



Tykes donate lemonade stand funds to BTHC

Morden youth Natalya Bergen, 7, and her little brother Ramsin, 4, made good use of the August long weekend to build, paint, and run their very own lemonade stand on Mountain St. on Aug. 4, collecting \$145.25 after a busy day of sales.

But the duo didn't keep a penny for themselves: the enterprising youngsters set up the stand with the sole purpose of raising money for the Boundary Trails Health Centre's Cancer Care unit.

Natalya and Ramsin dropped off their donation at the BTHC Foundation offices last week, much to the surprise of foundation administrator

Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

"They said they wanted to help people with cancer," she said. "They asked if it would help people right away [and] I told them that every day we have patients in here fighting cancer and we help them out as much as we can with nurses, doctors, support systems. They were very happy to hear it would help."

"It's so kind and generous of them to do something like this with their summer," Samatte-Folkett added, sending a big thank-you out to Natalya and Ramsin and everyone who stopped by their stand for some lemonade last week.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seven-year-old Natalya Bergen and her four-year-old brother Ramsin spent Aug. 4 manning their homemade lemonade stand on Mountain St. in Morden. The pair donated the \$145 they raised to the BTHC Foundation to help cancer patients at the hospital.

Organizers put finishing touches on Corn & Apple

By Cori Bezan

The Corn and Apple Festival committee held their final planning meeting on Monday, putting the finishing touches on the festival before it takes over Stephen St. Aug. 22-24.

The festival's Ripen the Apple fundraising campaign has come very close to its \$80,000 goal, reaching \$73,000 in cash donations as of press time.

Festival administrator Cheryl Link said they're confident they will reach the goal in time for the festival, adding that with in-kind donations the fundraising number for the year is actually closer to \$94,000.

But while the fundraising has gone smoothly, a few provincial and federal grants came in a bit smaller than expected this year, which means that all of the festival's event committees have had to tighten their belts a little in order to come in under budget.

"Our grant totals are down from what we had originally hoped, so we're looking at a few things" to address it, Link said. "It's not huge, but we're looking at about \$7,000 [less than expected], and so that has to come out of the budget."

While the organizers crunch the numbers to ensure festival-goers

won't notice the behind-the-scenes funding shortfall, everything else in the planning process is moving ahead smoothly, Link said, noting the entire event is "looking really, really good."

On the food front, the festival's namesake is primed to make the long lines for free corn and cider more than worth the wait.

"Our cornhusking people have been talking to our growers and they're just so excited about the quality of the corn that's coming up," Link said. "They feel that it's just going to be perfect in the next two weeks for Corn and Apple."

"The information I have from the growers is the crop looks much better than it was last year," added corn and cider committee leader Chris Driedger. "So we're expecting good-tasting sweet corn."

The cold winter and late thaw seems to have had no effect on the corn, he added.

"They plant the corn in stages so that got some stuff in really early, much earlier than most of the farmers around on the fields, so they should have corn ready for us when the time comes," he said.

Upwards of 35 pallets of corn are used every year to provide around

21,000 cobs of free corn to festival-goers, in addition to the cobs sold to people looking to take the iconic festival sweet corn home with them.

Surrounding the corn and cider stations once again this year will be dozens of food booths, product vendors, and activities, all packing Stephen St. with plenty to see and do next weekend.

"We're absolutely full—we couldn't even squeeze in a phone booth out there right now," Link said. "And the same with our crafting area, the tents, and the artist's alley."

Entertainmentwise, aside from the big Main Stage entertainment already announced for the weekend (which includes George Canyon, Frankie and the Poorboys, and The Colour, to name just a few), organizers are still hammering out the details for the youth stage, which this year will run all three days of the festival.

Last year the stage was able to showcase over a dozen acts and a grand total of 47 entertainers over the course of just two days.

"They're playing on a professional stage with professional sound equipment, professional background lights," Link said. "It's a real opportunity for them to hone their

craft."

Link noted that there is still space for a few more youth acts to get their names on the schedule for the weekend. Anyone interested in performing on the youth stage can contact the festival office at 204-823-2676.

Another reason to call the number above is if you have a few hours to volunteer at the festival, as additional manpower is needed to ensure it all goes off without a hitch.

"Right now I would say it's the corn and cider selling booth [that needs volunteers] to fill shifts," Link said. "Also the first aid booth. Anyone who has first aid training at all—it doesn't have to be a nurse or an EMT, but anyone with some first aid training at all—it would be wonderful if they could volunteer to help for a couple hours on one or all three of the days."

Other committees that will be looking for help include those setting up and taking down the Main Stage and the Cottonwood Stage tent and dance floor. Call the number above if you can help.

For a full schedule of Corn and Apple Festival events next week, check out the special pull-out section in this week's edition of the *Voice*.