

# The Pioneer

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Photo by Lacy Gillott

## Full honours

A full military funeral was given to Adam Eckhardt, 29, at the 8 Wing Trenton Chapel Monday. Eckhardt was based in the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry at CFB Suffield in Alberta until he took his life on Jan. 3. Eckhardt is survived by his wife and two children.

# Support continues for Meyers

*Expropriated property on Hamilton Road farm continues to be site for protesters*

By Anica James

Approximately 60 protesters are showing their support for Frank Meyers and his wife Marjorie over the expropriation of their farmland by the Department of National Defence.

"I was told (they would be here) the first of the week, but I am not sure," Frank said, sitting in his truck on Sunday afternoon at the Hamilton Road farm. "No one told me specifically, but I will be here every minute, watching and waiting for them."

A small protest was organized for Sunday, Jan. 12 and will continue the rest of the week or until the barns come down.

"I am so happy that all of these people are willing to support Frank and his family," said Lisa Gibson, activist and creator of the Facebook page Save Frank and Marjorie Meyers Farm.

"We can't just sit at our computers, we have to get up and make a stand, be active. That is the only way we can really make a change."

The Facebook page, which was started in October 2013, currently has close to 19,000 likes from supporters near and far.

"This is the fourth protest that we have been to, and I doubt that it will be the last," Kimberley Ostroskie said, sitting in her trailer that blocked the drive way next to Meyers' historical family home. "My husband and I have been following this since the fall of 2013. We went all the way to Ottawa, which was long, cold, but very productive, and we are just thankful that this story has inspired as many people as



Photo by Anica James

Frank Meyers, 85, sits in his truck watching and listening to the small but supportive group of protesters that gathered in front of his Quinte West home on Sunday afternoon. See photo on page two.

it has."

Ostroskie and her husband Phil arrived at the farm at 6:45 a.m. Monday morning to help Meyers with clearing out the barns and to show their support for a fellow farmer. They were also there on Sunday, holding homemade signs and singing along with other protesters who made the journey to the Quinte West farm.

A cease and desist letter was exchanged between Meyers and police officials on Monday morning, as bulldozers were seen in the distance on Meyers' old property which is now owned by the Department of National Defence. The barns on the property are scheduled to be demolished at the beginning of this week even though Meyers has not received any money in exchange for the land.

"Not one government official has

done the courtesy of calling this man back, nor have they responded to any of our emails," Gibson stated to the media, sitting next to Meyers in a tractor on Monday morning.

"We can't keep having Frank, or anyone else who is in a similar situation, continue to be bullied by the Harper government. We need to end this expropriation insanity."

Parkside Landscaping and Contract-

ing, who were granted a demolition contract in late 2013, had their bulldozers and backhoes parked on a nearby property Monday afternoon, which enraged protesters even more.

Police were called to the scene on Monday but only to make sure that no one crossed the railroad tracks that run parallel to Meyers' current property, and the expropriated land that is now owned by the DND. Anyone who was caught doing so would be arrested, but many supporters didn't seem to care and were willing to take the hit.

"I'll get hauled away," Karen Wetherell from Tweed said. "I don't care. This is my first protest but it's for a good cause so it's worth it!"

Lt. Bettina McCulloch-Drake, public affairs officer of the National Defence, said in November "the minister of public works and government services initiated the expropriation process in January 2012." The expansion project will consist of the construction of a new multi-functional training and administrative campus for the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, also known as the Joint Task Force 2.

CFB Trenton installed DND signage and secured the area at the DND property, which was formerly owned by Meyers, in the northern part of CFB Trenton on Oct. 1, 2013.

A bulldozer arrived at the property on Monday morning to clear ice and snow from a laneway that runs south of the barns so a group of pickup trucks from CFB Trenton could access it. They parked out of view of the protesters and spoke to Meyers, telling him that he did not have any more time to clear out his barns.

"I'm tired. My wife is tired," Frank said, exhaustively. "But we still have hope."

# Skating the courtyard instead of the rink

*'Cross-country skating' becomes new sport on campus*

By Michelle Heshka

It's been a different kind of winter wonderland for some Loyalist students.

With temperatures below freezing and many centimetres of snow turning to ice, getting across campus has become a new sport.

According to Taylor Dubeau, a second-year student and resident of Loyalist's residence, "cross-country skating" is the best bet for getting around the ice-covered campus.

With the campus rink not freezing properly, students are looking for any excuse to lace up their skates.

This year is the second time that campus staff have tried to flood the rink located next to Loyalist's new residence. Campus staff is having difficulty flooding the rink evenly with no dips or holes, and students are getting impatient.

Cory Mestre, co-ordinator of campus recreation, said, "Mother Nature hasn't been the most co-operative. While it's been wickedly cold, the winds have been awful when floods have been done, and there's also a spot that doesn't have any ground frost and hasn't been holding water."

Since this year's skating rink flooding

**'There's ice on both sides literally around the whole thing. You can probably skate to town.'**

Student Taylor Dubeau

had been unsuccessful, students such as Dubeau decided to get creative and take matters into their own hands. Instead of skating on the ice rink, students have resorted to skating on the campus' snow-covered grass that froze into solid ice.

With heavy snowfall right before freezing temperatures, just about any-

where on campus made for a great makeshift rink. Flat areas such as the courtyard in the new residence and the lawn next to the school became rinks for hockey games and skating lessons.

"There's a good two kilometres of ice to skate on surrounding the residence," said Dubeau.

"There's ice on both sides literally around the whole thing. You can probably skate to town."

The rink remained unusable for days, and skating on the courtyard became a popular choice with students. Students were able to skate anywhere and everywhere on campus, except for the skating rink.

After the initial few days of skating on

the lawn, the temperatures became mild and the lawn melted, making it too dangerous for skating. With temperatures going up and coming back down, the ice turned to slush and then to ice again. The only ice that remains that can be skated on is the ice that is there intentionally: the skating rink.

The rink is currently frozen with a few holes and dips in the ice. The ice covering the rink remains uneven, but with no more lawn ice to skate on, students are using whatever ice they can use to participate in their favourite winter activity.

For a multi-media version of this story, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=33251>