



Topher Seguin

Standing on the corner of Catharine and Octavia Street, David Lever wonders if moving in the neighbourhood last fall was a good idea. "We want to move. We don't want the kids growing up in this neighbourhood."

Neighbourhood robberies causes concern for residents

West Hill vandalism and crimes in area concern residents that area is not safe

By Kristen Haveman and Topher Seguin

Two recent robberies in the West Hill area of Belleville have left some in the area saying that their neighbourhood is unsafe.

Residents were reacting to a man who was robbed and assaulted at knife-point Jan. 16 and a woman who escaped unharmed after being approached by two men with a knife demanding money on Jan. 17.

Samantha Dunkley, who's lived in the area since September, says she enjoys how close shopping centres are but said that as far as vandalism and crime are concerned, the area is not safe. She said that

she does not send her kids to play in the park on Octavia Street.

"I do see the police in the area. My husband and I are both smokers and we do it outside of our house because we have children. And I do see them circle through at least once a day. I really don't know what else can be done."

Dunkley's husband David Lever agreed.

"We want to move. We don't want the kids growing up in this neighbourhood," he said.

Residents of the area said they believe there is a lot of drug use in the area. Wayne Meyer said that it is starting to get cleaned up, but that the problems just tend to move from one street to another. He said that he has had no problems himself and that he feels comforted by police presence.

Cindy Villeneff, who has lived in the area her whole life, said she sees a lot of drug use in the area and every once in a while some violence.

"Luckily I have my sons. They're big

'We want to move. We don't want the kids growing up in this neighbourhood.'

resident David Lever

guys so I'm okay and don't worry. But without them, I'd easily be knocked to the ground," said Villeneff.

Sgt. Julie Forestell of Belleville Police Service said both robberies are still under investigation.

She said that people should always be practicing personal safety measures, such as always letting someone know where you are going when you do have to walk alone. Forestell said you should have a route and destination in mind and to let people know an expected time of arrival.

She also said that knowing your surroundings and being aware of what is around you is important. She said hearing

what is going on around you is as important as seeing what's around you.

"If you notice the lights are out on one side of the street, it's a good idea to cross over to the lighted side," said Forestell.

The Jan. 16 incident occurred at approximately 5:30 a.m. on Everett Street. Police were only able to get a description of one of the suspects. He was described as a white male, early 20's, approximately 6 feet tall, clean-shaven and dressed in all black with a hoodie pulled over an either grey or black cap.

The attempted robbery on Jan. 17 occurred near the intersection at Catharine and Octavia streets at about 12:30 a.m. The suspects have been described as two white males in their late teens, wearing caps with hoods pulled over their heads.

Police are asking that anyone with any information about either incident contact Belleville Police Service at (613) 966-0882 or Crime Stoppers at (613) 969-8477.

'Empty Bowls' fill empty stomachs

Fundraiser supports collective of food banks in area counties

By Tiffany McEwen

Loyalist College and Gleaners Food Bank will be helping fill stomachs with their second annual 'Empty Bowls' campaign. The event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28 in the Loyalist College cafeteria. Students from the Loyalist College Culinary program, along with instructor Chef John Schneeberger, will be making soup to go along with hand-made bowls, crafted by continuing education pottery students, local potters and students of St. Theresa's Secondary School.

The campaign, in its second year in Belleville, helps to raise money for the Gleaners Food Bank and the Quinte Region Food Share Shelter (QRSS), an organization which is a collective of nine area food banks throughout Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland counties.

"In essence it signifies that around the world there are empty bowls. People are starving, they can't fill their bowls," said Lise Rouleau, executive of Loyalist College's Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), a group of student volunteers who use their skills to help the community and work closely with Gleaners to help try to make 'Empty Bowls' successful.

"So it's a symbol of hunger around the world, but it's a way for the whole community to get together, because potters donate the bowls. The ceramic bowls are beautiful; they're gorgeous. So then it's a whole community coming together. They're donating, and we're filling the bowls."

Last year, the event raised \$3,100 for the various food banks and was host to 10 vendors. This year, Susanne Quinlan, director of operations at the Belleville Gleaners Food Bank, said the goal is to sell 175 bowls and raise \$5,000.

"This is really a collaborative effort because not only are our students donating their time and talents, our clay supplier, Tuckers Pottery Supplies, donated the clay and the college is donating glazing and firing services," said Continuing Education co-ordinator Heather Cockerline.

In addition, Aramark, the company that owns and operates the cafeteria at Loyalist College, Thompson's Rental Service, who will be providing dishes for the event, continuing education students, local potters, students from St. Theresa's Secondary School, Loyalist College itself and Dinkel's restaurant have all donated supplies and time to the campaign.

The continuing education pottery students, who contribute a considerable amount of their work to Gleaners, will be providing a significant number of bowls for the event, which have been hand-crafted by way of either hand shaping or 'throwing', the method of shaping the clay on a spinning wheel.

The event is open to the public between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Jan. 28. Soup and a bowl can be purchased for \$20, or soup without a handcrafted bowl can be purchased for \$8 with all proceeds going to the food banks. The price includes a roll and dessert as well as live entertainment. Vendors will be set up with their wares for sale.

Party celebrates Chinese New Year

At least 100 people are expected to attend special event at First Pentecostal Church

By Melchizedek Maquiso

The Chinese New Year celebration, which has been held at the First Pentecostal Church in Belleville for the past five years, will be a little different from previous years.

"This year's celebration, we'll probably have a different style. We have some Chinese folk songs that are new for this year," says Paul Li, organizer of the event at the church.

The event started as a small gathering when it was first held in 2006. Two years later, it has picked up the pace. Since then, the celebration has been a fixture in the church's annual event calendar. This year, the celebration is expected to attract at least a hundred people.

The celebration will be held on Jan. 21 but the actual new year will be celebrated two days later on Jan. 23. Given that the latter date falls on a weekday, it was necessary to move the celebrations earlier.

After the public celebration, Li, like any other Chinese families around the world, will have his own celebration of the actual new year in his home.

"Chinese new year traditionally means the union of family members, celebrating a new start," says Li.

Hui Li, Paul's wife, says she's going to cook a traditional Chinese dinner and



Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Paul Li, right, and his family (left to right) Hui, Rebecca, 5, and Maggie, 14, display their Chinese New Year's decorations in preparation for Saturday's events.

vite friends over. The family will also call parents and family in China where Paul and his wife are originally from.

Like any typical holiday season in the Western world, decor and ornaments will

be pulled out from their boxes and used to adorn the household.

Among the decorations that the Li family would pull out of storage are images of fruits and fish, which signify harvest and

abundance respectively.

Aside from the decor, Hui said people will try to wear something red and gold as both colours bring cheerfulness and prosperity in the coming new year.

Major restoration at Glanmore

Historic site temporarily closed for ceiling repairs

By Thomas Lee

The years always have a wear and tear on houses and the Glanmore historical site is no exception.

The Glanmore historic site in Belleville has been temporarily closed for restorations to the main floor ceiling. Over the years the ceiling, which is made from lath and plaster, has been slowly separating and it is time to have it repaired. The Glanmore historic site has to keep their lath and plaster ceiling instead of dry wall so it can stay a national historic site.

"We cannot put dry wall up because of our designation of a nation historic site. All the hand paintings on the ceiling would be lost," said Melissa Wakeling, Glanmore's education and marketing co-ordinator.

The restoration to the historic site is going to cost an estimated \$368,000.

"We received some funds from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, the City of Belleville and the Parrott Foundation," said Wakeling.

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Maple trees at risk from pest

Aggressively destructive Asian longhorned beetle a concern to producers

By Melissa Di Nardo

Maple syrup producers around Prince Edward County are looking for a way to protect a tree that is a part of Canadian heritage.

The Asian longhorned beetle is threatening the maple tree and an intense eradication program based in the Toronto and Vaughan areas are in place to prevent further infestation.

Maple syrup producer Cliff Foster from Fosterholm Farms in Picton said this aggressively destructive pest is a concern.

"My biggest problem is how are we going to control it. Is there going to be aerial spraying or whatever procedure we have to do?" said Foster.

"We certainly cannot lose all our maples. We lost a lot of the ash trees and the elm. We sure do not want to lose our maple, that's our heritage. That's where our maple leaf flag comes from."

Foster also suggested that farmers and the government need to work more closely together in creating a prevention plan so that there is no reason for massive amounts of tree cutting because of infestation.

The Asian longhorned beetle is an invasive pest that has been destroying forests in North America since 1996. Originally native to Asian countries, this pest was first discovered in New York. The beetle has crossed the border and was found in Toronto on Sept. 18, 2003 and migrated north to Vaughan forests.

The larvae are considered to be the most dangerous since they tunnel up the centre of the tree, ceasing further growth. The adults, on the other hand, are less harmful since they feed off of twigs, leaves as well as bark.

"We don't know what procedures we need to be doing to combat this disease. This is a serious thing. This pest burrows into the tree. Personally I think aerial spraying is how you would do it. Hopefully there are better ways. We must protect our



Photo by Melchizekec Maquiso

Cliff Foster, 80, is the owner of Fosterholm Farms which produces maple syrup among other products. Foster says that he is concerned for the health of his maple trees following reports of Asian longhorned beetle infestation in Toronto.

trees. It's like any other pest. We have to control things," said Foster.

Mature beetles usually emerge from hiding in late May all the way through to October, July being their peak month. It has been reported that tree infestation can be detected by looking for exit holes 3/8 to 3/4 inches in diameter (1.5-2 cm), often in the larger branches of the crowns of infested trees. Sometimes sap can be seen oozing from the exit holes with coarse sawdust as evidence on the ground or lower branches.

Currently there are very few predators of the Asian longhorned beetle in North America and there are no known chemicals that can prevent infection or save the hosting trees. Even though the Asian longhorned beetle has not been discovered in Prince Edward County, farmers and

maple syrup producers are quite worried that if this beetle does migrate east, they could possibly lose their maple syrup production.

Dr. Taylor Scarr, an insect specialist for the Provincial Forest Entomology team said the last Asian longhorned beetle has not been found in the Toronto and Vaughan area since 2007. "If we manage to keep this area free from the Asian longhorned beetle till the end of 2013, we can declare the area eradicated."

An area needs to be cleared from an invasive pest for five years in order to be deemed safe. "There is no known insecticide to protect the trees in advance since the beetle dwells within the bark," said Scarr.

Scarr advised farmers and land owners

to "not bring things like palettes or wood crates into forest areas that could be contaminated."

The main success and early eradication of the Toronto and Vaughan area were due to the strong leadership of all officials to make this a high concern.

Scarr stated that help from the U.S. Agriculture Agency provided advice on quick eradication steps.

The beetle was found in Toronto and Vaughan in September and by November, the eradication procedures were in full force.

The next stage is to regenerate the forests and to continue to keep an eye out for this invasive pest, as there is no solution other than clear cutting in order to prevent the spread.

Sleep Out So Others Can Sleep In

Event will bring awareness to homeless in community

By Marina Sanford

For nearly 200 people, sleeping in a shelter is a regular occurrence. Many have been doing it for years, and will continue to require the help of a shelter for years to come.

Because of the number of people going through the Belleville shelters, Our House, Our House Too, and Casa Tres, regular repairs and maintenance can become costly to those running the shelters. But there is a group of people who are trying to help out by spending a night outside.

The fifth annual Sleep Out So Others Can Sleep In will be held in Market Square this year. Elisha Coleman will be spending the night outside for a second year.

Coleman heard about the event from a friend, and decided she wanted to participate. In her first year, she raised \$150 for the event, and hopes to get over the \$200 mark this year.

"I put a thing on Facebook and pretty much everyone that I see or visit, I usually bring it up, and they start talking about how they could never do it. Well, I am, so if you want to sponsor me, instead of doing it yourself..."

Coleman missed last year's event because she was pregnant, but plans to keep participating in the future. She said she is not concerned about the weather this year, but hopes to get a box as good as the one she had last year.

"I got a box from a funeral home and it was the right size. I didn't have to make many modifications. Some kind of go all out. A guy that I knew had his box beside mine and he had this little lantern thing that he hung in the corner of his box, and it had a little candle in it. He didn't even need his boots on. He was quite toasty in there!"

A new Sleep Out site will also debut this year in Bancroft. Sandie Sidsworth, the executive director of the Hastings and Prince Edward branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association will be sleeping out at the new location.

"It was time to make our presence known, just really reconnect with the community, so that seemed to be a great way to do it," said Sidsworth. She is no stranger to the event either. Before she took over as the executive director, she participated in the event three times. Twice she was a sleeper collecting pledges, and fundraising in the community.

Last year, the event raised just over \$8,000, which was a far cry from the almost \$20,000 raised the year before. This year, organizers would like to raise \$10,000 dollars between the two locations.

The money raised during the event is crucial to the shelters, because it is the only fundraiser held for the physical upkeep of the buildings. The rest of the money raised during the year goes toward programs the mental health association runs, said Sidsworth.

Last summer, the shelters received a helping hand from Home Depot in the form of a grant of \$25,000 to refurbish bathrooms, window, and doors, to make them more environmentally friendly.

"Without that money, we couldn't have been doing that work on the bathrooms that we needed to because the funds were down," said Sidsworth.

There will be a number of guest speakers during the evening to help address the issues of homelessness and poverty, as well as music during the evening, provided by Scotty Lalonde, who is volunteering his time for the event.

Sidsworth asks that even if people aren't interested in staying outside for the night, to help out in any way they can.

"There's lots of ways to give without having to sleep out. Sponsor someone, come down and join us for a couple hours, but the most important thing is creating awareness. We all need to work together."

Madoc youth centre brings young people together

Foundations program made possible by 'people that care,' says founder

By Mark Tarnovetsky

Colleen MacAlister built her dream upon a solid foundation.

She helped start Foundations, a youth centre located at a storefront in downtown Madoc, offering a safe environment where local youth could receive a hot meal.

She started out working in a warehouse electrical wholesale company in Belleville in 1986. MacAlister worked her way up to a manager position over a span of 14 years.

In 1995, Colleen had different aspirations. She began the legal proceedings required to create Foundations. The next year, the Foundations storefront property in Madoc was purchased. Eager to help, MacAlister worked the front lines, sharing hot meals and a positive environment with the local youth who attended.

MacAlister was responsible for Foundation's survival during its early years, seeking out like-minded members of the community for donations. Foundations is made possible by "people that care, that really want to help provide a safe place for young people, and make sure that they have something to eat, something to drink, they contribute," MacAlister says.

Tom Simpson, deputy reeve of Centre Hastings, has been involved with Foundations since its origins.

"I'm a very big supporter of Foundations. It's well-needed by our community." Simpson personally volunteered time and donated money to the youth centre. Three years ago, he co-ordinated the local high school Centre Hastings Secondary School program Renovation and Restoration, inviting students to help with renovations of the Foundations storefront.

He called it an "opportunity to improve the unit," as well as "an opportunity to have the students learn skills."

After 15 years of working at the Madoc storefront, MacAlister is looking into the near future. She hopes to receive enough donations to purchase a home property in Marmora and open its doors to young girls in need of



Photo by Mark Tarnovetsky

Colleen MacAlister waits on a table at the Foundations storefront in Madoc, Ontario. Alyssa Marlin, left, and Dolly Perdue, right, are local high school students from Madoc Public School and regularly attend the youth centre.

somewhere to live.

"Right now, we're looking for partners who will consider working with us on a regular basis, monthly. We're looking for people who believe in our vision and what we're doing and if we get 20 people with 20 dollars a month, that's going to pay one of our rents."

Another source of donations comes from hosting events.

MacAlister is organizing a dinner event in Madoc in February "geared toward family" after the long weekend.

"Monkfest," a Christian-themed music festival near Marmora, is also taking place. During the summer months, Foundations will host a peace camp inviting local youth from the Madoc, Tweed, Marmora area and abroad. "I see the future of Foundations as continuing and growing"

Dam safety on the radar of public officials

Two drownings in summer have led to more emphasis on safety and education

By Linda Horn

Most people are not thinking of swimming at Dam 1 in Trenton these days.

But public officials are following through on plans to make the dam safer and re-educate the public about dam safety to prevent future drownings after two people drowned there last summer.

Officials have replaced the sign on the dam. An education plan is being put in place for area students. There are plans to show a dam safety commercial at Quinte West city hall and the local movie theater. A fence for the west side of the dam is also being planned.

In the months following the drownings, Quinte West mayor John Williams and the Ontario Provincial Police met with Parks Canada to discuss what safety measures need to be taken at the dam.

One of the issues was signage. The sign at the dam was unreadable due to vandalism.

"Awareness is the issue and we want the signs," said Williams.

Williams said Parks Canada was quick to respond and the sign was replaced with a larger red sign, warning people that there have been deaths at this dam and not to trespass.



Photo by Linda Horn

The photo on the left, taken Aug. 16, 2011, shows the vandalized sign on Dam 1 in Trenton. The photo on the right, taken Jan. 16, 2012, shows the new sign which replaced the vandalized one. Dam 1 was the site of two drownings this past summer.

Last summer Dawn Bronson, the Central Ontario field unit superintendent for Parks Canada, said they have had a problem with graffiti in the area.

Williams is keeping the graffiti problem in mind with new sign.

"The signs have to be clean. Even though it is Parks Canada property, the city is going to keep an eye on it. I will periodically send our guys out to see how it looks," said Williams.

Another issue is re-educating the public

about dam safety. Swimming at the dam has been a pastime in Trenton for generations.

Inspector Mike Reynolds, detachment commander for Quinte West, said the OPP plans to taking a proactive approach to providing education about dam safety.

There are plans in the works to go out to area schools and discuss dam safety. The Ontario Power Generation dam safety commercial will be played at city hall again

this spring, and the OPP are still in talks to have the commercial played at the local theatre before a movie starts.

"We want to provide all people education about dam safety and its strong currents," said Reynolds.

Reynolds also said that Trent-Severn waterway officials are planning on putting a fence on the west side of the day, but no date had been set for construction.

"We want to make sure our public is safe," said Reynolds.

Glanmore...

Continued from Page 1

Drawing rooms also to be repainted to their original colour

The fund has donated \$130,000, the City of Belleville \$163,000 and the Parrott Foundation \$75,000.

Glanmore has also decided to repaint the walls in the drawing rooms to their original colour.

"It is a rare opportunity to return the original paint schemes in the rooms to the original colour," said Wakeling.

Glanmore has not set an exact date but it is expected to have a grand re-opening on National Museum Day, May 18. National Museum Day is a day when museums offer free admission.

The group responsible for Glanmore's historic site is Historic Plaster Conservation Services. They specialize in dealing with plaster in historic buildings, using techniques for strengthening existing plaster in ceilings and walls.

"They are the only company that does this kind of work in North America," said Wakeling.



Photo by Mark Tarnovetsky

Kirk Fleming, the Director of Facility Services, supervises the contract between Loyalist College and the company who maintains the green wall located in Link Lounge at Loyalist College.

Going green costs college green

Facility services department takes over the expenses of living wall

By Mark Tarnovetsky

The cost of going green is about to set in. The responsibility of maintaining the living wall, a section of wall in the Link Lounge of Loyalist College made entirely of green plants, is to be transferred to the facility services department by the end of March.

A living, or "green" wall, is a self-sufficient vertical garden that uses a recycled

water support system.

The living wall's upkeep is covered under a warranty in a contract that expires at the end of March, after which the facilities department at Loyalist will take full responsibility. Maintenance will include a monthly routine of inspection of the plants and water filtration system.

The living wall was built during the construction of the Link Lounge in April of last year, connecting Loyalist College's main building with the new Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre.

The cost of the living wall amounted to \$85,000.

"Loyalist College students' ancillary fees

were used for this project," Loyalist Student Government business manager Julie Cooper confirmed.

Full-time students are required to pay an ancillary fee of \$969. Winter registration students' pay \$484.50, and summer students \$261.50. The fee is used for various projects, not only the living wall.

"There is always a cost concern for something new," Kirk Fleming admitted.

Fleming, the director of facility services at Loyalist, has estimated annual maintenance costs to reach \$1,800.

Over 300 individual plants make up the wall, featuring 15 different species. Fans have been installed inside the wall

so the roots have enough air circulation.

Fleming believes the living wall "adds to the atmosphere" of the Link Lounge.

Despite the living wall's pleasing esthetics, the system is not connected to Loyalist College's HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system. Some living walls work in conjunction with a building's air conditioning system, lowering costs, however, Loyalist College's living wall is cosmetic only.

"If you just put a bunch of plants in your home you're going to get the same results as the wall. It just saves us space and everything is in one area to maintain," Fleming said.

Queen's University helps with high school transition

Grade 7 students with learning disabilities to get updated assessment

By Samantha Cantelon

Queen's University is conducting a program for local students in Grade 7 with learning disabilities, which helps them make a successful transition to secondary school and beyond.

Participating schools in Belleville are St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Michael Catholic School.

Claire Notman, success co-ordinator at Queen's University said, "we hope to reach as many kids in need as we can to help make transitioning to high school easier."

"The Grade 8 transitions program gives children with reading or writing learning disabilities the chance to have an updated psychoeducational assessment," said Notman.

A psychoeducational assessment tests the student's intellectual achievements through math, writing and reading. From these test results, teachers will be able to understand where the students are having problems, and the school will be able to create an appropriate individual education plan for the child's success into high school and higher education.

Melanie Clair, a resource teacher at St. Michael Catholic School in Belleville said, "after elementary school, it is common for learning disabilities to affect students' reading and writing."

This is St. Michael's second year with students participating in the Queen's program.

"It helps the students keep on track," Clair said.

According to Statistics Canada, 44 per cent or 68,000 of all Canadian children reporting disabilities live in Ontario.

In the most recent study of Canadian children between five and 14 years old, a total of 155,000 had some form of activity limitation. Out of those 155,000 children with disabilities, 38 per cent are receiving special education services. Approximately 39 per cent of parents indicated that they could not access special education services because these services were not available locally.

The program takes around 32 students and usually starts in September.

"We try to see as many students as we can before the end of the year," said Notman.

All of the testing is done at Queen's in Kingston in the regional assessment and resource centre.

"I know schools do all they can to help students transition from elementary to secondary school," said Notman. "As more and more students are diagnosed with learning disabilities and other exceptionalities, the job becomes much bigger and I know special education and student support teachers are overloaded already. I do feel there needs to be more support for these students and their parents. In cooperation with the school boards we are trying to help close that gap."

Healing and education objectives of team

Alternatives for Women dedicated to women dealing with violence

By Melissa Di Nardo

One-in-four women are assaulted by their partners, reports Alternatives for Women in Prince Edward County.

Alternatives for Women is dedicated to providing a safe and confidential place with services geared towards ending violence against women and healing those who survive.

"Every week, two women are killed by their intimate partners," reports Alternatives in one of their pamphlets.

Surviving women are very empowering, full of healing. Healing is the main objective for executive director Rahno Godfrey.

Godfrey and her team go into the community and help educate the public and younger generations about the effects that abuse has.

The team also educates women by

telling them where they can receive safe and confidential help and legal advice.

Godfrey is very familiar with the area since she has been working in the area for over a decade at Three Oaks shelter in Belleville.

"We do safety planning with every woman who walks through that door," said Godfrey. This is one of the first steps for survivors who try and reach out for help.

"When you find the courage to step out of the darkness, you will either be given a solid foundation to stand on or wings to fly," advised Godfrey to all women who are dealing with domestic abuse in silence.

Asked what were red flags of abuse and how to help women from being abused, Godfrey said.

"What might you see now is constant text messaging, checking up on you. Where are you? Who you talking to? Who are you with? So and so saw you!"

"Maybe she is wearing long sleeves and inappropriate clothing in warm weather. Maybe you invite her out with all the girls from school all the time and she is like 'I

can't go. I got to get going.' Her eyes are darting, she is very nervous and anxious and she has to get going. She has to check this text, she just has to get back to him. You know? Those are some things you might want to go 'Hmm. What's going on there?'"

"Is it that you just don't like me? Or is there something else going on?"

It always starts out with looks and gestures but quickly progresses," explained Godfrey.

"He moves quick and he occupies all your time, starts putting your friends down. He doesn't want you going out. He wants you to chose him over your friends and family and he accuses you of choosing them over him."

"Women are not property," said Godfrey as a message to aggressors who don't see the harm in their actions.

One of the first steps to awareness is communication and to know that you do have a choice, a choice to be safe.

"The reason it continues in silence is because people don't talk about it. The reason that it happens is because people don't

talk about it," said Deborah Raymond, a therapist at the sexual assault centre in Belleville.

Raymond, who is a group facilitator for the sexual assault centre, said the centre is geared towards healing the survivor -- both male and female.

"We help them to remove some of that distortion and bring in healthier thoughts about themselves. We offer that to them, but they have to do the work on their own."

Helping a survivor to see what kind of woman she can become is a beautiful rebirth to witness. "Speak up because you matter and you deserve to live a life free of violence," said Raymond.

You can reach the Alternatives for Women centre at (613) 476-4435 and speak to Rahno Godfrey about what your options are or even how to become more involved in saving someone who could be suffering in silence.

There is also the 24-hour crisis line available in case of an emergency at (613) 476-2787.

Firefighting team trains to help firefighters

Group dedicated to search and rescue of downed firefighters in collapsed buildings

By Tophier Seguin

Belleville firefighters finished off their new Rapid Intervention Team training at the former Quinte Exhibition grounds Wednesday.

The team is a group of firefighters who are solely dedicated to the search and rescue of other firefighters in distress, which may mean rescuing a downed firefighter in a collapsing building.

John Lake, who was in charge of the operation, said that it was about time the department got a firefighter specialized course going, adding that rescuing a firefighter is much different from rescuing civilians, and on average it takes 12 firefighters to rescue a single down firefighter.

"We always had a RIT team, but I finally went to take a course specializing in it and it was a real eye-opener. Not only did we learn more about saving each other's lives, but we also learned about building construction, which helps when it's time to make a wall into a doorway," said Lake.

The National Fire Protection Association defines RIT as "two or more firefighters assigned outside the hazard area at an interior structure fore to assist or rescue at an emergency operation."

'Today was an evolution. We had smoke machines to simulate real smoke you would see at any given fire, and a mock building to train in. We had to first find our way through the maze and then drag our buddy out.'

firefighter Mich Lacombe

The concept of RITs isn't something new. Teams have been around for 10 to 15 years in the United States but have only begun to enter the Canadian fire service the last five years.

Making the training as realistic as possible was very important to the team. They filled the whole room with smoke and constructed a maze for the firefighters to find their way through.

"Today was an evolution. We had smoke machines to simulate real smoke you would see at any given fire, and a mock building to train in. We had to first find our way through the maze and then drag our buddy out," said firefighter Mich Lacombe.

This was the fourth and final team participating in the training.

"Everything went pretty much as expected. We went through a few different scenarios and it all worked out well," said Lake.



Photo by Tophier Seguin

Just finishing off the final day of the new Rapid Intervention Team training, Belleville firefighter Mich Lacombe believes that it was a huge success.

Loyalist recruits more international students

Dramatic increase in number of students coming from other countries

By Rhea Munroe

When Rahul Prakash, a second-year student at Loyalist originally from Trivandrum, India first came to Loyalist College last year he said that he noticed there were few international students in the school. However, this year, he's seen a dramatic increase in the number of international students. Prakash's observation is something that the college has noticed as well.

Laura Naumann, the director of student enrolment services, said that the increase is "due to the efforts of the international office. Catherine O'Rourke spent a fair bit of time in Asia."

O'Rourke, who is student success director of Loyalist College, said "Loyalist College is an identified SPP member. What that means is that the Ontario government, the federal government and the high commission of a target country have set up a program where they have identified specific institutions to be a partner.

"SPP is student partner program. Loyalist is identified as a SPP with the high commission of India. And as a result of that it has again raised our profile in that country," said O'Rourke.

The recruiters go to different countries for a week or two at a time and run education fairs for students and inform them about Loyalist College and the many different programs that are offered. This is what Naumann said she thinks is the single largest reason for the increase.

Up until this year, the increase in the number of international students has been steady, but never quite peaked like it has this year.

O'Rourke also points out that there has been an increase in the use of social media to promote the programs at Loyalist.

Prakash said that his reason for coming to Canada was for "a better offered education. A diploma from Canada will help me a lot back home in finding a job. It will also help me to stay in Canada for jobs."

However, Riccardo Basagni from Arezzo, Italy said that he came to Canada for schooling because "I wanted to try a different experience. I always liked learning new languages and studying abroad."

Prakash said that his agent told him about Loyalist College and another school in Manitoba which he opted not to attend because he liked the programs Loyalist offered, and he did not want to deal with the cold winters of Manitoba.

O'Rourke said she knows the international students are enjoying their time here because "peers are inviting peers to come to study at Loyalist College. If the experience wasn't a positive one, we wouldn't see the number of students who are inviting their friends to come."

When Prakash came to Loyalist, he didn't know anyone but now finds himself with lots of friends from both India and Canada.

Ankit Patel, a student from Ahmedabad, India says that he would definitely recommend Loyalist to a friend.

It is being expected that the years ahead will only see more of an increase in the number of international students continuing their education at the college.



Photo by Rhea Munroe

Ankit Patel is an international student from Ahmedabad, India. Patel is currently in his first year at Loyalist College studying Fitness and Health.

Children's needs come first at daycare centres

By Amielle Christopherson

Staff at daycare centres in Belleville say they are eager to learn how to adapt to children's individual needs.

That includes anything from learning how to sign for children who are deaf to learning all the facts about diabetes and insulin. No matter what, it's always about putting the child, not the special need, first.

"Every parent is entitled to their child's needs being met," said Debbie Milne, the executive director of First Adventure Childcare Development Centre.

"All children should have that right to have access to all programs."

As such, daycare centres do what they can to best serve their little charges. But that's not where the issue lies. The problem is the fact that extra help is often where funding gets cut first.

"We couldn't offer some of the services without the aid of the community," Jennifer deGroot said gratefully as the manager of the on-campus child care centre at Loyalist College.

deGroot finds she's been needing more of that help in the last five to 10 years, especially since she's finding that there are more children who are being diagnosed earlier with autism.

"I don't know if that's because there's a broader spectrum that children can be fit into, but there has been a rise in numbers."

Little Rascals Daycare Centre has gone a step further than not just having their staff learning to sign, but to hiring a deaf daycare worker. Five years ago, they hired Sandra Lynds, the sign language teacher, and since then, she's taught all of the staff how to sign, as well as any of the children who are at the centre during the day. Hiring Lynds has allowed the centre to accept five deaf children comfortably into their midst.

Pam Elliott, one half of the management



Photo by Amielle Christopherson

Sandra Lynds, a teacher at Little Rascals Daycare Centre, has taught all the staff and some of the children how to communicate using sign language. Her abilities have allowed the centre to welcome deaf children to the centre.

at Little Rascals, acknowledges that, for their daycare centre, having Lynds there is extremely important.

"These children learn that children with disabilities are no different," she said. "When they go to public school, they have no fear of seeing a child with

a disability."

The question arises whether daycare centres are hiring workers with a special need in order to better connect with children who have the same needs.

"Would I hire someone because they present the same visual or

non-visual needs? No," deGroot said firmly.

"I hire someone based entirely upon their qualifications. If they had a special need and could do the job, we would, of course, hire them."

'Bed blockers' cause problems for hospitals

Alternative level of care patients taking up space while they wait for nursing home beds

By Topher Seguin

Known informally as "bed blockers", alternative level of care patients or ALC for short, are stuck in Ontario hospital beds never designed for them in the first place.

Often elderly, ALC patients are admitted to the hospital after sustaining injuries from something like a fall or a stroke, and end up in the hospital for what should be a short time, but end up having to stay because there isn't a nursing home bed available for them in the community.

Patients can often spend months waiting for a spot to open up in a retirement or nursing home, all the while taking up space in a hospital bed that could otherwise be used to treat others.

According to the Ontario Hospital Association on Oct. 31 last year, there were 4,088 ALC patients waiting in an acute care or post-acute bed and over 20,000 people waiting for a long-term care bed in Ontario, most of which were waiting in the community.

"Different people need different support," said Laura Hare, executive director at the Alzheimer Society of Belleville-Hastings-Quinte. "The whole idea is to equip families with strategies, tools, and techniques to care for the person as long as possible. The person doesn't want to leave their home, and the caregiver doesn't want to put them in a home, but sometimes the caregiver gets burnt out emotionally and physically, then a crisis comes along that they can't handle and the person gets put into acute care and then later into ALC."

A calm atmosphere is the best thing that can happen to an ALC patient, and as you can imagine, the hospital isn't the best place for any of that. It's a very distressing place for people that have to wait, added Hare.

For direct transfer from hospital to long-term care, the average wait time is 50 days. People waiting in hospital tend to have higher needs and take priority over the first available long-term care bed. For people waiting in the community, the wait time can be almost six months.

The shortage of beds in hospitals can lead to cancellations of planned surgery, a delay in admitting emergency patients, and transfers of existing patients between wards, which may add a day to a patient's length of stay.

Come fly with Peter Pan

By Stephanie James

Centennial Secondary School in Belleville will take you up, up, and away with their production of *Peter Pan*.

Rewritten into a musical in 1985 by Piers Chater Robinson, the play has a cast of 35 actors played by the students of the theatre production class at Centennial. The cast also includes four students from neighbouring public schools to play the roles of the younger characters in the play.

Peter Pan will be open to the public on Jan. 20 at 7 p.m., two showings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Jan. 21, and Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Centennial Secondary School on Palmer Road as well as the Red Ball Radio Station located on North Front Street, in Belleville. Tickets are \$10 for seniors and students and \$15 for adults.

Daddy'n Me program offers bonding time

Lots of activities part of the fun at Early Years Centre

By Stephanie James

Jay R Perehinchuk has been bringing his two sons to the Ontario Early Years Centre since they were babies.

They participate in a wide variety of activities such as crafts, riding bikes in the gym, or playing with play dough. Participants can always find something to do.

"The program offers a variety of activities in a variety of different rooms," said Perehinchuk.

He and his kids, Liam, 6, and Adrian, 4, are among a group of men and children who take part in the Daddy 'n Me program offered at the centre.

Located on MacDonald Avenue in Belleville, the Ontario Early Years Centre is a great place for parents to take their children to play, learn good parenting skills and find support with parenting and child development if needed. The Daddy 'n Me program is one of many free programs that the centre has to offer.

Held on Tuesday nights between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., the program is run by men and for men whether they are fathers, uncles, grandparents or family friends with a child between infant years to age six.

"They get to come here to play with their children without any television screens or game consoles. It also gives them the opportunity to talk to other fathers and learn early learning with their children through play," said Julie Hickey, an early childhood educator.

Hickey is the only female worker who deals with the Daddy 'n Me program and helps with planning and organizing events

and activities.

Started in 2005 by Phil Jones, the program is designed with many activities throughout the night so dads and kids never have a dull moment. Beginning with a light buffet-style dinner, usually consisting of pizza, fruit and drinks, participants have the opportunity for free time with their children in one of three playrooms and small gym. Everyone is then invited to take part in a planned activity such as music and dancing, races and paper airplane building. Later on, participants can sign up to read to the group at story time, or older children, usually age six, can read to the group as well.

"The Early Years Centre is an incredible facility. It lets the kids run wild and have some fun," said Dan Foley, who has been bringing his son Ryan, 2, and daughter Brooke, 14 months, to the program for about two months.

Running the program on Tuesday nights, Jeremie Nolet has been a part of the program for about two months. Having a career with Children's Mental Health and being a father of three gives him the opportunity to provide both professional and personal advice about child development to those who seek it.

"My role is really to make the night a positive experience for the dads and their kids," said Nolet.

The program is also offered to high school students wanting to complete co-op credits for their high school education. Current co-op student Jeden Jones, 18, helps Nolet run the program and getting activities ready before fathers and children arrive.

"I get an intro into the real world and get to see how the different age groups of kids interact with each other," said Jones.

With an average count of 30 participants nightly, the Ontario Early Years Centre is filled with young children and their male role models. They can be found running,



Photo by Stephanie James

Dan Foley has been bringing his two children, Ryan, 2, and Brooke, 14 months, to Daddy 'n Me held at the Ontario Early Years Center in Belleville, Ontario for the past two months. Being able to let his kids have a chance to be wild is his favourite part of the program.

playing and learning together, whether they are making crafts, burning off energy in the gym or simply spending quality time together in the toddler room.

Bulls have a changing of the guard

New goalie expected to carry the load while other players sidelined by injuries

By Andre Lodder

With Malcolm Subban still out with a groin injury and John Chartrand not at 100 per cent, the Bulls have looked to goalie Charlie Graham to carry the load.

After being selected in the 7th round, 125th overall in the OHL priority draft, Graham was called up after posting a record of 9-4-0-1 with a 2.35 GAA and .923 save percentage with the Wellington Dukes.

The 16-year-old got his first OHL win on January 12 against Brampton, but has now gone 1-4-1-0 with a 3.48 GAA and .887 save percentage in five games with the Bulls.

Graham remains optimistic despite not putting up impressive numbers with the Bulls.

"I'm just looking to come to the rink every day, work as much as I can, and get in as many games as I can. I'm still the youngest goalie here so I still have a lot to prove, but just learning stuff with the goalie coach and improving my game is the biggest thing," said Graham.

Although the goal was to make the Bulls all along, not many would have predicted Graham to take such a substantial role so soon.

"It was my goal to be on this team, but you can't predict everything. With Malcolm going down recently it gave me the opportunity and that was unexpected. I was preparing to be up here but you never know what's going to happen."

The unexpected continues, as Graham has recently taken over the starting position after it was reported on the Bulls website that Chartrand is also out with injury.

As a result the Bulls have called up another 16-year-old, Braydon Banitsiotis from the Hamilton Bulldog Midgets.

However, Banitsiotis might not be with



Photo by Andre Lodder

Charlie Graham, 16, makes a save against the Sudbury Wolves during a home game last Saturday. Graham has officially taken over starting duties as the teams top two goalies Malcolm Subban and John Chartrand are out with injuries.

the big club for long as it's been reported that Subban could possibly make a return as soon as the weekend.

Subban's return would be welcome. Wednesday's 3-2 loss to the Mississauga St. Michaels Majors, was the Bulls' eighth loss in the nine games since Subban went

down.

Long-time Bulls fan John Wilson, also known as the man with the cymbals, hopes Malcolm can return soon but is excited to see Graham in goal.

"Subban's our main goalie and we hope he gets back soon, but having a guy like

Charlie in goal is a plus. If he keeps playing the way he is, I expect we'll see a lot more of him, and I hope we do," said Wilson.

With Subban possibly making his return soon, Graham is taking every opportunity to prove he can be the

team's number one goaltender in the future.

"I think Belleville's lucky to get him. It's a lot of responsibility and for the most part he's carrying the games," said Wilson.

"If he can carry the load than why not? Even if he is only 16-years-old."

Weather not co-operating for ice fishing season

By Rémy Legé-Jovian

With the warmer than average start to the season, some winter hobbyists are stuck inside sipping hot cocoa. So far, this January has been 1.5 C warmer than average. It may not seem like a lot, however, it is warm enough to cause a lack of ice on the Bay of Quinte.

With the opening of the ice fishing season, the weather has been unco-operative in freezing over the bay. The combination of fast flowing rivers and warmer temperatures has greatly hindered ice-fishing enthusiasts. Finding a safe spot to set up the stool and carve out a hole is increasingly challenging for this start of season.

"The Bay of Quinte, although it is a world renowned fishery, is also some of the trickiest ice in terms of safety that you can find because of all of the rivers that feed it," said Jeff Chisholm, operator of Hooked For Life ice fishing.

Ice fishing has always been a big part of the city of

'The Bay of Quinte, although it is a world renowned fishery, is also some of the trickiest ice in terms of safety that you can find because of all of the rivers that feed it.'

ice fishing operator Jeff Chisholm

Belleville and a great tourist attraction. With the winter progressively getting colder, fishing huts are starting to pop up along the shorelines.

we've been able to get out and on the ice

towards the end of December. This year it's basically mid-January," said Chisholm.

Any ice under 10 centimetres in thickness is considered unsafe to walk on, and 12 centimetres are required for a snowmobile or ATV. Slushy ice or ice near moving water such as rivers should be avoided.

Police are receiving reports daily of fishers and others venturing out onto the ice on the Bay of Quinte. The Belleville Police Service would like to remind everyone that ice conditions, given the recent weather, are very unstable and can be very dangerous. Local police and fire services recommend that everyone stay off the ice.

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Dog race falls victim to lack of volunteers

By Sarah Schofield

What would have been Eldorado's 16th annual dog sled race normally held in January was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers.

Sandra Hannah, the race's chairwoman for the past 15 years, knows all too well that running the race is not possible without volunteers.

"We didn't have volunteers to step up to some of the positions that needed to be filled. One in particular was the trail boss. That person has to go out and make sure the trail is maintained and in good running condition. We didn't have that person. We need that person to have a race."

Hannah said she had gotten to the point where she could not accept any more jobs on top of her other responsibilities.

"I don't mind doing it and organizing the race and so forth. Our basic concept was for volunteers to step up and taking up some of the positions. Whether we will proceed for next year depends on if we have people contact me and say, 'I'll take the responsibility.' I have no problem organizing it and getting the race back up on its feet."

Ken Golton of L'Amable, who has raced for the past 16 years as a musher and passed on his skills to his sons Eli and Jake, said he was disappointed with the announcement that this year's race had been cancelled.

"I've been in the race since the second year it started. I have two boys who have also raced in it and they were shocked to hear it was cancelled. Most of the mushers feel shocked that it was cancelled. We knew there was some trouble with the volunteers but thought that everything was going to be sorted out. We understand it takes a lot to run a race."

Another factor was the age of some of the volunteers. With a lot of them getting older, the physically demanding tasks weren't as easy for them to fulfill.

"We need younger people and people with lots of energy to be able to volunteer for these positions," said Hannah.

Hannah said she also noticed that spectatorship was dropping each year as the number of local mushers declined.

"Years ago, when we started this up we had maybe five or seven local people in the area that were the big attraction for them. Now we draw a lot of mushers from the United States and Quebec but nobody locally," said Hannah.

"The snow has been going down each year too which doesn't help," Golton said.

Hannah said she tried various ways to get volunteers from the community.

"I went through media, the Intelligencer, EMC; did posters. It wasn't for a lack of trying. The volunteers just weren't there. We'll see what happens next year and hope someone steps up to help us with the trails."

Two Lancers break volleyball records

Students share skills on court as well as friendship

By Andre Lodder

From high school to college and from college to the record books, two Loyalist students have followed each other to successful OCAA volleyball careers.

It's been a record-breaking year for two Loyalist students, as Matt Woods and Kyle Donnan broke separate records this season.

This past Saturday, Donnan made the 720th kill of his OCAA career in a game against Cambrian College, breaking Ryan Talsma's old record of 719. Donnan has increased his total up to 724 kills heading into Wednesday's game at Fleming College.

Woods, who also serves as captain for the Lancers, made his 134th career serving-ace on Nov. 13. Woods continues to add to the record previously held by Ian Rettie of Trent University. Heading into Wednesday's game, Woods has brought that total up to 157.

According to the pair of Lancers, it wasn't tough to see that the records would be broken.

"Last year I came in second, so I didn't necessarily expect it, but it was one of my individual goals as a player, and it's nice to reach that for sure," said Woods.

"Based on previous season stats, I could see that both records were probably going to be broken this year. So it's exciting, but it's just a personal goal for the year," added Donnan.

With their personal goals behind them, Woods and Donnan are focusing their efforts on getting the team to the playoffs.

"It's certainly a great accomplishment but at the same time we're looking further into the season to see how far the team goes in the playoffs," said Donnan.

While both players have big reasons to be proud of themselves, they don't take all the credit. Both Donnan and Woods



Photo by Andre Lodder

Kyle Donnan (right) and volleyball team captain Matt Woods broke separate OCAA records in their fifth season with the Loyalist Lancers. The two attended high school together and have attended the same programs throughout their five years at Loyalist.

credit their record-breaking numbers to the teammates and coaches they've had around them over the last five years.

"We come together really well as a team. In practice we help each other a lot. If we see somebody making a mistake or a minor error, we come together as a team to fix it. So even though it's an individual record, it's the team that makes it happen."

Coach Dave Templar can attest to the team camaraderie saying that the team and coaching staff have grown a relationship with the two players over the past two years.

Templar also believes the two players,

as well as the team know what's expected of them heading towards the playoffs.

"I think they know what I expect of them in terms of attitude on and off the court. I'm not going to be looking for anything particularly different down the stretch. As a team we need to rally down the stretch and they will certainly be a part of that," said Templar.

Woods agreed with Templar stating that the team is less focused on individual numbers and focused on getting more wins this semester.

"We're definitely looking for more wins this year against teams that we lost to in

the first semester, so we have a different mentality. We're coming in more anxious and excited, so hopefully the rest of the season goes well," said Woods.

While this might be the last year Woods and Donnan will be playing Lancers volleyball, Templar is certain the Lancers name will be well represented in years to come.

"We have a good relationship now and it's really open and honest and that's all we can ask at the end of the day. I think they'll go and represent Loyalist and our team really well after this," said Templar.

Loyalist student's got talent

Brighton resident takes part in entertainment auditions of Canada's Got Talent

By Tristan Kong

If you missed your chance to audition for *Canada's Got Talent* recently, you can learn from one local young man's experience of his audition.

Second-year student from the community justice service program, Josh Logan, 23, from Brighton, took his chance to apply for the *Canada's Got Talent*'s audition in Toronto.

"I went on the website and applied right away," Logan said when he found out about the audition tour that was happening in Toronto last fall.

Logan found his talent at a young age. "I've played music my whole life, since I was three," Logan said. "I got into it seriously when I was 10, started playing saxophone and learned how to read music. Then I started playing a large variety of different instruments."

On the day of the audition, Logan was a little nervous. "I woke up with a cold, which sucked. I had to focus on the performance and not let the sickness get to me," Logan said. "When we got closer, I got more quiet, thinking about how it was going to go."

With his guitar, he was going to play *If heaven wasn't so far away* by Justin Moore but had to change the song. "I woke up sick, sore throat, stuffy nose...when I got to the venue and I practiced the song..." Logan explained, and he decided to change the song to *Match Box 20 - 3 AM*. "I was able to use the scratchiness in my throat for the song so it worked out well considering the circumstances."

Logan learned after receiving an email

that he did not make it but said he was neither mad nor upset because he knew many people who had auditioned had much more talent than him. "The only advice I can give is to go out and have fun," Logan said.

Stephanie Wightman, Logan's fiancé, was proud of him. "Joshua is passionate about it. He sings about things that matter and things of interest. He has a great voice and has been doing this since he was young," Wightman said. "I felt happy and anxious for him... hoping he would do awesome, and give his very best."

Logan explained the lineup was ridiculous, maybe 600 people. "If you watch the American show, it was very similar to that. People were cheering and enthusiastic."

The Citytv series is launching a nationwide search to find Canada's most talented performers. A casting call is going out to singers, dancers, comedians or anyone else who thinks they have a talent to share.

Canada's Got Talent premieres on Citytv this spring after hosting auditions in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Halifax, Montreal and Toronto this past fall.

When selected, performers will perform in front of a live studio audience and a panel of judges where they will compete for the top prize of \$100,000 and a Las Vegas venue performance.

Citytv announced earlier in October the host and judges for *Canadian's Got Talent*. Opera singer Measha Brueggergosman, songwriter Stephan Moccio and Emmy and Tony Award-winning Canadian icon Martin Short will be judges, along with current co-host Dina Pugliese from Breakfast Television Toronto.

Pugliese was not available for an interview, but sent a message to the Pioneer via Twitter. "I am a huge fan of reality TV and love to have fun so this was a perfect fit. The talent across our country is out-



Photo by Melchizedek Maquino

Josh Logan, 23, second-year student in the Community and Justice Services Worker program at Loyalist College, has been playing music since he was 3 years old.

standing I am honoured to be a part of it all."

Who will be a winner of Canada's Got Talent? Stay tuned....

Down With Webster to rock Belleville

Band will feature songs from new album

By Meagan Pecjak

Down With Webster is making its way across Canada and the United States, touring to promote their new album, *Time to Win Volume II*.

Belleville is one of the earlier shows that Down With Webster will be playing. This won't be their first time in Belleville, said Cameron Hunter, who is one of the rappers in the band.

"Last time was crazy. I did not expect that," said Hunter.

Andy Forgie, the spokesman for the Empire Theatre, said he expects a "very enthusiastic, and high energy performance."

Hunter said he looks forward to new elements that they have added both musically and performance wise.

"Expect a lot of the new record. Expect high energy, cool new things possibly onstage that look cool and make the show look cool," said Hunter.

According to their Facebook page, Down With Webster was formed for a talent show during the band's junior high year.

They have come a long way since then and have produced two albums, *Time to Win Volume I*, and *Time to Win Volume II*. *Volume II* was released Oct. 2, 2011.

"We are playing our new record so all the songs are still so new to us and we still are not sick of them," Hunter said.

Their music is described as hip-hop, alternative with songs that also fit into the rock and rap genre.

When it comes to the name of the band, Hunter said "the name means absolutely nothing and I know that's a disappointment but, again when you name your band when you are 12 or 13 you tend to come up with weird shit."

He continued by saying that it was really just a name that was "catchy" to them and their peers and that it just stuck.

'Expect a lot of the new record. Expect high energy, cool new things possibly onstage that look cool and make the show look cool!'

Down With Webster band member Cameron Hunter

Down With Webster offers "all styles of music. They kind of fuse it together," said Forgie.

"It's really fun to get up onstage and play these songs that we spend so many hours in the studio making," Hunter said. "Nobody will probably be sitting in their seats," added Forgie.

Loyalist College student Andrew Swainson is in his first-year of media experience. He said "hopefully it is great," when referring to the upcoming show.

"They (Down With Webster) are really good and pretty much top notch," said Swainson.

Swainson, who has been to two other shows in Kingston, said the venue there is better but that the show in Belleville should still be good.

"They didn't pick the greatest place to have it," said Swainson.

Forgie said the Empire Theatre is expecting a "full house for sure" and that there is a lot of excitement around this show.

Swainson said that he knows of at least 20 or more people from the college who are going to the show.

Bands like Down With Webster bring a "jolt of young enthusiasm" to the Empire Theatre, said Forgie.

"It opens our doors to a younger demographic."

"Most of our shows are for mid to late 30's," said Forgie when it came to the age range of viewers at the theatre.

Down With Webster plays at the Empire theatre on Jan. 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office or online.

Play treats audience to a few scares

Belleville Theatre Guild first production of new year an edge-of-the-seat thriller

By Topher Seguin

The Belleville Theatre Guild's first production of the new year, *Wait Until Dark*, promises to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up straight.

The play, written by Frederick Knott and first performed on Broadway in 1966, was later made into a movie in 1967 starring Audrey Hepburn.

It is about a blind housewife named Susy Hendrix, played by Robin Everhardas, who is harassed by three con men, played by Al Zaback, Jean-Paul Thibeau and Roli Tipper.

The trio then begins searching for heroin that was hidden in a doll and mistakenly transported from Canada to Greenwich Village in New York City by Hendrix's husband Sam, played by Mike Leeming, as a favour for a woman who has since been murdered.

Things get a little tricky when the trio attempts to persuade Susy into thinking her husband has been smuggling drugs, and that the only way to help him is to give them the doll. Little do they know that Susy had already given the doll to Gloria, a little girl in the apartment upstairs.

Also appearing in the cast as police officers are Francine Bouma and Robert Coultis.

"We've been practising since mid-November, and I think it's going pretty great so far," said Thibeau, just after rehearsing the first act.

Like all of the other productions performed during the Belleville Theatre Guild's 60th anniversary season, *Wait*



Photo by Topher Seguin

Susy, played by Robin Everhardas (left), is harassed by a trio of unsavory men portrayed by (from left) Jean-Paul Thibeau, Al Zaback and Roli Tipper in Belleville Theatre Guild's production of *Wait Until Dark*, directed by Steve Forrester. The play runs from Feb. 2 to Feb. 18.

Until Dark is a favourite from the guild's archives, and promises to keep you on the edge of your seat as you find yourself cheering silently for Susy.

"It's a remarkable piece of work, and I'm looking forward to seeing it on stage," said director Steve Forrester, who hasn't done many thrillers in the

past. "Everyone's been fantastic. It's one of the nicest groups I've ever worked with."

"I don't want to say I'm hoping to make the audience wet themselves, but if everyone likes it as much as I do, the hairs on the back of their necks are bound to stand on end."

Wait Until Dark runs from Feb. 2 to Feb. 18 at The Pinnacle Playhouse, located at 256 Pinnacle St. There are 13 performances, including two Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$18. Contact www.bellevilletheatreguild.ca or call the box office at 613-967-1442 to order.

Rockfest coming to Empire Square

By Rhea Munroe

Pull out your air guitars and get ready to rock, Belleville. This July, Rockfest brings you the best and the originals of rock 'n' roll.

Rockfest will be taking place in Empire Square, from July 26 to July 28.

The official lineup includes great classic rock bands such as George Thorogood and the Destroyers and Downchild Blues Band who will play on Thursday, July 26. Boston with 54-40 will perform Friday, July 27, and the Steve Miller Band and Chris Caddell and the Wreckage will be playing on Saturday, July 28.

Mark Rashotte, the man responsible for this year's Rockfest lineup explained that "each year it's been more and more heavily weighted towards classic rock. Only in the last few years have we been having people like 3 Doors Down. It's aimed at the baby-boomer crowd in general."

Rashotte said the lineup depends on "the availability of the acts, who's on tour and when."

Kherson Amell from Harmony Music Plus said it is a great lineup and that he is looking forward to seeing the Steve Miller Band the most, since he hasn't seen them perform live before and Chris Caddell "because he's a local boy."

"Anyone who knows anything about classic rock will immediately know the three headliners coming to town. For a town the size of Belleville, I can't imagine getting any better acts than this," said Max Major, a DJ from Rock 107.

"These bands are true rock 'n' rollers in my opinion," said Camille Parent, residence programming assistant of Loyalist College.

Tickets for Boston will go on sale in early February. No exact date has been set. All other tickets went on sale Saturday, Jan. 14. For more information and to purchase your tickets, go to www.empire-squarelive.com.

Hanson arriving in city for Shout it Out tour

By Manuela Garay-Giraldo

Fifteen years have passed and the boys you might remember from Hanson are now men, with a record label to call their own. The pop-rock trio is coming to Belleville with their *Shout It Out* tour. The band was first introduced in 1997 with their hit *MMMBop* from their first album *Middle of Nowhere*.

Very few four-year-olds can say "my daddy plays rock and roll guitar, that's his job" and have the words hold so much truth. But for Isaac Hanson's oldest son, the simple words hit a keynote.

As I spoke over the phone from a noisy newsroom with lead guitarist and back up vocalist Isaac Hanson, who was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the oldest brother described the process of creating the band's record company, 3CG (which stands for three car garage), came out of sheer necessity.

"Necessity is the mother of invention, I think that applies very appropriately to the formation of our record company," said Hanson.

It was 1999, and the entire record company Hanson was currently signed to "was basically canned."

"I'm talking everybody, from the president to the A&R guy was gone," said Hanson. "So literally right as we are releasing our second record, disaster struck. And we all knew it, and we all knew it was gonna be a problem."

From 2000 to 2004, the band produced about 80 songs that were rejected by the company that took over their previous label and no new album was being released.

"So we figured out a way to leave that label and ultimately started our own," Hanson said. "After spending years trying to get a record done and years of silence with our fan base, we said, 'alright, we're never gonna find ourselves in this situation again and the best way to do it was to take the risk ourselves.'"

The three records the band has released under 3CG have reached No. 1 or No. 2 on the independent music charts.

Currently the brothers are promoting their latest album *Shout It Out* which will be released in Canada sometime this March or April.

The latest material from Hanson explores the theme of "letting loose, encouraging someone to shout it out, literally," said Hanson with a chuckle.

"It's about relating to people, and saying 'you know what? Yes, things are rough right now, but here's a song to remind you that you don't have to be in that place, and, oh yeah, let's all jump up and down and have a good time.'"

Hanson plays at Belleville's Empire Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 9. To get tickets, visit <http://www.theempiretheatre.com/event/hanson/>.

For a complete Q&A with Isaac Hanson, visit www.qnetnews.ca.

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

What would the Liberal Party have to do to get your vote?



Adam Radziwinowski, 22, television new media – “The legalization of marijuana is just another promise, they need to do more, like something to do with the tuition prices.”



Mark Hansen, 20, radio broadcasting – “I would like to see an action plan that would work for the Canada we live in today, not the ideal, poverty-free Canada we wish for.”



Kylee Boicey Macdonald, 20, general arts and science – “I would like to see a good party plan, one that looks at all the issues, like creating jobs and fixing our economical situation.”



Sara Prinzen, 19, early childhood education – “There is nothing they could do. I focus more on the conservative values.”



Gweniece Gordon, 18, nursing student – “If they dealt with more student-inclined issues such as tuition prices, I might pay more attention to them.”



Courtnie Trahan, 20, chemical engineering – “Definitely not the legalization of marijuana. They should focus more on tuitions. I honestly don't follow politics too closely.”

Editorial

Student grants not for everyone

The government of Ontario has come out with a new grant for students, a 30 per cent tuition refund, a generous gift in a time of economic hardship for post-secondary students.

At first glance, this seems like an excellent refund that will help many students make it through the winter and into the summer, when jobs often allow for a bit looser purse strings. Starting this term, students in degree programs can receive up to \$800 per semester directly deposited in their bank accounts. College diploma and certificate students can receive up to \$365 per semester. The funds come from \$430 million set aside for education funding by the provincial Liberal government as part of their election promises, but other grants are also suffering.

Soon, the conditions start appearing. You must be a full-time student at a public college or university in Ontario. You must be in a first entry program that you applied to and entered directly from high school. You must have left high school sometime after December 2007. Your parents' gross income must be below \$160,000. You must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a protected person. Finally, you must meet Ontario residency conditions, meaning you must have lived in Ontario for at least a year prior to starting post-secondary education.

All of a sudden, the generous gift is torn away from the hands of a huge number of students. Mature students (although the age of maturity can be debated, because even if you're just 21 years old you might be ineligible), students who've come to Ontario from out of province for their post-secondary studies, students who are enrolled professional programs such as medicine or law, part-time students, students whose parents make more than \$160,000, and those who go to private institutions are all ineligible.

The government's explanation is simple, but doesn't tell the full story. “The purpose of this tuition grant is to help students make a smooth transition from high school into postsecondary studies,” responded team leader of media relations at Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities Tanya Blazina in an email. “Students who are more than four years out of high school do not have their parents' income considered in their OSAP application and are therefore generally eligible for more OSAP assistance.”

But this is still so limiting to so many. Ontario's post-secondary institutions attract students from all walks of life, from all over Canada and the world. There's no data to indicate that older students, out-of-province students, and the like are better off financially and couldn't benefit from a rebate. Further, we all pay the same tuition (with the obvious exception of international students, whose atrocious fees are a topic for a whole other editorial), so this so-called rebate is essentially creating a two-tier system for tuition fees in Ontario. This leaves the clear preference: Ontario wants to attract its own residents, straight out of high school, to enrol in its institutions. It fails to recognize that these are the students who are most likely to attend colleges and universities at home in the first place, and are the least likely to need the incentive to stay. Ontario should be focusing on attracting out-of-province and mature students who, upon graduation, will be paying taxes and contributing to Ontario's economy.

Krishna Saravanamuttu, national executive representative for the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, agreed.

“The grant is a welcome move,” said Saravanamuttu. “For years we've been calling for more grants. But only one-third of all college and university students can get this grant. We're calling for an up-front tuition fee reduction instead so that all students can have access to these funds.”

According to Saravanamuttu, Ontario continues to have the highest tuition fees in Canada, with some of the lowest amounts of grants available.

“It's a start, but there's always more work to be done,” said Saravanamuttu. “As one of the many students who won't be walking around with an extra couple hundred in their pockets, I agree.”

Rachel Psutka

Time to put a price on news

We've heard it all before: print newspapers are on the path to extinction and will be non-existent in as early as five years.

It is unknown what the newspaper will look like in the future, but people will always rely on news sources for information. The newspaper industry is evolving, not dying and we need to figure out how to change with it, readers included.

Advances in technology now give readers more access to news anywhere, at anytime through the use of tablets, smart phones and computers. This digital platform offers readers a more in-depth experience that print is unable to, delivering not only text but audio, video and multiple photographs for a single story. If that's not more bang for your dollar, than I don't know what is.

With this new level of quick content comes a greater demand for online news. This effortless access needs to come with a price, but unfortunately the industry seems to be paying the toll.

According to a survey done by Canadian Media Research Consortium (CMRC) and Vision Critical, Canadians are greatly opposed to fees for online content. Eighty-one percent said they would be unwilling to pay, while only four per cent agreed to the fee.

The collaborative survey also showed that 85 per cent of Internet users in Canada get news online at least once a month.

If online news is so desirable and preferred, why are readers reluctant to pay for access?

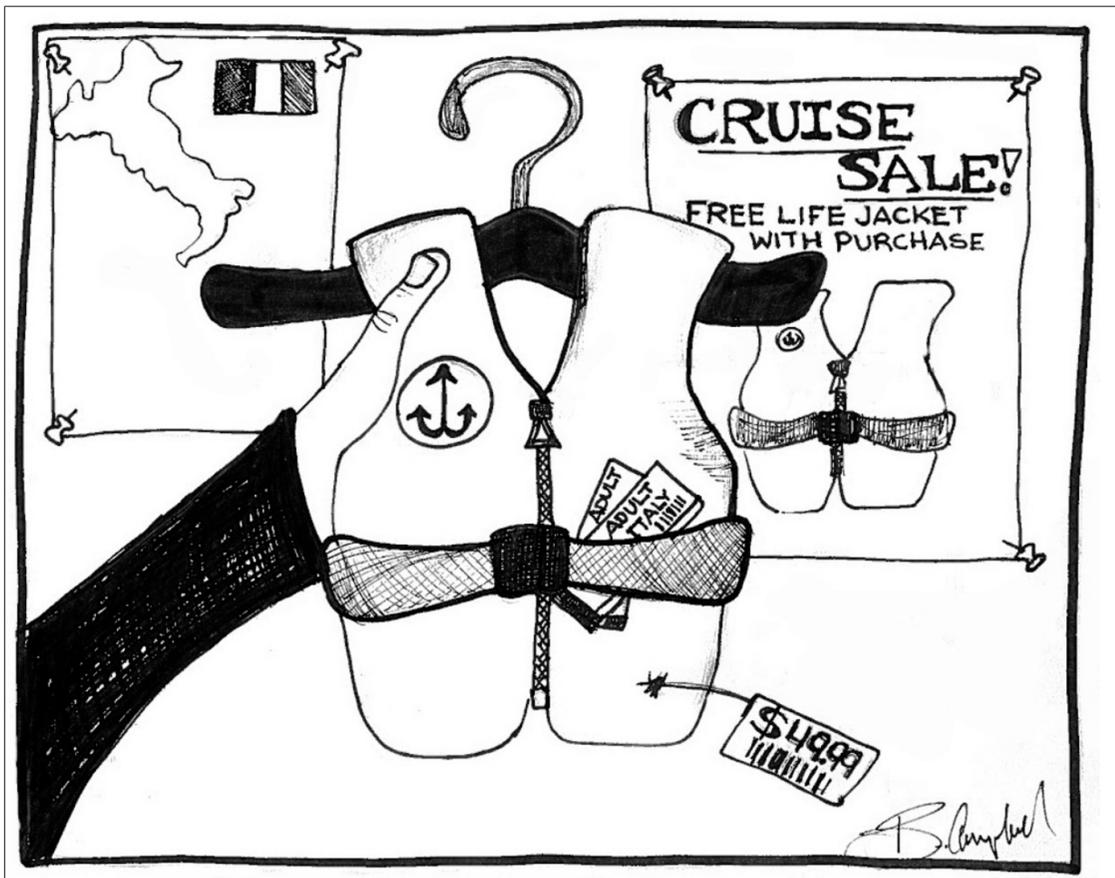
The rise of the Internet has made infinite amounts of information available for free since the 1990's. At the time, newspapers made the grave mistake to offer websites that gave away their valuable content for free. This left little motivation for loyal readers to continue paying for subscriptions.

It doesn't matter whether you are reading your news on paper or portable device news is news and should not be devalued simply because it is easily accessible.

Days and weeks are invested into producing quality news stories and this hard work should not be given away for free.

News is provided so you, a citizen of society, can make informed decisions and stay up-to-date on local, national and international events and issues that affect you in countless ways.

Michelle Cochrane



Opinion

Advertising puts pressure on kids to be slim

By Kristen Haveman

Thank god for advertising -- you can learn so much that you may have never known.

Lessons such as being overweight is not healthy and the best way to get people to stop being fat is to insult them publicly by saying things like, “Being fat takes the fun out of being a kid.”

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a pediatric hospital in Georgia defends their new obesity ads by saying it's time to stop “sugar-coating.” In this case, they seem to mean they need to stop sugar-coating their words and not the food we eat, which may in fact be more helpful.

The ads were mimicked from the shock ads for anti-smoking and anti-meth that proved successful in the past. There is a difference here -- most smokers and meth addicts are adults. Even underage smokers are making a choice. However when it comes to diet, the age group of some of the children in these ads their diets

are still completely controlled by their parents. So guilt trip the parents; might work...

Except the kids are still seeing these ads and how is it making them feel? I can remember a few years ago reading about increases in anorexia and bulimia in children. Apparently that's not a worry anymore, as long as a kid is not fat right?

Let's not forget that these are children in these ads. Imagine the pressure on these particular children to slim down. They are now literally the “poster-child” for obesity. Pressure can be a good thing, but children are generally not emotionally equipped to handle severe pressure. It's why we have seen child suicides and homicides committed by children because of bullying. Not to say these kids will go on a rampage -- but extreme dieting or exercising, maybe.

If bullying worked on kids there would already be fewer chubby children and more children who loved baths and didn't pee their pants. Anyone who remembers their child-

hood knows that the fat kid, among others generally gets picked on. Kids are much crueler than most adults and the parents who don't recognize that their kid is severely overweight are probably ignoring more than just that. They are ignoring the fact that more than likely their kids are being picked on. They have shut it out maybe because they don't know what to do. Telling them they are fat is not going to help that.

Georgia has high obesity rates. That does need to change but perhaps officials should look at constructive ways to change that, not just point fingers. Money has always seemed to be a bigger motivator than name-calling anyway. An ad about how much obesity costs in doctor's visits, especially in the United States, may have parents thinking harder about changing habits.

So just remember that next time you hear little Johnny yelling “Tubby” across the schoolyard he may just be trying to save a life -- or so some people seem to think.

Eastern teams get more coverage in NHL

By Andre Lodder

Ever heard of the East Coast bias? Sport leagues and media outlets are often accused of it, and often that's because it exists.

It's no secret, really. The concept involves organizations such as the National Hockey League and its media outlets having biased viewpoints in favour of eastern teams.

In a world where the dollar reigns supreme, the bias is almost justifiable.

There are a few variables that lead to this inequality, one of them being that the NHL is simply trying to make as much money as possible.

From the NHL's standpoint, directing most of the attention to the eastern teams makes sense. More teams mean more fans, and more fans means more money.

Only eight of the 30 teams in the NHL lie in the west. With Winnipeg and Dallas being right in the middle, that leaves 20 teams in the

east.

What the league's commissioner, Gary Bettman, seemingly fails to recognize is that the western teams, specifically Canadian teams -- the Oilers, Flames and Canucks -- are like lotto tickets that always have the right numbers, a cash guarantee.

Bettman isn't the only one who's guilty of the bias -- some western fans are also upset with how their teams have been represented in the media.

Media outlets such as NHL.com, the league's official website, direct most of their attention towards eastern teams for the same reasons the NHL does -- the fans.

For example, if it were up to the NHL.com analysts, the All-Star Game would be heavy with eastern players. One day prior to the actual selection for the All-Star Game, the analysts released their version of the roster and 61 per cent of it consisted of players representing eastern teams, including nine of their 12 selected

defencemen.

It doesn't stop with giving eastern teams more attention. Catering to the fans is understandable, but questions have been raised as to whether the NHL is swinging games to make them more entertaining.

John Tortorella, the coach of the New York Rangers was recently fined for accusations made toward the NHL and its referees for trying to extend the Winter Classic into overtime for entertainment purposes.

Tortorella later apologized and retracted those accusations but was still given a fine worth \$30,000.

Despite what Bettman seems to think, the NHL's focus should be on building the presence and appreciation for hockey in North America, not sacrificing the integrity of the NHL to make a good buck.

With the integrity of a national sports league in question, it might be time for the NHL to step back and evaluate its priorities.

The Pioneer

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