



Photo by Tophier Seguin

Sam Middleton, 6, flies down a hill at Zwick's Park on Sunday. The weather made a dramatic change today from the cold weather on the weekend.

## Winter fun finally on track

*Seasonal activities that were on hold can now start happening*

By Samantha Cantelon

With this year's late arrival of winter, many of the seasonal activities and winter festivals were put on hold until the first snowfall, which happened this past Friday.

Most people are usually used to having a white Christmas, but this year was a warm and green one.

Stephanie Williams, a mother of two, from Belleville says "It doesn't really feel like winter when there is no snow, but we

were able to create a snowman over the break with some slush from the freezing rain."

In the cold winter season, Belleville has some great outdoor activities such as skating on the bay, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, sledding and festivals such as Marmora SnoFest, but because of the unusual late start to the winter, most of these activities have been on hold until the appropriate cold weather.

There were no winter activities happening, says Larry Glover, the manager for Belleville's parks and open space says.

"The warm weather was a good opportunity for summer type work such as walkway upgrading in the months of October and November."

With the warm weather, it seemed that people were carrying on with their outdoor activities. Instead of skating and tobogganing over the Christmas break, Williams said she and her children went to the park.

The warm weather has not just affected the recreational side of things, it has also affected the sales of skiing and snowboarding equipment.

Darren Rayner, the manager at Sport-Chek in Belleville, said that although the coats and winter wear were selling consistently, the ski and snowboard sales were down.

According to Environment Canada, in 2010 the snowfall in November was 2.8 centimetres, in December 20.8 centime-

tres and January of 2011 the amount of snowfall was 57.4 cm.

In November of 2011 1.4 centimetres of snow fell, in December we received 6.2 centimetres and this month we have received 12.4 centimetres. These snowfall amounts show the noticeably milder winter that we are having.

Festivals that usually occur such as Marmora SnoFest were affected.

Event co-ordinator Vicki Best said, "We had to plan the event for no snow, or if the snow melted we thought of cancelling the event or boosting our non-dog sled events."

For now, Best said the event is on but if the snow melts it might be cancelled.

## Bad weather brings slowdown on transit

By Meagan Pecjak

Safety trumps timing when it comes to Belleville Transit bus drivers and stormy weather.

The snow and ice is slowing down all public drivers as well as the bus drivers with the Belleville transit system. That means that students have to stand out in the ice-cold winds and endure the snow.

First-year radio broadcasting student Heather Armstrong said she doesn't enjoy waiting for the bus, especially in the snow.

"I don't like it, but I have to. I have to get to school. There really isn't another way to get to school when you don't have a car," she said.

Peter Hodgson, manager of transit services for Belleville Transit, said he believes the slowdown is really "more about the other traffic being unsafe."

The true reason for the buses being behind schedule is really the traffic flow, as well as how safe the driver feels, Hodgson added.

"We leave it up to the operators to let

us know" whether or not they will be running on schedule, or whether they will be able to make the route or not, he said. There will often only be one Loyalist bus, rather than the usual two because one of them will be so behind schedule.

"We stop running when (other) people have trouble on the hills," said Hodgson. Unless there is a major snowfall overnight, the buses "just keep operating."

Tammy Livingston is the customer service representative for Belleville transit. She said the buses will be a tad behind but

they will do whatever they can to keep on schedule.

"It is rare that we cancel," said Livingston, concerning the cancellation of public transit. The situation has to be both "dangerous for both the driver and the passenger."

Hodgson said that if he had to give the bus drivers a piece of advice it would be "making the trip is more important than making it on time."

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## Massage parlours get rubbed out

By Mark Tarnovetsky

Two separate massage parlours, the Silver Star Studio on Elgin Street and the Sunny Health Spa in Market Square, were shut down after a massive police crackdown in downtown Trenton Jan. 10.

Investigators acquired information regarding illicit sexual transactions being conducted at the premises in November leading up to the sweeping arrests, Sgt. Kristine Rae of the Quinte West OPP confirms.

The warrants were executed by the Quinte West OPP, the Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, the Provincial Organized Crime Enforcement Team and the Toronto Police Service.

Two women, Lihua Ai and Meifong Zhou, both 50 years old, were charged with keeping a bawdy house. A third woman, Song Qu, 43, was charged with being "an inmate of a common bawdy house."

Police seized approximately \$4,500 in cash, computer equipment, electronics and other related equipment.

All three of the accused have since been released and are scheduled for a court appearance on March 1.

Florence Legalley, who has worked at the Rapid Cash next door to the Sunny Health Spa for the past three years, said she did not notice anything suspicious.

...See Massage, page 2



Photo by Mark Tarnovetsky

Const. Dan Wilton of the Quinte West OPP waits outside the Sunny Health Spa in Downtown Trenton during a police raid on Jan. 10. Information gathered by investigators in November led to sweeping arrests against the owners of both the Silver Star Studio on Elgin Street and the Sunny Health Spa in Market Square.

## Leaky residence an unwelcome surprise

*Student getting little satisfaction for remedying situation*

By Marina Sanford

An unpleasant surprise was waiting for Loyalist student Laine Sedore when he returned from holidays on Jan. 6.

The third-year journalism - online print and broadcast student came back to find a leaking ceiling and a soaked carpet in his basement room in the new residence building.

His roommates had earlier discovered a dehumidifier running in his bedroom. They went down to the residence commons building, where the managing staff have offices, and were told there had been a leak.

The damage was discovered during routine room inspections over the break, according to Dominique Dawes, the residence programming assistant, and a dehumidifier was placed in the room immediately.

Chris Carson, the commons manager, said staff didn't notify Sedore because he wasn't in residence at the time.

Sedore had to lay cardboard on the floor to avoid soaking his feet until the water was gone, then sprayed Lysol when the carpet started to smell, and he hadn't heard back from staff about repairs.

Sedore said he went to talk to Dawes on Jan. 9 and was told he was going to be emailed the process to follow to get the damage repaired. But there was no response until the repairman showed up Monday morning, he said.

When asked, the repairman for Campus Living Centres, the company that rents the properties out to students, said they always try to provide good service.

"We try to do things as best we can, with the least amount of inconvenience possible to the students," said the repairman, who asked he not be named.

The main reason it's taken this long for the repairs, he said, is because of the bad weather.

As for the damage itself, he said, it's like any new building.

"I've worked on buildings that are nine years old, and we're still finding things."

He said he advises students to bring these problems to someone who can then contact Campus Living Centres, adding that "most of these kids will never see a bill."

Carson said the process at the moment is for the students with complaints to come in and fill out a work request form. The college will do small repairs and maintenance such as replacing light bulbs and blown fuses. They will also assess damage and determine if Campus Living Centres needs to be contacted. They are working on getting direct contact for students next year, said Carson.

Chris Haze, director of residence operations at CLC, was unable for questions but responded in an email saying he was aware of a situation with a student at the college.

"Our facilities person has repaired the connection that was causing the leak, as well as repaired the cosmetic damage to the unit," Haze wrote.

"He'll be back on Wednesday to finish the paint, and I hope that's the end of it," said Sedore.

## Stirling fair shares tips on being healthy

By Kristen Haveman

A healthier 2012 was on the minds of nearly 200 people that came out to the Stirling Wellness Fair Saturday in Stirling.

Local healthcare providers from Stirling and surrounding area came together at the Eugene Burell Community Hall to show what they offer, including chiropractic services, Mitzvah massage, hypnotherapy and more.

"People have to be able to understand how to get information and this is a nice friendly event to get out that we are here," said Dr. Dan Boyle, the Stirling chiropractor who organized the event.

Boyle said wellness isn't just about any one area of the body and the diversity of vendors supported his message. Displays ranged from taste tests of organic foods to all natural makeups and even hand-drawn energy portraits.

Jocelyne Granger, one of 12 healthcare providers attending, demonstrated Mitzvah massage technique. Granger said she was happy to be at the event and that helping people was a great way to spend her weekend.

"Customers are always saying, 'I wish I would have known about you before.' This is a great way to say 'I'm here,'" said Granger.





Photo by Cassandra Davidson

Marina Boretski, owner of Boretski Gallery on Front Street in Belleville, adjusts one of her mannequins on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The City of Belleville has been working to beautify the downtown and keep crime down to bring in more business to local merchants like Boretski.

# Downtown improvements to help increase business

*Mixed reactions to yellow jacket program in city's core*

By Sarah Schofield

Despite the changes made to downtown Belleville, many retailers are not certain whether the efforts on the part of Belleville's police, mayor's task force and Belleville Downtown Improvement Area committee are enough to bring new customers into the area.

Carol Barratt, owner of Barratt's Office Pro downtown Belleville, had good things to say about the yellow jacket program.

"I think it's a good idea. A lot of people say, 'What are they there for?' You see them on the street and the seniors feel safer. The more bodies on the street, the better business. It's great."

Karin Belanger of Scalliwag Toys on Front Street had mixed opinions.

"I've only ever seen the yellow jackets once, maybe twice since the new year. I don't think Belleville has a crime problem. We've never had any problems. The most

we've had are a few thefts but whether we were located at the Quinte Mall or here, I believe we would have the same level of theft."

Sherry Rice, a Belleville citizen of five years, noticed the lack of activity in the area.

"The thing I find is that downtown Belleville is for the people who live there. No one shops downtown because it's known as a bad area. I've never had any problem but if I'm going at night I watch myself. I don't trust the people there."

Patricia Mitchell, owner on Front Street of the year-old The Studio, said the responsibility to bring business into the area is not the city's but that of the retailers.

"A lot of the merchants like myself have not been here that long but for the merchants who have been here slogging it on this street for years, I can understand them not really listening or paying attention because there are so many of us that come and go," she said. "I think the people down here are used to not being taken seriously in their concerns and there is definitely a lack of focused priorities."

"They can say they want more customers but when it comes to how they want to do it the merchants themselves never seem

**'The thing I find is that downtown Belleville is for the people who live there. No one shops downtown because it's known as a bad area. I've never had any problem but if I'm going at night I watch myself. I don't trust the people there.'**

Belleville resident Sherry Rice

to be consulted."

Plans are in place by Belleville's Mayor Neil Ellis' task force to improve the construction and facade of stores over the next four to five years starting with Campbell Street to make the downtown more accessible.

"I think overall people want their downtown to thrive. It's a matter of waiting for the capital to pass the mandate and once

we do we'll go full steam ahead and make Belleville one of the best areas in Ontario," said Mayor Ellis.

Mike Malachowski, a board member of the BDIA and owner of Funk & Gruven A-Z on Bridge Street East, is satisfied with the changes that have been made so far.

"One of the big changes is the renewed sense of optimism, and strong sense of community building that is going on right now. There was a lot of community interest and then it kind of waned but now we seem to have recaptured it. I think it's owed in large part to the mayor's task force. It's attracting development and progressive thinking retailers."

Marina Boretski attributes the success of her shop, Boretski Gallery, to the advertising the city has done the past couple years and the hard work of the task force.

"I see interest in people coming from out of town and they become regular customers. So there are things in the Belleville downtown core that interest them that they don't have in their own city."

"I feel that with the mayor and also the revitalization committee there is a greater amount of interest and I think they understand now that a downtown is utterly important to any city."

## Weather...

Continued from Page 1

Armstrong said that the bus drivers are friendly, and she doesn't feel unsafe while taking the bus in bad weather conditions.

However, Armstrong said that all in all she has no problems with the bus system. "I actually enjoy taking the bus."

Students say they will often be waiting at a bus stop for 15 to 30 minutes. Standing in the cold wind can cause students to be discouraged, and rethink using the transit system, they say.

"It's cold outside, so I don't want to stand and wait for the bus," said Devin Bellinger, a second-year radio broadcasting student.

Bellinger also said the shelter at the college is "small and usually cramped" and that it would help if they were larger, and there were more of them.

Armstrong said she believes "they should put shelters everywhere. At every bus stop, there should be one."

The number of shelters along the bus route is out of Belleville Transit's hands.

Livingston said that when it comes to the shelters they would be required to "take it to council."

Hodgson said "we've had shelters in the past. The problem is vandalism." He found shelters were being vandalized to the point that officials just decided to take them down.

The shelters tend to be in places where there is more traffic.

"We don't own the shelters," said Livingston. "There are really only four shelters that the transit owns." In order to get more, Belleville Transit would be required to take the issue to council. At that point, said Hodgson, it becomes a budget item.

## Cafeteria hours disappoint

By Andre Lodder

"To increase the length or duration of; lengthen; prolong."

According to dictionary.com, that's the definition of "extend."

The Loyalist College cafeteria has extended its hours for the winter semester. The new hours mean that the main cafeteria will be open later, but there will be no food available after 6:30 p.m.

The previous hours saw the main cafeteria close at 3 p.m., making Subway the only dinner option for the school.

The new hours mean that the main cafeteria, which consists of Pizza Pizza, Miso and the Burger Studio, will now be open until 6:30 p.m. giving students a larger dinner selection.

The main cafeteria wasn't the only establishment affected. Subway, which was previously open until 8 p.m., is now closed at 3 p.m. The change means that the hours of food accessibility have actually been reduced rather than extended.

While the change is welcome to some students, others have cause for concern.

"I would rather have Subway open. I think it's a healthier choice. Either way someone is going to be upset," said Sheawna Lorch, a Pre-Health Sciences student at Loyalist.

The changes also mean that the "Res Express," a program that helped deliver food to students on residence, no longer exists.

The changes mean that any student at the college past 6:30 p.m. no longer has an on-campus food option available to them.

The Loyalist Student Government has put together a committee to help raise any concerns that might arise. The committee's existence is already giving students hope, while putting their minds and their stomachs at ease.

"The student government is usually pretty good about stuff like that," said Lorch.

Loyalist's food services manager, Pierre Overvelde was unavailable for comment.

## Massage...

Continued from Page 1

"It was quiet, they pay their rent." Despite hearing rumors about illicit behavior, Legalley kept a healthy relationship with

her neighbour.

In 2007 the municipality of Quinte West passed a bylaw to regulate massage parlours strictly. Under the current guidelines, no more than two massage parlours are allowed to operate concurrently. In addition to this, a mandatory licensing fee of

\$1,500 for owners must be paid, as well as \$250 for operators and \$100 for each attendant.

Trenton Mayor John Williams has condemned the bawdy houses.

"It's not something we want in our city," Williams focused on the need for a

"proper investigation."

"You gotta have your homework done," he said.

Williams approved of the business suspensions of both the Silver Star Studio and the Sunny Health Spa, hoping "that's the way they stay."

# Don't put it off – get back to work

By Manuela Garay-Giraldo

It's that time of the year again, the holiday headspace is out and school is in.

It is time to study... right after watching that funny video on YouTube that your friend posted on your Facebook wall.

Suddenly a two-minute video has turned into a funny video marathon lasting an hour... or two.

According to Debra O'Shaughnessy, a student success mentor at Loyalist College, procrastination and poor class attendance are the most common reasons students are not successful in their studies.

"Procrastination is a big issue for students," said O'Shaughnessy. "They just think they have more time than they actually do."

"Especially for kids coming out of high school, they are used to longer semesters, but we only have 16 weeks," said O'Shaughnessy.

So what can be done to improve? O'Shaughnessy said that the most important tip she can give is that every student should use some sort of time management tool, such as a day planner, a notebook with to-do lists or even a cellphone. The latter is recommended for students who already are good time managers, and O'Shaughnessy believes that writing things down on paper is a more effective method for most people.

Environmental science student Kalvin Marshall said his motivation to keep on track and to do all his schoolwork is to look at his past.

"I just think about the past and I know

that if I don't want to go back there, if I want to get a good job that pays more than \$10 an hour, then I have to put effort into doing my schoolwork on time," said Marshall.

A biotechnology student, Hower Blair, agreed.

"I took some time off to really think about what I wanted to do with my life, and I finally found something that I really love. So I don't want to mess this up," he said.

Both students said that generally they leave their assignments to the last possible minute, which adds unnecessary stress.

O'Shaughnessy said another tip is to set goals to finish assignments well in advance of their due date. This way, when life happens, and another funny video finds its way to you, you actually have time to enjoy it.

Rebecca Lazar, a counsellor at Loyalist College, said "there are several resources for students, but sometimes students don't come because they feel embarrassed."

"What you need to know is that if you are facing an issue, there are many others who have gone through what you're going through, and coming to speak to a counsellor can make things easier," Lazar said.

At Loyalist College, there are counsellors, mind and wellness services, student success mentors, an international centre, academic centre for testing, grocery services, disability services, peer tutoring and an academic skills centre.

To connect with any of the above, go to the student success hub in room 2H4 or call 613-969-1913 ext. 2519.



Photo by Manuela Garay-Giraldo

Pre-health student Cheyenne Snider browses Facebook at Loyalist College. Most students procrastinate by going on social network websites and/or watching television. According to student success mentor Debra O'Shaughnessy, procrastination and poor class attendance are the most common reasons students fail academically.



# Second World War takes over Stirling

*Loyalist students take over main street on Monday morning*

By Tristan Kong

If you happened to see a troop of Second World War soldiers on the streets of Stirling recently, don't worry, you may be right, but it's just Loyalist College's television and new media production of *Hiding* taking over the main street.

West Front Street from North Street to Emma Street was closed from 6 a.m. until noon last Monday morning.

The students said they were excited to take over the streets. They were allowed to use the closed streets for a maximum of six hours.

Earlier in December, television and new media student Jacob Côté, who is directing the film, Megan Crowe, who is producing the film, and Loyalist professor Eric Howard pitched their project and showed the trailer to convince local councillors about their filming locations. Council approved the request the same day.

Côté says Stirling is the perfect town for filming because it has everything for his story. The original buildings, old community looks and small town are the perfect location for the film.

The regular street is replaced with a cast and crew of about 30 people, which will make Stirling look like a "war-torn and occupied town."

The crews and casts of *Hiding* had to brave the chill as the mercury fell early on Monday morning with closed stores. The crew had to block the cars driving through by the barriers on the closed street.

"It was really cold in the morning! Once the sun came up, it was a bit better. We hit some bumps in the road but we ended up finishing right on schedule thanks to a great cast. We are pretty happy about the results," said Tabatha Horst, who oversaw casting and publicity.

Director of photography Joseph Spencer agreed.

"Working on a production with the amount of dedication put into the work like my crew has for *Hiding* is a great experience," he said. "Filming outside in the



Photo by Tristan Kong

**Randee Dann, a volunteer actress, is seen on the set for the upcoming film *Hiding* in Stirling, Monday, Jan. 16. The film, produced, directed and written by Television and New Media students from Loyalist College in Belleville, had the main street of Stirling shut down for several hours.**

cold for six hours is a deadly feat, but not so much when you are being greeted by friendly Stirlingians."

*Hiding*, starring actors Carter Stephens, Ian Felham and Randee Dann, is a period film showing the struggle and love of a family in hiding during the Second World War. This project is the biggest film production in Loyalist College's history and also has provided an opportunity to take over the streets.

"It's exciting to see it finally be in production," Crowe said.

"We have been working hard and I can't wait to see the finished production."

*Hiding* has been in production since October 2011, but the story began with an idea from the writer, Ryan Harding, making its way through numerous pitches and elimination rounds which began two years ago. Since the fall of 2011, the crew was thrilled to learn that their story was

one of the scripts selected by the teachers to start filming.

"It was really cool to see my ideas come to life and to see others get excited over something I created," Harding said.

Councillor Jeremy Solmes said he is excited to let the students use the streets to make the movie.

"I think the benefit is that Stirling will be seen by other places where it never would have been seen before,"

Solmes said. He said it will give exposure to the town and bring in visitors and tourists.

The movie is scheduled to be released on YouTube and Vimeo in March 2012 and the creators are aiming to submit to various film festivals in Canada and the United States.

- - With files from Sarah Schofield

## Baggage project looking for positives

*Controversy surrounded unveiling of gallery in downtown last month*

By Linda Horn

The Baggage Project is now looking forward to some positive "baggage" words after controversy.

T.J. LeBlanc, creator of The Baggage Project, said she was not surprised by the controversy surrounding the very public unveiling of her gallery in downtown Belleville last month.

"The pictures were big. You were forced to look at them. I thought it would be interesting to see how long it will be before someone complains or I have to take them down, even though you can't see anything. Everything is covered," said LeBlanc.

LeBlanc got her answer a few days later on Dec. 22 when she received a text saying the landlord was getting heat, and even though she had the space until Jan. 31, it would have to be taken down by Dec. 26.

"I was frustrated that people were calling it pornography. I poured three years of my heart and soul into this and I started to think, 'what I am doing?' This whole project was about accepting people for who they are," said LeBlanc.

Richard Courneyea, owner of Richard Davis, a clothing store in downtown Belleville heard about the project being pulled and felt it was important to keep the conversation going. He asked LeBlanc if they could display her gallery at his store until Jan. 17.

"The response has been so positive. People call and leave messages on your Facebook page and they have all been very positive," said Courneyea.

Amanda Marshall, a 30-year-old mother of three, posed for the project in October 2010.

"I feel it was liberating. Afterwards,

**The pictures were big. You were forced to look at them. I thought it would be interesting to see how long it will be before someone complains or I have to take them down, even though you can't see anything. Everything is covered.**

Creator T.J. LeBlanc

especially during the interview I found a weight had lifted off me. Since then I have had more respect for myself and stopped repressing things. It was a great experience in total," said Marshall.

Marshall's photo was one of the photos being displayed during the controversy.

"With everything comes controversy. To call it pornography was insulting to T.J. Even my children have seen the pamphlet. You can't see anything. They are not supermodels in the pictures and people need to realize that is what people really are," said Marshall.

LeBlanc also sees the positive side of all of the controversy her project received.

"The controversy did get people talking and I have gotten a lot more people booking appointments," said LeBlanc.

Her final goal of The Baggage Project is to publish a book. Her original goal was to photograph 100 people but now she has increased that to 200 or 300 people. She also needs to look for more diversity in people.

"I will hang on to the pictures until I get a book deal. It will happen. I know it will," said LeBlanc.



Photo by Linda Horn

**T.J. LeBlanc sits with a piece of her luggage with her "baggage words". LeBlanc started The Baggage Project when she got the idea to do a word photography project. Participants of the project choose their luggage and "baggage" words and then pose in the nude.**

## Writer brings own baggage to session

By Linda Horn

I first heard of The Baggage Project last year during a photo seminar class. T.J. LeBlanc came to talk to our class about what she had been doing since she graduated photojournalism. On top of working as a reporter for The Independent in Brighton, she also showed us her work she was doing with baggage.

I really connected with what she talked about and showed us. I have gone though a lot and carried my own baggage like everyone. I loved the idea of posing nude, but not showing anything I didn't want to show.

A year and half later, I am driving to her studio on a freezing January day. My nerves were shot. What am I thinking posing nude, exposing my baggage words, unveiling my weaknesses?

LeBlanc's personality was warming, despite the chilly studio. She made me comfortable right away. Even though she was the photographer and it was her project, I was in control.

She handed me paper to write down my baggage words. I struggled with the spelling of some words and LeBlanc said it she couldn't help me, even with spelling. It was all about being the real me.

I then picked out the luggage I wanted to use and arranged my words on the luggage. LeBlanc stepped away so I could undress and position myself. She then came back with a cloth up by her face so she never saw a thing.

She quickly shot five or six frames, taking a moment to make sure she got what she wanted. Then it was done. We sat and did a quick video where she asked me a few questions.

The whole experience was natural and comfortable. I am proud of myself. I am now a part of something. I am excited to see the results and hope it touches someone.

## Late start to winter causes hardship for some businesses

**Winter tires not in plans for many car owners this year**

By Kristen Haveman

Not everyone is thrilled with the late start of wintery weather.

Dave Purdy is down \$15,000 gross compared to last December's numbers and said the January snow storm is probably too late to help. Purdy has owned Al's Tire and Automotive Service for 21 years and said that fall is generally the busy season for putting on winter tires.

"It's probably too late now. If people don't get winter tires on before Christmas, they usually just don't do it."

Purdy has already sent the majority of his winter tires back to the manufacturer, but he said there is still loss of revenue through sales even though he technically gets reimbursed for the tires.

The shop is also down from the regular two winter employees hired to one this year. The business also does rustproofing but Purdy said that it just doesn't make up for the missed sales on winter tires.

Sue Crawford, executive director at Scott's Haulage and Excavating in Trenton was thrilled to see the snow but said that there were big losses for the beginning of the winter.

"We usually make about \$30,000 per storm, and there is normally three to five

**'It's probably too late now. If people don't get winter tires on before Christmas, they usually just don't do it.'**

Al's Tire and Automotive Service owner Dave Purdy

storms in December if you add it up it's over a \$100,000 loss," said Crawford.

The company also does construction, which Crawford says is the lion's share of their business. She said things would be very difficult without that side of the business as the plowing jobs

for this year "are barely enough to feed a bird."

Crawford explained that even with construction it hurts the books because those contracts generally end before the snow starts. She said it is too hard on the machines after the ground is frozen, so that even if the winter does end up mild they will have completed the contracts.

Crawford did say that if the rest of the winter is particularly snowy they could still end up in the green.

Brad Wilson, Belleville's director of environmental and operational services, said it is just too early to tell if the city will end up with any savings.

"We are not two weeks into winter. People need to understand our budget is split from Jan. to April 15, then from Nov.

15 until the end of Dec. It is just too early to tell."

A milder winter also doesn't affect the number of employees brought in for winter control, such as plowing and salting said Wilson. He said that four people are brought in every year for winter control but that they are just redeployed if that area is slow.

Wilson said that they do save money on material costs such as sand and salt but that any surplus simply goes into reserve for years when the weather is particularly bad.

"Our budget is about the same as last year, with minor increases for things like wages and gas prices but weather we will be under or over you can't tell until the numbers are tallied," said Wilson.





Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Sherene Einarsson of the Loyalist Lady Lancers tries to save the ball from touching the ground during the women's volleyball game against the Cambrian Golden Shield in Belleville at Loyalist College, Saturday, Jan. 14. The Lady Lancers all three sets to top-seeded OCAA East Division Cambrian College.

## Local musher happy to be competing at home

By Thomas Lee

As he rides though the deep woods on the back of his dogsled, the cold wind stinging his face, the only sound is the wind howling and the dogs barking.

This is the life Shane Cox knows and loves.

With the 34<sup>th</sup> Marmora SnoFest taking place on Feb. 3 to Feb. 5, almost 100 dogsled teams will be participating in the event's seven races over the weekend.

"The late snow should not be a problem for the races. We should have enough snow on the track," said Vicki Best, the SnoFest event coordinator.

The races include everyone from amateurs to seasoned pros.

They also include Cox, the musher of the Marmora dogsled team, who is hard at work training with his 25 Alaskan huskies.

Cox grew up in Marmora with the dogsled races. His father always volunteered, and one of the races had a checkpoint at his house. One year Cox helped a musher during the race; the man later he gave Cox three of his dogs. He has kept as many as 60 Alaskan and Siberian huskies, but eventually downsized to 25.

"I started out racing in 25- to 80- mile races, taking in a couple trophies and most sportsmanlike awards," Cox said.

For Cox and his dogs training starts in late September when the temperature is 10C or colder. When there is no snow on the ground the dogs will pull an all-terrain vehicle driving at 15 miles per hour instead of a sled.

"We try to train at least four times a week. Right now we are running 25 to 40 miles, gearing up for the upcoming races starting in February," Cox said.

Cox spends hours getting the training and nutrition for his dogs just right so that they are in peak physical shape for the races.

"The dogs love to run and pull. With the right diet and training the dogs rarely get exhausted. They love their time out on the trail."

Cox said he likes to help the dogs on the races as much as he can.

"People say I work as hard or harder than the dogs. I am fine with that. I just hate to sit back and let them pull me."

In his 15 years of racing Cox has raced in almost 70 races around North America.

"I would love to race in the U.S a lot more," Cox said.

"They have very nice trails and races there."

Cox's longest one-day race was in Marmora and was 70 miles. His furthest two-day race was an 80-mile run in Kearney, Ont.

Cox currently lives in Marmora with his wife, Nicole, and their three-year-old daughter Charity. Charity has already begun running dogs and plans to compete in races with her new sled.

## Lancer teams have good start to 2012

By Melchizedek Maquiso & Meagan Pecjak

The Loyalist Lancers men's and women's volleyball teams had an overall great start in 2012 by winning three out of their four games at home.

The men's volleyball team won both of their games, while the Lady Lancers won one.

Both men and women's teams had a packed weekend as they battled the Cambrian Golden Shield and the Boreal Vipers on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

The Lancers swept Cambrian, 3-0 on Saturday and Boreal, 3-2 on Sunday.

Despite the weekend sweep, Dave Templar, coach of the men's team wasn't too happy with how his team played in the year opener.

"Not as we have planned. At the end of the weekend, we came away with two wins which I'm very thankful for. I still feel as though we left a lot of room for improvement and it's somewhat disheartening at this point in the season," he says.

Templar felt that his team's performance during the weekend can be attributed to plain laziness. He added that coming off the break was not an excuse in last weekend's performance.

"Yes, we're just coming off the break but the break should sort of re-energized and refocused our guys and yet I haven't fully seen the refocused and reshift for this semester yet, so I was hoping that would come out this weekend."

In the end, Templar acknowledged: "No coach can ever be unhappy with wins. I can only be mildly disappointed in the way that we got the wins but at the end of the day, they're wins."

In the women's games, the #1 OCAA East division Cambrian women's volleyball team proved too much for the Lady Lancers as they were routed 3-0 in Saturday's game.

"We won in confidence but it quickly got shattered because they do have a couple of strong players. But as soon as we went down a couple of points, that was

**'Yes, we're just coming off the break but the break should sort of re-energized and refocused our guys and yet I haven't fully seen the refocused and reshift for this semester yet, so I was hoping that would come out this weekend.'**

*Coach Dave Templar*

just the end for us. We had a breakdown in communication and we had a breakdown in confidence," said Lady Lancers co-captain Kirsten Talsma explaining the main reasons why the Golden Shield beat their team.

"I probably personally would've had a positive attitude. I would've tried harder to bring my team back because I personally haven't fulfilled my captain role to the best I could have," she says, referring to the sweep in three sets by Cambrian.

Despite their first loss of the year, the Lady Lancers came back on Sunday, beating Boreal in three sets.

"We served tough and our passing was much, much better," said Talsma.

Amy Hoskin, assistant coach for the Lady Lancers, is looking forward more wins for the Lady Lancers this year.

"I think we're really off to a really good start. The beginning of first semester the girls looked really strong and they were playing really, really hard. We had a little bit of a rough go towards the end of first semester but we're looking to pick it back up and get things going again," she said.



Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Chris Holden (L) of the Cambrian Golden Shield attempt tries to block the volley of Matt Woods (R) of the Loyalist Lancers during the men's volleyball game against the Loyalist Lancers held at Loyalist College in Belleville, Jan. 14, 2012. The Lancers defeated the Golden Shield 3-0.

## Bulls miss Malcolm in home loss to Wolves

By Andre Lodder

The goalie woes continued for the Bulls as the visiting Sudbury Wolves jumped out ahead 3-0 and came away with a 5-3 win against the Belleville Bulls this past Saturday at the Yardmen arena.

The Bulls have yet to win a game at home in 2012 registering their fourth straight home-loss going 0-4 in the New Year.

With the top ranked North American goaltender in the upcoming draft, Malcolm Subban, still out with a groin injury, John Chartrand got the start in net for the Bulls. However, Chartrand was replaced by 16-year-old Charlie Graham in the second period after allowing three goals on 15 shots.

The first period ended with the shots 10-10 but the Sudbury Wolves were the ones who capitalized on their chances. The Wolves came out of the period with a 2-0 lead with goals from Alex Racino and Andrew Kuchin.

They then made it 3-0 five shots later on Kuchin's second goal of the

night, chasing Chartrand out of the net.

Graham came in to relieve Chartrand, and it seemed to give the Bulls a boost as Jordan Mayer scored just 18 seconds later. The goal was his first in a Bull's uniform after being traded from the Mississauga Majors last week.

The remainder of the second period saw the Wolves and Bulls go goal for goal heading into the third.

The Bulls got goals from Brendan Gaunce and Garrett Hooey. Gaunce netted his 21<sup>st</sup> of the year on a 5-on-3 power play, while Garrett Hooey scored on a penalty shot with zero seconds left on the clock after being hauled down on a break-away at the end of the second period.

Despite a late surge by the Bulls, neither team managed to hit the back of the net in the third period as the Wolves came out on top 5-3 despite being out-shot 13-3 in the third.

The Bulls were also in action Sunday night losing to the Ottawa 67's 6-1. The next home game is against the Mississauga Majors on Wednesday night at 7:05 p.m.



Photo by Andre Lodder

Garrett Hooey scores a goal on a penalty shot with no time on the clock in the second period against the Sudbury Wolves on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2012. Despite a late surge, the Bulls lost the couldn't recover from a 3-0 deficit and eventually lost the game 5-3. The Bulls are still winless at home for the new year going 0-4.

## Bulls back in action Wednesday

After a couple of days off, the Belleville Bulls are about to strike up a close-to-home series, starting with a home game hosting the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors on Wednesday night.

The Bulls will then face a visiting Kitchener side on Saturday before heading to Kingston for a Sunday afternoon matinee.