



Piper Smirl, 4, and dad, Jon



Lev V., 6, came with an Easter-bunny-head basket. About 12,000 eggs were used in the event.

The Okanagan Saturday

KELOWNA

Egged on

By STEVE MacNAULL
The Okanagan Saturday

Piper Smirl, 4, has a system when it comes to collecting Easter eggs.

She searches and finds, while her dad, Jon, stands there holding her treats sack open to receive the loot.

"This is actually the Halloween bag a friend made for her," said Jon with a laugh.

"But, it's working well for Easter, too."

The father-daughter duo were two of 3,000 people who dropped by Friday's giant Easter egg hunt put on by Victory Life Fellowship Church at the Parkinson

Recreation Centre in Kelowna. While the free event also included games, face painting, music, pancake breakfast and donated clothes giveaway, the Easter egg hunts on the centre's fields is what the kids go ga-ga for.

Thirty kids at a time are let loose on a field for two minutes to collect a maximum of eight multi-coloured plastic eggs stuffed with candy.

With 1,500 kids taking part and an eight egg limit each, that's 12,000 eggs.

However, the church prepared 15,000 just in case.

Virginia Brown, 5, a kindergarten student at Bankhead Elementary School also had an egg snatching strategy.

"Go for the blue ones," she said.



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Virginia Brown, 5, went for the blue eggs.

Lev V., 6, a Grade 1 student from Springvalley Elementary filled her Easter-bunny-head basket with too many eggs and had to put some back.

Volunteer field marshalls Autumn Hill, 15, and Shasta Fox, 12, kept things moving on the search field.

Using a megaphone, Hill encouraged 30 kids at a time to line up at the barrier in preparation

to hunt.

"No pushing, no shoving and no karate chops because we're not ninjas out here today," she said.

"There's enough eggs for everyone."

And then the kids were set free to gather up goodies while the next group was called into place.

"This is the 14th annual edition of each of our big community outreach programs," said Victory Life Pastor Diana Tripke.

"We have this Easter egg extravaganza, the back-to-school event where we distribute 700 backpacks stuffed with supplies to those who need it and we also have a Christmas dinner, all here at Parkinson."

Tripke likens it to giving back to the community and doing local mission work at the same time.

All events are free to attend and are put on with donated items and volunteer organization and labour.

Those who attended were invited to bring a non-perishable item to donate to the Salvation Army or Central Okanagan Food Bank.

Volunteers Autumn Hill, 15, left, and Shasta Fox, 12, kept things moving on the field.



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