

Non-stop winter weather continues

By Michelle Heshka

Quinte residents are calling this weekend's freezing temperatures and blowing snow the biggest "white out" of 2014. Environment Canada is calling it a snow squall.

With the weekend's temperatures ranging between -4 C and -20 C before the wind chill, the streets of Belleville were covered in ice. On top of the ice were several centimetres of fresh snow, which continued to fall.

The CFB Trenton weather office said more than six centimetres of snow fell on the Quinte area on Saturday. Since then, the Quinte area has received an additional nine centimetres of snow.

The wind is what really increased the severity of the weather throughout the weekend, according to the weather office.

"Strong winds up to 60 kilometres an hour caused huge snow drifts causing poor visibility on roads and highways."

The freezing, windy snowfall left the Quinte area in a dangerous state. The continuous snowfall and high winds caused the "white out," which severely decreased visibility on the roads and intensified the dangers that come with winter driving.

The intensity of the snow squall prompted the police in Belleville, Prince Edward County, Napanee, Quinte West and Northumberland to call for the public to avoid driving unless absolutely essential until the road conditions improved.

The terrible weather continued through the weekend and into the beginning of the week. Weather conditions remained bad enough Monday to cancel classes and exams for local schools. Many high schools have pushed back their exam schedules one day due to the bad weather conditions. Even classes at Loyalist College were cancelled Monday.

According to Loyalist's Dianne Spencer, executive director of college advancement and external relations, the decision to cancel classes was made for safety reasons.

Even though classes were cancelled, the school remained open.

"This decision is guided by the college policy which states that in the event of adverse weather conditions or emergency situations, every reasonable effort will be made to keep the college open," said Spencer.

Snow squall watches and warnings remained in effect for Monday.

Geoff Coulson, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said the reason behind the snow squalls is a change of direction in the wind.



Photo by Dillan Cools

Noah Streek bails after hitting a jump on the North Street Park hill on his snow day. Although the weather over the last few days has left drivers shaking their heads, kids were thrilled to head out on the slopes when school was cancelled Monday. For more on the weather, see page four.

"This winter has been a harsher winter than what we've seen in the last few years.

The winds have been coming in southwest instead of northwest, which brought the intensity of the snow squalls. The Quinte area had 15 centimetres of snowfall over the weekend with up to 60 kilometres per hour winds."

"Chances are the winds will come in southwest again Tuesday afternoon,"

Coulson added.

On Saturday and Sunday, sections of Highway 401 were closed for hours at a time with OPP responding to several multi-car pileups and accidents. The severity of the snow squall was so intense that snowplows were taken off the road in Northumberland County.

Ontario Provincial Police said that since Friday evening, they responded to

more than 1,600 crashes. The OPP ordered more than 60 road and highway closures across the province.

Aside from terrible driving conditions, this weekend's precipitation caused many cancellations of community events.

Local happenings such as church events, libraries, community classes and bingo halls were closed.

Environment Canada advised motor-

ists to exercise caution while driving, as snow squalls reduce visibility severely. The weather will continue to cause hazardous winter driving conditions.

The CFB Trenton weather office predicts that snow squalls will continue into Wednesday afternoon with temperatures going down to -17 C. They expect an additional 12-14 centimetres of snow before Thursday morning.

Provincial minister on hand to discuss student debt

By Mandy Larade

Although it is a new year, old problems remain. One of those problems is something very well known and discussed: student debt.

Ontario's minister of training, colleges, and universities, Brad Duguid, was in downtown Belleville at Loyalist College's Community Employment Services last Friday to speak about the success of the Youth Employment Fund.

The province of Ontario has recently added a benefit for post-secondary students. Students who are eligible for the Ontario Student Assistance Program, or OSAP, are also eligible to get up to 30 per cent off of their tuition. This rebate means that students pursuing a college or university degree can get up to \$1,730 back and students pursuing a college diploma or certificate can get up to \$790 back.

While this is beneficial to students across the province, controversy has arisen due to the rebate's availability to stu-

dents in privately-owned career colleges.

Tuition at these private colleges is often triple that of public programs.

Duguid said that the investment in students at these private institutions is fair, despite public opposition.

"Our priority should be, as a government, not to tell students what their choices should be but to support them in any way we can and to do it in a way that's fair. That's why we've extended to those small schools in a very modest way," said Duguid.

In comparison to the 230,000 students who qualify for the rebate in public programs, the amount of students attending private colleges is quite less.

"Compared to 230,000 students, we're talking about 4,000 students who would qualify for that. They're low-income students who need a little bit of help," said Duguid.

"These students are already eligible for OSAP, so it doesn't make sense for them to be eligible for OSAP but not for the 30 per cent."

President and CEO of Colleges Ontario, Linda Franklin, said that the priority should be on students who don't meet the qualifications for OSAP. This includes students who aren't residents of Ontario or who have been out of high school for more than four years.

"The government's first priority should be to give back the money to college students who had it first taken away," said Franklin.

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Photo by Lacy Gillott

Many of Brighton's Winterfest events were cancelled because of harsh weather conditions this Saturday. However, despite there not being many people to take the horse-drawn wagon ride, Eric Linton and his horses kept on trucking through the heavy snowfall.

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Weather wipes out Winterfest

By Lacy Gillott

High wind speeds and a lot of snowfall caused many of Brighton's 20th annual Winterfest events to be cancelled Saturday.

Winterfest Co-chair Derek Madder, who has been a part of the Winterfest committee for 14 years, said this is the first year they have had to cancel events.

"I mean it's disappointing, when you put all this work into doing these things. But, it's winter and you can't count on the weather," said Doug Platt, a 10-year member of the committee.

"It's not so bad, snowing, it's Winterfest right. But, it's the people trying to get here. The highway 401 is closed and the plows are not on the roads, so it's really tough."

Despite the frigid temperatures and the harsh blowing snow, the horsedrawn wagon ride was still taking place outside the Brighton Community Centre. Although not many people were riding, Eric Linton and his horses kept going strong for as long as they could.

The mayor's breakfast that took place Saturday morning was a huge success, and over 100 people came to the feast.

Anglers brave cold at derby



Darren Phillips visited Merland Park in Picton, Ont. for the ice-fishing derby on Jan. 25, 2014. Phillips came from Montreal, Que. for the event and has been ice fishing since he was eight years old.

Photo by Christopher King

By Suzy Willig

Merland Park hosted its fifth-annual ice-fishing derby on the weekend, raising \$2,000 to give to the Kiwanis Club. The event began on Friday morning and ended Sunday.

One game that has drawn a particularly large amount of attention to the event is the topless ice-fishing game, called “Shirt Off-Fish On.” This requires participants to remove their shirts for five minutes, while fishing. After the five minutes they’re allowed to put their shirts back on and continue fishing.

The first person, a man from Vermont, to catch a perch won a \$2,500 set of golf clubs and the first 20 to catch perch also received smaller prizes.

“We had a bunch of guys doing Minnow to Win It... seeing how many minnows they could take from their mouth from one tray and put it in the other tray. It was a riot!” said Kim Lavers-Mulrooney, an organizer of the derby.

The last game of the day was pitch and release in which participants had to throw bean bags into corn hole boards, and there were prizes for winners of that game as well. The event had around \$10,000 worth of prizes and sponsors this year.

Tickets for the derby cost \$250 and included two nights of accommodation, two dinners, the first being a fish fry, and the second a roast beef or steak dinner, and three games. There were prizes for all three games, and also prizes for biggest fish of the day and biggest fish overall.

The derby also had a pretty good turnout this year, with families and anglers coming from all over Ontario and Quebec. A couple of people even drove out from Vermont. Lavers-Mulrooney said that around 60 derby participants came out and around 20 people came to just play the games.

“We’re happy with the turnout, but yeah, the thing was, we opened it to the public this year, but just no one showed up because of the weather. We’re hoping for decent weather next year,” said Kevin Lavers, owner of Merland Park.

Jennifer and Kevin Lavers are the owners of the facility and run the event, and they live on the property. Events go on throughout the year, not just the ice-fishing derby in the winter. The resort and cottages are open year-round, and there are fishing charters that also happen at the park. Kevin is a charter captain, so he runs fishing charters in the warmer months.

“I’m from Montreal. I’ve been ice fishing since I was about eight years old,” said one participant in the derby, Darren Phillips. Phillips also participated in the topless fishing contest.

The derby gets participants of all ages, generally starting at around 19 and going all the way to some people in their 60s and even 70s. Few women participate, but the Lavers encourage that they join, with prizes directed specifically to them.

Winterfest...

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The children’s musical entertainer, Jake Diffy, drove to Brighton from Ajax to help make this event a successful and memorable one.

Hot dogs and hot chocolate were being served during the afternoon at the Brighton Community Centre, where many people gathered to play bingo. A marshmallow roast took place at Presqu’ile Outfitters.

However, some events have been re-scheduled for next weekend, such as the oval ice racing and the snowshoe racing. Some other events did not happen at all, such as the hot air balloon ride.

Madder seemed disappointed when talking about how he may not be sporting his traditional snowman costume.

“It means a lot, especially to the children. It’s great to be out there with the children but, hey, there’s no children out today,” Madder said.

Overall, the events that did take place were successful. People seemed to be in great spirits, despite the cancellations because of the weather conditions. It’s all about getting the community together during the winter to share a laugh and spread a smile.

Debt...

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Although the province has invested roughly \$1 billion in its post-secondary students, what are the plans for those who aren’t eligible for OSAP and therefore do not qualify for the tuition rebate?

Plans to help students who can’t receive OSAP are on hold, said Duguid.

“We are looking at ways in the future of expanding the program further but any of the other initiatives that we’ve looked at are just too costly to undertake for the deficit where it’s at today,” Duguid said.

Although student debt is still an issue, youth in Ontario have an opportunity to gain work experience through the province’s newest initiative.

The provincial fund was launched in September, and is a part of the Liberal government’s Youth Jobs Strategy, a two-year, \$295-million project that aims to help 30,000 young people gain work experience or start their own businesses.

Duguid commended Loyalist College and Belleville on their success with the program.

“In a short four-and-a-half months, this employment centre has already landed 50 placements for our young people across this community,” Duguid said.

Alzheimer Society benefits from Sunday walk

By Matthew Desouza

The Bay View Mall was taken over by the Alzheimer Society of Belleville-Hastings-Quinte for Sunday’s 19th annual Walk for Memories.

About 150 participants came out for the event, which raised a total of \$32,293 from the Belleville region. All the money raised goes to fund the Alzheimer Society.

A total of \$64,300 was raised from Belleville, Bancroft and Trenton regions, \$5,700 shy of their \$70,000 goal.

Participants from across the region braved the massive amounts of snow to walk, strut and dance their way around the mall.

“All the money raised for Walk for Memories, which are brought in from the walkers who collect pledges, stays in the community and we use it to provide vital programs and services to people living with Alzheimer’s and their families,” said Walk for Memories event co-ordinator Hannah Brown.

“We find that most people that come down have a connection to Alzheimer’s in some way. Someone in their life has been touched by it, so they want to

come and support in order to keep us in business here at the Alzheimer’s Society,” said Brown.

The event got underway at 10:30 a.m. and participants didn’t stop moving and grooving until about noon.

Mayor Neil Ellis was also on hand to participate for his eighth year in a row, leading the walk with local MP Daryl Kramp.

“If you don’t know someone that has it, it’s a tragic disease and the amount of people affected every day, you’ve probably run into somebody that has this disease. With this event today, it brings awareness,

and public awareness will help not only the understanding of the disease but also the acceptance of caring for people,” said Ellis.

The mayor said he was full of pride for his city during the event, thanking everyone for participating.

“These participants put the ‘unity’ in our ‘community’ and that’s what makes our community. I’ve travelled throughout Ontario and seen events and talked to other politicians and I can tell you that Belleville has one of the greatest sets of volunteers and community support for organizations like this.”

‘Imagine’ inspires Gleaners Food Bank gala

John and Yoko’s bed-in basis for play shown at annual banquet

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

“Imagine” a community free from hunger. That was the goal set out by Gleaners Food Bank with this year’s annual banquet.

Approximately 150 guests filled the Banquet Centre on Saturday night for Gleaners second-annual gala dinner. Last year, the theme was “It’s a Beautiful Life,” based on the movie.

“This year, we kind of wanted to get away from that and do something a bit lighter and kind of fun and so Susanne

came up with the idea to do the great bed-in,” said Kirsten Geisler, the director’s assistant at Gleaners.

Susanne Quinlan, the director of operations, was inspired by Les Johnson’s donations of original prints from the great bed-in of John Lennon and Yoko Ono in 1969. Quinlan wrote a script based on the original bed-in and Lise Lindenberg, from the Belleville Theatre Guild, put together a great cast of volunteers to act.

“When I wrote the script for the great bed-in play, instead of it being for war and peace, we made it for hunger, caring and sharing ... I wanted to do something different. I thought that having a play would make it different and something that people would want to come see,” said Quinlan.

The celebration isn’t necessarily about how much money is made at the fundraiser, but more about thanking the community for their support and donations throughout the years that have helped make the Gleaners Food Bank what it is today, Geisler added.

To thank companies that have been donating to the food bank since 1986, the 2014 Community Wing Awards were presented. There were plaques and pins representing a set of wings that were given to The Intelligencer, Avaya, Quinte Broadcasting, Redpath Sugar, ERB Transport, the Dinsmores, and Veridian.

According to Quinlan, this awards ceremony will be occurring for five years to thank companies for their support and generosity.

Quinlan estimated they would raise \$25,000 at the event.

Instead of having a traditional silent auction, organizers decided to sell \$25 boxes with the chance to win one of five prizes. Staying with the theme of the night, the grand prize was a two-night stay at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal where John and Yoko held their bed-in. Williams Hotels donated that prize.

“Gleaners’ mission is to help the people of Belleville as well as those of the region. We had to do something to make sure that the warehouse was operational at all times and there are always expenses where floors need to be repaired and the shipping and receiving doors, there’s always something... so we had to do something unique,” said Quinlan.

Photo exhibit at Core Centre

By Paulina Uy

“Every town has a story, and every inhabitant of the village has a story, a personal story.”

That’s the message of Daniel Casares Roman, 37 from Spain, who exhibiting his work at the Core Arts and Culture Centre at 223 Pinnacle St.

His exhibit is open from Jan. 17 to 31, Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Roman is a travelling photographer and his exhibit is comprised of 25 photographs taken from various countries all over the world for the past 20 years.

He focuses on covering anthropological stories – different cultures, tribes, beliefs, religions, lifestyles, etc. For a multimedia version of the story, go to:

<http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=33771>

Question: A recent study out of Princeton predicts that Facebook will lose 80 per cent of its users by 2017. Would you consider ditching Facebook? Why or why not?



Bryan Squires, 17, “No, it’s just the way I get a hold of people. A lot of people I know don’t have cell phones, so I use Facebook to get a hold of them.”



Brandon Bisson, 22, “I would ditch it. Facebook is not something I utilize for social means. I use it to stay in contact with certain information, like gaming and other hobbies.”



Megan Wallace-Burnett, 22, “I never really use Facebook for anything. It was like MSN. They will come out with something new eventually.”



Andy Clarke, 50, “Sure, I’d consider ditching it. I have two Facebook accounts, one for social stuff and one that’s professional.”



Gail Genereaux, 50, “Right now, no. If I need to get in touch with students using Facebook, I can. Seeing as students tend to look at their Facebook more than I do, I can get in touch



Claude Garipey, 50, “I would ditch it if nobody was using it. Every so often a new social media type pops up, even though you end up doing the same things on the different sites.”



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Justin Greaves and Adam Strickland of the Loyalist Lancers block a hit by David Mann of the Canadore Panthers. Despite a powerful first set in which the Lancers took victory, they lost to the Panthers 3-1.

Men’s volleyball loses weekend matches

By Victoria Thoms

The men’s volleyball team started off strong, winning their first match on Sunday against Canadore College of North Bay. However, they lost the second, third and fourth matches, with a final score of 3-1.

The Lancers won the first set 25-19, giving them a strong start to the game. After losing the second and third sets 25-23 and 25-20 respectively, the men were determined to keep themselves in the game. They played extremely well with

many hard hits and good digs, by all men on the court.

Blocking well against the Canadore Panthers, the Lancers kept in the game until the very end. Losing 25-23, the men had an outstanding game, but team members said they were disappointed.

The team and the coaches said they were upset with the results of the game, with hopes of inspiring some passion into the team at their upcoming practices.

“Canadore played very well after the first set, and did a good job of capitaliz-

ing on our errors to build intensity. Our guys however, did not show mentally yesterday at all. We did what was necessary to prepare them with a solid game plan, some of which was changed throughout the match, but they left their intensity in the changeroom,” said Dave Templar, the men’s coach.

The game has not affected their standings overall, and the men remain the fourth-place team in the east division. With four games left in their season, the Lancers still have some time to win again

and keep their good standing.

“The rest of our season will be busy, as long as we can get our full roster back soon from sickness and we are all healthy,” said Templar after last week’s game.

With members of both the men’s and women’s teams not feeling well, the teams are trying their best to play well and finish their seasons, according to the Lancers coaches.

“I believe in this group of guys! Every match this semester will be a challenge for us, and we have to work harder to keep an

edge over the teams we beat last semester. At the same time, we will be looking to avenge a couple losses we had, and really see if we can build some momentum, so we are playing our best for playoffs,” said Templar.

The men play their next game at George Brown College in Toronto on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. following the women’s game.

The Lancers will be playing their final home game on Feb. 12 against Fleming College at 8 p.m.

Women’s volleyball team drops to 10th place with loss

By Victoria Thoms

The Loyalist Lancers women’s volleyball team played hard on Sunday during their game against Canadore College of North Bay, yet came out on the bottom, losing 3-0.

The women’s team dropped from ninth to 10th place in the east division because of the loss.

The Lancers played well in the first two sets, but Canadore played better, beat-

ing the Lancers 25-18 in the first set and 25-15 in the second. The Lancers picked up their spirits for the third set, fighting hard to stay in the game. Losing by only a couple points, the Lancers were defeated once again, 25-23.

The Lancers have been having a tough semester, with a small team of mostly rookies. The team is already looking forward to next year, to have a bigger team with a few more seasoned players.

“We are a team made up of mainly

first-year players, and it’s just the start of trying to prepare for next season as well,” said Chantal Cormier, a middle for the Loyalist team.

Sickness has been affecting many students at Loyalist College, causing students to miss classes and athletes to miss games.

“Today was unfortunate that we lost, but with a team that is 90 per cent sick, we tried our best. Yeah, we lost, but we fought with heart. Our team is a small team and it’s no secret we are the underdogs, but we

come into every game with our heads up. I think our team did what we could to the best of our ability,” said Cormier.

With only four games left in their season, the Lancers have to put in a lot of practice to make an impact in their standings.

Amy Hoskin, one of the Lancers coaches, said she has strong faith in her team and is looking for her team to work together as a whole.

“Despite how sick some of the girls are, they sucked it up and pushed

through the game. We had a couple key girls that stepped up for us to try to hold things together, but volleyball is a team sport and it takes a team to win a game,” said Hoskin.

Hoskin said the team is looking to regroup at their practice on Monday night and prepare for their next game.

The ladies will be playing against the George Brown Huskies on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. at George Brown College in Toronto.



Photo by Dillan Cools

Battling Bulls

Jake Marchment of the Belleville Bulls receives a blow to the head from Kurtis MacDermid of the Erie Otters in one of four fights occurring in the Bulls 4-1 loss at the Yardmen Arena on Monday night.

Men win in basketball action on Friday

By Mandy Larade

The Loyalist Lancers men’s basketball team took an 84-70 victory at home on Friday evening in Belleville against the Canadore Panthers.

The snow and wind conditions on the weekend caused the Belleville Bulls home hockey game to be postponed, however, the Loyalist and Canadore teams played on.

The Lancers started off the first quarter with a 16-12 lead over Canadore, staying ahead in points for the whole game.

Throughout the game, there was a ping-pong pattern as both teams would alternate in scoring. The Lancers managed to keep their lead in the game over Canadore.

The half-time score was 37-29 for Loyalist.

During the third quarter, Canadore brought up the score from 37 to 43, making it 48-43 for the Lancers. However, Loyalist Lancer Jayvon Lake scored two points, bringing the score to 50-43.

The Lancers held a 53-47 lead at the end of the third quarter.

During the final quarter, Canadore scored 17 more points and Loyalist scored 37 more points, boosting their lead even more.

The Lancers finished the game with an 84-70 score against Canadore.

The next home game for men’s basketball will be on Feb. 7 in Belleville.



Ice fisherman Kyle Youngs makes his way across the frozen Picton Bay during the snow squall Friday afternoon.

Photo by Amanda Cheung

Winter wonderland



(Left) Local resident Steve Kingston has no trouble finding work Monday. Drifting snow closed down schools and local transit temporarily. *Photo by Bradley Ruszkowski*

(Above) Bryan Cagney Auburn, Bob McArthur and Mike Sider have difficulty looking out onto the Bay of Quinte from their ice-fishing hut in Picton Friday. With freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall, visibility was minimal. *Photo by Michelle Heshka*



Photo by Dillan Cools

(From left) Noah Streek, Ryan Stone and Garrison Moore race down the North Park Street hill next to Highway 401 on their snow day Monday.

(Above) – Josh Hawley and two of his friends take advantage of the huge snowfall and trail system in Prince Edward County. The three snowmobilers are ready to hit the trail after a bite to eat in Rossmore Saturday. *Photo by Alistair Maitland*

(Right) – OPP officers have responded to over 1,600 crashes across Ontario on Friday. This included three fatalities and numerous personal injury collisions. OPP officers ordered more than 60 road and highway closures across the province as well as assisted over 400 stranded motorists seek shelter from the storm. *Photo by Dawn Barger*

