

Loyalist students dissatisfied with cost, operating hours and wait times

Food services get poor rating

By John Moodie

Students are dissatisfied with food services at Loyalist College, says a KPI student satisfactory survey released in April.

"The food is nothing to rave about, the prices are too high, there are no deals, and nowhere else to go, but the staff is fantastic," says Matty Alex, third-year student of television, film and new media. Students of Loyalist College are concerned about the price of food, hours services are made available and wait times.

The Key Performance Indicator survey is mandated by the Ontario government every year to gauge the performance of Ontario colleges. The survey is taken by independent company CCI Research.

The KPI survey includes 24 colleges across Ontario and college funding is determined through the results of the

survey.

According to the report, 60 per cent out of 385 people surveyed at Loyalist are dissatisfied with food services. This is an increase of 25 percentage points since last year.

This September marked a year since Aramark Canada began providing food services at Loyalist College. Chartwell held the food services contract until last year.

The KPI report says food services scored lowest of all services at Loyalist College. The KPI report has identified food services at Loyalist College as a priority for improvement.

The food services contract is managed

'The college is aware that satisfaction of food services has decreased and a food service advisory committee has been set up to address these concerns.'

Executive Director of College Advancement Dianne Spencer

by Audrey Mitchell of procurement services for Loyalist College. Aramark reports directly to her and she is responsible for making sure Aramark meets their contractual obligations.

Pierre Overvelde, Aramark's director of food services at Loyalist, declined to comment on the survey results.

"The college is aware that satisfaction of food services has decreased and a food service advisory committee has been set up to address these concerns," said Di-

anne Spencer, executive director of college advancement.

Fred Pollitt, director of student life at Loyalist College, is heading up the food service advisory committee.

The food advisory committee plans to meet this month to address the dissatisfaction towards food services at Loyalist College.

"The support staff strike at the beginning of the semester last year may have had a real impact on the students' responses to the KPI survey, but it is difficult to determine," said Pollitt.

Last September, support staff for colleges across Ontario went on strike. All college services had been significantly limited by the strike, food services included.

"There is no place to eat on campus on the weekend except Subway and you get sick of that after a while," says Josh Edwards, second-year architectural stu-

dent.

Spencer went on to point out that the school has made some efforts to address concerns regarding food services.

A third cashier has been added to Tim Hortons to speed up service, there are now value meals for people on budgets. Cafeteria hours have been extended from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Subway is now open until 8 p.m.

Many of these changes were made in December, 2011, Months before the KPI report came out.

Though changes have been made, "the food is over-priced so I usually eat at home," says Brett Weldon, second-year customs and borders student at Loyalist College.

"The KPI survey is only one way of determining satisfaction...Improvement of food services is a continuous process," said Spencer. "You cannot promise that everything can be changed at a particular time."

More effective communication needed between task force and council

Redevelopment of Campbell Street put on hold after questions on final cost

By Miller Reynolds

Communications between Belleville city council and the mayor's downtown task force needs to improve, says a member of the task force.

"There was a significant breakdown in communication between the task force and council," Bill Glisky said in an interview Wednesday.

Council decided to defer the downtown Campbell Street re-development project until 2013 due to confusion over the final cost, and some of the design aspects.

Questions were voiced as to why the final cost was now going to surpass the original \$750,000 budget, and if the construction plan should include changes to the library's steps.

Glisky said the confusion about this proposal might be due to the fact that the task force is a newly formed group.

"I don't think it was intentional, I just think this is a relatively new task force, it's been in existence only two years, so we're sort of learning as we go along, how much to present and when to present it."

The mayor's task force on downtown Belleville was put together two years ago in order to re-develop the downtown core. The task force proposed a major overhaul of Campbell Street, including a change to the steps of the library, that would make the

building more accessible to the proposed new streetscape.

The council and the task force are divided on whether to include the changes to the steps of the library.

"I don't think anybody right now can say with 100 per cent certainty, this is the way it's going to go, or even that this is the best way to go," Glisky said.

Coun. Pat Culhane said in an interview after the council meeting the uncertainty is due to a lack of detail.

"I don't fault any of the councillors for asking questions," she said. "I need more detail, I need to see a better picture than what was given to me, we all do, before we can say let's tear the steps off a \$12 million building."

With questions still unanswered, the deferral was a necessary decision, said Culhane.

"We need to put it off, we need to be reasonable, downtown has been flagging behind for 30 years, we can't fix it in 30 days."

Despite the setback, Culhane said she wants to see the project move forward.

"I want to see downtown come back to life, it won't be the same as it was before, but it can be vital and busy again," she said.

Coun. Jackie Denyes supports the projects, but said communications is still the root of the problem.

"The task force may know what's going on, but they need to communicate that a little more clearly to council when it gets to this stage, because we're the ultimate decision makers regarding these projects," she said. "We need to know what's going on."



Members of the mayor's task force, Jim O'Brien (left) and Bill Glisky take part in Tuesday's city council discussion about the Campbell Street re-development project.

Photo by Miller Reynolds

Driving force behind Bay of Quinte cleanup honoured with 'Back to the Bay' award

Manfred Koechlin became driving force of getting started Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

By Shelby Wye

Manfred Koechlin has been a driving force behind cleaning up the Bay of Quinte.

"I started sailing on the Bay of Quinte in 1967. I noticed the poor water quality and the fact that the Bay of Quinte was not what you would call a healthy body

of water," said Koechlin.

Koechlin accepted the 'Back to the Bay' award Wednesday night from the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan at the group's State of the Bay at Meyer's Pier in Belleville. He was the third recipient of the award.

He first learned how serious the problem was in 1985 when the International Joint Commission (IJC) identified the Bay of Quinte as one of 42 badly polluted bodies of water in the Great Lakes.

"I went to the meetings and was horrified to learn about this," said Koechlin. "I decided to contact a number of people to say okay, as a community, let us participate in the protest, at that time, of identifying the problems and in such, participate in rehabilitating the bay of Quinte."

'For the remedial plan, Manfred Koechlin is the quintessential volunteer that made things happen.'

Founding member Sarah Midlane-Jones

BQRAP was formed after this realization, and the group recognized 14 major environmental challenges. They vary from degradation of fish and wildlife populations to beach closures. The group has managed to

make significant improvements in every single one of these environmental challenges.

Sarah Midlane-Jones has also been part of BQRAP since it began. She has seen Manfred in action, and felt he was well worthy of the award, which goes to a member who has gone above and beyond with their participation in the group.

"For the remedial plan, Manfred Koechlin is the quintessential volunteer that made things happen. He certainly has dedicated a lot of his personal time over the years to drive the (plan) forward," said Midlane-Jones.

"I am quite pleasantly surprised," said Koechlin. "The protest has made enormous difference, and the Bay of Quinte is a lot healthier. But, there's a lot of

things that still need to be done."

Over the past 20 years, the group has rehabilitated the bay from being in stage one, where the problems are identified, to nearing the brink of stage three. Stage three is the final stage, where the bay's quality just needs to be maintained.

Getting to stage three also requires the group to inform the public of the bay's improvements.

Midlane-Jones is the communications coordinator of the group, and helped host the event.

"Part of D-listing, getting off the area of concern list, is public consultation. Public input is hugely important," she said. "So we wanted everyone to come down here tonight to ask their questions, their concerns. We'd love to hear what they have to say."



Lancer forward Tangye Seymour (left) collides with Colts midfielder Kate Voyame in a battle for the ball during the game on Wednesday. The Lancers fell 2-0 to Centennial in the last game of Loyalist's season.

Photo by Taylor Renkema

Post-season dreams dashed for women's soccer

Team defeated 2-0 in Wednesday game against Centennial Colts

By Taylor Renkema

The Loyalist Women's soccer team knew they had a lot on the line heading into Wednesday night's game.

With their post-season dreams hanging in the balance, the Lancers lost 2-0 to the Centennial Colts.

Lancers captain Stephanie Turk thought the refereeing could have been better.

"I didn't agree with some of his calls, but what can you do?" she said. "The ref makes all the decisions, it's not like you can tell him what he can and can't do, right? So, unfortunately, that's just the way it goes."

It was a "win and you're in" situation for the Lancers, and the loss means Loyalist just misses out on the last playoff spot in the East Division. Turk says it's tricky keeping her teammates calm, cool and collected when the game gets rough.

Whitehead agreed, adding its up to the ref to keep things under control.

"It's rough soccer," he said. "There's no doubt about it, there's a lot of hard tackles on both sides. I wouldn't say one team is worse than the other, but the referee tried to keep control of things."

Whitehead said he also thought the refereeing seemed to be skewed, but said it's up to the players to win the game and put the ball in the net.

Heading into the game, the Lancers had one win, three losses and three tied games. One of those draws was against Algonquin, which is one of the top teams in the league. Whitehead said despite the loss, the team has improved since last season.

"Overall, it's the best season we've had in about seven years, since we made the playoffs last time, and I really thought we were going to make it in tonight. Playing at home field and the support we got from everybody was really fantastic."

Strategies for math success equal student achievement

Secondary and college students get support to help them improve performance

By Amanda Lorbetzki

Belleville secondary and college students are taking advantage of math support services and are improving their classroom performance.

EQAO statistics show that roughly one-third of Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board's Grade six students worked at a level three or above in math. This compares to just over 50 per cent of applied and 82 per cent of academic Grade nine math students achieving that result.

About 50 per cent of Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board's Grade six and nine applied students worked at least at a level three in EQAO. Eight-six per cent of Grade nine academic students achieved the same levels.

Jeffrey Richardson is a teacher and the current math and business head at Quinte Secondary School. He is also the former Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board math curriculum coordinator. He said the results, at least for his school, are deceiving.

"We have a philosophy in our department of really trying to get kids to work at the highest level where they can be successful, so that it opens as many pathways for them (as possible). So for instance, we have a lot of students trying in our applied pathway," said Richardson. "At other schools, the students would be in the locally-developed pathway. It has an impact on our results a little bit, but we're okay with that."

Richardson said EQAO recently began publishing cohort data, which tracks individual student test scores in Grades three, six and nine. He said he felt this tool allows teachers to tailor the math curriculum to students' abilities.

In his department, math is a hands-on experience. Algebra tiles, linking cubes, smartphones, smart boards and tablets are incorporated into the classroom.

He said that students would graduate

high school better prepared if financial literacy was covered in math.

York University and Seneca College released the joint York-Seneca College Mathematics Project in 2011.

This report was prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Education as well as the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. It examined math's role in the education system.

Two Grade 12 math courses for college preparation offered in Ontario high schools are MAP4C (foundations for college mathematics) and MCT4C (mathematics for college technology.) The first is a general math course while the second is tailored towards those planning to study the trades in college.

"Many more students came to college with MAP4C than MCT4C in Grade 12 but their achievement was lower overall," said the report.

"So, part of the reason for that is there's a really good course in high school called math for college technology, but it's not required by college programs," said Richardson. "Because it's not mandatory, a lot of kids don't take it and therefore they're not as prepared as they should be for the college program."

Catherine O'Rourke is Loyalist College's director of Student Success Services at the Belleville campus.

"I think that we want to keep our courses accessible to all students of all ages, and as a result of that, we would not make that a prerequisite," said O'Rourke.

The goal of many college students is to earn a job following graduation.

O'Rourke said that Loyalist College's support services are unique in Canada. She said having numeracy skills contributes to a higher quality of life, as they are necessary in any field of work.

"Well, I think that if you are looking at applying yourself into a specific area of employment, it's critical that you have the confidence to use numeracy skills in your job," said O'Rourke. "I think that will enhance your success."

The recent economic downturn influenced Rusty Downey to return to the classroom after 30 years in the workforce. He is a carpenter, now in his first year of Loyalist College's architectural technology program.

Downey participated in the college's math refresher boot camp this past summer.



Photo by Amanda Lorbetzki

First-year practical nursing student Taylor Simpson gets math assistance from tutor Jeremy Patenaude, in Loyalist College's peer tutoring and academic skills centre.

The program is for students looking to update their numeracy skills. It is geared towards those starting a math-based program in September.

On Downey's initial pre-test, he scored about 60 per cent. Within one week, he earned a 91 per cent on the same assessment. The course's entrance fee was \$50.

"I would have paid 10 times that amount just to get that knowledge and that comfort level to come back into college again," said Downey.

"I highly recommend anyone who's even remotely nervous to attend the boot camp," said Downey. "Whether it's math,

English, anyone we take. It's highly rewarding and it gives you that comfort level to coming back into college."

Jeremy Patenaude is a first-year nursing degree student. In addition, he is a tutor in Loyalist College's peer tutoring and academic skills centre.

"So, the reason that the services here are so good is because regardless of your skill level with math or whatever you're getting help with, tutoring in, there's always going to be somebody who's got that extra edge, so they can assist you," said Patenaude.

Jacob Lean and Jon Plumridge both tu-

tor at the college as well.

Lean is a third-year civil engineering technology student. Plumridge returned to school and is in his second year of the construction engineering technician program.

Both pointed to the ease of accessing the college's academic support services, to ultimately achieve success.

"If someone else doesn't quite get the concept of it, it's great to help them get it so that you see them the next year and they're great at it," said Lean.

Looking forward, Plumridge said just how fundamental math is in everyday life. "It's not going anywhere."