



(Above) Polly receives her blessing from Pastor Wiesner while owner Tina Pennacchio looks on.

(Centre) Rebecca Haan holds her squirming pig as he is blessed Sunday morning at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's first annual pet blessing.

(Bottom) Susan Rollison's parrot Cha Cha receives a blessing. That morning, Pastor Wiesner blessed dogs, cats, birds and even a pig at the service.



Photos by Solana Cain



Christine Ridout sits beside 10-year-old Fritz, a poodle shih tzu blend, waiting for Pastor Wiesner to make his way around to them. Ridout often brings her canine companion to Sunday service.

Scooter company signs up local enthusiast

By Zachary Shunock

“It sucks so much, it’s the hardest thing ever. I’ve never actually been injured so badly before that I couldn’t ride. I can’t wait to get back,” said Ben Dehaan, who has been progressing in the sport of Scootering since the summer of 2009.

Over the past couple years, Dehaan has partnered up with local media students piecing together many videos and projects featuring his best tricks. Some of these project titles include, Progression, Welcome to the Streets, 60-Minute Mania, and Welcome to the Streets.

During the filming of his video Welcome to the Streets, Dehaan treks across the region capturing footage at all of his favorite spots and it took a turn for the worst.

“I was out shooting for my street video that just got released, I got hurt so I had to release it... It was one trick I hadn’t put into my video yet. So, I thought, ‘hey this is a good spot to do it.’ It wasn’t that crazy of a trick either, but I landed wrong and my foot slipped off and bent back,” Dehaan explained.

After rushing to the hospital during that sunny day in August, Dehaan was informed that he had broken his leg and fractured bones in his foot. Injuries he knew would definitely take a lot of time and rest to heal.

Being on the sidelines in any sport is never a good feeling, especially when it is due to injury, which in most cases requires a lot of time, care and rehabilitation. Dehaan has been off his scooter with injuries for three weeks now and assumes

it will be another couple of weeks until he’s able to ride again.

“I just tried a tail whip yesterday for the first time since and it felt pretty good,” Dehaan said with a sense of relief.

Despite having injuries, a United States based company, Lucky Scooters, recently signed Dehaan.

“Lucky scooters saw the video. They are from down on the west coast in Washington State and I’m still riding with Quebec Scooters,” said Dehaan cheerfully.

Sponsorships with companies in extreme sports aren’t easy to come by. Dehaan’s younger brother Joe, who also participates in the sport, is happy just being able to ride.

“I don’t promote myself like Ben does, I just like to ride. He’s really into the sport and is getting better all the time,” explains

Joe.

Dehaan not only immerses himself in Scootering as a sport but, also the business and documentation of it as well. When thinking about his future in the sport, it was clear that riding professionally is his main goal. However, as long as he is doing something involving scooters he will be okay.

“Making money while doing something with scooters, such as managing a shop, I’d be happy doing anything like that,” Dehaan said. He is already on his way to becoming who he would like to be in the world of scooters.

“I actually just started writing an on-line blog that I get paid for and it’s a pretty big website so that’s pretty cool,” stated Dehaan who has been submitting posts found on impactscooternews.com.

Dehaan was born and raised in the small town of Belleville, Ont. Belleville’s skate park was only constructed in the summer of 2011, birthing the start of the local extreme sports scene. Dehaan has been riding for over five years therefore, would have had to go elsewhere to be able to practice, sometimes as far as Toronto.

Dehaan, like most professional athletes is quite passionate about his sport and being involved with its progression as an extreme sport.

Dehaan exclaimed, “I just love being able to make everything I do on my scooter my own and make it look the way I want it to.”

To see some of Ben’s footage visit www.youtube.com/user/EstablishedMedia

To follow him on his web-log visit www.impactscooternews.com

Beauty of waterfront captured in photographs

By Solana Cain

About a dozen Quinte residents gathered in Jane Forrester Park along Meyers Pier Saturday morning for this year’s Worldwide Photo Walk.

Photography enthusiasts of all ages, the youngest being nine years old, followed the park’s trails.

They took photos of dabbling ducks in the Bay of Quinte, seagulls perched on rocks in shallow waters, the autumn foliage flaunting yellow, orange and even red splendour and other photo-worthy subjects they came across. Cameras and iPhones fired in all directions as the group competed to get the best photo from this year’s largest global social event for photographers.

“Photography is a very solo activity and you spend a lot of time alone doing it,” said event organizer and Loyalist College alumni Amanda Bobbitt.

“Today is a social project for photographers to get out and meet people and shoot and there’s a fun contest for everybody at the end,” she said.

According to the Worldwide Photo Walk website, 1,238 photo walks took place Oct. 5 all over the globe, including in cities like Vancouver, San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Bangkok and Nairobi. Belleville’s photo walk is the only one from Kingston to Peterborough.

Bobbitt organized this year’s event as well as last year’s, when the group, modest in size again, walked the Riv-

erfront Trail and then came back down Front Street, ending the walk in Belleville’s downtown area.

“This is my second photo walk and I love taking pictures,” said Shari Bryden, who uses her photos in scrapbooking projects.

“It’s nice to have somebody different, or even someone with you to take pictures instead of always being by yourself,” she said.

Bryden’s nine-year-old granddaughter, Monica Hennessey, ran around taking photos of plants growing near the trail with a camera she had strapped around her neck.

“For me, photography, is all about memories,” said Bryden. “It’s nice to have something to look back at.”

Belleville’s photo walk is the only one from Kingston to Peterborough.

Photographers who participate in the walk are asked to then submit photos taken during their walk to WorldwidePhotoWalk.com for judging. Each city’s walk organizer, or leader, will judge photos from their walk and then those photos go on to compete against all city winners worldwide. This year’s contest will be judged by event creator Scott Kelby, editor and publisher of *Photoshop User* magazine and president and co-founder of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP).

Grand prizes include professional cameras, photo inkjet printers, tablets, camera lenses and much more photography gear. City winners will receive an eBook about photography.

Bobbitt, who works at Essence Pub-



Photo by Sarah Taylor

Rob Keuning takes photos of the fall leaves along Memory Lane at Jane Forester Park on Saturday morning.

lishing in town, plans to continue organizing annual photo walks in Belleville for as long as she lives here.

City leaders must pick a winner by Monday, Oct. 21 and the worldwide winner will be announced on Nov. 11.