

Furry and friendly Fun Fest winners

The sixth annual Fun Fest Pet Show attracted a range of pets from furry friends to crustaceans. Sponsored by Barb's Trimz and the Essex Animal Clinic, the annual event poses difficult decisions for the judges. This year's winners are shown below. Additional contestants appear in our photo spread on pages 12-14.



Jessica Ridder of Essex and her six-year-old Yorkshire terrier, Tucker, receive their medals for the best trick.



Three-year-old Kale Grona of Essex, shows the judges how friendly his chicken Miss Kluck is. The one-year-old chicken won the title of friendliest pet.



Meaghan Ridder of Essex and her two-year-old Yorkshire terrier, Max, win the pet and owner look-alike contest.



Angel gets dressed for Mardi Gras and wins the best dressed pet category. The four-year-old Tonkinese cat belongs to Sarah Merkestyn of Cottam.

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Essex financial records approved in annual audit

The Town of Essex's finances have received the OK from its auditors, BDO Dunwoody.

The local accounting firm has reviewed the town's financial reports since 2004.

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The Municipal Act requires that each municipality's reports are looked over once a year to ensure its financial statements are correct.

"This year was probably one of the best years for testing and review," said Essex Treasurer Donna Hunter. "It took about a week whereas in the past it's taken between two to four weeks."

Hunter said BDO Dunwoody's accountants went through all of the town's financial transactions and tested the reports to ensure the information was accurate.

"We started in May," said Mike Cowan, an accountant at BDO Dunwoody's local office. "Then we gave a draft to the town to look over in early June and made a presentation to council June 19."

Cowan said the audit report was "clear."

"There is nothing materially incorrect and everything is in accordance with the generally accepted Canadian auditing principals," Cowan said.

- Free Press Staff

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