

# The Pioneer

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Photo by Jeremy Mckay

## Blockade in support of missing aboriginal women

Shawn Brant, along with fellow First Nations protesters, sit by a bonfire at a blockade at Airport Parkway and Shannonville Road in Tyendinaga on Sunday night. "We'll be here as long as it takes," said Brant. "It's not about us, it's about the missing women," said one protester. The protesters are looking to draw attention to the hundreds of murdered and missing aboriginal women. The protesters are calling for a federal inquiry to address the issue of missing and murdered aboriginal women. For more on the protest, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=35093>

## Letter has special meaning to recipient

By Natalie McMullen

When Rhonda Lummiss was a teenager, she found a kindred spirit in Holden Caulfield. She related to the enigmatic protagonist from *The Catcher in the Rye*, because like her, he was awkward, self-conscious, and a bit of a misfit.

"I made up my mind, as soon as I opened the envelope — before I'd even read what he said, I thought, 'I don't think I want to tell anybody.'"

These were the private musings of 19-year-old Lummiss, standing at the mailbox in front of the house where she grew up, holding a letter from J.D. Salinger. The year was 1979.

A few years earlier, Lummiss' English teacher handed her and her classmates copies of *The Rivals*, an 18<sup>th</sup> century play by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. He then looked up at his students, and said, "This is just an impossible thing. Let's see what else I can find." He left the classroom and returned with a box of copies of Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*.

"I loved the book, and as I read more of Salinger ... there was just this common thread through his work about sensitivity, and not making judgments about people on superficialities, and really trying to connect ... on a deeper level," said Lummiss.

After completing her last year of high school, like many young people caught between childhood and looming adult responsibility, Lummiss was sensitive to the passage of time, and preoccupied with existential questions.

She decided, despite his by-then infamous reputation as a recluse, to reach out to Salinger, whom she considered a kindred spirit.

"I just thought, well, I'm going to foolishly write this letter to this author that I respect so much."

As it turns out, many people wrote to Salinger over the years and received responses.

He stopped publishing in the 1960s, and gave his final interview in 1980 — 30 years before his death in 2010.

"He was a prolific letter writer," said Declan Kiely,

department head of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City.

"We've been offered many letters over the years — some more interesting than others."

Kiely recently curated an exhibit called 'Lose not Heart,' displaying a correspondence between Salinger and a young aspiring writer from Toronto named Marjorie Sheard.

Lummiss doesn't have a copy of the letter she sent to Salinger, though she remembers composing several drafts, and thinks there is probably a version stowed away somewhere.

But she recalls the sentiment behind her correspondence.

"I just basically said, 'I hope I don't lose touch with those really important things you talk about in your book — because I feel so connected to them now. But I'm getting older.'"

Salinger responded within two weeks. Lummiss was protective of Salinger, and didn't tell

anyone, except for her mom and brother, about the letter for decades.

"Even if he'd been the kind of person who didn't care if he had a lot of publicity around him, even though I knew he didn't like that, I thought, 'It's so special, why would I want to spoil the moment?'"

Lummiss once read an article that claimed he often disposed of his mail without even opening it. This detail only deepened her loyalty.

But when her mother fell ill, Lummiss needed money to cover the extra costs of her care.

Her brother, who knew about the correspondence, and had recently heard of a Salinger letter selling for \$40,000, suggested she consider parting with it.

He told her about the CBC program *Four Rooms*, a show on which members of the public try to sell valuable items to Canada's top buyers.

"I didn't want to sell it. I didn't even want to talk about it. I didn't want to expose it. I said, in the circumstances, 'I'm going to do it.'"

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## Organic vendors share and sell goods

*Seedy Saturday event focuses on information and education about non-genetically modified food*

By Melyssa Gloude

"We grow garlic, tomato, beans, watermelon, sunflowers," said Reagan Johnstone, the eight-year-old entrepreneur behind Reagan's Seeds.

"When the financial world collapses, people are going to need to know how to grow their own food," said Johnstone.

"It's just better for you. You know what you've done to it."

Johnstone was just one of the 13 vendors selling and swapping organic goods at Quinte West's Seedy Saturday last weekend. The event, sponsored by The Bauta Family Initiative For Canadian Seed Security, focused primarily on the information and education regarding the growth of non-genetically modified food, and to keep diversity in farmers' fields. And, in the dead of winter, seeing some growing greens was refreshing to most.

"This is our first event and we're pretty pleased because we have lots of vendors and lots of workshops. We really managed to pull it together," said Colleen McKenzie, one of the volunteer co-ordinators for the event.

According to the Bauta, in regards to seed diversity, Canadians rely on only four plant species — wheat, maize, rice, potato — for 60 per cent of the calories in their diet. This statistic relays an alarming loss of agricultural biodiversity in Canada, according to the group.

Bauta, among other sister organizations such as USC Canada, Seeds of Diversity and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, believe that this reliance on a shrinking number of crops and the lack of diversity in farmers' fields will make

Canadians vulnerable to crop-destroying factors such as: severe weather storm, drought, floods, pests and rising soil salinity.

"The idea is to keep growing seeds, seeds that are non-GMO," said McKenzie. "To keep growing diverse types of food, flowers and other plants."

The goal of these organizations is to broaden the range of crops and crop varieties grown in Canada to increase the resilience of our agricultural system.

Amanda Hill, event vendor and owner of GreenHill Greens in Prince Edward County, grows her own fruits and vegetables and sells all the excess at farmers markets and events.

"We think that growing your own food is really important, and that's what Seedy Saturday is all about," said Hill, who also helped co-ordinate the event.

"Especially meeting people who have never grown things before, you can convert them to organic!"

The seed exchanges were previously held in Picton, but for the first event in Quinte West, it exceeded expectation in the eyes of the co-ordinators.

"I was involved in the Picton event as a vendor, and we decided one should be held further west, and we're really thrilled with how many people have turned up today," said Hill.

"We already have more volunteers signed up to help at next year's event."

According to the volunteers, the driving force behind Seedy Saturday was Colleen O'Reilly, who organized the demonstrations and vendors.

"The focus was supposed to be the Seed Exchange table," said O'Reilly, who added she was happy with the turnout for the first annual Quinte West event.

"But everything seems to connect. It's about healthy living. It's about knowing where our food is coming from," she said.

"It's about knowing what's in our food. Being able to promote that is fantastic."



Photo by Melyssa Gloude

Stacey Hubbs is the owner of Edible Antiques, one of 13 vendors who were selling and swapping seeds at the Seedy Saturday seed exchange in Trenton last weekend. Edible Antiques is an heirloom seed company that is based out of Prince Edward County that specializing in open-pollinated, heirloom, non-GMO and heritage garden seeds.

## Hydro rates frustrate citizens

By Michelle Heshka

Citizens of Belleville are unhappy with the rising hydro delivery rates.

"Prices of so many things are going up, and you can't really expect things to stay the same. At the same time, it's not necessary to charge residents extra hydro delivery charges. The smart meters were a good idea. Now I can see where my money is going. But now this extra delivery charge? It's ridiculous," said Belleville resident Rachael Ossel.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, Hydro One customers across Ontario started paying more for hydro delivery.

The Ontario Energy Board said the distribution rates are increasing due to inflation. This is one outcome of inflation that citizens of Belleville are not interested in paying.

Ossel isn't the only Belleville resident who is unhappy with these new fees.

Philip Scott, a first-year radio broadcasting student at Loyalist College, said he believes the rates are unnecessarily skyrocketing to keep up with other parts of the economy.

"The hydro rate increase is annoying, but it is keeping to the rest of the economy. The raising rates are probably justified by the rising gas prices," said Scott.

The rates are increasing by at least 1.1 per cent, and bills are expected to rise. The new long-term energy plan shows that the average monthly bill of \$125 will rise to \$178, meaning hydro bills will increase by 42 per cent over the next five years.

In 2013, Ontario released smart meters — hydrometers that track both when and how much energy was used. The smart meters go hand in hand with the varying prices of electricity, depending on what time of day it's used. The idea of the new meter is to encourage people to look at how and when they are using electricity, according to the Ontario Energy Board website.

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Photo by Natalie McMullen

## Tulips part of Lung Association campaign

Money raised goes to funding for lung disease research

By Jessica Campbell

This Wednesday to Sunday, The Ontario Lung Association will be holding a Tulip Day Campaign throughout the province.

The Ontario Lung Association, in Belleville will be campaigning at various locations including Walmart, LCBO, Dewe's Independent Store, No Frills, Loyalist College and many more.

However, because of an unsuccessful previous year, the Quinte Mall will not be holding the Tulip Day Campaign.

Lola McMurter, Ontario Lung Association special events co-ordinator, describes the fundraisers.

"We have many different campaigns throughout the year, some more popular than others. But, they are all to raise money for the same thing. We try to raise money to fund lung disease research as well as other diseases."

This is the Ontario Lung Association's 17<sup>th</sup> annual provincial Tulip Day Campaign. There are eight community offices. The head office in Toronto participates in the same events during the same period of time.

Last year, the Tulip Day Campaign raised \$6,660 towards the lung association. McMurter said, so far this year, they already have three quarters of the tulips pre-ordered. They have raised \$6,795 so far.

Monday they will have received \$10,000 worth of tulips at the Association. The goal this year is \$10,000 McMurter has a good feeling they will reach this goal.

Everyone who helps out with selling the tulips is a volunteer of the lung association. But when they come to Loyalist College, it will all be student volunteers who need volunteer hours for their programs.

"I really want to thank Loyalist College for letting us hold the Tulip Day campaign at the school this week and a big thanks to the students who will be helping out with the campaign," said McMurter.

If you are interested in ordering tulips, but you cannot make it to any of the locations, you can order online at [www.tulipsday.ca](http://www.tulipsday.ca)

## Salinger...

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Lummiss went on the show last July. She was offered \$10,000 and declined.

"I went into the process thinking, 'They'll have to make me an offer I can't refuse.'"

Before going on Four Rooms, Lummiss had contacted Kiely, preferring the letter go to an archive.

Kiely recalls it being a nice letter, but said the library prioritizes materials that are important to scholarship.

"The content is extremely important. If he's telling you things about what he's writing, thinking, feeling - anything revealing about this personal life, his philosophy, his fiction - that's all important."

Salinger's letter to Lummiss was

warm and personal, but focused only on her.

"You really are a friend of Holden's," he wrote.

As those from Salinger's generation pass away, Kiely expects more correspondences will be unearthed and sent his way.

Lummiss lost her mother on Nov. 15.

"I suppose I'm glad now I didn't sell it," she said.

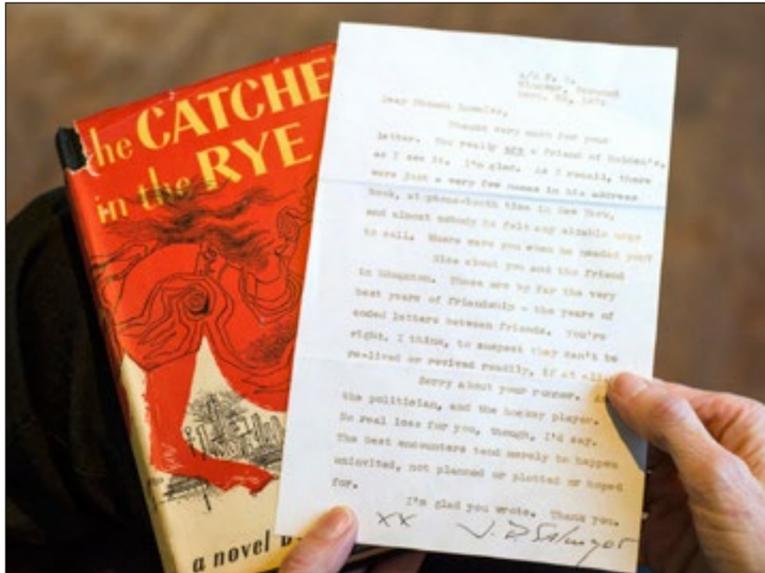
"Well, I am glad," she added emphatically.

Asked if she would make a similar gesture today to a beloved author, she paused for a few moments before responding.

"I don't think so. ... I'd be too guarded now."

Salinger's personal touch comes through again in his closing words, as he counsels Lummiss:

"The best encounters tend merely to happen. Not plotted, planned or hoped for."



# Belleville Bulls lose game..again

By Duncan Cairns-Brenner

The Belleville Bulls lost to the Kingston Frontenacs 5-2, leaving them last in the league.

The Frontenacs beat the Bulls 10-2 the night before.

The crowd was loud and proud, chatting, singing, and whistling for their home team. Excitement was high when the Bulls first hit the ice. Still reeling from the previous night's defeat, redemption was on fans' minds.

Early in the first period things started to look dark for the Bulls, when Frontenacs centre Darcy Greenaway managed to slip the puck past Bulls goalie Charlie Graham off the rebound from fellow Frontenac Michael Moffat.

Twenty-nine seconds later Frontenacs centre Ryan Kujawinski scored, leaving Graham sprawled on the ice. He had let in two goals in the first 5.5 minutes of the game.

Kujawinski scored his second goal of the night later in the first period, leaving the Bulls trailing by three goals going into the second period.

Bulls fans' hopes for their team's comeback were starting to shake when Greenaway scored again, bringing the Frontenacs to a commanding 4-2 lead.



Photo by Duncan Cairns-Brenner

Kingston Frontenac defencemen Loren Ulett, 14, avoids Belleville Bulls defencemen Mark Raycroft, 22, during a game Saturday at the Yardman Arena. The Frontenacs' beat the Bulls 5-2, making it their second victory over the Bulls in two days. The Bulls are in last place.

The game, already rough, came to head in the middle of the second period when Bulls defenceman Adam Bignell and Frontenacs left-winger Lawson Crouse squared off. The two men, roughly the same size and weight, fought till their gloves were down and their helmets were skidding across the ice. The crowd roared, egging on Bignell.

Finally, nearing the end of the second period, the Bulls found a break when left-winger Michael Cramarosa scored the team's first goal of the game. This was bittersweet for fans, as six seconds later Frontenacs centre Sam Bennett scored again to make it 5-1.

The Bulls outshot the Frontenacs in the second and third periods, which paid off when Bulls centre David Tomasek scored the team's final goal of the night at the start of the third period.

The win put the Frontenacs firmly into third place in the Eastern Conference, trailing the leading Oshawa Generals, followed by the Sudbury Wolves. While propelling the Frontenacs, Saturday's loss put the Bulls firmly in last place in the league, having won only 19 of their 56 games this season.

The Bulls face off with the Oshawa Generals Wednesday, March 3, at 7:05 p.m. at Belleville's Yardmen Arena.

## Hydro rates...

Continued from Page 1

After the smart meters came the proposal to increase distribution rates. Now that people can see how they're being charged for hydro, the Ontario Energy Board is in-

creasing the hydro delivery charge.

According to Vanda Wall, communications advisor of the Ontario Energy Board, the rate increase application has

been before the board for a few months.

"As the application was approved as filed, the delivery line of the bill will increase by about \$1.30 per month for a

typical consumer using 800 kWh per month," said Wall.

"Rates are expected to rise over the next four years."

Taylor Hermiston asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

**What are you giving up for Lent?**



**Jessica d'Amboise, second-year engineering,** "I would probably give up sweets. I am addicted to chocolate, so I'd give up that."



**Alisha Peeters, first-year fitness and health promotions,** "I'd give up junk food, mostly chips and Coke, to have a healthier diet and actually eat the healthy food I buy."



**Brent Bibeau, second-year environmental technology,** "I would give up coffee because I find that I drink too much of it and it's a bit of a hassle."



**Alexis Donovan, second-year accounting,** "I'm going to give up smoking because it is terrible for me."



**Kyle Richer, first-year protection, security, investigation,** "I'll give up music because it is very anti-social for me because of where I am from."



**Issac Salaam, second-year motive power service and management,** "Movies in general. It wastes a lot of my time."



Photo by Micah Bond

Brothers Andrew (left) and Adam Gray directed *Fly Colt Fly* and attended a screening of the film at DocFest on Saturday. They also attended a question and answer session at the end of the film. *Fly Colt Fly* tells the story of Colton Harris-Moore who was wanted by and eluded the police for almost three years.

# Downtown DocFest a huge hit

By Suzy Willig

The third annual Downtown DocFest was a huge success in Belleville over the weekend, selling out the Empire Theatre for the gala on the first night.

"I'm totally blown away. I mean I had an inkling that we would have a good turnout, but Friday? No. It was a complete shock," said Gary Magwood, co-organizer of the festival.

Magwood had said that no matter how much advertising you do, word of mouth sells an event.

"We must have been doing something right in previous years."

Filmgoers readily paid \$30 for advance passes and \$40 at the door.

Festival attendee Brenna Macdonald said that the event intrigues local residents to come out and watch documentaries of real things that are happening instead of theatrical features.

"It's very general, from everything like social issues and humanitarian issues and environmental issues or just artsy fartsy type of videos...like you don't need to need anything from it, you can just watch it and go 'Hmm, okay, you know, or it can change your life.'"

"I watched three the first day, so seven so far. There's one today at four, Buying Sex and that's the next one I'm going to

**'I'm totally blown away. I mean, I had an inkling that we would have a good turnout, but Friday? No. It was a complete shock.'**

Co-organizer Gary Magwood

see."

Many festival-goers gathered ahead of time and lined up for films as others were

still showing.

Many were interested in the festival for different reasons, including Bohdi Talbot, who was volunteering at the event.

"This is my second year volunteering here and I got involved in it personally just because I needed arts hours for school, and this counts because it's to do with documentaries and filmmaking, so I thought it would be kind of a neat opportunity."

She did say, however, there were a couple of downfalls about the scheduling of the festival that she noticed.

"I was sitting in one movie, Inocente, and it was a really good film actually, and it only like half full so

it was kind of disappointing to think that they're only playing once so you don't have a chance to get to see it even if it's a really good movie. But I think overall it was a really good turnout."

The festival showcased over 50 films, and for the first time ever held a 'finale' – a film called *Watermark*, which was introduced by one of the producers, Jennifer Baichwal via Skype. A panel discussion on related issues followed the film.

To view a local contribution DocFest, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34980>

## Teen becomes advocate for cause which impacted her life

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

Being an advocate for a cause, doing speeches and having a scholarship carrying her name, isn't what an average 19-year-old girl spends most of her time thinking about.

For Megan Chesney, this has been her life and she wouldn't want it any other way. At three years old, her mother noticed that her left side wasn't developing at the same pace as her right side and that she was always walking on the toes of her left foot. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with hemiplegia.

At six years old, she and her mother, Sarah Torrible, began organizing an annual walkathon in the month of May dedicated to Chesney's birthday and

also to raise money to help send families to the retreats hosted by the Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association, or CHASA.

She was living in China at the time that she started the fundraisers and when she moved to Singapore, she continued the hemiplegia walkathons there.

"I helped kids go to this retreat and see that there were people just like them," said Chesney.

There was one year when there wasn't a retreat and Chesney still wanted to raise money to help someone. CHASA then asked her if she would be interested in having a scholarship fund under her name to help young adults with hemiplegia go to college or university. Chesney receives letters and e-mails from people who have received her scholarship and she said she

feels great about being able to help people and make them realize they can do it.

She and her mother want to continue the tradition of Megan's walk this year and it will be the first time it's held in Canada. Chesney and her family moved to Belleville for her first year of television and new media production at Loyalist College. They are planning to host the walkathon in Port Hope and are excited to have a good way to meet new people and bring the community together.

Torrible joined the CHASA community online almost 17 years ago. She was able to communicate with other parents who had children with hemiplegia and was able to connect with them deeply. A small group of parents from the United States decided to organize a retreat where children and parents could all meet

each other. Chesney and her family were unable to attend the first retreat, but have now attended nine retreats that have been held all across the United States.

"I made many friends that were just like me. We would talk about things that were difficult and our challenges," said Chesney.

It started with only a few families when Chesney's family joined the community and has now grown to over 1,000. According to Torrible, CHASA has been like a second family.

"It has been so valuable for me and my husband to connect with other parents who are taking a similar parenting journey to us, and for Megan to see that she is not alone in her own journey as a child, and now a young adult, with hemiplegia," said Torrible.

## Accounting program offers free tax clinic for students

*Students taking advantage of assistance five days a week*

By Michelle Heshka

Loyalist students have a leg up on this year's tax season.

The school's accounting program has opened their annual free tax clinic, and this year it's bigger than ever.

The 2014 student tax clinic opened on Feb. 25. It is open to students and the family members of students with less than \$30,000 in income. It is being advertised online at [www.loyaliststudents.com/student-tax-clinic/](http://www.loyaliststudents.com/student-tax-clinic/) where students can find out exactly what they need to bring to file their taxes successfully. The website lists important tax documents geared to student life. The list includes T4 forms for income, T4A forms for scholarships and bursaries, T2202A forms for tuition payments, and residence receipts for on-campus students.

The clinic is being offered by Loyalist accounting students on a volunteer basis and is overseen by accounting professor Carol Coupland.

Coupland said the clinic has been a success for both volunteers and students participating.

"We are encouraged by the interest that has been shown in our first week of the tax clinic. Our students are excited



Photo By Michelle Heshka

**Cassandra Gear is a first-year accounting student at Loyalist. She volunteers for the student tax clinic.**

to have the opportunity to work with Canada Revenue Agency in providing tax advice and filing for Loyalist College students," said Coupland.

One volunteer, Cassandra Gear, a first-year accounting student, said the six-week clinic has already been busier than last year, and they're expecting even more

success.

Unlike last year, the clinic is in an office setting and is open five days a week.

"This year's the first year it's set up

like an office. Last year, they had one day a week for people to come in. This year, we're open all week. We've had a lot of people come in and ask questions throughout the week," said Gear.

According to Gear, the clinic has been a success because of the process.

"The process isn't long. You can come in and sit with us on Tuesdays, and it's done in about half an hour. We take half an hour because we're new to this. Once we get going it'll take about 15 minutes."

Many students are taking initiative and are filing with the help of the clinic. The convenience of the clinic being at the school and the short timeframe it takes to file make the clinic a go-to place for tax help and advice.

Dylan Geerts, a second-year animation student, said he wouldn't have done his taxes without the help of the clinic.

"It's a great thing to offer at the school," said Geerts.

"The tax clinic at the school helped me figure out how to go about filing my taxes. I wouldn't have figured out what to do or how to do it if I didn't go to the tax clinic."

As the clinic continues its success, Gear and all accounting staff and students urge students to capitalize on this free service.

"We know a lot about taxes. It's free! Come on in and bring your taxes. Why pay \$50 for someone else to do them?"

Visit [www.loyaliststudents.com/student-tax-clinic/](http://www.loyaliststudents.com/student-tax-clinic/) for more information and clinic hours of operation.