

# Fall in the air at downtown festival

By David Fransky

The Flavours of Fall Festival was very successful one this year in downtown Belleville.

There were many events at the festival and they were very informative for adults as well as for the children.

Everybody was entertained by a bluegrass band, as people went around to vendors, asking about what they were presenting and how they created their offerings.

It was also interesting to see how children responded to be able to go on wagon rides and inside a fire truck.

Lt. Glenn Lochhead of the Belleville Fire Department talked about his experience on the service, as well as his role at the event.

“As long as the festival has been here and the Belleville Fire Department has been there, the trucks have been here. I am here to volunteer my time to help promote the city of Belleville.” Glenn added the department was promoting what they do as career firefighters and displaying some of the tools of the trade, like the boots, coats and fire truck.

“I would like to see it continue,” said Lochhead of the fall festival. “I would like to see it bigger next year.”

The bluegrass band Wrought Iron Roots has been together for almost four years and this is their second year coming to the festival. Brandon Whaley is the band leader with his brother Travis and three friends, Richard Ellis, Lindsay Couch and Bruce Forsthye.

“I hope it keeps going because it is a really cool event,” said Whaley. He added that the group has only been coming the festival as a group and they all love the music that they play.

He plays the mandolin, Travis plays the guitar and the banjo, Lindsay is on the fiddle, Richard plays the drums while Bruce plays bass guitar. They play a lot of county songs.

Most of the group comes from Trenton with Lindsay from Stirling. They met on an ad from Kijiji. Lindsay, Chris and Richard were looking for bandmates and Brandon and Travis answered the ad. They found out that they lived three houses down. They met for a jazz session and found out that they sounded great together. They have been together ever since.

Two other musicians, Ron and Greg, played electric guitar and bass guitar. They played Johnny Cash songs like *Ring of Fire*.

“I have been coming to this event for 40 years and I love it,” Greg said.

Greg is also good at electronics and so is Ron. They helped tune the band Rock Iron Roots when they were playing songs and then they worked on an electronic tuner. The electronic tuner makes sure all the instruments and sound equipment are working correctly and are in sync with each other. They said it was fun for them to play for the people who were there.

Despite the gray cloudy sky, the festival was a great success for all that attended it.



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Prince Edward County resident Amelia McKinley is greeted by Pachi the mascot while visiting Belleville's annual harvest festival, held last Saturday. Pachi is the mascot representing the 2015 Pan American games being held in Toronto.



(Above) During the Flavours of Fall festival Saturday, many of the dance schools around Belleville competed in a Chilean dance-off. Angela Maracle's Dance Studio delighted onlooking festivalgoers with displays of speed and grace.

Photo by Andrzej Terrence

(Right) Brandon Whaley, his brother Travis, Richard Ellis, Lindsay Couch and Bruce Forsthye are playing bluegrass music on Front Street Saturday. Brandon is on the mandolin, Travis plays the guitar and the banjo, Lindsay is on the fiddle, Richard plays the drums while Bruce plays bass guitar.

Photo by David Fransky



Photo by Nino Liu

Pumpkin carving was a popular activity during the fall festival.



(Right) - Dylan Bennett, 10 months, wields a rubber mallet in the arts and crafts tent at the Flavours of Fall festival in downtown Belleville.

Photo by Gabrielle Smith