

## Canadian Cancer Society petitions council



John Boldrick  
Jeffrey Brace, (left) a volunteer, and Heather Gray, manager of the Hastings Prince Edward County and Brighton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, petitioned Belleville councillors to restrict tanning bed usage for those under 18 years of age. Council, however, decided not to act on their request.

By John Boldrick

The Canadian Cancer Society presented its case to Belleville city council Tuesday, October 11 in an attempt to get restrictions placed on tanning bed usage among youth.

Heather Gray, manager of the Hastings Prince Edward County and Brighton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, and volunteer Jeffrey Brace, delivered a presentation to council information regarding the tanning industry and indoor tanning beds. Gray and Brace presented council and onlookers with a slideshow highlighting some of the research done by the society. The presentation continued with Brace outlining the alleged dangers associated with indoor tanning beds.

The main focus of the society is to restrict and ban the use of tanning beds by youths, as they believe that no one under the age of 16 should use the devices and that those under the age of 18 (but over 16) should be restricted. Additional restrictions to marketing and promotions geared towards youths would also be put in place.

When asked by City Councillor Pat Culhane why the society was only focusing on restricting the usage by youths, Brace responded that while they believe tanning beds should be banned, they are currently

just targeting young people.

"We are currently just focusing on the youth," said Brace.

According to research done by the Canadian Cancer Society, melanoma skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in Ontarians between the ages of 15 and 29. Their research also determined that the use of a tanning bed increases the risk of melanoma in those under 35 years of age by 75 per cent.

This comes on the heels of a reclassification of tanning beds. In July 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which is part of the World Health Organization, reclassified ultra violet radiation, which is emitted by some tanning devices, in the highest cancer risk group, known as carcinogenic to humans. Previously, U/V radiation was classified as a probable carcinogenic to humans.

Restricted use for young people is not the only change that Brace and Gray are calling for. They would also like to see signs posted in all tanning facilities that outline the risks involved with the devices and the process.

They noted that there is currently no registry system in place for owning a tanning bed in Ontario. This is something that the society would like to see changed, by creating a provincial registry system.

The society would also like to introduce mandatory, Ontario specific training for all tanning facility personnel, so that they may be better equipped to warn people of the potential dangers involved.

The idea of a registry system and the introduction of signs warning the public of the potential dangers of tanning drew some questions from the council.

Councillor Jackie Denyes posed the question of who would enforce the changes if they were to be made into bylaws. Brace responded that they would need help from city employees to make sure the bylaws were followed.

"We are obviously looking for bylaw enforcement officials to do this," Brace said.

Brace and Gray received support from at least one of the councillors. Culhane, who has been a nurse for 43 years, recognized the potential dangers involved with U/V rays and the risk of developing melanoma.

"Personally, I agree with them [Brace and Gray] 100 per cent," said Culhane in an interview.

Council declined to take any action towards insuring that the Canadian Cancer Society's plans would become a reality, at least for the time being.

"I think we will hear again from the Canadian Cancer Society. I think this is just their first foray," Culhane said.

## Managing school and kids a full time job

By Nicole Kleinsteuber

By 9 a.m. Michael Clark had already accomplished more than the average college student could ever think of.

Getting three young daughters between the ages of one and five up and ready to go in the morning is demanding and often hectic.

"I wake up every day at 6 a.m., feed the girls breakfast, make Josie and Madison's lunches, then we all get ready for the day," said Clark.

But Clark's busy morning doesn't stop there. He packs up the girls and drives 15 minutes into Belleville, to pick up his babysitter, then drives back home to Stirling, and drops everyone off before heading to school.

"It is hard work being a single full-time father; when you throw college into the mix it's even harder," said Clark. "I try to take it day by day."

Clark isn't alone in his adventure to manage kids and classes.

Loyalist counsellor Rebecca Lazar said a large percentage of the student body are single parents or parents returning to college for upgrading.

Clark said he chose to return to school because he wants a better life for him and his girls. Clark is in the radio broadcasting program and is starting up an online radio station called Quinte Online Radio.

"I want a successful career so I can afford nice things, like cars for my girls when they turn 16," said Clark. "I know I have a future in radio broadcasting and it will financially support my goals."

Sometimes a series of unexpected events can alter Clark's day and get in the way of his goals. One time his babysitter called and said she couldn't watch his youngest daughter Alexis.

"It was a little stressful because I had a class at 10 a.m. and a meeting afterwards," said Clark. "But for the most part my teachers are very understanding. "They realize that I'm a single parent and stuff does come up."



Nicole Kleinsteuber  
Josie and Madison are home from school and watch as daddy (Michael Clark) teaches them about bus safety while Alexis listens.

To make up for the lost time, Clark stayed at the college late to work on his projects.

"I'll try my hardest to keep on top of my schoolwork," said Clark, "but my girls come first. "I'll do whatever it takes to provide for them and make sure they're taken care of."

"Their situation is more unique than to a younger student," said Lazar. "They have more juggling that needs to happen."

Clark has to juggle more than just his own studies.

"I have my course load to manage, plus I have the girls' homework to deal with too," said Clark.

Aside from the stress of parenting and school, Clark is fighting to keep his girls with him in a dispute over custody.

"It was rough in the beginning. People said I was going to fail or drop out, but I didn't," said Clark.

Clark said his marks weren't the best

when his girls first came to live with him, but everything has turned around and he's doing much better this year.

"Some of the best students we have on campus are the mature students, and parents," said Lazar. "They excel once they figure out the time management piece."

Lazar said for single parents finding the time to study is a major problem.

"When my girls are sleeping that's when I do my homework," said Clark. "That's when it's less chaotic."

Clark said a steady schedule and time management skills are important in keeping his school and family life running smoothly.

"Josie, Madison and I usually get home from school around the same time," said Clark. "We enjoy a little bit of time together; I take the babysitter home, have dinner, then its right down to homework, and then bed time."

Clark said his marks weren't the best

Jennifer deGroot, manager of Loyalist College's Early Childhood Education Centre, said she has the upmost respect for single parents attending college.

"Single parents have many challenges when they're enrolled in classes," said deGroot. "Often young children don't understand that mom or dad has homework, so parents have to do it after the kids go to bed."

"Having a school schedule posted some place visible, like the fridge, allows the other family members to see where mom and dad are during the day," said Lazar. "We advise students to mark time in the evening and weekend for homework and studying on the schedule."

"My girls are used to me working late at the school," said Clark. "I make sure they know daddy is at school so we can have a better future."

Lazar said financial security is one of the

many stresses parents face while enrolled in school.

"Trying to manage childcare as well as their living expenses can be very expensive for them," said Lazar. "It's more stressful for single parents because they are the sole parent who is trying to manage everything financially."

"It's been really stressful managing my finances because the recent strike delayed my OSAP," said Clark. "I can't afford my parking pass. I get tickets for parking in the student parking lot."

Clark said he's thankful that he has such a close relationship with his mom because she's able to help him out with the girls.

Lazar said Loyalist offers single-parent groups to help with financial problems, time management, stress, exams and family issues.

"It's a chance for parents to come together and connect to share stories and help each other out."

## Lord's Prayer policy varies across Quinte region

Quinte West doesn't use it; Prince Edward County does; Hastings County undecided

By Renée Rodgers

First it was taken out of schools. Now the Lord's Prayer will likely be taken out of Hastings County council meetings as well.

While a proposal to do away with the prayer has been referred to the finance committee for consideration, Warden Jo-Anne Albert said she doesn't see the committee barring the decision.

"I would think it would be definitely out," she said in an interview.

Council saw two presentations at a Sept. 29 meeting, both aimed to convince members to stop saying the Lord's Prayer at council meetings.

William King, a lawyer with an office in Belleville, explained to council the legal ramifications of continuing to say the prayer. Ontario's highest court ruled in 1999 that reciting the prayer during municipal council meetings violates the coun-

try's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Secularist Dagmar Gontard-Zelinkova, a resident of Highland Hills, also made a presentation during the meeting, urging council to get rid of the prayer.

The prayer, she said, "is clearly exclusive as it discriminates against those citizens who do not believe in the Christian religion and also all those who do not believe in any supernatural power."

While the presentations were effective, Albert said they actually had little to do with council considering removal of the prayer from meetings. Rather, it was something the council had been discussing for a number of months.

While Hastings County Council is poised to do away with the Lord's Prayer, Prince Edward County Council is not considering removing the prayer from its meetings' agendas.

That council voted seven to six earlier this year in favour of keeping the Lord's Prayer on

the agenda of its meetings. PEC Mayor Peter Mertens said in a recent interview he wasn't aware there were any legal consequences to saying the prayer during meetings.

"I've heard nothing to the contrary from any source that would suggest we shouldn't be doing it, so, barring additional information from either our legal people or some other source, I don't think that we're going to revisit it," he said.

John Williams, mayor of Quinte West, said his council doesn't say the Lord's Prayer, but they do say a "prayer" of sorts to begin their meetings.

"It's not, I would say, really directed at a religious theme," he said. "It's just that we're respectful and make decisions that benefit everybody — that type of thing. So there's nothing there that's specific."

Williams said Quinte West Council has never heard any complaints about the prayer, and has no plans to stop saying it.

## Skills shortage coming says prof

By Katrina Geenevasen

In ten years, you may have trouble tracking down a mechanic if your car breaks down on the side of the road.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, it is estimated that there could be shortfall of about one million skilled workers by 2020 due to an aging population and declining birth rates.

Skills Canada says in the next two decades, 40 per cent of new jobs will be in the skilled trades and technologies. In 1998, that number was less than 20 per cent.

Garrett Schultens, professor and co-ordinator of electrical skills at Loyalist College, agrees there could be problems on the horizon.

"Absolutely there will be a problem," said Schultens. "We'll be facing a skills shortage in electrical, in plumbing, heating, and air conditioning because the people coming out of the system haven't developed the skills to get a job."

Steve Cook is an automotive technician professor at Loyalist College. He too feels

there could be a shortage in the future.

"I don't think we'll have a shortfall of 'tradespeople,' because we always have tradespeople that are the DIY, the fly-by-nights, the kind of guy that does work in the backyard or the self-professed electricians that do their own stuff in the house...there's always those tradespeople. But I think skilled tradespeople is where we're going to lack."

Some feel skills-based jobs are demeaning. But to Loyalist students, tradespeople deserve credit where credit is due.

"I have a lot of respect for people in the trades," said Jake Magistrale, an automotive technician student at Loyalist College. "It takes a really intelligent person to take something apart, figure out how it works, and put it back together. It's not as easy as it sounds."

The problem could be traced back to the public school system.

"In high school, I don't think there is enough emphasis placed on hands-on skills," said Schultens. "I think academics are highly valued, and hands-on skills are sort of undervalued."