



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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