



Photo by Nam Phi Dang

Richard Belanger, owner of Scalliwag Toys on Front Street, said he believes that the penny being discontinued by the Royal Canadian Mint is not a big deal and something people will get used to. Belanger has less than 25 cents in pennies in the cash register.

A penny for your thoughts?

Local business people share two cents worth on penny's farewell

By Nam Phi Dang

Canadians' pockets will see some change – or less of it – as the Royal Canadian Mint phases out the penny this month.

On Monday, businesses began rounding items to the closest five or zero cents. For customers, this means less pocket change and weight to deal with.

Businesses in downtown Belleville are adopting the change. Many made the switch in advance of the official date. Business owners are not fazed by the change.

"A penny is not a big thing," said Anil

Vadhera, who owns Roluf's on Front Street. His store sells a variety of items, from cameras to vintage products and includes a Canada Post outlet.

"It doesn't really matter to me. We will lose a little bit but it is okay and really, we don't have any choice. It's not good for a business though but again, no choice," said Vadhera.

The items at Roluf's vary in cost, but Vadhera doesn't think the penny's demise will have a major toll on his business.

"It won't change anything in my business. Everything is still the same and after six months we will find out how much we may have lost," said Vadhera.

Richard Belanger, owner of Scalliwag Toys, said he sees the penny as currency that has been slowly forgotten by consumers.

"The penny itself is handy in some ways at a children's store, but it is one of those things that people have not been

taking for years. They either forget, leave or not take them so I don't feel it'll affect a business too much. Definitely less weight in your pocket," said Belanger.

Belanger said he doesn't think the change will affect the day-to-day operation of his business. Unlike bigger retail operations that have had to revamp cash registers and software, he and his wife, who run the business together, will simply round prices for cash purchases.

"We don't have to make a cash machine change because we are such a small business. Prices will still appear on the computer at the exact price but if it is a cash transaction, we will just round the price."

Belanger said he isn't worried about the effect on his customers.

"I don't think it will change anything. Many customers don't really realize how much change they get anyway as long as it is close to what they are supposed to get back," said Belanger.

Linda Greer, the manager at Y'Wanna Hav A Café is delighted about the penny being discontinued.

"As a consumer, I am thrilled to death that they are not going to be around anymore because it will just be less carrying. Business-wise, I don't think it will be a problem. Most people won't want to be carrying them and most of our customers don't have or want pennies back so I think it will be fine. Not going to be an issue at all," said Greer.

Greer and her employees at the café have always practised rounding up and down and knocking off pennies on their items.

"We here have always been rounding. For example, if someone did not have a penny, we would knock it down. Plus, we would not always keep pennies in the cash so sometimes we would not have them to give back, which is when we would round – normally in the customers favour. Now

it will work one way or the other," said Greer.

The end of the penny isn't expected to affect Belleville's economy on a whole.

Sarah Tummon is the executive director at the Belleville Downtown Improvement Area. She sees the change even on a larger city scale as having no impact.

"The development plans in downtown Belleville are mostly on a large scale so I don't think this would affect any future investors or the plan the City of Belleville would have," said Tummon.

The Royal Canadian Mint estimates that taxpayers will save \$11 million each year with the penny's demise.

The penny will hold its value as legal tender but will not be redistributed. The change will only affect cash transactions – chequeing and electronic transactions will not be impacted.



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Jordan Marlowe of the Lancers rushes at the net as Christoff Pierre of the Lords attempts to block him at the Loyalist College Lancers vs. Durham College Lords men's basketball game at the Loyalist College gym Tuesday. For story, see page 3.

Get ready for more winter weather

By Catherine Jackman

While the Quinte area is no stranger to unpredictable winter weather, residents have begun to adapt their lifestyles to accommodate for the constant changes.

Environment Canada is predicting a winter storm to hit the Belleville and Quinte area Thursday lasting until well into the day Friday.

With 15 to 25 cm of snow expected to fall and harsh winds to blow from over Lake Ontario, Environment Canada says the heaviest snow will occur during the Friday morning rush hour along the Highway 401 corridor from London to the Greater Toronto Area to Kingston and through the Golden Horseshoe.

That's good news to businesses that rely on the snow through the winter season.

"The snow storm will have a great affect on our season. People assume that when they see snow melting in the city, that the snow on the hill is melting too, and that just isn't the case," said Morgan Casement, administration manager at Batawa Ski Hill.

The ski hill, she said, had an increase of traffic this year, compared to last year, which she blames on the lack of general snow. Casement said that even when all the snow is melting, that they have generators which at minus -5C can produce snow.

"Weather's not going to tell you much about this year, instead you have to look at climate over the last few years and compare," said David Phillips, a climatologist with Environment Canada.

Phillips said that the winters within the next 30 years are going to start getting increasingly shorter.

"There won't be any extreme cold, but the snow and ice will stay," said Phillips.

A weather change might prove beneficial for farmers in the Quinte region, who don't need the cold, but do require the blanket of snow.

"Well, in the ideal situation we would have snow cover until sort of mid-March until it warms up enough for run off, which will at least begin the season with a high water table, and a lot of moisture in the soil for planning," said Andrew Miller, farm manager at Cherryvale Organic farm.

Cherryvale, located just outside of Cherry Valley, is an organic farm specializing in organic produce, grains and on a smaller scale some organic fruit.

The farm, which is currently covered in a blanket of snow, is only growing crops within a small greenhouse.

"This is a much better winter compared to last winter. We didn't have any snow cover last winter and it was a fairly warm winter. So in the 2012 production season we actually ran into an increased amount of insects, not

the usual time that we see them," said Miller.

With the phenomenon of global warming becoming more and more relevant, this type of winter is going to become more and more of the norm, said Phillips.

"The future will bring warmer conditions, there will be more precipitations and longer growing times that include no frost. So there is good news: that farmers can grow new crops that they couldn't grow before, but there is also bad news in that the prolonged spring generally brings more bugs, disease and more drought," said Phillips.

Phillips said that farmers consider coming up with alternative options, and adapting to the new weather.

"The way farmers need to approach this change is accept good times and bad, they're going to have to do something different. Risk equates to bankruptcy and bounty," said Phillips.

It's a change which many of the farmers in the area have already taken into consideration.

"I think we're on top of it right now, as far as we want to go in terms of new ideas, but we don't really have anything on the horizon. I think that everyone in agriculture or that system needs to be looking at the next wave of innovation for the industry. I'm not really sure what that is yet, hopefully I'll know when it gets here," said Miller.

Courthouse could bring business boon

By Patrick Callbeck

Downtown businesses might see a boom when the Quinte consolidated courthouse opens its doors in June 2013.

The courthouse, located on the corner of Bridge Street and Coleman Street, is expected to bring more traffic to local businesses in the area. The \$247-million project pulls together three separate area courthouses into one location right across the river from the downtown core.

According to Joe Roberto, the Red Lion's bartender and assistant manager, the Coleman Street restaurant has been informed that the courthouse is expecting to see roughly 1,000 people frequent the building on a daily basis.

"We're definitely hoping for an increase in business," said Roberto. "We are hoping to get 10% of that 1,000 people. That would mean 100 people coming our way. That would be fantastic."

One of the biggest obstacles for downtown businesses is finding a way to bring people downtown. Sarah Tummon, the executive director of the Belleville Downtown Improvement Area (BDIA), said this could be the key to increasing sales for local businesses.

"It will definitely have a positive impact on downtown Belleville. There are going to be a lot of employees there that will be coming downtown, going to our restaurants and shopping on their lunch hours. It's the really close proximity that will boost the economy downtown," said Tummon.

Some people aren't as optimistic. City councillor Jack Miller said he is concerned that the new courthouse might just move economic activity from one area to another.

"People have been saying this will have a positive economic impact on downtown, but it's just moving everything to a new neighborhood," said Miller. "Things may grow up around that area, but what's going to happen to the area around the old courthouses?"

According to Jeff Giffen, communications advisor with Infrastructure Ontario, the old courthouses on Pinnacle Street and Victoria Avenue will become vacant as a result of the consolidation.

"The old courthouses are currently being leased by the Government of Ontario from their respective landlords. As part of the consolidation process the old locations will become vacant as their leases end. What happens next is up to the discretion of the landlords," said



Photo by Patrick Callbeck

Mohammed Saleh looks out his store window and up at the Quinte Consolidated Courthouse on Bridge Street West Thursday. Saleh, owner and operator of Super Duper Confectionary for 38 years, said the construction of the courthouse is the most significant development in his neighborhood since opening.

Giffen.

The construction of the courthouse began in July of 2011 and is expected to finish this June. Over the course of the construction there have been more than 250 people working at any one time. Mohammed Saleh, the owner and operator of Super Duper Confectionary on Bridge Street West, said he has already experienced an increase in business because of the construction.

"We have already seen an increase in business coming to us from the construction workers," said Saleh. "We are looking forward to the future. It's more people coming to this area, more customers. It will be good, especially downtown. It's dead downtown. This will give it a boost."

Most of the development in the area in the last 50 years has been across the river in the downtown core. Locals are hoping

that the construction of the courthouse will lead to further development and be a turning point for the Coleman Street neighborhood.

Sarah Taylor, bartender at Vic's Place on Bridge Street West, said she hopes the area will be further developed. "The Coleman block definitely needs to be cleaned up. It's quite a mess."

"The courthouse is the most significant development I've seen in the neighbor-

hood since I opened the store 38 years ago," said Saleh. "All the property values in the neighborhood are going to go up," he added.

Roberto said he expects the area to continue to develop. "We've been told that there will be new developments, new buildings and new offices around the area. We need to be ready for it because we are in a prime location for that," said Roberto.

Family concert part of lineup of Family Day activities

Family-friendly concert at Belleville library an interactive musical for young audience

By Sandra Kielback

Family Day weekend is fast approaching and many families are trying to find something to do.

There are many events happening all over the Quinte region this Family Day Long weekend.

The Belleville Public Library is hosting a family concert on Feb. 16, called Head in the Clouds. Head in the Clouds is a interactive musical show for a younger audience put on by the library and the Ca-

nadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). This is the sixth year that the library and the CFUW have worked together to put on family friendly show in Belleville.

"These performances are very popular. Families with young children really enjoy them," said coordinator of children's, youth and readers' services Soy-oung Lee.

Tickets are \$5; children under 2 are free. There are two shows, one at 11 a.m. and one at 1:30 p.m. Contact the Belleville Public Library for more information at 613-968-6731.

On Feb., 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Cabin Fever Craft Show will be held at the Strathcona Arena in Napanee. The event is in support of the Salvation Army and donations will be accepted at the

door. You can find many local vendors selling unique products. Contact Brad Smith at 613-354-8946 for more information.

The Brighton Speedway is having its second race as part of Winterfest 2013. Races start at 11 a.m., some of the events include four-wheeling, ice bikes, and amateur snowmobiling. Admission is \$10, and free for those 10 years old and under. Call the Brighton Speedway at 613-475-1102 for more information.

Starting Saturday, Feb. 16, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99 is having a dinner and a dance starting at 5:30 p.m. Cocktails will be served before dinner until 6:30 p.m. when a dinner of roast beef with all the trimmings will be served. The Shadows, a local band that

plays 50's, 60's and 70's era rock and roll, will be providing the music for the night. Call 613-968-9053 for more information.

The last event on Saturday is a performance by Myles Goodwyn and April Wine at the Empire Theatre in Belleville. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39.95 plus tax. This tour will continue until April.

Family Day Monday will provide lots of fun unless you want to go shopping. The Quinte Mall will be closed Feb. 18. Some stores in the complex will be open including Boston Pizza, Denny's, East Side Mario's, Galaxy Cinemas, GoodLife Fitness, Lone Star Texas Grill, Montana's, Shoppers Drug Mart, Starbucks.

At Art For Everyone! in Trenton there will be a Family Day of Creativity between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. You will

have the chance to decorate silly hats, create family trees, have your family portrait taken, decorate picture frames, and much more. Cost for this event is \$10 plus tax per person. Art For Everyone! is relatively new, opening in June of 2012.

"There aren't many things going on in the community because it is a holiday so we are hoping it will be more of a success," said Rachel Comeau.

Contact Rachel at rachel@artforeveryonetrenton.com or at 613-955-1001.

There will also be free skating in the Tweed area; one free hot chocolate or coffee per person will be given out.

The Quinte Sports and Wellness Center will be having public skating on Saturday through Monday as well as swimming throughout the weekend.

Job fair offers students some job connection options

Employers get chance to look for new talent to join their companies

By Tijana Martin

Loyalist College's cafeteria had more options for students to choose from this past Thursday.

The college hosted the 16th annual career fair in the cafeteria and gymnasium on Feb. 7.

The fair gave current students and alumni a chance to meet with approximately 80 exhibitors, including post-secondary institutions.

"The career fair is all about connecting our students and graduates with employers in their field. We have about 80 employers here on campus from all over the place, some of them have come from as far as out west," said Francine Short Loyalist employment and career advisor.

The area was filled with pamphlets and free goodies in hopes of gathering some attention to the exhibitors' booths.

Some students wore their best attire, hoping to network, make a good first impression and hoping to find what jobs were available.

"I'm looking to see what's out there, and what's available for jobs and placement," said Rana Newcombe 1st year recreation and leisure services student.

"In addition to helping job seekers, the event benefits employers who may be looking for new talent to join their team. Leveraging the remarkable capacity of our learners, 'the Loyalist Connection' makes a significant difference to the quality of life of our extended community every day," said Loyalist President Maureen Piercy in a news release.



Photo by Tijana Martin

Rana Newcombe, first-year recreation and leisure services student, chats with Linda Van der Wel of Aon Inc. at the 16th Annual Career Fair at Loyalist College. The fair hosted approximately 80 exhibitors today.

Short said she hopes that Loyalist students and upcoming grads can find employment, whether it is part-time or full-time, an internship or a placement.

"It's an opportunity for students to network and gain knowledge about

their field and chat with employers, and find out what's happening out there in the real world and help get them ready for their career," said Short.

She said they aim for anywhere between 80-100 employers to attend the

fair.

Short said "Every year we certainly strive to make it better. We always look at our employer and student feedback, and see what the comments are and see what we can change."



View Photojournalist Alicia Wynter's multi-media presentation on the Stirling Groundhog Fest held last weekend.



Instagram Pic of the Week

Rob Howsam @stokerrob for his second win in the Instagram pic of the week contest with his photo of Riley Maracle celebrating a goal at the Loyalist College outdoor rink behind Kente building. To see all the Instagram submissions, search #Pioneerpics with your Instagram app. Deadline is each Tuesday by 5 p.m.

Lancers hold off late surge for win

By David Zammit

The Loyalist Lancers men's basketball team came out with something to prove on Tuesday night as they took on the Durham Lords with a stripped down roster of only seven players. The Lancers hung on to win a nail-bitter 75-66.

"I believe that now the battles in practice have become more intense as everyone is fighting for playing spots or minutes," said Lancers forward Calvin Chevannes.

"At this point we basically already have a playoff spot locked down, but position-wise is what were fighting for right now," said Chevannes.

The men came out with a lot of energy in the first. The Lancers were aggressive towards the basket, causing early foul problems for the Lords. Six and a half minutes into the first, the Lords already had six team fouls that cost them two starting players for the rest of the first half. The

Lancers took a 19-11 lead into the second quarter.

Lords head coach Desmond Rowley was all over the referees during the game, often yelling at the officials. "Take a look at the foul numbers. There are two teams out here on the court you know, not just Durham."

The second quarter was domination by the Lancers as they took advantage of the Lords who had two starters on the bench. The high-flying Lancers stole the ball and went in on a two on zero and set Brayden Gohn for a huge tomahawk jam, to get the crowd going.

The Lords only scored 13 points in this quarter, caused by the Lancers shut-down defence, to go along with the poor shooting of the Lords. It was 45-24, heading into the break.

"Those players who quit, we kind of just put them behind us and said we still have our goal of going to nationals. For right now, our goals are to just take one game at a time, four quar-

ters at a time," said Chevannes.

The third quarter looked like the Lancers changed jerseys with Lords. Lords guard Christ-off Pierre hit back-to-back three's, to pull his team within 12 by the start of the fourth. The Lancers led 64-52 heading into the last quarter.

Durham's Pierre and Leke Bankole kept the team rolling in the fourth as they found their way within five points of the comeback, when the wheels fell off. A couple of big defensive plays by the Lancers held the lead to secure the win.

Game notes: Lancers: Brayden Gohn had 12 points and 11 boards. Matt Miller had a team high of 17 points for the Lancers. Patrick Kalala added 16 points.

Lords: Christoff Pierre had 14 points to go with 13 boards. Ali Sadaat had a team high 16 points and 13 boards. Leke Bankole was the Lords top bench player with 14 points.



Photo by Justin Tang

Loyalist Lancers guard Jordan Marlowe plays the ball past the Durham Lords defence as the two teams battled at Loyalist College Tuesday. The Lancers beat the Lords 75-66.

Lancers dominate Durham in battle

By David Zammit

The Loyalist Lady Lancers came out firing on all cylinders on Tuesday night, as they cruised to a huge 72-35 win over the Durham Lords. Jenni Thompson was on fire for the Lancers on this night.

"Jenni really stepped up and made great choices all game long," said Lancers head coach Chris Eligh.

The first quarter was a carbon copy of the entire game as the Lancers showed the Lords why they are third in their division. The Lancers came out with the hot hand and jumped out to a 22-10 lead after the first.

The game only got worse for the 3-12 Lords. The second opened with Thompson hitting a wide-open corner three pointer.

The women were relentless as they attacked the basket, heading into the half with a 42-17 lead. Thompson had 18 points in the first half of the game, outscoring the entire Lords team.

The Lords had no answer for

Thompson.

"Thompson is one of the best pure shooters in the league, We wanted to try a box and one but injuries and sickness would not allow for it last night. Not sure it would have mattered last night as she was on fire as usual. OCAA player of the year arguably," said Lords coach Tim Baulk.

The Lords came out with a bit of a spark in the third, when the Lancers used some of their bench. Alexandra Aguiar and Nikea Worrell provided some depth later in the game. They both saw over 15 minutes in action for the Lancers. The score heading into the final quarter was 59-26.

Thompson opened the scoring again in the fourth with a three-pointer. The Lancers went 10 of 25 from three-point land. The Lords only attempted three and missed all of them. The game was never really close as they Lancers crushed the Lords 72-35ww," said Coach Eligh.

Game Notes: Jenni Thompson had 27 points to go with 10

boards. Martine Gauvin had a great game with 18 points, eight assist, and eight steals. Kelsey Hare was the top scorer for the Lords with 17 points and 10 boards.

Coach Baulk said after the game "Kelsey scored her points when the game was essentially over and Chris had his bench on. Kelsey turning the ball over six times will not put us in a winning position, especially when it's your veteran players who are making over half the turnovers."

View the gallery of basketball photos on qnet.ca.



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Kyle McCrea braves the cold as he runs during his Loyalist College fitness class Thursday. Fifteen to 20 cm of snow is expected in the area from Thursday night until late Friday afternoon.

Conservation areas get new signs thanks to donations

By Marta Iwanek

Quinte Conservation will be able to put up two, possibly five new signs at its conservation areas because of the community's donations to the Adopt An Acre program in 2012.

The non-profit received \$4,800 and successfully adopted out 240 acres.

"Signage is important for visibility," said communications and marketing specialist Jennifer May-Anderson. "People were having a hard time finding a conservation area if they were going out to look for it because they couldn't read or see the sign from the road."

Larger signs like the ones now planned for Deerock Lake and Price Conservation Areas cost about \$1,800 each. After those are put in place, May-Anderson said they will look into signs for Sidney, Beaver Meadow and Flinton Conservation areas. Donations were down from last year's to-

tal of \$5,200.

The Adopt An Acre program has existed since 1994, but after a period of time, languished before being revived again about four years ago, said May-Anderson.

While the organization does receive money from provincial and federal governments, fundraisers like this help with extra projects. She said many people choose to donate the \$20 for an acre during the Christmas season as a gift.

When the program was revived a few years ago, one of their first goals was making sure people can find the areas. "And then once we get all of our conservation areas with improved signage, then we'll be able to start focusing on individual conservation areas and the particular needs each one might have," May-Anderson said. These were the last five signs planned, so if they finish them this year they will move on to different projects in the future, she added.

Extracurricular activities still on backburner

By Tom Hicken

Both the local school board and teacher's unions are hopeful to restore the extracurricular activities that have been frozen by teachers across the province.

Kerry Donnell, communications officer of the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, is looking forward to union heads meeting with Ontario's new premier, Kathleen Wynne, to continue labour negotiations that had previously failed.

"The timing of this is interesting because in the next few weeks we're going to see a bit of a thawing from the freeze (of extracurricular activities)," Donnell said, referring to Wynne's inauguration to be held Feb. 11, and cabinet resuming one week later.

Elementary public school teachers across Ontario withdrew their voluntary involvement from extracurricular

and sports activities back in December 2012, with high school teachers following suit, after their outrage with the province's introduction of Bill 115.

At the time, Education Minister Laurel Broten used the controversial bill to freeze wages with a forced two-year contract for teachers, which their unions deemed "undemocratic" for taking away their right to negotiate a contract with their employers – the school boards.

Since then, student clubs, after school athletics and school proms have been sparse across Ontario, including the 46 elementary and eight secondary schools within the HPEDSB district.

"There are provisions where teachers need to be involved in extracurricular programs according to school board procedure," Donnell said.

However, according to Jacqueline Wood, co-president of Quinte Second-

‘People don’t like how there’s no sports going on. It’s kind of boring around here so a lot of kids don’t like coming to school because of that.’

Co-president of Quinte Secondary School student council, Jacqueline Wood

ary School's student council, the few clubs and groups that remain at her school are mostly student-run with no involvement from teachers.

"Our principal will be helping us with prom. It probably won't be as organized

with fundraising because our teachers won't be involved to push things along and keep things going," she said.

Bill 115 was repealed in January, but the contracts still remain. Wynne says she has confidence in restoring negotiations but adds that she will not nullify the existing contracts imposed through the enactment of Bill 115.

"I know that the premier has already had some meetings with the provincial unions and the school board trustees association," Donnell said, adding that they're hopeful the momentum Wynne has started will continue.

However, the unfavourable labour deals that were legislated and not negotiated have left teachers and their unions sour. The decision to continue withholding extracurricular activities is, "based on the union's directions that they give to their members – it's not di-

rected from the school board," Donnell said.

Both students and their parents remain frustrated as teachers continue their refusal to supervise clubs and sports teams in their schools.

"People don't like how there's no sports going on. It's kind of boring around here so a lot of kids don't like coming to school because of that," Wood said.

Another concern from students is their admissions into post-secondary programs, some of which rely heavily on scholarships. With a lack of extracurricular activities, students say they feel their peers from other provinces or private schools have an unfair advantage when it comes to out-of-classroom experience.

"I think it's been a major issue because a lot of kids can't apply for those athletic scholarships," Wood said.

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

The Canadian penny has been officially phased out. What do you do with your pennies?



Nicole Mahoney, 23, social services, “I’m a server so I’ve got change coming out of my pockets. I try to get rid of them.”



Evan Vance, 19, police foundations, “I don’t use them, I throw them on the ground. They’re useless.”



Dan McDonald, 52, culinary arts, “I own a business so we give them out as change or just roll them. I don’t save pennies or anything like that.”



Taylor Mattice, 19, college prep program, “I use them for absolutely nothing. I take them home and wait for some charity even that takes pennies.”



Jasmyn McCauley, 24, community and justice services worker, “I give them all to my kids, I was going to put them in their bank account, now I don’t know.”



Kate Copeman, 21, welding, “They sit in a jar at home.”

Editorial

Public facelift won’t eliminate lack of transparency in Harper government

There’s a new prime minister in town, or so you might think if you follow @pmharper on Twitter. Stephen Harper took his Twitter followers to work with him last Monday, tweeting images and videos under the hashtag #dayinthelife as Parliament resumed sitting.

There’s little question that Canada’s 22nd prime minister is undergoing a public relations facelift, and his increased activity on Twitter is telling. It’s the lifting of the veil into the life of a prime minister who has been known as a guarded individual, especially with his private life.

The public got an inside glimpse as Harper had breakfast at his home at 24 Sussex Drive and travelled to Parliament Hill, following him through a working lunch and to meetings at his office at Langevin Block.

It’s a measured move by a government that has proven to be more opaque than transparent over its seven-year tenure.

Certain things we know now: the prime minister spends much of his time in meetings, but perhaps even more on his own. He prefers a soft drink with his lunch, but takes a diet variety. He eats breakfast with his cat Stanley, gets a warm welcome home from his wife Laureen and chinchilla Charlie and his RCMP-chauffeured vehicle has little to no leg room.

The inside look is a move in the right direction, but #adayinthelife won’t erase the blatant lack of transparency the Harper government has shown.

Canada’s Auditor General Michael Ferguson slammed the Harper government in his April 2012 report that revealed that the government’s F-35 fighter jet program would cost over \$25 billion over a 20-year lifespan. The program, a bid to replace the Canada’s aging CF-18 Hornets, was announced as a \$9 billion expenditure over 20 years. Accounting firm KPMG’s audit later pegged the costs at \$45.8 billion over a longer lifecycle of 42 years.

Ferguson’s report indicated that the Department of National Defence continued to promote the \$9 billion price tag despite internal estimates that the costs were closer to \$25 billion. The government backed down on the purchase in December 2012 and is seeking new alternatives for the CF-18’s replacement.

The prime minister is again under fire this week for spending over \$1 million to fly two armoured vehicles to India during his prime ministerial visit in November. The SUV and Cadillac limousine, both bearing Ontario license plates, rang up a total of \$1,061,448, including costs to ferry personnel and 48.5 hours of flight time in a Canadian Forces C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

Officials from the Prime Minister’s Office and RCMP, who handle the prime minister’s security detail, are characteristically tight-lipped, but the *Globe and Mail* reported that the Indian government confirmed that bulletproof Mercedes vehicles were available for Harper’s use. Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard is reported to have used an Indian vehicle while touring the region in January.

Complaints over transparency are par for the course for the Harper government. For the third year in a row, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression gave the federal government a failing grade on its report card on free expression in Canada, claiming that access to information is “marred by secrecy and delays.” The May 2012 report adds that the government frequently stonewalls journalists and blocks scientists from promoting their findings in the media.

All of this is little comfort to Canadians, but at least we know all about Charlie the chinchilla.

Justin Tang

Super Bowl becomes huge moneymaker

When was the last time you made \$3.75 million in 30 seconds?

Sunday’s Super Bowl, featuring the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens, was one for the ages as advertising slots went for an average of \$3.75 million for 30 seconds of airtime. The overall estimated incomes from the commercials are \$263 million, with 70 ads over the course of the game.

The Super Bowl is more than just a football game. It’s a moneymaker for all kinds of businesses, from bars, to merchandise, to hotels and gambling. Everyone can take advantage of such a huge event.

Why Canada doesn’t thrive on a football league like the NFL is a question to be raised. With income from this year’s 100th Grey Cup in Toronto being \$100 million for the local economy, you might think those are good numbers.

On the contrary, this year’s Super Bowl was to bring in an estimated \$336 million for the city of New Orleans, which hosted the event.

With football being a stereotypically American game, the CFL lacks what the NFL has and that’s a fan base. People have this preconceived notion that hockey is Canada’s game and football is America’s. If you go to a southern state in America, all you see during the winter is football and basketball, not hockey. If you come north of the border, all you see first thing in the morning on *Sportcentre* is hockey.

It’s all about viewers. If people watch the game and take part in the festivities, there will be money to be made. In Canada’s case, we just don’t have the drive to watch football like we do for hockey. In the first two weeks of the CFL this year, not a single team had a sellout crowd, said Sun Media.

It’s tough to compare the two leagues. The CFL only has four games a week and the NFL has 16 sometimes. With the league being way bigger, the market for the game is way better.

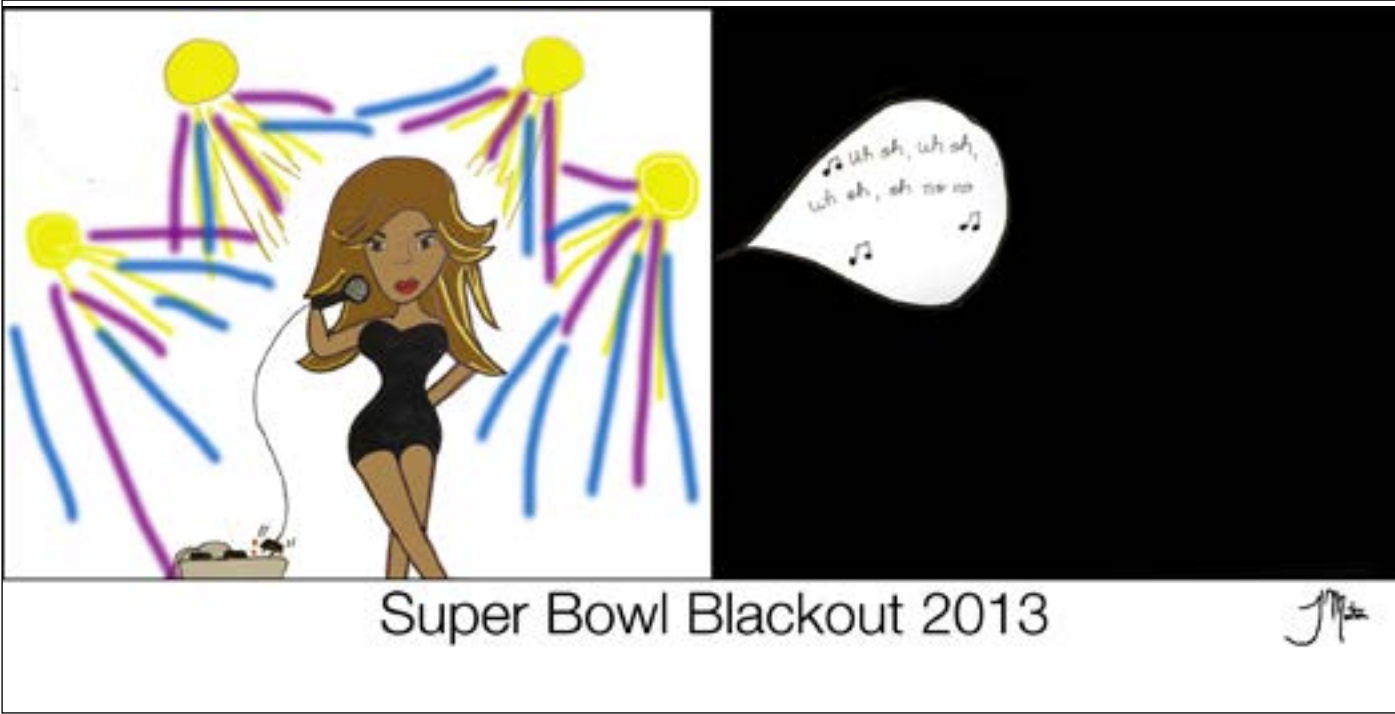
We’ve seen the collapse of the Ottawa Renegades in 2006 because of financial instability from lack of support and they are trying to rebuild for the 2013 season.

If Canada could get more cities on board, it might pan out to make a push for football in this country. However, with our population compared to America’s, we don’t have the fan base to have more teams.

If people in Ontario really want to watch football, they have two teams in southern Ontario and one in Montreal.

If Canada had more major cities like America, we might have a chance at making a go of the game of football in our country, but until people start to appreciate the game and the population goes up, it just doesn’t seem likely.

Evan Campbell



Opinion

Ethnic histories should be part of curriculum

By Alicia Wynter

Lately it feels like there’s a lack of black history and other ethnic histories being taught in the Canadian high school system.

I wonder if Canadian-born people of different ethnicities know who they really are. Are we learning enough about our ethnic and cultural history and what our ancestors endured, suffered and the hardships they rose up from?

There are extra courses you can choose to take in high school, but when I decided I wanted to take world history, I didn’t take the course wanting to learn about the battles Canada fought in the First World War and Second World War. I literally wanted to learn about the history of different ethnicities and what they went through. I didn’t want to hear about the famous world histories.

I wanted to learn about my black history, my Chinese friends’ history and my Portuguese friends’ history. What about them? What impact did they have on the world and on Canada? How did the world impact them? How did Canada impact them? Society tells us who to be. Society tells us just be yourself but how can we be ourselves if we don’t know our own history?

Black History Month almost feels like it’s fading away to the background. Not only because I’ve been living in Belleville, where

Why have this month of recognition, if African-Americans, African-Canadians, Africans and Caribbean people’s history, new or old, are not being recognized the way they should, and the way they need to be?

there is a per capita lack of ethnic diversity, but it also feels like this back home, in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Why have this month of recognition, if African-Americans, African-Canadians, Africans and Caribbean people’s history, new or old, are not being recognized the way they should, and the way they need to be?

When I was a child, I remember going to storytime for Black History Month. I heard about Jamaican folk stories of Anansi the Spider by Miss Lou. These stories were Jamaican fables and lessons. My mother still has the book and read it to us during the Blackout of 2003 because there wasn’t any-

thing else to do without electricity, telling these the stories of Anansi was part of our culture, it was part of who we are.

There were plays, folksinging and performances by young and old talented people, of all races there to celebrate and embrace the many different cultures and ethnicities within the black race. I remember hearing the soothing beats of the African drums bringing my heart back to my motherland where my ancestors were stolen from their country and family.

I wonder sometimes, are there other ethnic groups that have a whole entire month to recognize their history? If there are, why haven’t we heard about them, and why are we not celebrating them as well? Isn’t Canada a diverse country?

I know that there are college and university classes you can take. There’s the library and the Internet. I just feel that if Canada is going to be a diverse and culturally accepting country, then we need to make more effort in teaching and learning about our neighbours who we live, work, play and go to school with every day.

Maybe there are lots of communities still celebrating Black History Month more than I see – maybe I’ve just become too busy. Maybe we’ve all become too busy – too busy to recognize our culture, our history. Maybe we’ve all become too busy to learn and remember who we are.

Guns more than just destructive force

Guns can be seen as a mechanical representation of human craftsmanship

By Vivek McCague

Guns have been around since the 12th century, originating in China.

Many people see guns as a destructive force, however, I personally do not. Before grocery stores existed and animals were domesticated, people would pick up a beautiful rifle and hunt to feed their families.

The rifles they used were made by a local gunsmith and gunsmithing is an art. I think of guns not as murderous weapons, but as sculptures, each with its own elaborate design.

I myself enjoy guns because of the

way they look. Many of them are physically attractive. Many famous engravers and painters have used guns as their canvas and many sculptors have used ammunition and guns to make sculptures of many things we see everyday in our daily lives.

One example is the Vo Vappen rifle, which is the most expensive rifle currently produced in the world, costing around \$820,000 and more. These rifles are not only fine works of art but are also status symbols.

Vo Vappen only makes a limited number of each gun and the only way to purchase one is to contact them directly.

I have started a small collection with a musket from the era of the War of 1812, which has some elaborate engravings on the butt stock. It would be any gun col-

lector’s – especially my own – dream to have a custom-made rifle from Vo Vappen.

Many people do not realize the difficulty of creating a gun. When all the parts come together, they need to be sized correctly down to a thousandth of a millimetre. If any of the parts are off and the gun is shot, it could very well explode and even cause fatal injury to the shooter.

I find all guns to be a form of art, a mechanical representation of human craftsmanship, skill and creativity. Guns used as artwork should not be functional because it is illegal to display functional guns on walls.

I would like to have a gun collection where I can see the fine art and human advances in craftsmanship and mechanics as well as pieces of history.

The Pioneer

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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.



In Focus



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Revisiting Old Memories



After 37 years, childhood friends Cecilia Munoz and Jacquie Martin.

My Mother's Journey Back to Chile

Story and photos by Tijana Martin

A memory my mother once forgot was triggered in the middle of a busy restaurant in Chile. We didn't order the dessert, and she didn't even know it was on the menu. It was included with the meals we purchased, and at the end of the meal, the server brought it over, not knowing the impact it would have on our table.

A simple fruit dessert, which may seem so trivial to everyone else, caused my mom to burst into tears in the middle of a restaurant. Her parents used to serve the same dessert, and looking at it and tasting it reminded her so much of her youth. "The feeling was "just too weird."

"Going to restaurants, eating the food, reminded me of how my mom used to cook."

After her mother passed away, my mom stopped eating typical Chilean food. Not knowing any recipes, she let that part of her life slowly fade away.

After 37 years, my mother, Jacquie Martin, visited her homeland for the first time since she left.

At the young age of 12, my mother and her family were forced to leave Chile for political reasons. My grandpa, Benjamin Iturriaga, was a supporter of the Socialist Party of Chile, and was kicked out of the country during the Pinochet dictatorship.

After almost four decades, my mother decided it was an appropriate time in her life to revisit her childhood.

"I don't think I would have been so emotional if I would have gone earlier," she said.

She said she was able to appreciate it more at her age.

She was most surprised at how memories can be so easily triggered. Memories she had once forgotten came back so naturally. Hearing someone's name and eating typical Chilean food helped the memories to come back.

Months before the trip, my mom found it difficult to describe how she felt about embarking on this journey. An overwhelming feeling would be the best way to describe it. She couldn't tell if it was nerves, excitement or a little bit of both.

Immediately upon her arrival, she said she felt at home. She didn't feel out of place, which was a concern she had before the trip. She said she felt like she belonged.

"Inside of me, I'm still Chilean,"

After 14 years of separation, she was able to reconnect with her brother, Frankie Iturriaga. He has been living in Chile for almost 15 years and was the tour guide during our trip. The two have been apart for so long, she was concerned about how their relationship might have changed. This trip was a way to reassure her of the connection she had with her younger brother.

She was more surprised with herself. "I didn't realize we were going to be close." My mother said she was overjoyed to find that the connection was still there.

Before our trip to Chile, we discussed what my mom wanted to do while we were there. One of the most important things was to visit her old home. She grabbed the address from her sister and we decided that at one point during the trip, we would revisit it.

On Christmas Day, her brother brought

us there. We walked through the gate, and a smile was immediately plastered on her face. She walked directly to her old home, peering through the front fence. The shutters of her childhood home remain the same, bringing back the memory of the Chilean military, who opened the shutters of their home one evening in search of her father.

A gathering was happening in the neighbour's yard. My father was the one who instigated a meeting. My mother was too nervous to make the first move. "The neighbours came to their fence," I'm an Iturriaga," my mother said. We were immediately welcomed into their yard.

After discussing who still lived in the neighbourhood, my mother was surprised to know that only two families moved.

Cecilia Munoz's name came up, who was my mother's childhood friend and as luck may have it, she was home.

Her neighbours brought us to Munoz's home and knocked on the door for my mother.

She came to the door and was told my mother was here. The two just stared at each other for a few moments. Moments later, my mom was overwhelmed with emotion. "Everything seemed to come back," and she remembered the two of them playing when she was a young girl.

This journey was an opportunity for my mother to revisit old memories, and to explore a land she was forced to leave at a young age, but there is still so much for her to discover.

"I want to go back. There is more I need to know."



My mother, Jacquie Martin, peers through the fence to get a look at her childhood home.



Jacquie Martin's childhood home remains similar to how it was when she was a child.



A popular fruit dessert at a typical Chilean restaurant.



Jacquie Martin and her brother hold hands before saying goodbye at the Santiago Airport.



Jacquie Martin and her brother Frankie Iturriaga enjoy a good conversation on their first day of seeing each other after 14 years.



Jacquie Martin is overwhelmed with emotion after a server at a typical Chilean restaurant brings over a typical fruit dessert to the table. Memories of her childhood are brought back to her after seeing the dish, a common dessert her family would eat when she was younger.



GENDERED

“I’ve always dreamt of being a boy, so I cut all my hair off after my high school prom, and started looking like a boy,” says Devon Williams, 21, of Belleville.

At the young age of eight, Williams says he felt like he was supposed to be a boy, and not a girl. He dresses as a boy, acts as a boy. His mother cut his hair into a bowl cut because he didn’t like to comb his hair when he was younger.

During high school, Williams did his best to be a girl. He dressed like a girl, acted like a girl, had long hair like a girl, and also had a boyfriend. By the end of his high school career, Williams gave up the act and cut off his hair after prom and started living his life as what he felt he was supposed to be: a male.

Two years later, Williams made the choice to start his physical transition. He is now a transgendered male, changing from female to male.

This process is a long and difficult journey to go through. Williams changed his name from Deborah, affectionately called Deb by his family, to Devon. He has a short male haircut, binds his breasts and stuffs his pants to have a somewhat physical feeling and look of a male.

He is an openly transgendered person and has a girlfriend named Kelly Wood.

Wood and Williams attend a weekly group meeting for opened-mind youth in the Bay of Quinte area that offers a safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning teens to connect with one another, make friends, and have somewhere to be completely themselves without being judged.

Eric Hagreaves, who is an openly gay male, runs the weekly Say Outloud gathering every Tuesday. Wood and Williams met at their workplace, McDonald’s, where Devon is a manager and recently received employee of the year.

The two are inseparable – they play fight and canoodle in corners as most new couples do.

Williams’ parents know about him being a lesbian and that Kelly is his girlfriend, but they still call him Deb, and refer to him as her and she. Devon’s parents don’t know about his decision to transition from female to male.

Since Williams has come out to his friends in high school, he has only lost one friend whom he liked, and was lucky that the rest of his friends accepted him no matter what his decision was about his life. They were just happy that he was now happy to be his true self.



“I’ve always dreamt of being a boy, so I cut all my hair off after my (high school) prom, and started looking like a boy”

(Top left, clockwise) Devon and Kelly cuddle during the transgender meeting at the Quinte Community Learning-Bridging the Gap centre.

(Three right) Photographs of Devon when he was Deborah or Deb as his family calls him.

(Bottom and near right) Kelly and Devon flirt during break time at the Say OutLoud LGBT youth group meeting on Tuesdays. Kelly and Devon met while working at McDonald’s. Devon is now the manager at their restaurant.

(Right) Devon and Kelly rough play after their transgender meeting at the Quinte Community Learning-Bridging the Gap centre.

(Top near) Devon meets up with old friends he hasn’t seen in two years since his high school graduation. They catch up on old times at Tim Hortons.

(Near top left) Kelly and Devon watch YouTube videos after dinner at his parents home in Napanee.





Top Left: Noamie Lemyre, third from the left, seen with three of her close friends, Léonie, Loukas, and Katherine take a break from roller disco in October. This was the first time the girls had ever been in roller skates and they loved it.

Right: Noamie and two of her friends and fellow classmates, Léonie and Alicia, work on a French worksheet during class.

Below Right: Over the last year, Noamie has fallen in love with a couple of new sports, rock climbing being one of them.



Above top left: Noamie looks at herself in the elevator mirror in CHEO during her September 2012 stay with bronchial pneumonia.

Above left: Noamie holds out one of her many treatments which produces a fog of medication that she breathes in twice a day.

Left: This year, Noamie Lemyre started playing water polo with a local club. She loves being active and doing as much activity as she can.

Below: A technician at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario watches a monitor containing the data from the breathing test 12-year-old Noamie is performing.



Breathe

"Just breathe Noamie, just breathe. It's going to be okay."

Every day starts, and ends, the same way in the Lemyre house. Treatment. Even though every day begins the same, each is special and different. Noamie Lemyre is a 13-year-old seventh grader in Gatineau, Que. She is in an outdoor education program at her high school.

For any 13-year-old, this would be fun and easy, but for Noamie, it's a challenge.

Noamie has cystic fibrosis.

CF is a genetic disorder that mostly affects the lungs. It coats the lungs and other organs in a thick sticky mucus making it hard to breathe, and eventually ruining the lungs.

Being physically active is hard for most people with cystic fibrosis, but with Noamie, she takes it almost as a challenge. Each day she gets up, does her treatments and then goes to school.

Once a week, she has special activities with her outdoor-education class. One week, the class could be biking, the next, skiing, or camping, or rock climbing or doing one of the other many activities her teachers plan. Even after everyone else is tired and complaining and wanting to take a break, Lemyre is there wanting to continue.

Being active is a very important part of Noamie's life. She does not know what she would do if she would not be able to be active.

"I hate sitting at home doing nothing."

Noamie's favourite activities include rock climbing, playing water polo and doing everyday things with her friends.

She also loves having sleepovers with friends and doing normal teenage activities.

Every day is special with Noamie because she never knows when she's going to get sick and have to go for a stay in the hospital.

In September, Lemyre's teacher called her mother while the class was out mountain biking and told her to come and get her. Lemyre was having trouble breathing and the teacher wasn't sure if she would be able to continue on their journey.

That night, Lemyre's mother took her to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario where all of her doctors are located and she was admitted.

Lemyre was diagnosed with a bronchial pneumonia and was in the hospital for 10 days. She missed two weeks of school.

The Lemyres also have two horses in their backyard which Noamie used to ride every day, but now riding has become to difficult for her and the family has opted to sell them.

At the end of the last school year, Noamie told her parents that she wanted to redo the seventh grade. She felt that she would not be strong enough to keep up with her classmates in the eighth grade. The school said no, she was not allowed to be held back because there was no educational reason, considering she had passed all of her courses. Since she felt so strongly about not going into the next grade, Noamie's parents and teachers fought for her to stay behind.

Spending time as a family is very important for the Lemyres, but because of the amount of medicine and medical equipment Noamie needs each day, her parents are forced to work more than they once did.

Every month, the family has to pay thousands of dollars out of their pocket for some of Noamie's medications and other equipment because their insurance does not cover it all.

For now, Lemyre is healthy and continues to be active every day. Yet each day comes with new challenges and the worry about what tomorrow will bring.



Above: Contemplating life after the first day of the 2012-2013 school year, Noamie sits at her kitchen table in her home.

Far Right: Every time Noamie eats, she has to take enzyme pills to help with digestion since her pancreas does not work properly.

Right: Noamie, right, her father Patrick Lemyre and her mother Sonia Sansoucy sit at their traditional Christmas tree decorating day dinner.





Single Mother

Photo & story by: Catherine Jackman

Inside the house, the pitter of small footsteps, the laughter of a small child and dishes clattering were the only sounds echoing through the hallways. Following the stairs, as they lead to the kitchen, a small face peered from around the corner. The light blonde hair and blue eyes watched timidly, unsure of the stranger in her home. The little girl held a small doll tight to her chest as she hid in the dark hallway.

Across the room, the door leading from the garage swung open. Christy Miskelly, a midwife working at Quinte Midwives, walked in to greet the little girl. The little girl ran to her, shouting “Mommy” as she ran into her legs to hug her, dropping her doll along the way.

Miskelly has been a practicing midwife in the Belleville area for a little over two years, and is currently raising her daughter, Arwyn, with the help of a live-in nanny, Kiera, who asked her last name published.

The walls of the home are adorned with photographs of Miskelly and Arwyn, depicting her from birth until the summer of 2012.

While the home does not, in general, reflect the stereotypical natural and holistic lifestyle that is led by most women who use a midwife service, there are subtle reminders. The most prominent of these is the belly cast in the young girl’s room. Miskelly says it’s a reminder of Arwyn’s first home, and how beautiful pregnancy is.

Shortly after beginning her practice as a midwife in Belleville, Miskelly and her husband separated, leaving her little option but to bring in some help. She now shares custody with her ex-husband, splitting weekends with their daughter.

“I think my biggest challenge right now is navigating my work with my life as a single mom. It’s a fairly new thing my husband and I only separated a year and a half ago, so it’s been an adjustment. It was not long after I started working as a full-time midwife, so that’s a challenge to try to find that right balance. For the most part, I feel like it’s working well. Financially, it’s a strain, but I’m managing,” explained Miskelly.

As a means of saving money, Miskelly often goes looking through flyers to find deals on groceries.

Living as a single mom is slowly becoming more and more of the norm in today’s society. Miskelly and Kiera try to keep their lives as normal as pos-

sible. By chatting during their dinner about how their days went, taking turns alternating from cleaning up dishes and taking care of Arwyn, they make their seemingly different situation work out better.

“The call schedule is the biggest challenge, because I’m on call every 11 or 12 days out of every 14. So I have every other weekend off. I do have to have child care coverage virtually 24/7. So I not only need daycare during the day for Arwyn, but I also have a live-in nanny to cover me so if I get called out at night that I’ve got someone there to take care of her. It comes with the territory and is just the hard part of my job,” said Miskelly.

Kiera, a 23-year-old student, explained that while her job is sometimes stressful, she loves spending time with Arwyn. She added that even though the toddler can be a handful at times, she’s just like any other kid. Kiera is currently studying early childhood education and plans on continuing working with children.

And despite the unpredictable schedule that Miskelly follows, Kiera is not obligated to always be at the house. If Kiera wants to go for coffee with her friends, the two women merely discuss where she’s going to be and she keeps her phone on, just in case.

“Our system really works because we have great communication. We’re essentially both always on call,” said Miskelly.

Other than her seemingly confusing childcare schedule, Miskelly leads an ordinary life, with her schedule after work consisting of having dinner with her daughter, giving Arwyn a bath and then settling in to watch her daughter’s favourite show, The Backyardigans.

Describing it as her favourite part of the day, Miskelly explained that every moment she gets to spend with Arwyn is precious and that she cherishes every moment. She added that her daughter is only going to stay a little girl for such a small period of time.

“I think my future’s looking pretty good. Things are looking up for me. I’m really happy where I’m at. I really enjoy working at this practice. I really enjoy what I do and I’m finding that balance in my personal life. So I think it’s working really well and I hope to stay and continue to be a part of the lives of the families and continue to give care. I learn something new at every single birth and I take it with me to every birth after that.”



ABOVE: Arwyn plays with Kiera after dinner.

BELOW LEFT: : Arwyn sets up tea parties for the two cats, using Crayons as her tea leaves.

BELOW CENTRE: Arwyn tries to argue with her mother over dinner. Both Miskelly and Kiera describe dinnertime as the hardest time of the day.

BELOW BOTTOM: Miskelly cleans Arwyn’s face after dinner, a nightly ritual between the two of them.



“I think my biggest challenge right now is navigating my work with my life as a single mom.”

Miskelly explains what’s for dinner to Arwyn moments before the little girl has a temper tantrum.