



Photo by Christie Leja

**Day of reflection**

Deiana Gonyea, assistant in Indigenous Services, gets attendees to participate in the traditional offering of tobacco ties at the A'nó:wara Learning Circle last Thursday during a smudging in honour of the children who were taken from their communities and placed in the Indian residential school system. This year, the federal government passed legislation designating Sept. 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This community ceremony and discussion is an avenue for providing resources about the legacy of Canada's Indian residential school system, decolonization, and the inception of Orange Shirt Day itself.

# Fun event in Picton celebrates Halloween

*Scarecrow Festival marking its 11th year*

By Alex Lupul

Halloween brings with it plenty of tricks and treats, but for groups favouring holiday events that are more family-friendly than frightening, a trip to Picton may be the perfect destination.

The Scarecrow Festival, the 11th annual fundraiser for The Department of Illumination, is again returning to the County in its COVID-safe iteration, making for a creative outing where you'll be

able to create and take home your very own scarecrow.

Visitors can book a time online to visit The Department of Illumination's rural property on Oct. 9 and 10, where they'll enter a small corrugated metal barn which houses mountains of scarecrow clothes and accessories, a towering pile of straw and outdoor tables that can be used to fashion their own holiday creation.

For The Department of Illumination's artistic director, Krista Dalby, these elements have been combined together to form some rather memorable Halloween creations.

"There have been so many good ones over the years, but a few favourites are a mom scarecrow holding a baby scare-

crow, a scarecrow with a barfing pumpkin head, and a surprisingly large amount of lady scarecrows who like to wear their bras on the outside of their clothes!"

The COVID-19 pandemic provided plenty of challenges for The Department of Illumination last year, as the group had to adapt its plans from more of a communal experience to a socially-distanced and tightly scheduled event.

The challenges that the group initially faced proved to aid rather than detract, creating an event that could be safely navigated for both organizers and guests.

"We learned that this can actually work really well; for one thing, it makes people commit to coming to the event," said

Dalby. "In previous years, we would have a huge crowd when it was sunny, and no one would come in the rain. By pre-booking and pre-paying, we have a predictable amount of guests and revenue."

With the COVID-19 pandemic hitting the pause button on large group gatherings, the event has provided an opportunity for people to safely get together and be creative.

"Last year, we made around 55 scarecrows. We did add more time slots after last year was completely sold out, and we did realize that even with social distancing requirements we could certainly handle more people," said Dalby. "It looks like we won't sell out this year, although I suspect we will get a flurry of last minute

bookings, so we will likely do the same amount."

A decade removed from the first Scarecrow Festival, the annual fall event has become another Department of Illumination staple in the County, providing a welcomed artistic opportunity against a backdrop of vibrant fall colours.

"After 10 years of running this event, there are a lot of great memories," said Dalby. "Sunny fall days, kids jumping in the giant pile of straw, and hundreds of scarecrows - many of them pretty wacky!"

To register for a time slot at this year's Scarecrow Festival, please visit [www.deptoillumination.org/scarecrow-festival](http://www.deptoillumination.org/scarecrow-festival)

# Charlie Pedersen scores big at Brighton race

By Felix Chagnon

Saturday, Brighton Speedway hosted the annual Eve of Destruction as its last event of the season. A total of 186 competitors gathered to the dirt oval to participate in different races such as Junior 25 Lap Enduro, Ladies 35 Lap Enduro, School Bus Feature Event, Hotch's Autoparts 100 Lap Enduro, and much more in front of a sold-out crowd.

Among the competitors, a familiar name stood victorious of the 100 Lap Enduro. Charlie Pedersen, son of retired race driver Clayton Pedersen, ended the 100-lap race with a comfortable lead of three laps ahead of the second-place driver. This win marked Pedersen's 28th career victory.

"At first, I didn't know that I had won until they pointed at me twice with the checkered flag. I was surprised of how fast the race was over, but I felt like I accomplished what I came here to do," said Charlie Pedersen after his race.

Pedersen started the race alongside his brother Cameron Pedersen and a lifelong friend Scott Foss. The trio are sponsored by Norwood Auto Wreckers, the Pedersen family business. Foss, which was only racing for the second time, finished 15th with 88 laps completed. Cameron was leading, but was forced to end the race around the 25th lap due to a transmission issue, which led to an unavoidable collision.

"I felt proud of the pace I had. It's a calming experience knowing you can't be touched in terms of pace on the track. But with these races, luck plays its part, which I can accept," said a humbled Cameron Pedersen while reminiscing about Saturday's race.

After seeing his brother drive out of the track, Charlie said, "When my brother went out of the race, my first



Photo by Felix Chagnon

Charlie Pedersen is met by family and friends after his victory in the 100 lap Enduro race, which was held during the Eve of Destruction at the Brighton Speedway. Over 70 cars competed on the dirt oval for the 100 Lap Enduro, of which its goal is to be the first to complete 100 laps.

thought was wondering if he was going to make it back. I felt like I should have been with him helping to get him back on the track and see him do what he also loves to do."

At every local racetrack, the Pedersen family name is well known. Charlie's and Cameron's grandfather was a driver; their father Clayton was also a driver and still holds the record for the most consecutive Championship

wins at the Brighton Speedway with five straight victories. Both sons had their first race at age 13 and 14 and have been racing ever since.

"It's an amazing feeling being in races with my father and brother. It brings us together and pushes each other to do the best we can do," said Charlie.

"Thanks to my brother and father leading the way when I was younger,

racing came easier to me than other passions I have. Sure, it brings the cliché feeling of importance that I get to do this with my family but makes it easier to learn from my mistakes as well as theirs, due to paying more attention to them more than others," added Cameron.

Despite often racing against each other, the Pedersens' primary goal is to have the podium's highest step, no

matter which relative achieves it.

"When my brother and I compete in these races, we both aim to beat everyone else, not to beat one another. Sure, it's a nice way to brag at the dinner table at family get-togethers, but it's not the ultimate goal. So, seeing him win feels like I won as well, as we both aim to share the win as a team," said Cameron after his brother's victory Saturday afternoon.