

Power kitters go with the wind

By Anna Brown

People have been harnessing the wind in order to power land and water vessels for centuries.

Power kites have been utilizing the wind for years. Tim Trebilcock is a power kiter who has been kiting since 1992 and works with Ontario Power Generation. He started power kiting for the thrill.

“I got bored standing still and wanted a kite to pull me along the ground. Once you feel the power that kite has, it’s very exhilarating. It’s cheap! You don’t have to put gas in it,” said Trebilcock.

Unlike snowmobiles, jet skis and dirt bikes, power kiting is an environmentally friendly sport. It has a neutral footprint, doesn’t need gas and doesn’t produce any noise. People aren’t irritated by any engine noises and the user gets the thrill of zooming across grass, ice, snow, and water at high speeds.

Although this unusual sport isn’t well known, those who participate in it say they are hooked for life. Wind is free, meaning there is no ongoing cost for these adrenaline seekers.

Power kites use a parachute-shaped kite as a sail to pull them along on buggies. The buggies are a seat with a pivoting wheel or ski at the front to steer with two wheels or skis at the back to keep the rider off of the ground. Some power kites also use skis and snowboards in the winter on either snow or ice of a frozen lake.

Mike Brauch, an avid snowboarder and power kiter, combines these two sports by flying a kite with a snowboard attached to his feet. The kite drags him, letting him go at incredible speeds across snowy surfaces. He also uses the power of the kite to lift him into the air, performing incredible jumps that can be over six feet high.

The icy conditions of Frenchman’s Bay in Pickering, Ont. on March 2 meant that Brauch had to leave his snowboard in the bag and hurtle across the bay at approximately 60 kilometres per hour in an ice buggy.

Brauch said he prefers to use inflatable kites because of their easier maneuverability and ability to decrease power in the air. This means they have an easy to use and effective braking system that increases safety and agility in the air, he

added.

Although classic kite shapes that are more like parachutes have a higher power-to-size ratio than inflatable kites, a lot of power kites opt for the calm, controlled movements of inflatable kites. The inflatable ribbing of these kites means they are easier for use on water. As they float, they can be launched directly from the surface of water.

Power kiting is a year-round sport, although it changes slightly with each season, said Brauch. In the summer, kite buggy enthusiasts switch out the skis on their buggies for wheels and snowboards and skis to mountain boards and rollerblades.

Some fly the kite in a figure-eight motion in the air, using the power of the kite and the wind to pull them into the air, allowing them to perform adrenaline-pumping jumps.

Kites come in a variety of shapes and sizes and are designed for a multitude of purposes. Thawed ice doesn’t stop these thrill-seekers from gliding across the top of lakes and bays. Kites will strap kite boards to their feet to skim across the water or body-drag through the water.

When the temperature drops and it’s too cold to enter the water, power kites retreat to the safety of open fields. Power kiting can be done in any large open space with a good consistent wind, said Brauch.

Power kites will harness even the smallest breeze. It’s a simple decision of ‘how big can I go?’ The bigger the kite, the more power it has, but the slower it moves in the sky. Kites are measured in square metres and can range anywhere from two to 18 square metres, and some are even bigger.

Power kites are notorious for experimenting with different kites and vessels. Trebilcock built and designed his own kite buggy to fit his specific needs within this divergent sport.

“It’s a fairly narrow sport so if you know how to build things, you can build a better buggy, and I can build it to perform the way I want it, heavy to stay on the ground or light to jump with,” explained Trebilcock.

For a video on the power kites, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=35205>



Photo by Anna Brown

Mike Brauch, a kite buggier from Pickering, Ont. has been power kiting for seven years. Kite buggying and power kiting are year-round sports. In the summer, power kites switch out the skis on their buggies for wheels and skis and snowboards for rollerblades and mountain boards.

Month dedicated to endometriosis awareness

By Mandy Larade

It’s March, and it’s the month dedicated to endometriosis awareness.

Endometriosis is a condition found in women where the endometrial cells have abnormal growth. Tissues similar to those that form inside the uterus are formed outside the uterus in other areas around the pelvis. Unlike the tissues inside the uterus, they are unable to be expelled from a woman’s body, leading to inflammation and scarring. This often causes physical pain that is amplified during a menstrual cycle, and can interfere with a woman’s fertility.

According to the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada’s website, five to 10 per cent of women will experience endometriosis.

Endometriosis has a large spectrum, meaning that some women won’t have strong symptoms whereas others will have a visibly more painful experience.

Natalie James, a resident in Peterborough, Ont. has endometriosis.

James notes that although the physical pain is a very obvious effect, endo-

metriosis takes a toll on a woman emotionally.

“I would say more of it was that it was emotional for us when it came time to try and have kids and we couldn’t,” James says.

James says that her doctors were uncertain that endometriosis was the initial cause of infertility, but regarded it as a definite possible contributor.

March is dedicated to raising awareness about endometriosis, and also about the possible ways to treat it. Most common treatments include medica-

tion or surgery to relieve the symptoms or increase fertility.

As someone who has experienced what it is like to have endometriosis, James agrees that it is important to spread awareness and provide women with education about this condition.

“I think a big part of that would be education - early education, the signs and symptoms of endometriosis, so maybe it could be targeted early and treated before your childbearing years,” James says.

From her own personal experience,

James acknowledges how devastating it can be to have endometriosis affect having children.

“I think making sure people have contacts to go to about it [is important] because a lot of the times it can be totally detrimental to somebody, right?” James says.

However, there is hope found in that many of the treatments work, as James and her husband now have their own children.

“We ended up having fertility treatments and ended up having four kids.”



Photo by Mandy Larade

Business student Brittany Marino volunteers at the Grad Bash, handing out free tote bags with brochures and chocolate inside. The Grad Bash, which was held in the Loyalist Dining Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday.

High school students get taste of accounting

By Paulina Uy

Loyalist College hosted the second annual Quinte Iron Accountant Competition on March 4.

Quinte Christian High School won first place, while Centennial Secondary School won second and Moira Secondary School won third.

It was held at the Link Lounge and third-year accounting students, together with the faculty members, organized to make it happen.

“The third-year accounting students spearheaded the event as part of a course. So it was the faculty’s idea but we say, you make it happen,” said accounting professor Carol Coupland.

Third-year students have a course called professional competencies in which they go out into the real world and make a project happen accounting-wise.

“We thought this is the perfect opportunity. We knew we wanted to do something that we could engage the high school students.”

Prior to the event, the accounting students contacted high schools in this

area and asked which schools were interested in participating.

Then they went out and did mentoring sessions with those high schools.

The college students explained to the high school students what accounting is all about.

“It’s not just bookkeeping or putting together financial statements. It’s analyzing numbers and the story that it’s telling us — how do I use that information to make decisions.”

The high school students were also briefed about the competition, the simulation they would conduct and what the day would be like.

The simulation used in the competition is called Mikes Bikes, an interactive way to hone accounting skills through strategy and making business decisions.

Third-year accounting students, Bob Robertson and Karin Johansen, lead their class to mentor the high school students.

“So basically, what we’re doing is we’re running a simulations for more of a managerial accounting aspect of it,” said Robertson.

Bulls victorious over top team in the league

By Suzy Willig

The Bulls were up against the best team in the league of this season and it wasn’t looking good for them in the first period.

The crowd of 2,238 looked ready to watch the Bulls lose again, after the first period ended with the Bulls being down 3-0, despite the fact that the Bulls had taken 20 shots, and the Generals only 9.

As the game continued, it wouldn’t have been apparent to an unknowing onlooker that the Bulls were

up against the best team in the league — they were both playing well.

In the final quarter of the second period, left wing Scott Simmonds, of the Belleville Bulls came through and scored on Generals goalie Ken Appleby, making the arena go wild, as the Bulls were now within one goal of the Generals.

Going into the third period with the Generals leading 3-2, the Bulls knew they had to step up their game if they had a chance at winning — but the third didn’t start out well for the Bulls, as Scott Laughton

of the Oshawa Generals scored on the power play at 5:09. The Bulls were now down 4-2.

The Generals didn’t hold the lead for long, though, as David Tomasek scored his second goal of the night, bringing the Bulls up to 4-3 at 7:36. This goal had the Bulls within one, with 13:24 left in the third period. A short 59 seconds later, Remi Elie scored, tying the game. As the period continued, Niki Petti got in on the action and got a goal in, putting the Bulls in the lead, 5-4 at 13:42.

Unfortunately, just a few more moments into third

period, Generals player Michael Dal Colle skated through three Bulls players and scored, tying the game 5-5 at 18:06.

After a long, hard, 60 minutes of play, with 44 shots by Belleville and 34 by Oshawa, the game was still tied, and was forced into a shootout. After three unsuccessful shots, Tomasek was up, and scored the winning goal for Belleville.

The Belleville Bulls ended their losing streak, winning the game 6-5 to the Oshawa Generals.