

# Second World War takes over Stirling

*Loyalist students take over main street on Monday morning*

By Tristan Kong

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director of photography Joseph Spencer agreed.

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



Photo by Tristan Kong

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- - With files from Sarah Schofield

## Baggage project looking for positives

*Controversy surrounded unveiling of gallery in downtown last month*

By Linda Horn

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I feel it was liberating. Afterwards,

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Creator T.J. LeBlanc

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Linda Horn

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

## Writer brings own baggage to session

By Linda Horn

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Late start to winter causes hardship for some businesses

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

By Kristen Haveman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Al's Tire and Automotive Service owner Dave Purdy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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