



Photo by Mitch Ward

John Wilson, a farmer from Tweed, waves to traffic during a protest in Belleville on Sidney Street north of the intersection with Millennium Parkway.

Residents protest environmental record

Quinte region citizens raise number of issues at local rally

By Mitch Ward

Citizens from Belleville, Tweed, Bancroft and other towns in the Quinte region protested on the side of Sidney Street north of Millennium Parkway on Saturday afternoon.

They were opposed to the pipeline reversal project put forward by Enbridge, known as Line 9. The protesters also raised a number of issues with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government, mostly stemming from the Conserva-

tives' environmental policy.

The rally leader was Sabrina Chamberlain-Parks, a first-time activist, a role she fell into.

"I was the first one to sign up for this one, with the website, Defend our Climate, Defend our Community. They asked if I wouldn't mind being the rally leader. I didn't know what that entailed, this was my first ever rally, so here I am!"

"I think we're in a really interesting spot, here in Canada, where people are sensing now that there's something to this, beyond what we're being told, and that climate change is real. It's affecting the world and greatly impacting our lives, and we're not that heartless as a country, and we don't want to make hasty decisions, and basically damn the rest of the world."

The rally was scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Protesters began arriving 10 minutes before, and the majority all arrived before the start time. They quickly posed for pictures in front of MP Daryl Kramp's office, which was vacant, before making their way to the side of Sidney Street north of the intersection with Millennium Parkway.

Their signs showed a variety of grievances among the crowd, the majority of which were older residents, from retired teachers, to a farming couple from Tweed.

Protesters say they are concerned about the safety of the pipeline reversal project proposed by Enbridge, which is the second phase in the corporations Eastern Canadian Refinery Access Initiative. Rather than transporting oil

products from eastern Canada to the west, Enbridge wants to reverse the flow and begin shipping western Canadian oil products to refineries in the east.

Denise Wilkins, a farmer from Tweed, voiced her concern which she shares with her husband John.

"We're very environmental, and we don't believe in almost anything Stephen Harper is doing, particularly regarding Line 9. What's happening is they want to reverse the flow and put in bitumen, which is a much thicker substance, and it's an almost 40 year old pipeline, and it's just not a good thing, these things are really bad for the environment."

The protesters say they are concerned that the bitumen crude, one of the oil types to be shipped eastwards through

Ontario, is too heavy and possibly corrosive for the pipeline, which was built in 1976.

Others, along with the Line 9 concerns, were upset with Harper's environmental record. His critics point to the funding cuts made to environmental research groups, and the apparent "muzzling" of federal environmental scientists, because of new requirements for media access, which are seen as a hindrance.

The ongoing oil extraction projects in Alberta's Athabasca region are an ongoing concern to protesters like those who were present on Saturday.

Penny Vance, a retiree, said, "I would really like our country to do a better job, I am embarrassed and ashamed about how little Canada is doing in the world."

Gala displays variety of talents at Calvary Temple event

Members share background stories along with their displays

By Victoria Thoms

Calvary Temple in Belleville was home to an art gallery gala on Friday night titled Works of Thy Hands, showing off talent from within the church.

With free admission and appetizers, Calvary hosted an open door event that locals from the community enjoyed.

Many talents were on display during the evening, from coin collecting to woodcarvings, paintings and knitting. Many of the members were standing near their displays giving background stories, or visiting others around the event. A special section for junior artists was full of paintings and sketches, showing off the creativity of the youth in the church community. Sculptures, wood-working, quilts and creative cards were all on display.

Ken Lessels had a display of coins, organized by decade. He has collected at least one penny from every year between 1920-2012.

Roger White, the senior pastor of Calvary Temple, had his collection on display as well, showing off the old telephones he has collected. He was eager to talk to others about his interesting collection, and answer questions about the event as a whole.

Todd Faught, a pastor at Calvary said, "He does a really amazing job. It's pretty cool."

White collects and restores old telephones, and then resells them.

"The first phone that I got was a big ole' box phone to hang on the wall at my cottage. Then I got the idea one day, 'I wonder if I can make this work, will it still work today, so I started searching for information.'"

After connecting with a phone company in the United States, White learned how to rewire phones and make them functional again.

"I wired it, and it worked. So I sold it, and I bought another one. Then I made that one work. Now I have 200."

White has sold more than 1000 restored phones on eBay and through other sources.

"I keep my own personal collection,



Photo by Victoria Thoms

Roger White, pastor of Calvary Temple, shows off one of several telephones in his collection Friday at the Works of Thy Hands event, displaying talent and collections of the community.

and I keep it small. The first time I took one apart, I was scared to death. But now it's a great hobby."

Calvary Temple was more than excited to host this art gallery gala, showing off the ornate and beautiful gifts that the congregation possesses. As a second chance to view the works of art, the

Local families worry about Filipino relatives

Local companies among Canadian groups raising funds for ravaged country

By Paulina Uy

Members of the Filipino community in the Quinte area say they are deeply worried about their loved ones at home after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines with winds of 234 km/h.

Haiyan is the strongest typhoon that made landfall in 2013 that hit islands in the central Philippines.

Lerna Samson-Trinidad, a Filipino immigrant and a Belleville resident whose parents originally came from the main affected city of Tacloban, recounted her mom's brother and sister's description of their experience in the province of Leyte.

"My aunt and uncle said that the sky was totally white and the wind sounded like planes roaring together loudly. They can see the strong wind coming towards the city and the sea rising. They immediately ran to higher ground."

There was not enough time for people to evacuate to safer sites.

Many provinces and cities were totally devastated.

Schools were destroyed. Roofs broke off of buildings. Windows were trembling and broke. Houses were totally wiped out off of their foundation from the strong surge of water.

Families were separated from each other as the water rose rapidly. Thousands of people went missing or were found dead.

"It was like being hit by a tsunami and there were bodies everywhere," said Charo Estomo, a Belleville Filipino resident, as she watched the news.

When news broke about super typhoon Haiyan hitting the Philippines, Filipinos in Belleville said they were extremely worried and tried to reach their families and loved ones as soon as possible.

A number of community members said they initially panicked since contacting loved ones in the Philippines was very hard because of disconnected or busy mobile networks.

Some of them, who were originally from Tacloban City in the province of Leyte, are still trying to get a hold of their relatives.

Some lost loved ones or found out that

they are still missing.

However, some like Trinidad and her friends managed to call them and found out, with great relief, that they are fine and safe.

Estomo immediately called her mother and son who are in the nearby island of Bohol. They are both safe.

For Filipinos living in Canada, it is very tough to hear terrible news that is happening at home – in whichever city it may be happening.

They get worried for their loved ones and they say it is very hard and somewhat frustrating to consider helping, but they say they feel cannot that they do so because they are here trying to make a better future.

In times of natural disasters like Typhoon Haiyan, it does not matter which country is damaged; countries all over the world give their support.

Numerous countries, such as the United States, Canada, China, and Israel, have sent rescue teams and relief goods that are worth millions of dollars.

Three Canadian military choppers were deployed from CFB Trenton to send rescue personnel and equipment such as a water-purification system, which can produce 50,000 litres of safe drinking water a day.

Various companies, whether big or small, have also raised funds or donated thousands of dollars.

Companies in Belleville, like Highline Mushrooms where many Filipinos work, also raised funds for the victims.

Loyalist College raised \$1,761.82 in just two hours last Friday morning.

"I had just returned from a recruitment trip in the Philippines and was chatting with Kat (Roño, international student from the Philippines) about the devastation," said Cathy O'Rourke, director of student success services at Loyalist College.

"I asked Kat if she was interested in working with Jodie (Russett, international co-ordinator) to initiate a fundraiser on campus and she said yes. The rest is history."

The amount that the college raised will be donated to the local Red Cross, which the Canadian government will match.

Every Canadian dollar equals 40 Philippine pesos, and that amount can feed a person one meal, according to the cost of living indices in the Philippines.