Page 2 · The Pioneer · March 12, 2015

The Pioneer · March 12, 2015

IN FOCUS



Top: After the 2014 Remembrance Day services in Belleville, Davis headed down to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99. Before leaving, Davis convinced an entire table of people to come sing "New York, New York" karaoke style on stage with him.

Bottom: Before the excitement of election night began, Davis' family shared a meal at Dinkle's in Downtown Belleville. His mother Darlene Davis, sister Mellissa Aus, brother-in-law Tony Aus, father Gordon Davis, brother Joshua were there to support him.





In spite of having cerebral palsy, Davis enjoys pulling himself out of his chair, and holding the railing of the Moira River's walking trail to be able to appreciate the river's natural beauty.

Jeremy Davis is a significant member of the city of Belleville, as well as a person who keeps a busy, active, and social lifestyle, including being the co-chair of Heritage Belleville.

When you first meet Jeremy Davis, you immediately notice that he uses a scooter to get around. However, once you get to talk to him, even for five minutes, you begin to forget that.

Instead of allowing cerebral palsy take over his life, Davis uses it as a strength. In the recent city election, he ran for city council.

"I've always had a strong passion and desire to serve and to be put in a position where I could try and help enhance the quality of life for all people," explained Davis. "One thing in particular this time around, I tried to make it as clear as possible, that just using a wheelchair as a means to get around ... doesn't define me and who I am, and what I am capable of."

He said that he's not ashamed of his chair, but it is not the focus of his abilities. He is a very driven, intelligent man, but above all, his charisma and humour brings a smile and laughter to many people he meets.

Although he did not receive enough votes in this year's city council election, he said his spirits were not bruised.

"You're not going to have the support of everyone but, just to have that opportunity to present it and do what you can to make, first your community, then ultimately your world a better place."

He also mentioned that he was proud of himself for achieving more votes than he has in two previous elections he has participated in.

He and his twin brother Joshua host a weekly radio show as part of their production "The Other Side" through 91XFM. He is a big part of his church community, and helps organize small events around the city, year-round. Davis is someone who enjoys staying busy and jokes around how he is never home.

Davis' determination to not allow CP to hold him back is immense.

By Kayleen Preston

Life's Opportunities



"There are days where we all feel frustrations and that, about certain hardships or misgivings. But every day that I've been given, I see it as an

opportunity to do something, and I do see it as a gift"



The 2014 Belleville Heritage Committee met Nov. 6 to discuss some ideas for the upcoming year.



While campaigning on Oct. 25 for a council seat in the City of Belleville, Davis decided to travel through the Market Square to see which vendors were still open, and to talk to citizens of the community.