



Photo by Graeme Murphy

## A chilly way to fish

Arnoldo Ramirez (centre) of Hamilton, Ont. and Justin Syr (immediate left) of Burlington, Ont. take part in the 'shirts off, fish on' competition at the Merland Park sixth annual ice fishing derby in Picton, Ont. This is their first year attending the derby. For another photo and the story, see page 2.

# Policy provided on sexual assault and violence

*Ontario college presidents create specific protocols to address this issue*  
By Elaine Bombay

Last month, the presidents of Ontario's colleges drafted a stand-alone policy about sexual assault and sexual violence on campus.  
Following a number of high profile stories about sexual violence on university campuses in the past couple of years, a lot of attention has been given to the so-called "rape-culture," especially on post-secondary campuses.  
In November, the presidents of Ontario's 24 colleges of applied arts and technology agreed on the need for a stand-alone policy and protocol for sexual assault and sexual violence. A

*Toronto Star* investigation revealed that none of the schools had a special policy on this issue.  
Loyalist College President Maureen Piercy released a statement about the protocol on Friday.  
"Protecting our students and everyone on our campuses is essential. The new policy and protocol will help ensure that clear information is widely available and that there is immediate and effective help for victims of sexual assaults."  
Linda Franklin, president and CEO of Colleges Ontario, the advocacy organization for the province's publicly funded colleges, said "The issue isn't that nothing has been in place.... We don't have stand-alone policies on sexual assault at most colleges and that's meant that sometimes students have had trouble accessing the information."  
The purpose of the new policy and protocol documents is to make it easy

for students to find the information they need quickly and to have consistency throughout the provincial college system.  
The draft policy is now in the hands of the college presidents, who have until the end of March to seek local input and finalize their school's policy and protocol.  
Dianne Spencer, executive director of college advancement and external relations at Loyalist, said the president will soon outline the consultation process for the college.  
Franklin said that it is hard to know in a definitive way how widespread sexual violence is on college campuses.  
"Not a lot of sexual assault is reported on college campuses. The fact that a lot of colleges don't have residences makes a bit of a difference," she said. "It's quite clear from statistics and research that sexual assault is underreported."  
Gail Chipertzak of the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District, agreed.

"It does happen. It's just that people don't talk about it." She added that some people might choose not to report an offence to their school, but rather seek help from a hospital or centre off-campus.  
Sexual assault, a criminal offence, is defined as any kind of unwanted sexual act, and can range from unwanted touching to penetration. It is characterized by the use of force, threats or control.  
Sexual violence is a broader term that describes any violence, physical or psychological, that has sexual meaning. It can include verbal abuse of a sexual nature, as well as sexual assault.  
Yesterday, the CBC released the results of an investigation on sexual assault reporting on campuses across the country. It said that the number of reported assaults on college and university campuses across the country is below the national average.  
A study of 87 colleges and universities revealed 727 reported sexual assaults

in the past five years. Sixteen schools reported no sexual assaults in that time period. Loyalist College was not part of the study, which focused on universities with more than 1,000 students and colleges with more than 10,000 students.  
The new policy that has been drafted by the colleges is very clear on the right to come forward and to be believed, said Franklin. It also tries to find the balance between the rights of the accuser and those of the accused, she added.  
"It has lots of checks and balances, we think, to make sure that everybody's rights are respected," said Franklin. "The policy has a section that ensures due process for the accused and talks about how we would handle frivolous or vexatious complaints."

...Policy, page 2



Photo by Andrew Lahodinsky

## A new sporting perspective

Tyler Clarkin, a student from the recreation and leisure program at Loyalist College, watches as his shot nears the rim during a wheel-chair basketball exercise in the gym. Second-year students from fitness and health promotions as well as recreation and leisure services participated in this workshop to provide knowledge and skills to help them adapt a range of activities for participants with disabilities.

# Liberals look at balance between security and privacy

By Andrew Meade

The Liberal Party of Canada hopes to balance safety and security with citizen's rights to privacy and freedom by supporting the Conservative government's omnibus anti-terror bill, C-51.  
Federal leader Justin Trudeau met last week with his caucus and concluded members would support the legislation.  
Mauril Bélanger, the member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier, spoke about the bill to a room of supporters at a Liberal party event at Capers Restaurant in Belleville on the evening of Feb. 5.  
"Yesterday morning we had a very strong, thorough discussion in our caucus and the conclusion was the one that our leader pronounced: we will support the bill, yet when it goes to committee, we will introduce amendments," said Bélanger.  
"We expect the amendments to not be accepted but we will commit to them and put them in our platform and that is the first thing we are going to do when we form a government because that is essential."  
Not all Canadians agree with government agencies and other entities having access to their electronic data.

...See Liberals, page 2