



Photo by Marta Iwanek

An early morning fire killed one man and left five others homeless in Trenton on March 12. Here, Jay Coxwell, fire prevention officer Quinte West Fire Department enters the home as the investigation for the cause of the fire is underway.

## Author shares horrific experience of Iranian jail

*Belleville Public Library hosts bestselling author at weekend event*

By Tijana Martin

International bestselling author Marina Nemat shared her horrific experiences in an Iranian prison to members of the community at the Belleville Public Library Saturday.

She is the author of the memoirs *Prisoner of Tehran* and *After Tehran*. Nemat drew in a larger turnout than

expected, with approximately 116 people in attendance according to Trevor Pross, the chief executive officer of the Belleville Public Library. Those who arrived early managed to find a spot to sit, but as the crowd grew larger it was apparent that a bigger room would be necessary. The event moved from the small meeting room into the much larger gallery.

"It shows how important Marina Nemat is as a speaker and an author," said Pross. Nemat spoke of how safe life was in Iran before the Iranian Revolution. Her speech brought laughter to the audi-

ence as she discussed her polka-dot bikini and her love for Little House on the Prairie.

In 1978, she realized things in her neighbourhood were not normal anymore.

"I asked my mother, 'What is that?' and she said, 'It's a tank.' I wondered if they were filming a movie, but they were not. It was real."

Nemat became an activist while she was in her teens and started protesting against the government as early as 1980 in the streets of Iran.

...See Author, page 2

## Early morning Trenton fire claims victim

*Six people escaped upper level of Ferry Street house*

By Marta Iwanek

TRENTON – One man is dead following an early morning Trenton house fire.

According to Quinte West fire chief John Whelan an OPP officer driving by saw smoke coming from the house and people running from it.

Six people were able to escape from the upper level of the Ferry Street house because of working fire detectors, said Whelan. The fire started after 4 a.m. Tuesday morning. "It's a good thing they had the

smoke detectors alerting everyone to get out," Whelan said.

The fire started in the basement where the elderly man who died was living. Four cats and three dogs also died. It is unknown why the man was not able to escape.

Neighbour Stedman Brown said his wife woke him when she smelled smoke. He looked out his window and saw flames coming from the basement and the firefighters already at the scene.

Eighteen firefighters responded to the call, Victim Services and the Red Cross were also called. The Red Cross is putting the family up in a hotel.

Whelan estimates the damage at \$200,000 and said the house will have to be knocked down. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

## Controversy arises over coyote bounty

By Vivek McCague

Coyote attacks have increased in Northumberland County especially this year.

Albert Botha, a farmer in the Grafton area, lost 70 sheep alone last year, which totals about \$11,200 in loss for him. Botha is not pleased that the municipality is not reinstating the bounty. Botha said the

bounty would give

hunters the incentive

to hunt coyotes more

often, which would help

diminish the problem much

quicker.

"My dogs can fight

off a coyote and have

killed a coyote but they

travel in packs so they

don't stand much of a

chance," said Botha.

Mike Gills who has been

hunting all his life and has

caught 14 coyotes so far

this year often gets calls

from Botha to help him

deal with the coyotes. Last

year he said there were only

13 or 14 coyotes caught and

he saw a lot less coyotes.

"This year though their

numbers are up. The year's

just started and we've already

caught 26 or 27," said Gills.

Gills said the reason for

people wanting the bounty

reinstated was so that

people

without a trapper's license

could be paid for hunting

coyotes.

"Bringing back the bounty

would cause a lot of problems

among hunters, people would

be trespassing and hunters

would be arguing with the

hunters over who was there

first. People would be coming

out of town to hunt, too many

people hunting one animal,"

said Gills.

Botha has not lost any sheep

yet this year as he has been

keeping them indoors but

they've also been shooting

a lot of coyotes.

The livestock compensation

program compensates the

farmer if the carcass is found.

"The problem is coyotes drag

off the carcass and then you'd

never find them," said Botha.

Botha is running a program

with Trent University that is

trying to come up with different

methods to deter the coyotes

from preying on livestock, however

none of the methods have

worked.

"We've been having endless

trouble with the coyotes," said Botha.

(For photo, see page 3.)

## Equality message for International Women's Day march

*Young women asked to take the torch for sending out message*

By Marta Iwanek

Over 50 women and men gathered in downtown Belleville on Friday to mark International Women's Day.

The day began with a slideshow and speeches at the CORE Centre and was followed by a march through the heart of downtown.

"I think it's important for women to get together and to celebrate those strides that we have made and also take a look at what's left to be done," said Shelley Hagarty. She has been bringing her daughter, Elissa Robertson, 19, to events for the past few years.

"We also want to get the younger women involved," she added, saying it's a big part of International Women's Day. "We want to sort of pass on that torch and have our young women pick it up and continue."

As the march began, Mieke Thorne, who had agreed to lead the crowd with the bullhorn, passed it to Robertson. Thorne was there representing Amnesty International and was part of the organizing committee. She is also involved with Quinte Grannies for Africa.

Robertson then led the crowd with slo-



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Elissa Robertson, 19, at the International Women's Day March held in Belleville on March 8. Over 50 women and men gathered for the downtown event.

gans like "Strong women, strong world," "Education for all" and "Equality for all."

"I just believe that we should all be

equal and that International Women's Day is important and should be to everyone," said Robertson.

Elise Hineman, public educator and counsellor at the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District, and also on the

organizing committee, said such a day reminds her to her core why she does the work she does. Her centre offers free counselling services to women and men affected by sexual violence. Statistically, it affects more women, she said.

"[International Women's Day is] really important and it allows me to remember that there are really positive impacts in our community that we can create when we create community, when we have gatherings."

Other groups that helped organize the event were The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Quinte Grannies for Africa, Three Oaks, Quinte Healthcare Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Response Program, Trenton Military Family Resource Centre, Belleville Public Library, CORE Centre and Canadian Federation of University Women. Belleville city councillors Pat Culhane and Garnet Thompson were also present.





Photo by Tijana Martin

Canadian author and activist Marina Nemat poses for a photo before speaking at the Belleville Public Library on Saturday. Nemat is the author of the memoirs *Prisoner of Tehran* and *After Tehran*.

## Author...

Continued from Page 1

At 16, Nemat was arrested. “They came for me on Jan. 15, 1982. “I was in the bathroom, the doorbell rang, my mother called my name and I opened the bathroom door and there were two guns pointed at my face.” Nemat said she was not scared.

“You enter a state of shock. A state of shock, in the right circumstances, is an open door. You just walk in. “It is like body armour, but it doesn’t protect you against bullets, it protects you against emotion.” Nemat was tortured during her time at Evin Prison. The soles of her feet were lashed with cables, which was a common torture technique used in the prison. “I will break a million bones before

I take another one of those lashes,” she said. “You enter a place, I call it distilled pain. Absolute, absolute suffering. You enter there and you forget your identity. You become that pain, which is desperate.” Her interrogator looked her in the eye and said, “You have a death sentence. I reduced it to life in prison. “You are going to become my wife,

and if you don’t, I will arrest your parents, I will arrest your boyfriend.” “So I said fine, ‘I’ll do what ever you want me to do.” The two married, and it became apparent that he began to care for her. He was later assassinated, and one of his last requests to his father was to take her back to her family. Nemat managed to escape to Canada in 1991. Debbie Stubbs, who read the book

*Prisoner of Tehran*, said it was incredible to actually meet the author “because then you can directly link the person to the story.” She found her story to be absolutely moving. “By the end of the book, it made me feel so empowered, it gave me hope and it was reassurance that no matter what you’re going through, that you can come out of it, but you have to have faith.”

# Future students get quick taste of Loyalist

By Alicia Wynter

Future students have an opportunity this week to gather information about the program they are interested in and even see what it’s like to be a Loyalist Lancer. Those who are not completely sure about what they want to do for their post-secondary education have the opportunity to do so during Loyalist Days March 12-15. Applicants can talk to faculty members and learn a little bit more about their program and those who are already accepted can know that they have made the right decision. Future students will get to experience sitting down in the classroom or

lab associated with their program of interest or choice. They can ask questions about their program, course loads, hours they will be in class for, information about project work, and opportunities that they will have after they graduate. After that session is over, they have the chance to check out the college, residences and booths that will be set up in the cafeteria’s Market Place. “Here’s what it’s like to be a student at Loyalist College. Here’s the information you need – ask us your questions,” says Gretta Barnwell. Registration started Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and each day is different for each program. Loyalist Days covers all of

the programs at the college and is set up to occur during high school March break, which makes this a great opportunity for future students to attend without missing their classes. Tours leave from the cafeteria and go as far as the Link Lounge, and students have a chance to tour the residences as well. The sessions will be held in the labs or the classrooms related to each program presented for the day. All of the events that Loyalist hosts, like the Spring Open House on April 20, as well as Loyalist Days, are geared to helping students make really good decisions and to give them access to information that they need most. Financial and program infor-

mation will be provided at the many booths in the Market Place inside of the cafeteria. “Students are preparing for careers for the rest of their lives, and they are about to invest a lot of time and money and work into the decision to come to Loyalist and we want them to feel as fully informed as we possibly can make them so that they are comfortable with their decision,” says Barnwell. Students will have the opportunity to meet the staff working at the college, meet the faculty and find out what it’s going to be like in a classroom and meet the people they are going to share the next couple of years with. “The opportunity to come to an

event like this when I was a student at Loyalist myself was fantastic. That opportunity to see the students, see the environment, and see where it was, it was an opportunity I wish existed when I first went to college before I came to Loyalist,” says Barnwell. Here is the schedule for this week’s Loyalist Days: Tuesday, March 12: Human Studies Wednesday, March 13: Media, Arts and Design & Post Graduate Thursday, March 14: Skilled Trades and Technology, Justice Studies, & Bio-sciences Friday, March 15: Health Sciences, Business and Management Studies & Post Graduate

# Big Brothers Big Sisters benefit from tourney

Public relations students plan special event to support organization

By Catherine Jackman

A slow thrum of random beats hit the ground Saturday as the muffled sounds of coaches’ voices rang through the halls leading into the Loyalist College gym. On Saturday, March 9, public relations students at Loyalist hosted a basketball tournament in support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Despite March break, the attendance for the event was low, with an estimated 20 kids. “Personally Big Brothers Big Sisters has always been something that my family has been fond of,” said Ryan Dickison, one of the four organizers of the event. “My father got involved with it and as a young boy growing up I got a chance to see his involvement with the youth. “It’s something that I wanted to carry forward with my life and I just figured basketball, an event such as this is a perfect opportunity to get kids out and active over their March break. We we just thought it was the best situation for everybody,” said Dickison. The few teams that were in attendance participated in warm-up drills with members of the Lancers basketball team before playing 10-minute interval games. “It’s been a tough year for a lot of the kids, especially the public school kids, with the teachers pulling back. They’re doing no activities or extracurricular (ac-



Photo by Catherine Jackman

Rheydon McCoy shoots hoops at the Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraising basketball tournament on the weekend.

tivities) for the kids, so I thought that this was a good opportunity to be able to get active. Any time you can start educating

young people to get back to our community is a good thing,” said Jim Buck, athletic director at Loyalist College and

coach of the Spirit Boys team. Members of the Lancers basketball teams stepped in as coaches as well as

fans during the games, cheering for the teams when baskets were scored and keeping morale up. And by lunchtime the organizers provided pizza to the players. “Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties connects children in our area to adult volunteers that would like to act as role models to children in need. At BBBs we offer multiple programs to assist youth in need,” said caseworker Mandie Noble. The non-profit organization has three main programs: the School Mentoring program, which involves the mentor coming in for an hour once a week to play games with the kids at school. Next is the Traditional Program, in which the mentor spends four hours in the community participating in no to low-cost activities. Couples may also serve as mentors. The Game On! and Go Girls! programs are two one-hour programs split by gender. They are held once a week for seven weeks and cover issues ranging from bullying and peer pressure to health issues and nutrition. “For the kids, it’s huge. I mean, instead of sitting around playing video games or getting into trouble, not that the streets of Belleville are too dangerous by any means, but it’s good to get out of the classroom and to get involved in something that does incorporate those teamwork skills, time management and the leadership that will build friendships that will last a lifetime,” said Dickison. The fundraiser raised \$423, all of which went to the Big Brothers Big Sisters foundation. For more information on the Big Brothers Big Sisters visit [www.bigsneeded.ca](http://www.bigsneeded.ca)





Photo by Vivek McCague

**Albert Botha poses with his sheep that have been attacked for the past few years by coyotes. Botha has been farming at this location for the past four years and has lost 70 lambs last year totalling to an estimated \$11,200 loss in profit. Botha is hoping a bounty will be reinstated so his sheep will be safer. (For story, see page one).**

# Fierce competition at crokinole games

By Jonathan King

Crokinole may not be a sport or game that draws crowds like hockey and football, especially in the small town of Belleville, but the competition is just as fierce.

But what is crokinole? Imagine curling and shuffleboard, but instead of being on a deck or on a rink, it's played on a wooden circular-shaped board that fits on your kitchen table. Crokinole is popular among the elderly because everyone can play.

The objective is to flick the wooden disks on the board into the highest score parts of the circle, while also trying to knock other players pieces out of the scoring area. There is also a "twenty hole" in the centre of the board. If you get a disc into the hole, you earn 20 points and the piece is removed from gameplay for the duration of the round.

Once the game starts, the play goes back and forth, or in a clockwise direction if more than two people are playing. Once play starts, the board cannot be moved, and players must follow the "one cheek rule" or "one butt-cheek must be on the chair at all times".

Betty Waite, a Madoc native, also known as "Speedy" in the Belleville Crokinole Club, has been playing since she can remember.

"I've been playing all my life," Waite says. "I grew up with it, it was always around. I used to live on a farm and my family would play in the evening."

David Brown has been playing for over 40 years.

His father-in-law Leonard Chard started making the boards and giving them out as gifts.

"I just enjoy it, there is no physical contact, but it is still very competitive. Some can make it look easy," says Brown gesturing towards "Speedy" Waite.

"But it's very strategic," Brown says between flicking the wooden puck towards his opponent.

Brown used to play at people's houses every week, but as more and more people got into the game, they had to move somewhere else because they couldn't accommodate the 10 to 12 guests they have every Tuesday at the Avaya community centre on Sidney Street. "I've played here for over a year," Waite adds.

"You wouldn't have guessed it, but Belleville is home to maybe three people who place in the top 10 in the world – Louis Gauthier is one of them," Brown says.

Gauthier and Chris Gorsline placed fourth in the World Crokinole Championship in the doubles category last year in Tavistock, Ont.

The World Crokinole Championships are held on the first Saturday of June in Tavistock, a small 6,000 person town in southwestern Ontario, the home of Eckhardt Wettlaufer, the maker of the first-known crokinole board.

"I can't play hockey, because of physical reasons, but all you need is the flick of a wrist" says Brown. The Quinte Regional Crokinole Club is the only club that meets every week at their community centre.

It costs \$3.25 per night to play, and all proceeds go to keeping the club operating at their current location on 250 Sidney St.

**'You wouldn't have guessed it, but Belleville is home to maybe three people who place in the top 10 in the world – Louis Gauthier is one of them.'**

Player David Brown

# Loyalist social media campaign sparks sexual violence discussion

*Draw-the-Line event launched Tuesday in Loyalist cafeteria*

By Patrick Callbeck

A line has been drawn in the sand at Loyalist College. A new interactive campaign aims to spark a conversation about sexual violence and dispel the myths surrounding it.

Draw-the-Line is a social media campaign designed to engage students and the greater community in a dialogue about sexual violence prevention. The campaign was launched on Tuesday afternoon in the Loyalist College cafeteria.

The goal of the province wide campaign is to challenge the myths about sexual violence and equip bystanders with the knowledge to spot sexual violence and empower them to safely and effectively intervene.

According to Elise Hineman, public educator for the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District, sexual violence in Canada has reached epidemic levels.

"If sexual violence was a medical issue, it would be a huge nation-wide epidemic," said Hineman.

Statistics Canada reports that one in three Canadian women will experience sexual assault in their adult life. Even more shocking, is the fact that only one in 10 sexual assaults is ever reported to police.

This is due to a culture of victim blaming that has left women feeling embarrassed and afraid of speaking out against their offenders.

This culture has been perpetuated by previous campaigns that put the onus on women telling them how not to get raped instead of telling people not to rape. They told women not to wear short skirts, to always carry pepper spray, not to walk down dark alleys, and to watch what they drink.

The Draw-the-Line campaign is different. It

doesn't put any of the blame on the victim; instead it puts the onus on the community to work together to prevent sexual assaults from happening.

"Sexual violence needs to end and the community needs to act. Bystanders have every right and responsibility to do something about it. If you see something suspicious happening, whether it's at a party, at work or in your neighborhood, you need to question it," added Hineman.

A large part of the Draw-the-Line campaign is challenging the myths about sexual violence that pervade our society. Katrina Levasseur, Loyalist College mind and wellness practitioner, said that this is key in getting people to understand the devastating impact sexual violence has on society.

"People still believe that people are only raped in dark alleys by strangers, but that's wrong. In 82 per cent of cases, the perpetrator is known by the victim of the assault. That number includes friends, family, neighbours, coworkers and acquaintances," said Levasseur.

"It's myths like that that we are trying to put an end to," she added.

The campaign makes use of Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets to spread the message. Users are able to go online and run through a number of interactive situations that ask them where they would draw the line.

The website also introduces users to different terms that are used when referring to sexual assault, such as "Rape Culture". A word used to describe a society that excuses, tolerates and condones things like sexist jokes, language, the objectification of women and victim blaming.

Draw-the-Line is a provincial campaign that was put together a year ago by the by the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. It has been brought to Loyalist College by the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District and Loyalist College Mind and Wellness services.

More information about the campaign can be found at [www.draw-the-line.ca](http://www.draw-the-line.ca).

# Square dancers promenade for church

By Samantha Quinn

Community members joined together to dosey-doe to raise money for Salem United Church on March 9 2013.

"This is the fourth year this event has gone on at the church. The first year we threw the event we didn't raise very much, but every year the event has grown due to word of mouth. This year we were able to raise over \$1,000," said Kendra Peters, the secretary for Heritage United Church.

Salem United Church is a non-profit church in Colborne, Ont. with many volunteers who helped in the organization of this event, making it more successful every year.

"This event gives a good cross-section of people in the area to make it an all-ages event. I think it draws in people that wouldn't normally come to church," said Peters.

Money raised at the event helps the church for necessities. Everyone working during the event was a volunteer.

For next year the church is hoping to find a better time of the year that works for everyone's schedules. "We want to be able to pick a date that incorporates everyone, especially with college students because we want to branch out more, because there isn't a lot of youth participation at the church to begin with," said Peters.

The evening consisted of square dancing and line dancing called by Joe Uebelacker, with a pie auction of the gen-

erously donated pies, auctioned off by the evening's auctioneer, Dr. Doug Galt, and the quilt sale to raise money for the church.

The church was also able to bring in Trenton square dancers, Elsie and Allan Cullen. The Cullens as well as other professional square dancers took to the dance floor and taught the crowd how to promenade, dosey-doe, and do the grand square.

"Last year was the first time we had done a pie auction, and it alone had raised \$250, and this year it will already be significantly more than that," said Peters. "I think this year was much better of a success because people have been talking about it, which I noticed because there were many people there that I had never even seen before."

This year was the first year the church incorporated the pie auction into the event, as well as the first year the quilt sale from the Ladies' Quilting Group took place during the event.

Ryan Fryer, a member of the church said, "I've never seen such a big turnout here before. Some of these people I've never even seen before." Fryer has attended every square dancing function with his family and friends.

"I definitely think more churches should host more all-age events like this. It's a good way to show youth what churches are really about, how fun it all can really be, and develop a sense of community," said Emma Peters, a lifelong member of the church.



Photo by Samantha Quinn

**Members of Salem United Church learn how to square dance at its fourth annual Square Dance and Pie Auction March 9 in Colbourne, Ont. The evening consisted of square dancing, a quilt sale and a pie auction. This year was the church's most successful turnout yet, raising over \$1,000 for the church.**