



Photo by Chloë Ellingson

Aristeidis Maroulis works at Olympic 76 Restaurant, originally started by his uncles, who have since moved back to Greece.

Digging into Belleville's history

Archaeologist shares findings at meeting of Historical Society

By Carleen Schmidt

Archaeologists have unearthed a possible tavern on one lot in Belleville and findings at another lot suggest that the family living there may have been in mourning.

"We opened up as many questions as we answered," said Nick Gromoff, founder of Ground Truth Archaeology.

These findings were from an archaeological dig conducted at the new courthouse location on James Street and Bridge Street in Belleville.

Gromoff presented the findings at the Hastings County Historical Society's general meeting at the Quinte Living Centre on Feb. 21.

"The excavation started in fall 2009 and ended in summer 2010," said Gromoff.

The presence of the colour black was found in beads, ceramics and hair combs. "Blackness is intriguing. It is not a typical colour," said Gromoff, who added that they believe some of the family living there may have been in mourning, which would explain the presence of the colour black.

There was also evidence showing the presence of children - marbles, a little doll and 30-40 slate pencil ends and slate boards were found, which is a high number meaning there may have been a little school there at some point.

Gromoff spoke to a large audience of about 100 people. There was obviously a lot of interest in the topic. Usually only about 60 people attend the meeting, but all the chairs were full and people were standing.

To construct a dig, archeologists mostly use toothbrushes and water and sometimes alcohol for certain items. According to Gromoff, though there isn't any one item that is most significant. The artifacts that help identify time periods, or what was going on there, are the most interesting.

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Local Greeks discuss the country's economic crisis:

Reflections on Greece

By Chloë Ellingson

As Greece continues to endure economic turmoil, members of the local Greek community reflect on life in Greece, life in Canada, and what it takes to survive.

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"Before the Euro, we didn't have a problem," said Kanellos Fountoukis last week in the kitchen of his Wellington restaurant. The then imminent recent Greek bailout is, in his opinion, backwards. "We

don't need to borrow anymore money. Let us do it."

Three years ago, Fountoukis left his life on the large Greek island of Kefalonia with his wife and three children to return to his native Canada. The child of Greek immigrants, he spent his early life in Montreal, returning to Greece as a young boy. Greece is where he built his life, and much of his family is still there.

"I came back for my kids' future," he says.

Fountoukis says Kefalonia's main industry is tourism, and that was his business. He owned and operated four restaurants that collectively employed 70 people. "Now 70 people have to look for jobs," says Fountoukis. He hears from them all too often.

"Everyday I receive phone calls," he says. They all ask about working for him in Canada, or if he knows of any jobs here. He'd like to bring former employees to Canada, but says he can't because of

immigration regulations. "Right now it's not easy," he says.

Fountoukis doesn't know why Greece isn't bankrupt already after years of it being threatened. He wishes Greece would declare bankruptcy and return to its former currency. "If we go back to the drachma," he says, "Greece is going to be in the right place."

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Archives making move to new digs

Historical Society works on getting capital to pay for building

By Joanna Becket

"An archives, as it turns out, is a bit like Rome. Can't be built in a day," wrote Orland French, former president, Hastings County Historical Society, in an opinion piece in The Belleville Intelligencer last November.

This is the public stage of the capital campaign headed up by French to move the Hastings County Historical Society community archives to a new location at the Irish Hall on Church Street.

French has found that although competition for the donor's dollar is stiff, Belleville residents are stepping up with private donations towards the estimated \$1.2 million required to build and equip a new site for the community's historical documents.

What sets this cause apart from other appeals for support, said French, is that it's a one-stage appeal.

"We're raising money for a capital campaign to create an archives and once the archives is complete, we're not going to come back in a year to the public and say we want more money, because the city and the county have taken on the responsibility of running it."

It's all in the name of preserving the past.

"If you don't preserve the past, then you have no community record of where you come from," said French.

"I think this is especially important for students, for those who study history, and for historians. People who are interested in genealogy, for example, really appreciate the kind of information they find in archives," he said.

The Hastings County Historical Society partnered with the City of Belleville and Hastings County to donate \$950,000 of the current \$1.2 million target. Corporate and private donations are helping to fill the balance needed to complete the project.

"We are getting close to the million dollar mark but there's still a shortfall of about \$300,000," said French.

The target start date for construction is likely to be in September, 2012, said French.

The historical society archives has been

operating out of the former Thurlow town hall on Cannifton Road North for the past 10 years, in a small space troubled by humidity, pests and structural issues.

At its present location the community archives has about 2,300 square feet of useable space.

The new Church Street site will house about 8,000 square feet of useable space.

The archives currently maintains collections of prints and negatives, maps, plans, architectural drawings, newspapers, microfilm, ledger books and family scrapbooks.

This past summer, The Belleville Intelligencer added an additional 900 bound volumes of newspapers, covering the period from the 1880s to 2011.

"We have half a ton, about 900 volumes, so all together we have over 1,000 bound volumes of The Belleville Intelligencer. The Intelligencer also donated their photographs and negatives," said the archivist Sharon White.

"It's been estimated that the archives has approximately one million negatives. More than half of them are from the Intelligencer," said White.

"The biggest issue is space, the amount of space and also the organization of space," she said. So the new building will have most of the archival records stored in a dedicated storage vault and it's called a vault because it's secure.

"It has environmental controls to monitor temperature, humidity and air quality. That's one of the things that make it a bit more costly than just building an office building, because you need to have these special controls."

Most of the shelving will be in the main halls that are two storeys high and will be designed to fill that space.

"The shelving is very specialized. It will be fitted to meet our requirements to make the most efficient use of the space," said White.

"I hope the new archives will be more spacious and there will be more things actually available for self-help in the reading room including electronic systems, so you can search on a data base.

"There will be a reference library to consult as well. We also have some genealogy materials and some information pamphlets about how to research your own house or property and also information about other heritage organizations in the area."

Will this new facility be state-of-the-art?



Photo by Joanna Becket

Sharon White, the archivist at Hastings County Historical Society Community Archives on Cannifton Road North, stands before the Belleville Intelligencer's recent donation of newspapers going back to the 1880s. "We received half a ton, about 900 volumes, so altogether we have over 1,000 bound volumes of the Belleville Intelligencer," said White. The move to the archives' new Church Street location is planned for 2013.

"It's not the Cadillac version," said White. "But I think it meets all the requirements for a good community archives that will preserve the records in the future and have good space for making them available and good space for the volunteers and archivists and people who work with the records."

The move is currently planned for 2013.

"But plans can change," said White. "We have to get it right. And that's one reason we've had the architect's feasibility study and the careful look at the design. The design will be tweaked, but we're very happy with it in terms of it being an efficient and cost effective use of the space," said White.

"We're getting there. It's very exciting," White said.

There were a lot of findings including ash, brick, coins, and buttons of all sorts, plates and smoking pipes. The archeologists also found bones from white-tailed deer, ducks, geese, turkey, passenger pigeons and local fish.

There were a couple different lots that they excavated on the property. Lot eight is the first Gromoff discussed. He talked about the history of the property owners, which was used to try to find out what was there previously and talked about people who had come by when the dig was going on and shared their memories of the property.

At the second lot on the site, Gromoff did the same, showed historical records of people who lived there previously and showed photographs of the excavation. The archeologists found a brick furnace with charcoals and ash, possibly from a smoke house, and found meat hooks as well. Numerous foot bones from cows were also found.

Later in the excavation, it became apparent that one of the deep pits dug by the archeologists was a root cellar with barrel scraps, sand and even a trap door with a hinge and bolt.

Lot one had to have gravel removed for excavation. Gromoff showed the history of home owners starting with James McNabb and found cutlery, pipes, coins, buttons from hunting jackets and military buttons from this site. Stoneware jugs were found from local Belleville merchants. They believe this site may have been a tavern.

Gromoff showed a slideshow at the meeting on the archeological assessment process in Ontario. There are four stages. The first stage has a background study conducted and tries to assess the property. Stage two is the assessment of the property to find archaeological sites by going out and looking for evidence on the property.

Stage three is when Gromoff came in. During stage three, archeologists find the limits of the site and create a grid and do the preliminary conclusions on the nature and date of the site. Finally, in stage four is the mitigation of development impacts, which determines the best approach for conserving the site.

In this case, the best way to conserve the site was to remove the artifacts for preservation. This is referred to as preservation through excavation.

Yoga more than just for exercise

Spiritual practice dates back over 5,000 years

By Brynn Campbell

Those Lululemon shorts better be blessed. Yoga has become one of the 21st century's biggest trends.

From clothing to spas, food, restaurants and fitness centres, businesses have tried to link this spiritual practice to whatever product they are trying to sell.

Little do people actually know that this sweaty, stretchy, spandex "workout" is actually an ancient spiritual practice originating from India. Ancient yoga texts date back over 5,000 years old when Hindus used this practice as a form of spiritual growth through self-realization.

In Sanskrit, the word yoga can be translated to the word 'yuj,' or to yoke or unite. The union is to unite oneself with your higher self. To unite with your higher self helps each individual realize his or her higher potential, and that each individual is divine.

The yoga philosophies explain that the biggest problem in the world today is ignorance. The only way to transform ignorance to bliss is through transformation of the mind through meditation and self-observation.

Shelly Zebedee, an Ashtanga yoga teacher and practitioner in Belleville, said she believes that, "most people perceive yoga as a physical exercise that will help them to stay flexible and relaxed.

I think it is used for many physical endeavours in the West like losing weight, staying young, shaping the body, which are almost the opposite of what yoga is all about, which is releasing all attachment to the ego-self. This means all of our self-talk about whether we look good enough, skinny enough and young enough."

Yoga is not necessarily about what you can do with the physical body; it is about disciplining the mind. Zebedee said that the only way to gain this mental discipline is through daily practice.

"Yoga is like a great art. It's like playing



Photo by Brynn Campbell

Shelly Zebedee holds urdhva padmasana, upward lotus posture. Yoga is much more than a way to get fit or lose weight.

an instrument," said Zebedee.

"It takes practising day after day for years to create the most beautiful music. Sitting down at the piano once a week is fun for awhile, but won't really get you too far and will become boring after awhile.

With lots of commitment and practice, the most beautiful music can be played. It's the same with yoga."

Zebedee was introduced to yoga when she was 16 and said she believes that all those years of practice have paid off.

"Yoga has helped me to change myself at my core and therefore it has helped me with all of my life's problems," said Zebedee.

"Yoga has helped me to find peace inside of myself, to stop looking for it outside

of myself and to learn love and compassion for all beings. I am still working at all of it. It is not something that happens in a day or a week or even a few years. The process is magnificent and more rewarding than I ever could have imagined."

Alumni status has added value for Loyalist graduates

By Sharon Kallaste

You're all in for life as Loyalist College alumni. No membership required — it's already paid.

Alumni are enthusiastic, broad-skilled Loyalist grads. In five weeks, Loyalist will unleash their 45th batch of fresh grads to embark upon the world.

To mark that special occasion, the college has announced its first - annual Grad Bash to be held March 8 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

"It's the first step in letting our soon-to-be graduates know that they will still have complete access to the career centre, The Parrott Centre, special insurance rates, Perkopolis and discounted services at Club 213, the college bookstore and the fitness centre," said Michelle Randolph, alumni services co-ordinator.

A prominent misconception for new graduates is that to become an alumnus, you have to pay a membership fee, when in fact the membership fees are prepaid

through the annual ancillary fees.

Ivy Hayes, placement co-ordinator and supervisor for the general arts and science program, is one of many Loyalist graduates under this assumption. Hayes graduated from the general arts and science program in 2001. Asked about her student experience and alumni ties with the college she said, "I'm not a member of the alumni. I always thought you had to join."

"The faculty here at Loyalist really took a genuine interest in helping you be the best you can in preparing for employment when you graduate. I was so impressed that when an opportunity came up last April for a contract position within the program I applied.

"Our college has a really great reputation out there in the community. Our students are well sought after," said Hayes.

Hayes also volunteers with the Canadian Diabetes Association, Hastings & Prince Edward Branch that has offered student placement positions for the past six years.

'It is important for Loyalist students to understand that their alumni status gives them continued added value for the rest of their lives.'

alumni services co-ordinator Michelle Randolph

"It is important for Loyalist students to understand that their alumni status gives them continued added value for the rest of their lives. It is about building loyalty - loyalty to Loyalist. It's not just about money. It's more about working with a client and knowing about their life," said Randolph.

There are many ways Loyalist alumni can contribute to the success of future

graduates as well as receive support with their own career paths, college officials said. Alumni can become a mentor; sit on program advisory committees, and of course give financial gifts through the Annual Appeal Fund and The Alumni Association Bursary that are disbursed to enrolled students.

The Alumni Association Endowment Fund eased 13 Loyalist students' financial needs through grants amounting to \$11,900.

The fluctuating fund represented 14 per cent of the \$172,098 the college's awards and bursaries presented at the undergraduate awards ceremony.

"I think it's definitely a benefit to the students and the donors to hear the "follow-up stories from individuals who have received such bursaries," said Joanne Farrell, awards officer at Loyalist College.

Alumni Services produces the alumni magazine *Lasting Connections*. It is an avenue to follow the lives of Loyalist gradu-

ates.

"We want to know the stories from our alumni, new successes and accomplishments and contributions to their new fields of interest and to the communities they affiliate with," said Randolph.

Part of this is acknowledged through the Distinction Awards program that has been in place since the early '90s. Colleges Ontario also runs the Premiers Awards which has six categories.

Loyalist has developed a substantial alumni database of 30,000 strong since its founding year of 1967. With recent improvements to the College IT and servers, the joint efforts of the alumni association and alumni services now have the task in updating the database to bring it to a comprehensive support tool for both the college and the alumni.

"Social media can facilitate increased employment opportunities for alumni. It is also a great opportunity to share their accomplishments and successes with fellow alumni," said Randolph.

Greeks worry about economic impact on their homeland

Greece...

Continued from Page 1

"Greece, it's a beautiful country," says Nicky Kotsosvos in her Belleville home. "Beautiful, beautiful islands."

Kotsosvos left Greece with her then husband at the age of 18. She left for love, she says, not the need to earn money. Kotsosvos says her father was doing well as a farmer in the peninsula of Peloponnese at the time. "I was too young, no brains," she says. "I met my husband and I followed him."

Both Kotsosvos and her former husband have since worked in the restaurant business in Canada. "The Greeks in Canada have done well," she says. "They started off washing dishes, and most of them have restaurants now."

Kotsosvos thinks Canada should welcome Greeks who wish to immigrate. "Canada should do that for any country," she says.

Much of her family still lives in Peloponnese. "People there have farms," she explains, both for subsistence and for business. "They can survive."

She said it's the region's dependence on tourism and the urban centres that concerns her.

From Kotsosvos's perspective, the Greek crisis is a result of irresponsibility on a governmental and individual level. "Before, people didn't appreciate the things they had," she says. "Some people save, but most Greeks didn't."

"I think it will take a lot for things to get better," says Kotsosvos. "If they do."

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Aristeidis Maroulis works in the restaurant his family has owned for decades. His parents have been in Canada for 32 years. He and his brother were born here.

Maroulis's family is from a small town on the island of Kefalonia. Family members of his who are still in Greece are in the



Photo by Chloe Ellingson

Since moving to Canada three years ago with his wife and three children, Kanellos Fountoukis has run The Plaza Restaurant in Wellington. The family is in the process of expanding their restaurant business to Gravenhurst.

businesses of running restaurants and fixing engines. Maroulis says his family has "had a slowdown," but says it's nothing like the situation in Athens.

His opinion on the Greek economy mirrors the many reports in the media of the Greek people's mistrust of their government. "The government should have stepped up," he says, "but they didn't."

While Maroulis doesn't feel closely connected with Greece's current situation, it still hits home. "If Ontario continues spending and doesn't fix its deficit," he predicts, "we'll be like Europe."

When Bill Yeotes is not exercising at the Belleville YMCA, he's hanging out at his daughter's vintage clothing store.

He says his family members have long been business people in the area, with their Canadian roots reaching back 90 years.

Yeotes has seen the area's Greek community grow. "When I was growing up, the Greek community was 12 families," he says. "Now there might be 200 in the area,

or more."

Yeotes talks about the first wave of immigrants, which came after the Second World War, and predicts a second wave anytime now. "A lot of university graduates are leaving to go wherever they can make a living," he says. "I'm sure Canada would be a prime destination."

"I've been to Greece 10 times," says Yeotes. "It's the cradle of western civilization, but it's not rich in resources."

He thinks Greek bankruptcy is a viable option. "Iceland went bankrupt. Argentina went bankrupt. It's not unusual for coun-

tries to go bankrupt," he said. "Eventually they came out of it."

Yeotes says he's not very close with his local Greek community. He has family in Peloponnese and Athens, but doesn't often talk to them. His interest in the Greek economy has more to do with economics than it does Greece, and the situation doesn't plague him. "I don't worry about it," he says. "There's nothing I can do about it."

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Anastasia Argiris can't get Greece off her mind as she sets up her Belleville restaurant for lunch hour. "My family is worse than other ones," she says. "If they don't pay, they'll cut the hydro."

Formerly construction business owners in Peloponnese, her two brothers have been out of business for the past three years. "They aren't fixing anything anymore," says Argiris.

"My father is in the hospital," she says, and explains that her siblings "don't have money to put gas in the car and see him."

Like Fountoukis, Argiris wants to sponsor family members to come to Canada, but says she doesn't have enough work for them.

Asked about why the Greek economy is in its current state, she first blames the Greek government. "They give too much money out," she says. "The government gives \$15,000 to people starting businesses."

She also emphasizes the lack of frugality in Greek citizens. "In Greece, they're spending their money," she says. "Here, we save our money."

Argiris has a prudent financial mindset, but feels guilty about what success she's achieved. "For me it's very hard," she says. "Even if I make a little bit of money, I feel bad for them."

"I live their problems," she says. "Things have changed. Our lives have changed."

Chickens get their day in court

Family challenges local zoning laws by keeping livestock

By Cole Breiland

What was supposed to be a home school lesson in science and agriculture for then 12 year-old Kayla Bacher has become a lesson in local government.

Her parents will go to court today to challenge the charges that they had broken local zoning bylaws by keeping livestock.

The couple's pro bono legal representative from the Canadian Constitution Foundation, Karen Selick, told media that they will be using a defence of officially induced error.

When the Bachers got the chickens two years ago, they thought they had done their homework.

Kelly Bacher said she went to the Trent Hills municipal office to ask if it was possible to keep chickens in the city, and was given information on what animals could be kept as pets. That information did not list chickens as prohibited.

"If they didn't want us to have them they should have told us right up front," said Bacher. "I never would have gone through the trouble of doing it, that was money we had to pay for the hens; we had to build the coops; we had to buy their dishes, we've got to constantly feed them."

"We wouldn't have put that money out if we thought there was a chance they would be taken away."

They kept those chickens without complaint until they moved to their current Dosssee Street residence. In June, two months after they settled in the neighbourhood, the municipality received a complaint.

In response the family gathered a petition of almost 200 signatures to have the municipality look at changing the bylaw.

The municipality commissioned a planning report from Clark Consulting on the advantages and disadvantages of allowing chickens to be kept in urban spaces.

The report looked at examples of other municipalities, including the cities of Guelph, Kingston, and Niagara Falls, as well as the neighbouring municipality of

'If they didn't want us to have them they should have told us right up front.'

Kelly Bacher

Quinte West.

The report concluded by suggesting if there was support from council and the community, the municipality could implement a permit system with rules for number of chickens, coop size, and coop placement.

However, the Trent Hills council decided to maintain the restrictions on agricultural activities in urban residential areas during an Oct. 4, 2011, council meeting.

The Bachers were not in attendance during that meeting, claiming that they were not notified personally, though the municipality made a public announcement in newspapers of the issue.

According to the meeting minutes, four of seven members of council Bill Thompson, Meirion Jones, Kim MacNeil, deputy mayor Rosemary Kelleher-MacLennan and Mayor Hector Macmillan spoke against revising the bylaw, all felt that chickens belonged outside urban areas.

Ironically, the Bachers are taking care of an extra chicken of unknown origin, given to them by the municipality after it was found roaming in Campbellford. They have to keep the hen in a separate indoor coop, because it does not get along with the family's other chickens, which have grown up together.

Since Oct. 4, 2011 meeting bylaw officers have inspected the property multiple times, giving them revised deadlines. The Feb. 3, 2012 visit proved to be the municipality's last.

As to why they did not get rid of the chickens after any of those inspections while continuing to try and change the bylaw, Mrs. Bacher said it is "the principle of it, and the fact that after two years, you are attached to them."

She adds that "it's like a dog. You feed and water and clean up after it every single day after two years. I never thought I would say that about a chicken, but you become attached to them, they become part of your routine."



Twelve-year old Kayla Bacher feeds the family's chickens in their winter coop in the backyard of their Campbellford home Feb. 20. The family's first court date to fight the charge of breaking the municipality's zoning bylaws by keeping the chickens took place today.

E-cigs disaster brings new awareness

No nicotine allowed in electronic smoking devices in Canada

By Sharon Kallaste

Tragic news south of the border has sparked some new awareness on the devices here in Canada.

E-cigs are electronic smoking products—electric vapour cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos and pipes. Those that contain nicotine are illegal here in Canada.

While smoking an e-cigar on Feb. 18, Tom Holloway, 57, of Niceville, Fla., lost several teeth, part of his tongue and suffered facial burns when the product exploded. The home office he was working in at the time also received minor fire damage from the battery explosion of the e-cigar.

CSPnet.com and the Digital Journal reported this week that the incident has raised suspicions about a possible modification to the original manufactured product.

E-cigarettes and other similar tobacco smoking simulating devices are battery-operated. The filters can either contain a nicotine solution or a non-nicotine flavored liquid. A vapor is produced and inhaled similar to that of a tobacco cigarette, cigar or pipe.

Like many other electronic devices, and appliances, the end users can purchase aftermarket parts to 'beef' up the performance making appliances work faster, give longer battery life, or provide more power.

Olivia Caron is a media relations officer with Health Canada.

"There are basically two categories of the electronic smoking products, with nicotine and without nicotine.

"Those with nicotine are illegal in Canada and those without are required to have market authorization. To this date, there have been no approvals granted by Health Canada," said Caron.

In a backgrounder, Health Canada advises Canadians "not to purchase or use electronic smoking products, as these products may pose health risks and have not been evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy."

The product components fall under several governing authorities indicated in the backgrounder.

"Nicotine is a drug subject to the Food and Drugs Act. The delivery system component is a medical device subject to the Medical Devices Regulations.

"Any electronic smoking product associated with nicotine or with therapeutic claims falls under the *Food and Drugs Act* and its regulations, and requires market authorization from Health Canada to be imported or sold in Canada."

To be granted market authorization for an electronic cigarette product, a sponsor would have to submit scientific evidence demonstrating the product's safety, efficacy and quality, the backgrounder states.

Electronic smoking products without nicotine or any other drug and without therapeutic claims are not subject to the Food and Drugs Act and its regulations.

"We have only had a few general inquiries about the e-cigarette, not much really," said Crystal Roach, public health nurse, with Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. Roach has worked for the unit for the past nine years.

"Belleville has the highest smoking rate in eastern Ontario. We are in an area of available cheap cigarettes, as well as a social economic stylus—low paying jobs, unemployment and a high senior population, which all contribute to this statistic," said Roach.

The products without nicotine raise potential questions of being a possible avenue for a smoking cessation aid, such as nicotine gum and the nicotine patch.

"We will not be promoting or generating any awareness about these products unless expressed approvals have been issued by Health Canada, of which we have not heard anything to date," said Roach.

Local retailer Fast Freddy's gas bar has chosen not to supply electronic smoking products.

"There has only been a few inquiries here at Free Flow, and most likely the reason why our district manager Janet Hill made the decision not to sell them," said Karen Baptiste, site manager at Lakeview Plaza in Shannonville.

A sampling of five convenience stores in the Quinte area turned up not a single e-cigarette, with or without nicotine, for sale. It would seem some local retailers are taking heed of Health Canada advisories and strict regulations.

Loyalist photojournalism student Jeff Peters, 21, of Kingston, was given a pack of U Smoke as a gift with an incentive to quit smoking. Peters has been smoking for six years.

"They taste like raisins and when you drag, they burn and feel just like a real cigarette."

"I just don't have the willpower to quit. I guess until I smarten up or get sick with a tumour or something, I will find my motivation, that's the reality of it," said Peters.

Student government gets word out about elections

Students must go online to choose candidates

By Megan Voss

The Loyalist College Student Government is trying to get the word out about elections as much as they can.

"We've got flyers out as well as through the Facebook page, e-newsletters and our website: loyaliststudents.com," says Nancy Simpson, returning officer.

To vote, students must go online to loyaliststudents.com, provide their date of birth and student number. Then, they can select one out of two candidates in three

different categories.

Last year's voter turnout was a mere eight percent, and in the hope of having more people vote this year, Simpson says students have the opportunity to win \$500 by voting online.

Christopher Detering in broadcast engineering has been acclaimed as student president, since he was the only candidate.

"I don't think anyone ran against me because when you think about it the title of 'Student Government President' can be intimidating," he says.

"Since most of our current board is leaving at the end of this year, someone with no experience on student government might be a little scared to take the big chair."

On the college's voting website, Detering writes that he feels that he could bring more of himself into the role of president.

"I feel it would be a valuable experience for me," he says. "I also feel very attached to this college and want to see it grow and succeed as much as possible."

As president, his wish is for more classroom space.

"Classrooms have been converted for several different non-classroom uses and it's having an impact on the students and scheduling," he says.

He also hopes to work to lower cafeteria prices, expand the cellphone extender program beyond the pub to other dead zones around the school and work to make pub nights more enjoyable for everyone.

"I'm most looking forward to another year with the student government. This past year, as Media Studies Leader has been fun and a learning experience for me about what the student government actually does for students. I want to listen to what the students have to say and help make what they want, happen."

"Also, I don't think people fully realize what we do and that as a member of the board we really can make change around the college. I think most people think we just organize pub, but there's so much more to it than that and that's where I think the reluctance to run comes from."

"I'd encourage anyone who wants to make change around the college, to make it a better environment for everyone, to run in next year's elections."

Participants eat it up at pancake event

Shrove Tuesday event marks the beginning for 40 days of Lent

By Megan Voss

The atmosphere at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was about as light and fluffy as the pancakes they were making.

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Christians begin Lent – the 40 days before Easter, when some people do not eat anything that comes from an animal, such as meat, eggs and dairy.

Pancakes, sausages and juice were being served at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Belleville on Feb. 21.

Several people arrived early before the event began, donning aprons and getting the run-down of what to do for the evening. While a few people stood at tables, flipping pancakes, many others were dishing up plates with sausage and pancakes to serve to the people seated around the tables set up in the church basement.

Peter McNaught was among those who were working at the griddles. He only attends the church occasionally, but happily agreed to help make pancakes for the evening.

"Well, no pancakes came back!" he joked, after watching as a plate of sausages and pancakes were successfully delivered to an attendee. After fiddling around for a while with the amount of batter he poured onto the griddle, as well as the temperature, he was more confident about the pancakes being cooked all the way through as time went on.

And although Janis Drummond, who was selling cookies, is a regular attendee, she doesn't follow the traditions of Lent either. Like McNaught, she helps out at the pancake supper as more of an outreach to the community.

Rev. Anne-Marie Jones was sporting an apron along with the rest of her volunteers.

"My job is to greet people as they come in," she said, relieved as a few more people trickled into the room.



Peter McNaught pours pancake batter onto a griddle at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Belleville, Ont. on Feb. 21. Although he is not a regular churchgoer, he enjoys helping out with various church activities and community events.

She was a bit concerned with the lower turnout than last year, but was still in good spirits.

"There are about six or seven other churches in the area," she said, noting

that could be a reason for the smaller amount of people attending this time around.

A common theme for the evening was that it was simply a social gathering to

enjoy sausage and pancakes. Jones explained that not many churches follow the tradition of not eating anything that comes from an animal for Lent.

"Catholics will, though," she said.

Photo by Megan Voss

Students test skills in competition

\$2,000 scholarship to Loyalist College goes to winner

By Melissa Murray

While students are studying, travelling, and taking some time off from Loyalist during reading break, area high school students will labour in a full-day skills competition at the college.

Vince Kennelly, a grade 12 student at St. Theresa's Catholic Secondary School, is one of the students taking part in the competition. Kennelly will be part of a four-person team in the carpentry competition.

"My teacher wanted to put some people in the competition, so me and a couple of friends volunteered," said Kennelly.

"I'm not really sure what to expect, but I've been playing around with some projects to practice," he said.

This is the first year the college has offered the skills competition, which will take place Thursday, March 1. Grade 11 and 12 students will compete in seven different areas including architectural design, automotive, precision machining, aesthetics, welding and two or four-person carpentry in the hopes of winning up to a \$2,000 scholarship to the college.

The competition gives Loyalist the opportunity to showcase the school and the opportunity to have future students in the building, said Tom Malloy, Dean for the schools of skills training, access and continuing education.

"What we really tried to do was attract students to the college to see and experience the facility."

"From the college's perspective, we are really trying to promote the value of skills and selfishly, we want students to have the experience of being in our facility, using our equipment and looking at what excel-



Photo by Melissa Murray

Vince Kennelly cuts a piece of wood with a mitre saw in the construction lab at Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville, Ont. Kennelly is participating in the first Loyalist skills competition being held on March 1. He and his friends volunteered to represent St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School in the four-person construction competition.

lent resources we can provide," he said.

The idea for the event was to create a regional example of the annual Skills Canada competition, which happens in Waterloo every year in May, said Malloy.

He first mentioned the idea last spring and worked with Trenval and the Eastern Ontario Training Board to get the project rolling.

"When I went to and met with the various individuals at the school board office,

they were absolutely thrilled with the idea because currently, without Loyalist having the competition, they were sending their students to Kingston to a regional competition," said Malloy.

With the recent addition of a \$16.6-million Skills Centre, including space for biosciences and building sciences, the capacity within the programs went up by 200 students.

"The addition of the new skills centre

increased our capacity in the skills programs, so we are trying to increase the awareness of the facility and part of that is to increase the enrolment as well," said Malloy.

Students were hand-selected for the competitions from their high schools within the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School

Board and Limestone District School Board.

"This gives them the opportunity to provide a competition to their students locally, rather than having to take them to Kingston, which is problematic for schools as far as Cobourg or as far north as Bancroft."

Initially, the event was planned for about 75-80 students, but current registration numbers suggest more than 100 students could be attending.

"We have had our challenges, but I think at the end of the day, when we see the finished product on March 1, we will see how well it did come together and how quickly it happened."

"The intent here is we hope this becomes an annual event. So we are breaking new ground. We are learning from it and it's been great," said Malloy.

While the event helps to bring students to Loyalist and acts as a practice for the Ontario Skills competition, Malloy and skills competition co-ordinator Trenea Ellis said they also hope to increase the confidence and skills for job training in the competitors.

While the competition takes place from 9-5 p.m., 95 per cent of the score is tallied from the physical work being completed and five per cent is calculated from an interview with industry professionals, said Ellis.

"They have to give us a resume and they have to be prepared to answer certain questions," she said.

"It's good also, because there are so many students on a daily basis that don't talk to people -- they text people. We all do it, but certainly when you go in for an interview, you have to have the confidence and know what they are looking for," she said.

"Some of these students in Grade 11 or 12 have never had an interview, so it is good practice."

Parrott Foundation donates to Pathways

By Rachel Cohen

Pathways to Independence has received a grant for \$200,000 from the John M. & Bernice Parrott Foundation. The funds were donated to help the not-for-profit agency build a new fully accessible home in Belleville for adults living with a developed brain injury.

Pathways to Independence provide community based living support to people with impairments in cognitive functioning.

"The support of the Parrott Foundation is critical to helping us achieve our dream," said Lorrie Heffernan, executive director of Pathways to Independence.

The agency has a long-term plan to build fully accessible homes where needed, for people who have an acquired brain injury.

"Many of our clients are aging, and homes that were suitable many years ago, no longer meet their needs," said Deborah Paus, manager of human resources and administration of Pathways.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have the support of the Parrott Foundation who helped us renovate our facility back in 2007," said Paus.

With the donation from the Parrott Foundation, the new home will be built in Belleville, and is closer to the amenities of a larger, more urban environment. The people Pathways support who currently live in the Stirling area, will be able to access a greater range of community-based services, medical support and leisure activities when they move into their new home later this year.

"Without the support of the Parrott Foundation, our dream would take us much longer to realize, and we are grateful to the Parrott Foundation for their generous support," said Heffernan.

According to Pathways, many people in the community who have an acquired brain injury live with and depend upon the support of their families to meet their daily needs.

Marguerite Cooke, president of the John M. & Bernice Foundation wrote in a news release: "Each year, the Foundation receives many requests for support which fall within its mandate which is to assist in improving the quality of life in the Quinte area. We are pleased to support Pathways to Independence in its excellent work."



By Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Lowe's is hosting its annual Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser, Buck 4 Luck, which kicked off last Saturday. "So far we've reached about \$400," said Debbie Azzopardi. This fundraiser will be running till March 17, Saint Patrick's Day. "We usually average about \$2,300 to \$3,000, but this year our goal is to raise \$5,000. We also hold bake sales and other things, like employees pay \$3 to wear casual clothes to work," explained Azzopardi.

Seven new programs part of Loyalist plans

By Sarah O. Swenson

Loyalist College will be offering seven new programs in the upcoming school year, with the hopes of drawing in new students.

"We always try to offer new programming and phase out programming that isn't responding," said Bill Walsh, vice president of enrollment management and student services.

One program that the college is particularly excited about is the sports and entertainment sales and marketing, offered as a one-year post-graduate certificate.

"We've had an amazing response from different major league sports teams," said Dan Holland, the dean of the schools of business and management studies, biosciences, and centre for justice studies. He says that programs like this are born out of gaps in post-secondary education where there is job availability.

"What they said to us was 'it's nice to have the face of the ex-jock but that's not the person that's going to put bums in seats or sell the advertising boards,'" explained Holland.

In addition to the new sports-centric course, the school of business and management studies will be bringing back a revamped two-year diploma in advertising and marketing communications. The previous advertising program was suspended for renewal and had its curriculum retooled to fit today's industry standards.

"Each program has an advisory group made up of largely industry representatives and they advise us on the direction the program should go in," said Walsh. "There is always a refreshing of the product."

In addition to the aforementioned programs, Loyalist will now be offering a three-year advanced diploma in food science and technology and a one-year certificate in English for academic purposes. The school of media studies will also be adding two new programs: a one-year post-graduate certificate in 3D video production and a three-year advanced diploma in graphic design.

Loyalist has also partnered with Trent University to offer an advanced diploma in journalism (online, print and broadcast), as well as a Trent joint-major honours (B.A. or B.Sc.) degree in journalism and a discipline of their choosing.

New basketball league a hit in Durham region

League founded in 2011 has seven teams across eastern Canada

By Kayla Allen

The Power is the new sporting hit in Durham Region.

The Oshawa Power is one of seven National Basketball League teams in Canada. The other six teams are the Halifax Rainmen, London Lightning, Moncton Miracles, Quebec Kebs, Saint John Mill Rats and Summerside Storm.

The NBL is a professional men's basketball league that was founded in 2011. Basketball is among the fastest growing and most popular sports in Canada. More than 600,000 Canadians 15 and up play the sport of basketball regularly.

For a long time, Canada was the only country out of the top 30 basketball nations in the world that didn't have its own professional basketball league, according to the NBL.

Drew Ebanks, vice president of Communications for the Oshawa Power, is very involved with getting the word out about the Power in his community. Asked how it makes him feel to be a part of a NBL team, Ebanks said "For me it's a dream come true to be a part of the NBL Canada and Oshawa Power. I've said for years that there's no reason Canada shouldn't have its own professional basketball league and I am glad that it is finally here."

"The quality of play and talent is amaz-

ing and the overall in-game experience is great. You can't beat the entertainment value that the league and Oshawa Power provide to our fans."

There are about 17 Canadians who play in the NBL. The Power has the most Canadians on their roster out of all six teams. The Power has four Canadian's: Papa Oppong, Tut Ruach, Paul Campbell and Kevin Shand.

"There is an amazing amount of basketball talent in Canada and it's going to be amazing for CIS/OCAA kids to realize their professional hoops dreams while playing professionally in their own country of Canada in front of their family and friends," said Ebanks.

Tut Ruach is one of the Power's best players. Ruach has played all 33 games with the Power during the first year of the NBL. The 6'2, 170-pound point guard from Toronto graduated from York University. Asked if he enjoys playing for the Power, Tut said, "It's been really fun. The best part is being so close to my family and friends."

Even though it's the inaugural year for the NBL, the Power has had roughly 5,700 fans out to their Rogers Slam Dunk Day and Cure on the Court for breast cancer awareness day at the GM Centre in Oshawa.

Asked how Ruach thinks the NBL is doing as a league in its first year, he said, "I think the league is doing pretty well for its first year. There are some kinks that I'm sure as time passes will be smoothed out. I think the league will continue to grow and I believe it has a lot of room for improvements as well."



Photo by Kayla Allen

Kevin Shand, number 52 and Rick Bodiford, number 23, both take off to block a shot taken by Julian Allen from the Summerside Storm. In only its first year of existence, the National Basketball League of Canada has experienced enough success they have already announced an expansion initiative for the upcoming 2012-13 season.

The Oshawa Power currently sits in fifth place in the standings, only two points behind the Saint John Mill Rats. The hard-working Power has 14 wins and 19 losses averaging 101 points for and

104.6 points against per game.

Motivated to make the playoffs, the Power have three away games remaining: two against the Saint John Mill Rats and one against Summerside Storm.

Brandon Robinson is leading the Power with 19.46 points per game. Close behind is Omari Johnson with 17.76 points per game and Morgan Lewis with 17.39 points per game.



Playing with Pet Pals

The relationship between a pet and its owner is timeless and universal. Whether it is a bearded dragon, a cat or dog, there is a unique, unspoken bond between the animal and human.

For some people, having a pet runs in the family. Sometimes, having a certain kind of pet or breed of dog is important. And in other cases, having a name that stays in the family is also significant.

Deanna Cole has had her German Shepherd, Ripper, for the past 11 years. Her husband wanted the dog and they found an ad in the paper and picked up the dog when he was five weeks old.

"His grandfather had two Rippers, so this is the third in our family," she says.

The most rewarding part for most pet owners is the companionship.

Jess Powell has two dogs – a seven-year-old chocolate lab and a five-year-old husky. He brings the dogs to the park almost every morning, and says it's good for him and the dogs to get out of the house.

On the way to the dog park, Powell drives by the Tim Hortons to get a coffee for himself and a couple of timbits for the dogs.

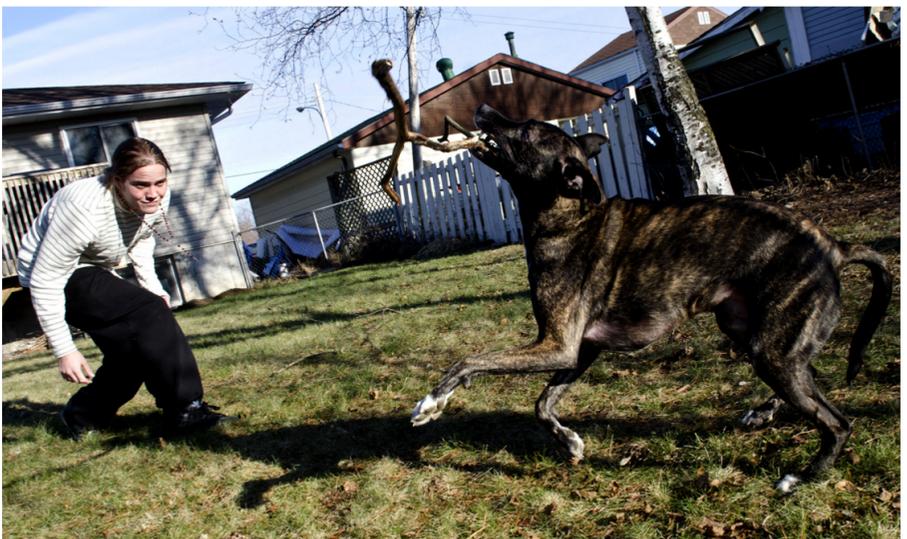
Cliff Maclean has a two-year-old Alaskan Malamute named Nanuk. He also enjoys the friendship with his big dog.

"They're great companions and funny clowns," he says. "One hundred pounds of Malamute on your bed in the morning is a very effective alarm clock."

For many pet owners, their animals are more than just their pets. They are their lifelong companions – someone who will always love them unconditionally.

This is true for Jordan Buskard, the owner of a four-year-old pit-bull named Carter. "He's with me through thick and thin."

Story by Megan Voss



Top: Deanna Cole with German Shepherd Ripper, photo by Chloë Ellingson. Top left: Jenn Faulkner with German Pointer Hackett, photo by Sarah O. Swenson. Top right: Noah Widder with bearded dragons Mr. Big and Viola, photo by Brynn Campbell. Middle left: Julie Slaughter with cat Luther, photo by Cassandra Davidson. Middle right: Melanie Jardine with hound Max, photo by Stephanie James. Bottom right: Jordan Buskard with pit-bull cross Carter, photo by Dan Pearce.



Photo by Sarah O. Swenson

Loyalist's Martine Gauvin removes her mouthguard to shout instructions to her teammates during Wednesday night's basketball action against St. Lawrence Vikings. Gauvin led the team in minutes and scored 11 points.



Photo by Sarah O. Swenson

Loyalist's Damone Donaldson takes a shot during Wednesday night's basketball action. Despite a strong fourth quarter, the Lancers fell to the Vikings 71-63. Donaldson played all 40 minutes and scored 9 points.

Turnovers contribute to women's final score

By Melissa Murray

The third quarter decided the game for both Loyalist basketball teams last night.

After 30 minutes of play, the men's loss and women's win were almost sealed during the Lancers' final regular season basketball games against St. Lawrence College.

The women played with intensity leading the entire game and finishing strong against the St. Lawrence College Vikings, with a final score of 75-48.

"We wanted to finish them in the third," said the women's head coach Chris Eligh. And they did with a lead of 24 points.

The men outscored the Vikings 26-14 in the fourth quarter, but they never got within six points of the Vikings to overcome the 20-point lead by St. Lawrence College after the third quarter. The Vikings still won 71-63 guaranteeing them a home play off game.

"The fourth quarter was phenomenal," said the men's head coach Richard Whitfield. "They played a more physical game than us. They played a full 40 minutes of basketball and we only played a good 10."

Eligh said he felt it was the women's intensity that won them the game. "They played hard basketball," he said.

"They brought intensity and pressure to the game."

Turnovers were a huge contributor to the final score. The Lady Lancers snatched 31 turnovers while the St. Lawrence Vikings only produced seven points off of stolen chances.

"The morale has been really decent all year," said Eligh. "They are a positive group and a good group."

Eligh said he believes if the team keeps their consistency, their intensity and their communication open, they'll thrive during the playoffs. "They'll also need to finish their lay-ups," he added.

Top scorers for the ladies were guard

Amber Burton, guard and forward Haley Sisler and guard and forward Sierra Cauley. The ladies also used three-pointers to their advantage banking seven three-pointers, while their competition scored four.

The ladies end their season in fourth place in the east division of the OCAA.

The Lady Lancers host the fifth place Niagara knights in their first play-off game on Saturday.

The men's team saw their chance at entering the playoffs slip away after their loss to Centennial this past weekend. This loss was just as disappointing.

"The morale is the same as when we

lost games at the beginning of the season. They underachieved and the players know it," said Whitfield.

"No coach is happy when their team underachieves. It's disappointing, but they are a team of great guys."

Patrick Kalala, Matt Miller and Calvin Chevannes contributed 44 of the 63 baskets made and Kalala and Damone Donaldson played the entire 40-minute game.

The status of the men's team next year is still up in the air as up to five players could be leaving Loyalist this year, said Whitfield.

With the loss, the men finished ninth in the East Division.

Best Eastern Ontario figure skaters visit Belleville this weekend

By Dan Pearce

Spins, jumps and intricate footwork will be on display by some of the best figure skaters in eastern Ontario this weekend.

The Yardmen Arena in Belleville will play host the Eastern Ontario STARSkate Invitational Championship from Feb. 24-26.

Figure skaters from Whitby to Ottawa will compete in the annual competition.

Lauren McLean, Emily Seigner, Renada Barnable and Maddie Callaghan of the Trenton Figure Skating Club, or TFSC, will all be competing.

TFSC coach Ida Klemencic said the girls are between 10 and 12 years old, and each has been figure skating for around five years. Seigner is competing in the championship for the second time. For the rest of the girls, it's a brand new experience.

"This is the biggest competition for

these girls. It's what they've been working towards the whole season," said Klemencic. "This is the biggest competition that they compete in at this level."

Klemencic has been coaching figure skating for 24 years in Frankford and Trenton. She said, for now, this is the largest

qualifier for these girls, but in years to come, they'll be able to qualify and compete at the all-Ontario level.

"Everyone's been working really hard to get ready for this competition," she said. "Ultimately that's what they want to do, qualify for all-Ontario."

First playoff game doesn't go well for Hawks

Series now at 1-0 after overtime loss to Kingston Voyageurs

By Dan Pearce

The Voyageurs ventured to Trenton and emerged victorious from Community Gardens on Tuesday night. The Golden Hawks weren't so golden.

The Hawks got off to a bad start in their first playoff game of the season against the Kingston Kimco Voyageurs with a 1-0 overtime loss. The series is now at 1-0 for the Voyageurs.

It was a battle between two goalies as the game was scoreless after three periods. Despite an onslaught of offensive pressure from the Hawks — they outshot the Voyageurs 48-37 — Voyageurs goalie Charlie Finn came out on top, saving everything the Hawks threw at him.

"We have a young team with a quiet confidence, and we believe in our goaltender," said Kingston head coach Colin Birkas. "Finn has been doing a great job for us in the playoffs. You can't say enough about him."

Finn, who got his second shutout of the playoffs with an impressive 48 saves, received a much-deserved first star, while Hawks netminder Spencer Finney received the second star with 36 saves.

"It was all we could handle," said Birkas. "It's definitely a tall order for anyone in the league to go up against the larger and older Trenton team."

The Hawks had plenty of opportunities and lots of close calls, but couldn't find a way to get the puck by Finn.

"It's pretty simple, if you don't put the puck in the back of the net, you don't deserve to win," said Trenton coach Jerome Dupont.

A penalty early in the overtime period may be what led to the Vees victory.

Finn left his crease to retrieve a loose puck and Trenton's Krystain Yorke made a break to challenge him for it. Finn fell to the ice and York was given a slashing penalty, giving the Vees a man advantage.

Less than a minute later Kyle Wilhelm shelved a one-timer pass from Steve



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Kingston Voyageurs goalie Charlie Finn stops a shot on net from Trenton Golden Hawks forward Andrew Parks on Tuesday night at the Community Gardens in Trenton. The Kingston Voyageurs won 1-0 in overtime.

McParland to give the Vees the win. Wilhelm received the third star for getting the OT game winner.

It was a surprising win for the Vees, who failed to win any of the six games they played against the Hawks during the

regular season, including the Hawks' last game less than two weeks ago.

The Vees were also playing their third road game in three days after defeating the defending Ontario Junior Hockey League champions, the Wellington Dukes, in the

first playoff round.

The Hawks, who finished the regular season first in the Eastern division, received a first round bye.

The teams meet again in Kingston on Thursday at 7 p.m., and in Trenton on

Friday at 7:30 p.m. to continue their best-of-seven playoff series.

Dupont said Trenton's strategy heading into Thursday's game is to "play good defensive hockey, like we did last night (Tuesday)."

On the street

Canada: America's favourite child

By Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Canadians are feeling the love from south of the border.

A Gallup survey released Feb 16 shows that the average American has a more favorable view of Canada since this time last year.

We are now sitting at a 96 per cent approval rating, the highest ranking any country has ever been rated in the 20 years that Gallup has been conducting these surveys.

The Toronto Star, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Hamilton Spectator have all run the same Canadian

Press story, written by Lee-Anne Goodman, which is full of pride and bluster at being America's favourite.

Why do we act like being liked by the U.S. is some lofty goal? That earning the approval and a metaphysical pat on the head by the U.S. is something that should be trumpeted by the Canadian media?

I just spent the weekend in New York. They're sure nice and had nothing negative to say about us, but neither did they have anything particularly smart or deep to say. I guess I should have expected all this crowing, but it's still depressing how eager we are to a nation to earn our neighbour's approval.

Photojournalism student Liam Kavanagh-Bradette visited New York City on the weekend and asked people:

What does Canada mean to you?



Dionysus Potamoskulos, "I like Canadian bacon, but I heard it's not what we have here, what's peameal?"



René Berkowitz, "I loved it, the food wasn't so good. The croissants were awful, they were like hockey pucks."



Anastasia Stekes, "My husband's from Flin Flon, Manitoba. I want to move there."



Ricky Sarkar, "The only thing I know about Canada is they've got some really nice waterfalls."

Editorial

Isn't pedophilia more damaging than smoking pot?

Apparently the Tories don't want anything to be safe in Canada, not marijuana and not children either.

According to the backgrounder for the Safe Streets and Communities Act, the short title for the Omnibus Crime Bill, posted on the Canadian Department of Justice website, someone who is caught growing 201 pot plants in a rental unit would receive a longer mandatory sentence than someone who rapes a toddler or forces a five-year-old to have sex with an animal.

Wow, can that even be digested?

Christina Barriage, a Loyalist College community and justice services program student, weighed in. "Pedophilia does more long-term damage to our society than people smoking pot ever will."

It would seem that the Tory government wants to spend billions of dollars a year on people who like to smoke dope, listen to music and eat brownies.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, while on the campaign trail in April, repeatedly promised to get tough on sexual offences against children.

So how is it that the penalties for some pot-growing offences could exceed those of sexual crimes against children?

In his Speech from the Throne, at the opening of the 41st Parliament, David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada, included the following comments:

"Our government will move quickly to reintroduce comprehensive law-and-order legislation to combat crime and terrorism. These measures will protect children from sex offenders."

So, flash forward to Feb. 17, 2012. Riding on the coattails of The Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act, the Omnibus Bill has been pushed through all readings of the house and now sits with the Commons Justice Committee, which consists primarily of Conservative members.

Irene Mathyssen, Member of Parliament for London-Fanshawe, asked why there was only three hours of debate allotted to a third reading of the bill. She also wondered why the government refused to send the section of the bill that deals with child sexual assault separately, so that it might have speedy passage.

The Safe Streets and Communities Act's aim, (the short title for Bill C-10), as Justice Minister Rob Nicholson described during debate at second reading, is to "... target sexual offences against children and serious drug offences, as well as prevent the use of conditional sentences for serious violent and property crimes; increase offender accountability, eliminate pardons for serious crimes and strengthen the international transfer of offenders regime; wbetter protect Canadians from violent young offenders...."

Although the disparity between the minimum sentencing requirements of Bill C-10 are in the forefront, let's be clear that these are actually two completely different issues before us.

According to the Canadian Addiction Survey, 13.9 per cent of Canadians have used cannabis in the past year.

The National Clearing House on Family Violence states that one in every three women and one in every six men will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18.

Both of these facts are from verifiable sources, but only one of them has the ability to turn your stomach, turn the tide on the life of a child and therefore the future of a country.

The degree of both public and political rhetoric on the subject of this bill is multi-faceted. However, the fact remains that the claims made by the prime minister, governor general, and justice minister don't actually match the contents of the bill that has been pushed through.

So what's the bottom line? First, get tough on pedophiles.

Second, putting marijuana offenders in jail will do nothing for the problem, will cost a lot of money, and may even make things worse.

Sherry Tompkins

Wi-Fi gets attention as new cancer cause

It seems as soon as people catch onto a craze, it's found to cause cancer. Smoking. A social activity that has been around for hundreds of years. Don't light up anymore, it causes cancer.

Lying on the beach is the favourite pastime of summer vacationers, but slap on that sunscreen and grab that hat and umbrella because too much sun exposure causes cancer.

As sun exposure is a factor for skin cancer, people switched to indoor tanning to achieve their glow. Nope, that causes cancer too.

And now Wi-Fi has been added to the long, growing list of cancer-causing activities.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, or OECTA, is urging schools to stop putting Wi-Fi in their buildings, saying that more research needs to be done on the effects of Wi-Fi on children before installation.

Last May, the World Health Organization called for more research to be conducted on the potential dangers of Wi-Fi, as radiation from any wireless device could be cancer-causing.

Because children's brains are smaller than adults, the radiation affects them more. A child's brain also contains more water, which allows electromagnetic radiation to be conducted faster and stronger.

Some parents of children attending schools with Wi-Fi in Ontario claim their children are suffering from symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, vertigo, racing heart, memory loss and skin rash.

OECTA brought to public attention that no long-term studies have been conducted on the health impacts of Wi-Fi on children and that "no form of radiation can be deemed 'safe' as it depends on the constitution of the individual exposed."

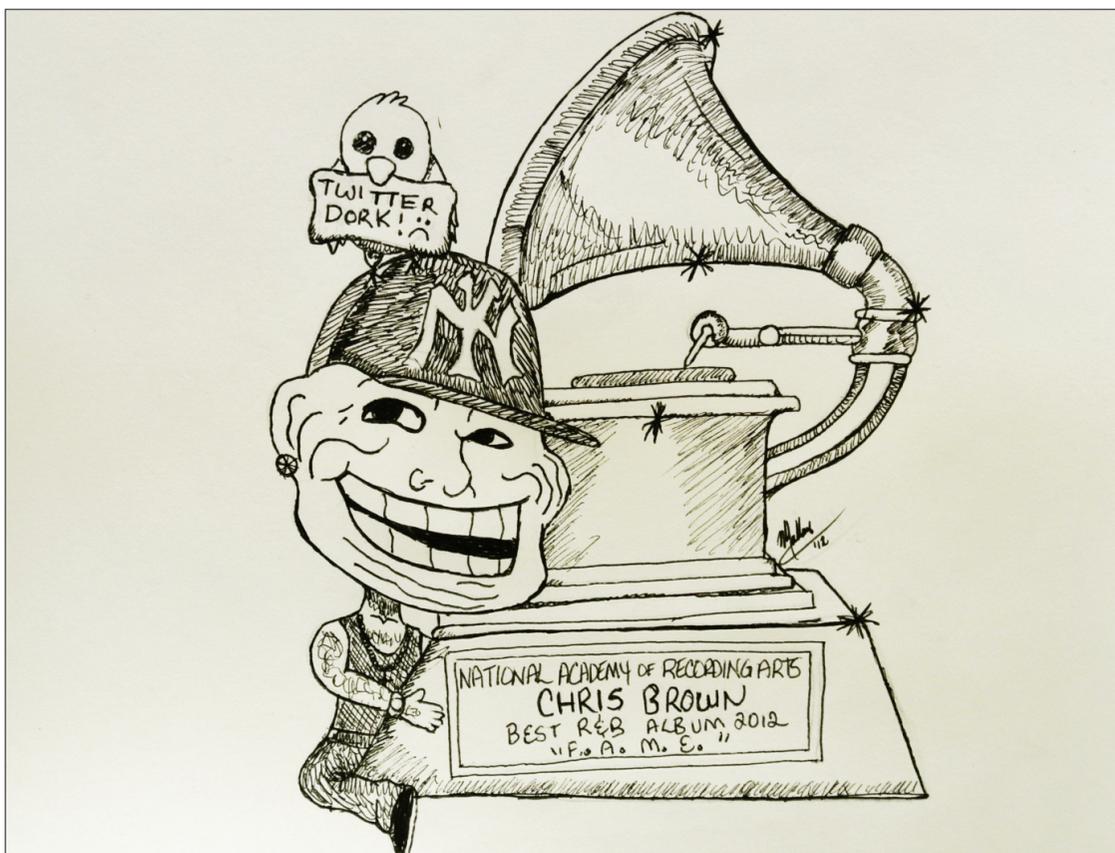
Cellphones were added to the list of potential cancer-causing devices a couple years ago, which have up to 2.4 ghz frequency. Wi-Fi can have up to 6 ghz frequency. Now many cells are made to be Wi-Fi capable as well.

The Wi-Fi craze is sweeping the nation with no end in site. People are able to get a wireless signal on buses, trains, restaurants, stores and even while in parks.

Can Wi-Fi now be added to the growing list of cancer-causing activities that people know about but seem to ignore? What has to happen for people to seek a healthy life and avoid known carcinogens?

Or will we all continue to suffer from the 'superman' syndrome, and believe we are invincible until proven otherwise?

Rebecca Rempel



Opinion

What are these women thinking?

Female fans tweet disturbing comments with expressions of love towards Chris Brown

By Kelly Michelle Gagné

"You can punch me in the face, as long as you kiss me afterwards."

Any chance you're still able to hear Chris Brown's name without cringing?

Were you one of the many who was watching the 54th annual Grammy awards last week? Maybe you weren't watching, but you definitely were up-to-date with updates every two minutes thanks to Twitter and Facebook.

I know the feeling. My Twitter feed was an explosion of tweets about who wore what best, the recent and tragic death of Whitney Houston, who-should-have-won-what Grammy, and then came the Chris Brown tweets, which trended for a week.

Talk about an explosion of controversy right after he accepted his Grammy. Female fans

were expressing their love for Chris by tweeting things such as:

"Everyone shut up about Chris Brown being a woman beater...Shiiiiittt he can beat me up all night if he wants." @_annieggregg, or "Dude, Chris brown can punch me in the face as much as he wants to, just as long as he kisses it (:." @KaylaMarieWatts.

I'm sure victims of assault everywhere approve of this kind of talk. Nothing says you respect yourself as a woman more than by completely degrading years of the struggle for women's rights in a single tweet.

These female Chris Brown fans really stirred the pot and have had their tweets posted on websites everywhere from "25 extremely upsetting reactions to Chris Brown at the Grammys" to news and magazine articles, and you name it.

But the ultimate question is whether fans and observers can separate the artist from the music. Should they?

Many people have at least some common sense and respect Brown as an artist, but realize he has made mistakes and that he needs to grow up and get help. It's just the brainwashed

girls that the rest of the population is worried about.

It makes you wonder how corrupted girls and women from 13-30 are and how they view themselves. Part of me wants to believe they just don't realize the power of the statements they are making.

My biggest issue right now is the effect those tweets will have on women and even men, on how they view assault and abuse. It makes you wonder what these girls really think of themselves and how they view assault.

At the end of the day, we need to really take into account that celebrities are people as well. Just because they are famous does not mean they are some kind of superhuman.

They still can be capable of good and evil actions and these girls and women need to really find a way to grow up and to stop obsessing over these celebrity icons.

Now aren't we all just excited for the 55th Annual Grammy Award shows and what they will bring? Get ready, your Twitter and Facebook feeds are going to be hurtin'.

Students facing 'crunch time' in their lives

Deadlines result in pushing the limits to get ready for workforce

By Jessica Corriveau

College students are no strangers to all-nighters.

Sometimes it's because we're making time to see our friends. Sometimes it's because a project just isn't coming together and there's no time left.

Whether it's at home or at school, staying up all night to meet a deadline isn't an uncommon practice during 'crunch time,' when every single assignment you have seems to be due the next day.

A recent BBC article revealed that 17 hours

of wakefulness – 7 a.m. to midnight – could lead to a brain functioning as if you'd consumed two glasses of wine or a blood alcohol level of 0.05 percent. The legal limit to operate a vehicle in Ontario is 0.08 percent.

Getting up at 7 a.m. and going to bed at midnight seems pretty reasonable, even conservative, when you factor in a full day in class, then a night of homework, with a part-time job thrown in, and some time for yourself or for friends, so you don't lose it and burn out.

But is pushing it really worth it? Should we be burning the candle at both ends in an effort to learn it all now and get out into the workforce? How much good is this way of life really doing us?

Intensive programs are just that – intensive. New deadlines are coming up every day and

assignments are going to take longer than an hour or two, more than one night in front of a computer. For group assignments, co-ordinating between everyone can be a nightmare. Either way, there's always something else you should be doing and someone else who needs your attention.

Maybe it's a matter of extending the programs, tacking on another year to spread things out.

Maybe it's simply re-evaluating the sheer number of assignments and how much practice we really need before we get the concept. Maybe it's simply a matter of keeping our noses to the grindstone and using our smartphones to stay on top of it all.

Graduating with your sanity is a challenge, but hey, we're preparing to conquer the world, right?

The Pioneer

The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

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