

## Snowstorm blows into town



Dax Melmer



Hadas Parush



Sarah Rolles

Weather was the talk of the city yesterday as the first major winter storm of the year hit the Quinte area. Pioneer staff captured some of the moments. (Above) from left, Ashley Scaife and her children, Jayde, 4, and Marissa, 7, dig out from the snow outside their home on Everett Street. Ma-

rissa and Jayde, who attend Prince Charles Public School, were among thousands of school children who had a day off yesterday. (Left) Janet Smith clears 20 centimetres of fresh snow off the hedge that surrounds her house off Bridge Street East. "My husband's pride and joy is his straight

hedge," she said. (Right) By the time the snow tapered off in the late afternoon, the streets were full of people attempting to clear their driveways, including Mark Selensk who was busy blowing out his own driveway on Octavia Street. For story and photo, see page 2.

## Relatives worry about crisis in Egypt

By Hadas Parush

Belleville is home to a small community of Arabs who have been glued to their TVs, radios and the Internet, looking for news from their relatives in Egypt.

Millions of protesters have been flooding the streets in Cairo and other cities in Egypt since Jan. 25, demanding the end of President Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule.

In the last couple of days, bloody clashes between pro- and anti-Mubarak protesters in Cairo have added to the already increasing civil unrest that has gripped Egypt.

In spite of concern for his relatives' safety, Muhammad Saleh, the local Muslim Association's Imam, supports the determination of Egyptians against Mubarak.

Saleh is a Palestinian originally from Jaffa and went to university in Cairo for five years. A few months after completing his studies, Saleh said he and 70 other students were

arrested and taken to a jail in Jordan where they were tortured for several days. He said he does not know why they were arrested.

"If you go to one Arab country, you know the situation in all Arab countries – no free speech, it's all the same," he said in his downtown Belleville convenience store.

"A president gets elected once, they stay for a lifetime."

Saleh said people he knew were jailed and abused while their families remained uninformed of their whereabouts or the reasons for their arrest for months.

He spoke of the lack of jobs and decent living conditions, and the absence of freedom of speech and human rights.

"When I was there, you know, sometimes we would look for matches... no matches! Every single week there is some kind of shortage. People are starving there."

Saleh moved to Canada in 1968. He said Egypt has become worse

since he left.

Egypt's last parliamentary elections were held in November 2010. There were widespread claims of



Nabil Baskeet



Mahammad Saleh

voting frauds and intimidations.

"They couldn't do anything for 30 years," said Saleh. "They got together now and I hope they would succeed and don't give up."

The people want change, he said. Saleh's uncle has been updating him on the happenings in Cairo. He said if the army didn't interfere,

thousands more would have been killed by the police.

"Nobody is safe there. There is so much corruption."

Mubarak has made a statement that he will not run for election again, but will finish his term preparing a smooth transition to new rule. Protesters are demanding that he step down by Friday, which they have called the "Day of Departure."

"I am very happy for it," said Saleh. "I want the freedom, I want the human rights, and to let them live like any other people in other countries and to give them a chance to choose their ruler, not to be forced on one that is against them."

"Today (Tuesday), two million people are in Liberation Square. They are asking him to step down and he doesn't want to. Why? What kind of president is this? You call that a democracy?"

Saleh waves off international concerns that an extremist fundamental leadership might take Mubarak's

place if he steps down now.

"Not in Egypt," he said. "There are good people and bad people everywhere. There will be a democracy, freedom to choose the one who you want to be leader. The next president will take a lesson from what happened to Mubarak. Now the people know they can take control of their country."

But democracy is not something that Nabil Baskeet, a Christian Egyptian, believes the Arab people are ready for. Baskeet, of Suez, Egypt, moved to Toronto 15 years ago, and has been living in Belleville for the last 10 months. Baskeet expressed concern for his mother, brothers, and sisters in Cairo. He has been calling them every day since the protests started.

"So far, so good," he said regarding his family's safety. "But nobody is safe until the problem is solved."

Baskeet hopes Mubarak stays until his term is finished.

...See Egypt, page 2



Seung-Chul Baik

**After the storm** — A 20-minute exposure photograph shows a clear sky from Hamilton Road Wednesday night in Belleville after a major snowstorm hit the region dumping about 20 centimetres of snow. (40 frames of a 30-second exposure image blended in post-production.)

# Mother Nature makes herself heard

By Karla Kenny

Groundhogs and students alike re-treated back to warmth and comfort yesterday, as the morning’s radio announcement said the two words just about everyone was waiting to hear: Snow Day.

The snowstorm, which less than lived up to its hype, turned out to be anything but the monster storm that Belleville and surrounding areas were expecting.

Sweeping its way from New Mexico to New England, almost two thirds of the United States was left feeling part of the storm’s icy cold wrath and some declared in states of emergency.

According to senior climatologist

and weather guru at Environment Canada, David Phillips, it was a “hit and run” snowstorm, and despite Warton Willie’s prediction of an early spring, Canadians can expect much more snow and higher temperatures as the months roll on.

Dumping about half the estimated 30-40 centimetres that was supposed to hit the area, the steady fall of snow was enough to close schools and stop school buses, giving students that much, anticipated day off.

Local events, such as the Batawa Terrain competition, and city meetings and recycling pick-up were called off for the day.

City businesses remained open and local transit continued to run as any other day.

With the storm allowing a day off for some, residents of Belleville found their own ways to enjoy the snow day.

“I had a PJ day with my kids. They loved it,” said Michelle Croft, store manager of Loyalist College Bookstore. “We didn’t go out at all.”

Others used the day to get out and enjoy the snow.

“We took out the snowmobiles and some toboggans and used the snow day to just have fun. No school, no homework, so why not?” said electrical engineering technician student, Shawn Dostaler.

Canada Post worker Angie Krueger, who was able to finish up early, took her three-year-old lab, Morey, out to play.

“I’ve been working for Canada Post for four winters, so I’m used to it, and he just loves being out in the snow,” she said about Morey.

People trickled in and out of their houses throughout the day to shovel or run for forgotten storm items, but overall the city stayed relatively quiet.

City workers were busy plowing streets and sidewalks while the OPP and Belleville police were on extremely busy.

“We responded to four collisions during the day,” said Sgt. Julie Forestell of the Belleville Police. “Which is reasonable, given the snow warning.”

“Overall though, there was much less traffic and people were using

caution when on the road.”

GO transit ran on a similar but adjusted schedule and drivers were asked to take caution, especially in certain areas.

Travellers coming in and out of Pearson Airport were not as lucky.

Due to the cancellation of thousands of flights within the United States, a quarter of the airports’ flights were interrupted and thousands of travellers were left riding out the storm.

As for the groundhog’s prediction this year?

Canadians and Americans got some good news. Because the rodents couldn’t see their shadows through the storm, an early spring is in store.



Leah Myers

**Liz Reid donated blood for her 50th time at Loyalist College Monday during the blood donor clinic being held on campus. Reid is a retired nurse who worked at Belleville General Hospital for 36 years.**

## Giving blood nothing new to retired nurse who has donated 50 units of blood

By Leah Myers

The procedure of giving blood is nothing new for donor Liz Reid, who, on Monday, donated blood for her 50<sup>th</sup> time. First timers wear a sticker indicating they have never donated before, and then donors receive stickers of recognition for their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> donation.

“For the first time, it’s a little overwhelming,” says Reid, “the nurse takes you aside and asks you more personal questions. It can be a little intimidating, but the process itself is painless.”

The Canadian Blood Services held a blood

donor clinic at Loyalist College this Monday in the gymnasium. Nurse representatives and volunteers set up stations where Loyalist students and others interested went through the process of donating.

Loyalist students received an e-mail and signs stood on the tables of the cafeteria letting people know about the clinic.

Students could either book ahead to donate, or walk-in, depending on how busy the clinic was at the time. Once they had their appointment, donors started the simple and relatively painless process of giving blood.

Careful steps are taken to assure the health and safety of both the donors and receivers. All needles are sterile and tests such as iron levels and blood pressure are conducted before the procedure is started.

Reid worked at Belleville General Hospital for 36 years and is now a retired nurse. She knows from her work experiences how important it is to donate blood for those in need of a transfusion.

“When I’m available, I donate,” says Reid.

Cancer treatment can take up to eight units of blood a week, while a liver transplant can take a massive 100 units.

## Egypt...

Continued from Page 1

Along with thousands of Egyptians sitting at home under curfew, Baskeet fears what may transpire at the end of the protests.

“If he leaves the country as it is right now, it will be a big problem.”

US President Barack Obama has formally called him to step down immediately so that Egypt can begin democratic reform. In fact, Canada is one of the few countries that have stopped short of calling Mubarak to step down.

According to an Agence France-Presse article published in the Ottawa Citizen, officials from the European Union, Britain, France, and Turkey, have all taken a firmer stance and called for an immediate transition.

“Oh my God,” Baskeet said, thinking of what might happen if the president leaves now. “It will be scary, really scary, because everybody will jump to take his place, there will be fighting... they started now.”

He pointed to the clashes on the streets between the pro- and anti-Mubarak protesters.

Baskeet said no democracy would ensue with an immediate resignation. Everybody is scared the Muslim Brotherhood will take over, he said.

Baskeet said the Christian community of Egypt will suffer, as will relations with Western countries, should the opposition group of the Muslim Brotherhood take the leadership.

“Arab people have to take democracy step by step. They have to understand what democracy means, what freedom means, so that they don’t abuse it. That’s why they put rules to control everybody.”

Baskeet paints a different picture of life in Egypt.

“Hard to find a job, that’s what they say. But the real reason [they are protesting is because] the people like a change. Thirty years, it’s enough, it shouldn’t be more than 10.”

Yet, Baskeet is filled with fear that Mubarak will step down now before setting up the new government for reform.

“After he sets up everything, after that he can step down, no problem.”

His family in Cairo stays at home. Nobody is allowed on the streets after 1 p.m., he said.

“We will be in very bad shape if this continues,” he said. “Just pray, what can we do.”

# Bulls lose close one to Oshawa Generals

Loyal crowd  
braved bad weather  
for 5-3 defeat

By Christina Schell

A hard-fought Eastern Conference matchup with the fourth-place Oshawa Generals ended in a 5-3 loss for the Belleville Bulls last night.

After a 7-0 loss to the Sault Ste. Marie, the Bulls came out firing hard at the Generals. Wednesday night's game was fast paced hockey played before a crowd of only 2,037 people, who braved the winter storm to show their commitment to the OHL teams.

The Bulls have back-to-back games starting tomorrow night in Brampton and a home game Saturday night against London. With unfavourable stats like being outscored 70-28 in the third period and having a 14-30 season, the Bulls must contain the energy that they showed in the first period, throughout the entire game.

Belleville is now sitting in ninth place in the Eastern Conference, one place out of a playoff spot, and their next 21 games have become even more crucial.

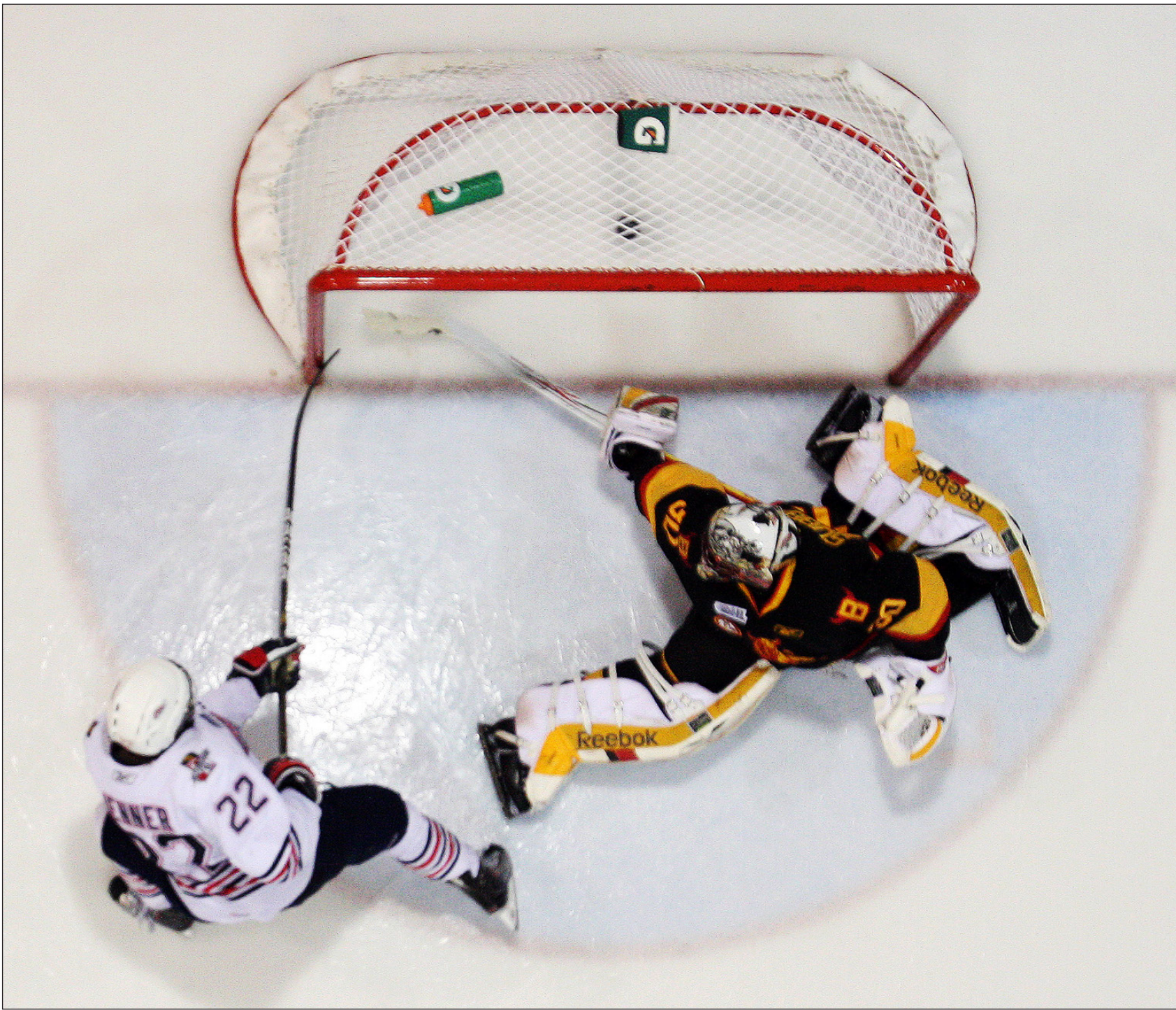
Things seemed promising for the home team when the first shot on the Oshawa net by Adam Payerl was tipped by Carter Sandlak and went passed goaltender Peter DiSalvo. The Generals crushed the Bulls early excitement quickly with a goal just 27 seconds later when Christian Thomas ripped the puck past Malcolm Subban.

The Generals claimed their first lead in the game in the fifth minute of play when Andy Andreoff scored off a rebound from Subban's left pad.

In the final minutes of the first period and down 2-1, the Bulls fought back with a fast paced new found energy and managed to find the back of the net twice taking the lead 3-2 with goals from Mike Mascioli and Brett Mackie.

The second period was filled with scoring opportunities for both teams but neither capitalized. The score remained 3-2 for Belleville after 40 minutes of play.

The Bulls defense seemed to unravel during the third period and the Generals Boone Jenner tied the game up when he wristed the puck past a



Seung-Chuk Baik

**Belleville Bulls goaltender Malcolm Subban (No. 30) allowed a goal by Oshawa Generals Boone Jenner (No. 22) during Wednesday night's game at the Yardenmen Arena. It was the first of two goals for Jenner who was named the first star of the game. The Bulls lost the game to Generals, 5-3.**

diving Subban after only a minute of play. Ten minutes later Nicklas Jensen gave the Generals their second lead of the game with a power play goal making the score 4-3.

The Belleville players tried to fight

their way back into the game but as the game clock neared the two-minute mark the Bulls were forced to pull their goaltender. But the home team couldn't seem to get control of the puck with the man advantage.

The Generals managed to get two shots on the empty net that went wide resulting in icing calls. The Bulls luck ran out with only 12 seconds left in the game when Boone got his second goal of the night on a

long shot from centre.

The three stars for the night were Boone Jenner, Nicklas Jensen and Belleville's Mike Mascioli. Shots on goal were 33-26 in favour of the Generals.

## Sled dog racer along for the ride

First race in 2010  
got him hooked  
on the sport

By Elena Hogan

Jeff London is new to the world of dog sledding and the ways of the musher.

With only six months under his belt, "give or take a few months," he admits he's still got a lot to learn.

London, 40, and his family are originally from New Brunswick, and moved to the area just over two years ago when he was stationed at CFB Trenton. After retiring from the armed forces, he and his family moved to Stirling in September of 2009. It was then that he met Shawn Shaw, his new neighbour.

"It was when we first moved in, I heard all these dogs next door. I was like 'what the heck has he got over there,' so I went over and introduced myself. We got to know each other and he told me he ran sled dogs, I thought 'cool, that's kind of neat,'" said London.

Shaw began training his dogs in the fall and London started going with him. When the snow came, it went from four-wheeler training to actually getting on a sled. London got on a sled for the first time last year and it all just went from there.

Shortly afterwards, London entered his first race at the 2010 Marmora Snofest. Shaw lent him four dogs and London participated in his first ever dog sledding race, the four-mile sprint. He came in 11th and was hooked.

"I said to Shawn 'Wow, this is a lot of fun, you know I think I could get into this.' He looked at me kind of funny and asked if I was serious. I said yeah. He had some (four) puppies there from a March litter and said 'Here, take these ones.' It just progressed from there."

London started out in the sprint racing, thinking he could have four or six dogs and just have fun with it, but the more he did it, the more he realized that he preferred the mid distances of 25 to 50 miles. The shorter sprints were over so fast that he didn't really get to enjoy the calmness of the trail, a major aspect of why he liked dog sledding in the first place.

"I went from doing the quick



Elena Hogan

**It's early mornings and late nights for Jeff London, a Hastings County dogsledder competing in this weekend's Marmora Snofest. Seen here with Mac, his four-year-old Alaskan husky, London and his team have been hard at work training for the Snofest's 30-mile mid-distance race. London is new to dog sledding and has only competed once before.**

sprinting runs that were over in under an hour to mid distances lasting about an hour and a half, two hours, three hours. I like being outside, I'm an outdoors kind of person and I just find it relaxing."

At the moment, London isn't quite so concerned about how well he does in races. Instead, he is focusing more on enjoying the ride and making sure the dogs enjoy themselves too.

"I just kind of let them go. Go out and have fun, the dogs have fun, I have fun. If you win, you win, if you lose, you lose, but at least you're out having fun."

While London has made the decision to move into mid-distance races and hopes to compete in this weekend's 30-mile race at the Mar-

**"I just kind of let them go. Go out and have fun, the dogs have fun, I have fun."**

Musher John London

mora Snofest, he is unsure if he'll have eight race-ready dogs and may have to drop down to the six-mile, six-dog short distance race.

"I'm waiting to see how sore the dogs are after some pretty hard training over the past weekend."

London admitted that the dogs have trained him just as much as, if not more than, he has trained them over the past year. He's

made lots of mistakes throughout the learning process and has no doubt there will be more, but with every one he's learned something new.

"I want to feel it out for a couple years, talk to a lot of people, take all that information and try to make something work for me. I think it's gonna be a few years before stuff really starts to work, but I know my team has a lot of potential."

For now, London just hopes to finish the race, enjoy the ride and keep sledding.

The 2011 Marmora Snofest is happening this weekend with the dog sled races taking place on Saturday and Sunday at the Marmora Fairgrounds.

## Rugby player becomes OCAA athlete candidate

By Harper Bauer

Loyalist College rugby player Sean McMurtry is a candidate for the 2010-11 OCAA athlete of the year award.

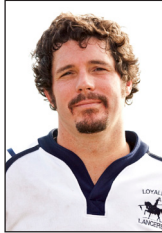
McMurtry, a dedicated second-year fly-half, who led his team to a record of 4-2-0, finishing first place in the East Division league.

McMurtry is currently completing a Brock/Loyalist nursing degree.

"I had no idea that I was a candidate. I became aware when some posts went up on Facebook," said McMurtry. "I really do not feel that I deserve it. I play a sport that does not single out individuals."

"I would feel great if one of my athletes win the award. It would be an accomplishment for the athlete, the varsity sport, and Loyalist College as well," said Larry Cook, Loyalist rugby coach. "Sean is an outstanding person on and off the field, that I think he definitely deserves it."

The players get picked for the poll by being the most valuable player of the fall season. Some of the candidates in the poll end up running for their own school's Athlete of the Year award. At the end of the year, OCAA takes each school's athlete of the year and then decides who will be OCAA Athlete of the Year.



Sean  
McMurtry

## Volleyball postponed

Both the men's and women's volleyball games, scheduled to be played last night against Durham College, were postponed due yesterday's snowstorm. Makeup games for both the men and women have been scheduled for Feb. 7 in the Loyalist gymnasium. The women start at 6 p.m. followed by the men at 8 p.m.

# Small-town girl gets big-time advice

KISS's Gene Simmons courts Emily Fennell for his record label Simmons Records

By Gailit Rodan

At two years old, Piper Platt learned about Gene Simmons from a whimsically edgy alphabet book called M is for Metal. Under the letter K was a rhyme about KISS and legendary "demon" bassist Simmons.

Opposite the poem was a cartoon of a white-faced, black-haired man brushing his two front teeth while his tongue dangled down by his belly.

Three years later, Platt's mother Emily Fennell, who hails from Prince Edward County, would later refer to the book when explaining to her now five-year-old daughter who Mommy was going to sing for last Thursday.

It all started Jan. 3 with four e-mails from Simmons, the face of Universal Music Canada affiliate Simmons Records and a partner in the venture, who requested that Fennell perform a showcase for him in Toronto at the end of the month.

Later that day, as Fennell relaxed in her country home north of Kingston, the telephone rang. "Unknown name, unknown number," read the call display. But when she picked up the phone, the voice was unmistakable.

"Hello. This is Gene Simmons," said the voice.

"Hi, Gene Simmons. This is Emily," said Fennell.

Then, small-town girl Fennell proceeded to have a 16-minute conversation with the larger-than-life rock and roll icon. "It was so surreal that it felt like someone was playing a prank," says Fennell.

Fast forward to Jan. 25, which began several of the most surreal days of Fennell's life. That evening, she was invited to Toronto's Horseshoe Tavern to meet Simmons.

With lifelong best friend and fellow Prince Edward County girl Natasha Pasternak in tow, she arrived and was instructed to wait at the top of the stairs.

Minutes later, Fennell turned to see an entourage of about 15 people approaching, including the towering figure of Gene Simmons.

The entire room turned to look at the scene that had just materialized.

Then, as Fennell puts it, "the public poking and prodding started." Simmons asked her to remove her jacket, which he took and set gently on the pool table.



Photo by Galit Rodan

**Prince Edward County-born songstress Emily Fennell performed a showcase of original music for KISS bassist and record executive Gene Simmons on Jan. 27. Simmons sat down at the keyboard with Fennell, who now performs under the name Miss Emily, to show her how he wanted her to "work the mic." Fennell took both praise and criticism with her head held high and has since been in touch with Simmons, who is courting her for his record label, Simmons Records.**

A 38-year veteran of a band that was celebrated for its stage persona, Simmons knows the importance of image and he let Fennell know it as well. From suggestions about her hairstyle (full bangs to emphasize her eyes) to her wardrobe (something to emphasize her waist and play up her sex appeal) to her make-up (dark, smoky eye shadow), Simmons gave Fennell an earful of ideas to implement in the span of a day and a half.

Thursday evening, the micromanaging started immediately after the first song and continued throughout the evening. Simmons personally mussed up her hair. He told her to smile less and look more sultry. At one point, he sent someone to find her dangly earrings. Later, a larger set was found and he asked Fennell to replace the first pair.

He told her to use her space more

effectively; to work the microphone; to twist her body with snake-like movements; to bow like – well, like Gene Simmons bows: arms raised to the sides, palms up, head down – "the Gene Simmons Jesus" as one observer remarked. At one point, the word "stripper" entered into the mix.

Fennell took it all in stride, although many eyebrows were raised in the audience.

A consummate professional, Fennell knows what works for her and what doesn't. She is certainly no stripper, especially not when singing about her daughter or serious issues like domestic abuse, but she rolled with the punches.

"Those opportunities are so few and far between, even if you disagree, shut your mouth and listen to what he has to say."

Simmons himself noted that Los Angeles has a word for artists who aren't willing to adapt: "Next." But he was also complimentary.

"He was clapping the loudest and cheering the loudest of anyone and, you know, saying the most amazing things about my voice," said Fennell.

Simmons appreciated the showcase and has been in touch with Fennell, but he and Universal Music Canada weren't the only ones scouting. The entire Toronto office of major booking agents The Agency Group attended, as did a representative from another major booking agency, S.L. Feldman & Associates. The Director of Ottawa Bluesfest, Mark Monahan, flew to Toronto specifically to catch the show.

In short, Fennell is being courted and the small-town girl now has some very big options.

Fennell's feet will stay firmly planted on the ground, however. For her, fame is more of a deterrent than a motivation. She is excited, though, by the prospect of having her music reach a larger audience and by being more financially stable. She is still \$20,000 in debt from her last album and would love to be able to record more music.

And if, somehow, the praise and promises begin to go to her head, she will always have daughter Piper to bring her back to reality. As she talks about Simmons' compliments, she is also shuttling her five-year-old home from a to-bogganing party and admonishing her for almost throwing garbage out the window. "Hey baby, baby, I need to go pee-pee," sings the wee one, who is clearly her mother's daughter.

"That is real life," says Fennell.



Photo by Hadas Parush

**Mile Murtanovski inside his gallery at Small Pond Arts in Picton, Ont. Murtanovski and his girlfriend, Krista Dalby, moved to Picton last year to create an**

# Studio becomes art playground in Picton residence

By Hadas Parush

One more thing to put on your list of things to do as soon as the snow melts is a visit to Small Pond Arts in Picton.

Milé Murtanovski is a painter and Krista Dalby creates puppets. Together they created an artists' playground in their Picton home, which is also a gallery, studio, and artists' residence.

Although currently covered in snow, their property includes a large garden, a mature forest, as well as a forest of young trees, which Milé and Krista like to call, "the Forest of the Future."

But before you reach the forest, a surprising sign that spells, with small tree branches, "the Museum of the Stick", redirects you.

Sure enough, the arrow points to a shed, once occupied by horses and haystacks, now a tribute gallery to the many varieties of the stick. A hockey stick, a glue stick, lipstick, walking stick, Hickory Sticks snack package, and any other form of a stick one can imagine.

Milé and Krista are hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of the Stick in September. Although in actuality it will only be their second year running this festival, the idea was to create something entirely fictional that will be an excuse to host a huge party and celebrate something that is accessible and free for everyone.

Besides showcasing and celebrating the many different sticks, the festival will also feature free still walking lessons from Milé.

Milé and Krista also host a shadow puppetry show in August, a scarecrow festival in October, a music festival, and other events that aim to bring artists and people in the community of Belleville and Prince Edward County together for an inspiring and creatively productive environment.

They also have an arts trail on their property, which is always open for visitors to come and explore a walk in the woods among works donated by artist friends.

"Everything we do is in the spirit of involving people from the community," Krista said. "One of my dreams of coming here was creating our own universe and inviting people to come play with us in our universe."

Krista is currently working on making a giant puppet that will be what they call the "sugar shack guy" during the Maple in the County festival in March. Milé is working on a series of paintings of local farmers for Angeline's, a high-end restaurant in Bloomfield that uses local farmers' produce.

There is always something Milé and Krista are working on at Small Pond Arts.

"We're constantly coming up with ideas. That's not the hard thing. It's making the time to create them that's difficult."

For more information on events at Small Pond Arts, see [www.smallpondarts.ca](http://www.smallpondarts.ca), and to read more about Milé's and Krista's past and ongoing projects see [www.smallpondarts.blogspot.com](http://www.smallpondarts.blogspot.com).

# Personalize your Super Bowl experience

By Jessica Mees

An estimated 800 million-plus people worldwide will have their eyes on Dallas this Sunday as the Green Bay Packers face off against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV.

If you are looking for cheerleaders, you won't find any at this year's game. This is the first cheerleaderless event in the game's 45-year history. Only six teams in the whole league lack full-time cheerleaders – the Packers and Steelers being two of them.

NFL officials have said that the league won't be bringing in another team's squad for the big game, even though the NFL does feel cheerleaders "enhance the overall game day experience."

As for original commercials (excluding those ads declared too racy by FOX), great half-time show entertainment (The Black Eyed Peas), food and parties, the Super Bowl XLV brings it all to the table.

"I just like knowing and being able to say I saw the game," says Lisa Hill, second-year environmental technology student at Loyalist. "Even though I don't watch any other games all year."

Perhaps the reason that the majority of parties are taking place at bars and pubs is because the Super Bowl is the second-largest day of food ingestion, behind American Thanksgiving.

Although many of us will be in Canada for this snowy football Sunday, there are still plenty of parties to attend and fun.

Several local bars will be having parties Sunday, including Matt & Joe's, Slapshot, the Angry Beaver and Crabby Joe's.

As students, we are no strangers to the Shark Tank pub located on campus, where one of Belleville's major Super Bowl parties is being held.

"There is free pool until kickoff," says Criss Barnim, media studies leader at Loyalist College. "There will be half-time games; the prize is a Budweiser recliner. It is important for students to meet other students and it's also fun to watch the game with others."

The Shark Tank opens its doors at 5 p.m.

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

How do you feel about the Egyptian government trying to deter rebellion by shutting down many forms of communication on its own people?



Marc Venema, "I don't agree with that. It sounds like a dictatorship to me and it shows you why people want him (President Hosni Mubarak) gone."



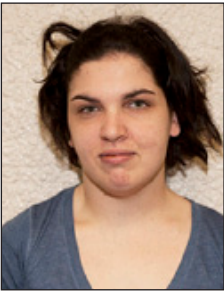
Christina LaBarge, "I don't think lack of communication is the way to go about anything that's going on over there. It's just going to cause anarchy."



Jordan Meyer, "How would the government like it if we shut off their communication and they couldn't talk to their families or friends? Unfortunately, I think it's going to get worse before it gets better."



Chad Duff, "I don't agree with them cutting off the communication. It's just a death grasp of a failing regime and the lack of communication will push them to the brink."



Teri Watters, "The government has absolutely no right to do what they're doing."



Nicholas Whaley, "This kind of dictatorship seems weird. It seems wrong to me that they are taking away the rights of their own people."

Editorial

Obama faces tough decision in Egypt crisis

The spread of anti-government demonstrations across the Middle East has put the Obama administration on a precarious tightrope.

This is true particularly in Egypt where the United States has enjoyed more than 30 years of warm relations with the Hosni Mubarak regime.

But the choice between supporting a stable pro-Western dictator on the one hand, and the masses of Egyptians calling for freedom on the other, should be an easy decision for the American president.

It is no coincidence that in June 2009, at Egypt's Cairo University, president Obama delivered a speech entitled "A new beginning." While it was directed at the wider Muslim audience, he declared all people have the right to free speech, participatory government, a fair judicial system, and "the freedom to live as you choose."

"They are human rights, and that is why we will support them everywhere," Obama said.

However, the very reason that Obama was able to give that speech in Cairo is the very same reason it is so difficult for him to state publicly his support for the uprising. Egypt has been an unwavering American ally since the signing of the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

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Strategically, Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world with the world's 10th largest army, and since the Accords, it has been at the centre of American foreign policy in maintaining peace between Israel and its neighbours. As far as allies in the Arab world go, Egypt has been exemplary.

But the times they are a-changin'.

For nearly 50 years leading up to the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, America's foreign policy in the Middle East favoured dictatorial strongmen at the expense of promoting liberal democracy.

But the attacks on Sept. 11 and the subsequent invasion of Iraq in 2003 constituted the beginnings of a shift in American foreign policy. No longer was Washington going to support dictatorship for the sake of stability. Democracy promotion would now be used as the ideological lynchpin in the war against terror.

Yet despite promoting democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan, Washington's rhetoric has been largely mute when it comes to pressuring pro-Western regimes in the region. The fear that an anti-American Islamist government would replace the undemocratic regimes, as they did in Iran 32 years ago, led Washington to falter on its promise of democratic openness.

Unfortunately, similar fears are being expressed about Egypt today. There is a large concern that if the Mubarak regime were to fall the Muslim Brotherhood, the world's oldest and largest Islamic political party, may fill the political void.

This is a falsehood. Mohamed Elbaradei, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and selected spokesman for the Egyptian opposition, has argued that the Brotherhood needs to be recognized as a legitimate political party. "We should stop demonizing the Muslim Brotherhood. It is incorrect that our only choice is between oppression under Mubarak and the chaos of religious extremists" said Elbaradei in an interview to Der Spiegel this past week.

Obama himself has said that part of his responsibility as president is to fight against negative Islamic stereotypes wherever they exist. The implication that an Islamist political party would inherently be anti-American and oppressive is a vastly overused stereotype that has been propagated by dictators and those who support them.

The uprising in Egypt has the potential to be the "New beginning" Obama called for in 2009. By committing to regime change and supporting the protesters in Egypt, the U.S. would be sending a clear message to the wider Muslim world that America is an honest broker.

It is imperative that Obama seize this opportunity and give unequivocal support to the masses in the street.



Cartoon by Harper Bauer

Opinion

Artist should live by her talent

Last Thursday, Prince Edward County's own Emily Fennell performed a showcase of original music for iconic KISS bassist, Gene Simmons. Over the course of the evening, Simmons, who was scouting Fennell for his record label, put in his two cents about the nitty-gritty of all things image- and performance-related.

During their first encounter, two nights earlier, Simmons challenged Fennell:

"You're a better singer than Madonna, right?" he asked, pointedly.

"I don't know how to answer that," replied Fennell.

"You're a better singer than Madonna, RIGHT?" Simmons belated again.

Point taken. Fennell is a better singer than Madonna but Madonna has achieved an almost unparalleled level of fame. Why? Because in the music industry, image is paramount.

The night of her showcase, Fennell's makeup, wardrobe and hair really enhanced her superstar persona. In some respects, Simmons knew of what he spoke.

Unfortunately, he also made comments that raised a number of eyebrows and would have made anyone with even the slightest feminist inclinations cringe.

Simmons wanted Fennell to play up her sexuality, to tantalize the audience. While there may be ways to do this that aren't degrading, Simmons didn't shy away from the more exploitative suggestions. He counselled her to writhe like a snake; to "shake it" like a stripper; to touch herself; to "work the mic" like it was a certain male appendage.

All the while, Fennell's parents and close friends and family

sat nearby, stunned by the audacity.

Although she was able to gracefully traverse her way through the Simmons gauntlet, his comments were the subject of discussion long after the showcase ended.

Clearly, the precedent for exploitation has been set time and time again in the music industry. However, there is a fine line between someone like Madonna, who uses her taboo-shattering sexuality as a form of empowerment and someone like Britney Spears, whose naivety, youth and nubile beauty is seized upon by calculating profiteers in order to turn a quick buck.

"I don't want to be a stripper on stage," says Fennell. Nor should she have to be. Truth be told, Fennell could sing circles around both Madonna and Spears. And with that kind of talent, are the over-the-top gimmicks really necessary?

Simmons should have realized that not only is the "stripper" persona unnecessary, it is also anathema to some of Fennell's songs, such as *Believe in You*, which she performed that evening:

*I am swollen, I am bruised,  
One blood-shot eye, one broken rib,  
When you, the one I love, should keep me safe...*

Fennell is mature and insightful and sings about a range of issues. Should she be gyrating around stage while she is belting out a powerful anti-abuse number? Probably not. The message might become obscured.

Yes, there is the almighty dollar to consider. The greenback. The bread. The bottom line. And the bottom line is that sex has the power to sell records. But so does talent.

Is tweeting from the courtroom going too far?

By Jessica Mulholland

We've seen them everywhere online. Those "connect with us on Twitter" icons are plugged into almost every website. I mean, after all, who could deny that cute little bird inviting us to share a tweet... or two... or three?

The Twitter epidemic was launched publicly in 2006 for all the Internet universe to see.

We are now seeing "tweets" from all over the world. We are experiencing yet another powerful communication tool and there is nothing wrong with that. Twitter allows us to voice opinions, broadcast messages and advertise information. However, the saying "with great power comes great responsibility" should be kept in mind every time we log in and say what we have to say. Let us not forget that anyone could be watching us.

Twitter, however, is one of the newest social networks that let people post things in "live feed," a stream of postings that update constantly.

We sometimes forget just what is out there in the Twitter-sphere and what can be exposed — even things we don't necessarily want to hear. Like all forms of media, Twitter has its serious side too but is this side a little too serious?

Twitter has without question taken on a role of instantaneous

information on the most serious of occurrences.

Most of us are aware that journalists inside the courtroom at the Russell Williams trial were "tweeting" to the public about what they were hearing. The hashtag (a # sign beside a trending topic on Twitter) called #colRW flooded the computer server allowing people from far and wide to type in the trending topic and follow the trial as it was happening.

A "play-by-play" if you will was streaming from the tweeting journalists moments after new information in the courtroom was exposed. This gave online viewers a sense of presence.

After all, aren't we as citizens entitled to knowing what is happening in our community? If we think back to the O.J. Simpson trial in 1995, there was a visual stream that kept viewers up-to-date on every development.

Williams' lawyer, Michael Edelson has said in news reports that tweeting from a courtroom goes too far.

"You are losing the context and not giving substantive descriptions of what's going on," he said.

This form of broadcasting leaves a mere 140 characters of space for a story to be posted worldwide. However, we cannot deny that this is a new source of media and tweaks are still to be made.

The Pioneer

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The Pioneer is currently produced by journalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

# INFOCUS

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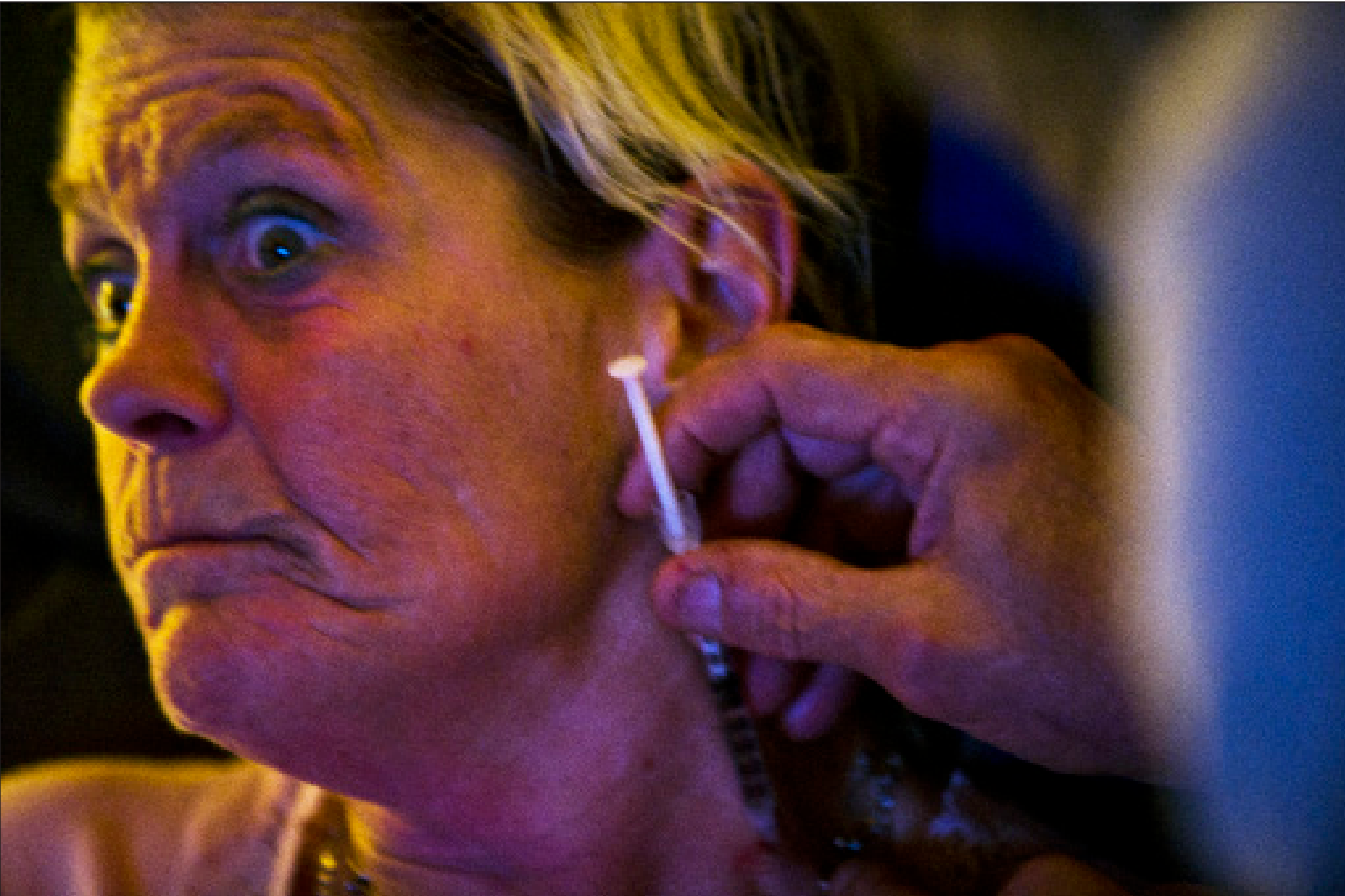
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*Illness and all its innocence*



# BEYOND THE CHANGE JAR

Getting to know Patricia Jeffery



(top centre) At her request, Don Pettigrew, Pat Jeffery's partner, shoots a hit of methamphetamine into her neck.  
(top left) Jeffery, 53, has been panhandling outside Kingston's Sleepless Goat Café for over eight years.  
(top right) Jeffery answers the door to find an acquaintance looking for a place to shoot up or, at the very least, a clean needle.  
(centre) Jeffery looks in the bathroom mirror after applying her makeup in the morning. She says she has always had a complex about being fat and ugly.  
(bottom left) After shooting speed each night, Jeffery feels energetic and goes on a cleaning spree.  
(bottom right) Jeffery and Pettigrew kiss each other goodbye after Pettigrew walks Jeffery to her panhandling spot and helps her set up her things.

Story and photos by Galit Rodan



Although most of Pat Jeffery's childhood memories were wiped out at the age of 18 by an operation to remove a brain tumour, some of the more painful ones linger cruelly, like dark clouds in a life filled with grey skies. "I was only two years old," she recalls, "and I used to get in the middle of my mom and dad. 'You leave my mummy alone! You leave my mummy alone!' And then he'd throw me against the wall. My head would smash against the wall."

Though she hated her abusive father and, later, her abusive stepfather, Pat loved her mother. She remembers her fondly, despite her shortcomings as a parent.

"I know my mother was a drunk," she confesses. "And I used to cook Kraft dinner when I was seven years old. That's all I had to eat. My mother never cooked because she was drunk all the time."

Pat has never known what it feels like not to be poor. After her brain operation, she was placed on a government allowance of \$731 per month. She remains on social assistance to this day, 35 years later, collecting \$791.80 per month after rent has been deducted. It is not enough to meet her needs.

Pat has been panhandled on Princess Street in Kingston, outside the Sleepless Goat Café, for over eight years. She pans so that she can afford groceries, cigarettes and speed, in order of importance, all of which she shares with partner, Don Pettigrew.

With a less than ideal start in life, it is perhaps not surprising that drugs have long been part of Pat's psychosocial landscape. By her own understanding, she has become addicted to drugs "to get away from the real world...You have to block the real world somehow. The only time I block it out is when I sleep and when I do drugs."

Ironically, although she panhandles to afford drugs, one of the things she seeks to forget is the treatment she receives from some passers-by. "To go through the feelings that she goes through in one day, I'm telling you, I wouldn't even be able to put up with it for an hour," says Don.

Pat staunchly believes that panhandling is a job and she resents any implication to the contrary. One of her most vivid memories involves a confrontation with a man who accused her of being lazy. That was three years ago and she still becomes visibly irate when recalling it.

On the other hand, she does derive some pleasure from meeting and conversing with people who take a kinder, gentler approach. While she is out there primarily for the money, she wishes people would engage with her even if they have no intention of dropping any change in her jar.

"Hey, if they don't give me any money, so what," she says. "Give me a smile. And it's worth a million dollars....Makes you feel like a person, a human being."



# Finding Your Bliss

By Sarah Rolles

Throughout the years, yoga has become an increasingly more popular practice throughout North America. For some, it is simply a technique used to keep fit and help clear the mind but for others, it has turned into a way of life.



"The ultimate yoga question is who am I and I am always on the quest to get to know myself. But searching is not being lost. It may not be knowing where you are, but at least you are here."  
– Glenn Mifsud



"In order to enlighten others, you first have to enlighten yourself and yoga helps you to find enlightenment."  
– Darin Madore



"I didn't choose the path of yoga the path of yoga chose me and it has become a path of growth and evolution for me in this life time."  
– Wendy Madore



"I chose to start yoga because I was intrigued by the balance of physical and spiritual. I love the idea of yoga bringing you into balance."  
– Valery Philip

– Glenn Mifsud has been practising yoga full-time since his forties when he decided that there had to be something more out there that could fulfill him. Mifsud moved to Northport in 1988 with the idea of originally opening a B&B and designed and built what is now known as Still Point Retreat from the ground up.

– Wendy Madore has been practising yoga with her husband Darin for more than 15 years. In 2003, they decided to pursue their bliss and pass on their knowledge to others by opening Shanti Retreat.



– Darin Madore has been practising and teaching yoga for the last 15 years alongside his partner and wife Wendy. They have travelled across the globe together and spent eight years in Japan learning the culture and teaching English before they came back to Canada and opened their first retreat in Prince Edward County seven years ago. Currently Darin and Wendy can be found in Wolfe Island starting the beginning process of their new location for Shanti Retreat.

– Valery Philip has been practising yoga throughout her life, associating it with her other passion as a natural health practitioner. In 1996, Philip became fully certified to teach yoga and recently moved to Prince Edward County to practise and teach yoga in Bloomfield.

"It's not about a physical practice. For me it is a way of life."  
– Linda Cooper

– Linda Cooper is a hatha yoga instructor and owner of Sahayoga retreat located in Prince Edward County just outside of Demorestville. Cooper has been practising yoga for 14 years, but has been running her retreat Sahayoga for seven. She began practising yoga because it helped bring her back to health after becoming very ill in her early 40s.



Top left: The front entrance to Alan Bridge's house, on Moira Street West, Belleville, Ont.  
Middle left: Bridge makes use of his shower by filling it with clothes and boxes which he otherwise has no space for in the rest of the house. Every time Bridge goes to take a shower, he spends 10-15 minutes taking everything out and placing it on his bed, which is adjacent to the shower.  
Bottom left: Bridge pulls himself up his stairs to search for something lost in the piles of objects that clutter his house.  
Top right: Bridge pauses to determine what the object is that he is holding while searching for something lost in the piles of objects that clutter his house. Bridge has been collecting and accumulating parts and items which he hoped to sell in yard sales and markets.  
Middle right: Bridge relaxes in his usual spot on the chair by his kitchen table. The kitchen is the only room in Bridge's house that has space for seating. The rest of the house requires moving things around and squeezing by walls of piled up boxes and objects to get by, while several rooms are entirely inaccessible, filled wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling with stuff.  
Bottom right: Bridge keeps this little mechanical calendar on a shelf by his bed. The calendar is engraved with the initials of his wife, Freda, and the date marks the day she passed away, on Aug. 4, 1989.



# THE STUFF OF ALAN BRIDGE

"I'm afraid if my wife could see the mess I've created here now, she'd roll over in her grave," Alan Bridge says, regarding the state of clutter in which he lives.

Bridge, 84, pokes his little head into the room that once used to belong to his wife, Freda, on the second floor of his house in Belleville.

With one hand after the other holding onto the railing, Bridge pulls himself up the stairs, his head looking down to his feet watching every step. Slowly, he makes it to the top.

Bridge spends at least 10 minutes moving boxes, parts, and an old air conditioner balanced on a broken chair, just to get at the door to the room, which he hasn't opened in years.

One foot in the door is as far as you can get inside the room. It is filled with other unused and covered lamps, boxes, a small white upturned table, some commercial food wrappings, and more vague objects taking up any hint of space.

Freda Fern Bridge passed away in 1989. Bridge has a little mechanical calendar with the date on it: Friday, 4, August. The letters F. F. B. are engraved on it.

"I keep that," he says. "That's... her shrine. I can't forget that day."

The little calendar sits on a shelf over Bridge's single bed, among miniature animals, a Canadian flag, some odds and ends, and several clocks of all shapes and sizes, always ticking in the background everywhere in the house.

"Since then, I've gathered up a whole bunch of stuff!" Bridge exclaims with a humorous tone.

Bridge's house is overwhelmingly cluttered with stuff. When he wants to get at one point of the room, he needs to move things out of the way. When he is done, he needs to put them back. His movement about the house involves a constant shuffling of objects.

The hallway down from the front entrance, looking down to the kitchen, has narrowed over the years with more and more stuff piled along its walls. You would find a couple of mirrors leaning on wooden sticks, vacuum cleaner tubes, picture frames, and more parts of furniture and household objects. A red T-shirt on a hanger hangs off the edge of a doorframe, which is the only visible hint of the existence of a whole other room hidden behind a wall of boxes.

"I started accumulating things because I thought I would have big yard sales and have lots of customers, and make lots of money," Bridge explains, with many breaks in his sentences. "But it didn't turn out that way."

"He's somewhat of a junk collector, for sure," says his eldest son, Alan Jr. "He sees value in that stuff, so he gets it over and sells it to somebody else, but he seems to collect more than he sells, so it accumulates."

"When we were kids living at home, he wasn't like that. It's just a progression thing that has come along and he started doing it more and more and more. He'd just hang on to it because he sees value in it, I guess," Alan Jr. says.

"He's from that era where people hang on to stuff like that and they reuse and recycle things like that all the time, so that's what he is and who he is and that's what he does. He was born in 1926, and he had three brothers and his sister and they went through hard times, I guess."

Bridge refuses to throw anything out. He will either try to sell an object or reuse it for his own purposes. Although with good intentions, most of the objects he had accumulated over the years just sit around and pile up.

The house, its contents, and appearance, are not simply a result of obsession, as the label of hoarding seems to suggest. It is the stuff of time, of layers and layers of not letting go.

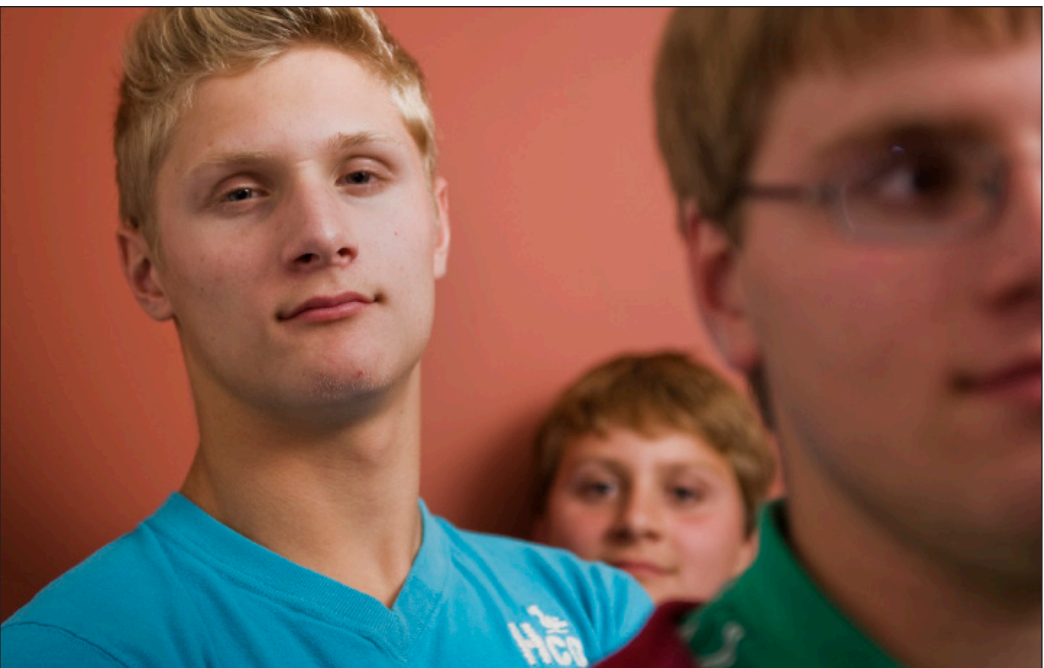
"You might say I've dug myself a hole, and... fell in," Bridge says with a half forced smile, and then adds in a serious tone, "I'm in a rut. But as long as no one objects, I'll ride along with it. I'm just an old man that lives in hope."



Photos and story by Hadas Parush



Evan Barnstorf, 10, doesn't mind being born in the middle between his older brother Kurt, 12 (left), and younger sister Tegan, 9, but if he had it his way, he would be the oldest. "Then I would have more power like staying up later and watching TV." Evan is in Grade 5 and, according to his mother, is the only one who gets along with both his siblings.



Nate Van Noy, 15, is the middle of three boys with his older brother Mitchell, 17 (front right), and his younger brother Daniel, 13. "I wish I was the oldest because I don't think Mitchell fully does his best," says Nate, who is set to turn 16 in October and ready to get behind the wheel.

# Meet Me in the Middle

By Shannon Storey



Ellie Dales, 8, says she feels "squished" between her older sister Charlotte, 9 (right), and younger sister Lily, 6. As the middle child, she likes that she gets her own classroom at school but doesn't like having to share a room at home.

It's a hard knock life in the eyes of most middle children. They don't get the honour of being the first-born and aren't coddled like the last-born. Therefore, they often feel overlooked, ignored, and overshadowed. Studies on birth order and personality have shown that typically the middle-born sibling portrays certain characteristics and thought patterns that have come to be labelled as 'middle child syndrome.'

Often feeling cast out of the spotlight by their older and younger siblings, the middle child can struggle with a sense of belonging. They have been shown to be more peer-oriented, socializing more outside the family, and the most likely to live farther away from home. They are also typically the most agreeable, the peacemakers of the family who can get along with everyone. But the trials and tribulations of being

the unnoticed seems to propel these forlorn souls to becoming truly unique. Not ones to go with the status quo, they are often innovators and thinkers. So it's not a lost cause being stuck in the middle. Just ask Donald Trump, Barbara Walters, or Bill Gates. And what would America be like if George Washington or John F. Kennedy weren't shoved out of the family limelight by their siblings? So maybe the middle isn't so bad after all.



"I was always wrong because my siblings were always right. I never did anything right," says Ben Allen, 21, the middle child between his older brother James, 23 (right), and younger sister Madelyn, 17. Ben has recently moved to Toronto from his family's house in Belleville and has aspirations of becoming a police officer.



Jacob Martin, 8, doesn't mind being the middle child because "he gets a lot of stuff" from his big brother Jared, 12. He would rather be the youngest like his little sister Gillian, 5, because she gets days off school as she is in senior kindergarten. Jacob is currently in Grade 4 and is looking forward to his next birthday.



A military vehicle is reflected on the side of a destroyed house as it passes on Dec. 29, 2010 in Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea.

# S. Korea's Ghost Town

Story and photos by Seung-Chul Baik

A month after the North Korea's artillery attack on the border island, Yeonpyeong, there still is tension.

Except for main areas of the town, most of the areas on the island are now a military restricted zone where military personnel and islanders who have their homes inside the area can only enter.

With all the distress and fears of being attacked again, the residents nerves are running extremely high.

It's hard to find signs of life in the tourism driven island,

Yeonpyeong.

It's no wonder why people are now calling it a ghost town.

Wherever you go, abandoned houses or dogs welcome journalists and workers from the mainland.

As of early January, only about 200 of 1,700 registered residents have returned back to their home on the island.

However, a lot of them are planning to leave again as infrastructure services are not all fixed yet.

Other evacuated residents are still staying at the temporary

houses that the government provided, or staying with relatives on the mainland.

Even for the residents who returned, they can't get back to their jobs because they feel hopeless to work or open their shop in the situation where no one's around.

The government still doesn't have any compensation or restoration plans for islanders. One resident says, "All my life is here. They — the government — are useless right now, and I don't think I can live here anymore like this."



A burnt bicycle is left inside a destroyed house that was attacked by North Korea's artillery fires last November.



A resident walks past destroyed houses on Dec. 30.



A family wedding picture is seen inside a destroyed house on Dec. 29. According to the Yeonpyeong township office, about 200 of 1,700 registered residents returned to their homes.



A telephone service worker works on a utility pole after it was damaged by North Korea's artillery attack in November.

Cars & Scars



Dexter's Story



“You’re my inspiration buddy. You’ve been through so much and you still smile and you fight your way through it.” - Lisa Spencer



Dexter Spencer is a two-year-old boy born with cerebral palsy and recently diagnosed with liver cancer. Dexter is Dan and Lisa's only child, but he requires the amount of care and finances of several children.

Because Dexter is so young, he doesn't understand his situation at all. He doesn't know he's sick. Even though his parents believe Dexter's childlike ignorance has helped him fight the disease, they also consider how strange life must seem through his eyes.

“From his knowledge, you're born and you're constantly poked and prodded and people test you, and you've got a bunch of strangers who stare over your bedside,” says Lisa.

“I can't imagine what it's like for him. When they do chemo treatment, they have to put on these scary suits that make them look like astronauts or scientists.”

When Dexter is not at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto getting treatment, his parents say he still experiences hospital nightmares and he'll wake up at night screaming 'No needles!'

Dan and Lisa gravely admit how heart-broken they feel after operations when Dexter screams, hits and doesn't want to have anything to do with them. Dexter becomes attached to blankets and toys that make him comfortable and he needs extra love, affection and cuddling-time.

At the hospital, Dexter's parents try to make him as comfortable as possible. They bring his favourite movies and toy cars. Along with the movie Cars, Dexter has baskets full of dinky cars which he usually keeps close and on hand at all times. Sick Kids does its best to make the hospital child-friendly and the staff use special terminology, such as 'arm hugs' for blood pressure.

For Dexter, the sound of 'beeping' has dual meanings. In his vocabulary, the sound is contextual and is either the noise his cars mimic when he's playing or it's referring to his IV stand, which Dexter has nicknamed 'Beep Beep'.

Dexter's IV stand has become his friend and Dan and Lisa try their hardest to make Dexter feel as comfortable as possible as he battles cancer.

Counterclockwise from top:

Dexter looks up at his dad, Dan, during bathtime.

Lisa, towel in hand, looks up lovingly at Dexter as Dan brings him out of the bathroom. Because Dexter has several appointments throughout the week and requires so much medical attention, Dan has become a stay-at-home dad. Dan admits how frustrating it is not being able to work. “It just kind of makes you feel like a failure when you can't support your family.”

Dexter waits for checkups and chemotherapy at Sick Kids.

Dexter playfully drives a toy car up their dog Lucy's back, much to her dismay.

Dexter and mom, Lisa play cars as Dexter waits for his chemo treatments.

Photos and Story by Leah Myers

