

Lancers complete three-peat over Algonquin

By Nick Liard

Putting up a third straight men's rugby banner in their gym is something special for Loyalist College. But it's extra special for Cody Howie, who has been there for all three, and feels this was the toughest game yet.

"I feel pretty good about it," said Howie. "This is probably the toughest game that we have had this season ... maybe even the last three seasons."

The Lancers snuck out a win against a very determined and improved Algonquin Thunder squad. The Lancers won 15-7 this past Saturday at the Loyalist field.

"The first time we played them we beat them pretty bad, but they came back with better defence," said Howie. "I think they focused more on defence since the last game. Maybe more than they focused on offence."

It was the Thunder's first season in the league. They finished with a record of 3-3. In the first game between the two teams, the Lancer's won 35-12. This time around it was much closer and as the Thunder coach Geoff Tomlinson accepted his silver medal from Maureen Piercy, president of the college, he said, "We will trade this one in next year."

For the moment, however, Loyalist is left to celebrate their victory.

"It feels awesome. I was only here for two of the championships, but I came from a high school that didn't win anything, so it feels awesome," said second-year Lancer Lucas Shillington.

Shillington was also named "man of the match" along with Phil Assad from Algonquin.

"It's just as nice. I went out and played really hard, and I'm glad I got it," said Shillington.

The Lancers scored early scoring a try and conversion to go up 7-0.

Before the half, the Lancers converted a penalty kick and switched ends up 10-0.

Shillington plowed through the defence midway through the second half for his first try of the post season.

Saturday's game was a complete opposite from the Lancers' semi-final game against Georgian where they scored 62 points. With an offence that holds seven Division Two scoring records, a high scoring



Ashleigh Gehl

Loyalist Lancer Ferrando Palacios goes in for a tackle during the OCAA Tier II men's rugby championship at Loyalist College on Saturday.

game was expected. However the Lancers' defence, which gave up only 53 points all season, was key.

"Defence has been key all year," said Shillington. "We got flat line defence, and that has been the key to our success."

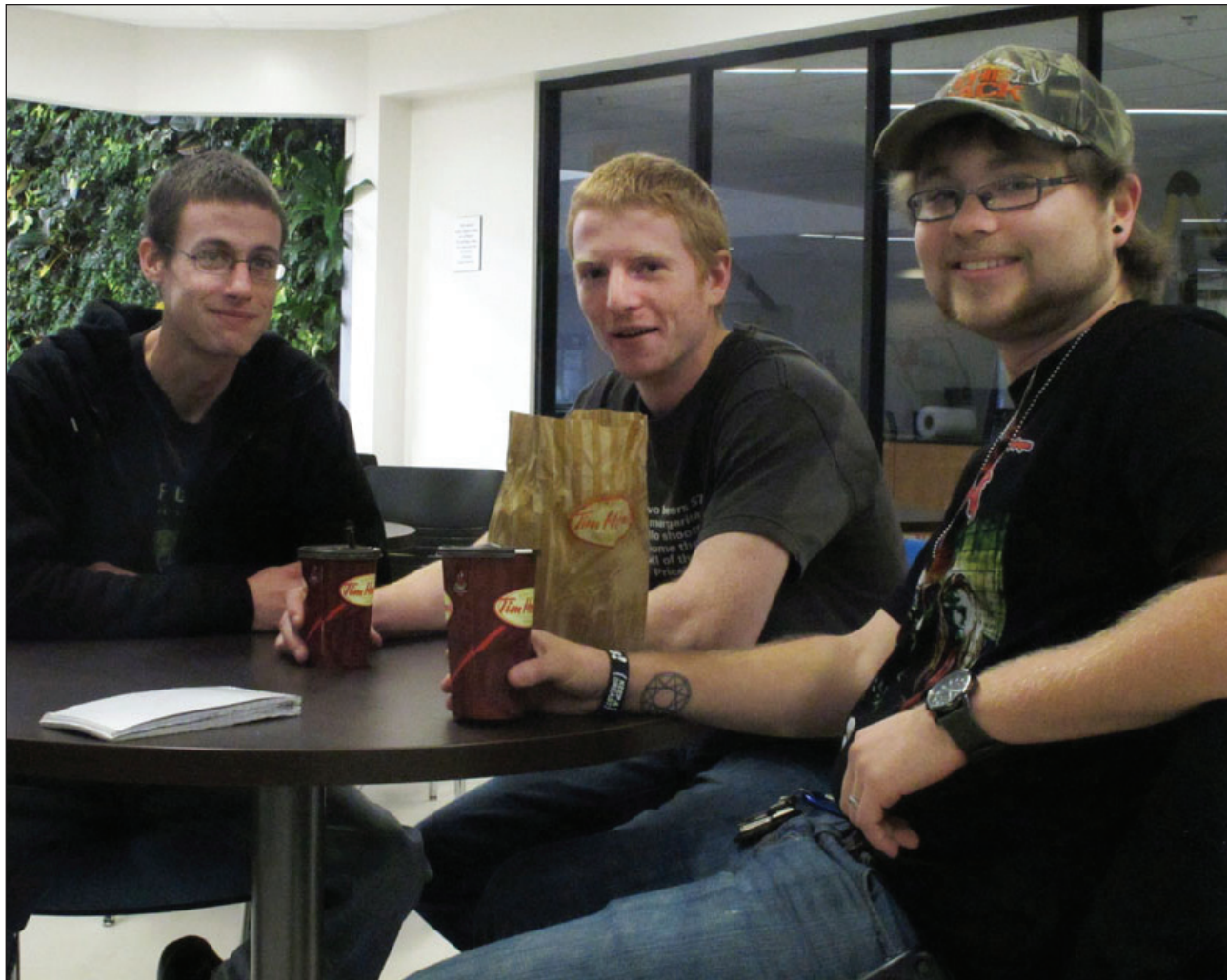
A late score by Algonquin prop Drake Andrews gave the Thunder a glimmer of hope, but the Lancers held on 15-7.

A three-peat is tough in sports. Since 1996, only Seneca College has strung together more than three straight championships.

"That was our goal at the start of the season: to three-peat," said Lancer's assistant coach Rob Cooke. "We knew it was going to be tough with all the people we lost from last year, and the new recruits coming in this year. They were kind of unproven, but

they have learned the game quite well and proved it today."

Three OCAA all-stars were recognized after the match. They were Loyalist's Jesse Gunter and Conner McCann; Bill Shaw from Algonquin was also recognized.



Renee Rodgers

First-year industrial electrical students Tom Andrews (left), Justin Fox (centre) and Dylan Garey (right) said they come to the Link Lounge at Loyalist College every day. The student space was added after feedback from an annual student government survey indicated a need for more student-friendly environments. "The survey was pretty neat," said Andrews, who had recently completed it online. "I didn't think that there would be too much actual say on anything happening here."

College improvements survey encouraging

By Renée Rodgers

Loyalist College's student government now has a clearer idea of how students want their college fees spent.

An annual student survey, which closed Nov. 9, consisted of 16 questions designed to provide student government with feedback about campus facilities, activities and resources.

"It's extremely important for us to get student feedback to help us determine how the students want us to spend their funds," said Julie Cooper, student government business manager.

Survey questions are based on ideas about changes and improvements discussed by the student government, said Cooper. Feedback from the survey helps the student government gauge which ideas are most popular with students.

"We look for trends," Cooper said.

For example, in previous surveys, a large number of students indicated a need for more student spaces on campus. Based on that feedback, the Link Lounge was opened in April, 2011. The new student space,

which includes private meeting pods, seating for up to 100 and a wall made of living foliage, is the student government's largest facility enhancement project to date.

Other things that have been implemented as a result of past feedback have been the addition of hydration stations and microwaves around campus, upper year townhouses and increased exterior lighting on campus.

Questions on this year's survey included: "What one thing requires the most improvement when you think of Loyalist College information technology?" and "Which area of residence would you most like to see improvements with?"

More than 1,000 people completed this year's survey — around the same number as last year said Nancy Simpson, office manager for the student government.

While the number of participants did not vary much this year from last year, one thing that did change was the completion rate of those who participated. This year 87 per cent of students that began the survey completed it, compared to only 75 per cent last year.

"What that indicates is that some of the

changes we made to the survey worked," Cooper said. "We worked really hard at making the survey shorter, so that students would go through the whole thing instead of only filling out parts of it."

Kerri Wetherall, a second-year student in the community justice service worker program, agreed this year's survey was faster and more streamlined than last year's.

While she admitted the chance of winning up to \$1,000 was a huge factor in her decision to participate in the survey, she said she realized the opportunity to provide her feedback was important.

"You're paying quite a bit of money to go here, and I think it's important that students have a voice as to the changes that need to be seen within Loyalist," she said.

Mandy Wrightsell, a first-year DSW student, said she not only appreciated the ability to give feedback, but also the evidence around campus that student feedback has been taken into account. This was not the case, she said, at her previous college.

"It's different here," she said. "It seems like Loyalist actually cares what their students think."

Grant of \$730 for college students coming in 2012

By Kyle Mumford

In January the Ontario government will introduce their Ontario Tuition Grant for post-secondary students.

In a conference call Thursday, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Glenn Murray said, "Affordability is an important part of the process... education and health care are our priority."

Students who have been out of high school for four years or less will receive a grant to assist with the rising cost of education in Ontario. Students whose parents make \$160,000 a year or less will be eligible to receive the assistance, with university students receiving \$1,600 and college students receiving \$730.

Murray said the application will consist of four questions and will be available for students to fill out in early- to mid-December. If a student has already applied for

OSAP, they don't need to apply since they are already registered for the grant. Murray said about 320,000 students will receive funding.

In January, students who meet the ministry's requirements will receive a cheque for half of the grant money, with the full grant beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Murray said the cost per year, if all students eligible for the grant apply, will cost the government \$450 million per year. The price of the grant has been factored into the Liberal's total budget of \$1.5 billion per year.

The Liberal government has introduced the grant as an alternative to tuition freezes, which they say reduces tuition, but has a negative effect on education. This way the tuition cost is supplemented, but the schools still receive necessary money to run their programs.

Plans for new bridge behind campus planned

By Andrew Mendler

Loyalist College's sustainability committee has been hard at work over the past four years attempting to get the go-ahead to build a bridge across Potter's Creek behind the college.

"We immediately recognized that if [students] come to the college from the eastern side [of Belleville], they don't have a way to conveniently cross Potter's Creek," said bioscience teacher and committee member Eric Bauer.

Journalism professor Joe Callahan is spearheading the project, and has been the main force behind the idea for the past few years.

"The broader issue, and the reason for me suggesting this in the first place, is I feel that the Old Highway 2 and the Moira Street West extension are too dangerous for people to be riding their bikes on," said Callahan.

Callahan, along with Bauer, helped create a sub-committee that is focusing on meeting all of the environmental, city and property requirements.

Both teachers feel that construction of the bridge is still a long way off. If all goes well, Callahan hopes to have a bridge in place by next September.

"Currently we are at the stage where I am looking for some design ideas from some of the construction technology faculty here at the college," said Callahan.

Once they get the bridge designed, they will be able to figure out how much the

project will cost, and then start raising the money.

"I am imagining this as a project the students would work on," said Callahan. "I'm hoping — under the supervision of construction technology professors — the students would build the bridge."

In the summer, a Loyalist student who was working for Quinte Conservation did an analysis of the soil and location of where the bridge is likely to be located, said Callahan. On the strength of that data, the manager of Quinte Conservation sent an email listing the recommended types of bridge structures that could be used.

The committee is working in part with the city, the college and Quinte Conservation in order to meet all of the necessary requirements.

Callahan talked about the exact location being a hurdle at first because the college only owns a portion of the land by the creek. The rest is owned by the city or is considered public land.

"We have worked together with the conservation authority to start to get an idea about what the requirements would be in terms of no disruption of habitat along that little watercourse," said Bauer.

Bauer also talked about students currently throwing all sorts of junk into the stream to be able to get across it without getting their feet wet.

The City of Belleville is currently working on their new transportation master plan, and trying to find new ways for the city to connect with Loyalist College.