



Photo by Micah Bond

Players compete in a Super Smash Bros Melee tournament at Loyalist College earlier this week. 18 players competed in the tournament that was organized by the Loyalist Gamer's Society.

Gamers gather for evening of video action

By Micah Bond

Members of the Loyalist Gamer's Society held a Super Smash Bros melee tournament on Tuesday night.

Almost 20 players competed on seven screens in Loyalist's Shark Tank pub.

This is the first time the club has held a larger scale tournament apart from their regular Thursday night meetings, said club founder Nate Edwards. He said about half of the night's contestants regularly attend the club.

Because game times were longer than

expected, the winner of the tournament was not decided on Tuesday. The competition is scheduled to continue tonight in room 1L18 at 7 p.m.

Edwards said the proceeds from the \$5 entry fee are being donated to the Belleville General Hospital.

"I want to give a cause to this so we're not just playing for fun and giggles and prizes. Even if you lost, the money you spent on the tournament will go to a great cause anyway and not into someone else's pocket," he said.

The club is planning another tournament

on March 17. Edwards said he's hoping to make tournaments a regular event at the college.

He said he also wants the tournaments to help promote the club and get more people involved in gaming on campus.

Edwards said he's excited to be able to organize and compete in tournaments.

"I'm used to gaming with a few people, so it's nice to game with people on a larger scale. It's such a blast having fun with a lot of people," he said.

Cody Young, a member of the club, said the night was a success. He added

that he enjoys the social aspect of tournaments and getting a chance to compete and prove his skill.

Edwards said the Gamer's Society mostly plays games for Nintendo but they also play board and card games like Magic the Gathering and Zombies!!!

"We haven't had much luck with Playstation and Xbox related games because we haven't had the funding for systems and whatnot. We're trying to expand into that, too."

He said the group is always open to new games.

"As long as you have a love for games

and come on out, there's always a lot of people who are willing to try new things and just have some fun," he said.

The club meets at Loyalist on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 1L18.

Edwards said he's been partnering with the Quinte Mini Con and is hoping to increase the gaming component of that event. He added that the competitive gaming community has been growing in popularity.

"Almost anyone you know games to a certain extent, whether it's just casual or competitive," he said.

Salvation Army serves up hot meals in lunchroom

By Tristan Urry

This frigid winter we have been getting is affecting our communities in ways we may often overlook.

The Salvation Army Moira Ministries lunchroom has served about 600 more meals this winter than last winter. That is a very substantial increase in meals from 2013 to 2014.

"It is important to provide those in need with a hot, balanced meal, especially in this weather. People seem to eat almost twice as much in the cold weather," says Brenda Post, the volunteer co-ordinator at Salvation Army Moira Ministries.

The goal of the lunchroom is to provide a warm place for those in need of shelter to gather and enjoy a hot meal along with hot drinks in a safe environment. It is a very busy place during the two-hour period that the meals occur; having close to a

100 people come and go.

The menu changes each day with the exceptions of having the usual types of sandwiches. Each meal consists of two sandwiches, a choice of dessert, a vegetable/fruit, and a hot main entrée, always including a vegetarian option.

"The meals are entirely organized and prepared by our volunteer teams. We have one leader usually who has to co-ordinate her staff, and is in charge of the menu for that day," says Post.

A popular item for winter-time lunches would be soup. It is an easy meal that can contain all of the necessary ingredients for a balanced meal and it's always hot, which is great to warm people up.

"Our menu changes depending on the ingredients we have. Most of our food is donated, and we purchase the other needed items with money raised from various campaigns or money donated.

Without the generous donations from our community, we would not be able to provide food for those in need," Post explained.

Volunteer cook Sylvia O'Coin says that "We try to cook our fresh vegetables right away when we receive them because that's when they are most nutritious. It's always a challenge to figure out a menu, but we seem to always figure something out that everyone will enjoy."

Most people don't realize that they can majorly assist the lunchroom program by donating some food. Every little bit counts. Salvation Army is always looking for volunteers who can help on a regular basis and be reliable.

If you are interested in helping out this important cause that has been providing a nutritious meal to hundreds of people a day, contact Brenda Post at sa.volunteerbelleville@cogeco.net

Quinte avoids measles outbreak

By Michele Weisz

Although there are a growing number of cases of measles in Ontario, the Quinte area has been able to avoid it.

Bill Sherlock, clinical services manager of the Hastings and Prince Edward County health unit, says that there are often cases of measles in Ontario, but none have received the media attention that this current outbreak has.

As of Feb. 18, there are 18 confirmed cases of measles in Ontario. There are 19 cases in Québec and one in Manitoba.

The strain associated with the outbreak in Québec can be directly linked, through travel, to the one found south of the border in California.

According to the statement he made to CBC News on Feb. 23, Matthew Gilmour, a scientist at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, said that the Ontario strain is not related to any of the other outbreaks in North America. So far, experts have not been able to pinpoint its origin. None of the affected people had recently travelled outside of Canada. The strain found in Ontario is also one that is not in the World Health Organization's database on measles. The Ontario cases are a mystery.

So far, there have been no instances of measles reported in the Quinte or surrounding area. According to the government of Canada's immunization guide, those born prior to 1970 have "acquired a natural immunity to measles," as a result of being exposed to it. Lauren Deans, a registered nurse at the Loyalist College Health Centre, said those born after 1995 have likely had a second dose. A single dose is estimated to be about 95 per cent effective and is close to 100 per cent effective after a second dose.

"We've got 95 per cent of the population that has immunity to the measles. In order to say that we're completely covered, it's best to be 97 to 98 per cent protected," said Deans.

Sherlock agreed. "We're really stressing the importance of measles. In order to halt the spread of measles, you need a high immunization rate. You need 99 per cent of the population immunized," he said.

Measles still makes rare appearances in Canada (with the last outbreak in 1995), but for the most part, it is rare. While the disease is not an usual occurrence in developed countries, it is still a huge problem in the developing world.

"Internationally, measles is still a problem and it's quite frequent that we do see the odd traveller coming back from endemic areas and they're bringing measles back with them," said Sherlock. Measles is a reportable disease. Anyone in the country who has it must report it to a health facility.

"Anybody comes down with measles, we'll just have them quarantined," said Deans.

Canada has a national, active measles surveillance program. All provinces and territories report confirmed cases of measles weekly to the Public Health Agency of Canada, which then reports cases to the Pan American Health Organization.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Health website, the measles virus is one of the most highly communicable infectious diseases. The virus lives in the mucus of the nose or throat of someone who is infected. It can also live for up to two hours on surfaces or in the air where an infected person coughed or sneezed.

The virus can be transmitted just by breathing the air or by touching one's nose, mouth or eyes after touching a surface where an infected person coughed or sneezed.

Symptoms for measles include high fever, runny nose, coughing and a rash.

You can get a measles vaccination by visiting the Loyalist Health Centre or by contacting the Hastings and Prince Edward County Health Unit.



Photo by Tristan Urry

The Imagination Movers performed at the Empire Theatre Wednesday. The crowd was on their feet enjoying the interactive show and music.

Imagination Movers make stop at Empire Theatre

By Tristan Urry

The Empire Theatre was a chaotic place Wednesday evening. The lobby was full of children running around excitedly, waiting for the big show of their favourite band, The Imagination Movers.

The Movers, Scott Durbin, Dave Poche, Rich Collins, and Scott "Smitty" Smith, began as an indie rock band for kids in New Orleans a decade ago, and have since starred in 75 episodes of their television series.

The New Orleans-based kids' group puts on

a show for fans with their accessible blend of rock, country folk, pop and hip-hop packed with positive messages and life lessons along with a fun-filled performance that's bound to get the whole audience on their feet.

They've sold a half million CDs and DVDs, appeared on Good Morning America, The View, and Live with Regis and Kelly and performed at the White House for two presidents.

"I thought the lights and toilet paper guns were awesome, and now I want one," said 11-year-old Austin Elliot, who was with his family at the show. A lot of the crowd was

taken by surprise when the group members picked up leaf blowers with toilet paper rolls on the end and blew streams of the paper into the crowd. Many of the kids ran up to catch it. Five-year-old Myles Brooks said he thought "the blue lights and the balloons were cool."

The overall reaction from the crowd was positive. Almost everyone got up on their feet to dance and sing along with the group. It was hard not to be caught up with their catchy songs and heavy physical interaction with the crowd.