



Joe Payeur gets his chance at a female Mallard duck (hen) but misses his shot and the duck prevails. Payuer was using a back up shotgun when his Remington 20. Gauge was locked in his Jeep earlier that morning.

# World comes alive for hunters

(Editors note: Evan Campbell is an avid duck hunter and wrote about his experience in the field with high school friends Matt Van't Slot and Joe Payeur.)

Photos and Story by Evan Campbell

When you get up before the sun does, you really get the chance to see the world come alive.

After an early morning 5:30 start time, Matthew Van't Slot, 20, and Joe Payeur, 17, make a quick run to Tim Hortons near Arnprior, Ont. for a coffee and bagel before heading to the blind for the morning hunt.

The morning starts off with a dark walk in to the riverside blind. If you don't have a flashlight, you can't see your own hand in front of your face. The walk lasts about 10 minutes while tripping over sticks and long grass, which battles with keeping your focus on being silent.

Once at the spot, the guys start to throw the decoys out into the water to give the ducks a feeling like there are other ducks around and that they can land. By the time the set up is all over and the guns are

loaded, the boys settle in for a long hunt.

The morning is just crisp enough that you can see your breath. It's almost silent in the bush other than the chickadees and other small birds awakening with the sun. As the sun starts to rise, it hasn't crested the horizon yet but you get enough light to start seeing the world around you.

Payeur waits for some geese to start cackling in the fields next to them to start calling with his duck call. You don't want to call too much or too loud or ducks won't fall for the tricks and land somewhere else.

When you see ducks flying overhead, you hit them with the call, but as they approach, you can't call them directly in their face or it will scare them and they might not come to you.

If you do get lucky and all the things that need to happen do happen, it's time to let it go and fire away. The sound of a shotgun booming through the forest is one like no other. It hits your ears with such force that it's like no other.

Once the trigger is pulled, it is all but in the cards whether or not the duck will fall or fly away, leaving the hunter with a feeling that can't be fixed until you get redemption and get your shot.

For most hunters, hunting isn't just about going out and killing animals, it's about getting out to wild, respecting game and enjoying what the sport has to offer. The rush that comes from a duck flying past your blind or a deer under your tree stand is hard to put into words.

It's almost like the world stops and it's just you against your prize, whether it is five seconds with a duck zooming past your blind or an hour-long battle with a whitetail that knows something isn't right in his territory.

If you do prevail and get your prize, the day is not over. Cleaning and preparing game for eating is a process itself. The ability to go out to the forest and come back for food and nutrition for your family and friends is very rewarding and gives you a sense of accomplishment.

Everyone should get out and try hunting. It's a very long road to get good at it and to meet the legal requirements, but once you do, it's something that sticks with you forever.

All you need is a weekend-long hunting and firearm safety course and fellow hunters to show you some tips and locations to hunt. Hunting is something that gets passed down from generation to generation and is enjoyed by many.



Joe Payeur and Matt Van't slot take a break from hunting to reload their shotguns. Payeur and Van't Slot were out for an early morning fall duck hunt. The boys only got one chance at one duck and it got away from two shots of Payeur's shotgun.



Matt Van't Slot gives the call a try in the field. Matt's friend Joe Payeur is the superior caller but there is always room to learn in the hunting world. The boys got out for one last duck hunt before deer hunting opens on the first of October for bow season.

# Students and staff make beautiful music

Loyalist College  
Community Choir  
shares common interest  
in songs and singing

By Kayleen Preston

Although the Loyalist College Community Choir may have taken some time to come together, the blended vocal group is excited to keep the group going in its second year.

The choir, which has grown from about 18 students and faculty to approximately 30, has a mix of students who are in courses ranging from health to media,

as well as a few of the faculty. Yet they put that all behind them to share the common interest of music and singing.

"I enjoy going every week because of the people who come just enjoy singing as much as I do. Its fun for me," explains Bruce Kerr, a choir member and a student of TV New Media.

It's not only the students who share this joy; the faculty do as well. Ali MacDonald, a part-time faculty Eng-

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Choir faculty advisor Pam Fairbank

lish teacher who describes herself as a "theatre nerd," explained that she can now enjoy the convenience of being able to be with people who enjoy music like she does, right here at the school.

"There's obviously something about this kind of a club, or the way that we're trying to cross-pollinate, that we're not just students, we're not just faculty, that seems to be attractive to people," explained Pam Fairbank, an arts and science teacher and the choir's faculty advisor.

"I get stopped in the hall by faculty that I don't really know that well and they'll say, 'Oh, are you on your way to choir practice?'"

Each Wednesday, the group meets at 5:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall, with John McFarlane accompanying them, to sing a variety of songs. They are currently learning to sing Broadway songs like *Defying Gravity* from *Wicked*, as well as mainstream music like *Give a Little Bit* by Supertramp, and a few songs by Adele. Generally, McFarlane chooses the music that is best for the group, but he also takes suggestions to try songs like *Bad Romance* by Lady Gaga.

They are working on getting different kinds of music as well as sheet music for the songs they are singing. Currently, they

only have words to look at while singing. This causes difficulties for people who are looking at the song for the first time. With sheet music, they will be able to know what pitch to be at, even if they are looking at the music for the first time. Fairbank shared that they are also thinking about trying other cultures of music, such as African, but unsure when that will begin.

The group is planning on a few public appearances this year including the college open house, a coffee house in the Link Lounge on Nov. 15, the annual general meeting of the Alumni, as well as doing some events for Christmas.

"Our doors are open," explained Fairbank for new people who are interested. "If you decide that you want to come in now, or in a couple of weeks, whatever. Come in and check us out."