



Ready or not! From left, Ryan Luttkhuis and brother Cameron of Colborne and Joel Sawyer of Castleton ready for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Colborne's Mr. Easter Bunny: Steve Bowskill, readies to announce the hunt start.

Another bountiful bunny-fest

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BY JACK EVANS
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Not many musical ensembles or sports teams can boast the same team has been together for a full 20 years.

But Steve Bowskill, Colborne's Mr. Easter Bunny, affirms his team of 15 volunteers has "been the same people with us since we started 20 years ago."

The shotgun start candy

collection again drew a large crowd of youngsters and parents to the Victoria Square Park, despite chilly weather. Regular attenders though, noted this year's crowd seemed a bit smaller than normal.

A dusting of snow, sparkling at times from a fitful sun, set the background for an equally sparkling layer of tinsel-wrapped candies as workers scattered what Mr. Bowskill reported as

"more than half a ton" of Easter candies around Victoria Square Park.

A rope line decorated with some 1,000 colourful, helium-filled balloons kept the crowd at bay until Mr. Bowskill yelled through a portable microphone, "One, two, three —GO!"

Then the fun began. Most youngsters carried gaily-coloured baskets to collect their haul. It was like Hallowe'en without having to go door-to-door as kids filled baskets, bags, pockets or whatever, often helped by their parents.

Within about five minutes, the park was picked as clean of thousands of candies as a 200-year-old skull.

The event doesn't just happen, Mr. Bowskill reports. "Our team starts work here at 6 a.m. to blow up and fasten the balloons and prepare the park. I like to think of it has just a good community service event."

Speaking of balloons. Those too, were up for grabs, he announced, encouraging people to take one or two home with them rather than have them blow around.



Easter bounty: Kids stoop to pick up some of the thousands of chocolate Easter eggs scattered throughout Victoria Square Park.

Jazz Band to host concert/raffle to fund trip to nationals

For the past two years, the Colborne Public School Jazz Band has competed at MusicFest Canada, a national competition for bands. Last year, the small but mighty band captured gold standing.

The band members, aged 10-13 years, have been working three mornings a week from 7 a.m. since last October reading to show their stuff at this year's National Music Festival in Vancouver, B.C. in May.

To continue competing at the national level, the band has undertaken major fundraising — over \$40,000 in the past two years.

"This year's competition is in Vancouver and the band is more than two-thirds of the way to meeting its \$30,000 goal, Chad Morford, director of the Colborne Public School Jazz Band reports.

"In order to help us raise the rest of the funds needed, we are holding a free concert at the

Keeler centre in Colborne at 2 p.m. April 22. We are also having a raffle on that day for 10 prizes, including an air cleaner from Comfort Zone and a La-Z Boy recliner from Borchert furniture — both valued over \$1,000."

In all, there 10 great prizes to be won. Third prize is one night at Cobourg's King George Inn, including breakfast. Fourth prize is a six-page website design plus 500 business cards. Fifth prize is a \$100 shopping spree in Port Hope. Sixth prize is a \$50 voucher at Northumberland Mall.

Seventh prize is a free round of golf at Shelter Valley Golf Course. Eighth prize is a one-month membership plus gift bag from Good Life Fitness.

Ninth prize is a pair of men's or women's athletic shoes. Tenth prize is a \$50 gift certificate for Boston Pizza.

Tickets are one for \$5, three for \$10.



The Colborne Public School Jazz Band are readying an Apr. 22 fundraising concert at the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

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