



Photo by Richard Barclay

Bellevillians brave the cold and blowing snow creating near white-out conditions last Friday. The snowfall was part of a larger storm front that hammered eastern Ontario.

## Snowstorm wreaks havoc

Poor road conditions and school closures impact on community and across the province

By Richard Barclay

Friday's huge snowstorm blanketed Belleville and other cities all over southern Ontario, resulting in road closures, school closures and driving problems for everyone.

The storm spread from London

through Toronto and across the province. Residents living within these regions saw up to 30 centimetres of snow within a single snowfall.

"There were no records broken for the amount of snow that had fallen with in these regions. The city that got the most snow was St. Catharines which received 41centimetres of snow," said Peter Kimbell, who is a warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment Canada.

Belleville residents shared the task with the rest of southern Ontario on how to handle all of the snow. With sidewalks

absolutely full of snow, citizens were forced to walk along the edge of plowed roads, which was extremely dangerous not only for pedestrians, but also for people driving in the extreme weather conditions.

Of course, weather conditions like these have extreme effects on the roads and naturally, drivers on the road. CAA tweeted they had received over 1,100 calls for assistance on Friday. This increased wait times for a tow to up to an hour.

Tragically, the dreadful road conditions resulted in to the death of a driver

who was involved in a collision near Pickering.

The roads were not the only mode of transport affected by the storm. There were hundreds of flight cancellations Friday at Pearson International Airport. Air travellers were warned to check the status of their flights before leaving to go to the airport.

Many public schools and universities decided to close their doors for the duration of the storm, in expectation of the treacherous road conditions. However, some Belleville public schools remained

open to anyone able to make it in that day, even though the school buses would not be running.

"Principals at the 42 public schools within the Hastings Prince Edward District School Board started making phone calls to parents mid-afternoon Friday to see if it was possible to get their child picked up from school," said Kerry Donnell, the communications officer for the Hastings-Prince Edward District School Board. The decision was made as a team effort between Director of Education Rob McCall and the superintendents.

## Quinte Symphony delights record audience with eclectic selection of musical numbers

Ensemble of vocalists from Queen's University School of music part of performance

By Hannah Yoon

The Quinte Symphony, conducted by Gordon Craig, dynamically performed Broadway selections from My Fair Lady, South Pacific, Sound of Music, Les Misérables and many more Sunday at the Bridge Street United Church.

Sunday's performance drew in a record high of more than 600 attendants as volunteers had to recycle tickets. Last year's news of the now-revitalized symphony folding drew in many first-timers.

"I read in the paper last year that the symphony was about to fold and I thought this was my opportunity. I had always been meaning to come," said first-time attendee Cathy Workman of Stirling.

Selling all 500 printed tickets and almost reaching the maximum capacity of Bridge Street Church was remarkable news for the symphony's board of directors, volunteers and supporters. Members of the board and volunteers were all grateful for the support of the community.

"We're all very happy with that. I think everyone enjoyed the performance and we're hoping for the same crowd in the summer," said Jack Evans, president of the board.

Donations of large sums were being made before and after the performance. On top of that, a few people came up to volunteer their time to be ushers for future performances.

"I first became a volunteer because of the danger of the symphony collapsing.



Photo by Hannah Yoon

The Quinte Symphony performed selections from various Broadway musicals such as Les Misérables, Sound of Music, Phantom of the Opera and many more at the Bridge Street United Church on Sunday. Sophia Angus from Queen's University School of Music was one of the vocal soloists.

I'm here because I want the symphony to get back on its feet," said Michael Dufault, a current volunteer and board member.

Newest and youngest member Jeannette Huang, 10, of Belleville, joined the symphony a month ago after her mother found an advertisement seeking violinists. Huang thought it was a good idea and decided to audition.

"I like hearing the beautiful music and meeting new people. Plus it's a great way for me to get experience," said Huang.

Huang, along with the rest of the symphony, romanced the audience with powerful numbers from the Phantom of the Opera, Sound of Music and Les Misérables. Accompanying the symphony was an ensemble of vocalists from the Queen's University School of Music, along with opera singer and professor Bruce Kelly.

The performance ended with five pieces from Les Misérables, but before that Craig had a few words for the audience.

"This is your orchestra. We need you. We need your help. We all need orchestras," said Craig to the attentive audience. And with that he led the orchestra and ensemble to a grand finale with even the audience singing along to *Do You Hear the People Sing*.

The surprising turnout and outstanding performances of the symphony gives hope to the future of the symphony in the Quinte area.

## Spectators come out to the races

By Gail Paquette

It's been over seven years since the frozen waters of the Moira Lake have been used for drag racing. It clearly has been missed.

Close to 500 spectators lined the race-track in three-foot-deep snowbanks and more than 75 entrants in studded snowmobiles in a variety of classes, put on a show at the Ice Drags on Moira Lake, Feb.9.

It wasn't purely for the thrill. Money was raised for numerous community causes. The event was run entirely by volunteers and sponsored by five local dealers.

The Moira Lake Boat Launch Improvement Committee, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, O'Hara Mill Volunteer Association and the Madoc Agricultural Committee shared in the funds earned and their volunteers sold food and hot drinks from an army tent, manning the gate and picking up garbage.

The snowmobile dealers' set up their latest wares on the perimeter of the race-track enticing people to browse.

Dignitaries showed up to race and were given a machine from the participating dealers.



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