

Balsam Lake couple's community challenge goes swimmingly

This Week

A cooperative Mother Nature and some very committed individuals have helped make a big difference in the community.

All they had to do was go jump in the lake.

A dozen families across six local lakes took part in the challenge to raise close to \$15,000 for local charities.

Event organizers Dean Michel and Jennifer Bacon are thrilled with the very generous donations and the fun spirit, which brought the community closer in tough times.

It all started in mid-April when Michel said he would jump into Balsam Lake on May 2 if people raised \$500 in support of the Coboconk and Area Food Bank. Like other charities across the Kawartha Lakes, the group is experiencing tougher times than usual as COVID-19 has not only increased demand but scuttled fundraising.

When donations started coming in faster than he expected, Michel threw Bacon into the mix and upped the ante to \$1,000. Donations hit \$3,000 in a few days - and kept coming - so he extended the challenge to others leaving the receiving charity of choice open to participants.

Michel and Bacon were so pleased with the response to the challenge that they have already set the date for the next one; Saturday, May 1, 2021.

However, those wishing to take on this year's challenge can still take part. Simply tag their charity of choice on Facebook and include donation links so the funds go directly to the organization.

"We are encouraging everyone to continue to donate and we have plenty of interest to make this an annual event," said Michel.