



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.



...See Ice Drags, page 3



Photo by Hannah Yoon

Quinte Grannies for Africa kicked off the fourth annual 'Stride to Turn the Tide' campaign by walking around the track at the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre on Jan. 31. Participants are taking part in a symbolic walk to Africa.

Grandmothers help grandmothers

Stride to Turn the Tide campaign kicked off by Quinte Grannies

By Natalie McMullen and Hannah Yoon

The Quinte Grannies for Africa kicked off the fourth annual Stride to Turn the Tide campaign at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre at the end of January.

Participants in the symbolic walk to Africa are asked to record their steps and strokes between now and June 2013, with the goal of clocking a collective total of 11,600 kilometres, the distance to Rwanda's capital city of Kigali. Part of their \$20 registration package includes a pedometer and logbook to track their progress.

The event is part of a larger Grandmothers to Grandmothers movement, launched in 2006 by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The initiative raises awareness of the devastating toll of HIV/AIDS on communities across Africa and specifically the grandmothers tasked with caring for the millions of children orphaned by the pandemic.

The Jan. 31 gathering boasted a full house – a crowd of around 100, dotted with splashes of orange T-shirts, hats and scarves – the signature uniform the Grannies wear to show solidarity with African grandmothers.

In attendance was 92-year-old Win Perryman, the oldest member of the Quinte collective, which forms part of a national network of more than 240 groups.

The evening opened with a message by Belleville Mayor Neil Ellis and featured presentations by Carole Holmes, co-chair of the National Walk Committee, and Helen Silbiger, community campaigns liaison with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Dynamic performer Jeanette Arseneault entertained the audience with a mix of Acadian roots music and songs of empowerment, honouring women's strength and power.

Through registration alone, the opening celebration raised \$2,000. In total, through the three previous campaigns, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has brought in over \$1 million for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The foundation directs the funds to local, grassroots organizations that work

with grandmothers and children to address both short-term needs and long-term solutions.

For Mieke Thorne, the project's co-chair along with Dianne Raniowski, and the evening's MC, the campaign is about "awareness, health – to be involved and connected with the world."

Thorne first became involved with Quinte Grannies for Africa after hearing Lewis speak at an event held in Belleville in October 2006.

A grandmother herself, Thorne said while she enjoys spending time with her grandkids, she can't imagine what it would be like to raise them on her own at this stage of her life.

"I feel very connected to the African grandmothers. If with my eight grandchildren I had to support them, feed them, get them to school, at my age? It's amazing what these grandmothers do. Some of them are in their 80s."

Thorne, like the majority of the more than 60 group members, does not conform to the traditional grandmother figure. As Silbiger said during her talk, the women who comprise these networks are not "your typical grannies knitting in

rocking chairs; they're activists."

This past November, members of Quinte Grannies for Africa joined forces with the Grandmothers Advocacy Network in support of Bill C-398. The bill, which called for amendments to Canada's Patent Act in order to facilitate the supply of generic drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases to countries in the Global South, was defeated by the Conservatives.

But the Grannies are resilient and committed, as evidenced by one of their key slogans: "We will not rest till they can rest."

The kick-off event closed with a symbolic walk around the indoor track, with Grannies and their allies raising signs with images of African grandmothers and messages of hope as they set off on their journey to Kigali.

The next stop, according to Thorne, whose passion and energy are contagious, is Cape Town, South Africa.

The Quinte Grannies for Africa meet twice monthly. For more information about the Stride to Turn the Tide campaign, contact quinte-grannies@hotmail.com, or call Mieke Thorne at (613) 969-1782.

RVs issue stalls at council

By Myriam Lublink

The motion by a Belleville city councillor to limit the placement of the parking of RVs, boats and trailers on private property was defeated Feb. 4 during a planning committee meeting.

Belleville councillor Tom Lafferty brought the issue to the table at a council meeting on Dec. 12, and suggested that the motion be passed that recreational vehicles of a certain size not be allowed to be parked in driveways.

"The motion was defeated. Council's advisory committee recommended that the motion not be approved. There was a lot of public input, and the vast majority were opposed to the motion," said Lafferty last Friday.

It all started when Lafferty received complaints about RVs blocking the views from some local homes. Lafferty said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that RVs blocking windows can be quite an eyesore.

"I had a number of people come to me last summer who had oversized RVs parked next to their homes, blocking their view from the window. They tried a number of different avenues to get the issue resolved. They couldn't, so they came to me for help."

Chris Hill, a Belleville resident and recreational vehicle owner, started a Facebook page and a petition within days of the first discussion of the motion.

"I'm representing a group of citizens that got together in order to oppose the motion and exercise our democratic right to do so," Hill said.

Hill said he understands that even if you own your property, there are some limitations as to what you can do when it comes to safety and legal activities. He said the municipality shouldn't decide if RVs can or cannot be parked on private property.

"As residents, we feel that we should have more power over how to use our property and it shouldn't be at the whim of the municipality to decide how that property is going to be used. We feel that this one item specifically is outside the boundaries of what the municipality should be working on."

Hill said that he is happy with the decision not to pass the motion and he will continue to park his RV on his property when he isn't using it.

"It would have impacted us both convenience-wise and financially-wise. If I can't park my RV in my driveway, then I'd have to pay someone else to park it. That would take away from our budget to even use it."

Now that the motion has not been passed, Lafferty said that despite being disappointed and somewhat surprised as he thought more of council would support it, he is not going to bring the issue up again.

"It's a dead issue now. Once something has been deterred by council, you cannot bring it up again in the same calendar year. There was such overwhelming support for the no side, so there really is 'no point in going through it again.'"

Belleville boat show anchors at Quinte Mall last week

By Jason Prupas

Boats lined the walkways of Belleville's Quinte Mall last week for the annual Boat Show, which has taken place for more than 20 years.

Many boat manufacturers and dealers alike advertised their wares all over the mall from Feb. 4 to Feb. 10.

Darren Merritt represented North Country Marine for his sixth year at the show and worked 12-hour days since the

show started.

"It was worth it," said Merritt. "Basically what it does is it gives us a client base for the season. Some people may not be ready to buy, so we give them as much information as we can."

Joshua Thompson, a sales representative with Triumph Boats, agreed the boat show is great for the mall and for boat sales.

"We are unveiling quite a few new designs this year that I think the public will be interested in," said Thompson.

That ranged anywhere from a 20-foot fishing vessel, to an expensive boat designed to tow water-skiers or wakeboarders that comes equipped with directional speakers so you can hear music perfectly clear while you are out behind the boat doing your activity.

However, manufacturers are starting to take a more practical approach with newer features that might attract the more eco-conscious demographic. For example, there are those who want a boat

but don't want an engine or hull to leak or decay into the water and pollute their lake after a few years.

Dealers are promoting new boat designs they say are more eco-friendly. A company like Triumph has come out with a new polymer, which makes the boat virtually indestructible as well as almost entirely recyclable.

"Every year, we are invited down to the mall and we take the opportunity to bring the savings to the Belleville public," said

Thompson.

The dealers were offering a limited sale on almost all of the watercraft to attract buyers during the wintertime, which is the off-season for boaters.

The boat show will be moving to Brockville for a week and then Kingston and then back to Belleville again for the Boat and RV Show on March 8-10, 2013.

"We have a big area that we support and we try to give the best service we can," said Thompson.

Students express importance of International Women's Day

By Taylor Hermiston

What Does International Women's Day Mean to You?, a youth art exhibit kicked off Thursday, Feb. 7 at the library's art gallery. The exhibition was presented by the Parrott Art Gallery and the International Women's Day committee to mark the event.

"International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 worldwide and in Belleville the committee normally organizes a rally and a downtown march," said Cheryl Holland-Hughes, of the International Women's Day Committee. "This year we opted to do something different, so we enlisted the help of all the people of our community to raise awareness of what International Women's Day means a little bit before the event."

The exhibition was an opportunity for youth to showcase what they felt International Women's Day meant to them. They were encouraged by the International Women's Day committee, in Belleville, to express their thoughts and feelings through any art form.

"As you go around the gallery, we are firmly convinced that people from our community that come into this gallery will walk out with a very different perspective of what International Women's Day is and what it means," said Holland-Hughes.

The students' artwork varied between paintings, drawings and photography and was paired with written statements from each artist explaining their piece and why it is important to them.

"I decided to take on this project because I never did an art show before and I wanted to express how many women have influenced me and how they influ-



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School student Kiera Dinsmore stands with her art piece called *Precious Strength, Sacred Diversity* at the International Women's Day youth art exhibit at the John M. Parrott Art Gallery last Thursday.

enced my own sense of self and my pride of being a woman," said Kiera Dinsmore, a student of St. Theresa's Catholic School.

Dinsmore created a collage piece of black and white photography called, *Precious Strength, Sacred Diversity*, featuring portraits of women who influenced her life. Some of those include her grandparents, aunts and a close friend who is battling cancer. Her photographs were taken over a series of two months all over Canada.

Another piece of art was a painting featuring a damaged woman with burn scars on her face and burning books beside her called *Marred*.

"The books and they are burning because a lot of people in other countries don't get an education. I called it *Marred* because her face is burned and in society girls are shunned for stuff like that, more than men," said Sarah Arendt, the artist of the painting.

Arendt worked on her painting over a two week period, working on it before and after school.

"She was really interested in the woman who had come and talked about Afghanistan and a young girl getting shot. I think a lot of that was her inspiration," said her mother, Carol Arendt.

Through-out the exhibition, people were asked to keep in mind their favourite art piece and vote. The three pieces

with the most votes will be featured at the "What Does International Women's Day Mean To You?" adult art show on March 5 at the Belleville Core Centre.

"I am really happy with the creativity they showed dealing with that question and that lets me get into their minds," said Jan Coombs, who added she has been influenced by her grandmother and mother all her life about woman becoming persons in society.

Observer, Tom Thorne said, "It should celebrate women. Women should celebrate themselves but I think pointing this out is extremely useful. We have a lot of talented people. Look at all the women who are premiers now. It's all about equity."

Thank you went out to Susan Holland, the gallery curator of the John M. Parrott Art Gallery, and the staff for preparing the show, Emily Terpstra, for her work on publicity, Lynn Hunt, the art teacher from St. Theresa's, for encouraging her students to enter the show and the students themselves for their inspiration, plus the Bridge Street United Church Foundation and ETFO, the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, for their sponsorship.

This was the first of many International Women's Day events that will be happening from now and until the first week of March.

Other events relating to the International Women's Day festivities continues with a presentation by From Childhood to the Quinte Grannies for Africa on Wednesday, March 6. International Women's Day on Friday, March 8 featuring a presentation and a march through downtown Belleville, and a meet and greet with Marina Nemat, author of *Prisoner of Tehran* and *After Tehran* on Saturday, March 9.

Sports

Basketball teams fight final home battles



Steven Bailey of the Lancers tries to get the ball away from Mahamat-Ali Hagggar of the Algonquin Thunder during the Loyalist College Lancers vs. Algonquin College Thunder at Loyalist Feb. 8. The Lancers lost 77-93.

Photo by Marta Iwanek

Both men and women lose to Algonquin College in Friday night action

By Sofia Rojas

The Loyalist Lancers men's and women's basketball teams lost to Algonquin College Friday night on home turf.

The women lost 77-48 while the boys lost 93-77.

Because it was the last home game of the season, the crowd came out and supported their Lancers by sporting the colour white, but even with the crowd behind them, the Lancers knew it was going to be a tough battle and a long night for both teams.

Algonquin was able to score the first basket of the evening and it quickly became clear to everyone that the Lady Lancers were having slight difficulty surpassing Algonquin's defence after ending the first quarter down 20-15.

As the game progressed, Algonquin's confidence and teamwork seemed to be rising quickly as they dunked basket after basket.

By the end of the second quarter, Algonquin had almost doubled their points and took a huge lead, walking away at halftime with a score of 61-34.

Martine Gauvin, the Lady Lancers' point guard and a soon-to-be graduate of Loyalist, knew her last home game was going to be one of the toughest games of the season. But when asked how she felt about her team's performance, she said it wasn't what she expected from her girls.

"After a good game on Tuesday (against Durham College), I was hoping we'd keep going this Friday, but Algonquin is a tough team to play. We just did not show up ready for them tonight," said Gauvin.

"I was expecting a fight from start to finish and that's what it was. They're the kind of team that makes my job as point guard harder, because they're always right in our face on defence. I'm not entirely satisfied with my performance, but for most of it I was happy with the way I handled the pressure," said Gauvin.

The Lancers were only able to score three points in the third quarter and by the fourth, the Lancers walked away from

their own court with a loss of 77-48.

It was time for the boys to face Algonquin and with a vengeance, the boys rushed into the first quarter with aggression and motivation as if to show the crowd the night wasn't over just yet. From the start it was a back-and-forth battle between baskets as both teams scored point after point.

It was obvious that the boys were much more contentious as the Lancers were able to dribble through Algonquin's defence, giving them a 26-23 lead by the end of the first quarter.

But Algonquin wasn't about to cut Loyalist a break and made an impressive comeback in the second quarter. With taunting words coming from the opposing team, it was clear that the Lancers

'They have also been together for few years now and this is the first year we have all been together, most of us being rookies in the league. We just had a couple miscues that a good team will take advantage of that every time, which they did.'

Lancers' Brayden Gohn

were becoming frustrated with Algonquin and were consecutively being called out on foul plays, giving Algonquin chance after chance at free baskets; Algonquin took the lead by halftime with a score of 45-39.

Even with numerous baskets coming from Lancers Matthew Miller, Brayden Gohn, Steven Bailey and huge three-point shots from Patrick Kalala, Algonquin answered each

time, leaving the third quarter with an incredibly close score of 60-58 for Algonquin.

By the last quarter, the Lancers had left all they had on the court but just couldn't keep up with the energy and determination coming from the other side. Algonquin was able to end the game with a 93-77 win.

"We knew it was going to be tough from the start, them being one of the best teams," said six-foot-five-inch Brayden Gohn, one of the Lancers' forward/centre players.

"They have also been together for few years now and this is the first year we have all been together, most of us being rookies in the league. We just had a couple miscues that a good team will take advantage of that every time, which they did," said Gohn.

Both teams are scheduled to play against St. Lawrence College on Wednesday at St. Lawrence College starting with the girls at 6 p.m. followed by the boys at 8 p.m.

Peterborough hosts Hockey Day in Canada activities

Belleville players among participants at hockey tournament

By Jessica Nyznik

Hockey Day in Canada put a national spotlight on the world's largest hydraulic lift lock Saturday as they played host to the unique event.

With Lloydminster, Alta., stepping down as the original host of this year's event, CBC had to look elsewhere and Peterborough gained their attention in an

unusual way.

An OMHA tournament called Under the Lock, which is held under the Peterborough Lift Locks on the Trent Canal, was in its fourth year of planning when it received a call from the CBC in December.

"They found us on YouTube," said Sanjeev Sukumaran, roster select coordinator and committee member for the Peterborough Hockey Association.

Under the Lock is the only officially sanctioned OMHA tournament to be hosted on a body of water, a unique experience that Sukumaran said drew CBC to Peterborough.

The canal was divided into five rinks,

with 63 teams in attendance and more than 1,000 participants.

Three teams from the Quinte region were among the wait-listed tournament, including the Stirling Blues senior tyke division, the Belleville Bulls' atom division and the Quinte West atom division.

Chris Longo, a former NHL player and Belleville resident, drove up with his six-year-old son, Sammy, who plays for the Blues.

Longo said his son wasn't quite sure what HDIC was all about until they arrived and saw the hype.

"When he got here he understood the excitement and the meaning of Hockey

Day in Canada," said Longo.

Having played hockey since boyhood and in the NHL for 12 years with the Washington Capitals and Hartford Whalers, Longo said hockey is an important part of Canada's heritage. "It's something that the country and people take pride in. It's our game. And outdoor hockey, you don't see that a lot nowadays," said Longo.

Ten-year-old Owen Hayes, of the Bulls, was also excited to be a part of the national event and have a chance to play on the natural ice.

"It's fun to be on the pond, it's cool. It's great to have Don Cherry and Ron Ma-

clean here," said Hayes.

MacLean hosted the 10-hour event beginning at the lift locks at noon and finishing the day at the Peterborough Memorial Centre, where he was joined by Cherry.

Coach's Corner was set up in the restaurant of the Memorial Centre, where the Peterborough Petes challenged the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds for a charity cancer fundraiser called Pink in the Rink, A Tribute to Hockey Moms.

With a 3-2 win for the Petes, a record \$79,000 and counting for Pink in the Rink and countless smiles on children's faces, HDIC in Peterborough appeared to be success on all fronts.

Belleville Bulls leading the pack in OHL eastern conference

By Jeff Peters

The Belleville Bulls trounced the Erie Otters this past Saturday at the Yardmen Arena, with a shaky first, a dull second and a resounding third period. The blazing Bulls, who have been on fire this season, won the match 4 - 1.

That was the outcome, despite a shaky start, to the first period with a goal at 10:25 scored by Otters rookie Hayden Hodgson. The goals were quickly revengeed by Bulls Tyler Graovac.

He scored two power play goals 48 seconds apart.

The power play goals were the first the Bulls were able to capitalize on since Jan. 11. The period ended 2 - 1 for the Bulls.

The second period was a rather dull affair with the scoring chances playing a game of tit-for-tat. What the period lacked in scoring, it made up for with heart-dropping moments of quick saves and failed scoring opportunities.

With the score deadlocked in an Otters 2-1 deficit, the scoring chances read much the same, with the Bulls outpacing the Otters in shots on net in the first half of the period 12 - 7, although eventually tying up at the buzzer with 26-26 stalemate.

The moment the Bulls burst into the third, their momentum was palpable. The first goal was scored by defenceman Jordan Subban at the 14:36 mark. The second seasoned defenceman, third period one-timer would push his score tally this season to 10 goals along with a respectable 26 assists.

Momentum was won along with



Photo by Jeff Peters

Erie Otter's goalie (31) Devin Williams denies a shot on net from Belleville Bulls (20) Tyler Graovac. The Belleville Bulls won the match 4 - 1 on Saturday at the Yardman Arena.

Bulls' third goal of the game, and the momentum propelled Belleville to finish the game with a resounding goal by Alan Quine, allowing him to register his 14th goal of the season at 18:03 to a sold-out crowd of 3,470

at the Yardmen. Belleville has had a triumphant season, with a 30-14 record out of 50 games played and are leading in the eastern conference.

The Bulls brought their 'A' game to

Ottawa on Sunday, dishing it out to the Ottawa 67's, winning the game 6 - 4.

The Bulls will face off next against the Kingston Frontenacs this coming Wednesday at the Yardmen Arena.

Ice Drags...

Continued from Page 1

MP Daryl Kramp took a mind-blowing lead down the track for wide-margin win, so much so his opponents MPP Todd Smith and Madoc Deputy-Reeve Tom Simpson jokingly suggested he may have been cheating.

The brilliant blue skies and the previous night's fresh 31-cm snowfall deemed the perfect day.

The plowing crew of five trucks had spent more than eight hours overnight and the wee hours of that morning to clear the groomed track of 660 feet.

"It's our first year hosting this event," said Andy Vanecko, president of the Centre Hastings Snowmobile Club. "We are learning what to do and what not to do for next year. It sounds funny but we were praying for the snow to stop, so we could get the ice cleared. That snowfall really put us behind."

The races ended years ago because of insurance costs and liability, said Kramp, and needed an organization to host it.

The CHSC has had a growth in enthusiasm and, Vanecko boasted, a few very positive years with an increase in membership. "We groom roughly 70 kilometres of trails now," said Vanecko. "We had a groomer given to us and we got a new bridge. The last few years have been good."

The bridge over Deer Creek, Madoc within the CHSC borders was a government-funded stimulus project, through the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance, last year.

Racers came from as far as Gatineau Hills and Hamilton clocking recorded speeds of over 167 km/h.

Winter adventures



Photo by Tom Hicken

George Skalin, 82, shovels the sidewalk outside his Belleville home on Friday for the second time in one day. Approximately 25 to 30 centimetres of snow fell by Saturday morning.

Winter is finally upon us in Canada, and hopefully this time it will stay.

With snow comes fun for the whole family with many winter events and festivals.

Skating and sledding are only a few of the popular winter activities putting smiles on the faces of the young and old.

During winter festivals, people are able to sample winter foods and drinks such as hot chocolate, apple cider, maple taffy and beaver tails.

Maple taffy is a popular winter treat. It is maple syrup poured over snow and rolled onto a popsicle stick.

The white wonderland is a great opportunity for a cool day of fun in the snow.



Photo by Emily Cumming

(Above) Guilherme Mateus, 3, throws a chunk of snow into the air above his head at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto on Saturday.



Photo by Richard Barclay

(Above, right) A Belleville woman is framed through an alleyway while walking down Front Street on Friday during the major snowstorm.



Photo by Sarah Taylor

(Right) Kate Doll, 8, toboggans down the sledding hill at Belleville's Riverside Park on Sunday. The hill is a popular place for people to go sledding.



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Jeff Trottier skates with his seven-month-old son Payton on the Rideau Canal during the 35th edition of Winterlude in Ottawa on Saturday.



Photo by Tom Hicken

Shaun Carpenter, originally from London, England, is dwarfed by a stilted busker during Winterlude festivities in Ottawa on Saturday.