

Fiddle Championship ? Kyle Charron makes it five in Shelburne

The 65th Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship is history.

This year's Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Champion, Kyle Charron of Barrie, was crowned at the finals Aug. 8 in Shelburne. This was Charron's fifth championship, and his second in a row. His previous championships were in 2014, 2011, 2009 and 2007 when, at 17, he was the youngest fiddler to ever win the title. The previous holder of that crown, Louis Schryer, was one of the contest judges in 2007. Award results for all of the competition classes are available at www.ShelburneFiddleContest.com

Charron also won the Canadian Tune of Choice trophy and award with Maytime Swing by Graham Townsend.

With close to 70 contest entries from as far away as Coill Dubh, Ireland, as well as from Nova Scotia and the U.S.A., and more than 1,500 audience members joining in over the course of the event, it was a successful fiddle championship.

However, the weekend's events were marred by tragedy when a 12-year old girl died in an accident during the staging of the annual fiddle parade. The parade was cancelled. A collection was taken up for the girl's family during the Saturday evening Fiddle Championship Finals.

Sandra Gallagher, chair of the Shelburne Rotary Club's contest organizing committee, said, "It is a tragedy, our thoughts are with the girl's family."

The youngest competitor was six-year-old Savannah Leahy; the oldest was 85-year-old Webb Acheson.

The Junior Championship (13 to 18 year olds) was won by Andrew Dawydchak of Etobicoke. This was his first Junior Championship.

The Invincible Vince Mountford Memorial Trophy for Most Entertaining Fiddler was presented to Lucas Candelino, from Barrie, who was the suave winner of the 9-and-Under Class.

Encouraged by MC Gary Ballagh, three people in the audience admitted that they had been to all 65 fiddle championships. Scotty McHardy, who competed at the first contest, was in the audience this year, having last competed in 2013.

The Saturday afternoon show at the arena featured Kelli Trotter in a crowd pleasing fiddling, stepdancing and singing show for a crowd of more than 200. Thursday night, the Beckett Family were a huge hit, with a crowd of over 400 treated to a variety of fiddle tunes.

Proceeds of the Fiddle Championship support Shelburne Rotary's many charitable projects, including development of, and major financial contribution to, new BMX riding area in Greenwood Park; renovation and expansion of the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (Shelburne Arena); Headwaters Health Care Centre (Orangeville Hospital); re-development of the Shelburne Library; Girl Guides and Boy Scouts; minor sports, such as: hockey, baseball, figure skating, lacrosse, soccer; Shepherd's Cupboard food bank and many more!

Mark your calendar now for the 66th Championship: Aug. 3 to 7, 2016.

For more information visit www.ShelburneFiddleContest.com