



3-D chalk artist Guy Wales preparing a masterpiece



CHALK THE WALK

Brightening Up Springtime in Gananoque

By Lorraine Payette

Of all the ways to define springtime in Gananoque, perhaps the best is Chalk the Walk. This popular event has run for seven years now and is still gaining momentum.

"We see it as the true sign that spring is finally here after a long hard winter," said Jan Gravelle, event organizer. "It gives us a chance to get outside and enjoy the warm weather and vibrant colours, a chance to play like we did when we were kids and a chance to get the latest generation to join in on the fun."

Favourites, old and new, will be coming to the Town Hall Park in Gananoque on Saturday, May 23, to participate in the event that runs from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Wallace "Wally" Edwards will be back. He is a popular children's author and artist. He lives in Yarker, Ontario, and graduated from the Ontario College for Art and Design in 1980. He spent the next 20 years as a commercial artist and was commissioned by the Metro Toronto Zoo, where the signage and animal identification plaques bear his original artwork. His works may be seen in public and private galleries across Canada.

David Day will also return, delighting all with his chalk interpretations of works with which we are familiar, as well as works that

are entirely new and exciting. Day enjoys the ephemeral quality of sidewalk chalk art. "You have to get out and enjoy it because Mother Nature will soon wash it away," he said. "Then you create again." He is perhaps best known for his sketch trading cards of characters like Cryptozoic, Black Terror, Vampirella and Miss Masque, not to mention his numerous murals.

Everyone's favourite, 3-D chalk artist Guy Wales will be back to impress everyone with his amazing work. "It's a lot of fun," said Wales. "I use the same techniques they use for putting the lettering on the highways, and a lot of the same tools. When you're done, the perspective is amazing. I love the questions people ask, and the way they react when they see the finished drawing come to life in front of them."

Other chalk artists will be available as well, some well known, others making their first appearance anywhere.

"The idea is to have a good time," said Gravelle. "While the event is free, a minimal fee of \$2.00 allows participants to buy chalk and 'rent' a space on the pavement where they can put any drawing they want – the more creative the better. We want everyone to feel free to express themselves, throw caution to the wind and just have fun."

The ever popular, Dr. Kaboom, will be on hand to twist balloons, stilt-walk and clown with the spectators, as well as making beautiful music for all to hear. Word has it he will be accompanied by a young cohort and circus performer who will dazzle people of all ages with his amazing abilities.

Musicians "Spare Change" will perform on the Town Hall steps, and "Dreams In Motion" will do a short program. Face painter, Christine Harvey will have her tent set up in the park, and there are hopes that musician Sheila Burtch will be able to attend.

Brand new this year is Taylor "Tay" Angus. This 15-year-old singer will do an hour of music, which should delight the younger crowd.

"We promise to provide as much family fun as we can legally for free admission," said Gravelle. "Rain or shine, you can't beat Chalk the Walk for a great day of outdoor entertainment in beautiful downtown Gananoque." **LH**

For more information, please contact Jan Gravelle at jangravelle@gananoque.com or check the website at www.chalkthewalk.ca