



Photo by Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Two people are dead after a head-on collision on Highway 401 near Trenton at 9:50 a.m. Monday near Trenton. According to Napanee OPP Cst. Tammy Coleman, 23-year-old Korin Howes from Belleville, Ont., was travelling west in the eastbound lane. The other vehicle, driven by Shaina Harrison, 23, a Loyalist College student from Oshawa, Ont., collided head-on with Howes.

## Loyalist student dies in crash

By Sean Macey and  
Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

One of the two people killed Monday in a crash on Highway 401 was a Loyalist College student.

Shaina Harrison was a practical nursing student.

"I am deeply saddened to let you know that one of the young women who lost her life in the accident on the 401 yesterday morning was currently enrolled in our practical nursing program," said Maureen Piercy, president of Loyalist College.

The crash occurred in the eastbound

passing lane, between Aikins Road and Glen Miller Road, near Trenton.

According to Napanee OPP Cst. Tammy Coleman, 23-year-old Korin Howes, from Belleville, was travelling west in the eastbound lane when she struck Harrison's car.

Both drivers were pronounced dead on

the scene.

The college is offering support through the school's tragic response team and human resources for students, staff and faculty.

Dianne Spencer, executive director of college advancement, declined to comment.

## Many turn out to give gift of life at blood donor clinic

*Sixty-six units collected at bi-annual clinic at Loyalist College*

By Rebecca Rempel

It's an easy way to get a free cookie.

As well as a free beverage, an excuse not to do anything strenuous for the rest of the day and a heart-felt thank-you.

Staff of the Canadian Blood Services held their bi-annual donor clinic at Loyalist Friday, Feb. 3. The agency visits Loyalist once each semester and has time-slots for 110 donors throughout the day. Eighty-five donors pre-registered and

many more students and faculty were expected to drop in.

"Our target was 64 units," said Kingston regional contact Annie Barrette. "We actually collected 66 units at Loyalist."

The regional base in Kingston travels from Kingston west to Brighton area. They run mobile clinics in communities during the week, usually two or three, in addition to their base in Kingston opening its doors three days a week.

The whole process for giving blood takes about 45 minutes, with the actual bleeding taking 15 minutes.

After registering, donors have their iron levels checked, answer a questionnaire, speak with a nurse regarding recent medical history, have their vitals checked, give blood and then revitalize with juice and cookies. At any one of these steps leading up to the actual donating, volun-

teers can be deferred. Reasons for deferrals include low iron levels, travel to a malaria known area, a new piercing or tattoo, or recent dental work.

In addition to regular donors, there were many first-timers rolling up their sleeves on Friday. Emilee Somerville, a first-year developmental service worker student, was sitting in the cafeteria with her classmates when they saw the clinic and decided to go.

"Feel pretty good," said Somerville after completing her donation. "I'd do it again for sure."

Third-year engineering student Ryan Rumohr was also a first-time bleeder.

"I'm used to needles and getting prodded," said Rumohr, who's been in a few accidents. "So it's all good."

"My dad needed blood, my mom needed blood and my brother needed it. All from accidents," Rumohr said as

he gave blood. "I can see (giving blood again)."

Don Terry has been donating blood since 2000.

"I did," Terry said when asked if he knew anyone who has needed a blood transfusion. "I got hit by a dump truck. Cut my nose, broke a couple ribs, punctured my liver and had breaks in my pelvis."

Terry said it was important for people to give.

"I wanted to bring my grandson with me this morning so he would get the idea.

"I look at it almost like organ donating," Terry said. "If somebody else could use it, then fine."

The mobile clinic won't be rolling back into Loyalist until November 2012, but volunteers are welcome to make an appointment at the next clinic in Belleville, which will be at the Belleville Fish and Game Club March 5.

## Dog races a go despite lack of snow

*Race shortened to 25 kilometres at sunny weekend event*

By Zachary Greco

The dogs were out and the sleds were ready for the annual Marmora Cup sled dog races, but the snowfall decided to keep at bay Saturday and Sunday.

At -3 C, with the sun shining and not a cloud in the sky, the mushers took what they could get from the lack of snow. This year's race was shortened to 25 kilometres from the usual 60 kilometres.

The mushers said they didn't mind the lack of snow and cold winds, because the races were a go.

Many of this year's sled dog races have been cancelled because of uncooperative weather.

"We really didn't know if we were even going to race today," said musher Kris Sampson from South River, Ont. "We were just coming to check it out and if it was good for the dogs we were going to go."

Sampson usually runs about five to eight races a year. But this was the first race of the year for some at the weekend's races.

"It was good. It was a very fast trail," said Sampson. "It started to warm up a little bit later in the day so it was good that we got an early start. Mother Nature is a big part of this, so you do what you can."

The trail was modified this year to fit the weather conditions by moving the start/finish line and shortening the trail. Volunteers worked on the trail prior to the race in an attempt to keep the races alive this year, moving snow from different areas in the woods to the trail.

"There was not enough snow to get the pad down for the weight pulls, so that had to be cancelled," said volunteer Lynne Gapes.

One event, skijoring, was supposed to have been cancelled but went on with the only one racer in attendance.

"We've got a gorgeous day today. After all the rain we've had this winter, this is phenomenal. This is one of the better days we have had this winter," said Gapes.

"I'm very pleased with how things turned out," said SnoFest chair Richard Lowery. "It was a great community effort getting the trail ready and we received favourable response from the crowd and racers."

When the races started in Marmora, the trail was originally a 150 kilometre run, which turned to 120-kilometre, which in turn dropped to the current 60 kilometre run.

Weather conditions aside, the races still had a good turnout of competitors, said volunteer Brian Galloway.

"The trail's a little bit icy but nobody's having a hard time with it," said Galloway. "As to local snow conditions, we're really lucky and it's a good turnout."

Galloway has been at the Marmora races since it was a 150-kilometre race and was the race marshal for about five years.

"I've stepped down now, but people used to know that if they've seen the hat they knew the guy under it was the person to talk to," said Galloway of his badger pelt hat.

The hat made from a badger, which was shot, skinned and sewn in Lethbridge, Alta. has been a staple of the Marmora races for the last 15 years.

"The crowd's down a little bit this year," said Galloway. "But it was so iffy that it was touch and go there for a while."



Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Eli Golton, who placed third, urges his team in the last leg of the 26-mile dog sled race in Marmora this past weekend.

## Cab driving not for the weak-hearted

*Statistics Canada named it as country's most dangerous profession*

By Melissa Murray

Area cab owners and managers have a laissez-faire attitude about cab driver safety and implementing new safety measures for drivers, after a cab driver was assaulted by a passenger last week.

A 25-year-old man from Calgary faces charges of allegedly assaulting a Belleville cab driver, and someone who tried to help him on Front Street, on Feb. 1. Both the passerby and the driver received minor injuries.

Between 2001 and 2005, Statistics Canada named cab driving Canada's most dangerous job.

Of the 69 murders that occurred within a workplace, 11 were cab drivers, while 10 of them were police officers.

Despite that statistic and the recent assault on a Belleville cab driver, Bill Montgomery, general manager of Central Taxi's Belleville division, said protective shields and dividers between the driver and passenger haven't worked.

"It interferes with the driver-customer relationship," said Montgomery.

"The passenger feels like they've been thrown in the back of the police car," he added.

Shields were used in the Cornwall area, but were removed within months of installation, said Montgomery. "People refused to get in the cabs," he said.

Coventry Connections, a company based in Ottawa, recently bought Central Taxi, which will bring many changes to how Central cabs operate.

By July, Central hopes to have new technology in their cabs to improve safety, but that won't include a divider.

"We have problems with assaults, but shields are not going to prevent that."

Bill Mills, owner of ABC Taxi in Trenton isn't too concerned about driver safety, although he does admit there is a possibility of installing protective shields.

All a cab really needs for business is a meter, a radio and a top light, said Mills.

Mills' company runs 16 of the 60 cabs legislated for Quinte West and he said his cabs may be in need of a security update.

"Assaults aren't really that common," said Mills, who admits it is more likely to have a customer try to walk out on a fare, or pay less than the amount on the meter.

"When [assaults] do happen, we like to see that people are dealt with to the fullest extent of the law and that they don't get away with it."

"Incidents [like what happened in Belleville] are a rarity, but when they do happen, it's at night when people are intoxicated and get a little stupid."

"Drivers usually have to handle those situations themselves, but they too have to be careful so that they aren't charged with assault."

Trenton taxi drivers serve a community of more than 19,000 and Mills said the community they serve makes all the difference.

"Our market isn't that large compared to the bigger cities. We know most of the people we drive around and we take in less people who are flagging cabs." "We worry about it, but it isn't our foremost concern at this time."

## Trenton man takes top prize in lottery

By Jessica Corriveau

A Trenton man beat the odds on Jan. 25 and won \$100,000 in OLG's Poker Lotto.

In a 1 in 2,598,960 chance, Ben Leavey, 50, took home the top prize in the nightly draw of Poker Lotto, an Ontario lottery game in which traditional lotto numbers are replaced with regular playing cards.

Cards are randomly selected, offering both instant in-store wins for poker hands of up to \$5,000, as well as the nightly prize draws of up to \$100,000, both on \$2 tickets.

Leavey's five-card match winning ticket was purchased at Daisy Mart on Dundas Street in Trenton.

The father of two plans to use his winnings to fulfill his financial obligations and place a down-payment on a house.

"I'm pretty excited!" smiled Leavey while claiming his prize at the OLG Prize Center in Toronto.

The prize was well timed for Leavey, having been laid off from his job in December. He is a regular lottery player and said he enjoys playing Lotto 6/49, Super 7, and Poker Lotto.

Leavey declined to be interviewed by The Pioneer.