



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Quinte Skating Club's Emma Jianopoulos competes in the Novice Women free program division of Skate Canada's National skating championship held at the K-Rock Centre in Kingston earlier this week. Jianopoulos finished in 12th place with a score of 89.98.

Belleville native competes at Skate Canada

By James Paddle-Grant

Dedicated and disciplined – two words to describe Emma Jianopoulos and her journey on ice as she pushes herself to the limits in her first ever national event.

Tuesday night, Jianopoulos was one of 18 competitors in the novice women free program, at the Skate Canada National figure-skating championship at the Rogers K-Rock Centre in Kingston, Ont.

Jianopoulos, a Belleville native, was representing eastern Ontario and the Quinte figure skating club at the national event.

As Jianopoulos' first national event, she said she found it different from anything she has ever experienced.

The event consisted of a two-to three-minute performance in which the skater performed a routine of her own. There were a series of judges rating the skills and technique of each skater. Jianopoulos received a rating of 89.98 placing her in 12th.

Jianopoulos qualified for the national event with a strong performance at the Eastern Canadian figure skating championship in Quebec City.

At the age of five, Jianopoulos was very young when she made the commitment to become a figure skater. Skating for the

Quinte Skating Club, Jianopoulos has achieved numerous objectives, including a bronze medal at the 2012 All-Ontario skating championship, and her appearance at this year's national event at the Rogers K-Rock Centre in Kingston.

"It was neat to actually be one of the skaters," said Jianopoulos.

With the event being only 75 kilometres away, Jianopoulos had lots of support from friends and family attending her performance.

"I had a lot of friends and family who were able to come and watch me. I had so much support from everyone," said Jianopoulos.

Jianopoulos added that the event was

much different than anything else when it comes to preparation.

"You always push yourself to the limits. But you've got to keep in mind to pace yourself for the season and not doing too much and then burning out," she said.

Jianopoulos, who began skating at the age of four, has always had the sport involved in her life. Being a third generation skater after her mother and grandmother, skating is something, which seems to run in the Jianopoulos family.

Jianopoulos noted that her coach, Myke Gillman played a major role in her recent success.

"He's so inspirational and positive and

he's really brought out the best of me in my skating," said Jianopoulos.

She added that the faculty at Moira Secondary School has been very supportive with her figure skating career.

"The teachers are very supportive with helping me get the extra work that I might miss if I'm at physiotherapy appointments or if I have to leave early some days."

Attending high school and dealing with exams, while competing at a national figure skating event is a difficult task, although Jianopoulos seems to find a way to balance everything by worrying about one thing at a time.

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An evening with Sir John A. and the missus

By Hannah Eden

Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, was honoured on Tuesday with a celebration hosted by Hastings County Historical Society, which celebrated his 200th birthday.

A staggering 225 people attended the event – a huge leap from the usual 90 at the historical society's presentations, according to Sharon White, Hastings County Historical Society's chief archivist.

Complete with a birthday cake in Sir John's honour, those in attendance could also enjoy the information boards provided by the historical society, to brush-up on their knowledge of his life.

The occasion was narrated by Brian and Renee Porter, actors from Brockville, who greeted guests as Sir John A. and his wife Lady Agnes, upon entering the Maranatha Centre where the presentation was held.

"This is our first presentation in a new space," said Richard Hughes, Hastings County Historical Society president.

"We spent many happy years in the Quinte Living Centre, but we have simply outgrown it. And the Maranatha Centre offers us audio and visual technologies for our monthly gatherings."

Bill Hunt, one of the historical society directors, started the evening's festivities with a glimpse back in time to 1876, where he set the scene of Sir John A's arrival in Belleville.

"Fifteen thousand people turned out for Sir John A," remarked Hunt.

"The Intelligencer newspaper, at the time, wrote an article describing how the streets were masses of flags and bunting."

After transforming the captivated audience back in time, Hunt made way for actor Brian Porter, who was dressed head to toe as the famous prime minister. Complete with pocket watch and top hat,



Photo by Hannah Eden

Actor Brian Porter tells tales of Sir John A. Macdonald's life in a bicentennial celebration at the Maranatha Centre, hosted by Hastings County Historical Society.

Porter graced the floor as he addressed the audience as Sir John A, presenting a speech in his style.

"The life of Sir John A. Macdonald is the history of Canada," Brian Porter later remarked, as she gave closing speeches no longer in character.

"He had a fighting spirit and was a critical piece of our national narrative."

As a travelling duo for 15 years, Brian

and Renee Porter conduct historical reenactments and 'meet and greets' all over the province from London to Ottawa, enthralling older and younger audiences.

"When I present to school children, I often get in real close and sit on the floor," shared Brian.

"Of course, they are always interested in the top hat!"

The tantalizing presentation sparked

conversation all over the centre and education of Canadian history was the main topic of conversation amongst the history buffs in attendance.

Peter Lockyer, broadcast journalist and founder of 'History Lives Here,' discussed the importance of education with local historians Shawn Ellis, president of Trent Port Historical Society and Sharon White, Hastings County Historical Soci-

ety's very own chief archivist.

"We are all, in our own way, awakening the communities," said Lockyer.

"There is a huge appetite for the stories. But how do we engage several generations so that they take on this work?"

Preserving history is one of the main aspects of Hastings County Historical Society's work in the local community and a lack of interest in history could mean generations to come will never know the stories of a former Canada and its rise to modern greatness.

"We do a bad job of teaching our history, because Canadians do not know our history very well," shared Porter in his closing remarks.

"At least this time, Sir John A. is coming to the forefront now, in this 200th anniversary year, before he goes back on the shelf and we can forget about him again."

However, setting history aside is not something the Hastings County Historical Society takes lightly. The move to the downtown core in the fall of 2015 will hopefully prove a positive influence in the community as people of all ages will be able to access history regardless of travel or financial circumstances.

Porter's closing remarks reminded the audience of the leaps and bounds the country has taken to ensure freedom and democracy since the earlier years.

"He had a very clear vision of what he wanted Canada to become," said Porter.

"But he realized it could never happen without compromise and tolerance."

However, Porter's words were also met with a simple warning. Although Canada has progressed in some ways since the days of Sir John A. Macdonald, he said, the work is far from over.

"There was huge number of divides at the time – still are – racial, linguistic, religious, regional."



Photo by Michele Weisz

Janna Colton in her favourite section of the Belleville Public Library Tuesday. Colton has been working at the library for 38 years. She is a library technician and works predominantly in the children's section, where she also reads to the children weekly.

Sharing her passion for the written word

Planning retirement after 40 years at the library

By Michele Weisz

A lot of things have changed at the Belleville Public Library since 1977. The immergence of the Internet, the introduction of a computerized cataloguing system and its address, to name a few. But one thing has not changed - Janna Colton's passion for literature and children.

Colton is just what one might imagine a children's library technician to be. She is bubbly and friendly with a warm smile. Her "signature passion colour" is purple, and she has an encyclopaedic knowledge of children's literature. Her demeanour makes her seem far younger than her years.

Colton has worked, in some form or another, for the Belleville library for 38 years.

She has always had a love of books and was a voracious reader as a child. "I inhaled them," she says. Her love af-

fair with the library began when she was just 12 years old. She began helping at the King George Public School library in grade seven as part of the library club. She was hooked. "It was a lot of fun being around the books," Colton says. She continued to work at the library throughout middle and high school. After high school, rather than studying to become a teacher, Colton made the decision to study library techniques at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont.

During her first year at college, she received a grant enabling her to do an inventory of the books at the Belleville library during her summer break. After graduating, rather than finding work in a big city, she chose to come home to Belleville. She asked the CEO of the Belleville Public Library if there were any job opportunities. She was hired on the spot as a part time library technician. "And I never left," she says.

When Colton began at the library she worked in the catalogue and inventory department. All the cataloguing was done by hand. Even though the library now uses a computer system, Colton's memory of children's titles and authors is unsurpassed, as is her knack for knowing their location. "If you can't find it on

the shelf, Janna can find it," says technical services clerk Marie Lyons. "She can find the most obscure stuff - I think she hides them."

One of the biggest changes at the Belleville library was the introduction of the Internet. "I can remember when they first started talking about the Internet coming into the libraries, that libraries were going to become nonexistent. Everybody was on tenterhooks just waiting to see the libraries go out because of it. That never happened because it's an enhancement of our services."

Colton had taken a children's literature course at college and has had her hand in the children's youth and reader's services department of the library ever since. She played an integral part in securing a special children's room when the library relocated to its present location. She also helped oversee its playful decor. Her concern for the library and the children has not gone unnoticed. "Janna is thoughtful, caring, and considerate and does a great job... Her knowledge and experience is an incredible asset to our organization," says Trevor Pross, the Library's CEO.

While Colton's enthusiasm for books is palpable, working with children is her

true passion. She reads stories to children every week at the library. Her eyes light up when she discusses her long-time work with them. "I love the kids. There's nothing like working with them. I love reading to them," she says.

When asked if she regrets not becoming a teacher, her reply is simple. "I don't regret not becoming a teacher because I'm always teaching here. You're always teaching the kids about books and introducing them to different things," she says.

The children are just as enthusiastic about Colton and her influence on them is no different than that of a teacher. Colton tells the story of a well-dressed gentleman who came into the library 10 years ago. When he saw Colton, he thanked her. He went on to explain that he met Colton when his class came to the library for a book talk. He was not an avid reader but Colton convinced him to try. He went on to say that he continued to read and to study hard and that Colton played a part in his eventually becoming a lawyer.

"That's a real tribute to the work that we do. We are teaching, just not in a classroom," Colton says.

Working with children touches ev-

ery aspect of Colton's life. When she is not working at the library or working with Heritage Belleville, Colton writes and performs puppet shows. Her shows utilize historical characters and architecture along with community folklore to teach children about history and life lessons. She even has a Pierre Elliott Trudeau puppet. She travels with her puppets to different schools and festivals in the surrounding communities. She is a member of the Ontario Puppetry Association.

Colton says she has three passions in her life: her 20-year-old daughter, teaching children about books and historical landmarks in Belleville.

Colton says she will retire after 40 years at the library. She will continue raising her daughter. She will stay on with her work with Belleville Heritage Society, and she will continue to perform her puppet shows.

With a little hint of sadness in her voice, Colton says that she will miss the children's section of the Belleville Public Library. Then one of her colleagues walks by and asks Colton about a book. Her sadness is immediately replaced by an infectious smile as she talks about one of the things she loves best.

Dumpster Divas don't like the waste

By Joel Watson

Buy new, throw away, repeat. This is the common practice for most people nowadays, but not for the likes of the Dumpster Diva Collective.

The Dumpster Diva's collective is a growing group of people that encourage others to make environmentally friendly lifestyle choices. One of the main focuses of the collective is to promote the purchase of locally made or previously worn clothing and accessories.

"It's pretty easy to envision the mountain of clothing that we're buried under when you look at all the thrift stores and closets," said dumpster divas member and co-founder Peter Paylor. "Part of it is just to promote the idea of staying away from the mall, that we have enough stuff and that we don't need to go out and buy more clothing."

The core group members include Ingrid Tiffe, Marina Boretski, Lindy Powell, Holly Fox, Chantal Fraser, Paula Brooks, Lisa Morris and Jessica Wheeler. Each member does some sort of fashionable recycling, such as making jewelry from found pieces of metal and old tires, selling vintage or pre-worn clothing, and sewing silk ties to make pillows and vests.

The overall message of recycling and repurposing the collective pushes can apply to everyone.

"It's not about women necessarily, you know? It could be, just the whole fact that you get the whole concept of recycling

or the support of buying local," said co-founder Morris. "It started with a group of women because that was who I knew."

The collective originally began with an idea for a fashion show called the Dumpster Divas that was organized as a fundraiser. Art/Worth, which was a private project where community groups came together to collaborate on art projects. The show was to feature women wearing nothing but recycled and repurposed clothing. However the Art/Worth project folded and the fashion show never happened.

"The original idea was just about the fashion show," said Paylor. "The women already began discussions and decided that we'll just keep it together, because this is a group of women who all recycle and repurpose fashion and accessories."

After three years, since the failed fashion show, the collective has begun to grow larger, with new members joining on a daily basis. Morris and Paylor are working on making the web page more accessible to its members.

"It's an organic thing so it is always evolving," explained Paylor. "Over the last three years there are now so many people. I mean, this just started by people we knew, and then, of course, you have a show or you do something and it gets noticed."

The Dumpster Diva Collective is now working on their annual Garbage Bag Ball. The event, which takes place April 25, corresponds with the Green Task Force's Trash Bash. The ball helps promote this lifestyle and raises money for local organizations.



Phoro by Joel Watson

Lisa Morris, one of the original members of the Dumpster Diva Collective, displays some of her homemade necklaces. The necklaces are made from recycled materials that consist of old inner tubes and vintage decorations.

Pond hockey comes to Batawa

By Sarra Lalonde

Batawa is hosting its fourth annual Pond Hockey Classic for CFB Trenton this weekend, Jan. 23-25.

Jeff Moorhouse and Rod Moore started this event four years ago, and have continued with it ever since. They started it as an event for the squadron fun days and as a way to raise money for the Military Families Funds . Moore, was at the base when they decided to start it from scratch, says Moorhouse.

This idea has been steadily expanded each year to now include a fundraising dinner, four rinks, 32 teams and two benefiting charities, the TMH Foundation and Soldier On.

The Soldier On Foundation receives 50 per cent of the proceeds from the event, and the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation receives the other 50 per cent.

Most teams are military, but they also have civilian teams who play. In past years, they were mostly military teams, and a lower number of civilian teams. Last year, however, they had more civilian teams than military teams.

For the tournament, maximum 32 teams, four on four, pond hockey rules, no goalies, each team is guaranteed three, 30 minute games, top eight teams advance to the sudden death playoffs, all games outdoor, lighting system in place for night games.

For the dinner being held on Jan. 23, tickets are \$60 each. Comedian Dave Hemstad will MC, and special guests Sgt. Chris Downey and guest singer Francine Leclair will be there, along with some great food.

This year, there are 30 teams of eight, 150-dinner guests for Friday night's dinner, 60 volunteers plus the many spectators who will attend.

Over the last three years, they have raised over \$80,000.

"Hopefully \$35,000 to -40,000 this year," says Moorhouse.

Club for women offers social time and travel

By Michele Weisz

Women do not have to become members of the Quinte Chicks Social and Travel Club, or even have an interest in travel to attend monthly club meetings, but for those looking for female travel partners and fellow adventure-seekers, membership will bring together women who share a passion for travel and for new life experiences.

The new club held its inaugural meeting Wednesday at 6 p.m. with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at Sans-Souci at 240 Front St. in downtown Belleville. Originally formed more than a decade ago by travel agency owner Sherri McCarten, travel agent Jennifer Hunter has reinstated the women's only social gathering.

"There is nothing like it that I know of in the Belleville area," Hunter said. "There are a lot of business networking groups for women in the area, but no social ones."

The social club is an opportunity for the women of Belleville and the surrounding area to mingle and socialize each month. Within an hour of being introduced to one another, the women were chatting like they had known each other for years. The club's motto is "Live your best life." At one point, the original club had more than 100 members. Hunter said she hopes to see numbers like that again. Over 20 women attended Wednesday and a trip to Pennsylvania has already been booked for April 7. Jen McKay recently moved to the area from Kitchener and thought that the club would be a great opportunity to make friends.

Hunter said the club fills a need in the community for women "who often travel solo but don't necessarily want to travel alone."

Market research firm Pepperdine, Yesawich, Brown and Russell (since renamed Y Partnership) reported in 2006 that women have different travel preferences than that of men. Women tend to choose hotels with ambiance and value extra security measures. Hunter agreed. She believes that aside from the safety factor of travelling in female groups, women have different interests than men do, such as touring historical or quaint locations. She said that these trips will be customized to suit the tastes of the members while providing them with unique travel adventures.



Photo by Michele Weisz

(From left) Sandi Wight, Katherine Kimball, Sherri McCarten and Vicky Jukosky share photographs and compare phones Wednesday. The ladies were at Sans-Souci to socialize and meet new friends. The event was the first meeting of the new Quinte Chicks Social and Travel Club, a monthly women-only meeting for travel enthusiasts in the Quinte area.

"It's nice to find people who are like-minded... Who share the same travel philosophy," said Rachel Hughes. "It opens you up to new destinations that you wouldn't have thought of before."

There is a growing trend in women-only vacations. Destination travel for women has become an extended version of the girls' weekend getaway. There are more than 500,000 results on Google

for a "women-only travel" search. More women are looking for opportunities to travel together and more travel agencies are booking these types of trips. According to Hunter, women choosing to travel together has become a niche industry. In 2013 an American Express survey reported a huge spike in the amount of girlfriend getaways with 56 per cent of women travellers taking women-only

trips, and a 15 per cent increase in trips booked between 2012 and 2013.

Travel writer Marybeth Bond, a National Geographic author and contributor to numerous news publications, has said on The Gutsy Traveler website that "Women— young, old, single, married, widowed and gutsy are fuelling an explosive growth in travel industry."

Women of all ages, both married and single came to the inaugural event.

Each month the group will meet for drinks allowing the women of Belleville the opportunity to form new friendships and meet fellow travellers.

"We're really focusing on the friendship and the social aspect...The travel is secondary," said Hunter.

Construction to begin in downtown revitalization

By Jeremy McKay

Downtown Belleville will see construction beginning in May as part of the first phase for the Downtown Revitalization Project.

The Bay Bridge Road CP Rail overpass and Dundas Street West reconstruction projects haven't moved since they were cancelled by city council on Nov 10, of last year.

The revitalization project was delayed in September when construction tenders for Front Street & Side Street were \$8.2

million over the approved \$16 million budget.

To resolve this, the project managers of Build Belleville have split the downtown project into three pieces.

"Smaller contracts mean we can get more bids on the contract. We can get more competition," said Denis Pianarosa, project manager of Build Belleville.

Pianarosa went on to explain that the contracts are now five million a piece, rather than a large 16 million contract. Downtown Revitalization Projects to be completed in 2015 are on Front Street

from Victoria to Pinnacle, and Station Street from Pinnacle to Church.

The Bay Bridge Road CP rail overpass and Dundas Street West projects are currently under review.

"We haven't defined a timeline for retendering it. The intent is to get this project back out this year," said Stan Czychyzyro, project manager of engineering & development services. The city recently submitted a Small Communities Fund grant application to help fund the Dundas West Street project. Czychyzyro went on to explain the project design is

under review and a report is to be provided soon.

The mayor's downtown taskforce was dismantled after the Mayor Taso Christopher was elected and replaced with the mayor's implementation team.

This was a follow-through of one of Christopher's campaign promises.

"It's not just about the downtown revitalization project, it's the entire scope of the Build Belleville project," said Christopher, he went on to explain that the new implementation team will focus on all the projects under the Build Belleville um-

brella. The new team consists of Couns. Jack Miller, Couns. Garnet Thompson and Mayor Christopher.

This new team will be handling all 22 Build Belleville projects at once and meeting on a weekly basis.

The public will be updated on all 22 projects on a weekly basis through the Build Belleville website: buildbelleville.ca. A public meeting will be held on Feb. 4 at the Build Belleville Project Building on 116 Pinnacle St. to update city residents on the status of where the Build Belleville Project is at.

Group offers no judgment, harassment

By Sarah Robertson

The Rainbow Alliance group at Loyalist is a place free of judgment and harassment based on gender and sexual identity.

Sarah Ogden is the mind and wellness practitioner at Loyalist College. She also facilitates the Rainbow Alliance meetings that are held weekly at the school.

The Rainbow Alliance is a safe place for LGBTQ, (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning) students and their allies.

"I think it's really important because although our society at large, and our school, have come a long way in being

welcoming and inclusive, there is still some homophobia that exists," said Ogden.

"Again, both on campus and in larger society, so I think having a group like this in time will help eliminate that. And it offers a safe space for those who don't have a safe space to be themselves."

Kendall Veen, who has been a member for two months, agrees that it's a safe place for students to be themselves.

"I think the Rainbow Alliance is important because it gives LGBTQ students somewhere to talk about situations and/or difficulties they go through as they discover and become established in their gender and sexual identity.

"You walk in the room for meet-

ings and you always feel welcome and like you can talk about anything. Everyone is really supportive and even though I've only been going for a few months, I've made great friends and learned more about the LGBTQ community."

The club is planning its next event Feb. 25. Pink shirt day is in support of anti-bullying. Last year, the club was successful in hosting a bake sale and movie night as well as selling t-shirts. All proceeds went to Three Oaks Shelter and The Boys and Girls Club.

If students wish to join the Rainbow Alliance, you can contact Ogden by phone at 613-969-1913, ext. 2675, or by e-mail at sogden@loyalistic.on.ca.

Sleeveless shirts not welcome in Loyalist College gym

By Daniel Luk

Over the past three weeks Loyalist College, a new no sleeveless shirt policy has been in effect, but there is confusion around the policy.

"I think it's really stupid, and an over-reaction, probably just to one person that didn't approve of it," says Adam Strickland, the captain of the varsity volleyball team.

"I do not go to the gym to show off my body in these athletic tops. I wear them for its purpose. And it is unfair that I can no longer wear my tops to the gym. Its extremely hot and I am a runner and now I am forced to wear something I am not used to running in," says active gym member Alyssa Loiselle.

Asked about the new policy, Cory Mestre, the head of the fitness centre, said the reason for the new policy wasn't necessarily about the appearance of the members, but was aimed at minimizing the possibility of spreading infection.

Although sleeveless shirts used to be allowed at the gym, staff found that people were putting strains on the rules by exposing their midriff region, and even extending the armholes on their sleeveless shirts revealing their ribs and hips, he added.

Mestre said he isn't a doctor, however, his understanding of infection transmission is that if a carrier of a skin virus has a break in their skin, they cannot only

transmit the virus through skin-to-skin contact, but also through contact with shared equipment.

He also stated that although this occurrence is seen more in hospitals, it's not completely uncommon in fitness centres.

As of Dec. 5, the gym advertised the new policy's arrival on Jan. 5. Through the Loyalist College Athletics social media and signage, the gym has attempted to notify members that the dress code will no longer include sleeveless shirts.

Mestre explains the viruses aren't subjected to seasonal occurrences like common winter illnesses. It's the gym's responsibility to minimize the risk of spread by putting together the best practice system possible as a necessary precaution.

"We try to be as welcoming and accommodating as we can be. We're not telling someone you can't work out here anymore. It's just that we have this policy in place for the well being of all our members.

"We appreciate that it can be an inconvenience if they forgot to pack a T-shirt, if they grabbed a sleeveless or things like that, but all we say is to go get a T-shirt and come back.

"We want to have you here. We want to have you working out and we want to see you pursuing your health goals. You just have to do it wearing a sleeved shirt," said Mestre.

Skating...

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"I definitely have to focus on what's happening in the moment rather than focus on everything I have to do. I have to compartmentalize the things I have to do for skating and competing,

"When I'm competing, I just focus on the competing, and then I'll worry about everything else. And now that I'm done competing, it's like: exams, okay I need to focus on them now."

Kerri Jianopoulos, Emma's mother, had nothing but compliments to say about her

daughter.

"She's a great girl and she's very dedicated. She works very hard at everything she does, she's very disciplined and she likes to set goals for herself."

Emma puts much work into not only her skating, but also everything else she does, her mother said.

"Emma always has such a positive outlook. She's very enthusiastic about everything and she always has a great attitude."

Emma, who's reached her first-ever national appearance, said she is very pleased with her performance this year, and plans to continue competing in the future.



Photo by Giovanni Capriotti

Hats off

Marina Boretski poses in front of a mirror in her shop in Belleville. Passion for hats has always been part of her life. She received her first hat as a gift from her grandmother. Ever since, she has grown into a fine hat maker and a vintage apparel aficionado. To see more on Boretski, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=47834>



Photo by Annie Sakkab

Special moments

Romanian-born Angela Cozea with her eight-year-old dog Rocky. Cozea decided to retire early three years ago from her job as a Spanish teacher at the University of Toronto after being diagnosed with myeloma, a type of blood cancer. “There is unbound beauty and permanent terror above, and all you can do is to count on those who love you, in this case here, my dog, to help you along. For he is certainly fearless under the clouds, is he not? you even got that keenness in his gaze, which is a mighty thing to grasp.”

2014 was the hottest year on record

By Sarra Lalonde

Greenhouse gases are on the rise, making 2014 the hottest year on record.

Studies show that 2014 was the hottest year recorded since 1850. It was also recorded that between 1997 and 2014, these years had the top 10 hottest years recorded.

“Greenhouse gases have been on the rise since 1820, due to the large impact industrializations have caused from the toxic fumes they produce,” said William Grough, professor of climatology, department of physical and environmental sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Environment officials at Loyalist College also agree with this.

“It’s my understanding that there are always natural variables at play,

but anthropogenic factors are at the root of the change we are currently experiencing. Our modern patterns of production and consumption, combined with a growing global population, of which a large piece is adopting westernized forms of consumption, is contributing to the current change in climate through the burning of fossil fuels, transportation, agricultural production, deforestation and so on,” says Becky MacWhirter, sustainability co-ordinator at Loyalist College.

“There has been an upward trend in global average temperature for the past several decades, and this is due to the increase in GHG concentrations in the atmosphere, in turn a result of emissions (mostly of CO2) from the use of fossil fuels.”

Experts watching climate change say that the problem is not go-

ing away.

“This trend will continue for at least several more decades, so we will keep setting new records,” said Danny Harvey, who is head of the department of geography at University of Toronto.

“A great way to start is by examining our daily activities and actively trying to reduce our impact; like carpooling, taking the bus or biking to reduce our transportation footprint,”said Harvey.

MacWhirter says our diets are another source of emissions that we can control. We can try being a weekday vegetarian or going meatless on Mondays. In our homes, we can reduce our footprint and our bills by switching to LED light bulbs, turning down the heat a notch and by flicking the switch when we leave the room.

“Perhaps, most importantly, we can all speak up. Write your local councillor and your MP to say that this issue is important to you and demand action in the form of policies and programs that push our society in a more sustainable direction,” MacWhirter says.

Grough explains what is causing the greenhouse gases to rise.

“Greenhouse gases have gone from 280 to 400 ppm because of combustion engines (in cars and factories). So it is not natural but man-made. We need to reduce greenhouse gases but reducing emissions. We can do this by developing more efficient engines or alternative technologies such as hybrid cars. Energy production can be switched from oil and gas to wind and solar,” says Grough.

MacWhirter explains what

we can do here on campus.

“Here on campus, we are making strides in reducing our energy consumption through lighting retrofits and optimizing our HVAC system. And we’ve hosted events like the Commuter Change to encourage sustainable transportation. We plan to build on these efforts further in 2015,” says MacWhirter.

“Also, people can focus on experiences as opposed to the accumulation of stuff. Practice conscious consumerism by examining what we buy and why we buy it. What are the hidden costs of the things we buy and at the end of the day, will these things really make us happier?” MacWhirter explains.

MacWhirter says if anyone has any suggestions to please send them to her at sustainability@loyalistic.on.ca.

Junior curlers head to nationals

By Annie Sakkab

Two homegrown junior curling team members from Belleville will represent the province for the first time in a national curling competition starting this weekend.

Loyalist students and twin brothers Mac and Morgan Calwell will be on the four-man team heading to the M&M Meats Canadian Junior Curling Championships in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Jan. 24 to Feb. 1.

“It’s a great honour and privilege for the Quinte Curling Club to have such talented juniors and for them to succeed at the Ontario level is awesome,” said Tanya Visockis-Izzotti, vice-president of the Quinte Curling Club.

“It’s also great for the little rocks that are starting curling to look up to the Calwell boys and say that, at their own club they have champions.”

Inspired by their mother, who started curling in high school, 19-year-olds Mac and Morgan have been curling since the age of 6. They were coached by their parents until last year when coach Greg Pretty took over.

“But they still work with us every week on just basic skills and strategy,” Mac said.

Team Calwell consists of Mac Calwell, Kurt Armstrong, Morgan Calwell and Matt Pretty playing skip, vice, second and lead respectively.

The team has been curling together since last November.

They won the Ontario junior title last week, when they beat Team Michaud from the Annandale Golf and Curling Club. It was the best round-robin game of the week, where they were leading 3-0 and winning the championship with an 8-2 win.



Photo by Annie Sakkab

MPP Todd Smith presenting the provincial curling champions Mac and Morgan Calwell from the Calwell team with pins in the Quinte Curling Club Tuesday. The Calwell team will be representing Ontario in the national competition held in Newfoundland from Jan. 24 to Feb 1.

“They’re a really good team, they just had a little trouble in our last two games,” Morgan said, speaking about Team Michaud.

“We went into the competition ranked I think number one or two. As the week went on, we got better and better. So we just came out and had all the confidence in the world.”

When the Calwell team goes to Newfoundland for the national com-

petition, the games will be done in two pools of seven. Every province will have a team. In total, there are 14 teams each for men and women.

“It hasn’t really hit me to be honest. The nerves will start when we get to the airport on Thursday night,” said Morgan Calwell.

The team was sent off this week by MPP Todd Smith at the Quinte Curling Club with their own Ontario pins

and Quinte Curling pins.

“We’re supporting the team by being here tonight. It’s the whole membership that’s behind them and hoping for their success,” Visockis-Izzotti said.

The winning team at the national competition will become Team Canada at the World Junior Curling Championships held in Tallinn, Estonia, at the end of February.

Job fair helps students connect with employers

Forty employers registered to participate

By Sarah Robertson

Loyalist College is hosting its 18th annual job fair, Thursday, Feb. 5, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the gym.

Currently, there are over 40 employers registered who are looking to hire students anywhere from part-time to full-time, summer employment and temporary positions.

“We really try and reach a wide spectrum of employers so that depending on what the students are looking to do, they’ll find opportunities,” said Lyndsay Kerik, the employment and career advisor at Loyalist.

“This is one of their favourite fairs so year after year employers are always returning because they love our students. They love the faculty interactions and they feel the students are really prepared.”

“We treat them like gold when they are here, so it also speaks to the fact that obviously they’re finding what they need here if they keep coming back,” she added.

The employers attending are specifically related to the programs that the college offers. Those businesses range from engineering firms to social service organizations.



Photos by
Hannah Eden

From left, Diane Sule and Marney Black, are both volunteers at Hastings County Historical Society. Together they sort through negatives donated from The Belleville Intelligencer archives. The negatives show images taken by Intelligencer photographers from the 1940's to the early 2000's.

Taking a peek into the past

By Hannah Eden

The Hastings County Historical Society plunged into the past to locate files for the celebration of Sir John A. Macdonald's 200th birthday this week.

In lieu of the Historical Society's bicentennial presentation on Jan. 20, displays have been organized to educate the attending public on the life and works of Canada's first Prime Minister.

Trying to locate documents with Sir John A's signature, photos, legal or personal letters proved to be a big project.

"The challenge is, we have no idea when he was here in Belleville," said Sharon White, chief archivist.

"We don't have any original photos yet we have the ability to trace him. We know he was a lawyer, therefore we started our search in our legal files."

In the run-away train of the digital age, the Historical Society has been working with over 20 volunteers to catalogue everything housed in the archives to create a digital map of the contained records, photographs, newspapers and legal documents.

Volunteers Elizabeth Mitchell, Marney Black and

Diane Sule are currently working to archive and digitally catalogue a huge collection of negatives and prints donated from The Belleville Intelligencer.

"We take the packet of negatives and then log the information about that set into a computer," said Sule.

"We have to note everything from type of film used to date photographed."

This donation of photographs ranging from 1940 to the early 2000's will just make up some of collections to be moved to the Belleville Public Library in late 2015.

Founded in 1957, the Historical Society's main aim is to educate and assist those in local and surrounding communities.

However, with the location of the archives so far away from accessible bus routes, the society has seen a lack of interest in some young people.

"If they don't have a car, it is difficult to get to us," said White.

"This is why we are concentrating on the new move."

Cataloging the archives into a digital log will not only assist the society in their move to the Belleville Public Library, it will also make it easier to locate records during times of historical celebration such as Sir John A. Macdonald's bicentennial.



(Above) Elizabeth Mitchell, retired librarian, volunteers her time at Hastings County Historical Society by archiving negatives donated by The Belleville Intelligencer.

(Right) Jeanne Delaney holds archived photographs of Joe Clark in a back room the volunteer team like to call 'The Vault.'



(Above) Hastings County Historical Society is currently situated on Cannifton Road North. However, with the new move to the downtown core in fall 2015, the society is hoping to gain interest from a younger audience.

(Left) Adele Dibben, volunteer, sits in the photographic room at Hastings County Historical Society. Dibben takes unarchived photos from filing cabinets and catalogues them into silver boxes seen on the back wall.



Photo by Tristan Urry

BYST Swimmer Riley Donia comes up for air during practice Thursday night at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre.

Swim team making big splash

By Tristan Urry

Members of the Belleville Youth Swim Team, or BYST, have been making waves at a national level. Coach Brandon Oates says that he is proud to have such an “out-standing team this year.”

Belleville will be hosting The Eastern Ontario regional short course championships Jan. 30-Feb.1. Those in attendance will see the top 20 teams east of the Great-

er Toronto Area compete against each other.

“Our team alone will have over 30 qualifiers for the championship,” said Oates. It is estimated that nearly 500 athletes will be in attendance, including some future Olympians. Oates thinks that the event will draw close to 1,500 people and generate upwards of \$250,000 in local revenue.

“According to numbers from last year’s turnout, we should draw in at least

\$250,000 in local revenue” said Oates.

“In the past two years and a half years since the Quinte Wellness Centre has opened we have broken over 100 team records and set the team on a new path” said Oates.

In addition to having a record number of regional qualifiers, the club has “three who will be attending the Ontario Festivals: Noah Brooks, Thomas Butler and Mackenzie Latter. We also have the largest number of provincial and age group

national qualifiers in our teams history,” said Oates.

“We also have one swimmer who plans on attending the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games later this year, Melissa Dingle,” Oates added on.

“Our team this year is very young, and we will be at complete capacity for all the age groups,” said Oates.

Oates Co-Coach Rick Hoskin said, “These guys are going to place very well. They are

very smooth in the water compared to other clubs that I’ve seen. These guys have worked very hard and it’s going to pay off.”

The BYST has had an incredible season and there is no doubt that they will make some serious waves at the Eastern Ontario SC Championships.

For more information about the BYST, visit the website at: www.byst.ca. Or, contact Oates at: coachboates@gmail.com or 613-661-SWIM (7946).

Women Lancers don’t go out without a fight

By Nathan Zbeetnof

The Loyalist Lancers started the game off right Wednesday, scoring their first point within seconds of the first serve.

Unfortunately for Loyalist, they lost 3-0 sets. That didn’t mean the Lancers went down without a fight.

The team started falling behind 14-6 and the Lancers struggled to get a point. A few minutes later, the Lancers scored a point making it 17-7 for the Excalibur, but was only with mere luck because the opposing team overshot their serve.

Luck stayed with the Lancers, however, because the Trent Excalibur continued to overshoot their serves. The score got to 20-10 and the Lancers called a timeout.

The Excalibur continued to move their score, going to 23-10 but the Lancers didn’t give up.

They started to get the ball moving, scoring three points but just soon as the Lancers found hope for the first set, the final serve was overshot and went out of the court. Trent Excalibur won 25-14 for the first set.

After that, the Lancers let Jessica McDougall from the Excalibur land their first point with ease. Chantal Cormier wasn’t going to stand for that, and she struck back with a hard spike.

It started going downhill from there though. Less than 10 minutes into the second set, the Lancers started losing 16-8 and it looked like the Lancers wouldn’t be able to bring it back.

Amy Parker decided she’d had enough of losing points, and spiked the ball down on the Excalibur

twice. Unfortunately for the Lancers, those were the last two points for them in that set and the Excalibur gained momentum, winning 25-10.

The beginning of the third set looked rough for the Lancers. They started losing point after point. They only had one point to the Excalibur’s 10 before it was even eight minutes into the set. That didn’t stop the crowd from cheering on the Lancers.

They started to bring it back, heading up to 18-8 for the Excalibur. Kennedy McMahon dived for the ball and Emily Lutz spiked the ball down onto the Excalibur’s side of the court.

The Lancers got together and smiled. Regardless of the situation, they still had hope for victory. Luck joined the Lancers once again when Nicole Vandinter from the Excalibur missed a dive for the ball.

The Lancers started quickly climbing that wall, catching up until it was 24-20. However, the Lancers luck ran out, and the Excalibur won the game 25-20.

Running up with a fresh start, the Lancers are taking a turn from last year. The team lost one of their players, Alex Fobert, at the end of first semester but took a quick recovery having Emily Lutz join the team soon into second semester. This kept the team having 11 players on the team.

Co-coach Amy Hoskin, said she is pleased with the new team member joining the team and has high hopes for future games.

“She is now a full-fledge member of the team and is doing very well ... she is a very nice addition to the team,” Hoskin said.

Hoskin said the team’s record this year is better. Having more girls and more talent is making them much stronger than previous years. They are in the process of rebuilding the team. This is because two years ago, there was a coaching change, Tony Clark stepped away from coaching. In the process, it was difficult to keep that recruiting class going and in turn, the Lancers lost a year.

“That can set you back a long way in varsity sports,” Hoskin said.

It was when Clark stepped away that Dominique Dawes and Hoskin took his place as head coaches. This made it difficult recruiting last year.

“When you don’t recruit, you kind of fall back a little bit,” Hoskin said.

The women’s Lancers are stronger, with a more rounded team this year. At the beginning of the 2014 school year, approximately 30 women showed up to try out for the volleyball team. Some cuts were then made and the second set of women showed up and that group held 40 women.

“That was more than we’ve had in a very long time ... it was good,” Hoskin said.

Hoskin said when the women join the team, they all have high school volleyball experience from the past, but nine out of the 11 would have club experience, which would be competitive outside of their high school.

Chantal Cormier is a third year player who has been a key element this year. The coaches have moved her into different positions. Cormier is playing mid-

dle currently, although, she has predominantly been playing right side this year, said Hoskin. Hoskin said that not just her physical game has improved, but her mental game has as well.

The coaches have changed up the play styles from previous years, to make sure every player can play two positions.

“This is so we can have certain people playing one position and then second set, we can completely mix it up and throw people into different spots,” Hoskin said.

When making these changes, the coaches have to tweak their game strategy depending on what team they are playing against.

The women are able to see the way their opponent plays by watching a game tape. All volleyball players are able to watch the tapes, as it’s mandatory for them to be set up every game.

In late November, the Lancers beat Canadore 3-1 which was a pivotal point for the girls because Canadore is currently ranked second in the east division of the OCAA.

“We played very tough. We ended up winning the game, which was huge,” Hoskin said.

Canadore have only lost three games and the Lancers are happy to have taken them down that one game.

Defence is what the Lancers are focusing on. The coaches are stressing to the players they should keep their defence throughout the whole game and keep that momentum moving, instead of just moments of good defence.

“Unfortunately, we have had a couple tough losses where they should have been wins, but that’s just how it goes.”

Men lose two sets out of three

By Nathan Zbeetnof

The Loyalist men’s varsity volleyball team took on the Trent Excalibur Wednesday and were head to head the whole game.

With an unfortunate overall loss of 1-3 sets, the Lancers gave it everything they had, keeping up with the Excalibur.

The Lancers started off strong, pulling ahead of the Excalibur 7-2, only five minutes into the game. Lancer, Jake Matheson blocked a spike that would have started the Excalibur’s uprising on them.

Just when the Lancers thought they might keep climbing, the Excalibur brought it to an even score 13-13 and then it went downhill. At the end of the first set Lancer Adam Strickland tried to block a spike, but failed and that allowed the Exca-

The second set got very competitive. The Lancers and Excalibur kept themselves tied a majority of the set. Halfway into the set, at 11-11, Nate Koopman from the Excalibur went in for a hard spike, but with the wrong aim, Koopman hit it out-side of the court.

The Lancers started to think that luck might be on their side, as Jacob Bothen, Excalibur hit the ceiling and followed immediately after was a missed volley for the Excalibur. It wasn’t long after that the Excalibur started picking up the pace and before anybody knew it, the Lancers lost 17-25.

That last serve was hard for the Lancers. Three of the men dived for the ball, all-missing. It was a fresh start for the Lancers coming into the third set and they had not given up. They started the set off right, scoring the first two points.

The Lancers kept up good momentum. With every score the boys got together in the middle smiling because they had high

hopes for this set.

The Excalibur started to get nervous and kicked it into high gear, bringing the score back to an even score of 12-12. Points alternated from one team to the other, leaving both teams neck and neck. The end of the set drew near and with the score sitting at 24-23, the Lancers coach called a time out.

The crowd went crazy, chanting for the Lancers. The air was tense and with the pressure on the Excalibur, they missed a volley and the Lancers took the win of 25-23.

This is the next set that could have been a game changer. If the Lancers took a win, it would mean that there would have been five sets.

The Lancers fought harder than before, keeping the scores close together throughout the final set. At 7-7, Andrew Kretz, from the Excalibur hit the ceiling, breaking the tie for the Lancers.

Near the end of the set, the Lancers scored their final point, 24-21, and the final serve went too far, and outside of the court, leaving the Excalibur with an overall win of 25-21.

It has been a tough year for the Loyalist Lancers men’s team, who are sitting at the bottom of the East Division in the OCAA standings.

The Lancers have a total of 12 different players, but only five of those are returning.

At the beginning of the first semester, when tryouts started, only 16 people tried out. In return, not many cuts were made in 2014.

According to Adam Strickland, the team captain, the first semester was rough but the Lancers are looking into the second semester with hope. This year, the Lancers are rebuilding their team and

hoping that future years will be better than before.

“Our two middle players, Jake Matheson and Kyle Warriner have been trying their hardest to the game. We give them a task and they perform for us,” Strickland said.

“They have never played volleyball before and they are scoring and blocking like they have been playing for months now,” Lancer coach Matt Somerville said.

“The middle is a difficult position to be playing, you’re always on your toes, constantly moving around in your position,” Strickland said.

Strickland said a big part of the team is getting better at their defence, keeping an eye on who on the opposing team is attacking so they can defend themselves accordingly.

Somerville and Strickland always talk about the good and bad of each game, giving out friendly reminders on what to work on in the future.

On Jan. 14, Loyalist went head to head with Durham and in the first set, they were only a hair away from beating them, losing 26-24. This was a big moment for the Lancers, with Durham being the top of the OCAA East Division standings.

We were not expecting that going in. We thought they were just going to destroy us because they’re the best in the team league,” Strickland said.

One of the things Strickland pointed out was that the team argues a lot.

“I just want everybody on the same page,” Strickland said.

Everybody on the team said they are looking forward to the second half of the season.

“I’m extremely proud of the guys ... we’re a very young team and it’s nothing but up from here,” Somerville said.



Photo by Daniel Luk

Joseph Bresee, No. 9, sends a powerful spike through the Trent Excalibur’s Alex Campagnolo’s block. The men’s varsity team pulled through a valiant set but were unable to win the overall game.

On the street

Bryan Eneas asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

What is your opinion on the banning of tobogganing?

http://www.qnetnews.



Scott Azuma, sales and marketing, “Go back how many years, I’ll bet that kids tobogganed back then, their parents tobogganed. Nobody was wearing helmets back then and nobody seemed to die, so I think it’s a little outrageous.”



Thomas Groves, engineering, “Honestly, things happen. If someone dies in an accident, there isn’t really much that can be done to stop that from happening.”



Stephanie Clue, online print and broadcast journalism, “It’s sad that that happened but I don’t think we should stop people from having a good time because of a freak accident. I don’t think it should be banned.”



Rachel Stark, online print and broadcast journalism, “I think that if the hill is really dangerous then maybe it’s reasonable to ban it, but to ban it everywhere is kind of ridiculous.”



Gareth Martin, chemical engineering, “I don’t think they should ban it. So many kids toboggan, you can’t just take away a central part of winter. If they’re so worried, they should monitor the hills and close them down if they’re too icy.”



Kyle Giroux, survey technician, “I think we should put a little more safety in tobogganing. Maybe introduce helmets and some regulation or things like that into it. Take a look at hills and inclines so that those types of things are safe for it.”

Editorial

Statistics and bikinis

When was the last time you used the math you learned in high school? If you’re not an engineer, scientist or economist, chances are it’s been a while.

Most of the math taught in high school in Canada quickly becomes obsolete for the majority of students as they move into non-technical college or university education. If there is one type of mathematics beyond basic arithmetic that is directly applicable to the average person, it has to be the study of statistics and probability.

Statistics are everywhere—news reports, academic papers, commercials, humanitarian organizations. Everyone is forced to make judgments on probability. That’s the way the world works. Certainty is an unusual luxury.

Even with prevalence of statistics in society, however, many people have very little understanding of how individual statistics should be interpreted and what they actually mean. Even so, they are often taken at face value and viewed as definitive hard facts.

In the words of Aaron Levenstein, a former business professor at Baruch College, “Statistics are like bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.” There is a good example of this given in lecture by the statistician Peter Donnelly, for the organization TED:

You are told that a certain medical test, say an early screening for cancer, is right 99 per cent of the time. If you take the test and it comes back positive, what is the likelihood that you do in fact have cancer?

Spoiler—the answer probably isn’t 99 per cent.

It’s heavily dependent on the prevalence of that type of cancer in the general population and is likely much lower.

In the talk Donnelly proceeds to give a detailed explanation as to why that is.

Errors in statistical interpretation have also had dramatic effects in the courtroom when statistics have been presented to juries with little or no mathematical background. This has led to numerous miscarriages of justice such as the case of Sally Clark who was wrongfully convicted of murdering two of her children when in actuality they died of sudden infant death syndrome or SIDS.

Clark was convicted on the bases of statistical evidence presented by a medical expert who did not have the mathematical background to support his conclusions. After spending three years in jail, the conviction was overturned.

Clark died of alcohol poisoning a few years later.

In spite of this, there is little emphasis placed on statistics and probability in the public education system. Secondary schools tend to focus on preparation for calculus, which is far less applicable to the average person.

Additionally, because statistics are so directly applicable to the real world, it is much easier to get students interested in learning them than more abstract forms of mathematics.

If the average person had a basic grasp of statistical analysis, the effects would be felt in our economy, government, direction of humanitarian aid and almost every other facet of society.

For that reason, this type of mathematics needs to be a mandatory part of our secondary education system and it needs to be taught so that it is practically applicable to the broadest range professions and contexts possible.

It doesn’t matter if you’re “not a math person.” It’s not just improbable you can avoid statistics—it’s impossible.

Micah Bond

Not all tragic events are by terrorists

Terrorism is a word thrown around with increasing frequency and decreasing consequence. With seemingly no clear definition for an act of terror – or at least none that are clearly adhered to – it may be time that we talk about the meaning and implications of labeling tragic events as acts of terror.

The historical context of the word terrorism, according to the Oxford English dictionary is: “Government by intimidation as directed and carried out by the party in power in France during the Revolution of 1789-94.”

The modern definition, according to the Oxford English Dictionary is: “The unofficial or unauthorized use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims; (originally) such practices used by a government or ruling group (freq. through paramilitary or informal armed groups) in order to maintain its control over a population; (now usually) such practices used by a clandestine or expatriate organization as a means of furthering its aims.”

If you watched the news, even one time, in 2014 or the beginning of 2015, you likely noticed that terrorist attacks have been on the rise in the ‘western world.’ And the feeling is that we should be scared. The military personnel run down by a car in Quebec, the shooting and killing of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo in Ottawa, the Sony cyber hacks, and the most recent attacks on Paris, including the shooting of 12 staff at Charlie Hebdo, are examples of stories on terror that shaped our dialogue this past year.

It’s strange how a population reacts as soon as the word terrorism is thrown into the story. Rather than the logical reaction that one might have to a report on a murder, we shift into an emotional state, and our reactions become much less predictable. It has led people to back their government’s decision to go to war. It turns the death of a terrorist into a celebration party rather than a simple sigh of relief. And frankly, does more to scare a larger amount of people than the act itself (in most cases).

The media has a huge role in this, and must exercise caution in reporting on things that could be terrorist related.

We should wonder if some of these attacks could be classified differently. If a deranged gunman shoots a Canadian Armed Forces reservist in the head, is that a terrorist attack, or murder?

We have to think critically about the way in which news on terrorism is delivered to us. Is this a trend, throwing the word around as though it has no implications? Was the Sony hack really an act of cyber terrorism? Do we even really know what that means?

It shouldn’t have to take courage to question everything we hear. The ‘with us or against us’ idea needs to be tossed out the window so that meaningful, critical dialogue can take place about real security threats - whether they be labelled as acts of terror or not. We need to collectively use sound, reasonable judgement and not be guided by our emotions just because of word-choice. We need to not let a single word cause more fear than the actions it describes.

Franki Ikeman



Opinion

Blaming those responsible – not religion

By Bryan Eneas

Radicalized terrorism is not a new issue by any means in North America. It may frequent our top news stories more today than it ever has in the past 10 years, however terrorism has been around longer than radicalized Islam has been making headlines.

We often forget that terrorism isn’t something that is unique to Islam, or any other religion, for that matter.

The mainstream media may hold the largest blame for this modern-day interpretation of terrorism.

A simple Google news search of “home-grown terrorism in Canada” finds about 142,000 news articles on the issue. Large portions of these articles talk about many of the recent events involving Canadians, or Canada, ranging from the death of Islamic State insurgent John Maguire on Jan. 14, and the attack on Parliament Hill in October all the way back to the Toronto 18 arrests in 2006.

Perhaps instead of focusing just on the actions of Canadians abroad, and trying to sensationalize the fear of such attacks happening on our own soil, the media should be reporting these incidents as actions carried out by individuals who have twisted or warped views of what Islam is.

The current state of fear around Islam has us so wrapped up that we buy into many stereotypes built by a lack of understanding. Sikhs are frequently stopped and interrogated at airports simply for having a beard and wearing a turban.

Focusing on stories or events that are perpetrated by extremely radicalized individuals does no one any favours. It helps to promote harmful stereotypes about everyday Canadian citizens.

The closest thing that the average Canadian can compare to would be the large gangs or crime rings of any major city. These groups appeal to those who have very little in terms of a support system in life by offering a sense of belonging, or a “family,” for these individuals. Radical groups will play on these themes and add more, by highlighting perceived injustices towards the organization to show that their cause is a necessary one for people to support.

Radicalization is something that can occur as a reaction to almost any topic, not just religion. In 1970, members of the Front de Liberation de Quebec took matters into their own hands after much discontent in Quebec during a time of many social issues and a strong desire for a change in government.

In 1982 and 1983, five members of an anarchist group called Direct Action took matters of environmentalism and a quest for peace into their own hands when they blew up a hydro-electric substation and a missile development factory.

Continuing on the theme of environmental radicalization, between October 2008, until July of 2009 six EnCana natural gas pipelines were bombed in Dawson Creek, B.C by an unknown individual or group. Threatening letters were sent to local newspapers telling EnCana to cease all operations in the area following these attacks. No charges have yet been laid in this incident.

More recently, in October 2014, attacks on Parliament Hill and on two soldiers as they were driving in Quebec within a span of two days were announced in retaliation to Canada’s military participation against ISIS in Syria. Despite the fact that more recent terror events in the last 10 years may be caused by radicalized religious individuals, we Canadians need to remember that homegrown terrorism is a term that encompasses more than religious extremists.

Are we really all Charlie Hebdo?

By Giovanni Capriotti

Between 1789 and 1799, “Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité” was the motto that changed the course of France’s history and on a larger scale, set the pillars for the concept of freedom the way we approach it today. In the three days of the Charlie Hebdo massacre, a globalized and multicultural France had to rethink its idea of freedom and suddenly readjust to a reality light years away from the original master plan.

When a bomb is dropped in the backyard of a household, the neighbourhood will most definitely stand up in support of the family affected, no matter what. Probably the same events happening in a remote location would resonate less for the same audience in the terms of emotions.

Satire has always been a sensitive issue since the ancient Romans and Greeks. It often happened to be shut down by the despotism of emperors and kings or approved at their convenience.

Back in 2008, the now 86-year-old Maurice Sinet was fired by the satiric paper Charlie Hebdo because of anti-Semitic allegations. The old geezer has probably accessed his champagne reserve on numerous occasions since last week, as his longevity has been miraculously preserved.

On the other hand, Charlie Hebdo made its editorial name through caustic satire, often mocking only two of the monotheistic religions. Dieudonne M’bala M’bala, a French comedian was arrested few days

ago for his comments about the tragic events and few months before, sued and widely condemned for anti-Semitic allegations in his shows.

It seems like history is repeating in the land of Marie Antoinette, therefore I personally wonder what is the real thinking behind satire and freedom of speech?

Violence must always be condemned and consistency in opinions facilitated by the media. Lately, propaganda and social networks have polluted journalism which seems always more prone to the logic of profit rather than the verification of facts, causes and consequences.

Roughly 2,000 people died in Nigeria because of Boko Haram. Unfortunately I have seen neither a rally nor a hashtag. Je suis Giovanni Capriotti. Tout o rien!

The Pioneer

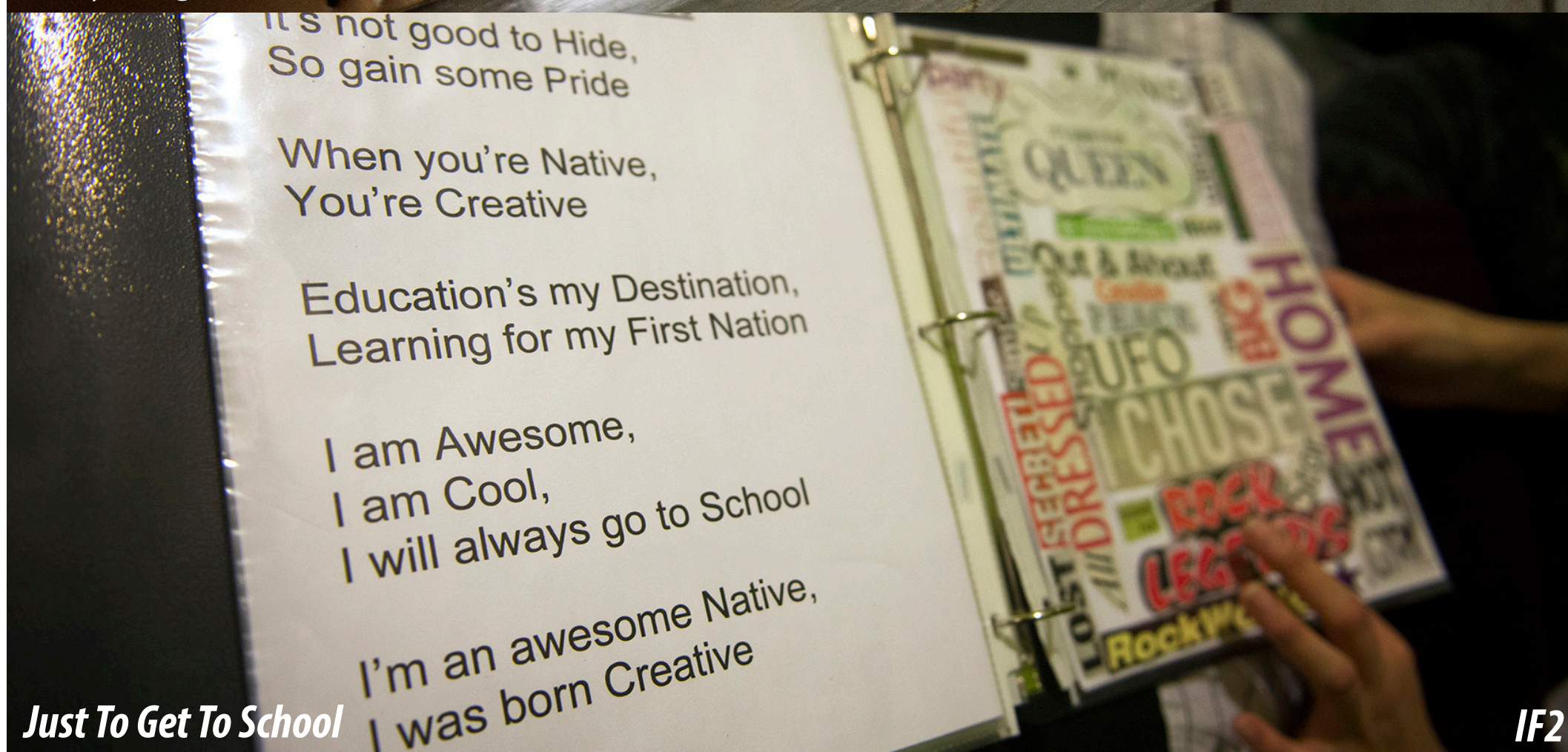
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*Everything I've Had I've Lost*

IF3

*Just To Get To School*

IF2

*I Am Enough*

IF6

*To Be A Boy*

IF4/5

*Love Is Blind*

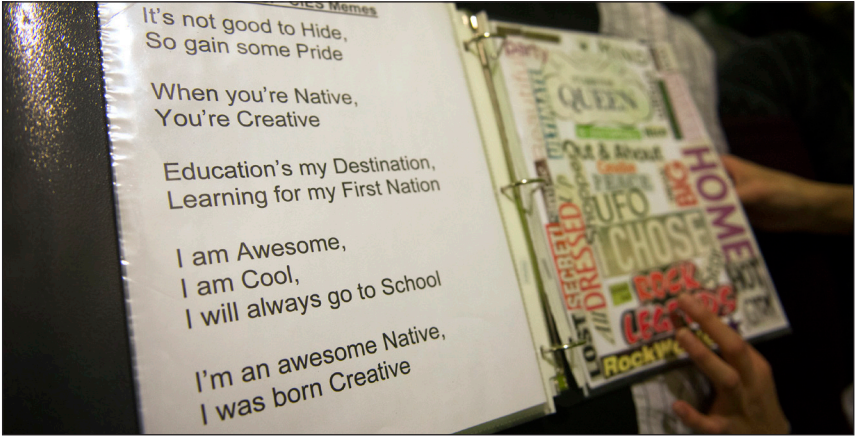
IF7



Azure-Dee, 16, looks through a binder from elementary school, at a page she wrote about herself and her family in Ojibwe, the native language of the Beausoleil First Nations.

Just To Get To School

Story and photos by Franki Ikeman



Azure-Dee Cass (Azh) is a member of the Beausoleil First Nation on Christian Island, on the southern tip of Georgian Bay.

Azh wakes up every morning at 5:30 a.m. She gets ready for school, and walks to the ferry, which leaves the island at 7:30 a.m. and arrives at Cedar Point at 8 a.m.

When they arrive, the students run toward their school bus, trying to get the back seat.

Azh, who is in Grade 11, gets off at the second of three stops, Midland Secondary School.

In a small-town Ontario high school, it's not uncommon for students to travel up to an hour to get to school. Small towns surrounding Midland feed their students into the school.

For the students of Christian Island, however, it means leaving an elementary school and a community where their First Nations culture was taught and celebrated, to a school that deals little with their culture.

"Basically, we did a lot to deal with our culture... They try to drill it into our brains so that we don't lose it, but once I got into high school I completely lost it, and I don't know as much as I did before which really sucks," said Cass. "I want to get back into learning more about my culture and the language and stuff, because I don't want to lose that. It's kind of really important to me."

As winter approaches, Cass and the rest of the students from Christian Island are getting ready to move into their boarding homes. The students board Sunday night to Friday for either four or seven months (depending on their extracurricular schedules) for the winter months, when the ferry becomes too unreliable to be used daily. They move in with families in the Midland and surrounding areas, visiting their own families and community only on the weekends, when the weather allows.

"I think boarding is a pretty cool experience because I get to see what it's like to be out of my house for a while and only go back on the weekends... for like an entire four months which is kind of exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time," said Cass.

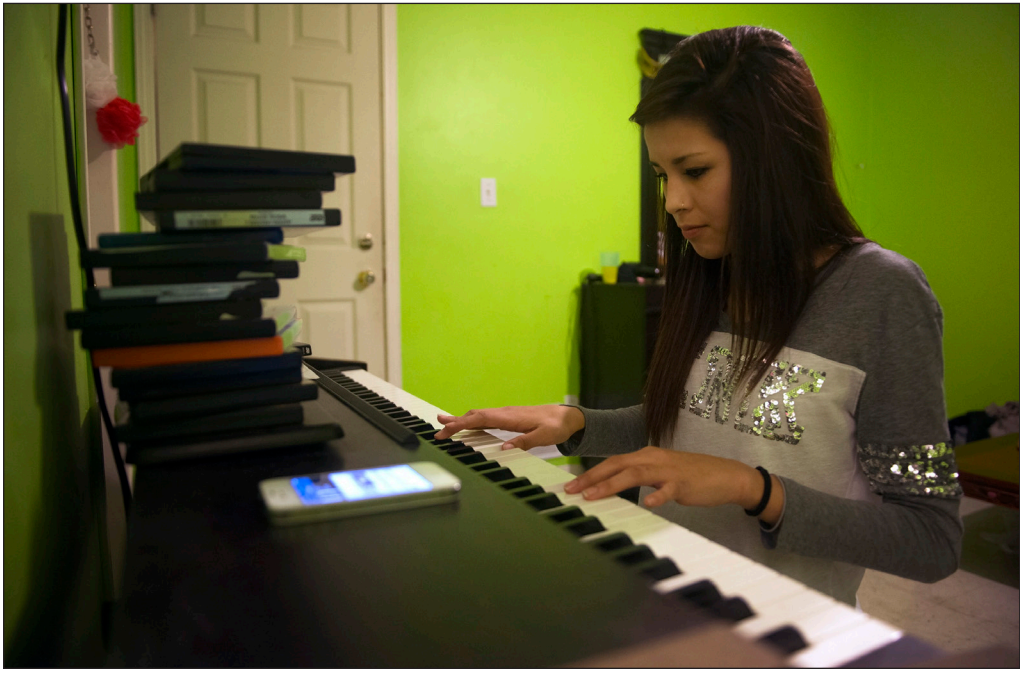
Cass loves school. She has been actively involved in sports, music, photography, and is well-liked by students and teachers.

Still, she recognizes that there is sometimes a divide between the students from the island and the rest of the students. She and her sister joke about the other kids being intimidated by the 'tough natives'.

"Being an aboriginal isn't as easy as people think... We get our race bashed on quite a lot and we've lost a lot of our languages and we've had a rough history. The thing that I don't really like is they don't teach much about what happened to the aboriginals and how it came to what it is now," said Cass.



Azh and her sister, Karissa eat dinner together in Azh's room in their Christian Island home.



Azh learned to play piano in Grade 5 when she discovered her passion for music and arts.



The school bus waits at Cedar Point as the ferry pulls into dock around 8 a.m.

multimedia... <http://www.frankiikeman.com/video/2015/1/12/just-to-get-to-school>



Dealing with loss, abandonment, and addiction, Pierre Richard has begun to find solutions with the help of a few good friends. Now, Richard plans to move away from Belleville to put those problems to rest.

Everything I’ve Had I’ve Lost

Words and Photos by Andrzej Terrence



“Although the view is nice, I still want to get out of here.”



Richard begins a new game of chess by analysing the starting moves. He sees chess as a metaphor for his life.

Pierre Richard had been sitting on the couch staring at the chessboard for nearly an hour, and the final moves of the game were unfolding. One move after another, Richard’s king was checked into the far corner with no other pieces to prevent the inevitable checkmate.

Richard has lived in Belleville for five years but had more stories from different parts of the world than could be told during a game of chess. Richard is a slim built fellow in his mid-40s, most likely from relying on help of Belleville’s food banks and welfare cheques. On a good day, he has a contagious smile, but on a bad day, his beard would go unshaved and his weatherworn face seems to be more apparent.

Having grown up listening to the Grateful Dead, a band that started in California around 1965, Richard is a true blue hippy. Around age six to seven, Richard spoke of playing behind the band’s stage while, just metres away a concert was going on.

For seven years, he planted trees in B.C. which was one of his favourite jobs. He told stories of being given acid at five years old and at a similar time, being a child actor in a commercial for McDonald’s.

Richard had many experiences that would marvel many. However, for the last several years, he has been fighting depression and addiction from many different substances. The cause was something much worse.

Over the years, he settled down and married in Brockville, Ont. where he had a daughter. For how long this time of peace, lasted he would not say but some bad moves were made and drugs were used. He got divorced and has not seen his daughter in nearly 18 years. The last time he saw her, she was three years old.

When he moved to Belleville, many of his family heirlooms, old photographs, and those items that remind people of a different time, were left at a friend’s place. Then another tragedy struck. His friend was put into rehab for alcoholism. Everything he had was sold, given away, or thrown into the trash. However, a few days ago he found a picture of her, one of the moments that had survived moving.

“It brought me to tears,” explained Richard. Recently, he stopped taking an anti-depressant medication and is actually more content with these forgotten emotions.

It had seemed like checkmate, but life is not a

game and the pieces can always be reset. Now, after all the strife, Richard is turning things around and has ambitions of moving out of cities and into the country. Where yet, he is still unsure.

In his current residence he is constantly hassled by the horrid characters of his past few years. Some come to borrow, some to sell drugs but he knows who they are and their habits. He knows himself and how to fix the problem.

Richard gave me a summary of his life in a sentence while simultaneously giving advice. “The only thing you need in life is acceptance, and the only fear is rejection. I have neither.”

Pierre Richard’s story is only one of many, of course. We are all raised slightly differently. Drugs, divorce, and abandonment are experiences many people in Canada face.

Statistics Canada wrote in a graph of perceived mental health by age and sex that in 2013 nearly 21,000,000 people in Canada face a mental health issue. On top of that another report on substance abuse showed that about one in three Canadians met the criteria of mental or substance use disorders.

Depression is classified as a period of two weeks or more with depressed mood and a loss of interest in normal activities. The StatsCan description for substance abuse and dependence is a failure to fulfil major roles at work, school or home and continued use, despite persistent physical or psychological problems.

Richard’s history fits that statistic like a glove. One of the reasons he had a divorce was because of substance addiction. Later on, depression and back problems followed to the persistent physical or psychological problems.

In Belleville, the report seems to be synonymous with an event Richard spoke of. During a meeting with the health and social service workers, Richard was told that help could only be provided on a monthly basis due to overscheduling.

Pierre Richard has decided to take action into his own hands. One way has been to move and he has created a two-year plan to leave Belleville and maybe even Canada behind.



One of Richard’s go-to method for relieving stress and anxiety is the use of marijuana.



Richard uses coffee, pot and cigarettes to relieve cravings for even worse substances.



Wolfie playing with his tiara at the Miss All Canadian Northern Finals pageants event held at the Hampton Inn & Suites, Barrie, Ont., April 12, 2014. Wolfie and his momma Jessica, attended the event in the hope he would be allowed to participate as a girl.



(Top) Wolfie with his momma Jessica Skinner getting ready for school in downtown Acton Dec. 2, 2014. After his fifth birthday, Wolfie had the courage to ask his parents to wear what he wanted to school, pink dresses and outfits, sparkly shoes, pink hair clips, colored nails and makeup.

(Centre) Wolfie having his evening bath with his four-year-old brother Darwin.

(Bottom) Wolfie at school right before going to his classes. Jessica knows at any point Wolfie feels threatened or bullied, she can immediatley talk to his teacher and the principal to make it better for him, and confront those who are responsible.



Wolfie leaving for school with his momma Jessica Skinner, his mommy Alex Martin, his father Jrd Skinner, and his siblings Gray, Darwin and Emily in downtown Acton Nov. 23, 2014.

TO BE A BOY

Story and photos by
Annie Sakkab

Gender role is subconsciously defined by our society and cultural background. Wolfgang Skinner, nicknamed Wolfie, is a gender independent six-year-old boy. He is fortunate to have three parents and three siblings who are supportive in every way. But that doesn't mean it's an easy path for him. The simplest things like going to the bathroom or joining a sports team can be traumatizing. And the result is bullying that leads to feelings of social exclusion. At age six, Wolfie is an outspoken advocate, a word kids of his age don't even know. Wolfie had just turned five when I first met him last May. It was during a shoot at the Miss All Canadian Pageants event held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Barrie. It wasn't until the end of the event that I've noticed a little child with a beautiful sparkly tiara. She had the biggest smile. Blue eyes wondering and looking at all the other girls putting on their makeup, trying out their pink outfits, wishing she could do the same. "What a beautiful girl she is," I said. Jessica Skinner replied. "He's not a girl, he's a boy," his mother Jessica Skinner replied. "He loves the colour pink, and he loves to dress up in pink dresses." It was an event for girls between the ages of four and six. Jessica figured maybe if Wolfie were able to participate he would feel a sense of belonging. But he wasn't

allowed to participate as a boy. He was pondering anxiously all day waiting to see if he could just put on his dress. "He's been feeling very depressed at school and doesn't have many friends. He has already had his serious bullying like sexual assault, and that stuff you have to fight against." I can see it wasn't easy for Skinner to talk about. She wasn't even sure that she was doing the right thing being at a pageant event. But she was sure of one thing. She was determined to make it better for Wolfie. Skinner, along with her partners Jrd Skinner and Alex Martin, are a growing number of parents who refuse to accept the mental health model of the past that diagnosed gender non-conforming children with Gender Identity Disorder. Gender freedom and expression, especially for children and teens, is not always accepted, and the result can be devastating. The suicide of Cincinnati transgender teen Leelah Alcorn Sunday Jan. 4, 2014, sent a shock through the LGBTQ community when she was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer. This is something Wolfie's family will never take lightly. To be a caring and an accepting family is the most important thing they make sure they provide Wolfie. A few months later, I met Wolfie's family at their home in downtown Acton. As soon as I arrived, Wolfie came running through the front door to give me a hug and a kiss. His pink tutu skirt whirled around him as he jumped towards me. He was wearing black tights and black running shoes with pink rims. He seemed happier and more

confident. He was finally allowed to wear what he wanted to school. Pink dresses and outfits, sparkly shoes, pink hair clips, coloured nails and makeup. "I always let him have a little sparkle, a little pink, a little this or that, but never all together, totally just feminine all out going for it. And when we did, just the way that he carried himself was so different. It was like meeting him for the first time. That was the first time that I really got a taste of it." When I asked Skinner what about his father, she told me he was a little hesitant at first. It was mostly centered on his fears of bullying, but his support has always been the same. "He would call him a boy, a girl, an astronaut or a fairy, it doesn't matter." "He is who he is. He's a comet, and you just got to chase him as fast as you can. Because he is going to be who he is. You can't push a child in that direction," his father Jrd explains. The day that Wolfie had the courage to ask his mom to take his dress to school, his teacher Sarah Randal did everything she could to support him. She talked to his classmates and encouraged Wolfie to wear the dress he had carried. Skinner knows at any point Wolfie feels threatened or bullied, she can immediately talk to his teacher and his principle to make it better, and confront the individuals who were responsible. Later that day, I met Wolfie's biological mother Alex and his father Jrd, as well as his brothers Gray and Darwin, and his sister Emily. They are certainly not what we consider a traditional family.

Jessica and Jrd had their own child who was five-years-old when they met Alex. It took a little bit of time to get the families together before Alex and Skinner had their own children together with Jrd. "They are a family of seven, and the children consider themselves lucky to have so many parents. They understand completely this isn't the norm for a lot of people. "We find it works well for us having three parental figures around. Our younger children call us mommy and mamma. We get judged by people sometimes but we don't let it interfere with us," Alex explains. It was almost six and time for dinner. Wolfie had his blue Elsa dress on. He sat next to me and whispered in his momma's ears

"Can Annie stay with us tonight momma?" His smile grew bigger when she said "Yes my darling, of course she can stay with us." Skinner later explained to me why Wolfie asked her that question. I knew in my heart that we've connected. But it was more than that for him. He internalizes his feelings and always seeks out female adults because he feels safer that way. He avoids children he doesn't know, that he's afraid will turn him down for a play date outside of school. Watching him in the evening, I can see he's got all his confidence. But I'm sure it can kick him back at school. It certainly is a roller coaster, but he tries to deal with it as much as he can.

The incredible and unconditional support and acceptance from his family and school help him to succeed and achieve good grades, and ensure that he maintains good mental and physical health. But the future of Wolfie is no doubt a stress that they always think about, Skinner confesses "I hope that he can find the thing that make him passionate, and that he can succeed in it despite wanting to be himself, and that he can flourish in whatever way he wants to, and that I'll be there to see it." For Jrd, bullying is what worries him the most "I have this vision in my head of him being 16 and still wanting be who he wants to be, and somebody beating him up. I just want him to have the smoothest

happiest life he can possibly have without encountering that kind of adversity." Wolfie is a happy child who is brave. "Do you feel different?" I asked. "I don't really feel different. Because I'm not really different from all the other kids." As I was working on a multimedia video with Wolfie, he said the most beautiful thing. I felt humbled that a six-year-old child would say something so sincere as he was brushing his mommy's hair. "It's called respect when you care about someone and you're helping them and you're doing stuff for them. "It's called respect."

“He is who he is. He’s a comet, and you just got to chase him as fast as you can. Because he is going to be who he is. You can’t push a child in that direction.”
Jrd Skinner

To view multimedia link: www.anniesakkab.com/to-be-a-boy#0



I Am Enough

Photos and text by Giovanni Capriotti

Kiden Jonathan is a two-time refugee in Kenya and Canada. She underwent domestic abuse since the early stages of her marriage. Below there is a written recount about how she survived that nightmare and the scars she is still healing from.

“His hands were around my neck. I could barely breathe. In a matter of seconds he went from a moment of celebration with family and friends to a frightening outburst of violent jealousy. The Christmas lights were fading in front of my eyes but still I had the energy to react, grab his wrists and pull his hands down with all my strength.

I DID NOT WANT TO DIE.

Shortly after I was able to free myself and I ran fast. I wanted to cry but I knew I could not. Around me I heard the voices of the people at the party. Some of them called my name. I went by without stopping. I walked out of the building and the night swallowed me like that time in Kenya when he refused to take me to the hospital. On that occasion I had to walk in the darkness of a dangerous neighborhood and once I made it to the emergency room I was immediately diagnosed with pneumonia. I should have left before. I should have cried loudly the first time back in Sudan, when he did not allow me to buy a new pair of slippers. I was ashamed in front of my friends. I had to walk in the mud and I could not go to church.

Canada welcomed our family. I worked hard to become a nurse, still he could not accept the fact that I was making more money than him. In my mind I have always thought that he would have changed. He did not, at least until I stopped running, called the police and he got charged with physical assault.

I STILL WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF A FAMILY.

I spend my days working on my confidence. I have always been told that I was not great and rarely OK. My former husband's main concern was to keep me busy with kids in order to make me stay home and have less people in my life. Sudanese men have a hard time with western standards. The majority of them cannot cope with the dynamic freedom women have in Canada.

At this point of my life my main struggle is to become an empowered individual and determine my new path without losing the trust and affection of my kids. I stay positive and I never did before. The Lord and my faith will be the lantern on my way and will help me healing.”

Multimedia: www.giovannicapriotti.com/iamenough#0



“Every other Saturday I attend an empowerment seminar called Women On The Go. I recently completed a shelter program. This time I made it. There is no way I would get back with my former husband.” Kiden Jonathan



Top “I have been a refugee twice, once in Kenya in a UN camp and eventually in Canada. All my struggles to escape war and poverty have always been shadowed by my former husband's psychological and physical abuse.” Kiden Jonathan

Left “The Bible is my most loyal companion. Everyday I read the Lord's word. It helps me focusing on my path and look at my struggles from a different perspective. I go to church every Sunday. The Bible study is a pillar of my faith. Answers can be easily found. I need to open my heart more.” Kiden Jonathan



Left “I am not scared of the loneliness. I believe I have always been alone in my marriage, but still I dream of a happy a family. I always did, that is why I got married very young. OK it didn't work but I don't want to give up my dream. When I first got married I wanted to leave my parent's house. I needed to be independent. My family has always lived in harmony therefore my idea was to recreate the same atmosphere with my husband and children. That was always impossible. I was never enough for him.” Kiden Jonathan



“I have been unable to report my former husband's abuse for years. Maybe I was too caught up by the idea of losing something I never enjoyed. My soul was torn and screaming for help.” Kiden Jonathan



Betty Persuric's husband, Peter, makes coffee for her. Both are blind, and rely on dogs from Canine Vision Canada to act as their eyes.



Peter Persuric walks with his dog Buddy. Buddy is not your average dog. He is a canine vision dog guide, and acts as Persuric's eyes.

Love is Blind

You leave your house, you go out and you always seem to catch at least one person's attention.

That is what it's like for Betty Persuric. She's blind and has a canine vision dog guide.

A lot of people have never seen a dog guide or think that they are a new thing, but they have been around for quite awhile.

Canine vision or seeing eye dogs have been around for almost 30 years. The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides has been training canine vision dog guides in their Canine Vision Canada program since 1985. The dogs are trained to guide their handlers who are blind or have low vision.

This includes navigating around obstacles and getting the dogs to places they go to on a regular basis. This gives the handlers more confidence in achieving everyday tasks.

Persuric has not been blind her entire life. She was able to see until the age of 11, when she was playing outside with her brothers and sisters and was hit in the face with a snowball.

Initially she was fine, but soon after, she lost sight in her left eye and gradually lost sight in her right eye a year later. After becoming completely blind, Persuric's parents sent her to a special school for the blind, where she was taught to do everyday things like cooking and cleaning. She also learned how to crochet, knit and sew.

As she grew older, Persuric learned to get around with the help of others and a white cane. She did things every girl did as they grow into a young adult. She moved out of her parent's house, lived independently and even got married. Her husband at the time did almost everything for her.

"He wouldn't even let me cut my own food or pour my own drink I felt like a child," said Persuric.

So she applied for a guide dog from Guiding Eyes for the Blind in the United States.

Shortly after applying for a guide dog, Persuric was matched with a yellow lab named Imarry from the Guiding Eyes for the Blind training facility.

After coming home from their training, Pursuric and Imarry developed a strong bond. She felt much more confident going out and doing things with her guide dog leading the way. Having Imarry made many positive changes in Persuric's life.

Persuric's second husband, Peter, is also blind, losing his eyes in an accident.

Persuric had Imarry for several years. They were a great team and she had the independence she wanted. She was able to go out without another person.

Unfortunately, her guide dog became sick. She developed

problems with her liver, and was no longer able to work and keep Persuric safe. So Persuric had to make the tough decision to retire her guide dog.

Retiring Imarry meant that Persuric would lose the independence that she had gained, so she decided to apply for a new dog.

Her current dog Mac came from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides trains six different types of dog guides and is located in Oakville, Ont. and provides dog guides to people with disabilities across Canada. The foundation don't not receive any government funding. All their funding comes from Lions Clubs all over Canada, Sponsors and donation from the public.

Persuric was approved and in November 2012, travelled to Oakville to meet and train with her new dog.

She was matched with a Canine Vision Dog Guide named Mac. Persuric bonded with Mac male black lab.

"Mac and I clicked instantly," said Persuric. "We started walking and we were in sync it was like I was walking with my old dog."

Persuric and Mac trained together for a month, learning how to walk in sync, going over commands, making sure Mac kept her safe by doing things like alerting her to a doorway and curbs and guiding her through traffic. If it was not safe Mac would stop her.

When Persuric returned home with Mac, she began teaching him new things, including leading her to the bus stop near their house and home after a walk.

Shortly after Persuric returned home with Mac, her husband Peter also received a canine vision dog guide, another black Lab named Buddy.

"Between these two playing and the cat our neighbours must think we have a zoo over here or something," said Persuric's husband Peter.

When she and her dog are out, Mac is all business, but at home he is just like any other dog, loving to play and cuddle.

"Having a dog is like having a toddler. But even though Mac can but a little whiney and crazy, I love him he's like my kid I would trade him," said Persuric.

Photos and Story
By Samantha Hobbs



Peter Persuric, and his black labrador, Mac.



Betty Persuric walks with her dog Mac around her neighbourhood in Belleville, Ontario. Betty is blind, and it is Mac's job to ensure her path is unobstructed.



Betty Persuric's guide dog Mac sits under a table at her monthly White Canines Club meeting. Persuric is president of White Canines Club



Betty Persuric's dog guide Mac sits under a table at her monthly White Canines Club meeting. Persuric is president of White Canines Club.