



Protests in Ottawa – Members of the Libyan-Canadian committee hold a protest in front of the Parliament Building demanding Libya's president, Moammar Gadhafi's resignation following the crackdown on protesters which to date has killed 230 people with close to 1,400 missing.

Not all parents get day off for Family Day

By Clover Raftis

Family Day has come and gone and with it begs the question, "Where did the kids go?"

Every year, many moms and dad still head into work, leaving some parents searching for childcare.

So, where was the family on Family Day? To top it off, most of the small businesses that many families rely on were not open for the day, which is fine for the employees but some business owners say that it was money lost.

"For small business, it's expensive to stay open. All of the employees would be making double and a half of their wage. Stay closed and they still make their day's wages," said Linda Greer, store manager for Y'wanna Hav'a Cafe?

However, Bev Barry, owner-operator of Aamazing Building Maintenance, said Family Day didn't mean much, other than a nice long weekend.

"The clients I would normally serve on Monday will have their services either on the weekend or on Tuesday. It doesn't matter to me. I have contracted work, so I get paid either way," said Barry.

Federal employees also headed to work, so who really got this day off?

Retail services were shut down for the day. Childcare and schools didn't play around with opening their doors either. Banks were locked up tight and industrial plants put a wrench in production for the day.

But for some of these industries, working the weekend wasn't such a bad deal.

Sarah McCormick, an activity aid for Trent Valley Lodge, a Trenton-based nursing home, had to work the long weekend.

She has two children who were both in the care of her boyfriend all day Monday.

"My kids stayed home today with my boyfriend. He doesn't work, so fortunately, I was able to dodge the daycare-being-closed bullet," said McCormick.

"It doesn't really feel like a holiday to me. I guess because it's a new holiday and I get paid my regular wages, it doesn't seem really holiday-ish to me. I also worked the rest of the weekend, so it wouldn't have really been beneficial."

The holiday has been in place in Ontario for three years, and so far federal employees have had to work every year through it. This provincially sanctioned holiday even has some people confused about why it is called Family Day.

"I don't need a holiday to tell me when to spend time with my family. I can do that on my own," said McCormick.

Continuous support pours in for family devastated by Trenton house fire

By Agnes Ramos

The Quinte community has opened its heart to help a family in need.

The lives of Linda Brake and her daughter Brianna, 13, were devastated when they lost their home and belongings when fire erupted in their duplex in Trenton last Monday.

Cheri Browning, a close family acquaintance, has spearheaded a relief initiative.

It all began with a text message that Brianna sent to Browning's daughter the morning after the fire.

Browning immediately drove to the hotel where the Brakes were staying and learned that the family lost nearly everything, coming out of the fire in bare feet and wearing just pajamas. It was then that Browning decided to help and "take the bull by the horn".

Since the text message, continuous support from the community has been pouring in.

Browning has received various donations that include school supplies from Staples, quilts from the quilting guild in Trenton, clothing, a TV, a microwave, bedding, bathroom items

"The community just really pulled together. We couldn't want for anything more when we've lost basically just about everything."

Linda Blake

and shoes.

Brianna, who is currently a Grade 8 student and approaching graduation in June, also received a graduation dress donated from a clothing store in Belleville.

There has also been a huge response coming from Queen Elizabeth Public School, where Brianna attends school.

Clinton Breau, the literacy partner at the school, said the school has raised a little over \$900 from a coin drive alone. Funds from a spaghetti lunch, an upcoming family movie night and a bake sale next week will add to the total.

In addition to these fundrais-

ing initiatives, there have been two staff members at the school who have been making daily calls to local businesses, with much success, to receive clothing and household donations.

Browning said she couldn't even begin to explain how wonderful this has been. The Brakes are grateful for the overwhelming heartfelt support from the community, she said.

"Everybody has stepped in. It's just amazing that people have come out of their way to donate...but it's not about the money, it's about the thought."

The family is currently staying at a temporary home where they have little space to store the donations. Browning has been storing donations both at her home and at a garage that someone offered to lend.

She said the Brakes are starting from the ground up and at some point, they're going to need everything from large basic items such as furniture to small household items such as drinking cups and cutlery.

"No matter who it is, I would do it again for anybody. We have a community built on this kind of support.

The community forgets about good things like this that there are good people out there."

The fire started from a space heater in the back room and spread into the walls of the Front Street duplex.

Chief John Whelan, the fire chief at Quinte West Fire Department, said there was \$250,000 worth of damage. Victim Services and the Red Cross were called to the scene to help the residents.

"It's always great when the community gets involved in these unfortunate incidents," said Whelan.

Linda Brake said that the support from the community has just been unbelievable.

"The community just really pulled together. We couldn't want for anything more when we've lost basically just about everything," said Brake.

"It really pulls at your heartstrings to know that there are still people who really do care out there."

Anyone who would like to make a donation can contact Cheri Browning at (613) 208-0617.

Victoria Cross library comes to Canada

Genealogical centre in Ameliasburgh will feature information about medal recipients

By Niamh Malcolm

Ian Reilly's dream came true on Friday.

The Ameliasburgh resident and president of the 7th Town Historical Society has been working with volunteers for two years to bring the Victoria Cross Library to Canada.

"My wife was doing genealogy for her grand niece. One of the things she discovered was that they had a relative, Patrick Roddy, who they were pretty sure had won a Victoria Cross," said Reilly.

Reilly's wife then wrote to the municipal services office in Jersey Isle, England to gather more information about Patrick Roddy. A few weeks later, she received a large envelope in the mail containing photographs, news clippings and other information about Roddy.

After receiving this information, she was put in contact with Tom Johnson, who was compiling information on all of the Victoria Cross recipients.

Two years later, the records have been printed out and are now available to the public in Ameliasburgh.

The Victoria Cross is the highest military decoration awarded for valour in the face of the enemy.

The Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre celebrated the opening of the Victoria Cross library with families of Victoria Cross recipients, members of the community and guest speakers Defence Minister Peter MacKay, MP Daryl Kramp and 8 Wing Commander Col. Dave Cochrane.

They came to recognize the transfer of The Victoria Cross Library from Britain to Canadian soil, marking the first time the entire collection of records will be available in Canada.

"There is much living military history in this community to say the least. Which is why I am so grateful for the work that you are doing to preserve, promote, to educate not only this community but literally the entire country with such an ambitious effort as this," said MacKay.

Reilly presented four families with copies of the biographies that contained stories of their relatives, as well as plaques to commemorate the opening of the library.

"I have a personal interest in military history, all things Canadian history. This is such a unique opportunity, such a major accomplishment for those who have been behind this effort," said MacKay.

Queen Victoria founded the Victoria Cross in 1856 during the Crimean War to reward for 'individual instances of merit and valour.'



Niamh Malcolm

From left Deborah Adams, niece of Alan Arnett McLeod VC, Donna Devolin, niece of John Weir Foote VC, Sister Therese Roddy and Mary Jaynes, grand nieces of Col. Patrick Roddy VC, Walter Rutherford, nephew of Charles Rutherford VC and Terry MacDonald cut the cake together at the opening of the Victoria Cross Library in Ameliasburgh.

Since its inception, it has been awarded 1,359 times to 1,356 people, 94 of whom have been Canadians. As the highest military decoration that is awarded for valour in Common-

wealth countries, the Victoria Cross and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations and medals in military matters.

"This library is filled with records

of people who are dead and the library is the living, because you find new things all the time. So it is a living library of mostly the dead," said Reilly.