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Clockwise from right, Port Arthur Collegiate Institute students Ben Daniar, Alexandra Erickson, Kristina Urquhart, Julia Mutrie and Tina Petrick form the winning team to try their hand at setting a Guinness world record.

‘Cents’ to break a record

BY MARTHA TROPEA
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Thunder Bay high school student Tina Petrick has been strategizing, exercising and practising for an upcoming event that will put her tiny fingers to the test.

Ken Chase from the The Keri Chase Foundation announced yesterday that Port Arthur Collegiate won a chance to break a Guinness world record for laying down 79,200 coins in the shortest time.

“Our school prides itself on the opportunity to give to the community and help out,” said Petrick, PACT student council co-president.

Four Thunder Bay high schools competed to raise the most funds per capita from March 25 to May 9.

Port Arthur Collegiate raised \$530 at 88 cents per student.

The student council organized dances, hat days and poutine days

to raise funds, said Petrick.

“It’s another good opportunity to get people from our school involved in a team,” said Alexandra Erickson, student council co-president.

Guinness guidelines state that only eight people can lay coins at the same time, but substitutes are permitted.

Ernst and Young Chartered Accountants will oversee the event to ensure the students follow Guinness’s regulations. The coin laying will also be videotaped and judged by independent observers.

A group in Warwickshire, Great Britain currently holds the record. On Oct. 19, 2002 they laid coins down in two hours, 42 minutes and 29 seconds.

“This is an opportunity to showcase a lot of great efforts that the students of Thunder Bay

do,” said Chase.

In total, the competing schools raised \$1,847 for the Keri Chase Foundation. The money will be used for the assistance and relief of suffering animals in Thunder Bay.

A 900-foot (270 metre) piece of string was laid out on The Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds to give the students an idea of how many coins they’ll have to lay down.

Even though the string represented one fifth of the distance the students are committed to breaking, Erickson said she wasn’t intimidated.

“We’re gonna win,” she said confidently.

Petrick wouldn’t give any hints on what strategies she’s working on, but said she’s convinced her school will take home the new Guinness world record.