

# The Pioneer

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After years of saluting fallen soldiers at CFB Trenton, those who gathered this week to repatriate Corporal Yannick Sherrer, say they will continue the vigil as long as Canadians are serving in conflicts

## 'I hope it ends'



A crowd awaits the start of the repatriation ceremony for Corporal Yannick Sherrer at CFB Trenton on Wednesday.

Photo by James Bowler

By James Bowler

Peter Tobin, 73, thought hard as he worked to remove his flag from the barbed wire fence after the repatriation ceremony had come to a close.

"I don't think this will ever come to an end until they're defeated over there," said Tobin.

Tobin was one of many standing outside the fence at CFB Trenton, Wednesday, as hundreds gathered to pay their respects to the first fallen Canadian soldier of 2011.

Corporal Yannick Scherrer, 24, was the 155<sup>th</sup> Canadian Soldier to fall in Afghanistan since 2006. He died on Sunday after an Improvised Explosive Device attack in the town of Nakhonay, near Kandahar city.

It was Scherrer's first tour in Afghanistan.

Tobin grew up in a military family and he served in the military, but his unit was never called to tour. He said that the feeling between most soldiers is that the Afghan war will never end.

"I hope it ends, I wish this one didn't have to be," said Tobin, "or all the ones before it."

Despite the fact that Canadian soldiers will be pulling out of the Afghanistan war this summer (while leaving a few

behind to train police), many feel that disputes in Libya and the political uprising in the Middle East will likely cause the repatriation ceremonies to continue.

Brianna Bixby, 22, is the spouse of a soldier living in Trenton. The couple has two little girls. Bixby's husband has not been called on tour for Afghanistan or Libya yet, but Bixby said the idea of him leaving makes her nervous.

Bixby said that the Afghanistan war was never Canada's fight and that the country should have never gotten involved. She said that despite the fact that Canada is pulling out of the Afghanistan war there would still be more deaths.

"Because of our track record already," said Bixby, "we keep dying."

Wendy Morgan-McBride, 44, sat in her van watching the ceremony. Recent surgery making it difficult for her to stand for a long period of time.

Despite her pain she still makes time to pay her respects. She said she makes it to as many as she can. She suffers from three different types of cancer.

"Unfortunately I don't know if pulling our troops out and leaving a few there is going to be the end of all of this," said Morgan-McBride.

Many other people milled around,

either standing quietly near the fence, or chatting with some that they may not see outside of these repatriation ceremonies.

Howard Hazard, 86, said that while these ceremonies are very upsetting, sometimes these situations are unavoidable. Hazard served in World War II.

"Sometimes these situations call for us to stand behind our troops and support them in every way we can," said Hazard.

He feels Canada may never fully pull out of the Afghanistan war.

As the ceremony began, the faint sound of a trumpet playing 'Amazing Grace' could be heard over the sound of cars passing by.

The crowd was mostly silent, with a few onlookers quietly talking.

When the ceremony concluded and the hearse slowly made its way to the road, fire trucks blocked traffic on both sides as onlookers from the fence lined up on the road, creating a single lane of travel.

As the hearse rolled by, bagpipes played and many saluted Corporal Scherrer.

"It's part of my duty to support the people that are there now," said Tobin, "What they're doing now, they're protecting us."

## Province spending more on colleges

By Nicole Kleinsteuber

Future college and university students may have a greater chance at attaining post secondary education thanks to new funding from the provincial government.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced Tuesday \$64 million is to be invested this year to provide 60,000 new spaces in colleges and universities.

The \$309 million will be invested by 2015-16. The funding was included in the 2011 provincial budget outlined by Duncan.

Loyalist College President Maureen Piercy said she's pleased with the announcement and the government's ongoing commitment to continuing education.

"This is very exciting," said Piercy. "Growth will be funded, students will have access and we'll be able to offer new programs for the new work force."

Piercy said the new spaces will provide opportunities for people with disabilities and aboriginal backgrounds to attend college. First-generation students and second-career students will also benefit from the funding.

"Loyalist has a tradition of serving under-represented groups in our community. The college has more than double the activity level that we should have based on our college size because we've been very successful with those things," said Piercy.

She said it's undetermined how the funding will be spread out between colleges and universities.

"However it's distributed, Loyalist has been growing and offering new programs and new opportunities in all areas, including literacy and basic skills," said Piercy.

The province has committed \$44 million over three years to literacy and basic skills programs.

"This funding is very encouraging and very positive for the whole community and our economy," said Piercy.

Duncan announced that \$22.5 million is set to be paid out for this year's summer jobs strategy, aimed at helping about 100,000 students secure employment.

Nora Loreto of the Canadian Federation of Students said she is hoping to see more funding for students in the budget.

"What we need is more relief in grant or lower tuition fees," said Loreto.

## Free enterprise students celebrate

By Evan Cooke

If you talked to people in the halls of Loyalist College, not everyone would know about their school's SIFE team.

SIFE, which stands for Students in Free Enterprise, is a non-profit organization that builds teams of volunteers to develop projects that make a difference to the people in their community. It has chapters in many of the post-secondary schools around the country.

This year, in only the second year of the Loyalist team's existence, they were declared champions at the TD SIFE Entrepreneurship Challenge Regional Championships in Toronto.

The competition was split up, with the Go Green, TD Entrepreneurship, and the Financial Literacy as the three categories. The TD Entrepreneurship category was split into three pools, with Loyalist finishing at the top of their group.

Loyalist's win came on the strength of the four main community projects that they've founded this year.

The SIFE 4 Life project works



Members of Loyalist College's SIFE team celebrate their win at the regional championships.

Submitted photo

with middle-school students at Quinte Mohawk Primary School, helping to empower them and involve them in school life. Currently, they're training them to be members of the stage crew, and getting them involved in activities outside of regular homework.

Let's Can Hunger is their fundraising effort with Gleaner's Food Bank to help soften the blow for families who can't al-

ways afford to put food on the table, as well as drawing attention to the issues surrounding poverty.

Helping Entrepreneurs Reach Complete Success, or HERCS, is an initiative that's been started with current and former military personnel at CFB Trenton. The participants went through seven workshops that taught them how to build their own businesses to bring in more in-

come to support their families.

And the First Glance project has worked with businesses in downtown Napanee to improve their own and attract new businesses. Warkworth Institute and local high school students are also involved.

It was these types of projects that led to Loyalist's success, and just as impressive as the win was the fact that Loyalist was the only college in their pool,

beating universities like Wilfred Laurier, McGill, Carleton, and Windsor.

But as Loyalist's SIFE team president Danielle McIsaac said, after meeting all the other teams, the championships were about more than just the final result.

"Every single person in that room is a cheerleader for everybody else who's doing what they're doing. It's not about competing against one another, it's about collaboratively improving Canada."

McIsaac, who took over the president's role in February, is a single mom in the second career program.

She's no stranger to hard work, and says that she can rely on her team not only to work hard on the various projects, but to support each other's workload as well.

"A big thing is being able to rely on others for help. We all have the same conflicting priorities, but when there's a task that needs to be done, you know you've got a whole team."



# What Loyalist students are saying about the federal election:



Margaret Kaiser, 51, is an Environmental Technology student at Loyalist College. “I don’t think there’s a lot of confidence in what the Conservative government is doing right now. I’m not too sure about the alternatives, though.”



Tara Kirkey, 22, is a Paralegal student at Loyalist College. “I think it’s good. It’ll be nice to have new representative for Canada.”



Stacey Trubridge, 25, is a Social Service Worker student at Loyalist College. “I don’t support Stephen Harper,” she said. “I hope it plays out by him not being in power.”



Raphael Borja, 25, is a Photojournalism student at Loyalist College. “It’s time for a change over. Whether it’s Ignatieff or anyone else. I don’t know if they’d be better, but I think any change could be welcomed.”



Kryston Burton, 21, is a Police Foundations student at Loyalist College. “Not to have another vote for an election because I like Stephen Harper on the whole. I think he’s doing a good job.”

## College salutes athletic achievements

By Amy Clark

Loyalist College will always be a special place to Greg Gavin. “It’s a place that is special to my heart, and it’s played a big part in my life,” said Gavin. He worked at the college as athletic director for 34 years with the athletics department before retiring two years ago. Even though he retired, he hasn’t really left the college. He now manages the Sports Dome. Working at the dome has been a step back for Gavin, and he feels it is a good first step to retiring. Gavin graduated from the University of Windsor. Since working at Loyalist he has made many memories, which he will always hold close. Gavin being surrounded by good people makes you better at what you do, he said. Gavin is one of three people who were inducted into Loyalist College’s Sports Hall of Fame Wednesday night. The other two were Joey Martins and Jutta Merilainen. All three were inducted on their overall achievements while at Loyalist College. Joey Martins graduated from Loyalist with his recreation diploma. Martins made a special trip back to get inducted into the sports Hall of Fame. In his two years at the college he played on both the soccer and volleyball teams. Martins said he liked having Chris Carson as a coach. He had a great team to play on and great support from the college community. “Chris being residence manager was really helpful, he put one of my good buddies and I together in the same residence apartment so we were roommates,” said Martins. “It was a great experience coming right out of high school, not really



Loyalist College welcomes the newest members to its Sport Hall of Fame. From left, Greg Gavin, inductee, Maureen Piercy, college president, Joey Martins, inductee, Jim Buck, athletic director, and Jutta Merilainen, inductee. Photo by Amy Clark

knowing what to expect, living away from home, not really knowing anybody,” said Martins. Martins made a lot of close friends and has great memories during his time at the college. “When you’re in a school with a small-college feel, it’s more of a family oriented feel. You know everybody, you say hi to people walking down the hallways, you see them almost every day and it’s a really different experience, especially when you go to a different school, or a bigger school you don’t really have that feel,” said

Martins. The final inductee into the hall of fame was Jutta Merilainen. While attending the college in the nursing program, she was on the cross-country team. As the oldest player on the team, she took the lead, even though it was always a team effort. The greatest experience for Merilainen while at Loyalist was being a part of the team. “It was being able to push myself as hard as I could to see where I reach,” said Merilainen.

All three were surprised at being honoured. “I guess it’s a big accomplishment for me,” said Martins. “It’s quite an honour to be recognized amongst many, many people. There are a lot of great athletes and builders within the Hall of Fame. “Playing beside Brad who is in the Hall of Fame, and being coached by Chris Carson is a great honour.” College President Maureen Piercy, and Athletic Director Jim Buck presented each of the inductees with a plaque.

## Green tour gets ready to roll

By Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

The Green Homes Bus Tour has come a long way since it started three years ago. The tour is part of the annual Living Green symposium hosted by Loyalist College, in partnership with County Sustainability, an organization of environmentally concerned citizens from the Prince Edward County area. This year the tour will include two buses. One will head south into the county while the other tour heads north of Belleville. Don Ross has been the tour’s organizer since its inception three years ago. The first year a handful of homeowners interested in green energy toured each other’s homes. But once word about the tour got out things grew rapidly. The following year the tour was opened to the public, and County Sustainability set up a tour of eight homes in Prince Edward County. “We put out the word for people and we told them where to go and they could pick and choose the homes they wanted to go to,” said Ross. He said the tour was a massive success, with 200 to 300 people attending. “It was kind of overwhelming. By the end of the day the home owners had lost their voices just from talking to everyone,” he said. They then joined with the Living Green symposium and set up the bus tour. The first tour was free. “[People] were actually asking ‘Where do we pay?’ We said ‘No, there’s no charge. Come and learn,’” said Ross.

## Pair of student athletes share year of joy and sorrow

By Christine Hosler

Loyalist College’s athletic banquet was a night of standing ovations, congratulations and a few tears. There were 32 awards presented and some athletes won more than one. But the emotional story of the night was the Larry Cook award. Named after current professor and rugby coach Larry Cook, it’s given to athletes who show the values of fair play, integrity, and commitment, and are leaders both on the team and in the community. Vanessa Brault, from the women’s soccer team, and Kaitlyn McConnell, from the women’s rugby team, shared the award. McConnell’s 18-year-old brother died in a car accident in October, and through it all Brault was there for her. “It was something that was really

“I made sure to be there for her all the way through.”

Vanessa Brault

hard for her to go through because they were so close,” said Brault. “As a friend it brought us closer together, and I made sure to be there for her all the way through.” McConnell took a month off, but came back determined to succeed. “I went in with a goal in mind, and I wanted to make it through, I wanted to finish,” said McConnell. “I knew my brother would want me to as well.” They met in the police foundations program at Loyalist two years ago,

and while they don’t play in the same sport, they became best friends. “I’ve never seen one without the other, except maybe on the field,” said Jim Buck, athletic director at Loyalist College and emcee of the banquet. The two received the award because of their dedication to each other and to their team during a difficult year. Buck described the girls as hard workers, who participate in a variety of community and school functions together. There were three awards presented to each team, with the exception of cross-country, which had two. Other highlights of the night were the male and female athlete of the year, which went to Sean McMurtry from the men’s rugby team, and Britany Gray from the women’s volleyball team.

## Exhibition showcases work of art and design program

By Amy Clark

Art and Design Foundation students of Loyalist College will be hosting their second annual juried student exhibition. Students in the program are organizing and will be running the exhibition. The exhibition does not influence the students’ grades, but does look good on a resume for future job opportunities, said Robert Kranendonk, coordinator for Art and Design Foundation. Various types of artwork will be showcased including graphic design, typography, paintings and sculptures. The students have until April 7 at noon to submit work for the exhibition, which opens on April 14 at 6 p.m. in the upper level of the student hub. “No matter what area you are interested in, people are intrigued by what

is visually stimulating,” said Kranendonk. “And if it is beyond visually stimulating, if it’s got something in there that makes them think and has an element of communication in it, they’re going to be intrigued to look at it and try to understand what they are looking at.” A juried exhibition is when a number of professionals from different areas get together and decide on a process to judge the students work. Not every student will make it into the exhibition with his or her own piece. The show is open to everyone and has no specific audience. “It’s focused on both the current students that are here so they can show what they have done its also for the community plus it’s for advisory committee will be attending, their family, friends and future students,” said Kranendonk.

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