



Photo by Bradley Ruszkowski

## A sparkling demonstration

Damien Cohen ignites the night with a demonstration of 'Poi' at Lil Crow Café in Deseronto during the final night of the sixth annual concert series last weekend. The café hosts a multicultural concert series in the majestic lakefront setting of the Maracle family near Deseronto. Poi, an ancient art form of the Mouri peoples, native to New Zealand, was exhibited for the crowds of spectators on Tyendingaga Mohawk Territory.

## Plenty to do during city's weekend activities

Art, life and culture will be part of special events through downtown core

By Franki Ikeman

Belleville is set to host its third annual Culture Days this weekend through the downtown core – where art, life and culture will be celebrated through various events, activities and shows.

Culture Days is a Canada-wide initiative aimed at getting citizens engaged in the art and cultural life of their communities. It is also about making the arts accessible, regardless of socio-economic background or artistic experience.

Culture Days in Canada celebrates its fifth anniversary of the annual weekend this year with over 7,500 free activities across the nation. Last year, according to the Culture Days website, over 1.7 million Canadians participated in over 7,500 free activities in 825 communities.

And this year promises to be bigger and better than ever, especially for Belleville.

The Culture Days planning committee has come together with the Belleville Downtown Improvement Area, the BDIA, who are the organizers of Belleville's annual Art Walk, to host the events on the same weekend this year, drawing larger crowds and more engagement from the community.

Culture Days 2014 kicks-off at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 26 with a flash mob, followed by outdoor dance performances by the Angela Maracle School of Dance, in the downtown area. Also starting at 9 a.m. are poetry events at Sweet Escape Café.

In the evening, Bellevillians can enjoy free live music at a variety of downtown restaurants. The Music Crawl will hit five restaurants hosting different performers throughout the evening, starting at Sans Souci with BluZone at 6 p.m.

Saturday, the eighth annual Art Walk will start at 9:30 a.m. in the John M. Parrott Art Gallery. All three galleries will be open to the public, for free, with local artists on hand giving tours and demos throughout the day.

At 10 a.m., Thomas Estevez Design will open its doors to the Art Walk for people to check out the work of Jesus Estevez. Also at 10 a.m., Bob House will have some of his work on display at his downtown photography studio located on Front Street.

The Art Walk will also include Gallery 121 and Merchant Boutique.

From photography to hip-hop workshops, literary events, music, and theatre, there will be lots of things to do for Culture Days on Saturday.

On Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., South Foster Park will host Artists in the Park. The event will bring together artists from all different mediums in an interactive day of creating art. The park could see up to 100 people come together throughout the day.

For more information, visit [www.bellevilleculturaldays.com](http://www.bellevilleculturaldays.com).

# Parking lot frustrations

By Alyssa Lloyd

With the impending arrival of snow and cold weather, convenient parking at Loyalist is beginning to become a concern among students.

During the construction of the Skills Centre, maintenance created Parking Lot 10 in the back of the college as a temporary parking lot. It was always intended just for the use of overflow parking, and to accommodate those whose parking spots weren't available during the construction.

After the construction was completed for the Skills Centre, Loyalist completed multiple parking studies to make sure there was enough capacity for all students to park.

Mark Kirkpatrick, director of maintenance for the college, stated, "We have people out looking at parking all the time, right now, to make sure we still have enough spots."

"We will continue to evaluate the parking situation the entire semester, and we will listen to people. We will make an ultimate decision, but the initial decision was to close P10, and there are no plans to open it, unless we find we don't have enough space."

Asked if there were any advantages to closing P10, Kirkpatrick said, "P10 is designed as a temporary spot. It is not properly laid out as a full parking lot;

**'I just circled around this lot three times, it gets ridiculous. I get there's spots but I also have a bummed knee, so it's hurting me to walk this far.'**

TVNM student Jacob Moore

it's not paved; there is no lighting and no lines. We want people to park in places that were designed for parking."

The fate of P10 is unknown, and currently, there are no plans for the empty space.

Kirkpatrick said the college was receiving complaints and officials have been replying to students and parents concerned about the parking situation.

"We think we've done some good upfront work before it got shut down, but now we're just double checking, to make sure."

Although student government has met and discussed the issue, there is still a waiting period to determine the final outcome of the situation.

Regular complaints have come in about the parking lot being too full, making students late by circling

for spots, and ultimately, not worth spending money on a parking pass for the year.

Loyalist officials say they have sufficient parking, but with a four per cent increase in student enrolment, and already packed parking lots in previous years, it's hard for students to believe their demands are being met.

Despite the reassurance the college has given, quite a few students still have concerns.

"I just circled around this lot three times, it gets ridiculous," said Jacob Moore, 20, a first-year TVNM student. "I get there's spots but I also have a bummed knee, so it's hurting me to walk this far. I've torn two ligaments and bruised my ACL, so that's why I'm trying to park so close."

Moore said he's on a waiting list to see if he qualifies for handicapped parking.

Students are also raising questions about what will happen when it snows. Last year, the back quarter of the Loyalist Lancers field parking lot was full, with snowbanks as high as a two-storey building. Those who drive to Loyalist are wondering where that excess snow will go now that the parking lot is full at 8 a.m.

Loyalist officials welcome any concerns or questions students may have about the parking situation.

# Walk spreads message about victim-bashing

## Changing culture's perception of rape

By Gabrielle Smith

The protest signs and skimpy outfits sported by participants of Belleville's second-annual SlutWalk attracted quite a lot of attention as the group marched down Dundas Street West this past Sunday.

However, the messages written on their signs were far more important than the length of their skirts.

SlutWalk began in 2011 in Toronto, Ont., sparked by a comment made by a police officer that women should "avoid dressing like sluts" if they don't want to be sexually harassed or assaulted. Since then, SlutWalk has become an international movement aimed towards changing the way our culture perceives rape.

Jessika McKinnon, co-organizer of the Belleville SlutWalk, said she believes we need to shift our focus entirely away from the appearance of rape victims and instead, stand in support with them, regardless of what they wear, their previous sexual history, or any other factor that distracts from or makes excuses for the crime.

"Even if you're at a bar, drunk, in a crop



Photo by Gabrielle Smith

Jessika McGraw (right) and Jessika McKinnon lead the march across Dundas Street at Belleville's second annual SlutWalk last Sunday. They marched from Market Square to Zwick's park.

top, and you are assaulted, it doesn't matter. Don't ask what she was wearing. It's not important. It's not her fault.

"It's also not your fault if you're a guy in your boxers in bed with your girlfriend and she climbs on top of you. Everybody, guy or girl, has the right to say no. What you're wearing is not an important factor in this discussion."

McKinnon said she was inspired by Kingston's 2013 SlutWalk and decided she would be the one to bring the movement to Belleville.

Jessika McGraw was in attendance at last year's walk and decided to step up to a leadership position this year, joining forces with McKinnon.

This year's event drew almost 30 people to march from Market Square to Zwick's Park. Participants held signs and chanted to get the pro-consent message across to passersby.

Despite plenty of criticism of the event voiced on various Internet platforms on the days and weeks leading up to the event, the walk itself went smoothly and the group received supportive honks and thumbs up from drivers and pedestrians.

In response to the criticism, McKinnon said she does her best to brush it off and understand that not everyone has the opportunity to be educated on the topic.

"One girl said she was going to chase us wearing a shirt that said 'I'm a rapist.'"

"Half the people don't want to be educated and the other half never got the

chance to be educated."

McGraw and McKinnon are both victims of sexual assault, and they said being involved in the event can be a triggering experience, and one that is especially emotionally draining in the days leading up to the walk.

However, McGraw said that despite the emotional toll it takes, controversy, and criticism involved in running this event, it's worth it to get the information out there.

"I know we have opened minds in the two years we've been doing this. I've seen it happen. I've seen people post statuses bashing the SlutWalk and then by the end of the comment thread they're like, 'Oh my gosh, I had no idea.'"

Both McKinnon and McGraw agreed that one of the fundamental issues of rape culture is a lack of information about consent. Sex education is a mandatory part of public education in Canada, yet consent is not being discussed as part of the curriculum.

Proper consent is a clear, concise, sober, ongoing "yes," and McKinnon, for one, said she doesn't understand what's so challenging about teaching such a basic and vitally important concept to students in a context where sex is already being discussed.

"It's not like we live in some Stone Age society where sex is not talked about and women have no rights. If you can teach a kid to ask for a pencil, you can teach a kid to ask for sex."