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More than 400 people take part in yesterday's Mayor's Walk in Thunder Bay.

Mayor's Walk a success

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Mother Nature lent a helping hand in making yesterday's fourth annual RBC Royal Bank Mayor's Walk a success.

In the largest turnout ever, more than 400 participants raised \$26,200 for 54 community charities. Individuals, families and teams traversed the two-kilometre route while live entertainment took centre stage and Mayor Ken Boshcoff drifted in and out of crowds socializing.

Hosted by Volunteer Thunder Bay!, the annual walk asked participants to seek pledges. All of the money remains in the community. Fifty per cent is donated to each walker's charity or non-profit organization of choice. The other half provides funding for youth volunteer programs for Volunteer Thunder Bay!

"This is different from (other walks) because it raises funds for so many dif-

ferent organizations. It's an opportunity for them to get out and walk and raise funds for themselves," Volunteer Thunder Bay! executive director Alexandra Davidson said.

The walk provides a unique opportunity for local organizations to raise funds for their own initiatives.

"This is just an amazing community event. Different organizations from across the community are out here," Boshcoff said at the walk's starting point on Alloy Drive.

Participants of all ages attended.

With Rusty, a Sheppard cross by her side, Shelley Sauve hoped to raise awareness for the new Keri Chase Foundation. The foundation disperses funds to other registered charities that assist animals in need.

"It's such a good cause," Sauve said of the foundation.