

Some restrictions in place for Belleville’s tobogganers

Some Ontario cities have put a stop to this sport

Two popular city locations have areas blocked off to prevent injuries

By Jeremy McKay

Belleville will see no ban on tobogganing anytime soon.

A handful of cities across Canada have placed bans and restrictions on the winter sport, causing a public outcry.

The most recent case was in Orangeville, where the city has banned tobogganing on a popular hill known as Murray Mountain. Hamilton has also banned the winter sport on city property.

Belleville still has tobogganing listed as one of many winter activities that the city offers on its website. Restrictions remain in place on two popular hills in Riverside and Zwick’s Park since 2011.

These restrictions began after an incident happened at Riverside Park. A woman was tobogganing with her partner, when she suffered severe injuries. The city took measures to ensure public safety, said Larry Glover, Belleville’s manager of parks and open spaces.

“I don’t think there is anything more Canadian than tobogganing or sliding. We certainly enjoyed that for generations. Outright banning, to me, seems a little severe,” said Glover.

He explained it’s a case of managing risk and that liability and public safety are priorities for Belleville.

Riverside Park currently has a fence on the top of the hill to prevent tobogganers or sliders from going into a pond and treed areas. Signs are also posted for out-of-bounds areas. City staff placed bales of hay around hazards on Zwick’s hill and signs around areas with hazardous obstacles. Glover said the city inspects both hills on a daily basis and checks them for suitable snow cover.

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Larry Glover, manager of parks and open spaces

This is not quite the case in Hamilton, where there is a bylaw in place prohibiting tobogganing altogether. This happened after the city was forced to pay a \$900,000 settlement to Bruno Ugenti after he was injured tobogganing on a banned hill in 2004. In 2013, the courts found the city fully liable and had neglected to enforce its ban on tobogganing.

Orangeville has had a tobogganing ban on Murray Mountain began in 2009. In December 2014, the placement of a more visible sign drew national attention, to the point where residents slid down the hill in protest of the ban.

Orangeville parks and recreation director Ed Brennan said in a press release that sledding has inherent risk and brings liability to the municipality.

“This is one of the unfortunate circumstances we find ourselves in the modern world,” said Orangeville’s Mayor Jeremy Williams in a press release.

Belleville city officials currently have no plans to place further restrictions or bans on tobogganing in the near future, said Glover.



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Belleville residents and Loyalist alumni Glenda Dunkley (left) and Diana Chambers toboggan down the Belleville Riverside Park Hill last Friday.



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Loyalist Lancers forward Jamal Okunbor (right) attacks the net with Algonquin defender Brandon Burke in his face. Okunbor finished the game with six points, four rebounds and two assists in the Lancers’ 82-69 victory. For a photo on men’s action, see page 3.

Food for Learning gets boost

By Tristan Urry

Three local communities have raised a combined total of nearly \$25,400 to help feed local students.

That total was just \$5,000, shy of their \$30,000 goal.

Maribeth deSnoo, executive director of the Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation, said she was “a bit disappointed with the results, but still we are very thankful to have raised as much as we did.”

This was the sixth year for the fundraising campaign. Through the help of the mayors, councils and downtown improvement areas of Quinte West, Prince Edward County and Belleville, parking was free at the meters downtown through December. However, citizens were invited to put donations in the meters to support the foundation’s Food for Learning Program.

The funds will be distributed among the schools in each community.

“During the 2013-2014 school year, the Food for Learning program provided 880,512 meals and snacks to 12,820 individual students who may otherwise have the inability to obtain sufficient and nutritious food for themselves” said Kellie Brace, the Food for Learning co-ordinator.

Regardless of the shortfall of the \$30,000 goal, each community successfully raised funds to help go towards food security. “Food Security exists in a community when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable, and nutritious food to meet their personal and dietary needs to help them live a healthy life” says Brace.

Belleville raised a grand total of \$5,922 for the program this year. Prince Edward County raised \$1,718 and Quinte West raised \$7,386.92 just from the parking meters alone.

Tyendinaga getting new water treatment plant

By Annie Sakkab

Homes and businesses in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory are soon to have portable clean drinking water.

The long-awaited water treatment plant for the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte is finally underway. Construction of phase one started last November in Tyendinaga on the corner of Ridge Road and Norway Road, and is expected to be completed in 20 months.

Approval for the new water treatment plant in November 2013, took years of negotiations because of land acquisitions, approvals from different agencies, federal funding and plant design to treat zebra mussels that has come into the Bay of Quinte.

According to Tyendinaga Chief R. Donald Maracle, half of the wells in the community of Tyendinaga show intermittent contamination, mostly E. coli and fecal contamination, either caused by poor well construction that did not meet the Ministry of Environment guidelines, or septic installations that maybe at fault in proper distances between septic and wells.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte community also suffers from what is called GUDI wells, or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water, because of agricultural contaminants that runs of from the north towards the Bay of Quinte.

“Generally, the groundwater quality in this whole region is not good. It’s sort of a catch basin for a lot of contaminants related to agriculture and previous industrial contamination from other areas. So the pollution does eventually affect our community because we are by the Bay of Quinte,” Maracle said.

Residents of Tyendinaga normally get drinking water from different sources.

“Some have treatment systems in their homes that are working fairly well. Some people haul water from a spigot

in a park. Some people have installed a holding tank and get a truck water delivery, and some people have their own water and sewer services from the town of Deseronto. Others have jugs of bottled water, or water that they have purchased from one of our local contractors,” Maracle added.

Currently there are only 294 homes in the east end of the reserve that are served by the 1986 Deseronto water and sewer plant expansion.

The new water treatment plant will provide services to extra 67 homes in the central core area of the community and to all public buildings including MBQ Library, Quinte Mohawk School and Daycare Centre, Tyendinaga Police Services, the new MBQ Administration Office, the Community Wellness building as well as 20-unit subdivision that were recently built to meet the critical mass of houses to warrant capital investment. The water treatment plant will also provide trucked water delivery to 118 extra homes with holding tanks.

The total project cost is \$30,891,790 and is tendered to Peak Engineering & Construction. A total of \$27.6 million is funded by the federal government under the Canada Economic Action Plan, and was approved by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

“Our hope in the future is to get additional money to extend water lines further,” said the chief.

“It will cost about \$40 million to put water into the whole community... There’s nothing more critical to a community than having a safe supply of drinking water.”

The project consists of the building of the plant, a low lift station, two above ground storage reservoirs, 5,380 metres of water distribution line, and a community fill up station for the truck water delivery system.



Photo by Annie Sakkab

Supervisors Nathan Beatty and Rob Garrard at the construction site of the new water treatment plant in Tyendingaga Mohawk Territory on Monday, Jan. 19, 2015. The plant is scheduled to start operating in 20 months.

New treatment plant will help with water issues

Water...

Continued from Page 1

Under the Canadian Economic Action Plan, Canada is investing over the course of two years \$323.4 million as of 2014, for the construction of water and sewer treatment systems for First Nations, according to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada website.

Water contamination in Canada is not limited to native reserves only, particularly in limestone areas where it's more susceptible to pollution, according to Maracle. "There was really a lack of environmental standards to regulate business and commerce a number of years ago, so there weren't the environment standards that exist today, as a result, a lot of the populated areas of Canada became polluted right across the country. There are thousands of contaminated sites across Canada," said Maracle.

"I firmly believe that every individual has a human right to have safe drinking water." The chief said he hopes the new water treatment plant will open up the opportunity for additional housing to be built for community members to sub-divide their property and have greater density of housing. Others in the community say the treatment plant does address the water issue.

"It's a start. Where it's located and where the water treatment is going to service, there's a lot of vacant land, so I think what we're going to see a lot of homes popping up along that route," said Curtis Maracle, a former co-chair for the environmental committee at the administration office and a member of Quinte Source Water Protection.

Food...

Continued from Page 1

This campaign has been a major success in the past and it helps us provided good nutritious food for students who may not otherwise be able to get that, we plan on continuing this program next year and we hope the results are just as good if not better than last years campaign" Says Brace.

Brace said the foundation is still accepting donations and that anything helps. Donations can be mailed or delivered to: Food for learning, 156 Ann Street, Belleville, ON K8N 3L3. Please make cheques payable to the Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation.

Drag show comes to Belleville

By Bradley Ruszkowski

Belleville's downtown Front Street will bare a little backside this Friday.

Headliners Lily and Dixie Landers will be inviting any salty dogs left out in the cold into the heat of an uncensored adult drag show at the Belle Pub.

Warming the hearts of Belleville's community along with the Landers' will be Kingston's Tyffanie Morgan. These international performers have been entertaining for more than 20 years touring venues in Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico.

"After years of skirting around the city we finally get to make a stop in a town that is calling our name," wrote drag queen Dixie Landers in an email.

"We're hoping for a fantastic, entertaining, silly, memorable evening...and maybe a kiss or two," wrote Landers.

Presented by the Hastings County Pride in the Park organization, this adult (19 +) show will serve as a fundraiser in the organization's third official year.

A call for local talent has been issued so there may be some surprise performances.

"I am very, very excited to be able to perform in Belleville...with Lily heading the show and Tiffany, the most excellent comedienne that she is," said Dixie Landers, a representative of The AIDS Committee of Ottawa.

"I am just bacon and we all know, bacon makes everything better."

"Events such as these are crucial in raising awareness of HIV prevention and maintaining safe places for all persons in the community," said Sarah Michelle Ogden, the newly appointed Chair of the Hastings County Pride Committee.

"We want to make sure this is a safe event for all to attend. We will even drop the tickets off to you," said Ogden.

Ogden is also the acting health and wellness practitioner at Loyalist College, ensuring that the college and the community have open, free flowing forums for all members of the LGBTQ communities as well as all other communities present in this city.

Tickets can be purchased at the Loyalist College student success office and in town at Sweet Escapes or they can be dropped off at your preferred location by Pride in the Park committee members.

Tickets are available in advance for \$10 through: info@bellevillepride.ca. Student discounts are in effect with a valid student card or at the door for \$15.

Downtown businesses go to the 'dogs'

By Daniel Luk

As pets in the workplace rise in popularity with businesses, two stores located in downtown Belleville are setting the trend.

Along with the natural benefits of loving an animal, storeowners like Peter Reedyk and Mike Malachowski have taken advantage of the mystical powers of pets.

Reedyk's Shih Tzu, Oscar, has been accompanying him to work at Chumleighs, his video and music store for many years.

"He doesn't really have a role except to entertain. When kids want to pet him, he's accommodating."

"With the cranky kids that cry, we bring Oscar to them. Basically, he just creates a little bit more of a positive karma," says Reedyk

Reedyk says Oscar is generally a calming influence.

Oscar came to be with Reedyk after he found out his wife was allergic to cats. His daughter had also left for college and they were feeling the pains of empty nesters.

When an employee brought in Oscar's brother, Reedyk was immediately intrigued by the small hypoallergenic dog. He contacted the breeder and managed to get his hands on the last dog in the litter.

Reedyk says he enjoys the atmosphere created by Oscar. He adds that he finds it humorous when people walk into the store seeing the signs to beware of dogs and Oscar, the tiny dog, comes strolling down the aisle.

"Generally people think it's cute and a bit funny...they expect a scarier dog," says Reedyk

The owner of Funk and Gruven, Mike Malachowski also advocates the therapeutic affects of pets in the work place. Malachowski obtained Rosy when his mother was unable to take care of her. Rosy, a golden doodle, has been known to be nothing but friendly, greeting customers and ordering people around, says Malachowski.

"She likes to give the orders so she's our official greeter here in the store. She's well behaved but when she wants something, she lets everybody know it. She's a bit of a barker. It's a lot of fun to have a dog. People come in to meet her and some come in to take her for a walk," says Malachowski.

According to Healthline, an organization that works to disseminate health information, the stress relieving properties of being around pets work the same as being with another human being. Continuously showing affection like stroking, cuddling, and generally hanging out with them is proven to help alleviate the strains of loneliness and depression.

Malachowski spends almost every waking hour with Rosy. From walks to deliveries, the two are seen as inseparable.

"We get up in the morning and we got for a brisk walk, maybe to the dog park for half an hour to and hour. Over the course of the day, we go for walks around town to do banking and picking things up.



Photo by Daniel Luk

Peter Reedyk and his wife are the proud owners of Chumleighs and this beautiful dog, Oscar in Belleville. The couple obtained the dog in hopes it would help them cope with their daughter leaving for college.

She spends the day with me.

"She rides shotgun in my truck and when I go on my deliveries, she comes along. If we go past a creek or a place for her to swim, we stop and she goes

for a swim," says Malachowski.

With allergies being seen as an issue even animals such as goldfish and small animals have a place in helping as much as dogs and cats.

Women's basketball team falls short in Friday action

First-place Algonquin defeats Lancers 81-41

By Andrzej Terrence

Algonquin Thunder dominated the Loyalist Lancers in women's basketball on Friday at Loyalist College, winning 81-41.

In the first quarter, the Thunder players were one step ahead of the Lancers at every turn.

"I felt like we had a strong start in the first quarter. We were playing Algonquin, which is the best team in the league, and we did what we could with a majority rookie team," explained Lancers' player Leticia Lopez.

Algonquin doubled the Lancers' score by the second half of the first quarter, with the score hitting 13-6.

'There is no other team in the OCAA that can match the Algonquin Thunder. They have won provincials in the last three years and they have ranked second in nationals.'

Lancers men's player Muller Kalala

The Lancers made a come back to end the first quarter at 17-12 for the Thunder.

Algonquin pushed back within the first three minutes of the second quarter, gaining 10 more points to 27-12.

"There is no other team in the OCAA that can match the Algonquin Thunder. They have won provincials in the last three years and they have ranked second in nationals," said Loyalist Lancers men's team player Muller Kalala during the women's half-time break.

By then the Thunder maintained a one to two point ratio.

The Lancers were noticeably tired at this stage in the game while the Thunder still had lots of electricity.

The score at the end of the third quarter was a powerful lead by 60-28 for Algonquin.

The Lancers began with a good start in the fourth and final quarter.

A two-point shot by Mikayla Brennan gave them 30 points to Algonquin's 60.

However, the Thunder returned stronger than ever, raising their score by five points with two lay-ups and one free throw.

The Lancers snuck in a lay-up but were quickly diminished by another three-pointer goal by the Thunder's



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Loyalist Lancers guard Karlie Fairs drives the net with Algonquin's Nyaguande Gathoth playing tight defence. Despite a strong effort by the Lancers, the Thunder were far too strong resulting in an 81-41 Lancers loss.

Lindsay Whittaker.

"Although our shots didn't fall early, I encouraged the team to keep shooting and that ended up paying off as Lindsay Whittaker had 28 points from the perimeter," explained head coach of the Thunder's Laura Bond.

Loyalist's Karlie Fairs, then added six points, making it 70-38.

Loyalist scored one more lay up and one free throw after that, while Algonquin powered up to make a series of foul shots and three-pointers to win the game.

"For us, good defense leads to good offence," commented Bond through an email.

Thunder ranks first in the east division with nine wins and one loss.

The Loyalist Lancers are fifth and have five wins and five losses.

Men's team has successful weekend

By Andrzej Terrence

Loyalist Lancers defeated Algonquin Thunder 82-69 in game action Friday.

"I know they are a very well coached team and I respect their game," said Muller Kalala of the Loyalist Lancers, before the game.

Kalala scored first, but the Thunder doubled back and scored two more baskets.

The first quarter of the game was very tight with Loyalist leading by two points for the first five minutes, with a score of 10-8.

After a free throw, the Lancers jumped ahead to 12-8 and continued to press their offensive.

In the first quarter, the Lancers scored two three-point shot while the Thunders scored none.

At three minutes left in the first quarter the score was 15-10. As a result of great defense by the Lancers, the quarter ended at 23-14.

With great confidence after the first quarter, Loyalist continued to score.

Before Algonquin reached 20 points, Loyalist had nearly doubled to 35 points.

By the end of the second quarter, the head coach of the Algonquin Thunder, Trevor Costello became very aggressive with a call referees were making.

The score at half time was 39-21 for the Lancers, who were just getting started.

At this point in the game, the fans were getting quite rowdy with the prospect of their home team winning.

At the start of the third quarter, the Lancers were making two advances for every one of the Thunder.

By the end of the third quarter, the scoreboard came to life for the Lancers, who were leading 56-39.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Steven Bailey scored another three-point shot.

With the confidence experienced through the success of the last three quarters by the Lancers, they started using increasingly risky plays that got the home team fans going.

By the end of the game, Lancers scored seven three-point baskets, compared to the Thunder's two.

At this point, both teams seemed exhausted and the energy of the game began to diminish although the energy of both teams' coaches increased.

Lancers scored a free shot due to misconduct by the head coach of the Algonquin Thunders, Trevor Costello, making the score 72-58.

The final baskets unfolded with a final three-point shot by the Algonquin Thunder, leaving the final score of 82-69.

"They played well and we played horribly," commented Jim Langis, assistant coach of the Algonquin Thunder at the end of the game.

Following Friday's action, the Loyalist men's basketball team was sitting at eight wins and five losses while the Algonquin Thunder were at six wins and six losses.

Overall it was a good game played by both teams.

The team also played well in a gripping home game against Ottawa's La Cité College on Saturday Jan. 17. With a 95-74 win, the Lancers had an impressive 22 assists with Jordan Marlowe achieving eight of them.

With a three-game winning streak, and another phenomenal win Friday, it seems the Lancers have found their rhythm this season.

Bulls fall short against Niagara Ice Dogs

Hockey team gains four points in weekend action

By James Paddle-Grant

Sunday night concluded a big weekend of hockey for the Belleville Bulls as they won one of three games and recorded four of a possible six points.

Sunday afternoon's game was nail-biting as the Bulls fell just short to the Niagara Ice Dogs in a 4-3 shootout loss on home ice.

The Ice Dogs opened the scoring with a shorthanded goal by Carter Verhaeghe from the slot. The Bulls answered midway through the period with a goal by Justin Lemcke, but the Ice Dogs reacted quickly as they scored two goals shortly before the end of the period.

The Bulls began to put on the pressure as Justin Lemcke scored his second goal of the night from the top of the circle. The Bulls' newly-acquired forward, Trent Fox, and Michael Cramarossa assisted.

Moments after the Bulls' goal, frustrated Ice Dog defender Anthony DiFruscia received a double-minor roughing penalty for sending several punches Brett Gustavsen's way after the whistle.

Later in the period Stephen Harper tied the game up with a wrist shot from the slot with just over a minute to go in the second period.

Despite lots of offensive chances, neither team could put themselves on top as the game went into overtime.



Photo by Joel Watson

Niagara Ice Dogs goalie, Stephen Dhillon denies Belleville Bulls defenceman Jordan Subban, in the third and final round of the shootout. The Bulls lost the Game 4-3.

As Niagara's Billy Jenkins received a slashing penalty with only seven seconds on the clock, his team was able to sweep the puck into the corner, ultimately running the clock. At the end of overtime, neither team could score, bringing the game to a shootout.

After the first two shooters for each team failed to score, Billy Jenkins of the Niagara Ice Dogs put a backhand past the Bulls' Charlie Graham, putting the

pressure on Jordan Subban to score to keep his team alive. Subban was stopped by the left pad of Stephen Dhillon, resulting in a 4-3 shootout Ice Dogs victory over the Bulls.

Belleville Bulls assistant coach Jason Supryka said although they had a bad first period, they couldn't have really asked for much more than they received that weekend.

Beginning the weekend with a 5-3

road win over the Mississauga Steelheads, the Bulls were off to a great start.

Supryka mentioned that the team received four of a possible six points and that he was impressed with the team taking the Ice Dogs as well as the league-leading Oshawa Generals to overtime.

Supryka added Harper was a key player in Sunday afternoon's game. Though he had lost both his linemates

due to injuries, Harper managed to play like a veteran, making strong moves to get toward the net to score.

Trent Fox, one of two rookie players sent to the Bulls in a recent trade, had found himself struggling at first with his new team. This weekend Fox found his place, receiving his first three points with the Bulls, including two assists in Sunday night's shootout loss.

"So far it's been good. The start was hard but I'm getting used to the big ice and all the guys in the room, so it's starting to get better," said Fox.

When asked about the transition from one team to another, Fox noted, "I play a lot more but my game stays the same defensively and when offence comes. I'm a two-way guy, and do the little things right."

Justin Lemcke, a second-year veteran for the Bulls, had good things to say about the new teammates.

"It's good. I mean, they're two young guys coming in. They're both 17-year-olds who are going to develop into good players. It's definitely a good move for the future and a good move for now. I think they've both been playing very well since they've gotten here," said Lemcke.

After the shootout loss, the Bulls' record changed to 19-18-3-3 leaving them in fifth place of the eastern conference with Niagara trailing the Bulls by four points.

The Bulls' have a big weekend of hockey ahead of them as they travel to Ottawa to take on the 67's followed by two back to back home games on Saturday and Sunday against the London Knights and Peterborough Petes.