

Participants get lucky with horseshoes

By Amanda Cheung

It started over 40 years ago, when Gary Batty stumbled upon a pair of horseshoes in his uncle's boathouse.

Batty got a couple pieces of pipe, pounded them into the sand on the beach and started throwing.

"A few of the people that were walking down the road beside us heard the clanging and they came over. They showed me a few things and I really liked it," says Batty. "And that's how it started."

For Batty, playing horseshoes is all about the fellowship. His team, the Rengar Ringers, has been playing together since 1975. They have won several championships together.

Players come to the Rengar Horseshoe Palace, owned by Batty, on Blessington Road every Tuesday night to play.

"You'll always see guys laughing and having a good time," says Batty.

People come from all over. When Batty hosted the Ontario championships two years ago, he saw people come from Hamilton, Peterborough, Whitby, Belleville and Kingston as well as from Quebec and the United States.

"It's a lot of fun and you meet a lot of nice people. A lot of nice people," Batty emphasized.

Batty hopes to attract more young players to the sport. He believes that if he could just get people to come out and try it a few times, they'd almost get hooked.

Horseshoes is a different type of sport. It's about the individual and being able to hold your own weight. It makes it different than playing in a team sport.

"It's discouraging to lose," says Batty. "I think that's what it's all about. If you're in a hockey team and you lose, you have 12 other guys you could blame it on but you blame yourself here. 'I can't do it,' it's easy to say and so I think that's part of the problem."

Playing horseshoes requires persistence and consistency. You have to pay attention to technique and a lot of little things.

"You don't just pick up a piece of steel and heave it," explains Batty. "There's a lot



Photo by Amanda Cheung

Gary Batty, owner of the Rengar Horseshoe Palace on Blessington Road, holds up a horseshoe. Batty has been throwing horseshoes for over 30 years. He has a collection of 68 different horseshoes which sit along three walls of the palace.

of different ways of holding it, a lot of different ways of standing and a lot of different ways of the delivery of the shoe." You all start somewhere.

Batty now has a 67 per cent average, meaning for every 100 horseshoes

thrown, 67 of them would be a ringer. He also placed 25th in all of Canada in 2010.

Bellevillians get chance to step back into time to Egypt

By Elaine Bombay

The treasures of ancient Egypt are coming to Belleville in time for Family Day weekend.

Egypt, Gift of the Nile, a travelling exhibit on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum, will be on display at Glanmore National Historic Site from Feb. 13 until April 12.

Six thousand years ago, the Nile River valley gave birth to a remarkable civilization, which lasted for thousands of years and influenced the later cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean.

The Glanmore exhibit will give visitors a peak into the daily life of the ancient Egyptians.

Melissa Wakeling is the education and marketing co-ordinator at Glan-

more.

"This exhibit shows us how they lived, what they wore, and what they did with their dead," she said.

Visitors will be able to see jewelry and make-up as well as artifacts relating to education, religion, and gardening. A coffin, excavated by ROM staff, will also be on display.

There will be hands-on activities

for children throughout the exhibition, with special activities planned for March break. Visitors can learn how to write their name in hieroglyphics or learn to play senet, a board game popular with the pharaohs thousands of years ago. There is also a selfie station where people can take a selfie with the pyramids.

"We try to bring something special

once a year, but it doesn't always work out," said Wakeling. The Egyptian exhibition was last brought to Belleville 15 years ago.

"People get to see ancient Egyptian artifacts right here in Belleville. They don't have to drive down the 401 to see them," said Wakeling.

Glanmore is open Tuesday to Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Music icon pays visit to Loyalist

Bernie Finkelstein shares stories of his success

By Carla Antonio

He founded the oldest and longest running independent record label in Canada and dedicated his life to being a driving force of the Canadian music industry. He is a true success story.

He is music icon Bernie Finkelstein.

"A song can't really change much other than really your mood, maybe your understanding of an issue, but when it's coupled to a movement or a shared experience, a song can mean a lot," Finkelstein told an audience gathered in Loyalist College's Alumni Hall on Tuesday.

"It can become the common currency that people use to explain how they feel about a subject and contribute momentum to ideas that change things."

Prof. Joe Callahan invited Finkelstein to the college in affiliation with his new general education course Music as a Change Agent, a course that explores the relationship between music and its influence on society. With such a lengthy and notable career in the industry, his expertise was more than suitable for the nature of the course.

"Bernie enabled artists he represented to be who and what they are and he nurtured the flames of hope that burned passionately in those warm souls," said Callahan in his introduction.

Finkelstein is well-known for his long standing relationship as manager to Bruce Cockburn, as well as his affiliation with musicians Murray McLauchlan, Dan Hill, Barney Bentall and the lyrically provocative new wave band Rough Trade's 1981 hit High School Confidential was one of the first lesbian-themed hits in the world.

"Self-censorship is perhaps the worst kind of censorship that one can put on oneself," he said to the audience that night.

"I think that in the arts, to censor oneself because you're worried that people aren't going to understand you, is a losing idea."

Finkelstein's career began back in 1964, when he worked at a coffee house in Toronto's now-trendy Yorkville area, which at that time was a bohemian



Photo by Carla Antonio

"I think that in the arts, to censor oneself because you're worried that people aren't going to understand you, is a losing idea," Bernie Finkelstein stated to a crowd of spectators at his lecture at the Loyalist College Alumni Hall on Tuesday. Finkelstein, a renowned Canadian music executive, was invited to speak at the college by Prof. Joe Callahan, who is currently teaching a new course to the college, Music as a Change Agent.

breeding ground for some of Canada's most distinguished musicians. It was at that time that he began managing The Paupers, who found success and later went on to become Lighthouse.

"There were no schools that taught music business of any sort. In fact, there wasn't really any Canadian music business at all, so we were all out there just sort of improvising," he said of his early years in the scene.

Prior to moving to Toronto, spent most of his youth moving from place to place as his father was in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Around 1961 he ended up in Trenton, where he, like most of his acquaintances, attended and failed Grade 9 at Trenton High School.

But despite his poor grades, Finkelstein describes it as a very "formulative" year for him.

"I learned a lot," he said.

"I got my licence and all kinds of great things happened here."

In 1969, he formed True North Records, a company that would see over 500 releases, 40 Juno Awards and 40 gold and platinum records. He started the Canadian Independent Record Production Association (CIRPA), which is now known as CIMA. He also had a hand in the CanCon initiative, which ensures that a regulated amount of the content broadcasted in Canada is indeed Canadian, opening the doors for native talent.

"In 1969, only 1.5 per cent of all music heard on Canadian commercial radio was Canadian," he said.

"I mean that's just a totally unacceptable number."

Finkelstein sold the record company in 2007 and has since published a book, *True North*, which gives an authentic and forthright rendition of his entire career.

"I was concerned about the fact that the period I grew up in, the 60s particularly, were kind of romanticized," he said.

"I'm sure everybody knows who Joni Mitchell or Neil Young is, but people don't really know what was going on behind the scenes very much."

Ruling...

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"Not every job requires that in the full array of its duties -- that is where this is contentious. It's the unilateral decision making of an employer to say, 'No, they are all essential. They can't go out and strike.'"

Tim Osborne, City of Belleville's manager of human resources, says that fire, police and emergency services are primarily the essential services that the city employs. Municipal employees responsible for water treatment could also be considered essential.

Asked about the impact of the Supreme Court essential services ruling, Osborne states that the city is always thinking of plans to maintain services to ratepayers.

"We always try and think about business continuity plans and making sure we offer and can provide the services. I think that the number one thing is that we provide them and cover the safety aspect," says Osborne.

"You see strikes across the province, Windsor is a great example of that. They determined that not cutting grass in the parks wasn't essential and didn't have a safety element to it."

While the legislation affected most by this Supreme Court decision focuses on federal public servants, DeSousa says that it is a very important ruling for labour law in Canada.

"A worker is a worker. The work that they do, whether it's for the provincial, federal or municipal government or for the private sector, it is important and their labour is important to all Canadians, for the economy and for Canadian society," DeSousa says.

Currently, PSAC is engaged in a court challenge of similar legislation regarding the definition of essential services in Bill C-4.

"Before C-4, we had an inherent right to withdraw labour. We agreed that some portions of job were essential, but we were able to negotiate what that looked like.

Now, as of last year, the federal government introduced Bill C-4, which took away that democratic right," says DeSousa.

"If the government continues to put forth laws that is not democratic and goes against our members' constitutional rights, then we will challenge it. Right now, with any law, you have to challenge it if it's unconstitutional."