

Country in the Park concert supports seniors' services

BY SALLY SMID

The sun shown down on Country in the Park in Athens on Aug. 26th, in support of Community and Primary Health Care, a not-for-profit organization that delivers services mostly to senior citizens living in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark area. Programs include Meals on Wheels, exercise and fall prevention, foot care, transportation, and a variety of support services. With the growing area senior population, their work is becoming vital and it is hoped that fundraisers like this will perhaps ease some debt, but primarily improve services and make them more available. "The support of the community has been amazing," commented organizer Crystal Sled.

The Athens Lions Club operated the bar, the local Fire Department took care of the BBQ and Tackaberry's provided the stage. The grounds behind Pineview Public School provided a nice "park space" for the audience of 200 who brought their own lawn chairs.

The 50/50 ticket winner was Rob Layng, winning a prize of \$385.

Ron and Joy Edgeley were the first on the schedule. Joy in fact is connected to CPHC and she and her husband have been playing music together since the 80s beginning with band in Alberta. They came to this area in 1990 and in 2015 began playing at local Open Mic Nights.

Jordy Jackson from Jones Falls followed. He has played many shows over the years as a solo

artist and with his band Little California. As a song writer as well he is billed as "having the ability to tell a story with his music and follows in the footsteps of country music's finest."

Local singer Angie Halladay appeared for the first time in front of a large crowd. The BGH nurse got her first guitar 13 years ago and has done most of her singing "around the campfire". Her "love for life" as well as family were evidenced in her performance which will likely not be her last.

The real feature of the show had to be hometown country singer Craig Curtis who now lives and performs in Nashville. He began by doing vocals and guitar for his father's band that played old country favourites. He eventually developed his

own style and travelled to Nashville to pursue a music career. Now a regular performer with gigs as a singer/songwriter in many noted venues and has released a CD. In introducing his song "It's a Jeep Thing" he noted a wish to head down into remote Sheatown again which brought knowing laughter to the audience as he often made local connections.

The performers each displayed a real passion for country music as well as an enjoyment for performing for others who enjoy country music.

"We were all very excited by the positive feedback," commented organizer Shirley Hamilton. There are already plans to make the concert an annual event.



Craig Curtis thrilled the Country in the Park audience with several original and classic country songs. Photo: Sally Smid

Commemorative plaques for Settlers Trek supporters

BY SALLY SMID

The presentations of the final plaques acknowledging community groups that helped make the 2016 Settlers

Trek possible took place in Portland and Lyn on Aug. 6th. Clark and Liz Theobald of the Trek Committee made the presentation at the Lyn

Heritage Museum in Lyn. "It was an amazing feat for its time," Clark commented. It took much determination and perseverance for the forty

Scottish immigrant families that travelled to the Perth Military Settlement in 1816, clearing the way for thousands who would follow. The May 2016 Trek closely followed their route with horses and wagons and on foot. It included many area volunteers in the Lyn area who helped commemorate the 200th Anniversary of that event.

The Lyn plaque recognized the Museum as well as the Township of Elizabethtown/Kitley for their parts in hosting the event and included the photo of a piper, one of many that played along the route.

"None of that would have been possible without the incredible support, commitment, talent, and resources of the associat-

ed municipal councils, historical societies, museums and civic groups like Lyn," commented organizer Liz Theobald.

Commemorative plaques were presented earlier to each of the communities on the route including Brockville, Athens, Delta, Rideau

Ferry and Perth.

Lasting friendships and networking still continue as a result of the landmark event. There was a time of socializing that followed at the Museum, a suitable location for the commemoration of this memorable heritage initiative.



(L-R): Liz Theobald, E-K Township recreation coordinator Jennifer Woods, Pat Ladd of Lyn Heritage Museum and Clark Theobald were part of the recent Settlers Trek presentation. Photo: Sally Smid

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