

Students eye Guinness record

Fundraising effort supports The Keri Chase Foundation

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When a friend of Ken Chase saw a group of teens exit a convenience store and throw their spare change on the ground, that act of carelessness gave him an idea.

Small change can make a big difference he told Chase, treasurer of The Keri Chase Foundation. In partnership with the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition the foundation will organize a unique fundraising initiative that will attempt to break a Guinness world record.

From March 22 through April 30 Thunder Bay high schools are compet-

ing to raise money for the foundation. The students have formed teams and on Aug. 15, the last day of the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition, they will be challenged to lay down a mile of coins on a flat surface in the fastest time.

A group in England set the current record on April 30, 2002.

"A lot of the students are very community minded. They are involved in a lot of things," Chase said on why he chose to involve students.

The foundation was named for Keri Chase, who at 42 was killed in a car accident in November 2001. Throughout her life she was dedicated to helping stray or injured animals find safe homes. Following her death her family formed the foundation in an effort to preserve her memory and continue her cause.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 students are expected to participate in the event.

"Students love animals, they love

pets," Chase said.

"If we break the world record it will showcase Thunder Bay and their youth."

Keri's stepdaughter Alyx Conner, 15, has six dogs and has always advocated against cruelty to animals and animal

testing. The Grade 10 student shares her views with her classmates and has been promoting her

 thekerichasefoundation.ca

cause at Hammarkjold high school, which she attends.

"I think animal welfare is really something we need to look at," she said about involving other youth.

"(The event) is starting kids off where they have to look at the bigger problems in life and it is getting us more involved in trying to fix those problems."

"It's a real team effort because our schools are coming together."

For more information or to make a donation phone the foundation at 475-4052.