



Photo by Amanda Paulhus

**Firefighters Charles Pigden (left) and Adam Jelley (right) practice their skills in ice rescue using the Fortuna boat. The Belleville Fire Department practiced ice rescues on the Bay of Quinte last Friday.**

## Play it safe when heading onto ice

By Amanda Paulhus

The weather may have dropped below freezing but that doesn't mean it is safe to venture onto the ice.

"No ice is safe ice," firefighter Don Carter said. Carter has been with the Belleville Fire Department for 15 years and has been a trainer for ice rescue for more than five years. He is one of two ice and water safety instructors who lead other firefighters through different ice rescue scenarios during two-hour training periods.

Exercises included self-rescue, rescuing another person and rescuing with a Fortuna boat, an inflatable raft with an open bow to allow for easier rescuing people in the water.

Carter offered advice on what to do if you fall through the ice this winter.

"The big thing is trying to get to the edge of the ice and to get your breathing under control. You're going to start gasping uncontrollably because of the cold water, so control that and get to the edge and try to get yourself out as soon as you can."

"It's still very thin. It's been cold for a couple of days, say a week, and everybody's just itching to get out on the ice

### 'No ice is safe ice.'

*Firefighter Don Carter*

but you have to be careful," Carter said as he regarded the fishing huts not too far from where the firefighters trained Friday afternoon.

Though Belleville has not experienced any ice related tragedies so far this winter, an Ameliasburgh resident lost his life when he fell through the ice on Roblin Lake late December of last year. This is a strong reminder that everyone should take caution when stepping out on to any frozen body of water.

Deputy Chief Robert Rutter of the Prince Edward County Fire Department

said that all six divisions will be training in ice and water safety between January and March this winter. This training takes annually.

Ontario Snowmobile Safety Committee stated that ice seven centimetres (three inches) in thickness or less is unsafe. It is also noted that wind, snow and fluctuating water levels can weaken ice and that air temperature alone is not enough to determine whether or not ice is safe.

For more on ice safety, watch for Thursday's edition of *The Pioneer*.

## Farmers turns to alternatives to combat global warming

By Nakita Krucker

As climate change continues to be one of the most pressing issues of our time, some farmers have begun to turn to alternative farming practices in the treatment of their crops and livestock.

Oliver Haan, from Haanover View Farms of Marysville, Ont. is one of these farmers.

In 2000, Haan, along with his wife, Renate, and their four children, developed various guiding principles, one being "to pass on our small borrowed piece of the planet to the next generation in as good or better condition as we received it." With this in mind, the family began to venture down a more sustainable path.

Haan started by bringing his farm of 3,000 hogs down to a small-scale family farm with a focus on a medication-free and GMO-free farm, sourcing locally and restoring the land, as well

as incorporating a cattle herd.

So how exactly is the family maintaining the land and aiding in the climate change battle? Practices such as crop rotation, minimal crop tillage, eradicating Roundup and other sprays from the farm, as well as aiming for the shortest path from the field to the animal to the consumer are just some of the ways Haan and his family are becoming more environmentally sustainable.

"That all adds up," Haan states as he explains his efforts, highly conscious of his farm's environmental footprint.

These practices are aspects of what has been coined "regenerative agriculture" by Robert Rodale, son of American organic pioneer J.I. Rodale who founded the Rodale Institute, a non-profit organization in Kutztown, Pa.

The institute is committed to the pursuit of groundbreaking research on organic agriculture and has released a new study that argues

that climate stabilization lies in farming and the alternative techniques that help enable the restorative capacity of the soil. Data from recent trials shows that "healthy soil" could sequester carbon emissions and actually reverse global warming.

Trent Rhode, an ecological designer and gardener out of Peterborough, believes that permaculture, or more specifically agroforestry, is the best way to go about restoring the soil. Rhode points out how permaculture is "not just about farming plants, but farming the soil."

Rhode sees the soil as a starting point and "the best way to take care of the soil is to mimic how nature not only takes care of soil, but also creates soil." Always having the soil covered with mulch or living plants, as well as viewing the farm as an ecosystem and developing biodiversity are ways that permaculture practices mimic natural processes.

"We are at a point where it is not just a matter of maintaining ecosystems, we actually have to regenerate ecosystems in order to have any hope of a sustainable future," said Rhode.

So why aren't more farmers jumping on this movement? Not only is small-scale or family farming labour intensive, but it also compares poorly as an income generator and farmers can have difficulty competing with large-scale producers.

Today's export-led global economy would have to be completely restructured to work for direct sale to local consumers. Funding is often needed in order to succeed as a small farm.

Haan revealed his frustration with the reality of attaining these funds.

"Access to bank funding to go down a different path is one of the hardest things. They see it as a passing fad. I believe we do have a place and they need to work with us."

## Photojournalist shares her passion at library

By Mary Barber

Photographer and Loyalist photojournalism grad Audra Kent has opened her first solo exhibition, 'In the Right Light,' at Belleville's John M. Parrott Art Gallery.

Kent's photographic collection brings light and versatility to the new year with images spanning her lifelong passion.

Kent's brightly lit photographs cover a wide range of subjects from a series of striking landscapes to mere moments from her life and those of others. The photographs' strong contrast and definite lines lend a sense of decisiveness to the viewer.

"So often things can be extraordinary if you catch them in the right light at the right time," said Kent. "For the exhibition, I didn't have a file of work ready that I necessarily thought were taken in the right light. As I went along, certain pictures stood out and those were the ones I chose."

Kent's first camera was a Kodak Hawkeye Instamatic II received as a Christmas gift from her parents at age seven. She brought her Hawkeye with her everywhere. In her 20s, Kent traveled to England on a one-way ticket, photographing along the way.

While travelling through the highlands of Scotland, Kent had her camera stolen while she was staying in a youth hostel. Only then did she realize how important taking pictures was to her.

"I was travelling on my own. It was



**As a member of the Quinte Arts Council, Audra Kent has become accustomed to the Parrott gallery, but never saw herself curating her own exhibition.**

like losing a best friend," says Kent. "I'm a really introverted person. I like doing things on my own and photograph-

phy kind of lends itself to that."

Kent's self-realized work took place through a chance turn of events.

"I was trying to sell notecards at the gallery," Kent said. "While there, I was given an application form to apply for

the exhibit. I filled out the form and that's really how I got the spot."

Among the collection is a Remembrance Day portrait of Frank Hamilton, 90, master of ceremonies for Napanee's annual Remembrance Day services. Hamilton stands decorated with medals across his chest and wearing a simple eye patch, giving him a striking and intriguing appearance.

"Despite the eye patch he looks strong, ready for battle," said Kent. "He seems neither weary nor condemned, but he certainly remembers."

Viewers moved with a clocklike motion around the low-key space which holds a 18 of Kent's photographic works. Susan Holland, curator at Belleville's John M. Parrot Art Gallery readied the photographs for the exhibition.

"I think Audra (Kent) is extremely talented. The exhibition really came together," Holland Said. "I saw her work for the first time a year ago. I was really thrilled to offer the opportunity."

"I saw a lot of familiar faces last night, and some I didn't recognize. It was nice because it was such a shared experience," Kent said. "People don't typically see my work. It's also scary, because in a sense I am the one who is on display."

The John M. Parrot Art Gallery at Belleville Public Library will showcase 'In the Right Light' from now until Feb. 14. For more information about the gallery's listings and Kent please visit bellevillelibrary.ca.