



Photo by Cole Breiland

Kevin Brant cuts a wooden board to use in constructing the seating of the longhouse on Sadie's Lane in Tyendinaga Mohawk territory, on Feb. 7. According to Brant the longhouse community is considering a pine wood interior, and loghouse style siding for the building.

## Grounds for heart of community getting a rebirth with building

By Cole Breiland

The grounds that once held the ashes of the heart of a community now cradle a growing one.

The Longhouse on Sadie's Lane in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory is being rebuilt after an emotional two-year journey.

The building was burned to the ground two years ago during a time of political upheaval in the community. Upon seeing the scene Bill Hay of the Ontario Fire Marshal's office said that the fire was suspicious because of the time of night it occurred, the building's isolated location and its lack of power source. No cause or culprit has been found.

The Longhouse was traditionally a building where Mohawk families lived, organized through matriarchal lineage. In

current times is a spiritual and community centre for members of the longhouse, where group and personal ceremonies are performed, meetings are held, and where they can gather socially.

The loss of the original Longhouse was a shock to the community.

"I was devastated, I have never been as devastated in my life as I was that day," said Janice Hill, Turtle clan clanmother, as she described seeing the still burning ruins of the old Longhouse on that dark night. "It broke my heart that our longhouse was burned down."

As the longhouse was burning, its members decided to rebuild. Donations started to come in to support the effort that day from members and non-members alike.

Over the next two years, people still gathered to the site to perform ceremonies, while awaiting the Longhouse's re-

construction.

The building process has involved many in Tyendinaga, not just those who are a part of the longhouse community.

Donations and fundraising from within the Tyendinaga Mohawk Community and other Mohawk communities, have allowed that reconstruction to begin over the past few months.

In mid-October of this year, the site was excavated and the foundation laid, with donated time from contractors, tradespeople, and volunteers. The mild winter allowed the building to be put up in four days this January.

Recently the midwinter ceremonies were held at the longhouse, which mark the end of the last year beginning of the new year.

"We renew our fire... we're renewing our home fire, we're renewing our long-

house fire, and we're renewing our individual personal fire, which is our personal energy," explains Hill.

The sacred ceremonies performed at that time are all related to giving thanks to what has been provided in the last year according to Hill.

"It was just overwhelming. The longhouse was full, there was more people in the longhouse than there has been at ceremonies in the last two years."

There is still work to be done. The building stands unfinished surrounded by the slick mud of a construction site, lacking siding, and proper doors. Inside, two fireplaces warm the building.

"It is a little ways off being done, but it's home," says 49 year old electrician Kevin Brant who lives in Tyendinaga, and who is helping to finish the interior of the building. "It is a new building, new beginning, a fresh start," says Brant.

## Employers take part in job fair

By Megan Voss

Holding stress relievers in the shape of hard hats and hammers, pens that spray hand sanitizer and munching on timbits, students milled about the gymnasium and cafeteria at Loyalist College.

Among the key chains, pens and candies, there are pamphlets and flyers, with potential employers standing behind the desks they laid on, ready to meet with their potential employees in the form of Loyalist students.

Dressed to impress, the students hovered about the various booths, hoping to make connections and network to get jobs after they graduate.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Feb. 9, the 15th annual career fair was held at Loyalist.

Francine Short is the career advisor at Loyalist and is part of the team that organized the fair.

"Everyone has a different goal," she said. "They could be looking for summer employment, securing a job upon graduation or placement opportunities. The goal is to somehow find a 'career,' whether it is for summer or part-time placement."

Short said about 1,000 students were expected to attend the fair, whether they were looking for a job or not. With such a large attendance, the variety of jobs represented was fairly vast.

"We usually get a good number of employers in the justice field, the health care and human services field, the skilled trades, manufacturing and business," Short said.

One of many tables was Cruickshank, a company that does road, bridge and infrastructure construction.

Having attended the fair for the past three years, Brenda McAllister, the human resources generalist for Cruickshank said that they have hired several civil engineering alumni.

She echoed what Short said about networking with the students.

"It gives us a pool of people to choose from, and some of them work with us year after year," she said.

## Tanning...

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The World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Canadian Medical Association, the American Academy of Dermatology, the Canadian Dermatology Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Save Your Skin Foundation, the Melanoma Network of Canada and the Canadian Paediatric Society all support legislation that would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by people younger than 18 years of age.

In Canada, children and youth under 18 years of age are banned from commercial indoor tanning facilities only in Nova Scotia and on southern Vancouver Island.

Asked about the timeline to see this bill through, Bezan said that because of where he sits in the lineup, the earliest the bill would be up for debate would be sometime in the winter of 2012-2013.

"The best-case scenario is the minister of health and the Government of Canada say we like this idea and we're going to implement it and it becomes a government bill then, rather than a private members bill.

"I would think that if Minister Leona Aglukkaq decided that she wants to make this government legislation, then she would be able to move it through the chamber in a fairly expedited manner.

"We are going to be launching, here in the next week or two, with our health partners, (the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Dermatology Association) a letter-writing campaign, a petition process, as well as an online petition. Canadians can express their support directly to their own members of Parliament as well as to the minister and to the House of Commons via petitions."

Neale has a painfully unique opinion. "I think that's it good that I've been the customer, I've been the employee, I've been the advocate. I want people to know.

"I just wish I could tell young people, don't do it. You don't want six inch scars in the middle of your stomach. If I could say to them, 'Well do you want to have scars all over your body when you are 21?' That sucks."

## Thefts...

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The matter is now in the hands of security. "If they feel it's warranted and they've gathered enough verification that a theft did occur then they will bring the Belleville police into the picture and the police will take over the investigation at that point," said Harrison.

There have been discussions about what measures should be taken, Horne said. In the labs there are already new security processes in place.

Since December, said Horne, the work study students under his direction check off an online lab check list accounting for every computer, mouse and keyboard, in the four media labs on the second floor, at the beginning and end of every shift. At the end of their shift, they email him the digital file.

"So, that's how we knew on Jan. 31 when these computers were stolen, that it happened after the person's shift was complete. It was after 10 o'clock and security on that night had locked all the labs when my tech left for the night. It was after 10 o'clock and all the labs were locked at that time," said Horne.

## Preparing for an emergency

*Emergency defined as any time an event overwhelms resources*

By Jessica Corriveau

Sarajevo, Bosnia, has declared a state of emergency in a cold snap that has shaken Europe. Winter is no stranger in Canada -- despite this year's mild winter -- but are we ready for such an emergency?

"An emergency can be defined anytime an event that overwhelms local resources," said Belleville Fire Chief Rhéaume Chaput. "Where there's an effect that overwhelms the local resources and we need support either through provincial funding or something of that nature, then it's quite possibly declared an emergency."

An emergency response system has been put in place following legislation that passed in 1990, the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, which mandates that every region and municipality have an emergency plan. As such, Hastings County, the City of Belleville, and Loyalist College have emergency plans put in place and updated yearly, including dry runs to make sure it all runs smoothly.

According to Natural Resources Canada, natural disasters that have the highest likelihood of occurrence in this area are tornadoes and severe storms. Because Belleville is located in southeastern Ontario, it is near the highest risk area in Canada for tornadoes.

Loyalist offers some resources to students, accessible on their student accounts when they are logged into the school's computers, or from the resource centre. The resources include a tip sheet on weather indicators of a tornado and a natural disaster plan.

"Typically, if the power is not interrupted, or other main services like water and sanitary, then we'll keep the building open and there will be limited services to it. If there are major utilities interruptions, mostly gas and hydro, then we would shut the building down and close the building," said Kirk Fleming, director of facilities services at Loyalist College.

"In a power outage, the Common Building at the south end of the residence complex, actually has an emergency generator, and so that building can be fully powered with that system. Students would go there and stay warm, and there would be power there to run any of the devices within the building," said Fleming.

Apart from natural disasters, other pos-



Jessica Corriveau

Fire Chief Rhéaume Chaput is director of Belleville's Fire and Emergency Services, the city department in charge of the emergency plan.

sible emergencies include technological emergencies such as fire, explosion, utility failure, or a hazardous spill or leak.

Chaput said evacuation is a key element in the city's emergency plan.

"We have a main hub of train traffic throughout the city of Belleville. We've identified that as one of our hazard identifications and we've identified that those evacuations routes need to be identified for that case, as well as different means of evacuations. So we have in place now multiple sources of transportation, for example, the city bus system, as well as agreements with the school systems in regards to using their bus systems, and those kinds of things," said Chaput.

Loyalist is one of many possible evacuation centres for the County of Hastings, which has its own emergency response plan.

"Our plan would be enacted when sev-

eral municipalities are involved," said Doug Socha, community emergency management co-ordinator. "One example, if there was a flood in Belleville, then it's up to them to decide whether to declare a state of emergency. But if there were a flood in Belleville, Trenton, Napanee, and Deseronto, if there were multiple municipalities involved, if provincial resources were needed, then we would come in."

With yearly practice runs and updates since the original plan was approved in 2004, officials say Belleville is prepared for the varying dynamics of the emergencies it could be confronted with.

"I'd like to think we're prepared for more than one. I would say the ones we're more prepared for are the flooding, weather events, those kinds of events, major traffic issues on the 401. We have plans for that," said Chaput.

"Sometimes we participate within

[Hastings County's practices] so that we can see how we interact with their facilities and their communication systems. We hold our own once a year as well because we're mandated by law to do that. Last year was in the fall, the year before, it was in the spring. We try different times of year and different types of events," said Chaput.

The city of Belleville's fire department has adopted social media as a resource to communicate with the public.

"Social media is a really important part to emergency management and disaster emergency preparedness. So we now are on board with social media and we hope that we'll be able to build on it," said Chaput.

To receive updates, simply like the Facebook page, City of Belleville Fire and Emergency Services, or follow the fire chief's Twitter, @COBRheaumeChapu.