

## Protesters attend Port Hope event

Premier asked to address concerns over buses and funding cuts

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix and Taylor Hermiston

Dozens of school buses and protesters took to Queen Street in Port Hope to address Premier Kathleen Wynne with their concerns on the current battle over school bus contracts and funding cuts at the Northumberland Child Development Centre.

Wynne visited Port Hope to be the guest speaker at the Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. Her primary agenda was her plan for jobs and economic growth across the province.

“We are very pleased with the job numbers today, but we need that to be a trend. We need that to continue. I use the example of SISCO, with 5,000 jobs coming to Ontario because of our education system and our highly skilled work force,” said Wynne.

Upon her arrival at the Capitol Theatre, many protesters confronted Wynne on two issues.

Lisa Howie said she participated in the protest because her family owns Ellwood Hamilton Bus Lines. They have 65 buses and brought five of them to the protest. Their business has been operating for 45 years. If the Ministry of Education approves a new way of contracting school buses, there might be a significant impact on the smaller businesses.

“If the Liberals are going to put this RFP (request for proposal) through, it will be big corporations replacing the family-run businesses and we’re worried,” said Howie.

Michelle Higginson was protesting another issue altogether. The Five Counties Children’s Centre would become the provider of special needs resourcing services throughout the county. This was caused by the switching of services from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to the Ministry of Education, which severed funding for the home visits. Higginson is the chair-



Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne discussed job creation and economic growth in the province at the Port Hope District Chamber of Commerce last Friday in Port Hope. She was greeted by dozens of protesters outside of Port Hope’s Capitol Theatre.

woman of the Northumberland Special Needs Children Parent Advocacy Group.

“We want to get across to her that because of the change in the funding, we now have over 400 local special needs children on a waiting list for home visits,” said Higginson.

Northumberland Child Development Centre used to work with families that have special needs children and, until

the cutbacks, offered home visits. It is a family inclusive service, which is very important when you have children with special needs, said Higginson, adding the whole family needs to learn how to deal with those issues.

Since the funding change, only 80 out of 400 children from the list will get home services because the severed funding.

These cuts hit close to home for the

Higginson family because they have an adopted son at home with special needs. If it had not been for the home visits, she said, their family might not have made it through.

“It’s hard when you have a special needs child of your own because you need to find care, whether they are in school or working,” said Todd Higginson.

Along with the cuts, there were significant job reductions in the local

Northumberland Child Development Centre.

Wynne stopped to speak to the protesters about these issues before entering the Capitol Theatre to give her speech.

“I committed to both groups that I will be taking their concerns back and working with our ministers,” said Wynne.

For a multi-media look at this story, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34357>

## Make sure your kids are safe in the snow

By Melyssa Gloude

Yards, driveways and parking lots have accumulated about three feet of snow throughout the season, and in some of the ploughed parking lots, snowbanks have reached a towering 20-feet high.

This weather has left the area with reduced visibility for drivers, and a winter wonderland for children – an understandable concern for parents.

Pat McNulty, Belleville’s manager of transportation, said he feels his staff is doing an excellent job with snow removal this year.

“I’ve been here for six years and I’ve never seen snow like this,” said McNulty.

After December’s ice storm, regular snow removal has proven a little more difficult for McNulty and his staff.

“It takes 48 hours if not longer to clear sidewalks. With the piles so high, it’s been taking a lot longer,” he said.

“We put out an announcement on the city’s website, to make sure drivers watch for children. People have to be more aware when there’s this much snow.”

Parents of young children in the area think differently of the announcement.

“It’s unrealistic. The snow piles are everywhere,” said Christi Baker, mother to four-year-old Haven.

“And kids are kids! They’re assuming parents listen and teach their kids, and that their kids will listen.”

Baker, who’s also a student midwife, said education is the best way to make sure children can stay safe, and still have fun in the snow.

“I know that I’m concerned, because



Photo by Garbrielle Smith

Alex Karsnoyarsky, 13, climbs the snow mound on Lake Court in late January. The snowbank has since been plowed as it posed a safety risk to drivers.

children can so easily fall and break a limb. When it comes to skating and tobogganing, a simple helmet can go a long way,” she said.

“I also talk to [Haven] a lot about watching for vehicles that may be

about to back out.”

Baker said that making simple rules for children to follow and explaining to them in terms they understand is the most effective way to keep them safe.

“If the snowbank is taller than you, don’t climb on it. Teach your kids to make eye contact with drivers, not just in winter.

“It’s certainly tough sometimes, but the best thing to do is taking the time to

teach your kids.”

Natacha Boulanger is a mother of four children – eight-year-old Toby, six-year-old Kira, four-year-old Ember and 13-month-old Lucien.

She said that the winter weather is making her anxious for the safety of her children playing outdoors. That doesn’t stop her from letting them play on the snowbanks, however.

“I don’t think we should stop children from doing things that are possibly dangerous,” said Boulanger.

“But they need to have an idea of the dangers to grasp what happens if you don’t follow safety rules.”

Bridgette LaBelle, a daycare provider and mother to four-year-old Bella and seven-year-old Miranda, said that she doesn’t share the same concern for her children in her suburban neighbourhood.

“We have a ‘snow mountain’ in our cul-de-sac. It’s the main play area for kids,” said LaBelle.

“I can see the cars before they come in. The piles on the street are a different story, if kids are playing on the side of road, of course it could be really dangerous.”

“If parents aren’t watching their children, anything can happen,” she said.

“But it can also happen if they are watching them.”

“It’s frustrating to me because I was raised to be outside playing and living without crazy restrictions,” said LaBelle, who strives for a happy medium with her daughters.

“I try to let my girls live like that as much as I can.”

## Write for Rights campaign addresses human rights issues

By Melyssa Gloude

“I think about people who are under threat,” said Mieke Thorne, the media relations spokesperson for Belleville’s Amnesty International Group 111.

“I think about how I would feel if I was in prison for not having done anything. It’s for people to know they are not alone.”

Tuesday morning at the Belleville Public Library, the Belleville community’s chapter of Amnesty International gathered for the now-monthly urgent action letter-writing campaign, Write For Rights.

The campaign is considered one of the world’s biggest letter-writing events, according to Amnesty International. Cases involving the infringement of human rights are selected and distributed amongst international chapters. Anyone who chooses to do so may write a letter to the government of the human rights case of choice.

The goal, according to Amnesty International’s website, is that the collective action on these cases will “put massive pressure on governments to respond positively” to Amnesty’s plea to improve

human rights.

“It’s hard to imagine that people in the world are imprisoned just for speaking out,” said Thorne, referring to the numerous amounts of available cases, with crimes ranging from blasphemy to mental illness which have possible penalties such as prison time or even torture.

“We do what we can. We can talk, if we want. We can criticize. We write as many letters as we can to these governments to make changes.”

The list of current urgent action cases include the contact information for govern-

ment officials in Mexico, Myanmar, Palestine, Belarus, Russia, Nigeria and Canada.

“These are prisoners of conscience, these are people who have never used any violence,” said Thorne.

The Belleville chapter of Amnesty International has been active in our community for over thirty years, according to Thorne. Times are changing, however, and speaking out against these human rights infringements has become more accessible.

“Amnesty is letter writing. We try to make a change because the more letters that are being written, the government

will notice that everyone else notices what they’re doing,” said Thorne.

The Amnesty International website reports over two million letters written world-wide, with posted testimonies from released prisoners. The most recent prisoner released on bail was Yorm Bopha, a Cambodian land rights activist who openly opposed to development around Boeung Kak lake. She was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment for “intentional violence with aggravating circumstances” and released on Nov. 22, 2013.





Photo by Victoria Thoms

Local activists participate in a protest against the Line 9 pipeline, hanging their banner over the Dundas Street bridge. The Line 9 pipeline crosses over 29 rivers, and three major roads in Belleville.

# Protesters speak out about Line 9

By Victoria Thoms

Activists protesting against the progress of the Line 9 pipeline shared their opinions with members of the community in a not-so-subtle way on Friday afternoon. Marching through downtown Belleville, Lindy Powell, Maribeth Bateman, Anthea Weese, Wesley Weese, Susan White and John Lewis carried a large banner stating, “Stop Line 9.” As downtown shoppers and residents looked confused and surprised, the small protest carried on downtown showing their bold statement against Enbridge Inc., the company at the centre of the controversy. Enbridge was not available to provide an interview with The Pioneer before the publishing date. “Short term, what I want is for the tar sands to stop,” said Lewis, one of the protest participants.

Enbridge is a large corporation that protestors say is stepping on small communities to get what they want. The reversal of a pipeline segment between Sarnia and Montreal is their current mission, but the project won't end there. The tar sands industry is growing bigger and bigger every year, consuming money, land and natural resources, which is worrying local residents. With the chance of a break in a pipeline causing a devastating oil spill, Enbridge is facing petitions and protests across the country. Nation-wide petitions have been started, and well as provincial discussions and speeches by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. “Groups like ourselves have to resist this, because what we’re trying to do is slow down,” said Wesley Weese, one of the participants. “By taking a stance on Line 9, we are in fact slowing down this whole process.”

Protests are being held to make local

citizens more aware there is more risk than reward involved in this process, the protestors say. Belleville citizens have no direct say in the matter, they add, and are having a hard time having their voices heard. Bateman also participated in the activities of Friday. She said the risks and rewards are not equally balanced. “What’s in the pipeline, and do we get any reward from that? And the answer is probably not. Unless someone has a relative working in Alberta, then they might. What are the risks, because there is certainly not many benefits,” said Bateman. Enbridge Inc. made an effort to reach out to the citizens of cities and towns along the pipeline route. Hosting small “town hall” meetings, they awarded prizes and gifts to different towns for their participation. Belleville’s prize was \$25,000 to refurbish a bus, in preparation

for disaster co-ordination. Enbridge did not state the cause of the potential disaster, saying the bus could be for tsunamis, earthquakes or any other natural disaster that may occur. “I tell you, it would be a disaster if Belleville didn’t have any clean drinking water,” said one participant. Many participants in the latest local protests have been concerned that there are not more people in their communities expressing concerns. In fact, as the group paraded along downtown, one observer shouted out “What is Line 9?” Many people seemed confused by the sign, or simply unaware of what the cause was. Other citizens say that they’ve seen it far too often, or feel too pressured to step up and say something. “Tar sands, smar sands. People can feel that way, or get overwhelmed and not want to hear anymore about it. “But as soon as they hear that the tar

sands are coming here, to our water and our lake, they change right away. Their opinion becomes ‘We’re connected; we care.’ It’s our community and we’ve got to take care of it,” said White. Local protestors have asked Enbridge questions, and say they have not received responses. “If I was sitting in a chair at Enbridge, I would say, ‘Well why respond?’ I would be saying ‘Let’s just put out our statements, and not respond to the opposition, not react.’ The minute you react, you get into a situation that you might be led in someway to somewhere you don’t want to go,” said Wesley Weese. The group of protesters showed up along the Moira River, and downtown Belleville on Friday. They are planning to show up in other locations across Belleville with their banner to create awareness of the pending issue that may soon become permanent.

# Moccasin-making workshop encourages a sense of community and culture

By Lacy Gillott

The smell of leather, the sound of community and a sense of belonging were highlights of the third annual moccasin-making workshop at Loyalist College on Saturday. “Even just having one person show up means a lot,” explained the event organizer Tegan Mandeville-Mackay. “Having this many people come out is really encouraging, to have the support of this cultural activity as well as just bringing it to a new collection of people.” The night before the event took place, Mandeville-Mackay had six volunteers and three people signed up and ready to make a pair of moccasins. Many volunteers did not show up. However, there were many unexpected last minute sign-ups. “I was never going to turn anybody away,” Mandeville-Mackay said. Tracing, cutting, sewing and beading are few of the many necessary steps taken to produce such a culturally rich product. People came because they felt a sense of culture and connection. Some were making the moccasins as a gift. Others came because they were simply interested in the idea of personally crafting their own pair of moccasins. “I saw the poster and thought it was unique and interesting. Then I was like, who would come with me,” said Shelby Hodder as she looked at her friend, Linda Blanchette, who added “Yes, I’m here because she invited me.” The event ran from 1 p.m until 4 p.m, which Mandeville-Mackay said ‘would most likely be enough time to make at least one moccasin.’ For the process is very time consuming. Overall the event was a success. “I



Photo by Lacy Gillott

Susanna Bardy, right, volunteered and participated in a moccasin-making workshop at Loyalist College, on Saturday. It was the third annual moccasin-making workshop.

think this is the best turnout we’ve had,” Mandeville-Mackay said. Because Mandeville-Mackay will be graduating this spring, she hopes one of her volunteers will continue the annual moccasin-making workshop in the following years. If not, Mandeville-Mackay explained she would gladly come back to Loyalist College just to host this event each year.

**‘Having this many people come out is really encouraging, to have the support of this cultural activity as well as just bringing it to a new collection of people.’**  
*Organizer Tegan Mandeville-Mackay*

## Amnesty...

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Upon her release, Bopha thanked Amnesty International, stating that the Write for Rights campaign was successful. “Now with social media, there’s a lot of push. Things get done. People get publicity. But the letters, they do still help,” said Thorne. “Normally on an urgent action campaign, we’re averaging 30 letters,” said Marianne Chapelle, treasurer for Belleville’s Amnesty chapter. “It’s something anyone can do, and that’s been our thrust. Some developing countries don’t adhere to the rules and regulations of basic human rights and we’re looking to put a stop to these abuses,” said Chapelle. The process, Chapelle explained is made easy for those wanting to participate. “People can view the Urgent Actions available and choose who to write to. We have all the material here to write the letters. We [also] address the envelopes and take donation for stamps and postage, and we send them.” The group has also seen a response from their efforts – Amnesty International’s publication, *The Activist*, sends volunteers information regarding prisoners who have been released. Anthea Weese, a long-time volunteer with Group 111 has seen some of the letters from the prisoners who have been released. “Some of the prisoners write back and tell us how the letters made all the difference,” said Weese. Through the years, Amnesty International reports that they have achieved a positive outcome in one-third of the cases they campaign for. “Often in news reports when you see that a prisoner of conscience has been released, they thank Amnesty International.” Letter writing is open to the public and will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For all other meetings, contact Belleville’s Amnesty International Group 111 representative at cgallupe@gmail.com.

Suzu Willig asked people at Loyalist College the following question:  
**Are you watching the Olympics, and if yes, what are you most looking forward to?**



**Erica Thompson, early childhood education,** “Maybe a little bit, probably snowboarding and skiing.”



**Charles Shaw, 22, chemical engineering,** “Absolutely, team Canada winning.”



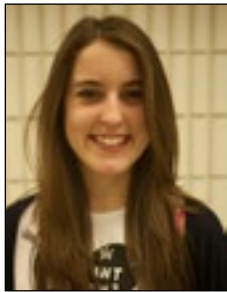
**Tanya Sherboneau, 20, early childhood education,** “Probably not. I’m pretty busy.”



**Lucas McQuoid, police foundations,** “Yes, I will be watching. I’m most looking forward to bobsledding.”



**Andrew Tyerman, environmental technology,** “Vaguely, I like the ski jumping.”



**Lindsay Robinson, police foundations,** “I only have only one channel, so I’m not gonna watch.”





Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Adam Cole, car 305, stirs up the dirt with competitor Cameron Pedersen, car 22, during the Snow Smash Derby in Stirling last Saturday. Pedersen came in third place, while Cole placed fourth. The two challengers smashed with eight other vehicles during the mini-heat. Both vehicles were contenders in the feature heat at the end of the derby. Go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34435>

# Snowmobiles race at weekend event

By Melyssa Gloude

On Saturday, an otherwise quiet lake in the country was abuzz with the roaring of engines and the zip of snowmobiles making their way down a homemade ice track.

Close to 1,500 spectators, sponsors and snowmobile racers gathered on the frozen Moira Lake for the second annual installment of Madoc's snowmobile Ice Drags. The non-profit event was hosted by the Centre Hastings Snowmobile Club, with all entry and registry fee proceeds donated to the Lions Club in partnership with other organizations such as O'Hara Mill Homestead & Conservation, the Madoc District Agricultural Society and the Madoc Kiwanis Club.

"The snowmobile club is the driving force,"

said Tom Simpson, deputy mayor and president of the Madoc Lions.

"Each club has different projects – for instance, the Lions club, we give to the food bank, and this year we did a Philippine disaster relief fund with last year's donations."

Last year's Ice Drags raised \$3,000, which was split up by the groups.

"Most of the money stays local," said Simpson.

"And it's a great time, especially for a little rural community. It's always nice to have some activity here."

The event was geared towards all levels of racers, with highlights such as the King of the Ice race, in which racers reached speeds more than 120 miles-per-hour on a 660 foot track.

People gathered standing along both sides of the track, while some, in true Canadian fashion, opted for makeshift seats in the snowbanks left over from the plowing of the lake. Though most spectators attended to watch friends or family members compete, some were just excited first-timers out for some winter fun.

"We didn't know from the poster that there was going to be food here, or that there was an admission price," said Harry Quart, who was attending the event for the first time.

"But all the money is going to a good cause, so that's great."

"There's been some technical difficulties," said Quart, referring to the malfunctioning professional software meant for recording racers, times and entries. After a few hours of attempt-

ing to fix the software, the technicians decided to use the old-fashioned way and used flags instead.

"It's definitely been nice to finally watch some races," Quart said.

MP Daryl Kramp was also at the event, however this year he could not compete in the highly anticipated celebrity race due to an unrelated injury.

"It was great last year and I'm really glad to see all of the organizers bringing it back," said Kramp, who participated in the 2013 Celebrity Ice Drags.

"It's just a phenomenal event, and so Canada. I love it!"

For a multi-media look at the snowmobile event, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34453>

# Men's basketball team dominates in weekend action

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

The Loyalist Lancers men's basketball dominated in their first game of the week-end against the Fleming Knights, winning 102-51.

After having defeated the Sir Sandford Fleming Knights 101-74 on Dec. 4, in Peterborough, the Lancers were prepared to play well and get another victory, and this time on their home court.

The Lancers were able to stay ahead on the scoreboard throughout the entire game. They never got complacent playing a team that hasn't yet won a game, but rather kept up their intensity, working together and continued scoring points.

First-year guard Kinkay Smith said that his first year has been going really well. They've had some tough games and tough losses but just have to fight through it to earn a playoff spot, explained Smith.

"The team worked really well together tonight. We called each other for help and switched on the ball so we could pressure the ball a lot and that got us points. We played good defence and we saw the ball and that's how we got a good lead on the game from the start," said Smith.

Lancers head coach Ryan Barbeau was pleased with the way the team played.

"We played pretty well. We did some things that were kind of stupid towards

the end of the game but I thought overall we competed for 40 minutes. Everyone got in the game and everyone played well," said Barbeau.

According to Barbeau, the team isn't quite where it needs to be defensively, and has been struggling in the half-court when teams move the ball and their rotations aren't crisp enough yet — but they're getting there.

"We're working at it and getting better at

the little things defensively," said Barbeau.

The Lancers also dominated on the court with five minutes left in their Sunday game after losing the first three quarters against the Georgian Grizzlies. The fans roared as the Lancers were able to pick up points in the final minutes and won the game 67-62. They now stand in fifth place in the Eastern division.

Their next game is Feb. 14 against Algonquin College, at 8 p.m. in Ottawa.

# Women's team gets a big victory

By Victoria Thoms

The Loyalist Lancers women's basketball team was victorious this weekend in both their games against Fleming College Friday and Georgian College Sunday.

Winning 59-27 against the Fleming Knights on Friday, the Lancers showed Fleming that they could beat them once again, just as they did on Dec. 4. The Lancers beat the Knights 42-35 in December, making it their first win of the season.

After winning their game against Georgian College this Sunday, the ladies brought their total wins for the season up to three. Having earned two of those wins in the same weekend, the ladies have gained some confidence.

"Our coaches always told us that we need to hate losing more than we love winning," said Mikayla Brennen, a forward for the Lancers from Shannonville.

Standing in eighth place in the league, the Lancers have only one more game to try to make an impact.

"It may have taken a little while to sink in, but I think it finally has. It was good to win both games at home, with the support of all our fans," said Brennan.

Playing eight games on their home court this season has given the Lancers eight games to show their Loyalist fans what they are made of. Parents, siblings and classmates come out to Loyalist games to cheer on their teams.

Residence assistant Justin Bulman



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Loyalist Lancer, Brandi Akey (left), dives in to help her teammate, Courtney Bennett, for the advantage against Fleming Knights guard, Michelle Boyer, during third quarter game action Friday at Loyalist College. The Lancers fought for a hard win, defeating Fleming 59-27, for the second time this season. It is also their second win of the season.

has attended all of the women's basketball home games, as he works for the school recording the games.

"I'm like a super-fan. I'm at every

one of their games," said Bulman. Coming to cheer on one of his good friends from school, Elesia Younie of the Lancers, Bulman made posters to

show his support.

The Lancers women's team will play their final game of the season at Algonquin College in Ottawa on Feb. 14.

## Hard-working roller derby team takes part in practice

By Christopher King

Once a week on Friday nights, the Belleville Roller Derby team gathers at school gymnasiums to practice. Warm ups, suicide drills and pushups are part of any regular practice. However, the athletes have to stop every now and then to solve a dispute.

One of their kids fell and injured themselves, or lost their favourite toy.

The mothers are the athletes and the fathers and partners are coaching and the kids are chasing each other or playing video games on portable devices.

Roller derby has developed an image of women on wheels, skimpily dressed, bashing each other's skulls in. This image comes from the origins of the sport which began in the entertainment industry. Decades later, roller derby has transformed into a competitive sport with teams and leagues. They retain the image with bright costumes and customized skates but the game has changed.

View the video link to see a fresh angle on roller derby in today's world: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34438>



# Mayor looks forward to new challenges

By Jonathan King

Belleville Mayor Neil Ellis will not run in his third mayoral race this year, and confirms he will be seeking nomination in the upcoming federal election in the new Bay of Quinte riding.

During a recent interview with The Pioneer, he leans forward, taking his feet off of the table, planting them firmly on the floor.

“The way I roll, I don’t regret my choice. I’m dealt a deck and I do my best. I’m always looking forward,” he says.

He leans back on the black leather couch and puts his feet on the coffee table. Awards, certificates and plaques from various groups and charities adorn the shelves behind him.

Ellis was born and raised Belleville. He comes from a line of city residents. His father, Fred, served as a firefighter captain in the city for more than 30 years and his uncle, Richard, served on city council for many years in the 1960s.

Ellis is always trying to be positive while at city hall, always being open to discussion and shying away from debates.

“When a councilman says they want to debate, that means someone wins or loses. We need discussions.”

He leans back into the sofa again.

“If you have a discussion, you get the opportunity to turn something negative into something positive... That’s why I’ll say ‘I’ll second that for discussion’ because when you discuss things, everyone wins.”

Ellis has plenty of involvement in the Loyalist College community, helping to raise funding for more equipment and helping improve industry recruitment with local companies such as Bioniche and getting the equipment needed to re-tool and adapt to the ever-changing workforce.

“The nice thing about Loyalist is that we can adapt and change,” Ellis says. “I remember my first year as mayor. I asked the students where they were from and when they told me Vancouver because Loyalist has the best program for radio broadcasting. That’s something I like to hear because it puts us on the map.”

Ellis, like numerous others, uses Twitter because it provides a direct line between constituents and himself. It’s something that not many other mayors or politicians embrace.

“Twitter is the best; 140 characters is all I need. It can consume your entire day, but at the end of it, I prefer face-to-face or voice communication. There’s a lack of emotion when we use it,” he says. “I wish I could be on social media as Neil Ellis, not Mayor Neil Ellis. It’s hard to detach from the office but I accept that.”

Ellis has had an impact with some of the councillors. Inside the council chamber, councillors spoke out about his service to the city and the co-operative spirit he brings to the chamber.

“Mayor Ellis has worked very hard, and diligently to fulfill and exceed the requirements of the Mayor’s job. His efforts and decisions in his mind have always been with the betterment of our community in mind,” says Coun. Lafferty. “I do remember right after getting elected first time he would stop by my house every morning to have me tie his necktie for him. we have had a lot of fun together over the last



Photo by Jonathan King

**Mayor Neil Ellis takes a phone call during a recent interview about his career in municipal office. “The way I roll is I don’t regret my choices, I’m dealt a deck and I do my best, I’m always looking forward,” Ellis said.**

seven years, and as I said earlier, he has served his city well.”

“During the first or second year in office at the end of long session there’s a proclamation, usually for different weeks or days such as childrens week, for example... and while reading the proclamation Neil said ‘I request all children to be loved and neutered’ instead of nurtured, we all got a lot of chuckles in the chamber” laughed Coun. Egerton Boyce. “He is an amazing mayor, he takes people who come in with different agendas and he gets us all working as a team... The city will miss him around the table and the leadership he has shown over the past eight years.”

Ellis is still optimistic about the local economy, especially in the wake of the recent lay offs by Sears and Best Buy Canada.

“It’s not great but our economy is strong... our credit rating got bumped up. We could survive a depression.”

Belleville’s credit rating was increased in April of 2013 by Standard and Poor’s rating service from AA- to A+, reflecting Belleville’s posting budget surpluses from the past six years before slipping into a 1.8 percent deficit in 2010.

“When you look at job loss or gain, it’s how the media says it... Closure news always multiplies the bad... It’s not great but our economy is strong,” he says.

“Over the last eight years we’ve concentrated on the food sector. We all gotta eat, right?” he laughs.

“We’re taking efforts to build serviced industrial land to attract employers, and we’ve looked at our competition and seen what we could do to improve... We never got to second base with companies lost to London, Ont. We’ve learned from London what we need.”

Ellis remains positive about the new federal election ridings combining Belleville and Prince Edward County into the new Bay of Quinte riding

in addition to adding 15 more ridings throughout Ontario.

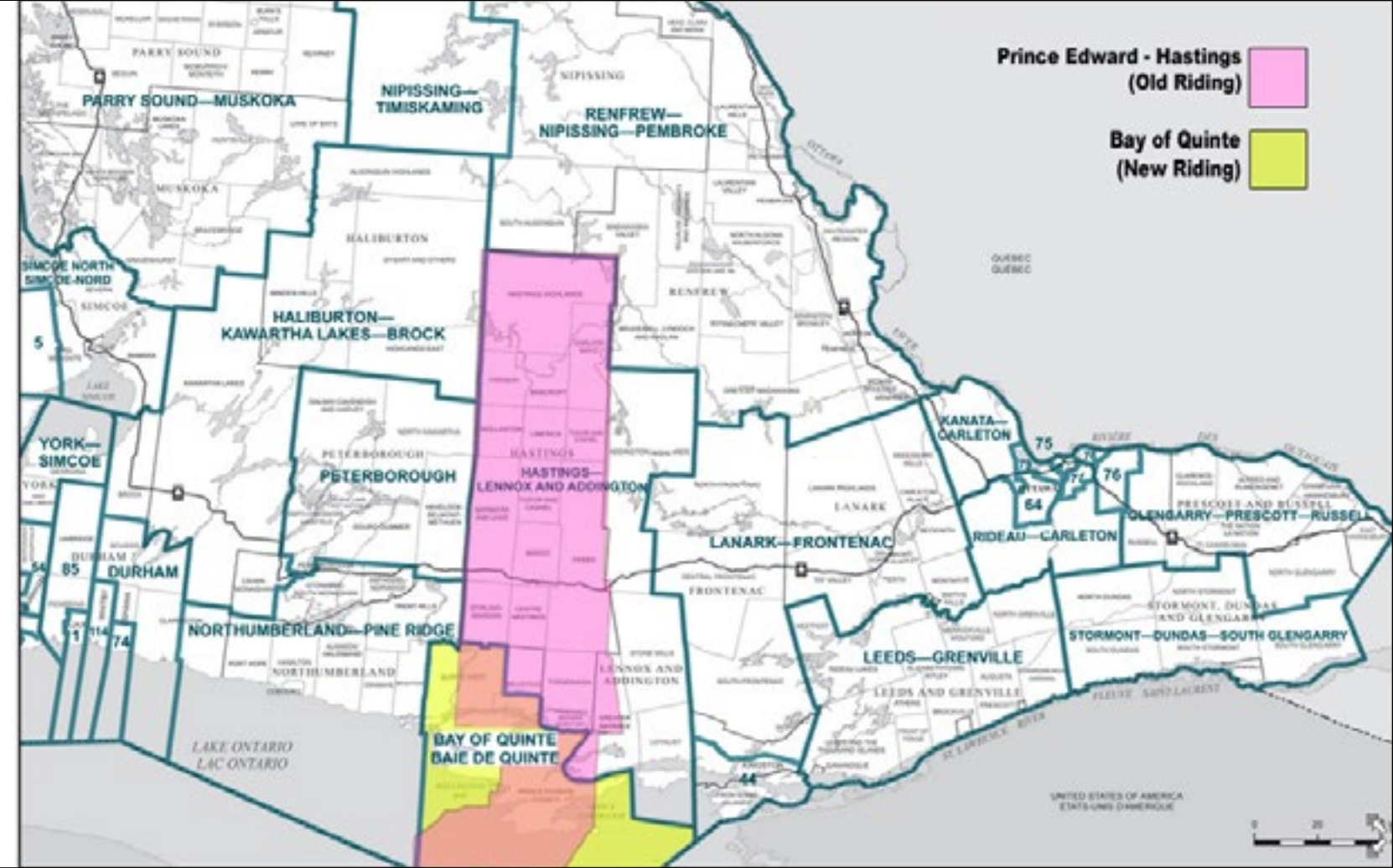
“I wish we had all of Belleville but we do the best. Geographically speaking it’s smaller, but also a lot more manageable, past mayors and I have worked on this, between Quinte West and Belleville.”

Ellis has big plans for Belleville, especially the downtown core of the city.

“I’m a generator. I’m always thinking about how I can move this organization forward.”

One such idea was to build a mobile police station to move around downtown and improve police presence in the city, with a one-time cost and no bricks-and-mortar building it keeps costs low and mobility high, he says.

Ellis has big plans for the small city. He has a plan developed from trial and error, learning from his mistakes and always looking towards the future of Belleville.



Edited map from Elections Canada

**This map shows the redrawn boundary lines for the federal ridings in southern Ontario. Belleville has joined the newly formed Bay of Quinte federal riding (illustrated in yellow), along with Prince Edward County, Trenton, and Quinte West. Belleville and Prince Edward County used to be part of the Prince Edward-Hastings riding (illustrated in pink), which has become the Hastings-Lennox and Addington riding.**

## Election results could be impacted by riding change

By Kaitlin Abeele

A new Bay of Quinte federal riding could mean less support for the Conservatives in 2015 election.

Statistics from Elections Canada showed that the Conservatives would have lost over 3,000 votes in the new Bay of Quinte federal riding based on the 2011 general election voter turnout. While not enough to unseat Conservative MP Daryl Kramp for the former Prince Edward-Hastings riding, it is still a loss of support.

“My indication is basically there’s less than one per cent difference between what was and what will be. That would be of course assuming everybody were to vote in the same pattern as they did before,” said Kramp.

Every 10 years, independent commissions are established in the 10 provinces to examine Canadian census results and adjust the federal riding boundaries based on population changes. The Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not included since they each represent

one electoral district.

The former Prince Edward-Hastings riding, which covered everything south of Hastings Highlands down to Prince Edward County, has been divided into smaller geographical ridings. Belleville has now become part of the Bay of Quinte riding, along with Prince Edward County, Trenton and Quinte West.

John Brisbois, president of the local Federal Liberal Riding Association, explained what the new boundaries mean for electoral candidates and voters.

“In terms of the changes, it’s a much smaller geographical riding. It makes ease of getting around and ease of campaigning and ease of assembling ideas just a little bit better,” said Brisbois.

The new boundaries have added 30 new seats to the House of Commons, with 15 new seats in Ontario, six each in Alberta and British Columbia, and three in Quebec.

With new seats up for grabs, Elections Canada took the 2011 general elections results and redistributed them based on

the new boundaries. The results showed the Conservatives would earn a total of 22 more seats, while the NDP would gain an additional six seats, and the Liberals an additional two.

While the new boundaries are created by independent commissions, some people have been critical of the new boundaries, suggesting the potential Conservative gains were planned.

“Far be it from me to say it was planned. But based on the last numbers it looks like it was planned. But I think it will backfire, because it’s a different election and Mr. Harper’s appeal has somewhat soured,” said Brisbois.

However, Kramp disagrees with claims that the boundaries were influenced by Conservative interests.

“Quite frankly, we have no say in this. This is done by Elections Canada every 10 years...There’s no way anybody could have a crystal ball on this. But to suggest nefarious issues are behind this, I think that’s an affront quite frankly to the principle and the dedication of an in-

dependent body, Elections Canada,” said Kramp.

Kramp will be running for re-election in the coming 2015 general election. He has not announced which riding he will be running in.

As for the coming election, neither Brisbois nor Kramp are able to predict how the public will vote, but Brisbois feels that Justin Trudeau and the Liberals stand a fair chance at election.

“In terms of this coming election, I think it’s going to be determined nationally in the sense that, I think there’s a great deal of discontent with the Conservatives. The NDP don’t seem to have been able to build on the Jack Layton effect. And so that’s left Mr. Trudeau with a golden opportunity,” said Brisbois.

Kramp said that the decision rests with the electorate.

“I just know we try to work harder every election than the time before. It depends on the people’s judgment on whether we have served them to the best of our ability,” said Kramp.

## Signatures gathered by police foundations students

By Jonathan King

Police foundations students Jason Campaigne, Austin Kiley, Ryan Maguire and Rob Wannamaker, all in their second-year, are looking for signatures for their petition to reopen an investigation into the rape of a South African woman.

Noxolo Nogwaza, an openly gay 24-year-old who was “correctively raped” as punishment for her sexual identity and activism in the LGBTQ community.

“South Africa has the highest rapes per capita in the world, or one woman every 17 seconds,” says Campaigne. “She was raped, beaten and targeted by her killers for her activism in the LGBTQ community.”

Since 2008, there have been a high number of cases relating to sexual discrimination in South Africa. In 2008, openly lesbian soccer player Eudy Simelane was found in a ditch with over 20 stab wounds after her abduction, rape and murder.

This summer, openly gay and transgender 23-year-old man named Thapelo Makhutle was killed after a confrontation with two men about his sexuality.

Corrective rape is being used as a tool to “cure” lesbians and transgendered people of their “disease.”

“The men ‘corrective rape them’ to urge them to return to a more ‘traditional’ lifestyle choice,” Campaigne added. “It’s been four years and no investigation on who or why.”

Kaley, McGuire, Campaigne and Wannamaker are gathering signatures for their community policing course in the police foundations program.

“We have close to 500 signatures. Our goal is 1,200,” says Campaigne. “Most people are interested or disgusted but they all support and sign.”

The petition will be sent to Tsakane police in KwaThema, South Africa.