



Photo by Alyssa Lloyd

Two mature bulls spar right before sunset. The Ministry of Natural Resources launched a plan to reintroduce elk to Ontario in 2000 in a small community near Bancroft.

Caring for elk becomes man's passion

By Alyssa Lloyd

No matter what your opinion on the elk restoration program, there is no denying the complete passion and devotion Joe Neuhold has for these animals.

Neuhold stays in a cabin on 2,000 acres of land east of Bancroft, where he tends to the needs of the fragile yet growing elk populations. On top of helping them with food during the winter, Neuhold also does runs around the property to monitor activity among the herd.

He speaks of the elk in such a paternal manner, it makes you to realize he's not just important to them, but they are equally as crucial to him.

"It doesn't bother me. I get up at six o'clock and they are out there standing waiting for me. You can't say no."

The Ministry of Natural Resources launched a plan to reintroduce elk to Ontario. The search for the perfect release spots began and the result was

a small community near Bancroft.

The elk were brought from Alberta in 2000 and released into pens until medical procedures could ensure there were no risks of parasites or disease. These pens were just five miles away from Joe Neuhold's current house.

"They didn't like being boxed in, as soon as they let them out, they were jumping the fence. The next day, they were at my place" Neuhold remembers.

Neuhold jokes that when he moved into the cabin a short ways down the road about nine years ago, the elk followed him.

Neuhold is a passionate person. He has many talents and joys, beyond caring for the elk. He also enjoys fishing, hunting, playing his accordion and the overall serenity the property he lives on has to offer. "Where else would I find this, if not here?"

"My wife knew she had to go. Before she did, she told me 'this is the place for you.'"



Photo by Alyssa Lloyd

Joe Neuhold keeps himself busy filling feeders with hay and grain every other day or so for the elk throughout the 2,000-acre property.



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Silent Lake Provincial Park has served as a place of memories of many people. (Left to right) Steve Caughers, Jaan Laaniste and Jill Garrard warmed up around the campfire Feb. 9. Laaniste and his wife Elizabeth (not shown in photo) have been coming here with Caughers and Garrard for the last nine winters camping in yurts.

Outdoor enthusiasts embrace winter camping

By Alyssa Lloyd

As winter heads into what seems like its second wind, many people can be discouraged by the cold, short days.

But, what about the people who are embracing it? What do they find so appealing about the all this white stuff we get stuck with every year?

Could it possibly be the noise of ice tinkling off the trees as a gently breeze carries the branches, or perhaps the unmistakable peach glow of a winter sunset?

Winter can be quite mesmerizing, there is no doubt. What if you were to take enjoying it the next level? Some people have been jumping on the winter bandwagon and taking advantage of some of the parks our province

has to offer.

Chris James of Toronto, Ont., has been coming to Silent Lake Provincial Park for around four years for winter camping.

"I come here in the summer with friends to camp, but I can't seem to convince them to come during the winter."

Armed with nothing more than his snowsuit, snowshoes and a tent, James roughs it in what he considers back-country camping. James follows no particular trails, or arranged campsites. He simply chooses where to walk in, and sets up camp.

Jaan and Elizabeth Laaniste have been coming to Silent Lake Provincial Park with their friends, Steve Caughers and Jill Garrard, for the last nine winters to camp in yurts. While most would choose a week in Cuba, this group of friends decides cross-country

skiing and the relaxing ambience of nature is more their style.

"We've all been coming here for the last 30 some years during the summer," says Caughers. "It wasn't until nine years ago we started to come every winter."

"This is our first year renting an electric yurt. Every other year, we've rented the wood-heated ones. It's still a nice warmth," said Laaniste.

The winter may not be your first choice of seasons, but let's face it, it usually overstates its welcome every year. There may as well be fun to be had, if not at least to pass the worst part of it.

With the proper gear, some small planning and the right people, winter can prove to be a lot of fun, especially in the places you enjoy so much during the summer months.

What's not to love about exploring your favourite places in all four seasons?

Sports a big part of some students' college experience

By Amanda Cheung

A big part of college experience is not only in academics but being involved in clubs and making new friends.

Last weekend was the final home game for Loyalist's men and women's volleyball team.

For several graduating Loyalist Lancers, being a part of the volleyball team has been and will be an unforgettable experience.

"It was the best experience of my life," says Chantal Cormier. "I can't really picture coming to college and not playing the sport. I don't think I could've met as much people so it's been really good."

Cormier is the only graduating athlete from the women's volleyball team and hopes to start a career in policing.

From the men's volleyball team, there will be five guys graduating this year.

Gareth Martin has played volleyball since Grade 8 and hopes to further his education towards being a pharmacy technician or formula production.

"It was like a family. That's what kept me in it," said Martin. "The camaraderie, having that sense of a second family. We were in my opinion, like a family, all brothers."

The team was not only like family, but taught life lessons to the players too.

For Adam Strickland, captain of the men's volleyball team, he's learned to react and approach certain situations differently.

"Now, whenever I'm faced with a problem or scenario, I find that I think about it as a whole rather than just how

it affects me personally," said Strickland.

"I kind of take a step back from the situation and look at it from everyone else's perspective, not just my own."

Strickland says he hopes to continue his education and work towards a dual diploma.

Teamwork and working with other people seems to be a common theme among graduating players.

For Cormier, she says, "I have a very strong personality and I like to be in control a lot. So, having the team and being able to work on that weakness in a way has been the best thing for me. I've learned a lot about letting other people take control and just being fair and supportive."

Martin says that it's helped him work with other people and understand how people work differently.

"I've improved on that and how I carry myself. I carry myself at a higher level now and I show that through my work and work ethic on the court."

Joe Breese said that it's taught him to "be there for one another."

A piece of advice Breese would offer to next year's rookies would be to work hard.

"Put your time in and things will work out. Keep on your schoolwork, too. Volleyball is important and you got to make sacrifices but you have to make time for yourself too."

Trey Olympia and Benjamin Hoftzyer are the other two graduating members of the men's volleyball team.

This weekend will host the final two games of the season for the men's team. The women's team will be playing for a spot in the playoffs.