



Photo by Jason Prupas

More than 100 members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties and their supporters, who oppose to Bill 115, protest outside local MPP Todd Smith's Belleville office on Wednesday.

Teachers take protest to MPP office

By Jason Prupas

About 500 teachers gathered outside the office of Prince Edward-Hastings MPP Todd Smith on Wednesday afternoon for a rally organized by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

The protest was part of the ongoing fight between public school board teachers and the Ontario government over Bill 115, which the province has used to levy new contracts on teachers early in the month.

Initially the teachers were going to walk out of class, until Ontario Labor Relations Board ruled last Friday that it was illegal to leave class during teaching hours.

"They have suspended the rights that public workers in Ontario have had for

decades," said Doug Ferguson, president of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Prince Edward-Hastings chapter.

"The reason there is a lot of turmoil left in the education sector has all to do with our democratic free collective bargaining rights, because they have been taken away. That is the issue," said Ferguson.

Putting The Students First act or more commonly known as Bill 115, limits the

"The reason there is a lot of turmoil left in the education sector has all to do with our democratic free collective bargaining rights, because they have been taken away. That is the issue."

Doug Ferguson

bitter situation.

Todd Smith, a member of the opposi-

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"If the teachers are unhappy with Bill 115, they are entitled to protest outside my office if they so choose. But I would rather they don't withhold extra curricular activities from the students our province," said Smith in a phone interview.

"I hope the teachers go back to work and provide the after-school activities that our students enjoy," said Smith.

The union went to the Supreme Court in November to suspend the new legislation Bill 115.

"The government needs to show some willingness and respect in order to get back to an environment where there is good will in the schools again," said Ferguson.

Share your favourite Instagram

By Jessica Nyznik

Calling all Instagramers!!

Loyalist's online newspaper, The Pioneer, is now offering a weekly Student Instagram Pic of the Week contest.

Whether it's food, friends or fantastic scenery, the staff of The Pioneer want to see your photos. Don't be shy!

The photo editor will choose one weekly winner. The photo, as well as your name and Instagram user name, will be published in our online paper.

All you have to do is hashtag your photos with #Pioneerpics and your image will be submitted to our contest. However, if your Instagram account is set to private, we won't be able to view your photos.

The deadline is every Tuesday by 5 p.m.

Tag as many times as you'd like. The only catch is that photojournalism students can't enter.

This contest gives the students of Loyalist College a chance to see what others in the school and in other programs are Instagramming.

And we think it goes without saying that the photos should be tasteful. In other words, don't submit anything you wouldn't show your mother....and let's hope she has a conscience.

Tim Cards now welcome at Loyalist

By Julia McKay

Students and faculty can now use a Tim Card to get their fix at Loyalist College's Tim Hortons.

The Tim Card is a pre-paid, reloadable cash card that can be given as gifts or used to help budget your spending at Tim Hortons.

The cards were introduced in 2007 but haven't been available at Loyalist until this week.

"The cost for the equipment was too much before," said Andree Scott, Aramark office manager.

There was also an approval process between Tim Hortons, Aramark and the college.

...See Cards, page 2

Newest awards for film, TV and digital media

By Lyndsay-Lee Quinn

Weighing in at two and a half kilograms is Canada's newest award in film, television and digital media.

The first Canadian Screen Awards recognizes the best of the best in Canadian film, documentaries, television and digital media productions, replaces the Gemini and Genie awards.

"Our industry is moving away from display specific content. Content is be-

ing created for all sorts of platforms. To pigeonhole content into various display formats, it has run its course. Putting everything together is a good idea," said Cathy Goddard, a professor for television and new media production at Loyalist College.

The nominees were announced Jan. 15, via a webcast on the Canadian Screen Awards' website. Flashpoint led the pack in television with 11 nods and with Less Than Kind was a close second with 10. In

film, War Witch fronts the pack with 12 nods.

Up for Best Motion Picture are L'Affaire Dumont, InchAllah, Laurence Anyways, Rebelle / War Witch and Still Mine.

In television, for best comedy program or series, the nominees are, Good God, Kenny Hotz Triumph of the Will, Less Than Kind, Michael: Tuesdays & Thursdays and Mr. D. Up for best dramatic series are Arctic Air, Bomb Girls, Continuum, Flashpoint and King.

For digital media, under best cross-platform project fiction there is, Bomb Girls Interactive, Drunk and on Drugs Happy Funtime Hour - Digital, Murdoch Mysteries: The Curse of the Lost Pharaohs, Rookie Blue: The Interrogation Room, and Titanic - The Ultimate Immersive Experience. Also up for Best Cross-Platform Project Non-Fiction are #FAQMP, 8th Fire - Digital, D-Day to Victory Interactive, Kidnapped: The Search for Graham McMynn and Truth & Lies

The Last Days of Osama Bin Laden.

The two-hour awards show will broadcast live on March 3 at 8 p.m. on CBC and will be hosted by Canada's own Martin Short.

The new statue for the Canadian Screen Awards is all Canadian. Designed by Endeavour and made by Wallis Awards.

To see if your favourite Canadian film or television program has been nominated and for a full list of all nominees and categories you can go to www.academy.ca

Christmas trees go back to earth

By Gail Paquette

With an estimated 2,000,000 Christmas trees sold across Canada yearly, according to the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association, it is encouraging to know they are 100 percent biodegradable.

Many cities and municipalities across Canada pick up the discarded trees from the curbside on specified collection days to put them through shredders. The trees provide truckloads of chips to be used in city parks.

Belleville's Environmental and Operational Services Department has been recycling Christmas trees for 21 years.

"Why not do something positive and bring them back to where they came from," said Larry Glover, parks manager for the city.

"They eventually revert to soil, so we are constantly refurbishing and topping up."

If programs like this were not in place the trees would be disposed of in landfills.

One of the first things on the agenda for Public Works in the new year is to send employees out to gather the trees. They cover the entire city from Wallbridge- Loyalist Road to Point Anne and from Hwy 401 to the Bay Bridge. This year the urban areas of Thurlow Ward was added to the list

It is estimated more than 1,000 trees

are chopped up and used throughout the parks in the city for mulch and pathways.

"This year we are making nature trails throughout Boyd Park," said Glover. "We have always used the chips as mulch around trees and in perennial beds in the city's parks."

The program officially ends at the end of January, but Glover says they will accept the trees at the yard at 259 North Park Street up until the end of February.

"Sometimes people even come later than that," he said. "We wouldn't turn anyone away."

Although this recycling program is strictly for Christmas trees, Public Works has bins to collect a variety of brush and green waste throughout the year.



Photo by Gail Paquette

Belleville's Environmental and Operational Services Department worker Dale Power and a crew of three worked all day Monday shredding trees at the city's Christmas tree drop off area at 259 North Park St. The recycling program has been in existence in Belleville for 21 years. The chippings are used to make mulch and line trails in the city parks.



Roisin Fiedler, 23, holds her son, Hilkiah, who was born Dec. 1, 2012, at Kingston General Hospital. The baby was born sighted and healthy with no complications after 22 hours of labour, weighing six pounds, eight ounces. Roisin was born sightless because of a genetic defect.

Photo by Justin Chin

Blind mom touches baby for first time

Worries visual learning will affect her ability to teach her daughter

By Justin Chin

KINGSTON, Ont. —She is blind and she just became a mother for the first time. “Happy Birthday, literally,” Roisin Fiedler said to her first child, Hilkiah, on Saturday, Dec. 1 after he was born. “I am excited that I get to touch the baby and feel the baby,” the 23-year-old mother said during her pregnancy. The baby was born sighted and healthy with no complications after 22 hours of labour on Dec. 1, at Kingston General Hospital, weighing at six pounds, eight ounces.

Fiedler worries how her blindness may affect the baby’s learning since babies use a lot of visual learning through pointing. “A lot of learning is pointing at some-

thing going, ‘Mommy, what’s that?’ and then you go ‘That’s a dog.’ I have to say, ‘Describe it to me.’ And the kid would go ‘It has four legs, and it’s fluffy and it’s black.’” However, Fiedler has met several blind parents who have children of their own and they managed to learn language just like sighted people. She believes children with blind parents learn to speak earlier and are “more vocal and have better verbal skills.” Many controversies arose when Fiedler married her high-school sweetheart, Daniel, and when they were having a baby. Family and friends’ main concerns were, “she’ll be dependent on Daniel all the time” or “how on earth are you going to take care of the baby?” or even “Is it even responsible to have a baby if you

have a genetic defect?” “There’s no ideal circumstance in which you should have a baby,” Fiedler said. “People who have low incomes have babies, people who have a history of asthma have babies or history of peanut allergies or whatever it is, they have babies.” Just like every new parent, they struggle changing diapers and feeding food to him. There was no sign of her being blind affecting her ability and her love towards young Hilkiah. “I feel like there’s always creative ways to solve a problem and you just have to think outside the box.” Throughout the pregnancy, Fiedler had been taking weekly lessons on how to take care of the child just like every other newborn mother, except they were specific classes for blind mothers.

‘There’s no ideal circumstance in which you should have a baby.’

New mom Roisin Fiedler

Fiedler has been dealing with challenges all through her life even before her pregnancy. There are day-to-day challenges such as finding the door, or going to Tim Hortons to finding a job. “I think it makes day-to-day life more interesting being blind,” she said. “It makes every little thing you do a kind of a puzzle, which some people would find discouraging but because I have always done it that way, it’s more fun.” Fiedler suffers from a genetic defect called Leber’s congenital amaurosis, or LCA, which means she has not been able to see since birth. Fiedler’s type of LCA is rare. It is unlikely that Hilkiah would be born sightless as both his parents carry a recessive gene. Fiedler and her younger brother, Neil, are blind because their parents were both carriers of the LCA gene. Her older sister is sighted. LCA affects one out of 80,000 people of the population.

Fiedler’s vision is 20/800, while a normal person’s perfect vision should be 20/20. “There’s totally blind, and there are people who can see just the light, and then there’s me,” Fiedler said. “No one except me knows exactly what I can see.” However, she described that she could see certain colours and contrast very well. “I can see the shape of the TV there because there’s the light around it so it just looks like a dark square with brightness behind it,” Fiedler said. “But I can’t see any details.” Fiedler has been having an enjoyable life, whether being married, having a baby, going to school or travelling. Having a genetic defect does not affect her maintaining a positive attitude toward life. “Anyone has many reasons to be sad but anyone has many reasons to be thankful, so I feel like you can get a lot farther in life if you focus on being thankful.”

Kids help out Salvation Army

Young people prove themselves with fundraising efforts in Belleville and Trenton

By Myriam Lublink

Nick Phillips, 15, and Spencer and Jordan Phillips, both age 13, spent 2012 raising money in Belleville and Trenton for the Salvation Army Community Church and Family Services. Mark Phillips, local business owner and father of the three kids, raised \$3,500 the year before and donated that to the Salvation Army in Trenton. After telling his kids about this, they decided they should raise money too. “I came home and I was telling them about trying to do things to help the community. They asked me how much did you raise? When I told them it was \$3,500, they told me they could raise way more than that, so I said, ‘prove it,’” said Phillips. He was so proud when they did. Nick said that even though their dad helped them a lot, it felt pretty awesome to raise more money than he did. “We started Kids for the Salvation Army so that it would be easier to talk to businesses about donating money to the cause,” explained Spencer. Kids for the Salvation Army is what the Phillips’ call themselves when talking to local businesses. They’ve created a website in order to tell people who they are and how they can help. The kids created flyers to hand out to businesses around Belleville explaining who they are and what they are raising money for. They also went door to door telling people about Kids for the Salvation Army and where the money would be going. They brought the money to the



Photo by Myriam Lublink

(L-R) Jordan, Nick and Spencer started ‘Kids for the Salvation Army’ in order to encourage local businesses to donate money for the Trenton Salvation Army Community and Family Services. They raised over \$11,000 in 2012 and donated it all to the Salvation Army’s food bank and the soup kitchen.

Trenton Salvation Army Community and Family services, so that the money would be put back into the community through different programs. The money has helped the food bank at the Salvation Army as well as weekly soup kitchens. The Phillips’ kids spent a few days volunteering for the soup kitchen to see where their raised money was going. “My favourite part was actually vol-

unteering at the Salvation Army soup kitchen and food bank,” said Jordan. “We got to hand out food to people and this meant that we could actually see what some of their lives are like. For me, it made raising money easier because I had actually met some of the people that it would help.” Mark Phillips has long been involved in the Salvation Army by sponsoring Christmas and Thanks-

giving dinners as well as donating money towards family services. Phillips said that he likes the Salvation Army as most of the donated money is put back into the community instead of being kept for administration costs. “We just like getting involved in the community. I always say God blesses you. If you are blessed than you should share it. I try to teach the kids that.”



Photo by Julia McKay

Along with cash, debit, credit and meal plan cards, you can now use the Tim Card to get your daily fix at Tim Hortons on the campus at Loyalist College.

Cards...

Continued from Page 1

The benefits to students, besides now being able to use the card at this location, is that you can register your card to check your balance, track your spending and recover funds of reported lost or stolen. There is even an app for that. “It’s awesome. Last week I went to get something from Tim’s but I didn’t have any change so tried to use my Tim Card and couldn’t. It’s so much better that they now have it,” said Britt Markolefas, who is a first year police foundations student and regular Tim’s customer. Markolefas had assumed the cards were available to use at all Tim Horton’s. Aramark is currently accepting existing cards but is planning on having new cards available to sell to students soon. Signs are posted at the Tim Hortons and around campus to let students know of the change.

Correction

In Tuesday’s online Pioneer, a headline on the opening of the new media wing was incorrect. The wing is scheduled to open around Aug. 1, not May 1 as stated in the headline. The Tuesday online version has been changed to reflect the correct information.

Milk bag project buys mats

Children of third world countries will benefit from fundraiser

By Myriam Lublink

Six-year-old Michael Perry decided to start collecting milk bags in March 2012, to make sleeping mats for children in third world countries.

Perry's Sunday school teacher explained the milk bag project one Sunday morning and right away, Perry decided he wanted to become a part of it. His mother, Julie Thomas, had no idea how long Michael would actually continue collecting.

"I thought to myself, 'we'll collect some milk bags and a month from now, we'll be on to something else.' I had no idea that almost a year later, we'd still be collecting," his mother said.

Michael started collecting the milk bags they used at home and then asked local businesses if they could keep them for him so he could use them for the project.

"The word just sort of spread after that," explained his mother. "Schools started dropping them off and other people just started dropping them off."

Michael and his mother explained the process of making a sleeping mat at a presentation at Loyalist College on Tuesday night.

"First the banner has to be cut off the top to make the bag the right size. After slicing the bottom open, you have to cut 1.5-inch strips most of the way up, drape it over your arm and connect the slits by cutting diagonally. This process makes the milk bag into a 20-foot strip," explained his mother.

The beds are then made by crocheting the strips into a 41-inch by 60-inch sleeping mat. Michael said it takes 257 bags to make one mat. To date, he's collected 35,000 bags, enough to make almost 140 mats.

With so many milk bags collected, Perry and his mom cannot do the work themselves, so they've organized a group in Cobourg to help them out.

"We give the kids in Cobourg community service hours to sort the bags, cut them into strips and get them ready. Michael then has 14 ladies crocheting the mats for him."

Once the sleeping mats are crocheted, they are brought to Home Hardware who ships them to disaster relief victims around the world as well as to countries such as Haiti, Japan and Iraq.

Milk bags are chosen to make sleeping mats because they stop moisture from coming up from the ground. They also deter insects, snakes and provide insulation.

Michael is very proud of what he is doing and he knows he's doing it for a good reason.

"I just like shipping the beds to kids who don't have any," said Perry.



Photo by Myriam Lublink

Michael Perry started collecting milk bags in March 2012 to create sleeping mats for children in third world countries. With the help of his mother, Julie, he has collected 35,000 bags and he has no plans to stop working on the project. He says that he is happy to be able to send beds to kids that don't have one.

Worst of flu season behind us, says nurse

This winter season was longer and tougher than last year

By Laura Boudreau

The worst of the flu season in Quinte is over, said Lauren Deans, a nurse at the Loyalist College Health Centre in Belleville.

That's welcoming news for residents like Alison Cousins who recently had the flu.

"I have been sick before and never have I felt as bad as I did the past week," said Cousins, a second year paralegal student at Loyalist College. She was among a number of students of Loyalist who were down with the flu.

Students on campus at Loyalist dealt with the Quinte epidemic of the flu. The flu was really brutal this year lasting as long as a week and a half of being sick.

According to Deans, the flu epidemic is a lot larger and longer lasting than previous years in the Quinte area.

"If you don't have health issues you just get the shot and that's that. And for most people who have had the flu they will never miss another flu shot," said Deans.

There are tests called nasal swabs that doctors do world wide to see if all the strains of the flu are the same, said Deans.

There is also a cold that is going around which people are saying is close to the flu but really is just an ongoing cold. You know that you have the flu if you are throwing up, achy and over all sick, said Deans.

"In spring time countries like India get the flu and travel to North America which is where the viruses are brought from. We send over doctors to create the vaccine from their sickness in order to be ready for our flu season in the fall," said Ron Paquin, a pharmacist at Shoppers Drug Mart in Kingston.

Some people do not believe in the flu shot because they believe that it is injecting a virus into your body, which is not the case, said Deans.

"It is important for people who are working or coming into contact with people who have compromised immunities like the elderly and babies it's a good idea to make sure that you have that," said Deans.

"People who have a weaker immunity are more prone to the flu, which makes it (the flu shot) mandatory if you work with small children or in an elderly home," said Deans.

School may get a new connection to the city with a proposed bridge

By Laura Boudreau

A bridge and hiking path has been proposed at the Loyalist College campus, which will connect the school to town.

Joe Callahan, a journalism professor at Loyalist, is the head of the project. He is on the sustainability committee at the college and is looking after the project.

"Students biking down Wallbridge-Loyalist Rd., the Moira street extension or

Dundas Street is just not safe, so we came up with the idea three years ago about a bridge/hiking path," said Callahan.

Along with the environmental and safety bonuses that come with building a trail, there are also some worries from students including littering and safety around construction.

"I've seen it personally on new res - the destruction of property. I've seen broken windows, the trees being snapped, just

kids being kids... being disrespectful," said Katherine Glass, a second year bachelor of science in nursing student.

"Something I fear about the construction of the bridge, it could have lots of broken bottles around it and graffiti on it," said Glass.

The city of Belleville, the conservation area and the board of directors are supportive of the idea according to Callahan. Overall it seems like an ideal project to

students as well.

"It will be safety for people if they go to the club because it's a lot safer than them walking on the side of the road," said Emmanuel Appiahkubi, a first year media experience student.

"I think a bike trail is exactly what students need. When weather is nice it will allow us to walk to town and avoid the traffic," said Morgan Davy, a second year student in journalism: online, print and broadcast.

Plans have started to shape up, begin-

ning with the cost estimates. Callahan said he has been discussing this project with the city of Belleville, the conservation area and The board of directors for the school.

"The estimated cost for the construction alone of the bridge is \$49,000 and the second one is \$55,000. There are two because it is just two styles of bridges," said Callahan.

"It would make for a greener school, which

Discovering answers to life's difficult questions

By Gail Paquette

Familiar words spoken by many when faced with dilemmas in life are, "There has to be a better way." According to Pat Kammer, author of Love's Voice Changes You, this is when you are ready to accept changing your way of thinking.

Kammer has discovered answers to life's hard to answer questions and wants to share them with the world.

"I want my book to go international," said Kammer. "I feel very brave in this because I am a vessel. It's not about me, it's about the love that people need for themselves and for the world."

A 77-year-old Belleville author, Kammer has been on a spiritual journey her entire life, beginning at an early age with fundamental religion.

"Religion was all there was back then," she says. "We didn't have a choice. Now there is a new way of thinking but 98 per cent of the population doesn't know about it."

Twenty-five years ago, Kammer discovered A Course in Miracles, a series of three books penned by Helen Schucman, professor of medical psychology at Columbia University.

This began her own journey of seeking answers and receiving them through her inner voice she calls, Spirit.

"The journey to happiness is not based upon religion," said Kammer. "It is about the true belief that we are all a perfect seed. We all have that inner core wanting the best for everyone."

"Until we fix ourselves and love ourselves, faults and all we can never be truly happy."

In chapters entitled Stuck and Discouraged, Change Your Thoughts and Feeling Unworthy?, Kammer asks for the understanding of life's universal quandaries she too has experienced.



Photo by Gail Paquette

Seventy-seven-year-old Pat Kammer published her first book Love's Voice Changes You in 2012. It is the result of three years of writing and a life long spiritual journey. People have expressed that Kammer's writings have had a profound impact on their lives. She is currently in the middle of writing her second book.

"People are always looking on the outside for answers, they think I am just not lucky; there is something wrong with me. If it wasn't for the government, taxes, their job, the people in their life," said Kammer.

She often finds a lot of people get upset

when it is suggested that they are responsible for their own reality.

"The thing is, I have learned I am in control of my own destiny, I am in control of my life. All these years I was living in fear. I had been forever in a day trying

to be a good girl. I didn't know what was right or wrong," she said.

In 2009, when Kammer began receiving answers, she immediately started sharing them with the world. She accumulated a following online. The "patters"

that she posted every day were being read and were making a difference in the lives of many.

Kammer said, "patters," are light hearted messages meant to give positive answers for life's difficulties.

Meanwhile, she was becoming the caregiver of her ailing husband, a man she describes as the "rock" in her life.

In May, 2012 her husband, Charlie died. Shortly after that she self-published her first book.

Kammer upholds that everything happens for a reason and people come into your life for a purpose. She says asking for help is often hidden behind our need to seek control in a world that genderizes, discriminates and tells us how we should or shouldn't be.

Kammer's favourite saying is, 'I won't should on you if you don't should on me.'

"We have been brainwashed," said Kammer. "People think others should be a certain way."

"When life doesn't seem to be working and you are not getting the answers out there, turn inward. When you don't trust the outside go inside. When you give up searching out there for answers is when God can do something. We are so controlling, we think we can fix everything."

The simple answer is to ask for what you want and then say, "I leave it in your hands." The answers will come, she ensures.

Kammer is well aware that several books have been published with similar material.

"Like trillions of snowflakes, each of us is unique in our understanding and each in need of the right and understandable voice that finally reaches us with the message of love that has been waiting for us."

Kammer's book, Love's Voice Changes You, is available at Balboapress.com, Amazon.ca and her website www.loves-voicechangesyou.com.



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

Tyendinaga protestors set up a blockade at the intersection of CN and CP Rail tracks 500 metres west of Shannonville Road. Protestors built small fires beside the rails and raised flags as part of the Day of Action demonstrations.

Rail blockade part of Wednesday protest

By Jeff Peters

The Shannonville Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway overpass was the scene a rail blockade, which was erected by about a dozen Mohawk protestors on Wednesday.

The protestors nursed fires and laid rebar across the tracks. The blockade was erected just after 1:30p.m. Members of the media were told to keep a distance and not to photograph faces. Demonstrators held high and low ground of the over pass and flew the

Mohawk nation's flag.

CN police and other law enforcement had a strong presence, but kept a distance of about 500 metres from the demonstration

The blockade was one of dozens of similar ones that occurred across

Canada, from New Brunswick to British Columbia.

Kenneth Jackson, a reporter for APTN, reported that the blockade was inspired by comments from the Delaware Nation Chief Greg Peters.

"We're here to support Chief Peters

who made the call and we're out here answering the call," the protestors told Jackson during an interview.

The blockade ended around 7 p.m. Wednesday evening, with the rail lines coming back into service shortly after.

Photojournalist shares the faces of cancer in gallery

By Jennifer Robertson

Local photojournalist, Michael Brethour, is reaching out to people affected by cancer with his project called The Faces of Cancer, showcased at the John M. Parrott Art Gallery.

Brethour's project, which began to form in 2010, lets local cancer patients and survivors tell their own stories of struggle and strength. Brethour is now on his second year of his project. The idea for the project began after an assignment he had been working on with the Canadian Cancer Society called the Wheels for Hope campaign. The idea was born in that same year, October 2012.

Brethour's project focuses on local

subjects from the surrounding community.

"You're looking at friends, neighbours, relatives, loved ones. Pretty much anyone can walk in this room at this point and for the years now, and say you know what, I know him or I know someone who knows her. It's the whole idea, this is putting a real face on it," Brethour said.

Brethour did not get his inspiration for his project from a specific personal experience or connection with cancer. However, he did convey the effects cancer has on individuals and the people around them.

"Everyone is affected by cancer in some way...It's always been something that remained outside my personal cir-

cle. However, this past September, one of my aunts was diagnosed with brain cancer and then she passed away within a month. That wasn't part of the inspiration but yeah, it does touch everyone eventually."

Brethour didn't have to look very far to find subjects. He was able to come in contact with many people who knew of someone who had cancer. He found some subjects through the Canadian Cancer Society, through contacts in the community, and even from people who had seen his documentary film, which he produced during his first year working on the project. Brethour was also able to find subjects through people who had already been involved in the project during his first year.

"I didn't intentionally intend to do a film from the get go. Once I started seeing the footage, despite some technical flaws, it was so powerful it had to get out there. As a journalist, you write stories like 400 words, 500 words, throw in a couple quote and a couple descriptive things and for some stories it really doesn't do justice. This is the most painful moments. The most tragic events in these people's lives and for them to share it is a whole other matter. A whole level of courage that other people don't see. This does it justice. This allows them to tell their story in their own words."

Brethour is now well into his second year with his project, however, it is nowhere near completion. He plans on continuing the project for a much

longer period of time.

"I've committed to 10 years to do 120 faces of cancer. Basically it's been a couple months for each one and then a couple more months to produce, like the documentary film last year. Then there will be the documentary film for this year again, it will be in this years Doc Fest in March as well."

Brethour does not plan to end his project any time soon. His current progress on the project is being showcased in the John M. Parrott Art Gallery at the Belleville public library.

"All their stories are beautiful in a way. Some are heartbreaking, some are heart wrenching. Others are almost inspirational. This project has touched a lot of people's hearts."



By Julia McKay

Tanya Dawes, owner of Pet Pawsitive, takes one of her regular clients, Joey the beagle, on his daily walk.

One-stop shopping for pet care

By Julia McKay

Personalized pet care is a highly competitive industry, but Tanya Dawes, owner of Pet Pawsitive, knows that it's her personalized approach and communication style that helps make her business stand out.

Dawes said she knows networking is an important part of any new local business, so she has worked on building relationships with local vets and animal services, but is mindful not to step on other pet-sitters paws.

"My clients think she's fantastic," said Dr. Kristina Bennett, resident veterinarian at the Foster Park Pet Hospital in Belleville. "She's great with animals and Pet Pawsitive is one of the only pet sitting service that will stay in the client's home overnight."

After moving to the Madoc area from the Niagara region in October 2008, Dawes decided that since she needed to find work, she might as well start her own business in Hastings County. Dawes took a few business courses and on Oct. 13, 2009, she registered her business as Pet Pawsitive.

Her clients include the average pets like dogs, cats, hamsters and rabbits, but she has also looked after a hairless guinea pig, bearded lizards and a pot-bellied pig.

Because pet sitting can require short visits at different points during the day, Dawes can't hire someone part-time and guarantee them a certain number of daily minimum hours. This job is more than just nine to five. Dawes uses a subcontractor to help with some of the dog walking when she can't be in two places at once.

Her day starts with checking her schedule and cellphone. With more than 200 pet parents and each possibly having

more than one pet, every day is different.

Dog walking is the main part of her daily routine, with pet sitting being more sporadic and sometimes includes overnight stays. Dog walking is Monday to Friday, 52 weeks a year. If the pet visit involves a feeding, then it's considered pet sitting.

"I love my job. I look forward to going to work, even in snow storm," said Dawes.

Dawes works anywhere from 65 to 85 hours per week and has put more than 100,000 kilometres on the vehicle she bought just 15 months ago.

"I spend a lot of time in my car," she laughed.

The first thing most people ask when inquiring about her business is whether she's insured, which she is.

Potential new clients start with the one-hour meet and greet. This is an opportunity for Dawes to learn about each of the pets, the family and what services and scheduling the family is looking for.

"Getting to know each pet is very important because then I can know if their behaviour is normal or a sign of distress," said Dawes.

At the end of each walk or visit, Dawes completes a checklist, giving the pet parent a report of how the visit went and what the pet did.

When it comes to overnight stays, Dawes wants the pet parents to know that she'll keep coming unless she hears from them.

"If their plane gets delayed or they're going to be late and have no cell service, they have the peace of mind that their pet will still be cared for."

Something that surprised Dawes most about her business is that she now can't live without her cellphone.

"Pet parents can reach me at any time and I can keep updated with any last minute changes," she said.

Student Instagram Pic of the Week

Congratulations to Arthur Andrzejewski, (username a_jewski), winner of the Pioneer's first weekly student Instagram photo contest. To see all of the Instagram photos that were submitted, search #Pioneerpics with your Instagram app.

Deadline for the contest is each Tuesday by 5 p.m.



On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

Question: Based on the NRA’s comments that the Sandy Hook teachers should have been armed; do you support Loyalist campus security carrying weapons?



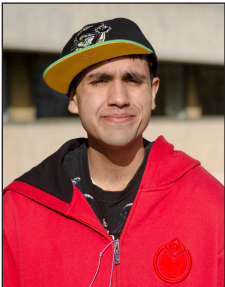
Justin Bulman, 29, TV new media, “No, because I don’t support murder. However, I do support non-lethal weapons such as tasers or mace.”



Brendan Kornblum, 18, police foundations, “Yes, I would support security carrying firearms with proper training, because there are circumstances that may call for weapons and it is better to have them and not need them than to not have them.”



Taylor Dubeau, 20, recreation and leisure “I would trust one or two security guards to carry weapons like Wayne; it would make me nervous if the whole force was armed.”



Justin Turner, 20, TV new media, “I do not support that because few people carry guns in Canada and there is no need. They are for soldiers and meant to kill.”



Lauren Deans, 53, student services registered nurse, “I don’t support that; it would give everyone an excuse to carry guns. Too many people live in the moment and weapons are too easy to use.”



Samantha Jackson, 18, TV new media, “I am in support because people would listen to security and be more responsive. Weapons in the right hands mean authority.”

Editorial

NRA takes twisted view on gun control

“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.”

This was one of the National Rifle Association’s main points recently when debating new gun control regulation. The topic of gun control has been brought to light after the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice president of the NRA, gave a speech during a press conference on Dec. 21, 2012 doing his best to distance the organization from gun violence. I am fairly confident in saying that the majority of the people who heard LaPierre’s speech were shocked and appalled by his controversial remarks, especially because of the very recent tragedy that claimed the lives of 27 innocent victims including students, teachers and the shooter’s mother.

The NRA’s outlook on the Sandy Hook shooting was absolutely ridiculous. Claiming that the only way to solve gun violence is with more guns is not only extremely irresponsible, but also extremely dangerous. The NRA’s statement that the only way to control gun violence is with more guns is like McDonalds saying the only way to get rid of obesity is with more Big Mac’s. We all know that more guns and gun accessibility will lead to more gun violence and that you are not going to lose weight by eating Big Macs.

The NRA needs to acknowledge that there is a problem with gun violence in the United States and the way to address it is not with more guns but with a more responsible gun control.

I do believe that people have the right to arm and protect them selves. But when we are talking about fully automatic assault rifles that have been manufactured with the sole purpose of killing human beings in a warfare situation, then I think there should be some reconsideration with regards to what weapons the public should be able to own.

The NRA has came up with the idea to put armed guards in every school across the United States, claiming that if there was an armed guard at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the massacre would never have taken place. This is interesting considering on April 20, 1999 there was an armed guard at Columbine High School in Colorado. The fact is that the armed guard was not the answer and did not, in the slightest, stop the two teenaged gunmen from murdering 12 students and one teacher before they committed suicide.

LaPierre also felt that the government is at fault for refusing to create a national database that keeps track of the mentally ill. Here, LaPierre is referring to Adam Lanza, the perpetrator of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. Lanza, however, was not mentally ill. He had autism, which is a brain-related development problem, not a mental illness.

Shortly after the tragedy at Sandy Hook, scared and concerned parents began going online and purchasing Ballistic Backpacks that can stop rounds from a handgun as a way of protecting their children while they are in school. It’s pretty clear that if we are now living in a world where our children have to go to school wearing a bullet proof backpack to be safe, something has gone extremely wrong.

Richard Barclay

Defacement of prime minister’s statue a sad statement

Happy birthday Sir John A. Macdonald. Let’s celebrate your 19 years of leadership by defacing a statue of you.

It’s sad people feel that an effective way to get their point across is by desecrating something.

‘This is stolen land,’ ‘colonizer’ and ‘murderer’ were written on the statue’s base.

Sir John A. Macdonald was Canada’s first prime minister in 1867. On the evening of Jan. 10, a day before his 198th birthday, the Sir John A Macdonald statue at City Park in Kingston, Ont. was vandalised with red and white paint.

Not only is this form of expression cowardly, but it’s also a waste of money to pay someone to clean it up.

If you’re that fervent about your cause or have something that important to say, why not take your passion and turn it into something you can be proud of?

Own it. Don’t sneak out in the middle of the night and trash something.

It would be good to believe that people who vandalize other people’s property or public property do so because they have nothing in their own lives of value - otherwise wouldn’t they be able to relate the destruction to the impact it would have on them and their possessions?

However, thinking back to Remembrance Day last year, when the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial site was vandalised, it doesn’t seem to matter whether it’s property, possessions or places of remembrance – all are considered equal when someone just feels like demolishing something.

A few days after the site was dedicated in Trenton, Ont. which was just days after Remembrance Day, security cameras captured footage of a man destroying flowers and plants at the location.

Whether you agree with war or not, have some respect for the fact that these men and women lost their lives in service of our country.

Is nothing untouchable anymore – not even the dead?

Jessica Nyznik



Opinion

Disaster relief continues to be vital service

By Benjamin Priebe

In 1997, Manitoba’s Red River burst its banks and over 8,000 Canadian Forces troops were mobilized in relief and rescue efforts, the largest mobilization of troops since the Korean War in 1951. In true Canadian spirit, the government was there for its people when they fell on hard times and Ottawa absorbed the cost of saving lives.

On Thursday, Jan. 10, in Ottawa, Defence Minister Peter MacKay, announced the Department of National Defence will consider charging municipalities and provinces for disaster relief services rendered by the Canadian Armed Forces. Saving lives is no longer an essential service. Traditionally and in true Canadian spirit, Ottawa has picked up the cheque for aid and the mobilization of Canadian Armed Forces such as the 2,500 troops deployed to forest fires in northwestern Ontario in 2011.

MacKay’s parliamentary secretary, Chris Alexander, told CBC that Treasury policy has always given the Department of National Defence the power to recoup funds and they have simply not considered acting on it until now. This is not a change in policy but a prudent and heartless shift in dynamics between Ottawa and the Canadian public, sparked by

a 7.4 percent cut to Canada’s military budget in 2012 and a tough fiscal year.

With a tsunami warning for the coast of British Columbia last week and a mild winter causing flooding all over the interior, disaster relief may be more important than ever for coastal communities who could now be wary to request intervention for fear of the cost to their bottom line. The 1997 flooding in Manitoba cost \$500 million in damages to the Red River community. Could they possibly pay the prudent Harper government back a short time after being flooded out of house and home? A community that has just been struck by natural disaster needs the support and understanding of the Canadian government and military, not to be sent a billion dollar cheque as they rebuild a crumbled town. Knock knock, Prime Minister Stephen Harper wants his money and it can’t come from Sapphire, his new satellite observation program.

The Canadian Armed Forces have six mandates of operation under the Canada First Defence Strategy, one of which is to “support civilian authorities during a crisis in Canada such as a natural disaster”. CF’s priority is not to spend \$9 billion on fighter jets in a peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan while pinching pennies to save our own

countrymen here at home. Canada First? Harper does not need to balance his cheque-books on the backs of disaster victims.

The recouped funds are meant to be put towards PTSD support and medical clinics for returning soldiers, says Alexander, yet only 1,500 of our 98,000 soldiers and reservists are deployed out of country. If our troops are pulling out of Afghanistan and so unoccupied, why can’t we focus on handling the inclement weather and environmental conditions impacting remote communities?

This policy shift leans strongly towards Harper’s right-wing government and away from the peaceful and humanitarian nation many Canadian’s see ourselves as. Ottawa has put into motion the capitalization of a necessary service funded by the Canadian people for the Canadian people. Saving Canadian lives and rebuilding homes and infrastructure cannot be a service provided to those who can afford it, lest we end up with a privatized disaster industry like the U.S.A.. For only \$50,000 you can have your home sprayed with fire retardant in the event of a woodland inferno, and of course - not your neighbour’s.

What’s next? Firefighters sending out bills to families who have lost their homes to flames?

Civil disobedience a matter of perspective

By Jeff Peters

Whose streets? Their streets.

In my foray into photojournalism, I have taken it upon myself to seek out events that would allow me to capture scenes of great emotion and obvious conflict. To this end, I’ve made it a personal mission to seek out protests where, in some way or another the dissidents of these protests walk a fine line between the right to a peaceful assembly and civil disobedience.

Appropriate use of civil disobedience is in the eye of the beholder. It’s a matter of perspective. The passion the protestors feel for their beliefs is a direct indicator of how far they are willing to push legal boundaries.

In the case of Idle No More, there have

been blockades of rail lines and highways. In Cornwall, a blockade, which occurred two weeks ago, was justifiable.

If the purpose of the protest is to bring their voice and message to the government, that has stifled your efforts democratically, then I agree. What better way is there? No one seems to care until you hit their pocket books. Once they are feeling it in the wallet they can’t help but take notice. With the blockade of these major links, it will cut through redundant political games and angling.

The matter of public opinion is a fickle one, regardless of political ideology. If people are forced to put up with a relatively mild inconvenience of the use of a motorway, they will quickly turn on the protest. In this sense, this form of protested is flawed.

I’ve spent time at various Occupy camps, from Kingston to Zuccotti. I’ve seen mass arrests and many small protests.

There always seems to be a transition, at one point or another, where the movement is co-opted by a group of people with a mentality that was not within the movement’s original vision – from the drug idled hang outs of the occupy camps, to the random acts of violence at the G20.

Given the baggage that native politics has on the Canadian psyche a clear end game of the latest movement is unclear. The movement has yet to experience a major crackdown due to its tactics. If we can step back for a moment and examine the strategies that are being employed, we might realize that they aren’t necessarily criminal.

The Pioneer

Editor, Jessica Nyznik
Photo editor, Richard Barclay
Multi-media editor, Sofia Rojas
Faculty advisers: Patti Gower, Luke Hendry, Frank O’Connor, Scott Whalen
Managing editor, Mike Beaudin
Publisher, Jane Harrison

The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

The Pioneer welcomes your letters and comments. Please send material to the editor at the address below before Wednesday. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

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Pioneer newsroom, 1N9, Loyalist College, Box 4200, Belleville, ON K8N 5B9 · 613-969-1913, ext. 2828.

E-mail: pioneer@loyalistic.on.ca

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