

Hunters urged to be safe

By Alisa Howlett

What is normally a fun, family tradition can take a turn for the worse when safety is compromised, avid hunter Ben Harvey says.

Deer hunting season for a large part of the Quinte area opened at the start of this week. Hunters are heading to Northumberland County and the Peterborough area, as well as the Madoc area and north through Bancroft.

Since the start of the season there have been two incidents in this region involving self-inflicted firearm injuries.

"I can't believe that any of this is happening. It's crazy – guns have safeties. How people shoot themselves – it doesn't make any sense," said Harvey, manager of Cheshers' Outdoor Store on Maitland Drive in Belleville.

All hunters in Ontario are required to take a hunter safety course and the Canadian firearms course. And at Cheshers', hunters who come in get safety tips.

"So everybody is well trained and licensed before they go into the woods," Harvey said. "How those accidents happened is just carelessness on a few people's parts."

Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources has conservation officers on duty regulating hunters during the season, but Harvey said he has only seen a few of them. It is really up to hunters to police themselves when it comes to safety, he said.

"As hunters, we police (ourselves) heavily, because worst-case scenario is someone gets shot and killed. Safety is very, very important."

Ministry of Natural Resources official Jolanta Kowalski said she could not give an exact number of conservation officers in the area because they are deployed throughout Ontario.

Kowalski said she suspects the shooting incidents – one not far from Madoc and the other in the Havelock area – occurred due to violations of basic firearms safety rules. Those rules include:

- * Assume every gun is loaded.
- * Point your gun in a safe direction.
- * Keep your finger off the trigger.
- * Before you shoot, be 100-per-cent sure of your target.

"It is up to the individual hunter to put this information into practice and to hunt



Photo by Alisa Howlett

Ben Harvey, manager of Cheshers' Outdoor Store, checks a customer's firearms license before he makes a sale. Checking licenses before a sale is required by Ontario law. Deer hunting season in the Quinte region started Monday.

responsibly," Kowalski said.

As another safety precaution, hunters are required to wear 400 square centimetres of orange on their body and an orange hat.

Dave Pind, a hunter-education official of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, said mistakes are bound to happen.

"There are always mistakes. We have hundreds of thousands of people that drive cars and there are obviously acci-

dents all the time because people do make mistakes," Pind said. "Luckily, over the years the number of (hunting) accidents have come way down."

Pind said he attributes the declining number of accidents and fatalities to hunter education.

In 1960, when hunter education became mandatory, the federation recorded 37 fatalities and 118 incidents. Ten years later, when more regulations were introduced, there were 12 fatalities and 115

incidents. Last year, there was only one recorded fatality and five incidents in Ontario throughout all hunting seasons. During that time the hunter population has remained steady, Pind said, so the decline in accidents is not a result of there being fewer people out hunting.

Harvey said that as long as people keep making poor decisions there will be hunting accidents.

"You choose to point a loaded gun at yourself when you're talking to your bud-

dies, you have made a really bad decision. Just like when you choose to drive too fast on icy roads, you have made a really bad decision," he said.

Harvey also said alcohol consumption can be an issue.

"Believe it or not, there is no rule that says you can't get loaded and shoot a gun," he said.

The end of deer-hunting season is Nov. 17.

Wheelchair holds no limits for Stirling dirt biker

By Sheldon Rogers

At 26 years old, Phil Kerr has lived up to his childhood dreams, but in a different way than he expected.

Kerr has been jumping waves on his wakeboard and ripping up the tracks on his dirt bike his whole life, both with and without the use of his legs.

When Kerr was 13 years old, doctors found a cancerous tumour wrapped around his spine.

After the tumour was removed, Kerr couldn't feel his legs – although at first he wasn't too worried. His main thought was, "I've got one week until the next race – how am I supposed to race my dirt bike?" he recalls.

But Kerr quickly learned that he wouldn't be back on his feet in time for his next race. Doctors told him that he would be in a wheelchair for a while.

"I remember one of the nurses was talking to me, she's like 'Yeah, there is this one boy that has something similar to you, and he came in to visit me four years later and he is really good in his wheelchair, he can do wheelies.' I was like, 'Four years?' I was pissed. 'There is no way I'm going to be in this for four years.'"

But after fighting and hoping for years,

Kerr finally gave in.

"It took me about five years until it hit me that it ain't changing. I remember when that happened, I was like, 'Holy, this is actually it. This is how it is.'"

That didn't stop him from being the person he is.

Kerr still rides the same dirt bike he did before his sickness. He has even developed a wakeboard that allows him to jump the same waves as the pros. But that wasn't enough.

When Kerr was 16, he and a group of friends created a clothing company. They called it Twisted Mounty. The name, he explained, came about because they wanted a Canadian reference, plus "Twisted" was part of the title of his favourite dirt-biking video when he was younger.

"We were doing silkscreening in art class, and I was like, 'I'm stealing one of these.' It was right after class. There were a bunch of screens and inks that they hide in the closet. We took one tube of red ink, one squeegee and one screen. Then I went down to Wal-Mart, bought a bunch of white T-shirts, went to my parents' garage and then silkscreened some shirts."

The clothing line has been a hit ever

since. Kerr sells shirts, sweaters, hats and custom prints at his store in Stirling, his hometown. The store is also called Twisted Mounty.

He uses the brand to stay connected to the things he loves: dirt biking, snowboarding and wakeboarding. He always dreamed of being a professional and getting sponsored at one of those things.

"I can't get sponsored anymore, so I need to sponsor people." He sponsors all kinds of motocross riders, from locals to professionals. The experience has given him the chance to hang out with the pros he once looked up to.

He even sponsors Canadian rap artist Classified.

"One day I was cutting the lawn, listening to Classified, because I love Classified. I'm cutting the lawn, daydreaming, listening to Classified, picturing him on stage wearing a Mounty shirt. Then that summer I went to Wakestock, and Classified was performing. I crowd-surfed and the whole crowd goes crazy. You can't even hear them performing because they are all cheering. Then after that I got to meet (Classified and crew) and they were just stoked on the crowd surf. So I told them all about Twisted Mounty and they were like, 'I will wear

that, that's sick.'"

He can now call them close friends, he said.

Kerr has appeared in two of Classified's music videos, been to over 20 of his shows, and even toured with him.

Looking back at everything, Kerr wouldn't change a thing.

"If that moment didn't happen, this wouldn't have happened. I wouldn't change it. I wouldn't change it at all. It all happens for a reason. Sometimes it takes a while to find out what the reason is. Bad will eventually turn to good, and it has turned to good. I look back and it has been pretty cool. I'm pretty stoked on how things have turned out."

Kerr now tells his story to students in public schools around the area. He is excited that more people are able to know the story behind his company.

Looking to the future, he hopes to expand and keep doing what he loves.

"I want to have a bunch of Twisted Mounty shops. I want to be in more stores as well. I would love to travel to all of these events, being there as the sponsor. Just being there watching, taking part, selling clothes, meeting lots of cool people. Just being happy every day, doing something I love."

Transit...

Continued from Page 1

Bus service in Belleville will not see any interruptions after deal with city

"There was give and take on both sides which is what a negotiation is all about. There are other things (the union) gave up to get the 2.5 (per cent pay increase) It works out well for the fact there isn't going to be any interruption in transit service for the next three years."

The revised collective agreement will be brought to city council on November 12 for formal approval.

Attempts to contact the union were redirected back to John Martin.

International popularity growing at Loyalist

Students from all over the world making Loyalist their home away from home

By Greg Murphy

Loyalist College has made a substantial push in international student enrolment, particularly in the last two years.

Between 2007 and 2011, Loyalist's international student population averaged 26 students a year, according to the college's annual reports. As of 2012 there were 67 international students, and this year there are 98 out of a total student population of 3,500.

John McMahon, vice-president of academics at Loyalist, says the international student market is of key interest in the college's new strategic enrolment plan, which looks to strengthen student recruitment and retention.

"We do look to the international student market as a means to ensure our programs and our college remain sustainable," said McMahon. "International students are certainly a strategic objective of Loyalist College."

International students pay much higher tuition fees than Canadian students do. The cost is an average of \$14,650 for each year of study, depending on the program. Canadian students pay between \$2,500 and \$3,600.

"International students generate a much higher source of income for

the college. This increase of revenue will help support the continuation of college operations," McMahon said.

Ethnic diversity is also of interest to Loyalist.

"Students are finding a rich environment when you can bring that diverse global perspective right to the classroom. That's an enhancement," said McMahon.

The international markets of India and China are of particular interest.

"Both India and China are huge markets within the global economy. Many students now have the economic means to explore educational opportunities overseas," said McMahon.

As part of the new strategic enrolment plan, McMahon says that within five years, Loyalist would like to see up to 300 international students a year.

So what is the draw for international students to come to Canada?

"We are a safe, multicultural, welcoming, and friendly place. We also have top-quality post-secondary education," McMahon said.

And what is the draw for international students to come to Loyalist?

Adedamola Jayeola is a 27-year-old advertising and marketing communications student who has come to Loyalist from Lagos, Nigeria. With a public-relations background, Jayeola looked to foreign professional development to extend his knowledge.

After looking at every post-sec-



Photo by Greg Murphy

Adedamola Jayeola is a 27-year-old advertising and marketing communications student who has come to Loyalist from Lagos, Nigeria.

ondary school in Canada, he became attracted to Loyalist for its small size and what he calls its student-focused faculty.

"I am coming from 20 million people in and around Lagos. I don't need another 20 million people. I was at a point in my life where maybe I needed my solitude," said Jayeola. "Loyalist provides all I need in one big package. Its size and student-to-teacher ratio is the angle that really sold it for me."

After a year of communicating with the international student centre at the college, and waiting four months for a student visa and other related legal documentation, Jayeola made his way to Loyalist. He said the college was very helpful in getting him settled within the community.

"The system and people here are quite supportive," he said.

Like any international student, Jayeola had to pay big money to go to school in Canada. He paid his own fees by working and saving.

"The inspiration to raise money, as far as I'm concerned, is something that should flow naturally if you are absolutely sure you are doing what you want to do," he said.

While he said that he's not sure what the future holds for him, he feels that with Loyalist all things are possible.

"Wherever my heart leads I will go."