

Building inaccessibility an issue

Two Loyalist students unable to get into new residence

By Kelly Michelle Gagné

Two Loyalist College students say the campus's new residence buildings should have units that are accessible to disabled students.

Loyalist College students Samantha Hobbs and Leah Bunnett, who both have cerebral palsy and need wheelchairs for mobility, said they wish they could have moved into "New Res" but can't because it's inaccessible. The new units designed as townhouse residences, opened last fall.

Hobbs, 25, has been taking classes at Loyalist College for the last five years, and has lived in the older campus residence for four years in an accessible unit. She has also been a part of the Loyalist accessibility sub-committee for the last three years.

Bunnett, 21, is currently taking early childhood education at Loyalist and said she was disappointed that she could not live in the new residence.

"There was talk about the New Res buildings at the (accessibility) committee meetings and that they were going to be townhouses. They never mentioned they weren't going to be accessible. We just assumed that they would be," said Hobbs.

Both students said they feel they don't have the same options as the other students.

"It's because of all of this, why I decided to live off of campus this year. I don't have the same rights as the other returning students," said Hobbs.

Bill Walsh, vice-president of enrolment management and student services at Loyalist, said the college considered whether to make the new residence buildings accessible.

"We obviously had to take into consideration of whether to make the buildings accessible or not, but it would have completely changed the layout and design of these buildings, as they are just not designed to be accessible," said Walsh.

"The college already had 20 residence rooms that were accessible and they were hardly ever all filled in a year," he said. "We feel like we have provided a nice va-



Photo by Kelly Gagné

Leah Bunnett, 21, is disappointed that the new residence buildings on Loyalist College campus are inaccessible. Bunnett lives on campus in the Reilly building, where her apartment is completely accessible, but unfortunately for Bunnett, when she wants to visit any of her friends who live on 'New Res', she can't get into the buildings.

riety of living spaces for the students, and we do plan on refurbishing the older residences in the next few years to keep them up to date as well."

The residence buildings are privately owned and rented out by Campus Living Centres. The college only helps the students apply to move into the buildings, and organizes living conditions for the students.

The new residence buildings are exempt from the Ontario Building Code because they are owned by a private

company, not the college. According to the code, private residences are exempt from the barrier-free/accessibility requirements including all single-detached, semi-detached, duplex, triplex, row and townhouses up to three storeys in height.

Bunnett's parents live in Belleville, but she is currently living in an older residence building on campus during the week because of the difficulty she has commuting by bus. Bunnett said she lives on campus so that she can attend classes

and complete her placement on campus while living independently.

"I have friends that live in New Res and whenever we want to hang out, we either have to meet somewhere that is accessible, or they have to come over to my place," said Bunnett.

Bunnett's fired, Caitlin Mortorino, 19, lives in one of the new residence buildings on campus. Mortorino lived in the older residence last year as well, but was happy that in her returning year to Loyalist, she qualified to live in the new resi-

dence.

"I like New Res. It's a good layout and it's spacious. However, it's really bugged me that ever since I've moved in, I haven't been able to have my one friend over who is in a wheelchair. It takes a lot of planning to have her come back to my place, and unless we have people that are strong enough to lift her and her chair up the stairs, it's impossible to get her inside," said Mortorino.

Discloser: Leah Bunnett is a former roommate of Kelly Michelle Gagné.

Tanning exacts tremendous toll on woman

Dermatologist diagnoses 21-year-old with melanoma

By Sherry Tompkins

"Unfortunately, it came back as melanoma."

Those were the words that Kate Neale, 21, of Belleville, heard from her dermatologist in June 2011.

"At that point it clicked, I knew it was from the tanning," said Neale.

"Honestly, I couldn't even believe it. I felt like, I really did love my job at the tanning salon, I was really passionate about it and I defended it for so long and then it all came back and kicked me in the butt. Really it did, and I knew that it was from that deep down."

Neale had staunchly defended tanning. Having worked in the industry for two and a half years, and attending many training sessions, she was very pro-tanning.

Dr. John Edward Adam, Neale's dermatologist, told her that it was impossible to tell how bad it was without surgery. Neale's next stop would be the surgeon's office, where her mother accompanied her.

"We went into the plastic surgeon's office and he was talking to my mom. Then he said 'Katelyn' and I said, 'That's me,' and he said, 'Oh my God, I'm so sorry, I thought your mom was the patient. I've never seen somebody so young in my office with melanoma.' He just couldn't believe it.

"If someone had told me, when I was 16, 'tanning or scars all over your body,' I would have picked no tanning."

Back in 2007, Kate Neale was a typical, young 16-year-old girl. She cared about her appearance and as a fair-skinned, blue-eyed blond, she wanted to tan. Although her parents were dead-set against it, at 16 she was legally allowed to choose for herself, and she chose to tan.

"I got up to about 16 times a month. I was tanning for about 12-15 minutes in the strongest bed that they have, and I never took more than a week off," said Neale.

After a year and a half of tanning at the salon, she was offered a job. She was thrilled. She loved tanning. This was the perfect thing, or so she thought.

Within the World Health Organiza-

tion, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, raised the classification of ultraviolet-emitting tanning devices from "probably carcinogenic to humans" to "carcinogenic to humans"—the highest risk category—based on evidence of a substantially higher risk of cutaneous melanoma in those who regularly used sunbeds.

James Bezan, a federal Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba has put forth a private member's bill that would raise the legal tanning age to 18 across Canada. The bill would also require tanning salons to improve warning signs and labels on and around their machines.

Bezan is passionate about this bill, the Tanning Equipment Prohibition and Warning (Cancer Risks) Act (Bill C-386), which had its first reading in the House of Commons in December, 2011.

In an interview by phone, Bezan had much to say about his motivation.

"The World Health Organization declared that based upon worldwide studies, that the radiation from tanning is carcinogenic to humans. It's at the highest level of carcinogenic, it's level one, which puts it in the same ball park with asbestos, tobacco, and mustard gas."

According to Bezan, his wife, Kelly, used to use tanning beds. She was 35 years old when she had her first melanoma. She had another five years ago and then three years ago, it presented once again in her lungs.

"That put us through 30 days of pure hell," exclaimed Bezan, "The only way to treat it, that seems to have any success, is through cutting it away. My wife's body is covered in scars. Every time a mole starts to change, we just cut it off."

Bezan is well informed about the subject matter, commenting that even older tanning beds, with older bulbs, are still more powerful than the sun. Newer tanning beds, actually tanning closets, have many times the radiation of the sun.

Bezan added that besides the fact that people are unaware of the risks, when they are outside, they usually put on sunscreen.

"But, what do you do when you go to a tanning bed? People put tanning oil on to enhance that tan and then lay there for 20 minutes and its more powerful than the sun."



Photo by Sherry Tompkins

Kate Neale of Belleville found out she had melanoma when she was just 21. After two and a half years working in a tanning salon, Neale said, "At that point it clicked, I knew it was from the tanning." Neale's dermatologist made her promise never to enter a tanning booth again.

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Loyalist security heads up investigation of thefts

Thirteen iMac computers taken from media studies labs

By Joanna Becket

An investigation is now underway into the theft of a total of 13 iMac computers worth \$30,000 from the media studies labs at Loyalist College.

The first of the stolen 2010 iMac 21.5-inch desktop computers was reported missing in August, 2011.

An additional seven computers disappeared just prior to the school's Christmas break, which ran from Dec. 16, 2011 to Jan. 8, 2012.

In the most recent incident that took place on Wednesday, Jan. 31, five iMacs were removed from two separate labs.

The students affected include those in media studies programs that use Mac computers, including art and design, animation, journalism, media experience and photojournalism.

In October 2010, the theft of equipment valued at \$150,000 from the Loyalist school of trades program was reported.

"I do know that the (computer) investigation is underway, so I'm hopeful that it will be successful. It should be. But I just don't know yet," said Jane Harrison, Loyalist's dean of media studies.

The iMacs will cost \$2,300 each to replace.

"Some good news, though, we ordered replacements," Harrison said. "We can't have the students doing without. So that's a costly thing for the college because the cost of the individual computers is not insignificant, but the deductible for our insurance is quite high.

"So, it hasn't been a matter of an insurance claim. We've had to go into our own funds."

Dianne Spencer, executive director, college advancement and external relations, said, "The college is aware of the situation. There will be no comment at this time as the matter is under investigation."

The internal investigation began with Gord Horne, the media studies IT, who runs the labs, reporting it to security.

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