



Photo by Solana Cain.

Balder, a pure-bred German shepherd, curiously investigates Polly, a yellow-naped Amazon parrot, perched on owner Tina Pennacchio’s shoulder. Both pets, and many others attended a special pet blessing service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday morning. For more photos, see page 3.

Pets get blessed at church event

By Sarah Taylor

It was not your typical Sunday morning gathering. Around 9:30 a.m., people began crowding inside the church along with their leashes and shoulder-perched friends to the sound of barking and many people gawking.

This past Sunday was Holy Trinity Lutheran Church’s first annual pet blessing.

Members of the church were invited to bring their pet, whether it be dogs, cats, pigs or parrots, before the traditional Sunday service. Pastor Rob Wienser first said a prayer to the congregation and then proceeded to come around to each owner to bless their pets.

“On Friday, in different Christian churches, they commemorated St. Francis of Assisi...he was a carefree bachelor. He got sick and tired of that life and part of his process was suddenly this realization of a real profound connection to nature and animals and pets in specific,” said Wienser.

The event was to commemorate not only St. Francis of Assisi and his relationship with animals, but also to share man’s unconditional love and bond with the animals in our lives.

“In a way on the bigger scale we say that God gives us, people, unconditional love and all these wonderful gifts of the world in our lives so pets and

animals are another way for us to share that.”

For Wienser, the day was very much to show compassion for the “bigger picture” in our chaotic society today.

Although Wienser came unaccompanied to the blessing, he and his wife own two cats.

Jeremy Davis, who bought his 10-year-old cat Scooter, said he was very appreciative of the blessing, adding it was “a very unique experience.”

“Animals are a very important part of our world. Without the love and compassion there would be something missing in our life. Animals complete us.”

Dale Holland brought his two dogs,

Honey, 15, and Michael Jackson, three.

“It’s not so different. It’s just not common for us around here.”

The pet blessing is something Wienser has wanted to do at the church for a long time, but said only this year have they found the time. Many other congregations in Belleville have been holding pet blessings for years.

Wienser’s previous congregation in Kitchener/Waterloo held a pet blessing. “An Anglican congregation and our church got together and there was a cow, there was a horse, there was a tarantula, snakes, geckos, gerbils, it was unbelievable.”

It was a nice opportunity for the

church members to share their beloved pets with each other and get to know each other that much more. The variety of pets interacted and put on quite a show at times.

The only pig to show up, Rebecca Haan’s five-week-old pet who is yet to be named, was not a fan of the crowd. Grunts turned into squeals as the group of animals and people admired the rare event of a pig being at the church.

The event’s turnout was better than anticipated and the blessing continued for close to an hour rather than the estimated 15 minutes. Wienser said the church hopes to continue the event next year.

Bowling connects fans with Bulls

Lung Association benefits from yearly fundraiser

By Hannah Yoon

For the 10th year, the Belleville Bulls joined their fans for an afternoon of bowling fun at Quinte Bowl Oct. 6 in support of the Hastings-Prince Edward Lung Association.

About 80 people came out to bowl with the Bulls team. The energy was obvious as children ran around to get as many signatures from the Bulls, as fans bowled with their favourite Bulls players and as photos were being taken all across the room.

This is a special event for both the Bulls and the community. It’s not every day you get to bowl with your favourite hockey player.

“It’s kind of an exclusive opportunity when you rub elbows with your favourite players and spend some time getting to know them more outside of the rink,” said Kerry McCloy, area manager for the lung association, under the auspices the Ontario Lung Association.

For some families, it was their first time at the annual event, but for someone like Sebastien Waters, 7, it was his fifth time joining the Bulls for a few rounds of bowling. This means he’s been participating in this event since he was two years old. He came with his aunt, Michelle Moore, and her foster children.

“He started coming with me to the games when he was 18 months old. Some of his first words were ‘Go Bulls Go,’ ” said Moore about her nephew.



Photo by Hannah Yoon

Sebastien Waters, seven, gets ready to bowl against Jake Worrada, defenceman of the Belleville Bulls at the 10th annual Bowling with the Bulls event for the Ontario Lung Association on Oct. 6.

Both Moore and Waters try go to as many home games as they can.

“I get to see the Bulls without their costume on,” said Waters, explaining why he keeps coming out to the event. The Bulls are more human to him when off the rink.

The commitment of the fans is what fuels this event. Ten years implies “that it’s an event that the com-

munity absolutely loves,” said McCloy.

“Because of the fans and the people in the community love this event, they’re always coming out to step up and pay the fee to be here.”

A total of \$9,776 was raised this year, almost doubling last year’s amount. Organizers said it is important for the Ontario Lung Association

to continue to raise funds for research in treatments and cures.

“If you breathe, lung health matters,” emphasized McCloy. One in five people in Ontario are living with a serious lung disease. Although young fans such as Waters may be coming out to have fun with the Bulls, he is also helping with a greater cause for people in Ontario.

Zombies run, not walk for cancer

By Mandy Larade

The term “run for their lives” took on a literal meaning this weekend at the first annual zombie run for cancer in Belleville at Riverside Park on Saturday.

The run was for the Canadian Cancer Society in Belleville, and participants were to run five kilometres, including an obstacle course that was set up in the playing fields at the park.

Each runner had one flag, which was their life, and they had to get it signed for each station they completed. Other volunteers were dressed up as zombies, and their goal was to try and take the lives of those running.

Lisa Anne Chatten, who headed up the event, said she is very passionate about seeing the community gather to make a change.

“We have a commitment as a community to actually do something to help these families. We can’t just cover our eyes and our ears and pretend it’s not happening - it is,” Chatten said.

According to Chatten, there are 28 families registered with the Canadian Cancer Society in the Belleville and Quinte area. Funds raised from this event went straight to those families, helping out with costs such as transportation to and from treatments.

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Love through the years

Being playful and open has helped couple through 60 years of marriage

By **Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix**

They first caught each other's eye when he was singing *Danny Boy* at his family home in Tweed in 1950. Halfway through his performance, he looked up and saw her, Verla.

A few times a year, the church community of Tweed got together for musical evenings with all types of performances by the young and old.

The night that the Dales hosted the event, Merrill Dales came home to visit from Ryerson University, where he studied to be an electrical technician, and decided he would sing *Danny Boy*.

Verla Ann Van Dusen was from Madoc and was working as a secretary for the Dales doctor's office. On that special night, Verla had been sitting on the stairway watching the others perform. When Merrill began to sing, she was captivated by his voice.

"He walked over and stood right in front of me and sang. All I could think was 'Oh my god.' That was it."

After university, Merrill moved to Belleville to work and Verla eventually followed suit. They lived in the same city, but not the same home, until they finally tied the knot on July 14, 1953. For Verla, now 81, knowing that he was the one for her to spend her life with was a no-brainer.

Merrill, who is 85, wasn't necessarily considering marriage right away but had good feelings about it. Looking back, he sees that from the beginning, it was destined to be true and right.

Throughout their marriage, they say that they've always got along really well. Being playful and completely open with each other has helped them stay in love over the years.

"I don't think we've ever yelled at each other. I don't..." Merrill explained as Verla interrupted him, laughing. "I think I yelled at you today to quit bothering me... I was watching a movie on



Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

Verla and Merrill Dales have been married 60 years. Their best advice? "If you get into problems, you talk it out to get it off your mind and be happy again."

TV!"

They agree one of the major reasons they have lasted over the years is by not getting angry at each other, but always talking things over and talking freely with each other.

"I think that people don't try hard enough," says Verla. "I think that people get into a situation and the first thing they think is divorce. Now, maybe one or the other is seeing someone on the side, and that I can understand, but on the whole if you get into problems you should talk it

out, get it out and off your mind and be happy again."

As time has passed, their relationship has evolved throughout the different stages of their lives. When they got married, they set aside walking around with their arms around each other and being lovey-dovey all the time because their first priority changed to raising a family.

They had five children, three boys and two girls. Now they are retired and spend the great majority of their time together

and are experiencing getting older together.

Growing old is something obviously new to the both of them and Merrill is writing a book titled *I've Never Been Old Before*. He's writing about things that happen as you get older and things you can do to improve upon them.

"It's so nice that you can have someone you can talk to when things don't go so right," Merrill said about having Verla around, as they're getting older.

The greatest memory that they have

from their lives together is the family that they made.

"Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great-greats. They are a real delight," said Merrill.

With photographs of everyone in their family covering the green walls of their home, it's easy to see that they love and cherish the relationships and memories that they have with friends and family.

"The past is a precious thing."

Zombies...

Continued from Page 1

Zombies have been recently popular, especially with pop culture lately, Chatten noted. "I was trying to find a way to take some-

thing that people were already interested in and use it as a fundraising motivator. People actually want to dress up as zombies. People want to go out and have fun, and people love obstacle courses."

Runners Shannon Milton and Lisa Keating agreed that the local aspect of fundraising is important.

"I love the fact that it stays in the community – the money that is donated and stuff. I like that it's supporting Belleville. We know where it's going," Keating said.

Among the pre-registered roster of 37 runners, there were also 30 zombie volunteers, including Jessica Riddell, Sammantha Lockyer and their group of friends.

"I like zombies. Who doesn't like zombies?" Riddell said.

The zombie-friends agreed that as much fun as it was to dress up as zombies for the day, the event's real importance was found in the cause. Each of them knew someone affected by cancer.

"The event's awesome because it's for cancer," Lockyer said.

Red Green coming to Belleville

By **Lacy Gillott**

"If you have ADD, this is the show for you," says Steve Smith, aka Red Green, during a phone interview about his upcoming show at The Empire Theatre in Belleville.

The Canadian icon will be hosting his 90-minute, one-man show on his tour titled *How To Do Everything (from the man who should know)*. It comes to Belleville on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

Smith will also be holding a signing session after the show, in the lobby of the Front Street theatre.

"What's key here is for the first time ever, Red Green explains why he fixes things with duct tape," Smith said excitedly.

He told The Pioneer that he will be touching on a variety of topics and there will be a lot of opportunities to laugh, which he hopes the audience takes advantage of.

Smith listed a few of the topics fans can expect: "How to get along with your wife, how to deal with teenagers, how to build things, how to adjust to today's technology."

This 31-city tour started on Sept. 15 and will come to an end on Nov. 2. It is based on his book also titled *How To Do Everything (from the man who should know)*.

Red Green has been making Canadian families laugh since 1991 when his show first aired on CBC television. Belleville can expect the same Red Green as always.

Asked who Red Green is now in comparison to who he was in 1991, Smith replied, "You don't want to see your grandfather wearing some funky outfit and his hair in a 'do. You want to see him the way you remember him 10 years ago. He's just the same guy – and that's the appeal."

Smith talked about his experience while traveling all over Canada.

"I just keep basically meeting the same guy everywhere. He might be 22; he might be 82. He might be 300 pounds; he might be 120 pounds. But, he's the same guy. Most people seem to have a Red Green in their family somewhere," said Smith.

The Red Green character is certainly easy for the typical Canadian to relate too.

"I have a kind of mind that just sees things differently and spits out all these ideas. And so, if I don't apply it to anything like a show or a book or something, I just end up driving my friends and family crazy. So, I'm going on tours to save my own relationships," explained Smith.

He recently launched his book titled *Red Green's Beginner's Guide to Women (for men who don't read instructions)*, on Sept. 17 of the this year.

There is no doubt, Smith has certainly kept busy since his last aired episode.

Fundraiser helps Humane Society

By **Melyssa Gloude**

What started out as a gloomy October day turned into the perfect day for a barbecue. As the sun peeked through the clouds and the smell of burgers filled the air, the parking lot of Belleville's Pet Valu hummed with the sounds of people laughing and dogs barking.

The adoption event, with the location provided at no cost by Pet Valu, was sponsored by the Quinte Lost Dog Network and manned by a handful of dedicated volunteers.

It featured a barbecue of hot dogs and hamburgers which could be purchased for donations, \$5 nail trims provided by Tina's Grooming, microchip presales, and a Scentsy representative who donated 25 per cent of her days' sales. All profits from the event were donated to the Quinte Humane Society, as one of their many events to raise money for the shelter.

"Donations keep the doors open," said Jen Nicholls, who has been volunteering with the QHS for close to four years, and is the major coordinator of fund-raising activity for the shelter.

"Most people have no idea that the shelter relies solely on donation just to operate," she said. "The cost to just have the shelter open is over 1,000 dollars a day, and that just barely covers necessities."

Nicholls, who is also the founder of the Quinte Lost Dog Network, does more than run fundraising events in an attempt to help the shelter. Her organization also sponsors animals that are up for adoption to decrease the fee to find these animals their 'forever home.'

"Last year, the adoption fees couldn't even cover care cost," she said. "So that's what

we're trying to do. We want to make it easier for these pets to find a home."

Nicholls also strives to restore the shelter's damaged reputation.

"There have been numerous rumours about QHS," she said, in regards to the rumours floating around that the Belleville shelter is a high-kill shelter.

"The rate of animals euthanized at our location is less than five per cent. There has to either be incurable dangerous aggression seen in the animal, or they have to be extremely ill with no chance of recovery."

"It's a very safe place for animals," she said. "The problem is that the money just isn't there to maintain the location unless we, as volunteers, do something to change that."

Her daughter, Brittany Nicholls, 19, is also a volunteer and has been for over six years. "All you see is the negative publicity," she said as she held one of the dogs that were up for adoption that day. "No one ever tells you the good things or the struggle we have just to keep these animals safe, happy and fed."

Currently, aside from basic necessities, volunteers speak of a separate goal: a new building to house the seasonal influx of cats and dogs. No public fundraising or location has been announced but Nicholls says the project is in the works.

"The new facility would make it a lot easier on the animals, considering in the spring to fall we have about 20 kittens being dropped off to us every day," Brittany said. "And the future for QHS is looking very promising."

More information in regards to donations, fundraisers and adoption can be found on the Quinte Humane Society's website.



Photo by Melyssa Gloude

Ashley Dillon, 29, is a Scentsy representative who donated a portion of her profits to the Quinte Humane Society. The dog on her lap, Pippa, is available for adoption.



(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 Quebec Scooters, 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.impactscoternews.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 photog-



Photo by Sarah Taylor

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

raphy gear. City winners will receive an eBook about photography.

Bobbitt, who works at Essence Pub-

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.



Photo by Sarah Visser

Stephen Trivieri, 19, and Alena Huberts, 19, both Queen's University students, celebrate a touchdown by Queen's in the last two minutes of game play during the first homecoming game the university has had in four years. The touchdown put Queen's ahead of Laurier after a tie, leading to their win.

Homecoming back at Queen's

By Sarah Visser

After a four-year hiatus, the energy at the Queen's University homecoming football game was abundant. Richardson Memorial Stadium

in Kingston was bustling with current students and alumni alike with 9,037 fans in attendance. Included in the crowd was the Hon. John Ross Matheson, who graduated from Queen's

in 1940 and was a part of the committee that created the Canadian flag. Although the majority of fans left at half-time, the support from the crowd did not die down. Cheers rang loud and clear from the stands

for the Queen's Gaels football team, and taunts directed at the Wilfrid Laurier University's Golden Hawks were equally audible. The Gaels started off slow but ended up with a 40-34 victory over the Hawks.

Peter Bearse, 29, who has three degrees from Queen's said, "I'm excited that the game went really well and I'm hoping that our university is responsible enough not to ruin the entire event later this evening."



Photo by Justin Chin

Queen's University students cheer on the Queen's Gaels during the homecoming football game between the Queen's Gaels and the Wilfrid Laurier's Golden Hawks. Queen's Gaels' overtime heroics gave the Queen's Gaels the 40-34 victory over the Wilfrid Laurier's Golden Hawks in front of 9,037 Homecoming fans.



Photo by Justin Chin

T.J. Chase-Dunawa of Queen's Gaels tackles Kelvin Muamba of Wilfrid Laurier's Golden Hawks during the homecoming football game between the Queen's Gaels and the Wilfrid Laurier's Golden Hawks Saturday at Richardson Stadium in Kingston.



Photo by Hannah Yoon

(Right) Andrew Lue, left, jumps into his teammate Ryan Mitchell of the Queens University Gaels as they prepare for their homecoming game against the Wilfrid Laurier Hawks. This was the first official homecoming football game in four years after it was cancelled.