

"ONE OF THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES A PERSON MAKES, ONE OF THEIR GREATEST SURPRISES,
IS TO FIND OUT THAT THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WERE AFRAID THEY COULDN'T DO"
- Henry Ford

The second biggest winter carnival in Ontario A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Peter Politis
Winter Carnival Task Force Chair

Last year, The Recreation & Special Events Committee set out to resurrect the Winter Carnival. A great group of volunteers was put together and given the task to "bring back the old days".

To do this, the Winter Carnival Task Force needed a bench mark to compare itself against and a target to go after. Bon Soo in Sault Ste. Marie was the largest Winter Carnival in Ontario at the time and as the old adage goes, if you want to be the best you have to surpass the best.

We set our sites on over taking Bon Soo as the Biggest Winter Carnival in Northern Ontario, in three years. In doing this the Task Force had to look back at what was so great during the glory days, look at our society today to try and understand if there were any differences, and then give the task to some of our communities finest to accept the challenge.

Voilà - to our pleasant surprise, in just two short years and with over 80 events, the Cochrane Winter Carnival is now the 2nd Biggest Winter Carnival In all of Ontario, just behind Winterlude in Ottawa.

After seeing many pictures from the past of how Carnival used to be, it was extremely gratifying to those of us who didn't experience it back then to see what Carnival actually used to be like first hand.

At both the big evening dance and the fishing derby there were as many people (if not more) from out of town as there were from town. Aside from the amazing social impact, that's all new money coming to the community and being injected into the local economy.

Without a doubt, this was truly



a regional Carnival and no matter how one looks at it, truly a good thing for everyone involved. It's a great example of the potential associated with connecting the community to pursue its own higher quality of life.

The positive and enthusiastic feedback from the community and those who attended the Carnival has been both refreshing and overwhelming. This simple appreciation is what volunteers who sacri-

fice enormous time and make self-less commitments to the goal fall back on when they are struggling to put it all together in the face of the usual trials and tribulations. So, if you see any of these 81 people who graciously offered their time to serve the better good of the community, please, bless them with the inspiration of your appreciation. They are the real ambassadors of our community and they really deserve it!

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