

The greening of Loyalist

Hydration stations, living walls and a campus cleanup all part of the college's efforts to address its sustainable environment



Former Loyalist College student Ulana Orrick kneels in the Loyalist College parking lot next to her 2-year-old daughter Willow, picking up garbage. The cleanup initiative is part of the Campus Cleanup campaign. Photo by Ashleigh Gehl

Campus cleanup turns into community affair

By Ashleigh Gehl

Ulana Orrick's three little girls can't stop themselves from being green.

That's why Piper, 4, Madison, 4, and Willow, 2, joined more than 40 Loyalist College students and staff by putting gloves to garbage Friday morning in an attempt to keep the campus clean.

The cleanup event is a tag team effort by the college's sustainability committee and the respectful college community committee.

The girls' attention to litter caught their mother's attention when they passed a construction site on the corner of Bridge and Coleman St. last Saturday on their way to the Farmer's Market.

"They're always noticing the garbage," said Orrick. "And last weekend they asked me if they could pick it up."

The Orricks weren't prepared to pick up trash, but the girls wouldn't let the idea go.

"They were like, Mom, it's re-

ally dirty. We've got to clean it up."

The next day the Orricks went back to the construction site and filled three bags of garbage and two bags of recycling. Since the garbage bags need tags, the girls pooled their paper route money together to cover the costs.

The girls heard about the Campus CleanUp through their grandmother and they wanted to lend a helping hand.

Dave Templar, residence coordinator and event organizer, said once the snow starts to melt garbage becomes visible. "You realize the amount of garbage that's out, strewn about. It's one of those things," said Templar. "It's not necessarily any one person's responsibility. I think it's all of our responsibility."

Cleaning up campus is the event's main focus, but Templar hopes the message has a larger impact.

"Maybe we won't walk by that one little thing on the ground and we'll pick it up instead. And help maintain a clean campus,"

said Templar.

This is the first time these two committees have launched this campaign, but it isn't implying Loyalist has a dirty campus.

"I'm not saying that our campus is awful by any stretch, but there's certainly some garbage out there that does need to be picked up by somebody," said Templar. Sustainability Committee member, Eric Bauer, wants to inspire the 3,500 to 4,000 people at the college to be more environmentally responsible.

For Bauer, the college is a home.

"I spend a good portion of time here. Probably more here than I do at my house. So I take pride in wanting to make sure it's a nice campus. The principle goal is that we pick up the crap moving around out there."

Roughly 23 bags of garbage was collected.

Even though it's a one-time event, the committees are hoping more events with the environment at the forefront, come out of it.

Long-gun registry election an issue locally

By Andrew Mendler

Issues surrounding the long-gun registry could have an impact on the way people vote in the upcoming election, says Darryl Kramp, Conservative candidate for Prince Edward-Hastings riding.

"It might not be the dominant factor but it will be one of the issues of many that will influence how people cast a ballot and pass judgment on whether or not their representative is true to their word," said Kramp the incumbent member of Parliament.

Local Liberal candidate Peter Tinsley knows the registry is an issue in rural ridings but feels there are a lot of other issues people have to consider.

"Compared to some of the other dramatically significant issues that we've got on the table I don't think it will rate that highly with many people, however it will with some," said Tinsley. "I am aware that there are some people who feel that they have been greatly inconvenienced with the current nature of the administration of the long gun registry."

The long-gun registry was brought back to the forefront when Prime Minister Stephen Harper was campaigning in southeastern Ontario on Monday. Harper said, if elected he would scrap it.

Tinsley and the Liberals are against the Conservative plan to scrap the long gun registry and feels that it just needs to be modified. The Liberals agree with the recent advice from the Association of the Chiefs of Police and Police Service boards across Canada to maintain the long-gun registry to ensure the safety of police officers and the communities they work in.

"The Liberal government will modify the long-gun registry to make it more efficient and convenient for gun owners," said Tinsley. "In that respect there will be a removal of all costs of licenses and renewals and a more efficient process put into place in terms of registering and updating on registering."

Tinsley knows that the registry has been somewhat of a controversial issue in the area but feels the Liberals have the right approach.

"I think that it is a reasonable compromise between the positions of strongly for the registry and those who dislike it," said Tinsley.

On the other hand Kramp is fully supportive of Harper's promise to abolish the long-gun registry. He feels the registry hasn't done what it was made to do.

"It doesn't solve the problem and in many, many cases it's a false sense of security that doesn't deal with the real problem and the real issue of people who shouldn't be having guns," said Kramp.

He said he's strongly in favour of gun control, the registration and restriction of prohibited weapons but not the long-gun portion of the registry.

"We need to be expanding our efforts so we can keep firearms out of the hands of undesirable people," said Kramp. "I want to work towards what is a solution and I think most of the people in this riding I represent share that opinion."

Over the past few years Harper has continued to extend an amnesty for long-gun owners. Long-gun owners do not face charges for failing to register their weapons.

The Liberals originally created the long-gun registry as part of a package on gun control in 1989 in the aftermath of the Montreal Massacre.

Lounge features wall of plants

By Alexa Hansen-Forson

Loyalist College is celebrating the grand opening of its new Link Lounge, which features a living wall.

The lounge connects the school's main building to the new Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre. The lounge was an initiative done by student government.

The lounge will be complete with seating for over 100 people, laptop stations and a hydration station.

The idea for the lounge came from a previous student poll. 2011-2012 school year vice president April Chamberlain said that students asked for more space to relax.

"In the survey results for 2008-2009, there was a question. What would you like to see new at Loyalist College? People had said that they wanted more quiet space."

The Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre is a silver level in Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design. The LEED certification is an environmental qualification that recognizes green buildings. Chamberlain said as part of the certification, a living wall is incorporated in the lounge.

"It's basically a giant wall, floor to ceiling, really long, with plants put in. Constantly watered."

The 3 by 8 metre wall, consists of 344 plants. Chamberlain said the wall is environmentally friendly and nice to look at.

"The wall is more for aesthetics. We have the hydration stations, they're better than plastic water bottles. The living wall is aesthetically pleasing, and it's good for the environment."

The grand opening of the lounge is April 15.

Hydration stations replace thousands of water bottles

By Evan Cooke

Loyalist College is cutting down on its consumption of plastic water bottles, and it's only a sign of things to come.

Five new hydration stations that were installed over the course of last summer have cut down plastic water bottle sales by 7 per cent, or close to 6,000 bottles so far this year.

Scott Allison, director of Food Services for Chartwells, said that the college gave them notice about the stations, and that they didn't have any concerns about lost business.

"We've always had water fountains, so the change to water stations didn't really affect us that way," said Allison.

Allison, who's also on the college's sustainability committee, said Chartwells has already put in some environmental initiatives that some customers may not be aware of. They include the elimination of styrofoam, biodegradable food containers, and the recycling of deep fryer oil.

But their biggest step – a potential ban on plastic water bottles – is actually being considered by the college. Allison said

that while it would be a big step in sustainability, there are still a lot of issues to work out.

"It's a very time consuming thing to figure out where you draw the line. Bottled water's gone but vitamin water is okay, or vitamin water's gone but pop is okay, so the college has leaned towards recycling."

Including the installation, the student government spent about \$3,500 on each station.

Maintenance Manager Grant Brummell said between September and the end of January, the five machines had saved just over 67,000 plastic bottles.

Soaring gas prices hit students

By Laine Sedore

With gas prices so high, people around Loyalist College are worried about money.

"My parents drive a lot and they commute to work so I am a little concerned about the rising gas prices and affecting how much they can spend on other things such as groceries, but yeah it's going to put a little bit more of pinch on my parents," said Kacey Chapman, a student at Loyalist.

Gas prices in the Quinte region hovered around \$1.30 a litre this week and things don't look to be changing soon. With the summer traveling season coming, gas prices are likely to rise even more.

"That's the time where demand for fuel is at its peak, and you could probably bet that gas prices will continue to rise over the summer. Which will wreak havoc on everything from day to day consumption patterns and ability to have extra money for tourism and stuff like that," said Scott Maxwell, spokesperson for Liberal MP Dan McTeague, founder of the website Tomorrow's Gas Price Today.

Others around Loyalist say that driving is a necessity and aren't too concerned with the price of gas.

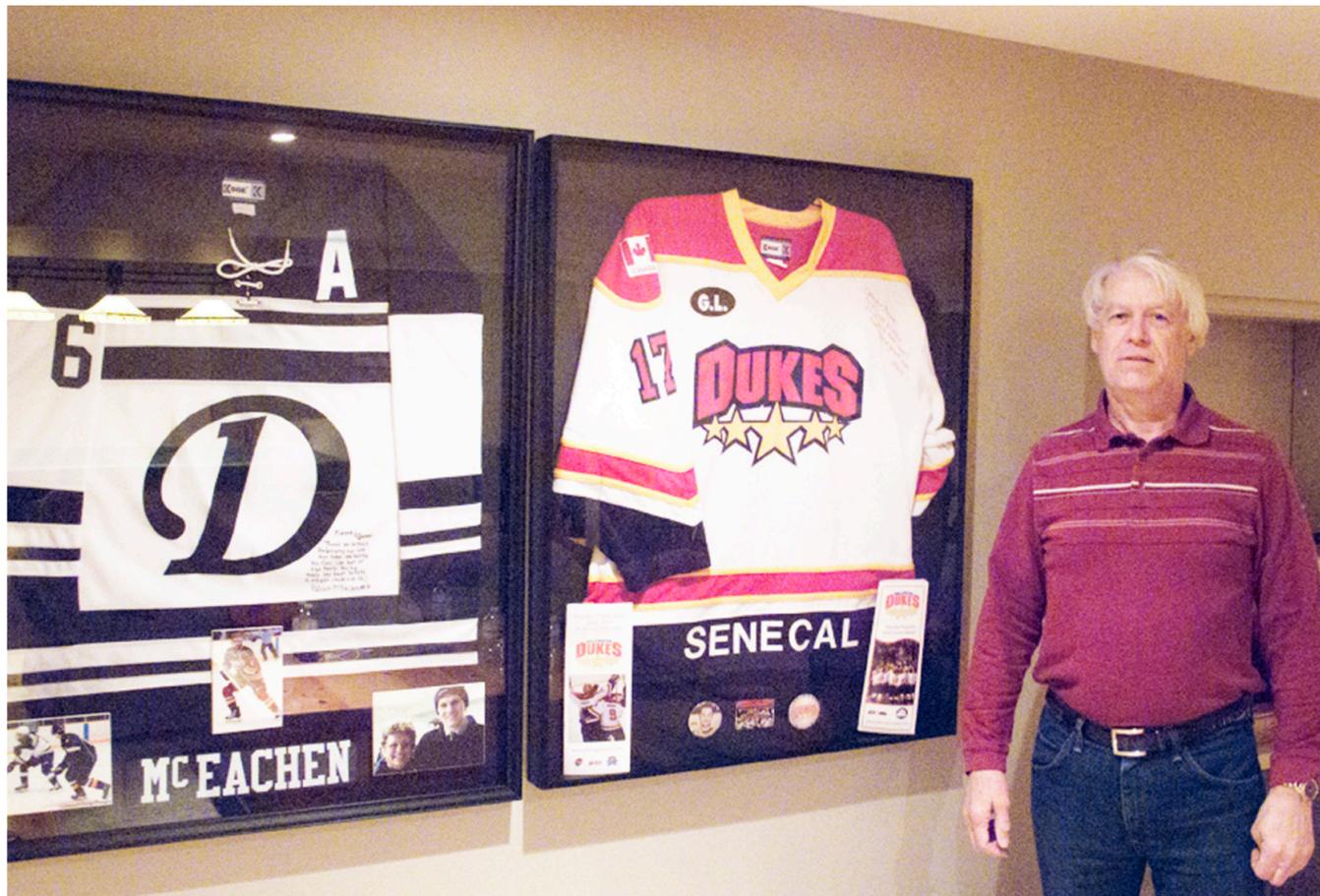
"It's not going to affect my driving unfortunately because I still have to get places, but my goodness what is it \$1.29 a litre right now that's ridiculous," said Peter Sinclair a student at Loyalist.

If prices stay the way they are or even start to rise, people may be forced to find another way of transportation.

"It certainly does force people to make other decisions in terms of how they get to and from certain places work and other things and at times people say that it has helped foster greener ways of traveling and may force governments to put more money in public transit. Really the reality of the problem is that it shouldn't be .25 cents higher then it was last year which is what we're seeing on average in Eastern Ontario," Maxwell said.

Maxwell said no one really knows if gas will go up or down. Higher gas prices will lead to higher retail prices he said.

"If we have some sort of instability in the world you'll see automatically, speculators drive up the price for the next month or the month after that in terms of the contract for refined fuel."



Pierre Lebrun stands beside his two Wellington Dukes jerseys that were given to him for billeting players. Photo By Laine Sedore

Wellington loves their Dukes

By Laine Sedore

Wellington Dukes booster

Bonnie Thompson has been following the team since the day she was able to walk to the arena.

Thompson now has her own children but she's still a fan of the Dukes.

"Years ago when I was a teenager we traveled on the bus with the players," said Thompson. "At the time we didn't take a fan bus. There are a few gaps of years in between when I had children but I have always been a Dukes' fan

The Dukes are the perfect example of a small-town hockey with a big-time fan base.

The Dukes have made the playoffs in the Ontario Junior Hockey League for 22 straight seasons. They have played in 41 playoff series in the past 11 years. They also currently hold the record for all Junior A teams in Ontario for the most consecutive 30-win seasons at 12.

In 2003 the Dukes were

semi-finalists in the RBC Cup, the national championship.

Although the Dukes have had their fair share of success over the years, one fan says this year wasn't even supposed to be their year.

This year they are marching toward another national championship berth. They are one win away from capturing the OJHL championship series and moving on to compete for the Buckland Cup and the right to advance to the Dudley Hewitt Cup.

If the Dukes go on to win the Dudley Hewitt, you can be sure to see a large group of screaming fans from Wellington in Camrose, Alberta, for the RBC Cup.

"It was supposed to be a rebuilding year, and of course every year is always a rebuilding year but they have just done so well," said Pierre Lebrun who billets players in his home.

Lebrun, a chiropractor, has been a Dukes fan since he moved from Toronto 10 years ago.

"I had a practice in Toronto,

and one of my patients was a member of the Waxford Raiders and the parents and he had come and said they had to take off to Wellington for a game. I said 'where's Wellington and what is it' they said 'it's a Junior A team and the fans there are just crazy you have to come and see a game in Wellington because the fans dominate the whole thing,'" said Lebrun.

One memory sticks well with Thompson.

"When we realized for the first time in 2003 that the boys were going to get a chance to go to the Dudley for the first time - that game was an all time high," Thompson said.

Todd Lavender, one of hundreds of Dukes fans and a sponsor, said the crowd plays a large part in the Dukes success.

"Without the crowd and the support from the businesses here in Prince Edward County there wouldn't be a team that could function in a market the size of Wellington," said Lavender. "So the community is certainly a big part of that and the fan base, I'm sure if you ask

any player in the league they'd prefer to play in front of 500 to 700 people a night instead of 10 to 25 people you get in the some of the bigger cities."

The old Duke Dome, which was home to the Dukes for many years, gave way to the new ESSROC Centre this year. But Thompson will never forget where she watched so many Dukes games.

"The atmosphere at the old Duke Dome, you could look and see who was missing, now in our new arena it's bigger you don't see everyone. At the old arena you knew who was missing and it's just different, but we do love our new arena," said Thompson.

"I remember back when we went to Charlottetown for the RBC, which we drove down 17 hours straight, so I think the RBC is within reach but we haven't got that far yet.

"We take one step at a time, but we will definitely be going to the Dudley in Huntsville."

Chiefs appeal for native foster care system

By Amanda Monahan

A local First Nations chief is working towards creating a foster care destination for native children.

Chief R. Donald Maracle of the Mohawks in the Bay of Quinte and Chief R. James Marsden of the Alderville First Nations were vocal guests at a press conference on Tuesday.

Their concerns were expressed during the announcement of the amalgamation of the Hastings Children's Aid Society, and the Children's Aid Societies of Northumberland and Prince Edward County.

Chief Marsden said he hopes the amalgamation will benefit First Nations children but their big concern would be the customary care, which is a system that integrates the traditions and customs of First Nations children.

He said there are guidelines parents must follow which is why they aren't stepping to the plate for foster care.

He added there's got to be a different process to finding families of First Nations foster children because they want their culture.

Chief Marsden has a goal of having a destination for First Nations children within the

next five years, but it's not going to be through the CAS.

"It's going to be on the same principle but we want to do all our own programming. There's so much controversy especially with CAS or something, getting the native child and having them never seen again," he said in an interview.

"Our vision is to have our own destination of our own to look after our kids, that's what it's all about," he said.

Maracle said through his experiences, chiefs tend to be very concerned about the rising numbers of First Nations children in foster homes.

"Poverty has a lot to do with children being taken into care. A lot of families can't find affordable housing, the rising energy cost for hydro and fuel are forcing a lot of people to not being able to pay those kinds of bills and buy new clothes for their children and have proper nutrition," he said during the press conference.

Maracle said there are way too many people on the poor end of the spectrum depending on local food banks to survive. He thinks one of the main issues the CAS should do is put pressure on the government to address poverty that not only affects the adults.

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Chief James Marsden



"Children need to have a steady home environment something that is dependable. They don't need the stresses of being without hydro or without food to be able to interact with other children in a healthy way," he said.

Too often the First Nations people are severely marginalized and unemployed, he said, citing education at all levels as one method to correct the social gap between First Nations people and other Canadians.

Maracle said education could help them escape the trap of poverty and have the means to look after their own families.

"I think the goal of every society should be that we don't have a lot of children in care, that our society is functioning properly so that we don't have these kinds of issues of family neglect and abuse," he said.

Maracle said the amalgamation of the three local societies is a way for them to create efficiency.

"As long as the services are provided and are culturally appropriate in the needs and goals and aspirations of First Nations people then we support it," he said during an interview.

The merger was a move to improve accessibility, a change

that Marilyn Curson, board chairwoman of Northumberland CAS, hopes is the only one the public will see.

"The availability of site is going to remain as they are, so there will be no change that way.

"But the hope and the promise is that by joining together we'll be able to improve our services where the need arises and take advantage of what's out there for the enhancement of the services for the children," she said.

There also won't be many changes with staff according to Curson.

She said there will be some minor reductions in terms of senior leadership as one organization is not going to necessarily require as many senior managers and directors.

They are not anticipating any reductions to the front line staff.

All three agencies will each receive a one-time grant to retire all prior debts in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 from the ministry, giving them a clean slate for when it is all finalized.

They expect to hear the final decision of approval within 60 days. Their goal is to have the new agency constituted and operating by April 1, 2012.

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