



Photo by Maggie Naylor

*He shoots, he scores!*

Jeff Butler plays on one of the rinks at the CFB Trenton pond hockey classic tournament between games on Sunday. For more on the pond hockey event, including a story and multi-media presentation, look for Thursday's Pioneer.

# Showgirls strut stuff at Belle Pub

By Mary Barber

Brightly lit faces emerged from the Belle Pub, illuminated by Friday night's lights. The bar in downtown Belleville boasted a colourful, vibrant environment in support of Belleville's Pride in the Park festival with performances from The Showgirls. The travelling drag queens performed their signature uncensored comedy act, featuring singing and dancing, as well as lip-synching to songs while in pantomime, a staple in drag shows. Sadina Kature, who was originally born in Quinte West, started performing in drag while living in Ottawa, but always wanted to return home. "Every time I hit that stage, I always thought of how amazing it would be to perform in Belleville," Kature said. "We

always want to come back and show the people we went to school with who we became and how strong we are today." Headliner Dixie Landers had approached the Pride in the Park committee about promoting a drag show in support of their cause. "We all voted in favour," committee member Sarah Michelle Ogden said happily. All of the event's proceeds went towards Pride in the Park 2015, Belleville's own pride celebration in support of the LGBTQ community, which includes all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning people. "We have so many people in here," said Ogden, who said around 100 tickets were sold. "And we are creating an amazing and positive place to be." The evening garnered approximately \$13,000 for 2015's upcoming Pride in the

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*Performer and Quinte West native Sadina Kature*

Park festival. The majority of the crowd identified as LGBTQ, but all were welcome in the safe and welcoming atmosphere in the pub, which had been transformed for the occasion. In the spirit of things, gender-neutral signs were splashed on the restroom

doors, and brightly coloured rainbow bands were strung along the walls. For many people, the night was about liberation. For the youngest performer of the night, a local lady by the name of Josephine, this was a debut performance. Landers and the rest of the Showgirls were gladdened by the support Belleville showed to its own queens. Kature said she knows that in areas such as this one, knowledge and acceptance of different sexualities is very low. For many people living in Belleville, transsexuals and drag queens are very alien, she said. "Many people are hateful because it is something new that they have been exposed to," she said. "People like to feel comforted; they are scared of change." Despite the many preconceived myths about drag queens, Landers and her Showgirls say they believe that through

patience and explanation, people can understand more about what they do. There are many reasons why people might dress in drag, including self-expression and as a creative output. Not all drag queens are derivative of one sexual orientation. The exaggerated femininity and gender roles, as well as physical appearance, can all be for comic or satirical effect, and sometimes it can be a means of self-exploration. "The number one rule that I've always told myself is that if you are being completely honest with your friends, then you are being completely honest with yourself," Kature said. "I wanted to show the people in the audience that if someone from Belleville could go out and make a name for themselves, then anyone from Belleville could do that, anyone can make a change."

# Hockey prospect Max Domi brings out large crowd

*Father Tie Domi attends Yardmen Arena to see son in action on the weekend*

By Kayleen Preston

Saturday night brought in the largest crowd the Yardmen Arena has seen this season and one of Canada's biggest hockey prospects from the Canadian World Juniors. Although most of the 3,291 fans were cheering for the Bulls, the chatter among the crowd was about the Domis. Max Domi of the London Knights, who had recently played for the Canadian World Junior team, was on the ice. His father, former Toronto Maple Leafs player Tie Domi, was watching. Despite being one of the highest-scoring players of the Canadian World Junior team, none of Domi's shots on Saturday went into net. In spite of this, the Knights still won against the Belleville Bulls 5-3. "We had our best players against him. He's maybe the best player, or one of the best players in the country right now, and I thought our team, for the most part, did a pretty good job," said George Burnett, general manager and head coach of the



Photo by Kayleen Preston

Max Domi of the London Knights prepares for the puck to drop during second period play at the Yardmen Arena against the Belleville Bulls last Saturday.

Belleville Bulls. Burnett said about the team's efforts against Domi during Saturday's game. "He's not somebody you can completely stop. I thought he played a very strong game; played a lot of minutes. But we were fortunate to keep him off the score sheet." Looking back on his experience with the World Juniors, Domi said, "It was exciting. Obviously it was a dream come true to be a part of that team, and to finish off the right way and winning gold. And being part of such a special group was awesome and a lot of fun." The Canadian team won all of their games of the championship, making it the first time since 2009 that Canada had won gold. When asked who his favourite team to play against was he said, "Either the Russians or the Americans, but every game was fun, but those two stand out for sure. "(The) New Year's Eve game is always fun and you look forward to that, and obviously the gold medal game was the top of the list." During the gold medal game, Domi scored one goal and two assists as the Canadians beat the Russians 5-4. Domi was asked When asked if he is noticing a difference playing in the Ontario Hockey League again after playing for Canada. ...See Domi, page 2