



GARY NYLANDER/*The Okanagan Sunday*

Onlookers listen to speeches during the announcement of winners of the Canstruction 2012 at Orchard Park Mall in Kelowna on Saturday.

KELOWNA

One can at a time in fight against hunger



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The Save on Foods team, Eric Falkenberg, left, Spencer Hammer, Michel Brule and Malcolm Robson, pose for a picture in front of their "frying pan" during the announcement of Canstruction 2012 winners.

Canstruction donates 18,000 cans of food to food bank and Salvation Army

By STEVE MacNAULL
The Okanagan Sunday

It's a three-metre-diameter model of a frying pan filled with bacon and eggs made entirely of tins of food. It may sound strange unless you know this is Canstruction, the charity event in which teams build giant structures out of cans of food that are afterward donated to the Kelowna Food Bank and Salvation Army.

"We tried to keep it simple this year," said Michel Brule, the captain of the Save On Foods team that constructed the winning bacon and eggs in the frying pan.

"But even so, it took our team of six guys four hours to place the 2,560 cans needed to make this. We were originally thinking a bowl of alphabet soup with the word 'love' spelled out in it, but that seemed too complicated."

So simplicity won the day with the Save On Foods team's "Cooking Up Love" creation coming out on top with the Canstruction 2012 title of Judges' Favourite.

The theme of this year's competition, which took place Saturday in the Sky Court of Orchard Park mall, was Love Can.

As such, the eight teams building can structures had various plays on the theme leading up to Valentine's Day.

Honourable mention teams from UBC Okanagan Engineering and Waterplay had Love Wins and Love Can Feed the World structures.

The team from Dorothea Walker Elementary School topped the People's Choice and Structural Ingenuity categories.

Students in Free Enterprise excelled in Best Use of Labels and the Rotaract team picked up Best Meal.

"We did pick an overall winner and category winners," said Lenetta Parry of the Kelowna Food Bank.

"But the overall winners are the food bank and the Salvation Army, which are now the recipients of all this food to fill our shelves."

In all, the 18,000 cans of food in the eight structures will be split between the food bank and Salvation Army as well as \$4,000 in cash.

The event was such a success this year that it will be expanded to allow 10 teams next year.

Salvation Army Pastor Ron Cartmell spoke to the misunderstanding of who uses food banks.

"Most are people who are working two or three part-time jobs and trying to make ends meet," he said.

"They have nothing left for food after paying for rent, utilities, a car and gas. The real trouble comes if their car breaks down and they have no way to get to work."

All the money raised and cans of food go to charity. Teams did their own fundraising to buy the cans they needed at a discount from Canstruction title sponsor Save On Foods.

The event is put on annually by the Rotary Club of Kelowna and Students in Free Enterprise.



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The Kelowna Rotaract Club team pose for a picture in front of the Ogopogo during the announcement of Canstruction 2012 winners on Saturday.