



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.

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.

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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

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Doug Ferguson

teachers ability to strike, as well as freezes their wages for 2012-2014 school year. Since last month, many teachers have chosen to boycott extra-curricular activities after school, which have left many parents and students in a

bitter situation. Todd Smith, a member of the opposition PC party, voted in favor of the controversial bill back in September. "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.

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.