

GOING FOR 'GOLD'



BRENT LINTON/THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL

Tina Petrick was one of eight PACI students placing pennies yesterday in a bid for a Guinness record. The Thunder Bay students were trying to lay down a mile of coins to break a record and raise funds for the Keri Chase Foundation.

Students go for record

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

A group of Thunder Bay students may soon find themselves in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The students from PACI were working toward laying down a mile's worth of pennies in the fastest time.

"What the record is, is to lay 79,200 pennies in a continuous line within two hours and 42 minutes and 29 seconds, which is the existing record held by a group in England," said Ken Chase, treasurer of the Keri Chase Foundation.

The foundation organized the event in partnership with the CLE. Yesterday, a group of PACI

students was at the Golf Dome placing pennies on a long line of tables marked with tape.

Only eight students could be laying coins at one time, and all the coins had to touch end-to-end, Chase said.

"If they break this record, we'll send the documentation off to the Guinness people, and PACI and Thunder Bay will be featured in the (record book)," Chase said.

The challenge started late yesterday afternoon and results weren't available last night.

Student Daniel Urquhart, 14, said yesterday the group was off to a good start.

However, he continued, "I don't want to get my hopes up too

much, because if we don't break it then I'll be disappointed, so I'm kind of in-between."

The pennies were provided by TD Canada Trust bank, Chase said, as they had to be counted beforehand.

Chase said Guinness officials dictated which coin-related record the group could try to break. At first, the students wanted to try set a record for the largest collection of coins, but Guinness said they had to do something with the coins for the record to be considered.

The coins were important because the idea came from a friend of Chase's after he spotted teenagers tossing spare change

away as they exited a convenience store.

PACI got to participate yesterday because the school raised the most money during a fundraising drive during the last school year. The other competing schools were Hammar skjold, Churchill and Hillcrest.

The Keri Chase Foundation is named for Keri Chase, who was killed in a car accident in November 2001 at the age of 42.

Keri Chase was dedicated to animal welfare, helping stray or injured animals find safe homes. Following her death, Chase's family formed the foundation in an effort to preserve her memory and continue her cause.