



Photo by Philip McLachlan

Winter battle waged

Rob Gchuk defends Germany's objective in the Battle for Berlin at PRZ Paintball in Picton. Germany climbed to the top and took the victory with a combined total of 10,400 points over Russia's 9,000 points. For more photos, story and a multi-media version, go to page 2.

Environment gets help with battery recycling

Sustainability Committee introduces program at Loyalist

By Kayleen Preston

Loyalist College continues its environmental duty through the start of a recycled battery program.

A couple of weeks ago, maintenance staff, along with the Sustainability Committee at the college, approached Raw Materials Company out of Port Colborne, Ont. to begin this program.

"We saw it as both a way to make things easier on the facilities department, because now RMC pick up [the batteries] free of charge, and swap the

bins out and all that kind of stuff," said Becky MacWhirter, sustainability coordinator, when asked why the school decided to begin this program.

"And so it's easier on the facilities side and also we can use it as this great educational tool around campus just to get people thinking about recycling. Not just of your typical paper and plastic and glass, but think of it more broadly in terms of your other household items."

Students can use the bins placed around both the Belleville and Bancroft campuses to dispose of their batteries that are not only used at the school, but also from home.

The batteries will be picked up by maintenance staff as they fill up, and placed into a 45-gallon drum stored in the shipping and receiving department. Once the drum is 60 per cent full, the col-

lege phones the Raw Materials Company. From here, someone from the company, or their logistics partner out of Kingston, will come and swap the full drum for an empty one to continue the process.

The entire program is free of charge to the college, from the bins to store the batteries to the pick up to bring the waste to the company's recycling plant.

At the plant, the company carefully separates all of the components of the batteries to be either recycled or upcycled by local Ontario markets.

The steel is repurposed and sent to auto and appliance companies. The anode that gives the battery its charge consists of zinc, manganese, and potassium powder, which is turned into micronutrient fertilizer that is used solely for bio-fuel corn crops. The only material that is upcycled is the plastic and paper since it

is too dirty to be repurposed.

The company has very high environmental standards. Therefore, they do not use any chemicals, and none of the materials are incinerated or sent to landfill.

"We have the best collection rate of any battery collection program in North America and arguably the world, and we've taken this program from taking two per cent of the Ontario generated material only three years ago, to now over 25 per cent of the batteries sold into the Ontario marketplace," said Cory Graper of RMC.

"We're very proud partners of Loyalist College and our other supporting partners around the province, and very happy to be on board for such a noble cause," says Graper.

There are seven bins located around the Belleville campus and two in Ban-

croft.

"We'll see what's working and what's not, like if we're finding the location is leading to contamination where people are just throwing their take-out food containers in it or something, we may need to rethink where we have them placed, so this is definitely a work in progress. And if people have suggestions for improvement, we very much welcome those," stated MacWhirter.

If there are any concerns about the placement of the bins, students and staff are encouraged to speak the sustainability members.

All types of single use and rechargeable batteries are accepted. For more information and exact locations of the bins visit: <http://www.loyalistcollege.com/about-loyalist/sustainability/recycling-waste/>



Photo by Charles Vilagut

Art for Women's Day

Loyalist journalism student Denissa Palmer takes in the artwork at the International Women's Day art show held at the core in downtown Belleville on March 3. The art show is in recognition of the Women's day, which is celebrated for all women across the world. For a story on a women's achievements, a photo page of women and a multi-media version, go to pages 4 and 5.

Passport funding program helps individuals and families

By Moush Sara John

In an ornately decorated sat individuals and families around dinner tables, talking excitedly about what was to come over dinner. It seemed like a celebration of sorts. And it was, in a way. These were people whose lives had been touched with developmental disabilities in some way and with the announcement of more funding for the Passport Program, they were there to know how they could spend the extra dollars.

Darlene Dale, director of professional development, innovation and accreditation, Community Living Quinte West, provided insight into what the evening was about.

"The ministry this last year has put in \$810 million into this sector. Families and individuals with developmental disability receive the funding themselves, so they can go ahead and hire their own personal support worker or personal support to take them on community outings. They no longer need to go through an agency if they don't wish to. Families and individu-

als have the power and they can hire their own workers.

"People with developmental disabilities and their families have been waiting a long time to receive their individualized funding which provides them with the power/ability to direct who/where/when supports are provided. Individuals and their families will have the ability to receive the necessary support that are tailored to their specific situation."

Passport funding assists people to participate in their community, receive respite dollars, help with their direct planning as well as the administration of their funds.

Mike Vajda, executive director, Quinte Vocational Support Services (QVSS) also elaborated on what this meant.

"Community involvement could include having the ability to have a support worker hired to enable the person to attend recreation, sporting events among other leisure activities, where they require assistance. Families too can hire someone to provide a temporary break from their primary caregiver roles.

...See Passport, page 3