



Photo by Deepak Sharma

Porchfest organizer Sam Brady performed with his band The Impish Grins at Porchfest. Brady interacts with children in the audience. For more photos, see page 2.

Music lovers come together

By Deepak Sharma

The Rotary Club of Belleville organized the 11th Porchfest for music lovers in Belleville.

Music is a kind of special diet which we need every day so that we can survive our tense daily routines.

For the music lovers of the Quinte area, the Rotary Club organized Porchfest on Sept. 28 at various locations in the city's east end and near downtown.

Belleville was the first city in Canada to hold the community-based music fest in

2009. Around 55 bands took part in this year's event. When it began at 1 p.m., it had started raining, but the amazing beats of rock band The Chackies kept everyone focused on the music. People carried umbrellas and raincoats, so they were ready for the wet weather. For the first time, there were outdoor washroom facilities, making it easy for audience members to stay for a long time.

Free drinks and snacks were organized for the audience of Porchfest. The whole part of the east side of town was looking and sounding magical because there was

music and music lovers everywhere.

"We have been performing here from the last five years and I feel that it is a great community party and a great street party. We love to perform here," said Christian Derasp of The Chackies.

Belleville Mayor Mitch Paciuk also took part in the festival and enjoyed the afternoon and evening with the people of Belleville. There was a huge number of people listening to music. From every group, there was an audience made up of kids, adults and seniors as well. They all were danc-

ing and singing along with the bands. "Me and my twin sister Kathleen Finkle came for the very first time when it was started in 2009. I have never seen that much rage in people for music. Whenever I come here, I meet new people and love to dance with them, which gives me happiness," Colleen Finkle said.

After the performance of The Chackies, another band, The Impish Grins, came up to perform. It was very hard for people to completely enjoy their performance because it was raining so heavily. However, the jokes and the energy of

band member Sam Brady and the band kept everyone connected and enjoying the music. Despite the rain, no one wanted to leave. They were all dancing to the band's beats and having fun.

"As a community, sharing their culture and having a great time is what this event is all about. There are tons of people I think, so everyone had a great time," said Brady.

Porchfest ran from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. but continued at an after-party event and various restaurants in the downtown offered special Porchfest menus.

Attention brought to violence against women

By Sam Brown

Women, men and members of the LGBTQ+ community came together Thursday evening to rally and march through downtown Belleville to bring attention to the continuing problem of violence against women.

The march was held as part of the larger, international initiative led by the Take Back the Night Foundation, whose mandate is to "end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse and all other forms of sexual violence," according to the organization's website.

The Take Back the Night rally has been happening in Belleville for 30 years, according to Ellen Carlisle, who works as the public educator and community outreach co-ordinator at the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District. She has been on the Take Back the Night planning committee for three years and has participated in approximately six of the events.

"For me, this event is about putting these issues out in the community, talking about the particular ways that sexual violence impacts women and gender-non-conforming people, and letting people know that we are here and we have something to say about the issues," Carlisle said.

Participants gathered at Market Square behind City Hall where women began the rally by sharing either per-

sonal speeches, songs or poetry on experiences of misogynistic abuse. After about an hour, the group organized on Market Street to begin their march.

From City Hall, the group proceeded up Front Street, across Victoria Avenue and then looped back down on Pinnacle Street to Market Square, where the male participants were waiting and cheering.

"This event means everything to me," said Stacey Trubridge, who is a counsellor at the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District.

Trubridge explained that the Take Back the Night rally is the reason behind her choice to work at the centre for seven years.

"It has inspired me and lifted me up and encouraged my own growth and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of it," Trubridge said.

The Take Back the Night Foundation, which has roots going back to various women's rights protests in Europe during the 1960s, was formally established in 2001 by Katie Koestner.

Koestner rose to prominence when she came out publicly as the victim of date rape. In 1991, she was on the cover of Time Magazine.

The foundation facilitates events such as the marches held in Belleville and other provinces and countries, but also operates as an active archive of victims' stories, and offers support to survivors of abuse.



Photo by Sam Brown

A participant displays a sign during the Take Back the Night rally in Belleville Thursday evening. Women, men and other members of the LGBTQ+ community came out to support the global Take Back the Night cause, which aims to bring more attention to violence against women.