



Photo by Thomas Surian

Pam Wedd (left) instructs Nick Devlin on the art of canoe restoration. They are repairing Devlin's 60-year-old cedar canoe. This was the second day of the week-long restoration project.

Sharing the art of canoe making

By Thomas Surian

Nestled amid the balsam furs of Northern Ontario sits a barn. Light radiates from the windows, spilling out into the snowy November evening.

The barn is littered with tools and bits of wood. The smell of fresh cut cedar and varnish fills the air. Sounds of sandpaper scratching the sides of a canoe, are accompanied by the ever-present hiss of the river that flows behind the barn.

The warmth of a wood stove and the sound of 1960 blues are reminiscent of a different time.

Pam Wedd sits hunched over a decrepit-looking canoe, manhandling a long

piece of wood that will become part of the gunwale.

Wedd has been building cedar canvas-covered canoes since 1989. She was introduced to canoeing as a kid while at summer camp.

"My interest in canoes goes way back, sometimes in my previous life I wonder if I was a serious paddler."

After falling in love with canoes, she spent over 20 years working at summer camps as a guide, taking young campers on canoe trips into the wilderness.

Webb and her partner Jane live on a 45-acre farm, on which sits a modest wood house surrounded by vegetable gardens and beehives. The house is located

atop a hill overlooking their barn and the Seguin River.

"The property that we're at here, just outside of Parry Sound, is a beautiful piece of property. We're on the Seguin River. We bought the place in 1990."

With the help of a government grant, she turned the old barn into a canoe-building shop. It took close to \$40,000 to get her operation up and running. Soon after moving into her new shop, she discovered her interest in sharing her trade with others. Pam began holding classes on canoe building and repair and continues to teach people canoe building full-time to this day.

People come from across North Amer-

ica to learn from Wedd. The class is usually about a week long. Some people come to repair an old boat that may hold sentimental value, others want to build one from scratch.

For many, the week spent working in a barn in the woods is their vacation for the year.

"I think it's important that we keep the tradition of wooden canoes going and the skills to keep them going. I'm afraid that as we all get older, there won't be the people there that are still building them and so the more I can share the knowledge, the better."

In 2010, Wedd was asked by the Canadian government to hold a workshop on canoe building at the G8 summit in To-

ronto. While the world leaders were in the Muskokas, she was at the Royal York Hotel with their spouses, building a canoe.

She has the boat they built hanging from her ceiling for safe keeping. She said it will never see water, and wishes that she had them sign it.

After 28 years, Wedd is starting to slow down her operation. "I want to have time for other stuff. I want to have more time to paddle, there's never enough time to paddle, more time to garden, and more time to fix my house. And then who knows what?"

"Every day is a treat. I feel blessed that I live in such a wonderful place and do such a wonderful thing."

Share your old coats; help others keep warm

By Amanda Cheung

The Salvation Army has been serving the Belleville community for over 130 years.

As temperatures fall, the Salvation Army has partnered with Parsons Cleaners for the Coats for Folks program.

It runs every Friday in November from 1-3pm and people in need of a jacket can come into the Salvation Army on Pinnacle St. and find a jacket.

"The jackets are given away free of charge," says Abigail Mills, the Belleville Salvation Army Commu-

nity Service Director. "People only need to bring ID."

Mills explains that if you are a mom who needs a jacket for you and your family, you only need to show their IDs and you would be able to leave with jackets for the whole family.

The Salvation Army relies on the community of Belleville to drop off their old, gently worn coats to Parsons Cleaners.

"To date, I think I have picked up about 125 coats from Parsons," says Marlene Johnston, the Family Service Associate at the Salvation Army.

"And that's not near enough because all the 100 coats were given out last week so I got 30 sitting down there for this Friday, so we need a lot more."

Generally, the program is in need of adult men's and women's jacket in large sizes.

Aside from the Coats for Folks program, the Salvation Army also provides food services like the lunch room, warm room, and emergency food bank.

"Our lunch room serves on average 110 people," says Johnston.

Lunch Room provides free food for those who are

hungry or a time of fellowship for those seeking friends.

Similar to Lunch Room is Warm Room, which serves dinner nightly but starts November 15 til March 15.

The Emergency Food Bank is available to low-income families. As well, clothing vouchers and household necessities are available from the Salvation Army Thrift Store to those in need.

"The hardest part of our job is saying no," says Mills, agreeing with Johnston. "We always want to be able to help and serve those in the community."

Year of Sport 2015 promoted at Loyalist

By Nathan Zbeetnoff

Minister of State for Sport Bal Gosal visited Loyalist College Friday to speak with journalism students and promote 2015 as Year of Sport.

"You know this was proclaimed because next year is going to be the biggest sporting year in Canada," said Gosal.

On Oct. 17 the governor general proclaimed that 2015 would be sport of the year for the first time ever.

Gosal mentioned that Ontario has not have any major events held in the province since the 1930s, which was when the British Empire games were held in Hamilton. Those were the largest multisport games ever held in Ontario. The reason that Ontario doesn't hold many major sporting events, is because it is lacking the facilities, the minister said.

"It's something we should have," Gosal said.

Ontario is 40 per cent of the population in Canada and on average the contribution to athletes and sports overall is 25 per cent, he said.

The last three sport budgets have not been touched, Gosal added. Certain provinces don't spend any money on sports. Gosal said that he is attempting to talk to sport administrators and premiers that sports should be attached to education and be mandatory. Manitoba is the only province where it is mandatory to have physical education from junior kindergarten to Grade 12.

"No other province has that," Gosal said.

Gosal is responsible for overseeing a sports budget of \$200 million for Canada. One of the funding methods Gosal has is for an assistance program for high performance athletes once they're called by the national sports organization.

"We spend about \$27 million on that," Gosal said.

Gosal is responsible for 53 national



Photo by Nathan Zbeetnoff

Kathleen Bazkur (left), acting Dean of Media, journalism professor Mary Jollimore and Bal Gosal, minister of state sport visited Loyalist College in Belleville last Friday. Gosal spoke with the journalism students and answered their questions about sports.

sports organizations. For the organizations to receive funding, they have to apply every year under certain criteria and

funding is then approved if accepted.

"The federal government is spending \$500 million towards the infra-

structure and legacy of sports, so we're building facilities in Ontario," Gosal said.

War...

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RCAF veteran tells story from Second World War

Eventually, Robertson found help from people who were living nearby. They took him to a farm where he was interrogated and given a test to determine whether or not he was an infiltrator. Luckily, he passed.

"I sometimes tell teachers this is a great way to give tests. If you don't pass, you're shot," he jokes.

Robertson spent about four months hiding in the farmhouse, which has since then been turned into a restaurant. There is a plaque honoring the Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as those who helped them escape the enemy.

Robertson and his family have planned a trip in May to see the plaque as well as dine at the farmhouse turned restaurant that once gave him shelter.

Robertson spent three years serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After he was given leave, he returned home to his family. Robertson had post-traumatic stress disorder but did not realize. Everytime he heard a loud sound, it would startle him.

Robertson speaks of one incident where the milkman came by his house and dropped the milk crate by accident. The sound caused him to run out the back door of his house. His father ran after him and said, "It's alright son. It's over!"