



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.

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 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.)

My dogs can fight off a coyote and have killed a coyote but they travel in packs so they don’t stand much of chance!

Farmer Albert Botha

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.

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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 Haggarty. 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.

“When you think about it, we have a lot yet to do,” said Thorne during the speeches. She listed examples like Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani activist who survived a shot in the head and neck by the Taliban while on the school bus, lack of education for girls and Marina Nemat, who was in town talking about her memoirs on her experiences as a political prisoner in Iran when she was a teenager and overcoming that.

“So because we know something, we really should do something because the world is our neighbour.”