



Photo by Louis G.M. Oliver

The Soul Motivators, a nine piece funk band based out of Toronto, take it away as they play for an eager crowd at Picton's eleventh annual Lantern Festival.

# Picton's skies light up at festival

By Louis G. M. Oliver

In the wake after Halloween, Picton's community members were continuing to feel spirited for The Department of Illumination's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Lantern Festival.

Held at the Crystal Palace on the weekend, the two-day festival of lights bustled with excitement and illumination as crowds of people in homemade lit-up costumes packed the shining hall of The Crystal Palace.

This year's theme was "A Feast for Beasts," said Krista Dalby, artistic director at the Department of Illumination. The reason for the

festival, Dalby adds, is about light.

"The days are getting short, and we are entering into winter, so it really symbolically acts as a way to bring the light into our homes and our hearts to keep us going throughout winter."

A bar? A food truck? A silent auction with 35 different prize packs to bid on? Who could ask for more?

It was obvious to see just how much effort was put into the event Friday evening through the many art installations created by associated artists from The Department of Illumination that scattered the Crystal Palace inside and out.

Some of the art included 'The Happy

Meal' – a shack-like structure created in the likeness of a children's McDonald's happy meal with faces and a diorama inside. 'The Bowl of Beasts' was a "cuddle puddle" of stuffies and pillows with dayglow fruit suspended above to gaze at. The three custom disco balls – a banana, a pair of cherries and a can of pop hanging high above the dance floor – were also nice touches.

North Fire Circus also made an appearance in between sets of the live music for the evening, mesmerizing the audience with their special light performance and dance routine.

But the excitement did not stop there.

Among the varieties of fantastical entertainment happening at this event, adults enjoyed the vibrating rhythms of a live funk show brought by the one and only 'The Soul Motivators' – a nine-piece (three-piece horn, five-piece rhythm and one lead vocal) funk band out of Toronto.

"We're bringing the funk to Picton!" exclaimed Shahi Teruko, front woman and vocalist of The Soul Motivators.

Following their recent and newly released album *Bring It Together*, The Soul Motivators hit the road on a cross-country road trip showcasing their new album. The band members weren't exactly sure what to expect

from the quaint little town of Picton, after coming from their previous show on Wolfe Island. You can imagine the surprise and energy the band found themselves around.

"It feels like adult Halloween," Teruko said in an interview.

Like all nice things, this adult Halloween too eventually came to an end, making room for the family-friendly main event on Saturday. The day began with a pre-show gathering at Benson Park before parading down the main street in Picton with giant puppets and homemade lanterns ending the evening at the Crystal Palace.



Photo by Jilly MacIver

Chargers running back Niko Papadopoulos runs into the East Side Ravens offensive zone during the junior championship game.

# Centennial's football clubs tackle successful season

*Junior team defeated at COSSA championship this week*

By Jilly MacIver

Varsity high school football teams the Trenton High Falcons and the Centennial Chargers battled to the bitter end this past weekend at the Bay of Quinte football championships at Mary Anne Sills Park in Belleville.

Earlier Saturday, the two junior teams, the Centennial Chargers and East Side Ravens, also confronted each other.

In a gruelling first game, the junior Chargers had their work cut out for them. After dominating all season, the Chargers were shellshocked with the energy that the Ravens exhibited. The first half was close, but the Chargers proved victorious, ending with a score of 32-0.

Paul Papadopoulos, whose son Niko is running back for the Chargers, had a lot to say about the game.

"It was expected to be a blowout, and I've got to give

credit to East Side because what they did in that first half completely shut down what the Chargers expected to do, and that was impressive as far as East Side is concerned. They only had 23 players and really, you're supposed to have 25. So, to have less than the minimum amount of players required, what they did was really impressive. That they were able to come out and pretty much shut them out in the first little while. The game that was predicted to be a blowout really wasn't. But, then as the game progressed, as I said they only had 23 players, they got tired. Centennial has the depth and the talent, so kudos to East Side. As a parent watching the game, it was more fun because of that tension. Otherwise, the rest of the season has been pretty boring because of the blowouts. Some people might say, 'that's great we won every game,' but no, that's boring football, and the players don't learn anything from that."

Papadopoulos says his son Niko enjoys the games that are more challenging, as they always end up being more fun – because there's something on the line.

The junior Chargers faced off with Kingston's Holy Cross secondary school at COSSA yesterday, Nov. 8. The Chargers fell in the arduous match ending

in 14-7 in favour of Holy Cross.

The senior Bay of Quinte championship also favoured the Chargers with the score ending 31-6. The Centennial Chargers have always been known competitors within the high school football world, having won the past six Bay of Quinte championships. That being said, the Trenton High Falcons came out hard, but failed to prevail in their opponent's offensive zone.

William Sweet, a player for the Falcons who was injured three weeks prior to the championship game during a match against the Chargers, expressed his strong feelings on the loss.

"The Chargers defence was way too good for this game specifically, and it was just really frustrating not to be able to be out there."

Contrasting Sweet's feelings on the game, the senior Chargers players were extremely happy with their performance; offensive player number 45 Ryder Alldred who said "we're just happy to be back," making reference to the previous years when the school boards made the decision to suspend athletic programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senior Chargers will face off at COSSA today, Nov. 9 against Peterborough's Thomas A Stewart Griffins.



Photo by David LeClair

The Davis Group leads the way for the first annual Night Light Walk in Belleville. The team raised a total of \$6,804 to be donated to the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation.

# Belleville's first Night Light Walk raises funds for Three Oaks

By David LeClair

With over \$25,000 raised for Three Oaks Foundation in Belleville, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation held its first-ever 'Night Light Walk' fundraiser.

Intimate partner violence numbers have been on the rise since the pandemic, according to sources. This year, Night Light Walk, a national initiative, began the journey to raise awareness and stem the increase. Five test pilot events across Canada, from Halifax, N.S. to Victoria, B.C., have been organized to raise money and spread awareness of this nationwide epidemic.

Next year, the Night Light Walk will be a national event.

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation has been in operation for 25 years and is the largest foundation in the country supporting women's shelters.

According to sources, resources are urgently needed to support women

and children experiencing domestic violence.

Being a national program, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation has raised over \$700,000 locally over the past 25 years. Most of those funds have been donated to Three Oaks Foundation in Belleville.

One hundred per cent of the money that Royal LePage raises is donated. According to Mark Rashotte, broker owner of Royal LePage, no administration fees apply to the funds they raise. "Ten dollars raised, ten dollars goes," remarked Rashotte.

"It's not only about raising money, it is also about awareness," he added. The goal for the first year of the event was \$25,000. "We've blown by that," Rashotte said.

Teams worked together to gather pledges to be donated to the Shelter Foundation. The Davis Group raised the most money, with \$6,804 raised for this first walk.

Teams raised an impressive total of

**'The idea is to bring light to the community and bring people together.'**

Mark Rashotte

\$26,619.

"We're going to have a great night tonight," remarked Rashotte, speaking to the audience that was filling the lower centre seating of the Empire Theatre.

"The idea is to bring light to the community and bring people together," said Rashotte.

Participants gathered at the Empire Theatre in downtown Belleville before walking a 3-kilometre loop through Belleville's east end.

Charity Brown, Hits 95.5 morning-show co-host, was the emcee during the opening ceremonies.

"I am very excited to be a part of the first-ever night light walk in support of the Three Oaks Foundation," said Brown during her introduction speech.

"This walk here was months of meetings, planning, and bringing multiple partners together."

Three Oaks Foundation is essential to the community, Brown explained, offering a variety of services to the community.

Three Oaks Foundation has been operating a local women's shelter in Hasting/Prince Edward Counties, along with a stage-two building that allows women to stay for up to 364 days in a rent-geared-to-income apartment.

In Belleville, Trenton, and Prince Edward County, Three Oaks also offers counselling services at outreach centres.

A cheque presentation was held inside the Empire Theatre before the walk began.

Amy Dufresne, community service manager from Three Oaks, expressed gratitude to the Royal LePage team in Belleville.

"Not only does Royal LePage support us through the Shelter Foundation, but they support us as individual agents as well," said Dufresne.

"Three Oaks is celebrating 40 years in existence, and this would not be possible without you," stated Dufresne.

Dufresne and her son Elliot received the cheque on behalf of the Three Oaks Foundation during a presentation from Rashotte.

All community members, pets included, were encouraged to register and participate in the 3-km walk.

All participants of this year's walk received a knit hat, LED bracelet and a headlamp to help navigate the night walk.

Attendees were invited back to the Empire Theatre to enjoy some hot chocolate.

# Brighton's Luminous Farms wraps up successful season

By Isidore Champagne

Luminous Farms of Brighton sold boxes of farm fresh produce early this month in Toronto for the last time this year, marking the end of a successful season for Hannah Wong, operator of the farm.

It had been a cold rainy morning, so little was said before Wong stacked her produce into her van and left. Her husband helped with the heavy lifting but did not come along for the over two-hour ride into downtown Toronto.

Wong parked her van in her parents' driveway at 97 D'Arcy St., a quieter region of downtown Toronto, with the omnipresent ring of children playing in the school across the road. She waited for customers to arrive beside an overgrown garden full of flowers, plants and bumblebee nests.

The majority of her clientele walked over or biked, and were an eclectic mix of old and young. She usually chatted with them for a couple minutes before actually getting down to business, with the atmosphere jovial.

Unlike food markets, there is no haggling on the price of the produce. She uses a subscription model, so most customers have already paid before-

**'I don't think I could get any bigger unless I hired someone, and then that's a whole other thing.'**

Hannah Wong

hand, and are only here to collect on their end of the bargain.

The boxes are tightly packed in her van like a can of sardines, each with an ice pack to keep everything cool. Wong is currently supplying produce to around 65 people weekly, most of them in Toronto. She doesn't own a smart phone and has mostly expanded her business by word of mouth.

"I don't think I could get any bigger unless I hired someone, and then that's a whole other thing."

The food is grown along the Trent River, on land nestled between bigger farms and forest. She has ducks, chickens, two dogs, a greenhouse, fields of crops, and is planning on planting an apple orchard in the future. In the fields and greenhouse, there are tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, squash, lettuce,

onions, garlic, hot peppers, pumpkins, etc. Looming over all of this is an ancient barn built with wooden pegs instead of nails, that has not received a coat of red paint in a minute, to say the least.

Wong originally studied at the University of Toronto for civil engineering, but decided to follow her heart and took the risk of starting a farm. She transitioned in 2020 from doing small markets in Toronto to focusing more on her subscription service, and her business has really taken off since then.

"I think it just worked at the right time. I was like in my mid-twenties, body was still working, no injuries and all that, so I could afford to do that. I still had the romantic idea of farming, because a lot of it is the mental motivation -- when it's 30 C for two weeks in a row, and you have to do the tasks, no matter what, because you can't put them off. The longer you wait, the harder the tasks become sometimes."

This operation was successfully continued during the summer while Wong is pregnant. Now that she has delivered the last vegetable boxes of the year, she can prepare for the delivery of her child, who is expected to arrive in November.



Photo by Isidore Champagne

Hannah Wong of Luminous Farms in Brighton had a successful season selling fresh produce in Toronto.