



Photo by Justin Tang

Father of the flag

John Matheson poses for a portrait at the Kingston, Ont. long-term care home where he resides on Wednesday. Under the direction of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, Matheson, then an MP in the Ontario riding of Leeds, was a member of the committee that helped bring a new flag to Canada. Matheson is credited for establishing the concept and symbolism for the flag and as an ardent supporter of the eventual design. The new flag was unveiled on Feb. 15, 1965. National Flag Day of Canada is observed annually on Feb. 15. See qnetnews.ca for a full photo gallery.w

Trudeau makes passionate pitch for change

By Jeff Peters

The energy in Loyalist College’s Alumni Hall was nearly tangible as the son of one of Canada’s most beloved prime minsters spoke to a crowd of approximately 230 people. Justin Trudeau’s Valentine’s Day visit to Loyalist was met with applause, photo opportunities and excitement.

Trudeau said a government should be run for the common good of all and that the current Conservative government is based on divisiveness. “The greatest strength of this country is the fact that we are strong not in spite of the differences that define us from coast to coast to coast but because of those very differences we need to once again pull together on what de-

fines and unites us,” Trudeau told the audience. Patty Teal of Dunsville, Ont. in her first year of business administration and human resources, said the speech hit the nail on the head with his sentiment of unity and working toward common goals as a nation. “Everybody wants to be part of something bigger than they are. They

want to be able to be engaged in something that’s outside of themselves. To be a part of change and move forward be part of a success not just for themselves but for those around them,” said Teal. James Neilson, first-year paralegal student and retired provincial offenses officer didn’t echo the same sentiment as Teal.

“Mr. Trudeau spoke very well I thought, but he did mention how disappointed he was and trash talked the present government. I don’t believe in that myself I believe if we are going to have unity we present positive issues and not necessarily emphasize the negativity ... doesn’t really matter whether you’re Liberal or Conservative or Bloc Quebecois, they all divide and conquer,” said Neilson.

Trudeau...

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During a brief Q& A in the Pioneer and QNet newsroom Trudeau was asked how his leadership tour had affected his family life. He assured everyone he was in constant contact, face-timing his children every morning. During his speech to students, faculty and members of the community in Alumni Hall, Trudeau spoke of his vision for Canada. “Canadians are tired of being forced to be cynical. They are tired of being forced to vote against things. Nobody is voting for anything, anymore. “We are better than that. “The challenges we face require us to continue to be better then that.” He told the crowd how even though the economy over the past 30 years in Canada has done extremely well, income has only risen by 13 per cent. For the first time in the history of this country, this generation suspects that perhaps the next generation may not have greater opportunities and that is very destabilizing. “The strong economy of this country relies on a thriving middle class.” The floor opened up to questions, part of Trudeau’s promise to do things differently, “This is the fun part,” he said. There was time for six questions and fittingly one was asked about his father. Belleville Intelligencer reporter and Loyalist Photojournalism grad Jerome Lessard approached the microphone, welcomed Trudeau in French and asked him, how his father has been his inspiration. “My father, I am incredibly proud of him... because of the values and the strength that he gave me and mostly the convictions that there is always a need to build into the very base of our politics a trust for Canadians. “I am very aware that I am not here to try and defend or stand up for policies of 40 years ago but the values and commitment to this country that he taught me are things that I carry forward with me as we try to look to solutions that will allow us to survive the 21st century,” he responded. Perhaps the most memorable moment of the day was when a tear rolled down his cheek while being presented with a photograph of his father from Belleville Police Const. Jeff Ling. “I am not a cry-baby but Valentine’s Day and the kind of love I have been shown has just left me very emotional today.” Rod MacIvor of United Press International took the photograph. “My father and your father spent a lot of time together,” Ling told Trudeau. “He even sat in the hospital where you were born on Christmas Eve.” Ling admitted to being a bit nervous. “That is the future leader of our country,” he said. “But to bring him to tears is heart-warming.”



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Sonya Dronsfield, a photojournalism student from Loyalist College gives Justin Trudeau a rose for Valentine’s on Thursday. Justin Trudeau toured the media departments of the college and then was open for questions at a press conference at the college’s Alumni Hall.