

The Glengarry News

18th Annual RRCA Family Fishing Day Event

July 10 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

Reeling in the Kids

The Raisin River Conservation Authority (RRCA) was reeling in the kids at it's 18th annual Family Fishing Day event last Friday.

This free event was held at Gray's Creek Conservation Area and Marina Complex and drew in families from across Glengarry as well as Cornwall, Ottawa and some as far away as Budapest, Hungary!

Fun for the Whole Family

The free event was open to children 16 years of age and under although parents were welcome to borrow a rod and join in on the fun.

More than 200 children participated in the event which featured a raffle, fishing tips and instruction by the Cornwall Lunker Club, and a kids' competition with lots of fun prizes for the largest and smallest fish, most fish caught and much more. Fishers were also treated with free face painting and a free barbeque lunch.

"It's amazing!" said eight year old James Tucker from Cornwall. Young Mr. Tucker was joined by his 'Big Brother' Ted Marsolais who enjoyed having the opportunity to introduce him to fishing for the first time. "I liked catching that big fish," said the boy who reeled in the second largest catch of the day.

For those who didn't have fishing equipment, the RRCA – through the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hungers (OFAH) and Ontario Power Generation - provided free rentals of rods and reels, tackle boxes, as well as an assortment of tackle.

"More than 120 worms were handed out at the event thanks to the donation made by Cornwall child start-up 'Worm Kids'," said 16 year old Samuel Lavictoire from Martintown who has been volunteering with the event for the past three years.

"For a lot of the kids, it's their first time here and their first time fishing," said RRCA volunteer Britney Bourdages who enjoys the fun nature of the event and the joy it brings to children and adults alike.

For Chris Lulp of Williamstown, the event offered an opportunity to share his love of fishing with his grandchildren. "Not everybody can afford to buy a fishing rod like this, especially for a kid," said Mr. Lulp who brought along his four grandchildren.

"It's easy, everything is here. We rented equipment and there were people here to help fix our lines when they got tangled. I wouldn't have taken the kids out fishing on my own without the support," said parent Isabelle Chicoine. "It's a good way to introduce kids and parents to fishing."

Cornwall native Keith Ward agreed, "We're happy to come out and see so many families enjoying themselves," said Mr. Ward who attended the event for the first time this year. "Every

time we're at the cottage the kids have their rods out, but for some families it's an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have had."

Ontario Family Fishing Events

Ontario Family Fishing Events provide the opportunity for Canadian residents to fish Ontario waters without the otherwise mandatory fishing version outdoors card.

Every year, the Government of Ontario designates a winter event and a summer event. This year's summer event started on June 29th and ended on July 7th.

During all other times of the year, Canadian residents between the ages of 18 and 64 must purchase a valid fishing licence to legally fish in Ontario.