



Photo by Tophers 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."

...See Weather, page 2

## 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.