

Ben Johnson races for Children's Wish Foundation of PEI

By RYANO'CONNOR

Recently, people around the world were treated to a unique Charlottetown-based event: a fund raiser for the Children's Wish Foundation of PEI featuring "the fastest man in the world," Ben Johnson, two horses and a stock car.

The Charlottetown Driving park hosted the man versus horse versus machine race on Oct. 15.

The event was billed by many as "the Race of the Century" -- a title taken from the

disappointing Donovan Bailey/Michael Johnson race last year at the Skydome -- and created a massive publicity surge.

Over 50 media outlets the world over covered the fund raiser, including Canadian media such as TSN, CBC, and CTV, as well as FOX and a television crew from Germany and magazines such as Esquire and TIME.

The event was a result of the collaboration between the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, which has a business relationship promoting the CDP,

the Children's Wish Foundation of PEI, and the CDP itself.

According to Mike Randall, who was in charge of Atlantic Lottery Corporation's media relations surrounding the event, the race was the brain child of Bert McWade, and of Atlantic Lottery.

Among what appears to be a somewhat curious choice of runners, Johnson was organizers' first choice -- despite his checkered past.

"[Johnson's] name was the first to come up," Randall said. "He's still the fastest

man on the planet." He added that Johnson is active in charities such as cancer research, the Toronto Children's Hospital, and does numerous anti-drug talks.

Racing against Johnson were Lloyd Duffy, jockey of the Morgan horse, Wally Hennessey, the world renowned harness race driver, and MASCAR driver Mike Ryan -- all of whom are Islanders. All race participants appeared for free, including Johnson.

Once Atlantic Lottery

came up with the idea they approached the driving park. They approved of it, and since it was Children's Wish Foundation Week, it was deemed appropriate that they be the benefactors of the fund-raiser. This charity has had a presence on Prince Edward Island for 12 years now.

Apparently, when asked to be involved, Johnson jumped at the chance. The Children's Wish Foundation is a charity that grants wishes to terminally ill children.

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CFS launches first of two series of CFS Days of Action

By KAREN RAWLINES

The first of two series of Pan-Canadian Days of Action, an initiative of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), took place from Oct. 13 to 16 to a politely restrained yet receptive UPEI.

In the past, the CFS has helped over 400,000 students nationwide rally to voice their concerns about education issues. Last year, the Day of Action was an intensive, one day event.

The idea to move to a several days of action was brought up by a campaign committee at the CFS's annual general meeting.

"If campaign demands aren't met by the federal government, then we'll have another event in February," explained Melissa Doucette, representative of the PEI component of CFS. "We figured it would be a really good way of keeping our momentum going."

She adds that the cuts in education and new legislations pending are issues which deserve more than two days of action.

Though reasonably quiet, Doucette maintains that the activities put forward by UPEI were effective for what they wanted to do.

"We essentially wanted students to come out of it with a greater sense of knowledge that the CFS is here," she said.

Student Saver and International Student Identity cards were offered at the information table set up in the Breezeway, as were numerous information sheets explaining issues that affect students, such as the bankruptcy legislation, the corporatisation of universities, tuition increases and student unemployment.

Students also had the opportunity to sign a banner insisting that the public remain in post-secondary education. This will be delivered to an as

yet unspecified government official, such as Paul Martin or Chester Gillan.

In the past, organizers of the Day of Action found that it was difficult to stage a large demonstration or a protest rally because of a general lack of participation. Doucette hopes that last week's information session will help to spur some interest for future events.

"We felt that maybe students don't know enough about what's going on, and therefore are not as interested in the issues," she said.

Stephanie Lister, a second year biology student, agrees that many students are not well informed of the activities organized by the CFS.

"A national organization gives us [as students] some power in numbers with the government," Lister said, but suggested that this is useless if

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