

It feels like spring everywhere but in Batawa

Hills remain white despite lack of snow and warmer weather at Batawa Ski Hill

By Kelly Michelle Gagné

Despite the lack of snow and warmer weather this winter in the Quinte region, Batawa Ski Hill has been keeping its hills freshly white.

It's certainly been a very mild winter this year, but we've kept busy at the hill and have been doing fairly well," said Stephanie Adams, administration supervisor at Batawa Ski Hill.

The staff at Batawa have had a fairly busy winter despite what people outside the hill would think, taking advantage of the nights when the temperature would drop back down to -5° C to produce as much machine-made snow as possible.

"We've definitely had to produce a lot more fake snow than we would have liked due to the weather. It's been more expensive financially for us than last year to produce the snow, as opposed to having well – free snow," said Adams, laughing.

"We do have snow which is hard to believe for a lot of people. Everyone outside the hill gets to see green and yellow patches of grass, but I sit here and look out my window and the hill is just completely white," said Adams.

Frost Fest took place at Batawa the following weekend, Feb. 3 and 4, and the ski hill had a really good turnout, according to Adams. All of the planned events were open, with a good amount of snow, and the park was filled with smiling faces after a weekend of mild weather and sunshine.

"Word of mouth has definitely been the key to spreading the word about the hill being in perfect condition to ski," said Adams.

All events have gone as planned this year for the hill. The season isn't over yet,



Photo by Kelly Gagné

It's hard to believe after all the mild weather we've had this winter, but Batawa Ski Hill is still open and busy, with a lot of snow for their skiers and snowboarders.

with more events planned for the next few weeks, some whether there is snow or not.

"We've only had to close the hill one day all year, and that was a morning when

it was plus 10 degrees outside and raining, but other than that, we've had a fairly successful year for the hill," said Adams.

With Family Day coming up and the

March break, the staff at Batawa say they are looking forward to all of the skiers and snowboarders.

"It's definitely been a successful year,

thanks to the staff for stepping up to the plate and really helping produce the fake snow and with maintaining the hill for our skiers," said Adams.

Workshop looks at why people lose jobs

Strategies offered to maintain a positive working environment

By Cole Breiland

While many students are worrying about finding work in their field of expertise, it is useful to keep in mind what students should be doing to keep that job and make it a more positive experience.

This week the Northern Lights employment resource centre in downtown Belleville held a workshop detailing the top reasons people lose their jobs and outline strategies employees can follow to have a positive working relationship.

According to the points covered at the workshop, the top reasons people lose their employment are:

- Knowingly breaking company policy.
- Always waiting to be told what to do.
- Being unable to change with a changing environment.
- Not making an effort to improve after warnings
- Doing just enough to get by – and then falling short.
- Having a poor attitude with the boss.
- Poor attitude in general.
- Mistakes from not checking work.
- Poor work attitude about doing their job.
- Poor Attendance and tardiness.

The workshop also gave strategies to

have a personally and professionally rewarding employment by avoid these pitfalls.

They encouraged people to make better relationships with co-workers, as it will make their work easier and their performance better.

Similarly, they suggested avoiding gossip and negative venting, while tempting, is likely beneficial in the long run as it can reflect poorly on your personality.

Along the same line, they advise to find a mentor if you can. Is there someone with good management or technical experience in your organization? You can ask for their guidance. They point out that individual does not need to be a boss or someone with influence to learn from

them.

Knowing what is expected of you and pushing your own limits to take on task outside of what you normally do can make you a more valuable employee, the presentation recommends.

Valuing your position is something the centre thinks is of importance. They bluntly point out "despite what we may want, or think, we are all replaceable." They make clear that doing your best to show your employer that you are the best person for the job is something that does not end at the interview.

Students in need of job search, application, or career advice are advised to contact the Loyalist College Community Employment Services.

Population census released

By Melissa Murray

The population and dwelling results from Canada's controversial long-form census were released yesterday.

Belleville's population now sits at 49,454 and it increased just 1.3 per cent or 633 people between 2006 and 2011. Neighbouring Quinte West grew by just 0.9 per cent, or 389 people. While Quinte West grew by 0.9 per cent, Prince Edward County's population shrunk by the same amount. Approximately, 238 fewer people live in the area now as compared with 2006.

The two urban centres that had a decreasing population, both turned out to be in Ontario. Windsor and Thunder Bay saw their populations decline by 1.3 and 1.1 per cent respectively.

Cougars defeat Golden Hawks in Wednesday action

By Dan Pearce

The second place Cobourg Cougars narrowly defeated the first place Trenton Golden Hawks last night in Trenton.

Despite a 3-1 lead heading into the third period, the Hawks were unable to maintain the furious pace they set earlier in the game, and the Cougars clawed their way back, winning 4-3 in a shoot-out.

Fans on both sides enjoyed the game, and despite the loss, Hawks fans were still in particularly high spirits.

"I just thought that it was awesome to watch because it was such a well matched game," said Hawks fan Mary-Lou Morden. "They've got some great players, and some great skill. You win some, you lose some."

As enjoyable as she said the game was, Morden admitted the shootouts never get any easier to watch.

"The shootouts are torture, and we've had a number of them throughout the season," she said. "That was a real tough loss for them."

Cobourg fan Joseph Bazarin was elated with the game's result. Bazarin's grandson, Loren Ulett, plays defence for the Cougars.

"I think it was a great game. It could have went either way. Both goalies made some fantastic saves, and a break here or there is what won it"

Tacresa McRae, from Cobourg, had high praise for the Cougar's goalie Emerson Verrier.

"Emerson is the greatest goalie we've ever had," McRae said. "The game was absolutely marvellous," she added.

Trenton Jr. A hockey fans are happy to have a team perform so well. They haven't seen a team win the Eastern Division in 16 seasons, though The Trenton Sting took second in 1998, 1999, and 2003.

Mary-Lou Morden said, "We haven't had a winning team here in about ... I couldn't tell you how many years, so to get a winning team here in Trenton is very exciting.

This concludes the season series between the Hawks and Cobourg, with the Hawks coming out on top with four wins and two shootout losses.

The Hawks remain in first place in the Eastern division, though Cobourg is now just one point behind.

The Hawks will face off against the Kingston Voyageurs Friday at the Memorial Gardens at 7:30 p.m.

"We'll be here Friday," said Morden. "Go, Hawks, go!"



Photo by Dan Pearce

The Cobourg Cougars celebrate a shoot-out victory against the Trenton Golden Hawks at the Memorial Gardens arena in Trenton on Feb. 8.