

# Picton festival lights up the night

By Paige White

On a chilly November evening, Picton's Fairgrounds remained bright into the night with the Firelight Lantern Festival's return. The 9th annual festival was hosted by The Department of Illumination Artistic Company.

It took place outdoors for the first time this year. The fairgrounds were transformed into a family friendly experience marked by colourful light displays, artistic installations and ongoing performances throughout the evening.

The festival was an evening of art, music and community which took place with the theme of *Vacationland* where people were encouraged to come wearing costumes. Many people arrived matching the festival itself by wearing brightly lit costumes and colourful lights.

On the far end of the fairgrounds, a collaboration with music by Culture Reject was played at the visual installation by Dylin North. This live music site was a participatory experience where people were encouraged to play with lights and interact throughout the performances. While many people took to playing with table-top light displays, others danced and swayed to the lo-fi soul music.

On the opposite end of the fairgrounds, other fire and light acts by Peterborough's circus arts company, Trellis Arts & Entertainment, mesmerized the crowds that remained throughout the entire evening. In between the tossing of fire and light, young and old festival goers could walk a short distance to be found busting a move on the outdoor dance floor with tunes playing by DJ Ombudsman.

Krista Dalby, the artistic director of The Department of Illumination, says that the event began in 2013 and has continued to grow over the years. In years past, they have held lantern-making workshops before the festival which culminates in a parade. Like many other community led events, the pandemic has caused the The Department of Illumination to continually adapt.

In lieu of workshops, The Department of Illumination gave out free lantern-making kits which can be found in the display windows at Books and Company, a local book store on Picton's Main Street. The small village display of house-shaped lanterns called "Tiny Town Aglow" is a way to keep community participation and the tradition of lantern making as part of this year's festival.

Dalby says that there were many challenges being an event organizer throughout the pandemic, but "being able to have this moment of joy together

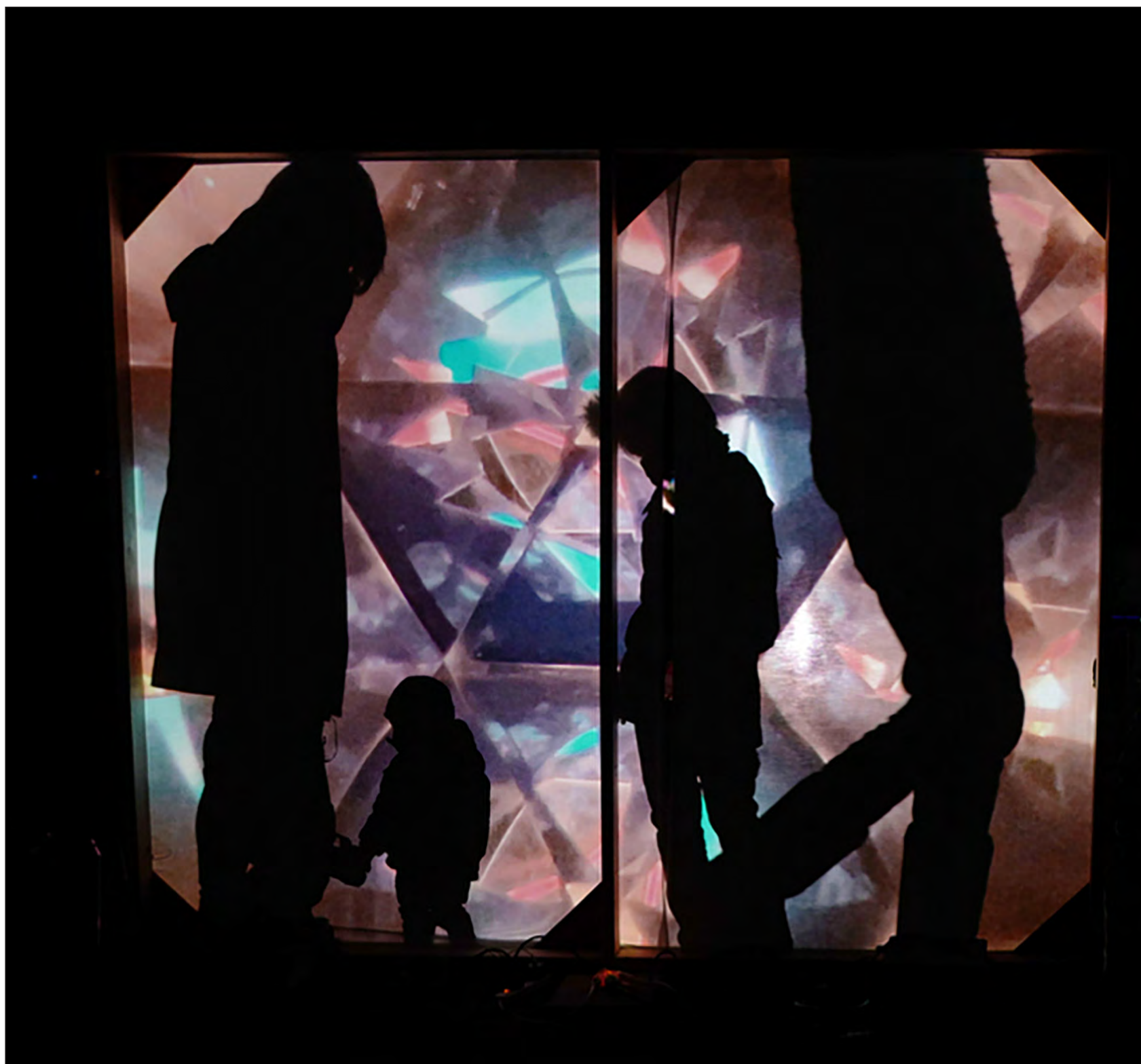


Photo by Paige White

The Department of Illumination brought the 9th annual Firelight Lantern Festival as an outdoor event to the Picton Fairgrounds for an evening of art, music and community. For more photos, see pages 2-3.

as a community" is why she does this work.

Artists who contributed the colourful light installations found through-

out the fairground include Krista Dalby, Nella Casson, Susanne Lerner, Chrissy Poitras, Kyle Topping and Rosalie Maheux.

# B!KE plays important role in Peterborough

By Luke Best

B!KE, The Peterborough Community Bike Shop, celebrated their 15th anniversary Nov. 5 with a party and concert behind their location at 293 George St. N. in downtown Peterborough.

As part of the evening, they welcomed their new executive director Mark Romeril, and bid farewell to the outgoing executive director of 10 years, Tegan Moss.

The event ran from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. with drinks donated by the Publican House Brewery. Peterborough band Pop Machine began rocking the alleyway at around 9 p.m., playing a danceable mix of pop, rock, and funk.

Romeril saw it as a chance to meet some more of the community he'll be working with.

"It's been a long time since anything like this is really been organized by B!KE," he said.

Although Romeril is new to Peterborough, working with cycling, advocacy and charity is his background. He comes from a fundraising role with the non-profit Cycle Toronto, where he had worked for seven years. "When I think of B!KE, a social enterprise is one way I'd describe it, a charity is another. A community space and a bike shop as well. There's a lot of overlap in those things, but they do have different fits and feelings. Each of them comes together in a really special way that I think makes B!KE not unique, but important for the community that we're in," Romeril said.

B!KE has the intention to hold themselves accountable for what they're working towards. Even going as far as to create a board with their vision, mission and values on it.

Their Vision is to empower people to travel by bike. Their mission is to teach people to maintain, repair and ride bikes. Provide a workshop space and tools for bikes. Provide access to new and used bikes and parts and to advocate for people on bikes. Their



Photo by Luke Best

The band Pop Machine performs for party goers during B!KE's 15-year anniversary celebration last Friday. It was held in the alley behind their shop at 293 George St N.

values include being fun, inclusive, self-reliant, sustainable, and to promote wellbeing.

Starting in 2006, B!KE has lived up to this mandate, partnering with organizations like GreenUp, the city

of Peterborough, Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee to work with schools and the community to teach cycling, safety and repairs. As well, B!KE has hosted events such as glow rides.

They also offer a supervised workshop space with tools, parts, and volunteers willing to guide you along the process of repairing your bike.

Although B!KE is a non-profit, they do have a full shop, selling bikes

and parts at all price ranges. There is something for everyone, and they can feel at ease knowing that they are supporting an organization that is focused on much more than just profit.



(Left) A performer uses lights during the Firelight Lantern Festival at the Picton Fairgrounds last weekend.

Photo by Paige White

(Right) The Department of Illumination presented its 9th annual Firelight Lantern Festival, an evening of art, music and community, at the Picton Fairgrounds.

Photo by Paige White



(Right) Caleb Ford performs at the Firelight Lantern Festival hosted by The Department of Illumination.

Photo by Ethan Cairns

(Below) Caleb Ford creates a light show at The Department of Illumination's 9th annual Firelight Lantern Festival. The outdoor event was held at the Picton Fairgrounds.



(Above) As the Toronto-based band Culture Reject plays their original music, the shadows of the dancing audience and enthralled fans are cast on the canvas of the interactive light project by Toronto-based artist Dylin North.

Photo by Dexter Classen

(Right) The Firelight Lantern Festival was held outside the Crystal Palace in Picton this year, due to pandemic limitations. The event was organized by the Department of Illumination Artistic Company.

Photo by Ron Lavoie



(Above) Kaitlin Harris volunteers for the annual Firelight Lantern Festival in Picton with other members of her local theatre group. She wears a costume she put together from different pieces supplied by the club for the festival.

Photo by Dexter Classen

(Right) Live music was performed by Culture Reject in collaboration with visuals by Dylin North.

Photo by Paige White

