



Photo by Paul Terry

A night at the movies

Carol Feeny, centre, and fellow festivalgoers attend one of the many screenings held this past weekend at Downtown Belleville Doc Fest. 2015 marks the fourth edition of the annual event featuring documentaries of both local and critically acclaimed works. It included feature films Red Army, Trash Dance and Keep On Keepin' On. The weekend's line-up featured 30 films played at five venues around the city.

Lock-down drill proves successful

By Franki Ikeman

Loyalist College went into lock-down mode last Tuesday, Feb. 24 for its annual emergency response drill.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. the alarm went off notifying staff and students that the college was under lock-down and to take cover.

The procedure, as outlined on the college website, is to take cover in the nearest room, lock or barricade the doors, turn off the lights, cover windows, and hide out of sight.

According to Dianne Spencer, executive director, college advancement and external relations, the drill was a success.

"Overall, the responsiveness associated with this most recent drill was very good," said Spencer.

She noted that staff and students were quite speedy in getting to where they needed to be to take cover, and that those who weren't were given a hand-out by one of the many monitors who were out assessing the process.

While the college was under lock-down, the residence buildings were not.

However, Mark Kirkpatrick, director, facilities and IT services, said that students in residence were notified via social media of the college lock-down and told not to go to the school build-

ing during the time of the drill.

In the event of an actual lock-down, however, the residences would also go into lock-down at the same time, said Kirkpatrick.

Although Spencer couldn't think of a time when the college has gone into full lock-down, there have been two incidents in the last two school years when weapons were present on campus.

The college's residences were put into lock-down late in the evening of Nov. 22, 2013, when a group of armed men invaded one of the townhouse residences and stole personal items from students living there.

In October of 2014, a man who was

seen showing off a knife to students was arrested on campus, however in this incident, no lock-down was called.

"You will understand that each incident is subject to circumstances around that particular time and incident. So to the question why wasn't the college put into lockdown... as soon as the police are called in, it becomes a police matter," Spencer said.

"And these are not decisions made outside of the advice of experts, at all, ever. And in this particular instance, there was a police officer on campus. We took the advice from that police officer as we would," Spencer added about this incident.

Graduates get help with transition

By Moush Sara John

Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology will be receiving funds of more than \$164,000, through the Career Focus program, which will assist ten post-secondary graduates to make this transition, and move ahead in their careers.

Loyalist College President and CEO Maureen Piercy said in a statement the funding would provide impetus to the local private sector employers to hire new graduates.

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Cold weather didn't keep enthused indoors

By Dillan Cools

The Youth Centre at the Trenton Military Family Resource Centre hosted its first outdoor 3-on-3 ball hockey tournament this past Saturday in Trenton.

"The last month has been so tough having so much snow and extreme cold temperatures that we really wanted to create something that could get us outdoors and keep us warm enough to enjoy being outdoors," said Amy LeGresley, organizer of the event and Youth Centre co-ordinator.

"We are Canadian and it's winter...so what better thing to do than play hockey," added LeGresley.

LeGresley could not have asked for a more pleasant day as sunshine and mild temperatures marked the end of an otherwise ruthlessly cold February.

"Our goal is to get everybody out. We opened up to everybody, so teams are made up of anyone from anywhere as long as one member is between the ages of six and 18, which are our ages for our youth group. It gets everybody out and gets everybody having fun," said LeGresley.

The tournament started with a group stage where eight teams of four (goalie included) played numerous matches on one of the two courts that had been set up in the MFRC parking lot.



Photo by Dillan Cools

A soaking wet tennis ball soars over the shoulder of Etienne LeGresley and into the net during an elimination round match at the MFRC's first-ever 3 on 3 ball hockey tournament in Trenton last Saturday.

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Frosty February coldest in history

Frigid temperatures the coldest recorded in past 175 years

By David Fransky

February has been the coldest one in our part of Ontario in the past 175 years.

In every other year, there was at least one day in the month that was above freezing.

Environment Canada tracks the temperature in all of the months including February and keeps records of the maximum and minimum temperatures, as well as the average temperature. The records show that in multiple locations in Ontario, the temperature did not rise above zero.

Environment Canada meteorologist Ria Alsen confirmed many places in Ontario - including Toronto, Ottawa and Trenton - were unusually cold last month.

Alsen said it was the coldest February in the 175 years since Canada began keeping weather records.

Environment Canada statistics from 1960 to 2015 show there were a lot of days that did not get above freezing but in every other year before now there was at least one day that did. The only

exception was this year.

With these cold temperatures in Canada there has been a heavy accumulation of snow, collapsing some buildings because the weight of the snow.

Municipalities are having a problem with where to put all of the snow.

There have been record numbers of extreme cold warnings this February, with Toronto leading the way.

Wes Landon, a teacher in Alberta, said, "In Cold Lake, Alta. I get excited when the thermometer reads above 25 degrees below. Since I have been here I have found it extremely cold this February."

"A lot of pipes are freezing and breaking due to the frost line going below the norm," said a Loyalist College plumbing student.

There are some people that do not mind the cold, including skiers, skaters and snowboarders because they bundle up in layers and move a lot to stay warm.

Some long-term relief is on the way though, according to the 2015 Farmers Almanac. The traditional weather predictor advises that in Ontario, April and May temperatures will be near normal, with precipitation below normal east, and above in the west.

Summer will be warmer than normal, with the hottest temperatures in mid-to late July and early August. Rainfall will be above normal in the east and below in the west end of the province.