

New 211 service launched for Quinte residents

By Renée Rodgers

Local residents who don't know where to turn for help can now call a three-digit number that will connect them with information about a wide variety of social services.

"It used to be that people would make seven different calls before they could find the right service," said Destiny Bedwell, a spokesperson for 211 Ontario. The 211 hotline aims to make access to help easier.

The government-funded service was officially launched in Hastings and Prince Edward County Nov. 9. It's available 24/7 and is staffed by information and referral specialists who are highly knowledgeable about social services available in the province. The specialists will assess each caller's needs and answer questions about everything from health to employment, immigration to social assistance, Bedwell said.

The specialists will have access to information about local services through a database provided by Volunteer & Information Quinte, a local not-for-profit agency, which operates a similar hotline for local residents looking for

information about social services.

Brenda Snider, Volunteer & Information Quinte's executive director, said 211 does not replace the local agency's information service, but works in conjunction with it. Since Volunteer & Information Quinte is the exclusive provider of local data to 211, people will be able to call either number and receive the same information, said Snider.

"It's not a competition in any way, shape or form," she said. "It is about another tool so that people have access."

Snider said the 211 number does have a couple of advantages over the local hotline. The three-digit number is available at all hours and in multiple languages.

Brandi Hodge, director of community engagement at the United Way of Quinte, said there are other benefits to 211 as well. Information and referral specialists do not just answer questions. They are also trained to ask the right follow-up questions, another advantage over the local hotline.

"If someone calls looking for a food bank, they will absolutely give them the data on the food bank, where to call, the address,



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Judi Gilbert is the executive director of the United Way of Quinte. The charitable organization is a partner in the 211 Ontario initiative, an information and referral hotline launched in Hastings and Prince Edward County Nov. 9. "The hotline is a way for people to connect with social services quickly," Gilbert said. "It's a one-stop shop."

all of those things," Hodge said. "But they'll also talk to them about what's driving their need for that food bank. If it's employment-related issues, they can give them employment services. It's the follow-up that will happen at the 211 level that doesn't necessarily happen when people make that quick

phone call for information locally."

The United Way was instrumental in bringing the 211 service from the United States to Canada in 2002. Hodge said calls to the United Way for information about social services will now be directed to 211. The 211 operators will be better equipped

to answer a variety of questions about social services.

Snider said Volunteer & Information Quinte receives about 750 calls for information per year. She said she has not yet seen a drop in the number of phone calls the local service has received since the advent of 211.

Caf hours still an issue, say students

By Evan Cooke

Loyalist College's food service provider will now meet with the student government on a regular basis to discuss student concerns.

Pierre Overvelde, director of food services at the college, said in an email that a new Food Service Advisory Committee is in the process of being formed so that Aramark can meet with the students directly to improve service.

Since the beginning of the school year, students, especially those who find themselves at school after 3 p.m., have been frustrated at the lack of food options. Between Tim Horton's, Subway, and the main cafeteria, Subway is the only one that remains open past 3.

Chris Barnim, president of the student government, said they've already had one meeting and that changes have been implemented.

"Before the break there were no cookies in Subway and we were kind of curious about that, and now there's cookies. It's kind of cool that they implemented that."

Bill Walsh, vice-president of enrolment management and student services, said they're still hammering out the details of exactly who will be a part of the meetings.

Walsh said that Aramark had planned to implement the committee since the begin-

ning of the year. They were just delayed a few weeks by the support staff strike. Now, they'll start meeting every couple of weeks to try and get caught up with issues, and possibly move to a monthly meeting further down the road.

"It was something we talked about actually when the contract was signed. Aramark had proposed that and we thought it was a great idea. They had done it in other places so we thought that was great and we just got a little delayed in implementing it."

According to Barnim, complaints about the cafeteria's hours are some of the most frequent ones they hear. He doesn't see any reason why Overvelde and Aramark wouldn't at least consider a change.

"They seem really open to change. For all our input he never said, 'No we can't do this.' They take all our input and gather it and take it into consideration. They're very open."

Walsh confirmed that the issue of hours has "been on the radar [of Aramark] for a while." The addition of Subway has been a boost in popularity, but Aramark can really only afford to keep either Subway or the main cafeteria open between 3 and 8, not both. He said that after surveying students, it hasn't been an easy decision when it comes to which service will stay open.

Photojournalism students join One Day on Earth initiative

By Leah Vandenberg

11/11/11 is a numerologist's dream, as well as a photojournalist's dream.

That day marks One Day on Earth; a day where photojournalists, videographers, documentary filmmakers and students record the human experience over a 24-hour period. The event was founded in 2008.

Loyalist College's second-year photojournalism students participated in the event.

"I didn't want to connect Remembrance Day with it, because that's not all that happens on November 11th," said Michelle Cochrane, a second-year photojournalism student.

Cochrane decided to photograph a pig farmer and his wife in Marysville while they did their morning chores. She was working with this family as a long-term project.

"I couldn't find something else interesting, so I chose to go back, but I learned a lot of new interesting facts about them," she said.

For example, she learned that the wife of the pig farmer emigrated from Germany after visiting Canada on a vacation about 16 years ago. While working as a nurse in Germany, she met her husband, and came

over about two years later. The couple has three children.

The One Day event founded three years ago, is the day in a year where the date, month and last two digits of the year all share the same number. The first media creation was 10/10/10. Next year's event will be on 12/12/12.

Another student, Tristan Kong, wanted to photograph the Belleville Association of the Deaf's 25th anniversary. Kong felt this event was appropriate since he, himself, is also deaf.

"It's something I want to document for my deaf culture and community; that I am proud of where I am. So I want to show the earth that we, deaf people, have our own language and culture that should not be rejected."

Regions as far as Antarctica, the Middle East and Oceania participated in One Day on Earth.

2010's event had more than 3,000 hours of video, with over 60 non-profit organizations participating.

Students learned about the event from their documentary teacher, Patti Gower, who wanted them to participate.

"We had to find an event, or something, we were interested in to shoot," said Sarah



Melchizedek Maquiso

Muslim women hold their Friday prayers at a separate section of the mosque of the Islamic Society of Kingston. This was just one of the stories tackled by photojournalism students as part of the One Day on Earth project.

Scofield, who shot the same event as Kong.

"We have a student in our class who's deaf. Just learning from him the past two years — there's a whole different side you don't get to see," said Scofield.

Participants in One Day on Earth could use a number of causes as their event: poverty, education, gender equality, migration and refugees.

"I decided to look for the deaf community because I want it to be recognized on One Day on Earth too — because they are people too," said Kong.

Coach admits error, player not eligible

By Katrina Geenevasen

A Loyalist College basketball player has been deemed ineligible to play after the college athletic director failed to carefully check eligibility rules.

Recreation and leisure services student Mike Latchford played basketball at the University of Maine in the United States for four years before deciding to attend Loyalist.

While he was welcomed to the Loyalist Lancers with open arms, a rule laid out by the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) says that no student who has played for four years in the states is allowed to play a fifth year in Canada. The rule prevents coaches from loading up on players who have already played for four years in the U.S. and are just looking to play one more year.

Jim Buck, Loyalist College athletic director, made a mistake by overlooking the rule.

"There's no one to blame but myself," said Buck. "There is no one else that did it. I'm the athletic director, and it's my job to look after things. So ultimately, I'm the fall guy, and this one is on my shoulders."

Despite not being able to play the sport he loves most, Latchford says there are no hard feelings towards anybody.

"I'm going to say it's an honest mistake that somebody just looked over," said Latchford. "I'm not one to point fingers at anyone. It should have been caught earlier, but it wasn't, so I've just got to move on I guess."

While his team has moved on without him, Latchford, who is originally from the Belleville area, isn't happy with the way things turned out. Although he has stepped in as an



Katrina Geenevasen

While Mike Latchford is no longer playing with the Lancers basketball team because of an error made by the college's athletic director, he is now acting as an assistant coach.

assistant coach, he says it's just not the same.

Rich Whitfield, the men's head basketball coach, said all the rules are sometimes confusing.

"This is the first time that Loyalist has ever had an NCAA athlete play at the school," said Whitfield. "And we have two sets of rules, which can sometimes be confusing. Our athletic department just made a simple mistake. There's no other way of putting it. It was the first time that this had ever come up."

"Part of our responsibilities are to know all our rules and we try to read our books and know it all, but there's a lot of them," said Buck. "I have binders full of the rules I need to know, and occasionally, we make mistakes."

"Fortunately, we found out when we did as opposed to further in the season when there would have been bigger ramifications," said Buck. "Mike would have been deemed as an illegal player — any wins we had we would have had to default."

Local high school students get a taste of college life

By Trish Allison

In a small room sit 12 energetic high school students ready to learn, and ready to kick start their futures.

The young men and women were recruited from alternative education programs and formal high school settings as part of the Roots to Success program, which enables current secondary students to learn in a college environment.

"The impact of the Roots to Success program is significant in that we have the attitude where we're all teachers, we're all learners, that when the students come into the program we can recognize that they have skills and abilities that they bring with them," said Shawn Doyle, co-facilitator of the program.

"And we assist the students to recognize those skills and abilities."

Roots to Success is a dual credit, adult oriented program (from the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB), Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) and Loyalist College) that works with students to help them recognize their potential and invite them into a college environment.

"We both kind of just talked it over with each other, and we just kind of came up with the same idea of what we wanted to do," said Tara Barker, a Grade 11 student at Bayside Secondary.

Barker and friend Brandy Cole are two students currently enrolled in the class, and both have nothing but positive outlooks and a strong belief that this program will benefit their futures. Cole said some of the benefits include a "professional profile and some more knowledge about how to properly get a good job."

"We thought it would be a good experience to take because we actually get to go

out to a college and learn as a college student," said Barker.

The program is 14 weeks long, with one three-hour class per week where class time is a mix of in-class work and SAL (Student Activity Lounge) work time. There's lots of one-on-one time for each student along with opportunities for increased self-esteem and confidence.

"They see what they can do and they see a picture now and being involved in portfolio development process helps individuals see pictures of who they are and of their lives, where they've been, where they are now, and where they may like to go," said Doyle.

"You almost learn things about yourself as well, when you're working, doing your goals and everything," said Rachel Musclow, another student in the program from Moira Secondary.

"I just thought it was interesting 'cause it's all about you," she said.

Roots to Success is only two years old, but the provincially funded program has the numbers to prove it'll be a success in future years to come. During its first year, the program had an 89 per cent retention rate, and a 92 per cent success rate. Its second year has a 100 per cent retention and success rate so far.

"The stories have been amazing: how the students felt about this program, how it's changed their lives in so many ways, how they see themselves differently," said Doyle.

As part of the program, the participants have the chance to be students for the day at Loyalist, giving them the opportunity to put some perspective in their lives.

"All of a sudden it becomes something that's doable, that they hadn't ever dreamed of before, and it becomes realistic for their particular lives," said Doyle.