

Dangerous intersection to get traffic lights

By Sarah Yannetta

The problematic intersection at Wallbridge-Loyalist Road and West Moira Street will be seeing a new set of traffic lights in May.

The intersection has been causing havoc for drivers for the past 20 years and Quinte West Mayor John Williams has been focused on the situation for four years.

The Belleville and Quinte West councils have agreed to share the cost of the new traffic light system for the intersection that sits on the border between the two cities.

Stories posted online late last year about the proposed solution had some people wondering if a light system was the best choice for the intersection. Many people were giving suggestions of roundabouts, stop signs and caution lights.

Some people also wondered whether the lights would bring new problems, such

as running red lights because of the steep slope of the rail overpass just north of the new lights location.

Kyle Ball, a Loyalist student, said he agrees with the lights system, but with conditions. “They could lower the speed limit to 60 km over the bridge, and technically it’s leading into a school zone too. That would also warn drivers that they need to slow down and put signs up about the lights, too.”

Joe Jackson, a member of the Loyalist community said, “They could also put a light or sign at the top of the hill to warn oncoming traffic about the lights after the hill. I’ve seen this before.”

Mayor Williams has been watching comments like these online and said all ideas have been looked at and the lights system is the best choice for that intersection.

Williams gives the example of the lights at Millenium Parkway which is north of

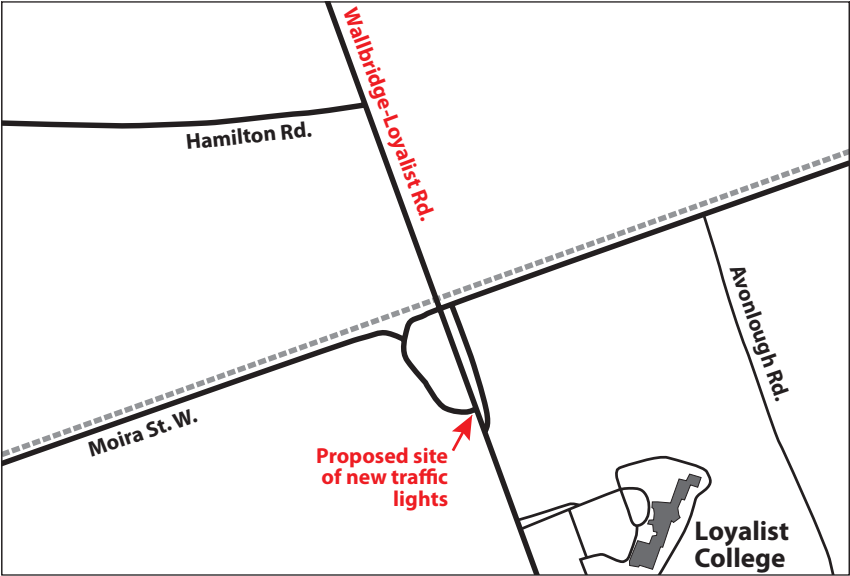
Hwy. 401 on Sidney Street. Before these lights there is a flashing light on the south side of the 401 that gives drivers a heads-up about the light ahead.

There will be a flashing light on the north side of the hill on Wallbridge-Loyalist Road that will flash when the light is yellow and red. The light won’t flash when the light is green.

“They’ll also reduce the speed through there too. It’s 80 km now and they’ll probably reduce that to 60 or even 50 km,” said Williams.

Ball said he and his girlfriend always have problems when they go that way to get to the college because of the backed up traffic. He thinks a new traffic light system is a great idea.

Williams said the engineers will be designing the system over the next couple of months and construction should start in April or May.



Taylor Renkema

More time in the air – Private Hills, of CFB Trenton, sits in the cockpit of a Hercules plane. The base was celebrating the 5,000th hour of in-flight time for one of their J-model Hercules planes from 436 Squadron. The base will be receiving four more Hercules planes by May 2012. Currently, there are more planes than flight crews.

Accidents prompt neighbourhood to petition for new lane structure

By Steph Crosier

Changes need to be made to the Highway 37 and Wiser Road intersection to prevent more fatal collisions, say area residents.

Rick Lake, who lives on Joy Court off Wiser Road, is among those petitioning for change. He was the second person on the scene after a deadly accident on Dec. 20, 2011.

“I got to the first car that the four girls were in and an off-duty paramedic had just got there too,” said Lake. “I told him I’m an off-duty captain at the fire department and he said, do you know what a code five is? And I said yes, I do, and he said both of them in the front. Which means two people are dead.”

The accident killed 31-year-old Jennifer Bugg of Brighton and 27-year-old Andrea Manan of Frankford, as well as injuring four other people.

Police reports said Bugg and Manan were travelling northbound on Highway 37 and had stopped to turn onto Wiser Road. A northbound truck rear-ended their vehicle sending it into the southbound lane, resulting in a head-on collision.

Allan Cooney, 45, has been charged with two counts

of dangerous driving causing death and three counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

Lake, his neighbours, and the families of the deceased, want changes made to the lane structure at the intersection.

“What we feel they need to do is dedicate that left hand lane [heading north] to turning, dedicate the right hand lane to through traffic only,” said Lake.

Brenda Coote, who also lives on Joy Court, is also collecting signatures and says the intersection is scary. “It’s not clearly marked where you need to get over,” said Coote. “It’s very deceiving at the spot — I hope something gets done.”

Lake has given out petitions to friends and neighbours, and has collected three hundred signatures on his own.

“We’re just in the midst right now of getting as many signatures as we can,” said Lake, “and then we’ll present it to the City of Belleville.”

The city will then have to present it to the Ministry of Transportation because Highway 37 is a provincially maintained road.

Lake said there have been a lot of emails sent to city hall, but no one has said anything. The clerks’ office said they haven’t heard anything about it.

Student government raises money to buy mosquito nets

By Mike Morris

The student government at Loyalist College has started a campaign to raise money to purchase mosquito nets for people in Africa.

Students are planning to raise money through the Spread The Net Campaign. The campaign is an effort made to prevent further malaria infections in Africa.

“It’s very bad,” Christopher Barnim said. “It’s a horrible disease that affects many families over in Africa, so what we’re doing is we’re raising money for the mosquito nets, for the beds, to protect the families.”

Barnim, president of student government, said this is a serious problem.

Barnim himself has not been personally affected by malaria, but he understands the severity of the disease. Loyalist students should care about the plight of malaria victims in Africa, said Barnim.

“It’s a bad disease, so having nets to protect the family is just great. So we’re sending over as many as we can to protect as many people as we can.”

Barnim said the student government has two meth-

ods of raising enough money to send the nets to Africa.

“Coming up we’re having our sale of our ‘I Love Shark Tank’ t-shirts, and the proceeds from those will go towards the Spread The Net Campaign,” said Barnim. “As well as our Yuk-Yuks comedy night, the proceeds of that will go to the campaign as well.”

Barnim said the campaign will continue until Feb. 28.

Eric Harmsen, a Loyalist student, said he feels good knowing of their involvement with the campaign. Fellow student Elva Simpson also gave a positive reaction to their involvement.

“I think it’s pretty cool, because it’s important to African children,” said Simpson. “My old high school had a lot of them from Tanzania and stuff like that, so I think it’s important that someone helps them out — it’s good that they do that.”

Another student, Desiree Carl, said, “I guess that’s great.”

Donald Goudreau said that he thought it was good that the student government was part of the campaign.

“It’s nice to know we’re trying to help other countries,” Goudreau said.

Paradocs Productions brings filmmaking back to Belleville

By Steph Crosier

A Belleville filmmaker is encouraged by the Academy Award nomination of the Quebec film *Monsieur Lazhar*.

Adam Gray of Paradocs Productions said the nomination gives all small filmmakers hope.

“It makes it easier to get your projects off the ground,” said Gray.

The Belleville-based production company is owned and operated by Adam and Andrew Gray who went to film school in Montreal, lived in the big cities, and then moved back to Belleville 10 years ago.

“We decided to come back to Belleville where we grew up and family was,” said Gray. “We started doing our own thing here and broke into directing our own documentaries, television documentaries, and been doing that ever since.”

When the brothers first moved, they were trying to figure out how they could make a living so they joined the Quinte Arts Council.

“We sort of submerged ourselves in the local community,” said Gray. “So I was on the board of directors at the Quinte Arts Council and sort of involved there for a year or two.”

Once the Grays got busier they left the council to focus on filming and family.

The council has few filmmakers as members and no programs in place to support emerging filmmakers in the Belleville and Quinte area.

“I’m not sure that is a focus of theirs,” said Gray.

Carol Bauer, in charge of member services at the QAC, said they don’t have the resources to expand into

filmmaking.

“Lack of resources and finding manpower,” said Bauer. “We’re kind of in transition because we’d like to gather information from the community.”

Though they’ve never filmed in Belleville, the Gray brothers do all the post-production work in Belleville and are able to communicate with their producers in Toronto using Skype.

“In this day and age you really don’t need to be in Toronto to work with people in Toronto. We do everything over the Internet,” said Gray. “Our producers, and all the people who fund our films are in Toronto, but we rarely have to meet in person.”

One of the Grays’ producers is Adam Jordan of The Film Works Ltd. Jordan’s partner, Paul Stephens, has a cottage just north of Belleville. That’s how he met the Gray brothers.

“We did go down to Belleville a couple of weeks ago to sit in together for a day and look at the current cut and talk about it,” said Jordan.

Paradocs Productions is now working on a feature length documentary for the Movie Network and Movie Central. Gray said it is their biggest feature so far. It’s a documentary about Colton Harris-Moore, a man who has been charged with the thefts of a boat, cars, at least 100 home burglaries, and a small aircraft he used to flee to the Bahamas, all before his 19th birthday.

Film Works Ltd. has produced a number of films this year. Their film, *In Darkness* has grabbed international attention. Jordan said it would be weird to compete against *Monsieur Lazhar*, the Canadian film nominated for the award as well.



Dan Pearce

Practising for a competition – Lauren Mclean, left, and Emily Stiegner practise figure skating while young hockey players observe from the home team bench at the Memorial Gardens arena in Trenton on Wednesday Feb. 8, 2012. Mclean and Stiegner will be competing in the Eastern Ontario Star Skate Championship which will take place at the Multiplex Recreation Centre in Belleville from Feb. 17-20, and will feature figure skaters from Whitby to Ottawa.

For breaking news, see QNet News: www.qnetnews.ca