



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.

