



Photo by Gabrielle Smith

Karen Koehler and her four dogs compete in the four-mile, four-dog mixed breed race at the Marmora SnoFest on Saturday. Koehler competed in multiple events at SnoFest and finished first in this race. For more photos, see page 4.

Marmora goes to the dogs

By Micah Bond

Despite almost being cancelled because of warm weather, it was a bitterly cold day for Marmora's 37th-annual SnoFest.

The event featured dogsled races, chainsaw carving, juggling and other winter activities.

"We were very fortunate to pull it off because we got our weather at the very last minute," said co-ordinator Leigh Nash.

"We got enough snow on Thursday so we were down to the wire."

Nash said there was a good turnout for the event but it was

still lower than other years. Many sled teams coming from out of town weren't there because they weren't sure if races would run until last minute. She said at least 200 people came to watch and compete.

Eric Rochon won the six dog-six mile with a time of 22:47 and Karen Koehler won the four dog-four mile with a time of 14:19.

This is the first year in which admission was free. Organizers have been trying to get local groups and businesses involved this year.

...See SnoFest, page 4

Cold night out raises awareness for homelessness

By Jeremy McKay

Quinte area residents braved cold temperatures in efforts to fundraise and create awareness for homelessness on Friday night.

The sleep out was considered a success. It raised a total of \$10,600, meeting its \$10,000 fundraising goal.

This is the eighth year that Sleep Out So Others Can Sleep In event took over Belleville's Market Square from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Jan. 31.

The first hour saw 72 people construct a tent city made of cardboard boxes and tarps.

Speeches started at 8 p.m. to kick off the event. Various local politicians and organizers took the stage.

"When we talk about homelessness, we're not talking about statistics, we're not talking about facts and figures on a spreadsheet, we're not talking about someone's column and a ledger, we're talking about people," said Bill Glitsky, master of ceremonies in a speech that summed up the event.

"It creates an awareness that this isn't fun, this isn't camping. It's really hard work when you're homeless and looking for a place to lay your head at night," said Sandie Sidsworth, executive director of Canadian Mental Health Association, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Branch.

Sidsworth said that the CMHA transitional houses see roughly six to 15 people seeking shelter a day. In 2014, they had to turn away 603 people.

Sidsworth expressed her concerns of not meeting the \$10,000 fundraising goal in the beginning of the sleepout. A total of \$8,500 was collected in donations before the event and another \$2,100 in late pledges totalling \$10,600.

Local business Sweet Escape cafe opened its doors all night for the event as a warming station. "We'd like to help provide a safe environment where if you're struggling, you have a place to go. So it was a pretty natural thing for us," said Juliet Dewal co-owner of Sweet Escape cafe.

Sweet Escape actively takes part in the community by helping people with mental health issues and the homeless through its own community fund.

"We saw on Facebook that there was an issue with Memorial Arena, so we volunteered to stay open for the night," said Dewal. Roughly 30 people used the cafe's warming station throughout the night.

The \$10,600 raised will go to replace mattresses, cribs, high chairs, and focus on housing maintenance in the three CMHA transitional houses in the Quinte area. For more information about CMHA, see the website at hastings-cmha.org or visit their office at 41 Octavia St.

Movie nights continue at Quinte Film Alternative

Members benefit with award-winning films on alternate Wednesdays

By Michele Weisz

The Quinte Film Alternative kicks off the second half of its 20th season on Feb. 4, giving you a chance to escape the gloomy, winter weather and lose yourself in a great film.

Beginning with the highly acclaimed film *Pride*, the QFA's Great Movie Wednesdays! presents award-winning films at the Empire Theatre. Single tickets can be purchased at the box office.

The QFA's aim is to bring terrific movies at affordable prices to the Quinte community. Membership is the driving force behind the organization, allowing it to remain independent. "Our loyal and long-standing members are at the core of QFA's success," said long time and founding board member Lynn Braun.

The QFA is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by a dedicated volunteer committee of board members who share a passion for excellence in film.

"The group of volunteers that have dedicated themselves to the community is a true sign of commitment. Volun-

teers such as these make our city great," said Taso A. Christopher, the mayor of Belleville.

Board members attend various film festivals, such as the Toronto International Film Festival and Cinefest Sudbury, to choose which films to bring home to Quinte.

The QFA's Great Movie Wednesdays! has become something of an institution in Belleville. "The Quinte Film Alternative has been exposing our community to the arts by offering first class film," said Christopher.

It was created in 1996, by a handful of devoted film buffs who wanted the local community to have the opportunity to see great, intelligent, limited-release films that they otherwise might not see.

"Their patrons are movie lovers like me. I joined QFA for the great programming; I stayed for the great people," said Randy Stewart, director of advertising and promotion for the QFA.

With the help of the Quinte Arts Council and Film Circuit (an outreach initiative of the Toronto International Film Festival), the QFA founding board members' vision of bringing quality films to the people of Quinte was realized.

...See QFA, page 2

Belleville team does well at regional swim meet

BYST pool shark member becomes first-ever senior national qualifier

By Daniel Luk

The Templeman Menninga Centre pool in Belleville was packed with cheering parents and athletes for the Eastern Ontario Short Course regional swim meet from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1.

Sitting in the viewing area of the centre, you could feel the heat given off from the intensity of the meet. With around 550 swimmers attending and just under 100 heats, the weekend was a fast-paced burst of energy with less than a minute in between each set of swimmers.

With promising swimmers like Melissa Dingle, the event went pretty well for the BYST pool sharks. Overall, BYST ranking seventh out of the 20 teams entered and collecting over 15 medals including two plaques for athletes Rasik Jiwa, 14, and Lauren Taylor, 14, for achieving the most points.

"Melissa Dingle is the first-ever se-



Photo by Daniel Luk

Melissa Dingle, 15, from Belleville, takes part in the preliminary rounds at the regional youth swim meet. Dingle went on to placing first in girls 15 and over, 50-m backstroke and also qualified for senior nationals at a time of 29:34.

nior national qualifiers, which means she will be competing with the best of the best swimmers in Canada regardless of age and even possibly at the

Pan Am Games and she's pretty much booked her ticket for trials next year," said Brandon Oates confidently.

"It's a great event, lots of fun and

a ton of kids swimming their hearts out," said parent Mitch Charness.

With the event full of hardworking swimmers, the event went off

smoothly, bringing in around 1,500 people. Oates mentioned the event wouldn't have been possible without the help of the many parents/friend volunteers.

He added that although fundraising was needed for the event, it was put to good use. Seeing as the feedback from the other clubs was nothing but praise. He said the reason for this is because swim club run a quality league that holds itself to a high standard, that also wouldn't have been achievable without the help from the city.

Along with providing hundreds of athletes with a sporting arena, the meet also brings revenue to the city. Spanning over three days, parents and visiting athletes need hotels, food and potentially shopping.

"It brings a lot of money and revenue to the city of Belleville. You think about the amount of people staying here and then they have to eat and shop," said volunteer, Pam Coens.

Oates said the event was wonderful but a bit chaotic at times because it was three days of straight competition. The meet helped the city's revenue, provided an excellent service to the athletes and was a successful second year of hosting the event.



Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Participants in the Cracking-Up the Capital snowmen-building contest broke the Guinness World record for the most snowmen built in an hour at TD Place in Ottawa, Ont. on Sunday. Within the hour, 1,299 snowmen were made, claiming the record previously held by United States, with 1,279 snowmen.



Photo by Andrzej Terrence

Teammates at TD Place in Ottawa complete a snowman in an attempt to beat a world record for the most snowmen built in an hour.

Canada breaks record for group snowmen

By Andrzej Terrence

TD Place in Ottawa bustled with people and snowmen alike as participants in the Cracking-Up the Capital attempted to beat the Guinness World Record for most snowmen built in an hour.

With the start of Winterlude on Friday, the Cracking-Up the Capital festival group worked tirelessly to produce events and activities that brought comic relief to the middle of a harsh winter.

One such event was to challenge a record created in Salt Lake City, U.S.A. for building 1,279 snowmen within an hour on Jan. 15, 2011.

Ottawa's teams beat the record by building 1,299 snowmen, which were three feet high, with two eyes and a carrot nose.

Cracking-Up the Capital set a goal of 1,500 snowmen made by nearly 500 people but fell short because of the poor snowman-making conditions and participants had to improvise with buckets of water-drenched snow.

In comparison, Salt Lake City had around 350 participants in their record setting event.

Ottawa's participants joined teams created by organizations under the CUTC, such as the Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre, the Salvation Army, and the Causeway Foundation.

The organization has been using funds raised throughout the course of their events to de-stigmatize mental illnesses in Ottawa.

For 11 years, the CUTC has been held at Centrepont Theatre but has recently expanded to TD Place at Lansdowne Park.

The festival now attracts a wide variety of comedians from around the world.

Rick Mercer appeared at the snowman-building event to film a segment for the Rick Mercer Report.

The CUTC's finale event this Saturday, Feb. 7, will feature Canadian comedic talents like Mike MacDonald, Derek Seguin, Johnny Bagpipes, Dave Hemstad, and Eman El-Husseini.

Batawa hosts day of skiing fun

By Bryan Eneas

Every year, Batawa Ski Hill hosts a race which shows that combining creativity and skiing isn't so simple.

The annual Batawa Ski Day started off with a burger-eating contest and wrapped up with a downhill ski race in which the participants were haphazardly constructed figures strapped to skis.

Ranging in age from 18 to 24, five people were either volunteered or were volunteered to eat a two-pound hamburger and a pound of French fries for lunch on Saturday.

The scene inside the ski lodge was organized chaos. Five three-patty hamburgers and a mountain of fries were placed in front of each participant and the countdown began. Each participant was to eat as much of the plate as they could in twelve minutes.

All five participants took their time as opposed to gorging themselves as fast as they could. People inside the lodge cheered wildly during the first six minutes, and then the true test of durability began. Eventually the pace slowed for the participants, and the realization of just how much food they were in the process of consuming set in.

As the twelve minutes came to conclusion, the decision was made, the contestants had eaten enough beef to earn two free tickets each to a Belleville Bulls home game.

"Well, some co-workers kind of pressured me into it," said Brianne Melanson, 17, a snowboard instructor at Batawa.

"So I thought, 'OK, I'll do it anyways!' Even though I didn't really want to do it."

After the eating festivities wrapped up and awards were presented, teams who had constructed a downhill race dummy began the final preparations. Duct tape was added, ropes were tied down, and extra weight was added in preparation for the high-speed journey down the hill.

Teams representing Loyalist College, Mix 97, Rock 107, the Frontenac Zone Ski Patrol, the rental shop at Batawa, the Batawa ski racing team, the Hastings



Photo by Bryan Eneas

The Ontario Dairy team pushed an inflatable cow down the slopes during the Batawa Ski Day on Jan. 31, 2015. The miniature dairy cow didn't fair well during the race, as it had to be pushed over the jump at the end of the track.

County Dairy Producers, and the Nancy Greene Ski League pushed a dummy down the hill.

"We made our racer in about 15 minutes this morning," said Caitlin Nelles of the Batawa rental shop.

"We see a lot of people come through here, so we thought it would be something good to get involved in. A lot of other people on the operations side (of the ski hill) decided to make a dummy too, so we wanted to get one out there," said Nelles.

With plenty of fresh powder following the Thursday-evening snowfall, the hill was freshly coated.

Each dummy was pushed by its respective team to give onlookers a chance to fairly judge the dummy. Some were successful and flew down the hill quickly, while others barely made it a quarter of the way before veering wildly off-course.

In the end, the Batawa Ski Racing Club walked away the winners, as their dummy moved down the hill the fastest, and flew the farthest off the jump constructed at

the end of the course.

Participants in the race were judged based on creativity, realism, durability, airtime, as well as distance travelled down the slope.

The day wrapped up as participants and organizers ventured off to ski other parts of the quaint hill. The dummies were deconstructed and loaded into the trunks of cars, and packed away for another year.

For a video look at the event, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=48806>

QFA...

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International movies part of repertoire during bi-weekly screenings

According to Braun, the board believed that the community would share their enthusiasm for these types of small-budget films.

They believed that these films would fill a void in the cultural make up of Quinte. They were right.

The inaugural film was a hit. All the screenings were sold out and the QFA has never looked back.

"They look forward to the bi-weekly screenings that take them to faraway places where they can laugh and cry. For some, it's their only mode of 'travel,'" said Braun.

After numerous location changes, the QFA finally settled into its current, permanent home at the Empire Theatre in downtown Belleville.

The QFA's brand of "alternative" means independent or obscure. It means award-winning. It means timely or timeless, foreign or Canadian. In other words, it just means wonderful, high-quality films.

So come in from the cold and go see a movie!

This season the QFA will be screening a total of 18 films. The season runs until June. Tickets are just \$11 for evening and \$9 for matinee screenings. Students pay just \$5.50 per film.

The QFA offers seasonal memberships. A membership includes tickets to all of the films during the season without having to wait in line. It includes two guest passes and an opportunity to attend the season finale gala.

For a full list of this season's films, or to purchase a membership, visit the Quinte Film Alternative's website at www.quintefilmalternative.ca.



Erie Otters forward Connor McDavid, is stopped by Kingston Frontenacs goaltender Lucas Peressini with two Frontenacs trailing behind the play. McDavid who had multiple scoring chances, finished the 3-2 Otters victory with an assist. McDavid now has 72 points in only 28 games with the Otters this year.

Hockey phenom plays Kingston

*Projected first-round pick
Connor McDavid
on the ice
at K-Rock Centre*

By James Paddle-Grant

The Rogers K-Rock Centre was sold out Friday for the rare appearance of the National Hockey League’s projected first-round pick, Connor McDavid.

McDavid and the Erie Otters travelled to Kingston to take on the Frontenacs in game four of their five-game road trip.

The Otters came out on top and although the home team was not victorious, the majority of the arena seemed satisfied with the Fronts’ 3-2 loss.

Erie came out of the gates strongly, with a goal scored by Dylan Strome along

with many scoring chances by McDavid and the Otters.

As the game went on, both teams became frustrated with each other which resulted in coincidental penalties by Erie’s Darren Raddysh and Kingston’s Cody Caron. The penalties led to a fight between Zack Dorval and Darren Raddysh in the Otters’ defensive corner.

The Otters came out of the fight with the advantage as Cody Caron found himself back in the penalty box with an unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty.

Strome, who played a large role in the Otters’ victory, added a second goal only nine seconds into the power play on a one-timer assisted by Nicholas Baptiste and McDavid.

With less than two minutes to go in the second period, newly-acquired forward Remi Ellie put one in the back of the net, giving the Otters a 3-0 lead.

‘He’s unbelievable. He’s such a great player and it’s an honour to be with him. I’m glad to be his teammate.’

Remi Ellie

With the Frontenacs trailing, they gave it all they could in the final frame, outshooting the Otters 22-3 in the third period.

A fight between Kingston’s Cody Caron and Erie’s Quenten Maksimovich broke out in front of both teams’ benches. Both players threw punches at full tilt as the packed arena came to life with fans cheering for both teams.

The Frontenacs, who had been strugg-

ling to score all game, finally found the back of the net minutes after the tussle. Corey Pawley sniped one past the Otters’ goaltender, Devin Williams.

In need of two goals, the Frontenacs pulled their netminder. Erie had multiple chances by Ellie and Strome to put the game away, although neither could hit the empty net, keeping the Frontenacs’ chances alive.

Kingston’s Conor McGlynn scored for the Frontenacs, putting it top-shelf in a scrum in front of Erie’s net. But it wasn’t enough to prevent the loss.

Erie’s Jake Marchment and Ellie had been part of the trade that sent the players from Belleville to Erie in exchange for Trent Fox, Jesse Saban and six draft picks. The forwards have excelled since the relocation, as Ellie has scored 16 points in just 10 games while playing alongside McDavid.

“He’s unbelievable. He’s such a great player and it’s an honour to be with him. I’m glad to be his teammate,” Ellie said of his captain, McDavid.

Marchment, who was previously the captain of the Belleville Bulls, has made an adjustment since the departure to the Otters. The second-year veteran has gone from playing as one of the top six forwards and playing on the power play to playing as one of the grinding lines and killing penalties.

“The letter thing is not a big deal. Just because you don’t have a letter doesn’t mean you can’t lead. I’m still trying to play the same and hopefully I can improve my game here,” added Marchment.

The Otters’ next game is the first of a five-game home stretch as they take on the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. The Otters have no more regular-season games in Belleville.

Basketball dream becomes coaching one

By Giovanni Capriotti

It was a late September Saturday afternoon, when a scream of pain drowned out the squeaking on a basketball court in Germany. In a matter of seconds, all the dreams of a 22-year-old Belleville boy were shattered. The memories of his short but successful career as a baller were all in front of his eyes. His knee was blown during a pre-season practice. He always wanted to be a professional basketball player. That is what he told his parents in Grade 9.

‘It’s been a season of up and downs. Sometimes we played like the best team in the league, other times we had embarrassing losses.’

Coach Ryan Barbeau

It took Barbeau roughly a week to emotionally cope with the reality of the injury and only a trip to Ireland to visit his grandmother helped him to heal a bit.

“At Western, I was posting great numbers each game, still the only proposal I received was the one to play in Germany. I could hardly believe everything had gone in three months,” Barbeau said, looking surprisingly at peace with himself.

His knee suffered a bad injury, but a comeback was realistic. Maybe something was no longer the same in terms of priorities.

Shortly after his trip to Ireland, Barbeau flew back to Belleville.

“I found myself in the right place at the right time. The coach from Loyalist was being let go and I took over,” he recounted with a smile.

At the time, Barbeau still had the desire to keep playing, but in the back of his mind, he always wanted to be a coach. He did not hesitate when such an inviting chance was presented.

At age 26, he has been the head coach of the Lancers for almost three years and this season, for the first time, the team is almost certain to make the playoffs.

“It’s been a season of up and downs. Sometimes we played like the best team in the league, other times we had embarrassing losses,” Barbeau said confidently.

His group management is kind of rare. Having been on the court allows him to be a great listener with his players. It is not uncommon to see the guys in the squad make suggestions to improve the execution of a game or a defensive system.

“Coaching and playing are two different aspects of



Ryan Barbeau watches his players practicing at Loyalist College on Jan. 29. Barbeau is at the third season as head coach of the Loyalist Lancers.

the game, however, having been a point-guard often made me the coach on the floor. That is why I need to let my players talk their mind. If I think that the suggestion will benefit the team, I’ll take it. If not, we’ll find another way,” he said energetically.

In their game on Jan. 30, the Lancers took on St. Lawrence in Kingston and coach Barbeau was eager to erase the disappointing loss at the Peterborough’s Sir Sandford Fleming College on Jan. 24.

“It was quite an embarrassing defeat. We lost against the last one so we still need to work hard on

our mental approach,” Barbeau whispered with a disappointed expression.

St. Lawrence is third in the OCAA East Division and an away game is never an easy one. The pre-practice shoot around had already started and Barbeau spent some time mentoring Jordan Marlowe, his point-guard. The way he looked at him suggested Marlowe is his extension on the court. He is the one in charge of delivering the Barbeau “credo” and his leadership. Barbeau’s commitment and love for the game dates back to his childhood. It is

now irrelevant if he is on the floor or the courtside yelling at his players. The most important thing is to succeed.

“He has a novel way of doing things, a different way to lead practice and interesting offensive ideas. He doesn’t know I use some of his games, but I do,” Jim Barbeau, coach of the Nicholson Catholic College and Ryan’s father, said proudly.

The Barbeaus’ basketball legacy appears to be well secured in Belleville for the next generation of young players.

Winter fun in Marmora

SnoFest...

Continued from Page 1

fire,” said Nash.

Nash said this was also the first year organizers scheduled all races on one day.

She said next year they would like to add some longer races to the event.

“This year we were a sprint festival. A sprint is anything under 20 miles ... Our longest race was 10 miles.” Originally SnoFest included a 150-mile race, she said.

“Events like this are great because they happen in the winter and it’s a time when not a lot of people are up here in what is considered cottage country. They’re a really important way for people to come out in the community and spend some time together in the winter and get exercise and have fun in

the snow,” said Nash.

“We had the Scouts here. Gateway Brewing from Trenton came and gave us beer and warmed us by the

the snow,” said Nash.

“We hope people will keep getting outside and getting active in the winter.”

Heidi Crothers, from Carleton Place, Ont., said, “This is a very nice little community, very friendly people. I’m impressed and I will be coming back, I think, every year from now on.”

She said the cold wasn’t too bad and added, “The toes were frozen for a little while but we managed to get them warmed up.”

Chainsaw carver Levi Caya displayed his work and spent the afternoon carving on stage. Circus Jonathan, a juggler and stilt walker, also performed and was a hit with the younger audience.

Nash said dogsledding is a Canadian tradition but there aren’t as many dogsled races held every year as there used to be.

“It’s a lot of work for these mushers to come out and they keep the tradition alive,” she said.

For a video story on this event, go to:
<http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=48795>



(Above, left) “Circus” Jonathan Seglins entertains children during the dogsled races at Marmora SnoFest on Saturday. Seglins made balloon hats and animals, did juggling performances and presented a small show during the event.

Photo by Julia Rhebergen

(Above, right) Marissa Mcfarland hugs her dog Peru during a quiet moment before the first dogsled race of the weekend at Marmora Snofest.

Photo by Curtis O’Connor

(Left) Shane Cox and his dogsled team thunder towards the finish line during the four-dogsled races.

Photo by Curtis O’Connor



(Above) A dog howled to the delight of spectators in Marmora on Saturday.

Photo by Nino Liu

(Right) Competitive dogsled racer Karen Koehler whizzes by during the first skijoring race.

Photo by Curtis O’Connor

