

The Pioneer

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Photo by Fallan King Hillier

A night of dancing

The Shark Tank pub at Loyalist hosted a Bollywood event last night. The evening included an introduction to the Indian culture and traditional dance performances. Some of the performers included from left, Manpreet Kaur, Navdeep Kaur, Sandeep Kaur Uppal, Prabhjot Kaur Chahil and Sabdeep Jawanda Kaur.

Students help keep others cozy

By Emily LaFleur

Volunteer Denise Gilbert has a passion for helping people in need.

Gilbert, who is a child and youth worker, decided to start a winter coat drive in the small town of Brighton,

Ont., and hosted the fundraiser.

This event collects gently used winter coats from students and members of the surrounding community. The coat drive provides winter coats for free to anyone in need within the community. Organizers were pleased that

many willing volunteers were students from East Northumberland Secondary School.

The students wanted to have an in-school project to promote helping others less fortunate than themselves. At total of about 13 students volunteered

from ENSS. The event started just a short time ago and organizers have already received 50 winter coats.

This is significant for the small town of Brighton, which has a population of about 11,000. The coats are available to anyone in the community who is in

need of a winter coat. Anyone can donate any gently used winter coats, hats, mitts and scarves. Any style or size will be accepted.

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Fiddle music and step dancing delight audiences

By Andrzej Terrence

Many people around the world celebrate Christmas traditions. For the Scott Woods Band, it is their tradition to fiddle, step dance and tour the many cities of Ontario and Quebec.

On Monday evening, they played at St. Matthew's United Church on Holloway Street.

"I appreciate what they are doing, especially with the music, singing and step dancing," said Richard Lefler, a singer who came to enjoy the show.

The Christmas Tradition is a way for people across Ontario to enjoy music while supporting their communities in the aid projects the hosting venues are working on.

Woods and his band use their musical talent to spur charities and fund local churches in helping the community.

"We come; we provide the show, the programs and the posters. They basically host us," said Woods. The funds made are then split at the door.

Woods is a multiple winner of the Canadian Open Fiddle contest, the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling championships and a Canadian Fiddle Entertainer of the Year. Having playing fiddle from the age of four, he has earned the nickname of the 'Flippin' Fiddler' for his famous trick of somersaulting with his fiddle on stage.

"I enjoyed the show. It is great. There is always some comedy. I had the chance to be in Scott's last Christmas tour," said

Steve Pitocco, who also performed on stage for a couple of songs.

Some oddities that occurred during the show include a dancing hippo, barrel riding fiddle playing, and the use of household items as the bow of the fiddle. One such item happened to be a toilet plunger.

Woods' band includes Amanda MacInnis, Nadine Boles, Gary Boles, Kendra Norris, Bruce Timmins and Ron Dymond.

MacInnis is 14-years-old from Dundalk, Ont. and does step dancing, fiddling and vocals.

Boles plays guitar and vocals while her husband Gary plays the upright bass with vocals.

Norris has an extensive musical education with a varying number of instruments. For the Christmas Tradition Tour, Norris played fiddle, accordion and vocals.

Timmins specializes in Celtic, jazz and contemporary styles of guitar.

Dymond is from Kerwood, Ont. where he learned how to play drums in his high school stage band.

The group plays as a friendly and lively band, with many smiles in the audience as well as among the entertainers themselves.

Their next show was scheduled for Kingston and they will continue to play in many other cities until Dec. 14.

The Scott Woods and the band's next tour is called "In The Key of Eh!" featuring traditional Canadian folk music.



Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Scott Woods performs at St. Matthew's United Church Monday to raise funds for the community. Woods is a Canadian fiddle champion nicknamed the 'Flippin' Fiddler'. He plays on stage with six other musicians and a step dancer.

Woman Abuse Prevention Month held in November

By Michele Weisz

Every year, the month of November marks Woman Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario.

Throughout the year, hundreds of organizations across the province provide workshops, counselling, education and a safe place to stay for the millions of women who are victims of abuse or assault.

During the month, these organizations try to promote awareness about the abuse that women face throughout the year. Violence against women can be physical, sexual, emotional, verbal or even financial.

According to the United Nations, violence against women is defined as: "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

More often than not, the abuse suffered by women is at the hands of an intimate partner. For the past three decades, women who are murdered in Canada are three to four times more likely to be killed by their partner.

Every year, over 80 per cent of all police-reported domestic assaults are against women. This statistic is the same in every province in Canada. Unfortunately, 90 per cent of abuse is not reported at all. At any given time, over 3,000 women live with their children in a shelter in order to escape abuse and violence.

Janet Wilson, a manager at Family Service Toronto, says she believes that "women will always experience violence until men's attitude and behaviours towards women change."

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