



Clockwise from top left: Sara Bacon, Ruta Vitkauskas, Fran Keeler; with frame: Aamina, Alina, and Maryam; top right: Clarke; two boys: Caden and Chase; in red suit: Lennox; Parks Canada mascot with friend; Justin Hayes holding Declyn; in vests: Selina, Sara and Khaushi; with ears: Guenther Grofe and granddaughter Isabella; in playground: Matthew, Claire and Laura. Photo credit: Denise Bacon

Mother Nature creates a perfect day for Winterfest fun and games

By Denise Bacon

Clear blue skies and golden sunshine drew Centennial residents and visitors from near and far to Winterfest 2019 on Saturday, January 26. A variety of activities meant there was something for everyone at the Port Union Community Centre.

Outside, vendors showcased their specialties, including maple taffy and other taste sensations as well as beautiful crafts. Outdoor games made the cold disappear as pure joy overcame the children playing.

Local residents Ben Petric and Kamila Ling said Winterfest creates a lot of happy memories for them and their two boys. Having attended for three consecutive years, they now consider it a “must attend” family event. The boys were pink cheeked as they spent most of their time outside on the rink, skate park and playing games.

The community centre gym was alive with music and dancing performed by seven different groups.



Tyler Forkes

Inside, face painting transformed children into tigers, butterflies and other beautiful creatures! The craft room was busy with budding artists. The kids were clearly enthralled with the free balloons, which bobbed on many wrists throughout the day.

The community centre gym was alive with music and dancing performed by seven different groups. Feet were tapping and the smiles on the audience faces reflected their enjoyment.

Port Union Seniors staffed a busy snack bar where hamburgers, hot dogs and samosas were in high demand. Many of the kids said the food was one of their favourite things about the event!

Strong representation and support from our elected officials included our new city councillor Jennifer McKelvie, new MPP Vijay Thanigasalam and veteran MP Gary Anandasangaree who engaged closely with local constituents.

Long-time Centennial resident Pam Collins brought her daughter and two grandchildren to Winterfest and it was hard to tell who was having the most fun!

Young girls, Alina, Aamina and Maryam enjoyed gathering with friends and eating all the goodies, especially the candy floss.

Etobicoke resident Debbie Matthews checked *Toronto.com* on Saturday morning to find a fun activity. She drove from Burnhamthorpe Rd. & Hwy 427 to Port Union after seeing Winterfest listed. She and her daughter, Kate, felt it was well worth the drive to Scarborough!

Port Union Winterfest is one of the events showcasing the beautiful community in which we live by bringing people together to share a wonderful experience. Thank you to the many sponsors and volunteers who made it a great success!