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Tarts 4 Hearts: Buttermart Festival Draws Long Line-ups

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

Attendance vastly exceeded expectations at the Buttermart Festival at the Keswick Ice Palace, in support of the newest Georgina charity, Peaceful Hearts.

A long line-up formed well before the doors opened. Karin Cacciola, the founder of the charity and the festival organizer, was overwhelmed and very grateful.

Karin Cacciola started the foundation in 2016 when her family's personal journey made her aware of the necessity to provide support for special needs families.

Today the organization is run by seven devoted, hard-working directors and offers a variety of programmes, from day activities to overnight respite. It depends solely on sponsors and fundraising. To receive government grants, it has to prove that it is self-sustaining for at least two years.

The volunteers working for Peaceful Hearts have been very creative, devising successful fundraisers, with the annual Buttermart Festival being the primary source of revenue.

The festival started small last year, with only six bakers. Over eight thousand tarts were sold in

the first two hours. No wonder that this time, the tart lovers were lining up well before the event opened.

This year fourteen bakers brought twenty thousand delicious tarts. To make sure there would be enough sweet treats for everyone, some also offered other kinds of baked goods.

If you do not have a sweet tooth, you could still support the charity by shopping for all kinds of merchandise, from handmade jewelry to knitted sweaters and eco-friendly dog treats. The forty-two vendors donated a part of their income to Peaceful Hearts.

A baking competition in two categories, professional and amateur, added excitement to this spectacular event. Elegantly displayed classic Canadian pastries made our mouths water. Nobody could resist the delicious tarts, and people devoured them on the spot, happily licking fingers and lips.

The support of the members of our community and the Town of Georgina was astounding. The organizers can confidently plan an even bigger festival next year.

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