel,'" said Braun.

After numerous location changes, the QFA finally settled into its current, permanent home at the Empire Theatre in downtown Belleville.

The QFA's brand of "alternative" means independent or obscure. It means award-winning. It means timely or timeless, foreign or Canadian. In other words, it just means wonderful, high-quality films.

So come in from the cold and go see a movie!

This season the QFA will be screening a total of 18 films. The season runs until June. Tickets are just \$11 for evening and \$9 for matinee screenings. Students pay just \$5.50 per film.

The QFA offers seasonal memberships. A membership includes tickets to all of the films during the season without having to wait in line. It includes two guest passes and an opportunity to attend the season finale gala.

For a full list of this season's films, or to purchase a membership, visit the Quinte Film Alternative's website at www.quintefilmalternative.ca.