



Photo by Matthew Syriac Elias

Frederick Dunn autographs his work for sale, surrounded by specialized art he has produced over the years at the Kingston Comic Con. Dunn produces his art using a style of smudging by pencils, brushes and graphite erasers. "I can't stop working, I'm always hyper. I have found my work a way to direct that energy into," For more photos, see page 2.

## Characters come out for Comic Con

By Matthew Syriac Elias

"Cosplay, superheroes, vendors, and a great time. We're celebrating pop culture here," says Brian Gaudet, pointing to a crowd and colourful cosplayers at an event this weekend.

Brian "The Comic Jock" Gaudet is the organizer of the annual Kingston Comic Con, now marking its fourth year. This year's event took place at the Portuguese Cultural Centre of Kingston, kicking off at 10 a.m. Gaudet also sells comics, mostly online, but the various 'cons', or conventions, are Gaudet's favourite part. "I love meeting the people that come to our cons."

The Kingston Comic Con is just one out of over 25 cons spread out through

the year, and it takes place in all major cities in southern Ontario, including a Belleville event coming up in November. Gaudet says that the Kingston one is the most popular, even people from neighbouring cities come over to take part at the one-day event.

With the limited space, over 50 vendors from Kingston and neighbouring cities packed the compact hall on Division Street, bringing their best and most special collections of comic books, toys, art work and everything fan memorabilia. It felt like a pop culture fan's dream come true.

Canadian actor Mpho Koaho was the special guest at the event. Koaho is known for movies such as Four Brothers, Get Rich or Die Tryin', Saw III and the

Canadian TV show Soul. The comics-oriented event had no shortage of painters and artists of various styles. One of the most prolific vendors at the event was Frederick Dunn, author, artist, illustrator and YouTube personality. Dunn's art work is famous for its high contrast and accentuated details.

"I get a kick out of doing things wrong," says the artist.

"I can remember my art teacher telling me to not smudge my work. It's hard to control. And guess what? All this is smudged by my hands, smudged using a brush and pulling it out using a graphite eraser. I get a lot of contrast that way," says Dunn, pointing to his plethora of art series.

"Oh I hate all of 'em, I can't stand 'em,"

jokes Dunn with a serious face, when asked which one he's most proud of.

James Maclean and Sarah Stone, cosplaying as Sam from Trick 'r Treat and Luigi's Mansion respectively, say the event has evolved and only gotten better over the years. "I find it more organized and more friendly. I enjoy it," says Maclean, showing off his Sam costume.

Dan Day, a well-known and respected comic book artist, attended the con, where he showcased numerous sketches and drawing boards he has produced throughout his 40-year career as an artist.

Day has worked on numerous characters throughout his career, including fan favourites such as Batman and Spider-Man and has done work for comic book

giants D.C. and Marvel.

"I draw because I like doing it, it's like a hobby for me. I feel lucky that I have been able to get constant work because of it. I do a lot of work that's personal, and has taken me over two years to complete."

"I take my time with them, and do it at my pace, since it's personal and not for a publication," says Day, pointing at large, highly detailed art work of comic book characters Dr. Strange and Swamp Thing. Day also played a huge part as the artist of a new line of Sherlock Holmes comic adaptations, that started in the mid-1980s.

The event had no admission fee, and encouraged everyone to donate to the local food bank. Free large-sized movie posters were also given away.

## Saying goodbye to small-town treasure

By Jessica Munro

With its signature life-size Fred Flintstone standing outside, The School House of Treasures in Cloyne, Ont. attracts many tourists to the store.

Paul Barre, 63, has been the owner of the old schoolhouse turned antique store for 12 years.

After Barre's final lung cancer treatment, he planned to permanently close down shop and travel with his partner, Carl Gray. The schoolhouse will be closing shortly after Thanksgiving, depending on the weather.

"There's no heat; it will be shut down once it gets too cold."

"I have cancer, but I'm cured. I can't say I'm cured; I just got done treatment. There's nothing showing," Barre says, standing behind the counter, with trays filled with antique jewelry in front of him.

"We want to travel; we have a cottage too," he adds. The couple plans to go down to Florida for three months, and their family will be visiting for a week.

The small schoolhouse walls are stacked high with shelves, filled with many different collectable items, like collectable figurines, colourful vases and decorative plates and cups, and more. Vintage lights are strung from the ceiling and necklaces, pins and small valuable items crowd the glass containers by the old cash register.

After 12 years, Barre is ready to let go of the store.

"I'm ready, I'm a bit tired of it; it's a lot of work," he adds. "My family is happy because they'll get to see me more, because I'm always here, and when they come to visit, I can't stick around."

Jamie Henderson-Todd, a local resident, comes to the School House of Treasures every couple of weeks while passing through Cloyne on his way to Napanee. Henderson-Todd is an avid collector of Coca Cola projects.

"From a.h.m, I have about 100 Coke



Photo by Jessica Munro

Paul Barre rings up customers at his School House of Treasures store in Cloyne, Ont. Barre's store will be closing permanently shortly after Thanksgiving. Barre decided after his final treatment for lung cancer that he wanted to spend more time with his family.

products," he says.

Henderson-Todd adds he's sad to see Barre and the store go.

"It saddens me a little, because he's been here. He worked so hard to collect everything, and now he has to sell it for next to nothing."

The schoolhouse took two years to renovate, Barre says, as he looks down at the old photos of the building.

"This place was a mess. We've done a lot of work here, a lot of work."

The store is now for sale.

"We tried selling it as a whole lot, but nobody wants to do the business anymore," Barre adds. "They've all gone to the internet. It's a dying job."

Barre and Gray find and buy the collectibles and antiques throughout the area, even all the way out to Ot-

tawa. Sometimes when a family downsizes, their antiques will find their way into the shop.

"Carl does the jewelry; I do more of the rustics, the coffee pots, the stuff that's a bit more rustic," Barre adds.

His favourite item in the store is a vintage oil lamp which hangs high between a couple large shelves.

"It's out of a nine-bedroom farm

house in Cornwall," he continues, looking up towards the lamp. "I don't know what I'm going to do with it. As you can tell, it needs a lot of height. It's actually for sale."

Barre says he secretly doesn't want to sell it.

"It has to go, though. I don't have a place for it."



# MANY FACES OF COMIC CON



(Above, left) Brandon, dressed as DC's Joker, stands in front of classic comic books during the Kingston pop culture con. The character Joker first appeared in *Batman* number one in April, 1940.

Photo by Jessica Munro

(Above, right) Andreas Hutchison cosplayed as the popular comic book character 'Catwoman' at the Kingston Comic Con. Hutchison's costume is the Michelle Pfeiffer version of the character. Hutchison accompanied husband Colin Kortekaas, a writer and artist who has written multiple sci-fi novels and comic books. "He was dressed up as Indiana Jones last year, so now it's my turn!" says Hutchison pointing at her detailed costume.

Photo by Matthew Syriac Elias

Josh "Tokenduelist" Freitas shows off pins designed using his art, which he has pinned onto his hat. Freitas is a comic book artist, making pins and buttons based off his original designs. Freitas' works show cover representation of various anime characters. This is Freitas' second major con. Freitas often collaborates with fellow artist "Mahou Shoujo."

Photo by Matthew Syriac Elias



(Left) Knowhere comics and collectibles owner, Ryan Matins, holds his favourite Batman comic during the Kingston pop culture con.

Photo by Jessica Munro

(Above, right) Legendary comic book artist and writer Dan Day gave a peek at the multitudes of character sketches and storyboards he has produced over his 40-year span in the industry. Dan has worked for comic giants D.C. and Marvel, including Batman and Spider-Man, and assistant work on an immense range of main and side characters.

Photo by Matthew Syriac Elias



Nearly 6,000 people attended the Celebration of Hope event over the weekend, including Loyalist College students.

# Celebration of Hope

Story and Photos by Jonathan Matthie

Local churches throughout the Quinte region came together this past weekend to enjoy great music and hear the gospel, working alongside the Billy Graham Association over a span of two years to raise money and help bring the Celebration of Hope Evangelistic Outreach to the Belleville CAA Arena.

The special, three-night event featured gospel evangelist and speaker Will Graham, grandson of the late-great Billy Graham, who was undeniably one of the most charismatic and influential Christian leaders of the past century.

His grandson continued to carry on the family legacy during the Oct. 5 and 6 shows, where nearly 6,000 people attended the Celebration of Hope event over the weekend. Another nearly 10,000 more watching online via live-stream at [www.BillyGraham.ca](http://www.BillyGraham.ca).

The celebration as a whole resonated with Canadians of all ages across the Bay of Quinte, including many Loyalist College students in attendance, proving to be more than an opportunity to hear only one speaker. Many smaller gatherings sprung up like a ripple effect, reverberating from the overall event planning, including fellowship nights, prayer walks and evangelism training opportunities.

Since the beginning of his own ministry under the Graham family banner, Will, now the third generation of Grahams, has spoken to audiences across North America, Australia, India, and other parts of Asia and South America. Graham has also engaged with audiences across Canada from Newfoundland to Nunavut, since 2004.

"In my many visits to Canada, I have seen much of this vast, diverse, and beautiful country," Will said. "Regardless of where I have traveled, though, the warmth of Canadians is the same."



Will Graham; the third generation of Grahams, was in Belleville Oct. 5 and 6 for a Celebration of Hope.



Joshua Havens, lead singer/guitarist of Christian pop rock band, The Afters.



(Above) Fans get caught up in a moment of worship and song during the Celebration of Hope.



(Left) Fans in the crowd during a performance by The Afters, at the Quinte Celebration of Hope.



Lieutenant-Colonel William Snyder speaks to the crowd during the 2019 Ad Astra ceremony.

# New names added to RCAF memorial

Photos and Story by Alex Filipe

The National Air Force Museum of Canada (NAFMC) has added 130 memorial stones in part of its Ad Astra program.

First introduced in January 1996, the Ad Astra stone memorial features engraved markers along the walkways of the Airpark beside the National Air Force Museum of Canada. To date, more than 12,000 stones have been placed in the park. It has raised more than \$1.1 million for the museum.

"The (Ad Astra Memorial) is hugely important. It is to commemorate everyone who has served in the RCAF, and also those who are still serving," said Theo Czerny-Holownia, marketing & communications administrator for the National Air Force Museum of Canada.

While many of the memorial stones feature names of members who have passed away, the Ad Astra program is available to Royal Canadian Air Force members who have recently retired or are still serving.

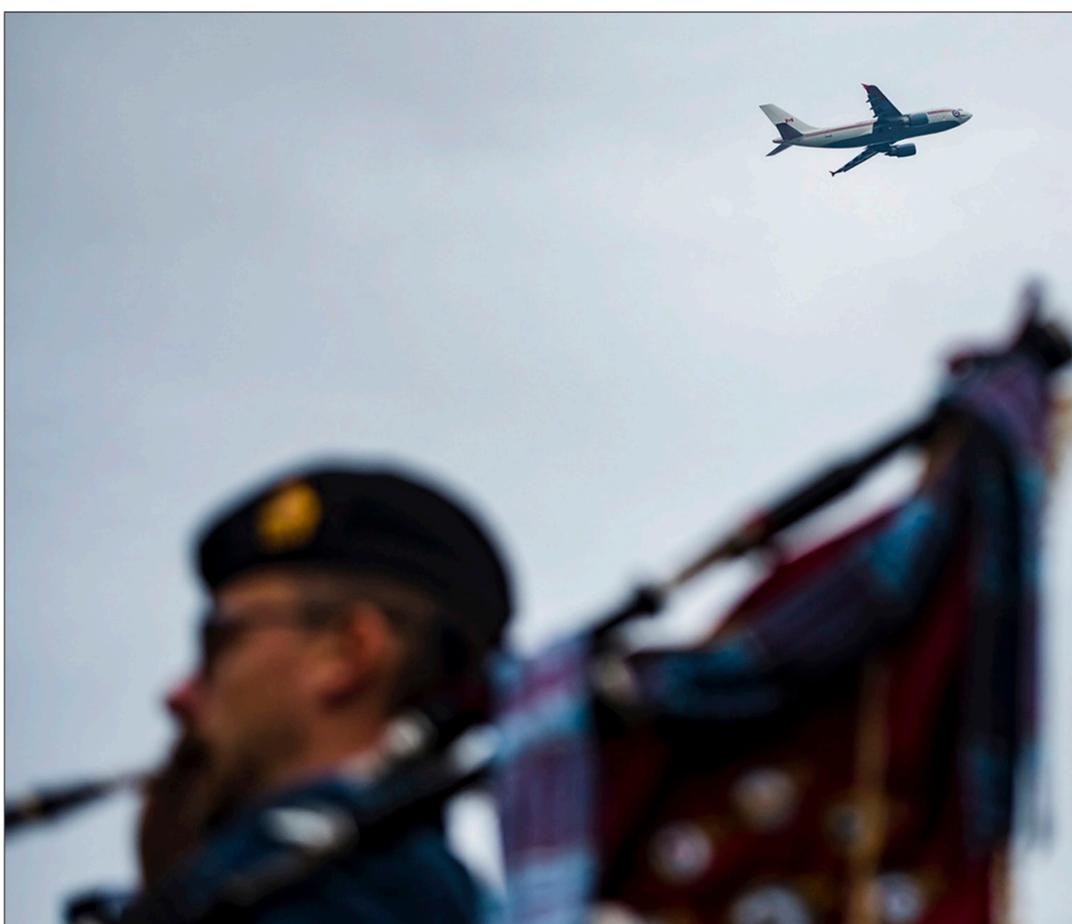
"There are many people that have purchased stones that are still serving or have recently retired. It is incredibly important for them, to give them a memorial that they and their families can come and visit," said Czerny-Holownia.

This year's annual stone dedication ceremony, which was held in late September, featured a benediction by 8 Wing Chaplain Capt. Audrey Brown, speeches by NAFMC Board Chair Steve Bolton and 8 Wing Trenton Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel William Snyder, as well as a fly past by a Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules. Joining the speakers in the audience were military dignitaries, veterans, and local municipal leaders.

Each six-inch by ten-inch gray, granite stone is inscribed with the words "Ad Astra" and adorned with an Air Force Roundel. The individual's name is featured prominently alongside their hometown and province, and the years of birth and death. For memorial members who are still alive, the dates are engraved only when the Museum is informed of the person's passing.

"It is also a really wonderful way people can contribute to the museum. It lets people give a little something back," said Czerny-Holownia.

While many visitors to the NAFMC spend their time looking up at the planes which fought for our freedom, the Ad Astra program hopes to turn those eyes downward to the names of the brave men and women who piloted them.



(Above, left) A plane flies overhead of Pipe Major, Sgt. Josh McFarlane.

(Left) National Air Force Museum of Canada Chairman, Steve Bolton, speaks during the 2019 Ad Astra Ceremony.

(Bottom, left) Pipe Major Sgt. Josh McFarlane leads the parade command in its exit at the 2019 Ad Astra ceremony.

(Bottom, right) Ten of the 130 memorial Ad Astra stones added over the course of 2019 are seen on display during the ceremony.

