

PORT UNION WINTERFEST

Winterfest 2024 marks 25 years celebrating winter fun in Centennial



Left: Luna, the three-year old husky, impressed the crowd with her tricks. She was put through her paces by owner Shahnoza Ayon.



Right: CCRA executive members marked the 75th anniversary of the organization: left to right, Julie Kish, Kathy Rowe, Rob Elbertsen, Wanda Wierzbicki, Julie Plante, Pamela Collins, Denise Bacon.

Winterfest 2014 Flashback



Left: CCRA's green newsletter in January 2014 featured a Winterfest cover. **Above left:** an interactive Tic Tac Toe ice sculpture at that year's Winterfest. **Above right:** HawksShadow, an outdoorsman, described how he built his quinzee, an indigenous snow shelter consisting of a mound of snow with a domed chamber dug into it.

Photos

Top row of photos: Makayla, with the Port Union Youth Council, handed out cookies celebrating 25 years of Winterfest; Kathy Rowe and Denise Bacon drew the winning name for the membership raffle prize; 2nd Highland Creek Scouts kept the fire going. l to r: John, Scouter Bruce, Ryan, Simon, Gabriel and Laura; Rudy flipped burgers for the hungry hordes.

Middle row of photos: Sisters Zoe and Allison Mott prepared for their highland dance performance; Madeline enjoyed a tasty burger; Cole and Asher checked out a police cruiser; Damaris got into the action of the Light Hunter game.

Bottom Row: Melisand from Pepperlaw Creek Farms made taffy; Port United band kept the crowds entertained with their pop, rock and reggae tunes, six-year-old Isabella enjoyed the outside games; Dancers from the Precious Kupuna Hawaiian Dance Troupe entertained the crowd.

PHOTO CREDITS: Kathy McGrath, Don Lawrence



By Kathy McGrath

Despite wet, foggy weather, residents from our community and beyond gathered at the Port Union Community Centre on Jan. 27 to enjoy Winterfest. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the event featured vendors, entertainment, activities for kids and yummy treats like maple taffy, burgers and baked goods.

The big draw this year was the Mutt Show, which attracted a crowd eager to see the dogs of all types parade their costumes and perform tricks. The event was sponsored by Muddy Paws in Guildwood. Oven Baked Tradition Dog Food was also a sponsor and supplied free samples. Those outside stayed warm by sipping

hot chocolate and hot apple cider. The 2nd Highland Creek Scouts also kept a bonfire going to help keep the dampness at bay.

Inside the building, the dance troupes were a crowd favourite. A brightly-costumed group of Hawaiian dancers transported the audience to a tropical island with their swaying dance moves. Young dancers from the Sheryl Joyner School of Highland Dance also brought some joy to an overcast day. Various musical groups were on hand, providing something for every taste.

Winterfest continues to bring our community together when people are feeling isolated by the Canadian cold.

Below: Jake Forsyth, chair of Winterfest, pulled everything together (again!) to make the event a success. Thanks Jake.

