



Taylor Renkema

The second annual United Way Truckload Sale was a huge success for the Post-Graduate Public Relations students, who organized the event. The sale generated \$18,611 for the United Way campaign.

## Truckload Sale brings in big money

By Taylor Renkema

The second annual United Way Truckload Sale kicked off Wednesday, Oct. 19, bigger and better than last year's.

Kerry Ramsay, program co-ordinator and professor of the Post-Graduate Public Relations program at Loyalist says local manufacturers like Proctor and Gamble, Kellogg's and Wilson Sports donate their products to the school, where they are sold to students, staff and community members for low prices.

"Everything about it this year is bigger," Ramsay said during the sale. "There are more products, more people, and hopefully more money."

The truckload sale made \$18,611 in just one day, as opposed to last year's total of \$15,300 over two days.

Donations this year included cereal (Mini-Wheats, Corn Pops, Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes, Corn Flakes and Apple Jacks), Pantene shampoos, make-up and feminine hygiene products, Crest toothpaste and toothbrushes, razors, batteries and sports products like baseball gloves and volleyballs.

"It's a win-win for the community," Ramsay said. "All the proceeds go directly to the United Way, and our students get hands-on experience managing an event."

She also said the public relations stu-

dents were working really hard and co-operating well.

"We've been going since quarter to seven this morning, and everyone's been really positive," she said. "We're now a month and a half in [to the program] so that's allowed us to learn each other's working styles and really play to our strengths."

The sale was scheduled to begin at eight o'clock Wednesday morning, but people were lined up by 7:20, according to Melissa Semenuk, a public relations student.

PR students are required to work at the sale for their program, but Semenuk said it's about more than that.

"It's required, but it teaches us event

planning and how to fundraise for non-profits. It's really important, since a lot of people in our program will be working for non-profits after school. It's great; we aren't just here because we have to be," she said.

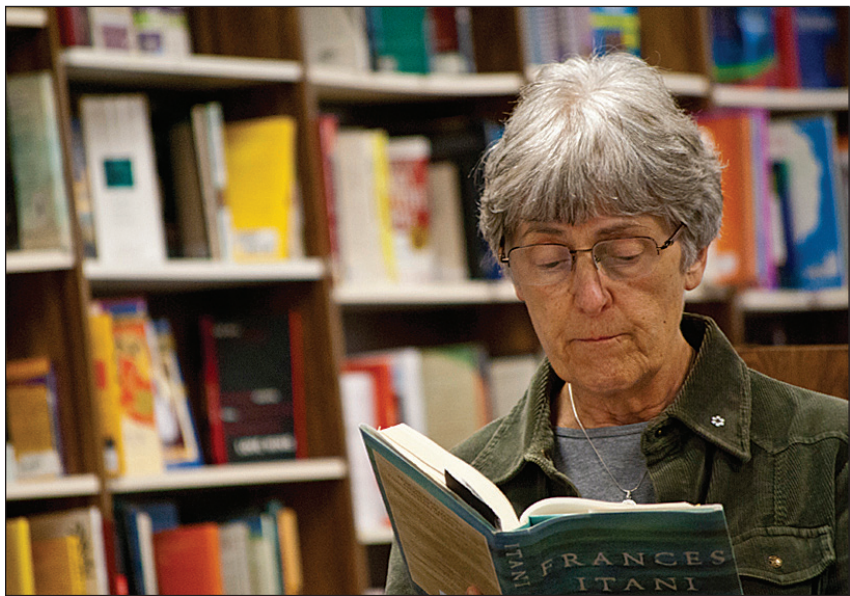
She said at last year's event all the items sold out, and this year they're hoping to do the same. By nine o'clock Wednesday morning, just an hour after the sale started, some items, like Gillette razors, Pantene shampoo, Life Brand D batteries, granola bars and Pulsar toothbrushes were already sold out.

Larry Doyle, director of community services for the United Way of Quinte said the sale was originally designed for students.

"It's similar to the warehouse sales we have for United Way of Quinte all across the region. This one is scaled to students so most of the products are hygiene and personal care, and the cereal too — they love it," he said.

Doyle has worked for United Way for six years. He says the students win both ways, by getting lower prices and a great chance to learn.

"It's a great experience. The students are learning how business works, how we put on sales, how we do fundraising, how allocations work for charities, the whole methodology of what we do as a United Way," he said.



Ashleigh Gehl

Belleville-born author Frances Itani reads from her newly released book, *Requiem*, at Greenley's Bookstore recently. The reading is part of her book tour.

## Local author promotes book

By Ashleigh Gehl

Belleville-born author Frances Itani is a writer of the old world.

She doesn't have a laptop with a word processor to correct her errors. Every book is handwritten and self-researched. And the only reason she owns a cellphone is to please her daughter who urges she takes it along when it's time to tour.

Itani read to more than 30 people at Greenley's Bookstore on Thursday, Oct. 13, promoting her latest novel *Requiem* — a fictional story based on Japanese internment camps of the 1940s.

When Japan entered World War II on December 7, 1941, more than 21,000 Japanese Canadians were removed and incarcerated, forced by military action to leave their homes for internment camps.

In the late 1960s, Itani started researching and in the '90s she interviewed the people.

"I was reading pamphlets on racism, reading histories, the internment of Japanese Canadians and whatever was available at the time," she said in an interview. "Since then there has been a burgeoning number of books, so I have quite a good-sized library."

After 40 years of research and four years invested in writing *Requiem*, Itani said it was one of those books that kept growing and growing.

"So that's where I feel my job comes in: to tell the stories while people were still alive to be interviewed and were able to tell me their stories," she said. "I just put that all together with my own research and created my own fictional story. I just feel it's very important to be told."

Itani said for a democratic country like Canada, internment camps were a breach of trust.

"It was a shameful episode in our country's history and in the United States's history as well. I think it's really important for us as a democracy to remember this episode, which lasted for many years. I don't think we can let it lapse or fall out of memory."

In September 1988, the Government of Canada gave an official apology in the House of Commons, offering compensation to those afflicted by the government's actions.

"You have to realize, as well [as] the lifting, the forcible removal of 21,000 people in Canada and 14,000 in the United States, that [it] would now be considered a crime against humanity," she said.

Itani's work has a theme of remembrance, but it also has a theme of recovering balance.

"For sure, in my work I write about people recovering balance. That's one of the things I like to probe. In this particular book there's a great deal of music and lots of Beethoven. I was really writing about anger and redemption and hope."

Itani is the author of 12 critically acclaimed novels. Her first book, *Deafening*, received worldwide recognition, has been optioned for film, sold and translated in 17 countries, and won a Commonwealth Award.

She's a member of the Order of Canada and currently lives in Ottawa.

Itani is bringing the setting of her next novel, *Tell*, back to her Belleville roots. She's pulling four minor characters from *Deafening* and making them major characters.

## Palmer Rd. speeding still an issue

By Kurt Weiss

The reconstructed section of Palmer Road raises concerns say local residents.

The newly repaved section of Belleville's Palmer Road, running from Moira Street West to Bridge Street West, may be a little too repaved according to locals.

Homeowners have raised concerns about drivers travelling too fast down the road since the project was finished on October 4. The speed limit is currently 40 km/h.

"I think the people who live here are probably the only ones who stick to the 40," said Tony Splitter, a resident in the area.

However, city councillor Pat Culhane said this is the first time the issue has arisen.

"If it had been brought to our attention, say, through a council meeting, where the police chief attends all the meetings, I don't know if she has had any complaints about that strip, but certainly I haven't, and I haven't heard any of the others men-

tion it," she said.

Local resident Melissa Gabourie has already enclosed her yard for the safety of her children. She says she talked to a neighbour already and that the issue needs to be addressed.

"We were going to try and talk to the city or police to see what they could do," she said.

Another resident, Sharol Caswell, said the city is aware because the police monitored speeders on the road before the construction project was finished. But she also said they are never there on weekends when teens are often out and about.

However, Caswell said it is not only the young people.

"Regular citizens going to work — they get into that too," she said.

Residents have suggested speed bumps, stop signs and more police monitoring as possible solutions.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for November 14th.



Kurt Weiss

The speed limit on the reconstructed strip of Palmer Rd., between West Moira and Bridge streets, is 40 km/h, but residents say they worry about speeding.

## Families learn First Nations culture at Mohawk feast

By Amanda Monahan

An evening of Mohawk language, music and a harvest feast brought families together for an evening to learn about First Nations culture.



Amanda Monahan

Betty Maracle shares the story of the Corn Husk Doll with parents and children at Come Walk in My Moccasins.

Lennox & Addington Resources for Children hosted an event last week, informing parents and their children about First Nations heritage.

A Mohawk prayer, recited by Sarah Brown from the Ontario Native Women's Association, opened the dinner ceremony of a traditional harvest feast of Three Sister soup, bannock and corn on the cob.

The Aboriginal Family Literacy circle came up with the event to encourage more awareness of aboriginal culture and sensitivity to the surrounding communities.

Brown said it's important to teach others about First Nations people to get people talking.

"[To think about] the history and the culture and help children to understand and realize we're all the same really, but we have different beliefs and we have different languages and we have different morals," she said.

"To have an understanding of our people so that they can be more sensitive to us and to teach their children to be more aware of the difference — not even just our culture but all cultures."

Betty Maracle (Katsitsiasie), the elder, agreed.

"It's kind of hard to respect one's culture from the heart if they don't know anything about it. You can respect one, but it's not the same when you understand really who they are," said Maracle.

After the harvest feast, everyone gathered around Maracle to hear the story of the Corn Husk Doll. She used fabric fabric pictures to help illustrate the story, which

had a strong message.

"The moral of the story is about being humble and about putting other people's needs before your own, and not to be vain," said Brown.

"We should never be conceited or self-centred," said Maracle.

Maracle played an important role Thursday night; she wasn't just the elder or the storyteller but also acted as the grandmother to roughly 12 children.

"Doesn't matter if they are our people, or where they come from, because I'm close to a lot of children all over the world," she said.

"I've travelled all over and I've met all kinds of indigenous people, and it's really something because when you meet other indigenous people, and you connect with people that don't understand their own culture, but you connect with them in such a way because we all have something in common."

The rest of the evening had the adults and children separated for their designated activities. The children had the task of creating a wordless book to remind them of the message in the Corn Husk Doll, and the adults created a card game to teach them the Mohawk language.

Napanee was the host of the second Come Walk in My Moccasins event with the first taking place in Belleville. Brown said it took about seven or eight months to organize.

She hopes the success and positive response from the first two will lead to more in the future.