

New mayor, councillors for Belleville

By Adrienne Powell

Taso Christopher is the new mayor of Belleville as of Monday.

Christopher has been a city councillor for the past eight years and said he is excited to get started in his new role as mayor.

"It's a fantastic feeling," says Christopher.

Christopher won with 3,914 votes, edging out candidate Pat Culhane by a mere 161 votes. It was a close race be-

tween the two former councillors with a 44.72 per cent eligible voter turnout and a total of 15,207 ballots cast.

Culhane is a former emergency room nurse who spent the past two terms as a city councillor with Christopher.

Richard Davis Courneyea, a business owner, came in third with 2,520 votes, while Bill Glisky, a journalist, came in fourth with 2,284 votes.

Jill Raycroft, Lonnie Herrington, and Kenzo Dozono also ran for mayor in this year's municipal election.

There were many candidates for council this year with only six spots open in Ward 1 in Belleville.

Jack Miller got the most votes with 8,775 and has been a council member since 2006. Miller is perhaps best known for his play-by-play radio voice for the Ontario Hockey League's Belleville Bulls since 1981.

Next was Garnet Thompson with 7,259 votes. Thompson has a wide variety of interests and volunteer experience and said he hopes to promote

Belleville as a beautiful destination for vacation and retirement.

Mike Graham, a retired police inspector, gained a seat with 5,555 votes. Graham spent 32 years as an officer and says he will be the "watchdog for taxpayers."

Egerton Boyce made council with 5,492 votes. Born and raised in Belleville, Boyce graduated from Loyalist College with a diploma in law and security and promotes the importance of a strong commercial and industrial

base in Belleville.

Mitch Panciuk, a new city councillor, received 4,508 votes. Panciuk, owner and operator of Belleville Boston Pizza, wants to focus on making the municipal decision-making process more public.

Kelly McCaw is new to city council this year, gaining 3,067 votes. McCaw is a Loyalist graduate and a realtor with 20 years of experience dealing with bankruptcy and financial distress.

Constituents the focus for Davis Courneyea

By Andrew Meade

It was a hard fought battle for third place in Monday's municipal election in Belleville for first-time candidate, Richard Davis Courneyea.

After the election night results were tabulated, Davis Courneyea took in 2,520 votes, to runner-up Pat Culhane's 3,753 and Mayor-Elect Taso Christopher's 3,914.

After a campaign that unofficially started off this past July, Davis Courneyea and his team were eager to see if the results of their nightly canvassing and hearing the concerns of fellow Belleville residents could unseat the hotly contested race between campaign favourites, Christopher and Culhane.

A businessman in the downtown community and incoming president of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Davis Courneyea built the foundations of his campaign on trying to invigorate the city and attract resources to the city that will make Belleville an area where people, industry and small business can thrive.

His focus on getting out and meeting his constituents-to-be was an essential part of the last part of his campaign push.

"For the last few weeks, we've basically been knocking on doors feverously all though the city, in all different areas, engaging as many people as possible, wherever we could," Davis Courneyea said. "We really ramped up our social media, too."

Social media proved to be an important tool in the Davis Courneyea team's war chest. Asked about the place that Facebook and Twitter held in the plan for community engagement, he and his team praised their ability to reach out and easily hear and respond to voters concerns.

"Our social media strategy was the predominant force to get our message out there in the community," Davis Courneyea said. "It was strong; it was rich in content and it told the story of people in our community and what they're about."

After nine of the 13 polls had reported, Davis Courneyea and his wife/campaign manager Shawna Courneyea took to the podium to give credit to their supporters and volunteers at their campaign wrap-up event in the Belleville Club Monday evening.

"These are the people that under-



Photo by Andrew Meade

Mayoral hopeful Richard Davis Courneyea hugs campaign supporter Bernie Boucher after finding hearing the results of the municipal election at his campaign wrap-up party at the Belleville Club Monday.

stand the message and help grasp what our statement was as a community," he praised. "Without you, I'm just one guy, but you were able to amplify our message within this race and we can hang our

heads high as people will see what we've done as we move forward and I will give all the credit back to you guys. You were the strength for us in this campaign."

Although his bid at the top seat on city

council was unsuccessful for this term, it is not unthinkable to see Davis Courneyea's name on the ballot in four years' time.

"I'm a young guy; I've got great ideas and great opportunities in my life right

now. I didn't fake it to get here. I've been at the forefront of our community for years and my commitment to it was capped off with this discussion about it. Who knows what the future will hold."



Photo by Zachary Prong

Bill Glisky (second from left) watches results with supporters during the election Monday night at Sans Souci restaurant. Glisky, former editor of The Intelligencer, placed fourth.

Glisky hints at possible return to politics

Poverty one of major themes of candidate's campaign

By Zachary Prong

Despite his fourth place finish in the Belleville mayoral race, candidate Bill Glisky delivered a passionate concession speech to his supporters at Sans Souci on Front Street Monday night.

Speaking to a cheering crowd, the former editor of The Intelligencer said, "There are people in this city without jobs, who aren't eating, who aren't comfortable in their own homes...If the people who won tonight don't start dealing with these issues, you can be damn sure we'll be back in four years!"

Poverty was one of the major themes of Glisky's campaign, a key issue in a city where it has been reported that 34 per cent of children under the age of six live

in poverty, 16 per cent higher than the national average.

On Sept. 24 during a speech to the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce, Glisky, announced that if elected he would set up Skills Belleville, a training program that would provide up to 200 individuals with skills sought by local businesses. According to Glisky, the goal of Skills Belleville would not just be to help the unemployed, but also the underemployed.

"We have too many temporary jobs and not enough permanent careers. We have too many neighbourhoods where the minimum wage is the maximum wage and we have too many young people trapped in low wage, low-skill jobs," said Glisky.

Another campaign promise was the creation of up to four community gardens to provide local families with affordable and healthy produce.

Among supporters gathered at Sans Souci on Monday night, a common con-

cern was the future of downtown Belleville and the waterfront.

Dale Holland, the commodore of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, said Glisky was the only candidate who really understood the importance of developing the city's waterfront.

"We need to give people with disposable income a reason to come to and stay in Belleville...If we don't do that, we're done. The other candidates don't get that," said Holland.

But in the end, it was former councillor Taso Christopher's promise of fiscal responsibility, low taxes and jobs from investment in Belleville's Industrial Park that won over most voters.

After his concession speech, Glisky reiterated that despite his defeat, he wasn't going away. Asked if he had already decided to run again in four years, Glisky replied, "If they don't listen to what people are saying, damn right I'll be back."

College's hydration stations keep bottles out of landfill

By Kayleen Preston

Loyalist College is one step closer to reaching a goal of diverting one million bottles from landfills, with the use of hydration stations around the college since 2011.

This includes the two stations located in the Pioneer building, and the recently installed stations in the new Skills Building at the college.

Over the fall reading week, student government officials were pleased to announce that the public relations students successfully reached their goal of 20,000 bottles at the hydration station just outside of their classroom.

The most frequently-used stations are the ones located near the exercise area, the gym and Club 213.

Carly Greveling, who works in the facility services department at the college, helps collect data from the hydration stations. She said the main benefit of having the stations around the school is to promote healthy choices.

"I think having good access to water around the school is good for students and the staff, to promote drinking more water. I think the less that pop, or drinks like that, are consumed is good, because of the health implications of it. Plus, all those drinks come in plastic or canned aluminum or something like that. So, if people could be filling up water bottles, and reusing and washing, then I think it's a lot better than just buying water and just throwing out the bottle after."

The stations help promote recycling, which in turn helps "reduce the negative impact that plastic water bottle production and recycling processes have on the environment," explained Chantel Johnston, president of student government, in an e-mail.

"Not only are we saving resources, we are saving money too. Student government consistently receives positive feedback on the hydration stations from

students, faculty and the community."

There are many different aspects about how the hydration stations work. First, for every litre that goes through the water bottle-filling area, the counters on the stations add a "bottle" to the counter. Second, the water itself is treated by the City of Belleville, where it goes through the watermain to the college. From Loyalist, it goes through a long charcoal filter and cooler within the stations, and out of either the fountain or the sensor area for the water bottles.

The stations have three separate buttons to activate the fountain and are set at different heights to allow some to be wheelchair accessible.

Steve Glover, a facilities services employee at Loyalist, explained that the stations are "very user-friendly." He mentioned that the only things that need to be changed are the charcoal water filters, and the piece on the bottom of the back wall that helps direct the water to the drain.

The piece on the back wall was only changed on the older designs of the fountain for sanitation reasons. The previous style captured the water in a small pocket, leaving space for germs and bacteria to collect. The current design allows the water to flow freely to the drain point, reducing the risk of germ collection.

The stations are cleaned thoroughly every night by members of The Hurlay Group cleaning services who are on a separate cleaning contract from the regular Loyalist custodial staff. They are not cleaned during the day.

Tara McGrath, is a custodial worker for The Hurlay Group.

She said coffee and soup that have been poured out in the stations quite often creating a real problem cleaning them.

All the cleaning products used to clean the stations are environmentally friendly and very safe. "You could almost drink it," McGrath explained.