

## We remember...

By Keenan Weaver

Loyalist College saw bowed heads and blooming poppies for at its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11.

Staff, students and community members attended the event to pay their respects to the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Loyalist President Maureen Piercy opened the ceremony with an introduction about local military involvement, followed by the national anthem. As an honorary colonel at 8 Wing in CFB Trenton and the relative of a World War II veteran, she said she takes this opportunity each year to reflect and remember.

"My late father-in-law served in the Royal Canadian Air Force for 30 years, so that's a personal, emotional base that I bring to Remembrance Day," she said.

"It's meaningful to me as an honorary colonel because my colleagues are serving members who have served in many circumstances around the world, often very dangerous circumstances."

Piercy said she is very thankful of the veterans' efforts, but feels each Canadian should appreciate them individually.

"I think each of us needs to recognize how incredibly privileged we are to live in this society, and to have the incredible military serving on our behalf around the world. They're skilful, professional, dedicated, and compassionate. Our serving members are the envy of the world and desired as team members in missions all around the world."

Piercy also took the time to recognize Loyalist student Louis O'Driscoll, son of the

late Corporal Jacques Larocque, who lost his life while serving with the Canadian Forces.

O'Driscoll was awarded the first Project Hero Scholarship, which provides free tuition for dependents of military personnel who lose their lives while serving.

O'Driscoll said he is very appreciative of the sacrifice his father made, and takes the time each year to remember his legacy.

"My father's death was attributed to military service. I think of him and the time I lost with him, and just the inspiration he is to me," he said.

O'Driscoll is in his second year of the community and justice service worker program, and the first ever recipient of the Project Hero Scholarship.

It was a full house in Alumni Hall, crowded with staff, students, community residents and military personnel. Each had their own reasons to be there, but it was a morning of respect and reflection for all.

Corporal Daniel McDonald came to remember fallen friends from past missions. He has served in two peacekeeping missions spanning Iran, Iraq and Israel.

"I remember all my peacekeeping friends when I was over in Israel and Iran. Some of them have lost their lives, and I remember them."

McDonald attended wearing his military medals and peacekeeping blue beret.

He suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of his service.

"I have PTSD. I've lost my wife and have remarried, and Veteran's Affairs is helping me move on with my life and getting me an education."



Austin McKay

Corporal Daniel McDonald attended the Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, November 11 at Loyalist College to reflect on friends from his past. He served in two missions that sent him to Iran, Iraq and Israel.



Keenan Weaver

Loyalist Community Choir Director Cheryl Thrasher discusses song choices with a small selection of the group. The choir meets Monday nights from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Wilkinson Lecture Hall.

## Shout Sister! a Loyalist-based choir, hopes to hit right note this year

By Keenan Weaver

The halls of Loyalist College will soon echo the harmonies of a community choir.

Faculty members have been trying to start a school-wide choir for several years now. Cheryl Thrasher, paralegal teacher and newly appointed choir director, feels things will be different this year.

The choir is still in the early stages of its development and has had about 35 students attend meetings. From the two rehearsals Thrasher has been to, she is confident of the talent within the group.

"We have a lot of musicians. Some play instruments, some are just vocals. Some have been in musicals or choirs for 10 years. So it's a wide variety, and it's essential to have that," she said.

Thrasher has been surrounded by music her entire life, and now directs three local choirs called Shout Sister! She feels music has been a large contributor to her life and positive outlook.

"No matter how hard you work, you need a balance, and music is therapeutic in any

shape or form. It balances your life and allows you to express it in any art form. I also think it's a good opportunity to socially network with people who aren't in your program."

Not many students know about the choir, still in its early stages, but Thrasher sees improvement in the near future. She hopes to create a fun, laid back environment for people to get together and share their love of music.

"You know, when you're young and think you have a terrible voice and shouldn't sing, but really in a choir you become one voice. It doesn't matter, even if you love to sing, come out and sing."

The repertoire will reflect the interests of the group and the target audience.

"A lot of them like musicals; they like the more up-beat music that's out there," she said. "It's kind of starting to unfold like *Glee*, as far as bringing in the instruments and a different repertoire. Who knows where it's going to go? The sky's the limit."

Thrasher hopes the choir will be available for performances at the school, and is aiming to have repertoire prepared for

graduation.

Courtney Chambers, a second-year paralegal student, was in class when Thrasher started advertising the choir. This was the first she'd heard of it.

"Well, I didn't hear about it before, but Cheryl seemed excited about it in class. I've played the flute and sing in the shower a lot, so I think it's pretty sweet," she said.

Chambers plans to join the choir as soon as possible, and is confident she can manage schoolwork and singing.

Also helping to organize the choir is Pam Fairbank, program co-ordinator of General Arts and Science. She is happy with student turnout so far, but is definitely hoping for more voices.

"I'd like us to grow; maybe see 40-50 people out," she said. "I guess some people would like to compete, and that might be something down the road."

Competitions could help market the school and raise awareness of the choir.

The Loyalist Community Choir meets Monday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Wilkinson Lecture Hall.

### Obituary

## Sansom lit up lives of students and staff

By Ashleigh Gehl

Kevin Sansom was electric. For the last 21 years he was a familiar face in the media studies wing at Loyalist College until he suddenly died Wednesday, Nov. 9 from natural causes. He was 41.

"Electric, that's what he was," said Kathleen Miller, one of Sansom's first-year students. "His personality — you only had to talk to him for five minutes and you love him."

Sansom started as a television broadcasting student at Loyalist in the '90s and was shortly hired after as a professor, teaching video editing and computer graphics.

"Seeing him every day, how excited he was, bouncing off the walls every time we came into class," said Miller. "I only knew him for a little bit, but he's an instant impact kind of guy."

Sansom brought his enthusiasm for technology into the classroom. And outside of class, he harnessed his techno-wizardry by producing trailers, commercial and corporate videos. He configured and built several of the first non-linear editing systems used by television studios in the Greater Toronto Area.

Cathy Goddard, an educator in the television and new media production program, worked with Sansom for 15 years and recalls the first time she went to his home.

"At his home there was a suit of armour and some other interesting paraphernalia around and I thought what an interesting young man this was," said Goddard. "We got along; we spoke the same language in terms of technology and production. We were good friends."

June Bourque met Sansom in 1990 when she was a Loyalist student studying television broadcasting. Bourque said she and Sansom had "a friendly academic competition," as students and were both, "unapologetically passionate" about their field.

"Kevin had the type of personality that immediately drew you in," said Bourque in an interview. "Kevin's energy and passion were infectious and it was always a joy to work with him on projects."

Those touched by Sansom's passion for life posted sentiments of love and loss on his Facebook wall, crediting Sansom for kick-starting their television careers.

Bourque said she spoke with Sansom just over a week ago about work and the upcoming 20th reunion with their graduating class in 2012.

"To know that he won't be there is unbearably sad, but to read the tributes and feel the impact he's had during his time as a professor brings much-needed comfort and a sense of camaraderie with a lot of others who feel the same way about my friend," she said.

Sansom's family is making private funeral arrangements. Loyalist College is celebrating his life by having a ceremony, looking back at his career and achievements on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. in the gym. Those who knew Sansom are encouraged to post photographs and memories to the Kevin Sansom 1970 to 2011 memorial page on Facebook.



Kevin Sansom  
1970-2011

## Photojournalism students join world-wide, 10/10/10, 'One Day on Earth' project

By John Boldrick

This month Loyalist College photojournalism students will participate in a project that examines what is happening all around the world on a single day.

The project, called One Day on Earth, is for people to go out and film their experiences on Nov. 11 in hopes of getting 24 hours worth of footage.

Loyalist photojournalism professor Patti Gower said that the unique project poses a very interesting question to students.

"If you had one day to shoot, what would you choose to shoot?" she said.

The project was founded by Kyle Rudlick in 2008 and held its first event on Oct. 10, 2010. While the project is video centred, Loyalist students will instead focus on the still photograph elements.

"This project will likely be 90 per cent still images," said photojournalism profes-

sor Scott Whalen.

While students have done extensive photo galleries before for projects, this year will mark the first time they will be participating in One Day on Earth. Gower stumbled upon the project while doing research over the summer and quickly became hooked on the idea.

"I love the spirit of the project. When you see that trailer from 10/10/10, it's extremely powerful. It just shows you that around the world we have very different things going on and yet we have very similar things going on," she said.

With the 11th quickly approaching, students were hard at work on the planning stages of the project, with some students planning on photographing Belleville and the Quinte area, while others will return to their home town to shoot. The focus will remain Southern Ontario, and may be trimmed to just the Quinte region in the

near future. For the project, students have been given free rein over what they choose to shoot.

"We've let students see what elements they want to shoot and let it be self-directed," said Whalen. "The ideas I've heard have already impressed me more than a list of ideas I could have come up with myself."

Some of the shooting topics for students include taking photos on aircraft and in hospitals. However, the most popular topic is the various Remembrance Day ceremonies, including ones in Ottawa, Belleville and Trenton. While many students may have their eyes on Remembrance Day, some wish to shoot something entirely different.

"I don't want to do anything that has to do with Remembrance Day," said student Andre Lodder.

Lodder will instead choose to focus his shooting on the morning hours, particularly between midnight and 5 a.m.

According to Gower, the endless possibilities are what make this project such a unique and exciting one.

"What's going to happen in the world? Someone's going to give birth, someone's going to get married, someone's going to die, someone's going to learn the letter A, someone's going to learn how to spell their name, someone's going to learn to skip a rope. There're just so many things going on."

Excitement is building among the students, as the idea of being able to shoot what they want for a whole day, as well as being a part of a project that is bigger than just a class project is something they are looking forward to.

"The fact that so many different people's perspectives are being observed and shown through a medium and it's connecting everybody through the human essence of what life is and what life is in your perspective — I think it's pretty magical," said

student Melissa DiNardo.

"It's a really unique way of doing a project," added Lodder.

While optimism is high for the project, there are still a number of challenges faced by students. For one, thinking of ideas that have not already been done is a challenge. Also, getting access to some areas for shooting has proved problematic for some, while others have had an easier time with things.

"I feel like as soon as I realized what I want to shoot, everything just kind of flowed," said DiNardo.

With the first event taking place on 10/10/10 and this year's being on 11/11/11, it is generally thought that the third event will take place on 12/12/12. Whether it will be part of next year's Photojournalism program is already up for discussion.

"We've already thought about how we might incorporate that," said Whalen.