

## United Way scores big with sale

Public relations students raise over \$15,000 with sale of products

By Shelby Wye

Loyalist public relations students got the engine roaring Thursday for the local United Way.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual United Way campus Loyalist truckload sale was parked in Loyalist's College's cafeteria.

The sale raised over \$15,000 for the United Way in six hours between only staff and students. The first year this event was held, they had raised \$15,000 over two days.

The United Way creates a community fund that helps to build stronger communities through linking people to resources and improving the quality of local life.

Loyalist's public relation students organize the truckload sale, and it was their job to make sure everything ran smoothly. This year, the program ran a little differently.

Before, those who wanted to buy items just had to line up, order and go.

Now, everyone who wanted items had to pre-order them, using forms

that were distributed by the public relations students.

"It made this year much more organized. It's not so loud and chaotic and there's no line-ups for miles and miles," said Kayleigh Allen, one of the students who were helping to run the event.

Students and staff had to fill out the forms and have them handed in before Oct. 16. This process makes it more difficult for people to participate, but it doesn't seem to discourage them. Bojanna Lough, another student, said they received at least 400 pre-order forms.

Shelley Thurston, a student who has purchased from the truckload sale in the past, was pleased with the changes.

"It's much more organized and quicker this year because of how it's set up," she said, before hauling away a box of Mr. Clean Magic Erasers and Pantene hair products. She said she is planning on coming back next year.

The truckload sale offered discounts on household cleaning and hygiene products to students and staff. Proctor and Gamble donates all these items and all proceeds of the event go towards the United Way.



Heather Desarmia helps organize the products for the Truckload Sale. The sale raised over \$15,000 this year.

Photo by Shelby Wye

## Author of controversial book's visit cancelled

By Taylor Renkema

The Belleville Public Library has decided to cancel the visit of an author this weekend after outcry from the public and the family of one of the victims, said library CEO Trevor Pross.

Pross said Thursday afternoon that

the talk scheduled for Saturday at the library with author Timothy Appleby will "unfortunately have to be cancelled."

The book Appleby wrote, *A New Kind of Monster*, focuses on the life and crimes of Russell Williams, who was convicted of double murder two years ago.

Appleby's invitation was controversial because of the community's sensitivity to

the issue.

The library board of directors voted Tuesday night on whether the reading should go ahead.

After a lengthy debate, they decided the visit would go ahead. But, Pross said Thursday the decision had been reversed.

More details to come.

## School board deals with bullying issue

By John Moodie

The recent death of 15-year-old Amanda Todd has once again raised the question what is being done to prevent bullying.

Bullying is an issue the Hastings-Prince Edward School Board has been trying to prevent through its safe school advisory committee, said Mandy Savery-Whiteway, superintendent of education for Hastings-Prince Edward County School Board.

"Bullying is a complex issue. It takes partners working together in the community to address the issue, but education is the key," said Savery-Whiteway. "We have to start with our schools if we are going to be successful," said Thelma Goodfellow, who has been a trustee with the Hastings-Prince Edward School Board for 27 years.

In September, Amanda Todd posted a YouTube video that told a story using flash cards about being bullied. The video has received over a million views. A month later, she committed suicide. Her death has sparked a public debate about what can be done to prevent bullying.

Savery-Whiteway is heading up the committee made up of school board staff and members of the community.

"It is a priority of the board to promote safe, healthy and respectful relationships," said Savery-Whiteway.

"The school advisory committee is like a small stone thrown in the water that can make important waves in the community," said Goodfellow.

Though Goodfellow said she thinks that the schools are the primary place to address bullying, she also believes

**'The school advisory committee is like a small stone thrown in the water that can make important waves in the community.'**

Trustee Thelma Goodfellow

that parents and the community must participate.

"Parents need to communicate with their children who often bottle up their problems," said Goodfellow. "Bullying can come from insecurities of children that do not have a voice so they take out these insecurities on other children."

The school board has been working to spread awareness in the community, said Goodfellow. One of the initiatives is prevention week. It is an Ontario-wide program through the schools to spread awareness and educate school staff, students, and parents how to deal with bullying.

The program is a government initiative, but funding for it comes from local partners, said Savery-Whiteway. Some of these partners include the CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) and local police.

Police are also working with the schools to address bullying.

"The police come into the classroom to raise awareness and are also involved anytime there are instances of physical violence," said Goodfellow.

Loyalist students being surveyed

## Opinions on food being sought

By Taylor Renkema

Results are pending from a survey sent out to Loyalist students to see what they think of the food services at the college. A comments box has also been added to the student MyLoyalist Portal – where students access their grades and school e-mail accounts.

The new survey was sent to the student body through e-mail and wraps up on Oct. 26. It's sent out every year to see what changes students want in food services.

Fred Pollitt, director of student life at Loyalist and head of the food service advisory committee, said they have met once, shortly after the Thanksgiving weekend.

He said the committee is waiting to see what the results of this latest survey show to decide what changes, if any, will take place.

"What's down the road, who knows? It will be interesting to see what direction students want us to go in," he said.

This is only the second year Loyalist has had a contract with Aramark Food Services, having switched from Chartwells after that contract expired.

Key Performance Indicator results from the 2011-2012 school year show a 23 per cent decrease in the number of students who are satisfied with the food services.



Aramark employee Amanda Davenport takes a customer's order at the Loyalist College Tim Hortons' outlet.

Photo by Taylor Renkema

Pollitt said Aramark has actually done a lot of good for the school. He mentioned the new items at the campus Tim Hortons, such as breakfasts and a third "express" register as well as the addition of a Subway outlet.

He said food services on residence have improved the most in the last year.

"Students love the fact that they can get one or two slices of pizza up until midnight. They don't have to order a pizza, wait for the delivery. You don't eat the whole thing, they just want one piece," he said.

Pierre Overvelde, Loyalist's food services director, refused to meet for an interview.

## Homelessness a growing community problem

Housing co-ordinator says issue may get worse in the next year

By Tyson Leonard

The homelessness situation in Hastings is a growing problem and it's likely to get worse next year, says a local housing co-ordinator.

This past Wednesday was the 19<sup>th</sup> annual UN designated International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Among other things, the day is meant to highlight the need to eliminate homelessness.

Reta Sheppard, a housing coordinator at the Hastings Housing Resource Centre, said in 2011 they saw 411 homeless people and 975 who were in crisis housing situation, meaning they were at high risk of being homeless.

"My largest concern right now is in January of 2013, there is going to be drastic cuts to the discretionary benefits within Ontario Works," said Sheppard.

"This means people that are in unstable housing and are planning to move aren't going to have the assistance of first and last month's rent."

Other benefits being cut are help for people falling behind on rent or hydro bills.

"So I foresee homelessness probably escalating, and in that case, more affordable housing would help to eradicate a lot of it, but I don't foresee a lot of that happening in the future," said Sheppard.

The Hastings Housing Resource Centre offers informational resources for people looking for shelter. The centre offers a list of available housing, assistance when applying for non-profit housing, and legal information for tenants and landlords.

The centre is a non-profit organization

funded through Hastings County and the United Way.

Sheppard said Belleville doesn't have enough affordable housing.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation defines affordable housing as rent that costs up to 30 per cent of your income.

"Very, very, very, few places, if any, in the private market are 30 per cent of your income to rent," he said.

Sheppard said because of a lack of af-

fordable housing, or geared-to-income housing, the waiting lists are lengthy. The lists are organized on a first-come-first-served basis, but exceptions are made for people leaving an abusive situation.

"So what the Housing Resource Centre tries to do is work with landlords to try and keep as low a cost on rental units as possible," said Sheppard.

Sheppard said the centre works as free advertising for the landlords.

The centre's most direct way to help

people with housing needs is to set them up in a hotel or motel for a night. Sheppard said people in need can be set up in a room through the centre's office or through their after hours toll-free call line.

"There is quite a few different hotels within Belleville, Quinte West, and up in Centre Hastings and North Hastings that the county has talked to and are now aware of the circumstances," said Sheppard.

"For the most part, the hotel system probably addresses a lot of the need, but there is always people that slip through the cracks."

Sheppard said the centre also works with several landlords that can offer an overnight place to stay for people in need.

"I know it's not ideal, but unfortunately it's a quick fix to not being out in the street in the cold."

From mid-November to mid-March, the centre also runs a 'warm room.' At the room, anyone can get a warm meal and information about housing options. The room is open seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The closest option Hastings has to a shelter is the three transitional houses the Canadian Mental Health Association runs. The houses offer 18 rooms that can be used for between three to six months.

## Social housing needs boost, says anti-poverty group

By Tyson Leonard

Homelessness is a problem in Belleville and it needs to be tackled, says an anti-poverty group.

Ivan Stoilkovic, a member of the Kingston Coalition Against Poverty, has a wide range of experience working with the homeless, from occupying abandoned buildings, preventing condominiums from being built, and fighting against landlords trying to evict tenants for unfair reasons.

Stoilkovic said there's a simple solution.

"It's as simple as transferring funds from the support for organizations such as Children's Aid Society, the police, and the military and into social housing," said Stoilkovic.

The Kingston Coalition Against Poverty is a grassroots organization that aims to eradicate poverty through

advocacy. The coalition meets in Kingston on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and is completely volunteer run.

Christina Flynn, also a member of the coalition, has worked with the homeless for more than a decade.

Both said there needs to be a shift of priorities in government spending.

"There needs to be less focus on individual wealth and more focus on healthy communities," said Flynn.

Flynn said Belleville needs a shelter but shelters are never a solution.

"It's not a solution, it's a Band-Aid. The solution is safe affordable housing, not shelters. Shelters are required and obviously necessary at this time, but if you want to eradicate homelessness, give people homes," said Flynn.

Stoilkovic said all levels of government have the power to subsidize and build affordable housing.