

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 Treena 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 it's 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 it's 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.