

# The Glengarry News

## Lancaster Community Yard Sale

July 24 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

Bargain hunters from far and wide descended on the village of Lancaster on Saturday as the village hosted its annual Community Yard Sale.

“It’s the busiest day of the year on Main Street,” exclaimed Ratco vender and Lancaster native Eric Collette. “People come from all around, it’s great for the village.”

Local business owner and resident Shawn Fowler agreed, “Folks coming in from all over Western Quebec and of course a lot of the locals too. People come in to look around, eat at the restaurants, and local groups have stalls for fundraising initiatives too. it’s a boon for Lancaster.”

Carefor – a non-profit health care and community support service organization – had the largest and most popular venue with antique furniture and place settings, nick knacks, power tools and tables packed with books. “We’ve been coming for six years now and we look forward to it every year,” said Brenda Besner and her companion Margarite Gagnon of Cornwall. “It’s the books, I love the books!” piped up Ms. Gagnon as she loaded her arms with suspense novels.

For the folks at Carefor Senior Centre, the Lancaster Community Yard Sale is the most important fundraising event of the year. “A year’s worth of preparation, truckloads of items, weeks of sorting, organizing and pricing items goes into the annual event,” said Team Leader Tina Castonguay who hoped to beat last year’s sales of \$10,000. “We have people from the community, volunteers and staff members dropping off donations and helping out throughout the year to get ready for the event. The money raised helps fund our seniors programs.”

A block away, Roy and Cher’s Rescue Farm was set up on Spruce Street. A registered charity, the Rescue Farm operates as a network of fosters throughout Eastern Ontario to help protect animals from abuse, neglect and abandonment. “We have a lemonade stand, a bake table, books and other items that were donated for sale today,” said volunteer Sheri Couchman. “It’s a good opportunity to let the public know about what we do and people can sign up for adoptions too.”

“We’re selling 50/50 tickets for the Glengarry, Nor’Westers and Loyalist Museum in Williamstown,” said Ian MacDonald from Glen Nevis who was set up along Main Street. “This is a great community event with a good crowd. It gives us an opportunity to get out where there are lots of people to let them know what’s going on at the museum.”

Local residents and businesses also set up stalls while vendors also came from across Quebec and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry to sell their wares.

“It’s the best community yard sale in SD&G,” said vendor Christa Lauzon of Long Sault who celebrated her third year as a vendor at the event. Ms. Lauzon was selling bath bombs and other products from her home-based business Fizzilicious. “I work from home, so this is a great way to get out and meet new people while letting them know about my business.”

For bargain hunters and collectors, one of the biggest draws was how easy it was to get around from place to place and the friendly atmosphere the event is known for.

“It’s my first time here,” said Sandra Sanders who’d driven in from Les Coteaux, Quebec. “I had someone come to my garage sale and they told me about it. There’s lots of vendors, it’s great for antiques, and it’s fun. I love that you can park your car and walk everywhere and all the people are so friendly.”

Cornwall yard sale enthusiast Ms. Besner agreed, “Everything is so close together that you can walk around and shop until you drop!”

No one seems to know exactly when or how the Lancaster Community Yard Sale started. “It’s kind of an urban legend,” said Mr. Fowler who’s been attending the event for

“It’s been going on for it must be twenty years or so,” said Mr. Fowler. “I don’t know who originally started it, that’s kind of an urban legend around here. It just happens every year, it’s one of those things, it’s a known.”

“People in the area say it first started over at the Senior Centre on Pine Street, but no one really knows for sure,” said Matthew Small who runs Maison Eclectique on Military Road (Main Street).

The event takes place from 7 am until 3 pm every third Saturday of July, rain or shine. However, while the annual community yard sale now boasts a Facebook page, it doesn’t appear to have any official organization or event planners.

“It’s like the jungle!” exclaimed Mr. Collette who was up at the crack of dawn preparing for the event. “We just encourage ppl to ask the property owners if it’s okay to set up and we go from there,” explained Mr. Fowler. “For the most part, everybody’s happy to have made a few bucks by the end of the day.”

#### **CAPTIONS:**

“It’s our largest fundraiser of the year,” said Tina Castonguay who organizes the CAREFOR Centre’s yard sale. Tina Castonguay, Don Mitchell, Nancy Contant, Danny Palladini, David Carver - TARA MACDONALD

“We’ve been coming for six years now and we look forward to it every year,” said Brenda Besner and Margarite Gagnon of Cornwall. “It’s the books, I love the books!,” piped up Ms. Gagnon while Ms. Besner added “Everything is so close together that you can walk around and shop until you drop.” Brenda Besner, Margarite Gagnon – TARA MACDONALD

Roy and Cher’s Rescue Farm was set up on Spruce Street with plenty of volunteers helping to raise awareness, fundraise for the Farm and provide people with an opportunity to fill out adoption request forms. “100% of today’s proceeds go towards the spay and neuter program,” said Sheri Couchman. “Last year, we raised \$5,000 but we hope to do better this year!” In the photo: Sheri Couchman, Victoria Didd, Geneva Walker, Gary Hicks, Stephanie Hicks = TARA MACDONALD

“I bought this teapot in Ireland years ago,” said Norma MacDonald as she cradled her teapot. “Shawn was collecting them for his shop so I got it for him. Now he’s selling the business and he thought I should have it back.” Gail Fowler, Norma MacDonald, Shawn Fowler – TARA MACDONALD

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"It's good for toys," said Louanne Gingras who was scoping out the stalls with her son Hayden Tessier along with Paul Poirier and Kathleen Gingras. – TARA MACDONALD

Eric Collette started collecting hockey cards and memorabilia in the early '90s. He began selling his collection at the Lancaster Flea Market two years ago under the name Ratco. This year, he decided to move his stand to Military Road (Main Street) for the yard sale. "It gives me something to do on a sunny Saturday afternoon," said Mr. Collette. "The yard sale is great for the village, there's a lot of new people who come from out of town. It's the busiest day of the year on Main St." – TARA MACDONALD

"I like all the cool stuff you can buy," said Jesse Papineau who's lived in Lancaster for the past thirteen years. "I especially like the baked goods from the Senior Centre. They have the best baked goods!" – TARA MACDONALD

Ten year old Raina and her eight year old sister Grace Szirtes from Martintown brought gluten and dairy-free baked goods to help raise funds for Roy and Cher's Rescue Farm. – TARA MACDONALD