



Photo by Joel Watson.

Sam Cyr watches the many parade floats go by with great excitement while sitting on the shoulders of Chris Brown at the Belleville Santa Claus parade. The nighttime Santa Claus parade has been a tradition for 15 years. For story and more photos, see page 3.

Loyalist hosts environmental speaker

By Taylor Hermiston

Whether it's rural or urban, the future of our communities are in our hands and it is up to us to learn how to shape it as a place we all want to live in.

Loyalist College will host Carl Cosack, a member of the North Dufferin Agricultural Community Task Force or NDACT, as a guest speaker, on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013. Cosack will share his support and experience of the Highland Company's precedent-setting application and why citizens are against the Melrose Quarry.

The Highland Companies Application supports the decision that the Melanc-

thon Quarry, Duffin, Ont. is located in a respectable area for aggregate development. The design can be operated to take full advantage of production with no opposing effects on its neighbours or the environment.

"Not every aggregate application is bad. It is a way to ensure that concerns get a fair hearing and help identify solutions for this particular application," said Cosack.

There is a group of people opposed to the expansion of the Melrose Quarry, located within the Township of Tyendinaga, on the corner of Melrose and Shan-nonville. The group is called the *Citizens Against the Melrose Quarry*, and are an

ordinary group of Canadians that aim to present facts that guarantee a positive effect on the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

"The Citizens" have the support of nearly 300 people in the township and the number is growing.

How can you help? Cosack highlights The Food & Water First movement. It was created as a movement dedicated to protecting Ontario's Class 1 farmland and source water regions.

They are citizens who understand that Ontario has rare agricultural soils and water resources, which provide Ontario with a great abundance that we must help preserve. They encourage the Ontario

government to adopt a Food and Water First policy so Ontario's vital agricultural sector and source water regions are given priority in land-use planning.

From personal to business, local politics, elections, issues with various impacts, we interact everyday with each other. It is our world to live in. We want to take charge of the process and be part of the solution.

"Decisions everywhere impact your life, from laws to help create civility of conduct, to zoning laws and regulations that might impact the property right across from where you built your dream home, it is our responsibility as human beings to participate," said Cosack. "Be

engaged in the lives of people around you, after all, we are a society."

NDACT is an incorporated, non-profit organization, which was formed in January 2009 by alarmed citizens from the Melancthon and Mulmur townships. Their mission is to preserve and protect the unique and non-renewable resources of North Dufferin County.

This includes the headwaters that supply water to hundreds of thousands of Ontarians. Over 150 years, the distinct prime agricultural farmland and the environment, social economic and cultural characteristics have been an important part of our community and heritage, according to the NDACT website.

Meyers farm site of weekend peaceful protest

By Anica James

The rain and fog set the mood for what was scheduled to be a peaceful protest at Frank and Marjorie Meyers farm on Sunday Nov. 17.

About 15 supporters showed up, including neighbours, students and activists, holding homemade signs and recording everything with their phones and digital cameras.

Around noon, there were more law enforcement officials than protesters. Five Ontario Provincial Police cruisers and two Canadian Forces Military Police cars arrived on the scene and blocked the Quinte West country road.

"It's all rotten," said Frank Meyers. "You've got to have food, land, water and air. They're taking it all from us."

One cruiser from the Canadian National Railway Police showed up to make sure that people were safe around the railroad tracks that run through the property.

According to Lt. Bettina McCulloch-Drake, public affairs officer at 8 Wing/CFB Trenton, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services (PW-GSC) initiated the expropriation process in January 2012 and all but one affected landowner accepted a negotiated agreement. An agreement with this last landowner, Frank Meyers, was made to allow him to use the parcel of land being expropriated until Sept. 30, 2013, while negotiations on an agreement continued.

Although the property that was expropriated did not include Meyers' current residence located on the north side of Meyers Creek Road northeast of Trenton, it still comes as a shock to the octogenarian because his farmland and childhood home have been taken from him.

"I used to have one hundred head of cattle," Meyers stated. "I was harassed so



Photo by Anica James

Despite his many efforts to combat the expropriation of his property through legal means, Frank Meyers, 85, is saddened to see his family farm scraped away in order to make way for a state-of-the-art 400 hectare training facility for the highly classified Joint Task Force 2.

bad, I had to get rid of them. My mother and father had nothing, but they always made sure that bills were paid and that my sisters and I were fed. This would have never have happened in their time, so why my time?"

In February 2013, Meyers provided the Government of Canada a schedule for the

removal of his equipment and animals from the property. At that time, a licence agreement was entered into between the Department of National Defense as the landlord and Frank Meyers as tenant for the use of the land until Sept. 30, 2013.

"How do you feel about the fact Frank Meyers has had his farm stolen?" yelled

Dean Tea, a supporter who travelled to the farm Sunday morning from Guelph, Ont.

People driving by yelled out their support.

"Kick their ass Frank! Give 'em hell Frank!"

According to McCulloch-Drake, 8

Wing is still in communication with the Meyers family and is doing everything it can to assist Meyers in accessing any remaining crops, livestock and equipment that has been left on the property.

"I cannot say when demolition of any structures on the property will take place," McCulloch-Drake said through e-mail correspondence. "Because that matter is still being discussed with the Meyers family, I also cannot say when construction will start taking place as that has yet to be decided."

"The military made a fool of themselves," Meyers said in regards to the four military officials that showed up on Sunday. "They're waiting for me to open the gate for them but that won't happen!"

Lisa Gibson, the organizer behind the protest and the Facebook page called Save Frank & Marjorie Meyers Farm, said that she couldn't sit back and allow the government to do that without at least trying to stop it.

"I originally read an article in Maclean's magazine that disgusted me," Gibson said, sipping her coffee outside of the Meyers' family home on Sunday Nov. 17. "I posted a link to the article on my personal Facebook page and the response from my friends prompted me to create a separate group. I called Frank and asked if I could do it and he was more than encouraging."

To date, there are close to 6,500 likes, and over 1,600 people are talking about the page.

"I have spent 22 years in the death care sector working in monument sales," said Gibson, who hails from the Morrisburg area and is now a waitress. "I have heard too many stories, first hand, of elders that are in similar situations and it is heart-breaking."

"I can't sleep. I can't help it," Meyers said, clearing his throat. "But I'm still here, still going. They're just waiting for me to move, but I'm not moving."



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.



Photo by Adam Dietrich

A float from the Santa Claus parade in Belleville makes its way over the Moira River across the Dundas Street bridge on Nov. 17. Thousands came out to the nighttime parade.

Santa Claus is coming...

By Victoria Thoms



Photo by Mandy Larade

After a long, bone-chilling wait, Santa Claus glides his way down the streets of downtown Belleville to greet the restless children. The annual Santa Claus parade lasted for two hours.

Making a list, checking it twice. Santa Claus has already arrived in many parades across the province, including Cobourg, Belleville and Toronto.

The Toronto parade featured a float from the Vaughan Philippine Heritage Band, encouraging people to donate to the relief efforts ongoing in the Philippines.

Belleville's 15th annual parade started off with a brief delay after one float broke down, but continued on to showcase many beautiful floats and displays. Travelling from King George Square and North Front Street down the entire length of Front Street, the parade ended at Dundas Street East.

Tawny's School of Dance delivered a Blue Christmas performance that included was the largest dance demonstration in the parade.

Approximately 85 floats were in the parade, including around 2,000 participants.

The weather was a definite factor in the turnout of spectators, with rain falling that eventually turned into snow. The Belleville Chamber of Commerce estimated approximately 10,000 spectators showed up to see the parade.

Upcoming parades in the area include Deseronto on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 6:30 p.m., Trenton on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4:30 p.m., and Stirling on Friday Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Dayna Lefebvre

(Above, left) – Ten-year-old Lindsey John watches the annual Belleville Santa Claus Parade in her pink coat. Dozens of floats and hundreds of people participated in the parade on Sunday, despite the rainy weather.

Photo by Victoria Thoms

(Above, right) – A woman enjoys the warmth of her own home while watching the parade from above.

Photo by Taylor Hermiston

(Bottom, left) Dancers from Tawny's School of Dance light up the streets of downtown Belleville during the annual Santa Claus parade. The dance school danced to jolly Christmas tunes and had the largest dance number in the parade.

