



Photo by Meagan Pecjak

Myles McMurter (left) is shown how to properly build a dog house by Tammy Hurrell during the I’m Set Up for College event held at Loyalist.

Students compete for top spot

Skills competition offers high school students hands-on experience

By Meagan Pecjak

Loyalist College held the first annual Skills Competition on Friday. High school students came from surrounding areas, and competed for the top spot in their section. There were several other divisions during the event, including precision machining, welding, two-person carpentry, four-person carpentry, architectural computer-aided drafting and design (CADD), automotive, and esthetics. Carpentry was just one of the many sections that made up the competition. Andrew McFarland is a graduate of Loyalist College and was called to the school to judge the four-person carpentry division. “It gives hands-on experience. It’s good to know what they want to do after high school,” McFarland said he saw a lot of talent,

but he was most impressed by the levels of safety the students took while working. “Everyone is being safe with how they are doing everything,” he said. Joe Mullin was the announcer during the awards ceremony held after the competition, and is a food apprenticeship program teacher at the college. “It introduces them to ideas they may not have thought of previously,” said Mullin. Mullin also said it gives students more confidence in the trades, and increases their ability to go into a career in that field. “It drives the fear out when it comes to college,” Mullin said. “It’s building that confidence, and taking it to the next level. It gets the students involved hands-on.” The competition was originally going to be held Thursday, but because of weather conditions was moved to the following day. “In spite of the change of date, there’s a great turnout,” said Loyalist College board chairman Stuart Wright. Wright said such events really bring

people to the college and give some great exposure. The awards ceremony followed the competition, and involved medals in third, second, and first place for each category. Treena Chicoyne-Ellis is the skills competition co-ordinator at the college, and played a big role when it came to pulling the event together. Chicoyne-Ellis said several others that also did their part when it came to making the day a big success were John Poste, John Grieve, Chuck Barsony, Tom Falcao, Len Rance and Melanie Kennedy. “Without all of these people, the day would not have been such a success. I am proud that I was given the opportunity to work with each one of them. They had a lot of work besides their everyday teaching,” said Chicoyne-Ellis. Chicoyne-Ellis said she believes that the day went smoothly. “The students were worried. They didn’t know what to expect. It wasn’t for marks, and it wasn’t for grading. It was about seeing the brand-new equipment they could work with,” said Chicoyne-

Ellis. She also said the most important thing about entering the competition is the knowledge that students receive. “They met all the faculty and they received the awareness, and what they can have when they come to Loyalist, and what they can accomplish with the skills.” Chicoyne-Ellis said that before the awards were presented, there was a relaxed feeling among the crowd. “It was a great feeling to see all the students sitting in rows at the end of the competition, just smiling and talking.” Some of the winners of the competition include Ian Brennan, Vince Kennelly, Nathaniel Brennan and Riley Hemmersbach of St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School. This group of students won the four-person carpentry division. The four-person carpentry students were required to build a shed, but unfortunately were not given enough time to complete the project. Chicoyne-Ellis said that it was one of the kinks organizers have to work out for next year.

Photojournalism student to compete in TVO documentary contest

By Meagan Pecjak

Who would have thought that a Loyalist College student would soon find herself competing for the chance to be TVO’s Short Documentary Contest winner. Found is a profound story about Dustin Rawding-Montgomery, a local 20-year-old who found a 73-year-old man who had gone missing east of Belleville several days before. Chloë Ellingson is a photojournalism student at Loyalist College, as well as the creator of the documentary. “It’s very exciting. It’s a bit strange because I have become so close to this piece, through getting to know Dustin and his story and through working on producing it,” said Ellingson. She heard of the story while working on a school project, one that involved taking a portrait. In desperate need for a photo, she stopped by a local prop shop, owned by a man named Pete Montgomery. “He asked me if I wanted to know something that had nothing to do with his prop shop. I had no idea what he was going to say. He went on to talk about this missing man who wandered out of Belleville, was found by his son.” Curiosity got the best of Ellingson. “I thought about it all night. Thought about how I had to hear how this affected him, and just to see what he is like.” Ellingson said that she found the story touching because it wasn’t just about a young man who found a missing man. It was also about how certain events occurring in someone’s life can change their entire outlook on life. “What I wanted to address in the piece is how circumstances affect a person’s view of life, and faith,” she said. Dustin’s story is not one easily forgotten, and Ellingson says, “To hear that other people are getting something out of it is strange and exciting all at once.”



Chloë Ellingson

Grad bash welcomes students

By Amielle Christopherson

Loyalist College’s Alumni Association and Alumni Services will be hosting its first Loyalist College Grad Bash on Thursday March 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all graduating students in the school cafeteria. Michelle Randolph, the alumni services co-ordinator, said that the reason for the grad bash is to let graduates know about the benefits they have once they graduate from Loyalist. “We found that many current alumni and soon to be graduates did know what benefits they had once they graduated from Loyalist so we thought this would be a great way to let them know but also to celebrate their upcoming graduation,” she said. There will be members of the Alumni Association Executive who will be greeting the students as well as handing out gift bags. The Career Centre will be discussing how alumni still have access to different services, such as the job board and resume services. Randolph is hoping that this will be the first year of many that the school will host the event for graduating students. This year she’s expecting 300 students but is hoping that more will show up. As an incentive to come, there will be music, prizes and gift bags.

Keep those kiddies busy

By Michelle Cochrane

March Break is fast approaching and kids will be out of school from March 12- 16. Parents are often at a loss when the March holiday rolls around. The options are often limited to daycare or staying home with the kids. This year, the Belleville Public Library has daily activities planned to beat the boredom. Activities include a theatre performance, Lego building contest, crafts, Medieval Times and Fairy Tale themed days and of course, reading. Geared to all ages this year, the library has added individual activities and will be separating kids into age groups, four to seven and five to 11. Highlights of the week are Monday’s ‘Jack about the Beanstalk’ theatre presentation that is expected to attract approximately 100 children and the library’s first-ever Lego building competition. To register your children for events, please call the Belleville Public Library at 613-968-6731, ext. 2268. See the full calendar of library events online <http://bellevillelibrary.com/programsandeventss151.php>

Cultural awareness helps with understanding

Weekly classes teach participants about aboriginal living

By Sarah Schofield

A cultural awareness course is on its way at Loyalist College starting Tuesday, March 6. Each three-hour weekly cultural awareness class aims to bring a wider understanding of the aboriginal cultures to both aboriginal and non-aboriginal people from the Quinte area. The class starts at 6 p.m. and is free. One of the coordinators, Suzanne Brant, explains what to expect. “We cover things like creation teachings, teachings on the peacemaker, treaties, historical events and how we ended up on reserves. We cover many topics during those eight weeks,” said Brant, whose Mohawk name is Katsitsiarishion. Over the past 15 years of holding the course, Brant has seen a growing interest in both the number and range of people wanting to take the course. Five years ago they started seeing an increase in attendees. “We’ve had anywhere from 25 to 40 people sign up for the classes. Usually there are three or four students from the college that come in the program. Ninety-five per cent of the attendees are non-aboriginal people. It’s always been that way.” Paul Latchford, coordinator of aboriginal services at Loyalist College, is credited with playing a big role in starting the course. “We knew that as we started doing services for aboriginal peoples, management and faculty needed to have an understanding of who we were as aboriginal peoples. That’s really where the course came from,” Latchford said. “He knew that it was important that we had some cultural awareness for the college system itself,” said Brant. “It started off with a lot of staff from Loyalist College and they would come to Tyendinaga into the community and that’s where the cultural awareness classes were held before. It was really his vision and understanding of the need for educating the college community.” The importance of having a course



Photo by Sarah Schofield

Suzanne Brant, one of the coordinators of the Cultural Awareness course beginning March 6 held at Loyalist College, is excited to begin the weekly class held in room 3H10. She hopes the recipients will have a greater understand and appreciation for the aboriginal cultures of Canada.

like this offered to the public is obvious to Brant. “I think it’s important to understand the relationship of how we ended up on reserves and why we are the way we are. Also what needs to change to have better lives in our communities.” “It’s not just one culture. There are many aboriginal nations and indigenous nations across Canada and everyone

has a different way of living whether it is there practicing ceremonies or their diets.” She suggests that people need to look no further than this community to get a taste of culture. “People become fascinated with the pyramids and the Mayan civilizations but what they don’t realize is that that same knowledge and indigenous understand-

ing is right here in their backyards,” she said. “These people are willing to share and if they’re willing to learn they could walk away with a greater knowledge of what is here in Canada.” Classes run every Tuesday starting March 6 at 6 p.m. at Loyalist College in room 3H10. For more information contact the Aboriginal Resource Centre at 613-969-1913 ext. 2250.