

The Pioneer

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Photo by Lacy Gillott

Full honours

A full military funeral was given to Adam Eckhardt, 29, at the 8 Wing Trenton Chapel Monday. Eckhardt was based in the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry at CFB Suffield in Alberta until he took his life on Jan. 3. Eckhardt is survived by his wife and two children.

Support continues for Meyers

Expropriated property on Hamilton Road farm continues to be site for protesters

By Anica James

Approximately 60 protesters are showing their support for Frank Meyers and his wife Marjorie over the expropriation of their farmland by the Department of National Defence.

"I was told (they would be here) the first of the week, but I am not sure," Frank said, sitting in his truck on Sunday afternoon at the Hamilton Road farm. "No one told me specifically, but I will be here every minute, watching and waiting for them."

A small protest was organized for Sunday, Jan. 12 and will continue the rest of the week or until the barns come down.

"I am so happy that all of these people are willing to support Frank and his family," said Lisa Gibson, activist and creator of the Facebook page Save Frank and Marjorie Meyers Farm.

"We can't just sit at our computers, we have to get up and make a stand, be active. That is the only way we can really make a change."

The Facebook page, which was started in October 2013, currently has close to 19,000 likes from supporters near and far.

"This is the fourth protest that we have been to, and I doubt that it will be the last," Kimberley Ostroskie said, sitting in her trailer that blocked the drive way next to Meyers' historical family home. "My husband and I have been following this since the fall of 2013. We went all the way to Ottawa, which was long, cold, but very productive, and we are just thankful that this story has inspired as many people as



Photo by Anica James

Frank Meyers, 85, sits in his truck watching and listening to the small but supportive group of protesters that gathered in front of his Quinte West home on Sunday afternoon. See photo on page two.

it has."

Ostroskie and her husband Phil arrived at the farm at 6:45 a.m. Monday morning to help Meyers with clearing out the barns and to show their support for a fellow farmer. They were also there on Sunday, holding homemade signs and singing along with other protesters who made the journey to the Quinte West farm.

A cease and desist letter was exchanged between Meyers and police officials on Monday morning, as bulldozers were seen in the distance on Meyers' old property which is now owned by the Department of National Defence. The barns on the property are scheduled to be demolished at the beginning of this week even though Meyers has not received any money in exchange for the land.

"Not one government official has

done the courtesy of calling this man back, nor have they responded to any of our emails," Gibson stated to the media, sitting next to Meyers in a tractor on Monday morning.

"We can't keep having Frank, or anyone else who is in a similar situation, continue to be bullied by the Harper government. We need to end this expropriation insanity."

Parkside Landscaping and Contract-

ing, who were granted a demolition contract in late 2013, had their bulldozers and backhoes parked on a nearby property Monday afternoon, which enraged protesters even more.

Police were called to the scene on Monday but only to make sure that no one crossed the railroad tracks that run parallel to Meyers' current property, and the expropriated land that is now owned by the DND. Anyone who was caught doing so would be arrested, but many supporters didn't seem to care and were willing to take the hit.

"I'll get hauled away," Karen Wetherell from Tweed said. "I don't care. This is my first protest but it's for a good cause so it's worth it!"

Lt. Bettina McCulloch-Drake, public affairs officer of the National Defence, said in November "the minister of public works and government services initiated the expropriation process in January 2012." The expansion project will consist of the construction of a new multi-functional training and administrative campus for the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, also known as the Joint Task Force 2.

CFB Trenton installed DND signage and secured the area at the DND property, which was formerly owned by Meyers, in the northern part of CFB Trenton on Oct. 1, 2013.

A bulldozer arrived at the property on Monday morning to clear ice and snow from a laneway that runs south of the barns so a group of pickup trucks from CFB Trenton could access it. They parked out of view of the protesters and spoke to Meyers, telling him that he did not have any more time to clear out his barns.

"I'm tired. My wife is tired," Frank said, exhaustively. "But we still have hope."

Skating the courtyard instead of the rink

'Cross-country skating' becomes new sport on campus

By Michelle Heshka

It's been a different kind of winter wonderland for some Loyalist students.

With temperatures below freezing and many centimetres of snow turning to ice, getting across campus has become a new sport.

According to Taylor Dubeau, a second-year student and resident of Loyalist's residence, "cross-country skating" is the best bet for getting around the ice-covered campus.

With the campus rink not freezing properly, students are looking for any excuse to lace up their skates.

This year is the second time that campus staff have tried to flood the rink located next to Loyalist's new residence. Campus staff is having difficulty flooding the rink evenly with no dips or holes, and students are getting impatient.

Cory Mestre, co-ordinator of campus recreation, said, "Mother Nature hasn't been the most co-operative. While it's been wickedly cold, the winds have been awful when floods have been done, and there's also a spot that doesn't have any ground frost and hasn't been holding water."

Since this year's skating rink flooding

'There's ice on both sides literally around the whole thing. You can probably skate to town.'

Student Taylor Dubeau

had been unsuccessful, students such as Dubeau decided to get creative and take matters into their own hands. Instead of skating on the ice rink, students have resorted to skating on the campus' snow-covered grass that froze into solid ice.

With heavy snowfall right before freezing temperatures, just about any-

where on campus made for a great makeshift rink. Flat areas such as the courtyard in the new residence and the lawn next to the school became rinks for hockey games and skating lessons.

"There's a good two kilometres of ice to skate on surrounding the residence," said Dubeau.

"There's ice on both sides literally around the whole thing. You can probably skate to town."

The rink remained unusable for days, and skating on the courtyard became a popular choice with students. Students were able to skate anywhere and everywhere on campus, except for the skating rink.

After the initial few days of skating on

the lawn, the temperatures became mild and the lawn melted, making it too dangerous for skating. With temperatures going up and coming back down, the ice turned to slush and then to ice again. The only ice that remains that can be skated on is the ice that is there intentionally: the skating rink.

The rink is currently frozen with a few holes and dips in the ice. The ice covering the rink remains uneven, but with no more lawn ice to skate on, students are using whatever ice they can use to participate in their favourite winter activity.

For a multi-media version of this story, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=33251>



Photo by Anica James

Out in full force

A small but vocal group of protesters held homemade signs outside of Frank Meyers' home on Sunday afternoon. People from all across Ontario came to the Hamilton Road farm to show their support against the expropriation of Meyers' farmland by the Department of National Defence.

Youth look for more community engagement

By Melyssa Gloude

During Monday's first council meeting of the new year, representatives of Belleville's Youth Friendly Community committee made the first deputation to council about the "Youth Friendly Application" report.

The report pertains to the amount a community invests in youth play through the Playworks Partnership – an organization with concerns for the future of youth in Ontario. Representing the areas of sport, physical activity, civic engagement and recreation,

the Ontario Playworks Partnership has dedicated itself to advancing play for 13- to 19-year-olds on local, provincial, public and political agendas.

"What we're asking of city council is to reinstate the Youth Advisory Committee and fund a part-time youth programmer to improve youth engagement in the community," said Mike Whitaker, who is a representative of the Youth Friendly Committee.

"Our next step is to get advisory council up and running. We need to look at other areas we need to work on, such as getting a staff person to be able

to engage with youth and get involved with the community."

The goal of the committee is to reinstate the previously disbanded Youth Advisory Council, and to recognize a "Youth Belleville Recreation" committee as a subsidiary part of the Youth Advisory Council.

To be considered a Youth Friendly Community, a city must adhere to 16 different criteria. Tanya Grierson, Belleville's recreation program supervisor, is also a member of the committee and is hoping to see the requests

reviewed for the April 2014 budget deliberation.

"We applied for 12 qualifications and received 10, which is how many you need for bronze-level designation," said Grierson, who said she believes that with more opportunity for youth involvement, Belleville could reach the necessary 12 to 13 qualifications needed to bring the town up to silver level youth designation.

"We also need significant evidence of diverse play opportunities. The Youth Room at the Sports and Wellness Centre was also seen as a progressive

step. Youth now have an official place to convene," according to Brandi Hodge, also a committee member.

"The municipality can address that the Youth Advisory Committee was a significant part of the reason why the first bronze-level application was met."

The group is hopeful that the budget requests will be granted, but little will be known until the 2014 budget deliberation.

"The real hard work is when they do the budget," said Whitaker.

"Hopefully council look at it positively."



Photo by Duncan Cairns-Brenner

Tabitha Lowndes, 24 and Jennifer McKee, 24, sift through donations they collected for their friend Danielle Boyce, 24, whose home burned down on January 3, 2014. In the fire Boyce lost most of her and her daughter's possessions, leaving the pair with almost nothing. Boyce did not have tenant's insurance, leaving her completely responsible for replacing her belongings.

Community comes together to help victims of Grier Street blaze

By Melyssa Gloude

Due to the aftermath of an accidental fire, two diligent women were inspired to bring together a community for the relief of two families devastated by the tragedy.

"I was at work when I found out," said Danielle Boyce, 24 and her daughter, Ember Maracle, 5, occupied one of two apartments destroyed in an accidental blaze that began in the Grier Street home Jan. 3.

According to the official release from the Belleville Fire Department, at about 10:54 a.m., the property owners' attempt to thaw frozen pipes with a high temperature heat gun ignited combustible material in the home, which was divided into two separate rental units. Due to the age and construction of the building, the blaze quickly spread to the attic and wall-space, leading to a fire that could not be extinguished until late into the evening.

The structural integrity of the building was compromised once the fire was extinguished and had to be torn down, according to the release. The final cost of damages was estimated at \$200,000.

None of the occupants had purchased

'We'll be finished when both families are happy and settled in a home, with everything they need.'

Jennifer McKee

tenants' insurance.

Boyce made it to the scene around noon.

"Once I knew no one got hurt, I just started laughing and crying hysterically. I couldn't stop. It was terrible."

Victim Services Belleville, an agency that specializes in family crisis, was soon on the scene and spoke to both families.

"Victim Services came and offered me a hotel for three days, but I refused because my parents had room for Ember and I."

Enter Jennifer McKee and Tabitha Lowndes – two 24-year-old women who made it their mission (and their full-time jobs) to give back everything that had been taken away from the two families. McKee, who has known Boyce

since grade school, immediately knew that she had to do anything she could to help.

"We barely even thought about it," McKee said. "Somebody had to do something, but we weren't going to wait for somebody else to get around to it."

McKee and Lowndes tackled this task using the quickest medium available – social media.

"She (Danielle) was really overwhelmed, and we thought, 'what's something we can do to give her a little bit of space?' The answer was that people could talk through us instead, until she was ready to accept the help. On her terms."

"The first thought to pop into my head was Facebook," said Lowndes. "Jenn made the Facebook page a few hours after the fire."

With just over 500 hits to the Grier Street Fire Relief page in the first day, donations began to roll in only a few hours after the fire was out.

"The donations started coming in on the same day," McKee remarked.

With the sudden influx of mass amounts of donations, they agreed on a donation drop off, Lowndes' empty garage. "People who didn't even know

either of the families were coming from Trenton, Kingston, Peterborough and even as far as Cornwall," said Lowndes. "It became a full-time job. We were spending 16-hour days doing pickups, organizing drop offs and sorting. We began taking donations for the second family as well, and we barely slept two hours through the weekend."

Although they have received enough donations for both families, these young women have no plans of stopping their crusade any time soon.

"We'll be finished when both families are happy and settled in a home, with everything they need," said Jenn.

"It's very inspirational for me, I didn't realize our community was so giving," added Lowndes. "I'm so proud of everyone. We definitely cried more than once."

"I don't have much faith in people, and when they started telling me that people were donating, I had no idea what was going on. I had no idea. I've always looked at life like I would always have to rely on myself," said Boyce, who says that she still hasn't been able to fully process what has happened.

"I think they have ended up doing more for me and my daughter than I could even dream of repaying."

Birthday party for Sir John A. a big celebration

By Dawn Barger

Despite the rainy weather, over a hundred people gathered at the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald to celebrate the 199th birthday of Canada's first prime minister.

Unfortunately, the rainy weather was too extreme to hold the event at the monument at City Park in Kingston, Ont., so they moved the event to City Hall.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald was one of the Fathers of Confederation. This dominant figure of Canadian history had a political career which spanned almost half a century. Macdonald served 19 years as prime minister.

The Sir John A. Macdonald Bicentennial Commission is promoting events in the arts, education, tourism and other sectors locally, regionally and nationally in the countdown to the 2015 Bicentennial of Macdonald's birth.

"This is the largest I have ever seen the turnout," said Brian Osborne, past president of the Kingston Historical Society.

"There's always an informal gathering around the monument, but this is a major reception," he said.

Osborne was attending the event to propose a toast to Sir John A., something they have done since people started celebrating his birthday. He was one of many taking part in the ceremonies at City Hall.

There were also many immigrants attending to say the citizenship oath, something that persons new to Canada are able to take part in. A local youth group invited Odile Burume to the event.

"They invited me to say the citizenship oath along with the immigrants that came to Canada," said Burume.

Viva Dadwal and Luke Maccaul were visiting from Ottawa. They are part of a group called Friends of Sir John A. Macdonald.

"We hope to bring to Ottawa in celebration of the bicentennial, some guided walks through the city as well as hosting our own dinner on the bicentennial in 2015," said Maccaul.

A number of sites associated with Macdonald are preserved. His gravesite located in Kingston has been designated a National Historic Site of Canada. Bellevue House in Kingston, where the Macdonald family lived in the 1840s, is also a National Historic Site administered by Parks Canada, and has been restored to that time period. His Ottawa home, Earncliffe, still stands and is today the official residence of the British High Commissioner to Canada.

Statues have been erected to commemorate Macdonald across Canada, with one standing on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. A statue of Macdonald stands atop a granite platform originally intended for a statue of Queen Victoria in Toronto's Queen's Park, looking south on University Avenue. A statue of Macdonald also stands in Kingston's City Park.

Chris Whymen, who has been Kingston's town crier for 30 years, said the birthday celebration started as a small gathering.

"It started off with eight people and a bottle of scotch so they could do a little toast to Sir John A. Each year, it gets bigger and bigger. As we get closer to his birthday, which is next year, there just seems to be a growing crowd of people wanting to attend the event."



Photo by Adam Dietrich

Leith Graham, a tai chi instructor helps lead a class in the Christ Church Anglican on Everett Street in Belleville on Monday. Teachers from the Kingston branch of the Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi Society led an open beginners' class in the martial art intended for health and meditation.

Men's volleyball team takes charge

By Victoria Thoms

After five intense games, the Loyalist Lancers men's volleyball team came out victorious 3-2 over Georgian College Sunday.

The Lancers started out on a high note, winning the first match 26-24. After losing the second and third match, 25-20 and 25-23 respectively, the Lancers had to win the fourth match to stay in the game.

Fighting hard throughout the entire fourth game, it was evident that the men

wanted to desperately win. Staying calm and playing well, the men came out on top, winning 25-20. Going into the fifth match of the day, the Lancers were ready to take on Georgian one more time.

Winning 15-6 in the fifth match, the Lancers were triumphant.

The Loyalist Lancers and the Georgian Grizzlies have faced each other before this season. On Oct. 25, the Lancers beat the Grizzlies 3-1 at Georgian College in Barrie.

Jacob White, a left-side player from

Brockville, Ont. is in his first year at Loyalist College.

"The game turned out well. It was a little shaky at the start, but the team managed to pull it together," White said after the game.

White is currently ranked the top player on the Lancers team in terms of points, with 158 points total, averaging 4.1 points per set. Playing in all 11 games in the Lancers season, White has had the most kills for the season.

"We especially pulled together when some of the other players who don't normally play got their chance. They stepped up and played exceptionally. It was a big win and we are now back on track, how we should be," said White.

The Lancers currently stand fourth in the east division, with seven games won, and four lost. With only two second-year players on their team, the men will have plenty of talent remaining for next year's team.

Lancers defeated in women's volleyball

By Victoria Thoms

The Loyalist Lancers women's volleyball team lost all three of their sets against Georgian College Sunday.

The team played well during the game on Sunday, and kept their spirits high. Jillian Robinson, a middle from Stratford, Ont. seemed to be on fire during the game, keeping herself in a good mental state along with cheering on her teammates.

"Last Thursday, we played Durham and we didn't play up to our standards. We came into the game yesterday with a whole new perspective and attitude on what we needed to do," said Robinson.

"Our game against Georgian was I think the best game we have played. Georgian has a great team and we were evenly matched throughout a lot of the game. Our coaches always say this is a huge mental game, and I think we kept our heads in it," Robinson said.

"One great thing is that no matter what happens, we stay a team and we support each other the whole way through. We have a lot of heart and we love to play and yesterday was a great game for us. Even though we lost, we played better than we ever had before, and it feels good," said Robinson.

One of the women's coaches, Dominique Dawes, is proud of her team for their hard work and consistent efforts.

"In our first set against (Georgian), I couldn't have been more proud of the way our girls played. The next two sets, our girls did lose some focus which led to a larger gap in the score. In each set, the girls battled back at different times," said Dawes.

The women lost 3-0 against Georgian, the third-place team in the east division. (Loyalist currently sits in ninth place in the east division, not having won a game since Nov. 1.)

"I do believe that we can improve our standings as we face the other teams, but how far up we will be able to move is limited. We have put ourselves in a very tough position going into the second semester, and it's going to take a lot of hard work and determination from the girls to improve," said Dawes.

Another tough hit on the team is the lack of players remaining. The Lancers currently only have seven players and one libero. A substitute player is only allowed to sub in and out for one person once during a set. This means that most players on the team are constantly playing, with no substitutes available to relieve them. Most teams at the top of the standings have at least 10 players on their team.

"We may be small, but we make a lot of noise and make the other teams work," Dawes said.

The Lancers play their next game at home against Seneca College on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.

Lancer women's basketball team accepts ninth loss of the season

By Taylor Hermiston

The Loyalist Lancers women's basketball team hosted the Seneca Sting on Saturday, undergoing a 58-46 loss, their ninth loss of the season. They previously lost to them 56-50 on Nov. 8.

The Lancers stayed strong throughout the entire game, communicated on the court and did not let the score beat down their spirit.

Over half the team consists of first-year students, all new to the OCAA experience.

Throughout the season, though, their coach Chris Eligh, has been focusing on

developing their skills and not focusing on the wins and losses.

"I am trying to build these girls to be top players and at times we can see that they are a great group. With low numbers this year, it has been a struggle, but I look forward to seeing how this team grows."

Most of the girls will be returning students and Eligh believes that next year is going to be awesome.

"These girls haven't had the leadership and experience that most players in the past have had. They don't have an experienced player here to keep their spirits up to

example and is very vocal and earned the honour of being Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's athlete of the week.

"I feel very accomplished and blessed to be chosen as athlete of the week. It makes me happy to be recognized for all the hard work extra nights at the gym," she said.

She scored a game-high 14 points while leading all players with 16 rebounds and is averaging 18.2 points per game, which puts her in sixth in OCAA scoring.

Brennan said that although the season hasn't been smooth, the team is growing and improving every practice and that's all that really matters.

Brennan has been known to lead by

Lancers take win against Seneca Sting in weekend action

Loyalist struggles with consistency throughout the game

By Taylor Hermiston

The Loyalist Lancers men's basketball team laced up for their 12th game of the season and winning 77-76 against Seneca Sting for a second time on Jan. 11, in Belleville.

After winning 69-63 against them at Seneca College in Toronto, Ont. on Nov. 8, the Lancer men went into the game prepared to fight for another victory and prove that they can hold another win this time on their home court.

The Lancers struggled with consistency throughout the game, coming on top after the first two quarters and then falling behind on the scoreboard after the third.

"It's been a little up and down. Consistency is the biggest thing. As we have seen tonight, we are up and down, but with time that all gets better. Ryan Barbeau, Lancer head coach, examined his team so far this season.

"With most of our guys being so new, it's going to take a little bit of work, but they work so hard that I can see it coming together. Tonight was a big step."

Most of the team will return for the 2014-2015 season and he said that he

has no clue what next season is going to bring but he is not concerned.

First-year guard Jesse Cassista said that his first year has been good but a little frustrating.

"I feel that I got to prove myself tonight and I feel that I did a good job in doing that. I can't even compare to my experience in high school, this has been a great experience and I'm glad I have this opportunity."

With the scoreboard showing a score of 76 points for both parties and only half a second left in the fourth quarter, the walls of the gymnasium thrummed with a chant of cheers. Lancer guard Patrick Kalala watched one out of two free throws bounce off the rim of the net. The anticipation in the room grew with only one shot left.

"I was calm. I actually thought that my first free-throw felt great and when I missed I was surprised. The second one, I didn't feel as good but it worked out."

Being a leader on the team, Kalala said that he knows that he has to be put in situations like that and it is his responsibility to come through in the clutch.

Kalala has a total of 167 points this season and averages 16.7 points per game for the Loyalist Lancers.

The Lancers have four wins and seven losses this season and are ranked ninth in the Ontario College Athletic Association's east division.

The Loyalist Lancers will play host to the St. Lawrence Vikings on Jan. 17.



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Jesse Cassista, first year OCAA guard for the Loyalist Lancers, goes in for a lay-up against Malcolm Smith, of Seneca College during their game on Jan. 11. Lancers won the close game 77-76.