

DocFest...

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"It took about a year to get financing, and then two years of shooting, and doing the editing and doing the animation," said Adam Gray.

Close to half a dozen other local directors were on hand to talk briefly about their submissions.

The co-chair of the festival, Gary Magwood, hosted the event, now in its third year.

Magwood explained some of the lessons the committee has learned from past years to improve this year's festival.

"You need more volunteers than we thought. We changed scheduling a bit because, although the films run consecutively, we've tried to offset them a bit, so that folks can see the beginning. If they don't like it they can step to the next one. And mostly just how to make things flow."

The audience of around 50 people, crammed neatly into a third floor meeting room, was comprised of the public, documentary filmmakers, local media, and festival volunteers, wearing black Doc Fest T-shirts.

For the volunteers, working at the festival will likely involve very little documentary watching, as Magwood explained.

"Most of the time, myself, and anyone with the black shirts, will be doing a lot of running around — the Doc Fest shuffle."



Gary Magwood, co-chair the of Belleville Downtown DocFest, speaks at the festivals Trailerfest, while co-chair Heather Muir looks on. The evening introduced trailers for the films to be screened at this year's festival.

Photo by Mitch Ward

Coyotes taking up residence

Sightings and problems in residential areas a result of growing population

By Dayna Lefebvre

Coyotes continue to be a nuisance in Belleville and the surrounding area, causing some people to fear for their pet's safety — and their own.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, coyote populations have been on the rise since 2000 in Ontario. Although there are no hard numbers on the population, the sightings and problems of coyotes in residential areas have been increasing.

Bonnie Bowness and her neighbours in Trenton have spent the last three months with a lone coyote living in their backyards. Because he is nearly as large as her great dane, they believe it might be a wolf-coyote hybrid, which are not uncommon.

Coyotes generally pose little threat to humans, but that doesn't stop them from intimidating people in residential areas.

"I've lived here my whole life," explained Bowness. "We used to see an animal maybe once a month — a deer, a fox, or a coyote. Now it's every day."

"It's really bad. I haven't been able to go out with the dogs," said Bowness. Before the coyote began to hang around, Bowness and her neighbours would walk their dogs up to twice a day. Now the dogs are too scared to leave the house.

"They've been going to the bathroom inside. It's been a bad winter," she explained.

When the coyote first appeared, it was healthy looking

and didn't stick around very long. More recently, it has had patches of fur missing and has become braver.

"He's not afraid of anything, and he comes really close. I've never been scared before with stuff like this. I am now. He's very brave," Bowness said.

The coyote comes into their backyards and will watch them through the windows. Multiple times there have been tracks leading around their cars and up onto the doorstep.

Although no pets have been injured, it's been stressful for the neighbourhood.

Bowness believes subdivision construction in the area is responsible for the increase in residential coyote encounters. The subdivision was previously home to acres of woods.

"These poor babies are homeless," she explained. "It's not his fault. He doesn't know where his next meal is. I feel bad for him, but he scares us."

"He's out there all the time. He watches every move, and it leaves you stuck. We don't know what to do," Bowness said, adding that unless the coyote hurts someone, she doesn't think animal control is likely to do anything.

Jeff Weese, a registered hunter from Belleville, agrees. "They help control the feral cat and dog populations, especially in a residential area. Unless they become a direct danger, people don't want to step in."

Coyote sightings even in downtown Belleville have become a more common occurrence, with one spotted on Bell Boulevard earlier this month.

"They're opportunistic," explained Weese. Opportunistic feeders will eat anything from fresh meat to carrion, vegetables and even garbage. "They usually eat small animals, but a harsh winter can make it more difficult."

He added that in cities like Trenton and Belleville

there are cats, dogs and even chickens, all of which are perfect opportunities for a coyote.

"Don't set an environment for them," Weese said. "If you're feeding them, even unintentionally, they will come back. Keep your garbage inside, keep your pets inside."

Weese explains that this winter he has had plenty of encounters with coyotes in residential Belleville, including a pack of six near Taste of Country on Roblin Road, and a lone coyote early in the morning walking towards town on Sidney Street.

Coyotes are generally pack animals, excluding mating season.

"A lone coyote, especially a male, is more dangerous — and more desperate. Being alone usually means something is wrong with them," explained Weese. "Usually they are aggressive or a trouble maker, something the pack didn't want."

Although coyotes are less likely to carry rabies than other animals such as foxes, the spread of mange, worms and other parasites are a concern, especially in a residential area where pets and children can be exposed to waste from the animal.

Generally coyotes are timid creatures and will run if confronted, but if they are desperate enough, they can pose a threat to children and pets.

"Usually if you yell at them to get back in the woods, they will," Weese explained. "If you have one that won't back down, make a lot of noise. Maintain eye contact, back away slowly, and get somewhere safe."

Despite the growing populations, attacks on people are incredibly rare, with only one fatality on record in Canada.

People are encouraged to report coyote sightings to the police or animal control.

Derailment...

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"We are as ready as we can be," said Susan Rowe, director of communications of Quinte Health Care.

There are currently multiple plans in place in case there's a large-scale incident, the hospitals can work well with their partners and respond accordingly. Those plans are revisited annually or biannually depending on the plan.

If a mass casualty event were to happen, the hospitals would be placed on "Code Orange", which means expect mass casualties intake.

The recent "Code Orange" was declared when QHC received notice from Ontario Provincial Police that there may be more than 100 casualties from a pile up from Highway 401 last January, she said.

"We made sure that our in patient team, intensive care, labs and other personnel were in the hospital and ready to deal with whoever comes through the door."

Quinte Health Care regularly runs mock situations with other provincial and municipal emergency services, she said. The last "Code Orange" mock exercise was simulated two years ago in conjunction with the municipal emergency services.

"No one wants these things to happen but we are prepared," Rowe said.

Student president devotes free time to job

Meetings and ceremonies all part of a day's work for Chantel Johnston

By Solana Cain

Chantel Johnston didn't know exactly what she was getting herself into, but she's signed up to do it again — even if that means reading emails into the night.

"I seem to strive on being stressed," said Johnston, Loyalist's current student government president. "I seem to like it. I crave it I guess," she said.

As required of the student president, Johnston attends committee meetings, executive meetings, biweekly board meetings, award ceremonies, works box office at pub nights, and makes herself available to students by walking around the cafeteria at lunch, having an open door policy for the office and replying to a constant stream of emails.

"I expected a big role but I didn't expect it to be as big as it really is," said Johnston, who says all of her free time on campus is devoted to student government.

"I did not understand really how much of a role the student government president actually plays within the college," she said.

One of the board's biggest accomplishments this term was the renovation done to the cafeteria.

"It adds so much more to Loyalist, especially with the administration area recently being redone and the main entrance," said Johnston.

Despite the mounting work, Johnston is running again for student president in the upcoming elections. If she wins, this will be her third consecutive year on the board as she enters her third year as a full-time student in her business administration.

Voting begins online next week for new student government representation.

"Online voting has been in place for several years which makes it very convenient for students," said Nancy Simpson, student government office manager.



Loyalist College Student Government President Chantel Johnston is running again in the upcoming spring elections for a second term as president. The second-year business administrative student has been in student politics since elementary school.

Photo by Solana Cain

There are also cash incentives to voters — \$500 to be split between two students — as voting apathy has been a problem in the past.

Johnston ended up running for president unopposed last fall after the only other candidate withdrew their name from the running.

This year, Paul Hamilton, first-year police foundations student, is running against Johnston in the election.

Current vice-president Ashley Porlier will be graduating from the human resources management one-year certificate program this spring leaving her seat vacant.

For the three students vying for her position, Porlier says, "I think that the incoming vice president would do very well to try to get counsel on board with whatever project they want to do."

A highlight for Porlier is the develop-

ment and creation of a domestic violence visual resource tool. In conjunction with the mental health services, and Sarah Ogden, mind and wellness practitioner at Loyalist, the visual tool akin to a traffic light was designed to help students identify domestic violence warning signs in their relationships.

The visual aid was disseminated inside the What's Happening Loyalist College winter 2014 magazine available in every

student space on campus.

"I really believe that this particular role needs some projects to accomplish because so many of the media responsibilities or interviews that are given, are done by the president, pretty much exclusively. So in order to make sure you're really providing value, the vice president should take the lead on projects the students want to see," she said.

The candidates for vice president are Andrew Chapman, first-year civil engineering technician student, Jasmine Chapman, first-year radio broadcasting student and Mary-Ellen Morris, second-year developmental service worker student.

To run for a student government position, you must be a full-time student, who has paid their tuition and has a 60 per cent average in the previous semester, with no failures and no incompletes.

Simpson said a successful student government is a team willing to "put aside their personal preferences to focus on other students' opinions and work together to make improvements to benefit current and future students."

The remaining positions are for class leaders.

First-year nursing students Maria Clemente and Darrin Morgan are running for health sciences leader.

First years Vanessa Henry, Michelle Macland and Joshua Robertson DeLarge are running for justice studies leader.

Second-year students Brittany Downie and Samantha Jackson are running for media, arts & design leader.

Second-year chemical engineering technician student Tim Lucas is running unopposed for applied sciences, skills & technology leader.

First-year business administration student Nichole Howson is running unopposed for business & management studies leader.

Destiny Tucker, first-year developmental service worker, is running unopposed for human studies leader.

Students can vote from March 4 — 6 at LoyalistLife.com.