

## 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.