

Women unite, Take Back the Night

Event held each year to educate the public about sexual violence

By Kaitlin Abeele

Zwick's Park hosted the annual Take Back the Night event for the second time last Thursday.

The event, which takes place all over the world, has been hosted in Belleville for the past 20 years.

Take Back the Night strives to educate both women and men on sexual violence and to break down barriers and encourage discussion.

The focus is on female victims and their struggle to feel safe again after being attacked. Part of this is breaking the silence and removing the stigma associated with assault victims.

Statistics show that around the world, one in two women will suffer some form of abuse or sexual assault in their lifetime. However, roughly half of these crimes are actually reported.

"This is something that needs to be addressed. Women's issues, particularly violence against women, needs to be talked about and venues need to be created where attention is drawn upon it," said Elise Hineman, organizer of the event and member of the Sexual Assault Centre in Belleville.

The event started with musical guest Casey Garlick, then quick messages from the numerous local agencies that sponsored the event, followed by poetry submissions, which were read by both authors and organizers. Finally, female participants were led in a march around West Zwick's Park, chanting empowering messages led by Heather Bassett of Three Oaks Shelter and Services for Abused Women.

During the march, the men who attended were asked to remain under the pavilion. While men can also be victims of sexual assault, the majority is female.

"Males definitely have a place in our society as our allies in this movement. We're not asking men to fix it. We know the stats in terms of sexual violence. The majority are male per-



Photo by Kaitlin Abeele

Women from Belleville and the surrounding communities march around Zwick's Park during the annual Take Back the Night rally at Zwick's Park last Thursday.

petrators and female victims. If we put that out there, there's opportunity for discussion, for understanding. This is gender-based violence, and this doesn't have to happen," said Hineman. "Anyone who sexually assaults someone, they're not compelled to do it. They are choosing to do these behaviours."

Many of the participants said they have experienced abuse themselves or know someone who has been a victim.

"My very dearest friend was brutally attacked while we were in college. I helped her through that, the court case and the doctor visits and everything else. When she asked me the year after it happened if I would walk

with her in a Take Back the Night rally in Peterborough, I went. She has since moved out of the country but I go every year. I always send her a picture," said Ulana Orrick of Belleville.

The Quinte event has grown over the past 20 years, with the largest turnout this year, estimates Hineman. "We're growing year after year.

Some years, if it's a rainy night, that cuts in. But I think we've had the most attendants today. It's very well attended. We're very happy," said Hineman.

Hineman said she hopes to grow the event further in future years with more use of social media and word of mouth to encourage a younger audience to attend.

Basketball focus of fall classic event

Algonquin Thunder championship winners during weekend tournie

By Sam Hobbs

College basketball fans got their fix this past weekend at the women's fall classic at Loyalist College.

Women's basketball teams from colleges in Ontario and Quebec travelled to Loyalist to play against each other. There were games starting Friday afternoon and ending Saturday night.

There were six teams that participated

in the tournament: the Algonquin Thunder, St. Lawrence Vikings, Fanshaw Falcons, Champlain (Lennoxville) Cougars, Humber Hawks and of course, the Loyalist Lancers.

All the teams played hard and no one had an easy win. The Lady Lancers kicked off the tournament against the Algonquin Thunder. Both teams played a hard and fought game, but unfortunately for the Lancers, the Thunder won the game 82-56.

In game two, the Hawks took the win by 10 points against the Vikings 58-48. Game three saw the Falcons take on the Lancers, with the Falcons winning 60-44. Game four ended the day with the Hawks versus the Cougars, and the Hawks won

73-29.

Game five started things off on Saturday, with the St. Lawrence Vikings and Champlain Cougars. It was another close one, with the Vikings taking the win 50-39. Then the Algonquin Thunder took on the Fanshaw Falcons, winning 74-49.

The Lady Lancers returned in the C finals (game seven) against the Cougars.

Now this game was definitely unpredictable, with both teams fighting hard and neither planned on losing that game. Number 44 Kurstyn Hammerton for the Lancers was knocked down multiple times but always got right back up determined to play the best. However, despite the Lancers playing a good game, they

were unable to beat the Cougars, who took the game 51-40.

Following the C finals was the B finals (Game 8). The Vikings took that 58-47.

The stars of the tournament had to be the Algonquin Thunder who won a well-played championship game with five minutes of over against the Humber Hawks, 76-67.

Players recognized on the weekend were: Kim Cupid and Sandra Bosco from Algonquin Thunder, and Cassandra No-fuente of Humber, who were all named on the all-star team.

The Humber Hawks' Aleena Domingos awarded the 2013/14 Fall Classic MVP.

Students take part in Call of Duty event

By Jessica Campbell

Loyalist College residence held a Call Of Duty Black Ops 2 tournament event for residence students last Wednesday.

The event took place in the residence commons building from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. It was in a small space, on the upstairs level of the building, with two big flat-screen televisions and two leather couches along with one fabric couch and couple of chairs.

This year, approximately 18 students attended. The event wasn't as big of a success as two years ago when 64 students attended.

A lot of the students were wondering why Call of Duty Black Ops 2 was chosen for the tournament and not the new raging success, GTA V (Grand Theft Auto Five) as the game option.

"My video game choice was a popular, on-demand choice from previous years and I actually plan on asking any of the students who showed up out here tonight if they would be interested in any other video game options for upcoming events," said Dominique Dawes, the event co-coordinator.

"I am not sure how GTA V would be able to be used in a tournament setting per se, but it is an option I will give the students for sure."

Many students said they had a lot of fun. It was a fun-filled night as students came together to share a common interest. They all played a free-for-all round and had a blast getting to know one another. There was cola to drink and popcorn to snack on throughout the night.

Brittany Downie, a first year student in the radio broadcasting program, was one of the many people at this event. Some said they were surprised to even see a girl show up at the event. Downie mentioned that she was at the event because she loves video games and likes first person shooters and then she made a quirky joke about how she doesn't have a television to play on in her dorm apartment or room.

"I wanna kick some house butt and be the best of the best and show them who is the best!" Downie said excitedly.

After a few hours of playing Call of Duty Blacks Ops 2, Cameron Parker, a first year student in chemical engineering, won the tournament by 10-4, with a big happy grin on his face.

Bridge refurbishing may impact on business

Downtown merchants traffic issues may hurt them

By James Wood

Downtown businesses might be taking a hit in the near future because of an impending rehabilitation of Belleville's Bridge Street bridge.

The bridge has been losing its structural integrity, with concrete breaking off and signs of wear and tear making their presence known.

The town council has been weighing its options over what to do with the crumbling structure, which is long overdue for an overhaul and repair.

However, a move to repair the bridge is already in motion. Belleville's Manager of Engineering, Ray Ford, is in charge of the efforts to fix or replace the bridge.

"It will be a 2014 project at the earliest," said Ford, in response to questions of when this project will be undertaken.

"At this point in time, council has not approved funding or approved it as a project, though I expect they will."

If rehabilitated, the structure's lifespan would be extended another 20 to 25 years. However, if council cannot approve the rehabilitation, the next option would be an entirely new structure. That decision is due to be made at some point in November, when council will discuss the 2014 capital budget for Belleville.

However, local business owners believe that both decisions will have an impact on the downtown core.

"Obviously, any time when you have to do a repair or rehabilitation on any structure, you have to close lanes and shift traffic around," said Ford. A shift in traffic could mean good news or bad news for a local business.

In the case of the Society of St. Vincent



Photo by James Wood

Kylie Shattraw of Edible Arrangements stands in front of the Bridge Street bridge in downtown Belleville.

De Paul, a local thrift shop, manager Sue Slaunwhite said she did not fear having the road shut down near the shop.

"I don't expect it to affect us at all. People can find us, one way or another."

In the case of Edible Arrangements, located at the intersection of Front and Bridge streets, owner Michael Tucker was very concerned with a shift in traffic.

"It would have a negative effect on the

whole downtown," said Tucker. "We get lots of traffic from the four corners. If the bridge is shut down, and we get people starting to try and avoid it, then we lose potential customers."

Kylie Shattraw, also of Edible Arrangements, also worried about the loss of traffic through the downtown. "I don't think it would matter too much, but if it was cut off entirely we would definitely have no business down here."

Either way you look at it, the issue of construction and infrastructure in Belleville's downtown will be continue to be a major challenge in the coming months, both to council and downtown residents. The fate of the bridge will be decided at the capital budget meetings coming up in November. Until then, the span will continue to carry travelers across the Moira. As for how long it will stay in that role, it has yet to be decided.