

On the street

Kaitlin Abeele asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

What television show are you most excited to watch?



Tabitha Kay, second-year recreation and leisure sciences, "I really like Sherlock."



Juon Nicholson, recreation and leisure sciences, "I watch Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Everbody Loves Raymond, because they're funny and because of Frank."



Josh Galambos, first-year culinary, "One of my favourite shows is Dexter. It gives you that brief ideology of Dexter being a good guy for killing bad guys. But it also reflects him as a bad guy, even though he's a vigilante."



Steven Stewart, second-year electrical engineering, "I watch Arrow because I'm into archery. And because he becomes Green Arrow, and I'm big into Avengers and stuff like that. I grew up with it."



Linda Serres, office co-ordinator, school of media studies, "I love Lost Girl. It's my Sunday night date with my husband."



Mackenzie Gallinger, first-year, media experience, "Dr. Who. It's interesting. I find there are a lot of lessons to be learned on the shown."

Editorial

Canada's First Nations hockey team?

The idea of an all-aboriginal hockey team to play at the Olympics is being proposed but is not a feasible idea. It's only wishful thinking.

Whether Canadians were up at 4 a.m. or 8 a.m., we all watched in anticipation for the medal we desperately wanted. During the winter Olympics, we see Canadians become as patriotic as a nation can be. We are especially proud of our hockey teams.

Goalie Carey Price played a significant role for the men's team, shutting out both team U.S.A. and Sweden in the semi-finals and finals respectively. Overall, Price gave up only three goals in five games. Not only has he made Canada proud, but he's also caught the attention of the First Nations community in Canada.

Doug George-Kanentiio, the director of the Hiawatha Institute for Indigenous Knowledge, spoke on CBC's The 180 radio show about his belief that Price and other First Nations players should have the choice of forming an all-aboriginal team. He states that First Nations are missing a sense of pride among the community and that having its own team is a means of stirring that pot. George-Kanentiio said he doesn't believe this would cause any division among Canadians because of their stance on multiculturalism and its supportive relationship with First Nations. He believes Canadians would see this as a progressive move toward embracing First Nations.

George-Kanentiio's idea is more like wishful thinking. First, many Canadians are unaware or uneducated on the issues concerning Native Canadians. This proposal of a Metis and aboriginal hockey team would cause uproar among Canadians. A lot of judgments may be passed on First Nations as being divisive and separatists. Comments can be found on Facebook and Twitter questioning the demands of Natives. People question their status in Canada and their legitimacy as a nation.

Also, a suggestion such as this is no longer about sports; it becomes a sovereignty issue. There is a long history of aboriginals fighting the federal government for their rights. There needs to be a way, within the current structure of hockey in Canada, in which we can promote aboriginal role models. Before attempting to create a brand new team, we should start with programs for aboriginal children to become athletes. This challenges the structure of inequality First Nations face on a daily basis.

Rather than investing in creating a sports team, the federal government and the aboriginal community should continue in their efforts to raise awareness and education on aboriginal issues. Issues concerning land, oil and missing aboriginal women are just the tip of the iceberg of the rights of aboriginals. A sports team should be the least of the First Nations' concerns. Someone like Price makes all Canadians proud, whether one is aboriginal or not.

Hannah Yoon

Keeping a happy, healthy population

When people can't eat healthily, they can't be healthy. When they can't be healthy, they can't go to work. When they can't go to work, they can't make money, and can't buy food to be healthy in the first place. This vicious circle is a daily reality for the thousands of people affected by food insecurity in the Quinte region.

According to the 1996 World Food Summit, "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." However, this is not the reality in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

If you walk through downtown Belleville in the months of January and February, you can see evidence of this in the figures entering and leaving Bridge Street United Church, getting their free evening meal. The church offers a program called Inn From the Cold, which offers a free meal every night from Jan. 18 to Feb. 27, without fail, every single night.

The Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit reports that of a population of about 137,500, around 13,625 people are suffering daily from food insecurity.

Out of that 13,625, there is almost an equal division between moderately food insecure and severely food insecure, based on the data from the health unit. There is a stark contrast between the levels of food insecurity in our region compared to others, with 9.93 per cent of the population of Hastings and Prince Edward being food insecure. The provincial average is 7.64 per cent. 12.6 per cent of the population in this region is already in a low-income bracket, before tax.

"You make a population healthier by increasing what the medical people call the "socio-economic determinants," says Ian Sutherland, a health policy consultant with the HPE Health Unit. These determinants are what influence the rise and fall of poverty levels in a community, which would also affect the levels of food security.

Those factors are simple things. Transport, food prices, the list goes on. The most key factor, however, is income. The biggest area of employment in Hastings and Prince Edward is in sales and services, a sector which holds 26 per cent of workers in the region. Using these jobs as an example, it's easy to see how food falls low on the list of priorities. These are low-paid, minimum wage jobs, and money will often be allocated to other needs before food.

This leads to malnutrition, lack of a steady diet, increased reliance on food banks and food aid services, which places more pressure on the community to provide those services and donations. Possible solutions to this cycle could come from numerous places. Easier access to social assistance could help ease the financial burden on low-income families, giving them more financial leeway to spend on better food. Increased funding to community resources such as food banks and community shelters, and initiatives like the Good Food Box, a program that delivers a package of healthy food to help supplement a family's diet each month. Lastly, efforts could be undertaken by the city government to help draw employers to the region and boost the level of jobs available.

The payoffs to such efforts would be seen throughout the community. Healthier children make for better learners, with more energy and focus in the classroom. Freeing up families to save some of their money rather than scrambling to cover rent each month would improve economic conditions for a good chunk of the population.

Simply put, there are no downsides to a happy, healthy population.

James Wood



Opinion

Belleville bus system doesn't work for all

Fleet of 15 buses isn't enough to move people efficiently

By Jonathan King

There are many ways to describe the transit system of Belleville but "timely," "efficient" and "fair-priced" aren't any of the words I'd use to describe the service. The fleet of 15 buses isn't enough to move the people who need them efficiently around the city. For example, a friend of mine needs to take the bus from his house near Bogart Crescent to Loyalist College, so he walks up Palmer Road until he reaches Moira Street West and gets on the number seven bus to Loyalist College.

Now if that bus travelled east, it would be a short trip, possibly less than 10 minutes, not including walking to the stop and waiting for the bus. Unfortunately, the bus only goes west, having to go down Coleman Street, through the downtown core, onto Dundas Street West and finally up Wallbridge-Loyalist Road and into the college, a journey that takes almost 40

minutes, if the bus shows up on time in the first place and if the traffic is heavy.

The hours during which the bus system operates are also abysmal. From Monday-Friday buses operate only during the hours of 5 a.m. till 10:30 p.m., a nightmare for people trying to get from the college to the downtown area after a night of cramming and even worse for students who may be stranded downtown, forced to take a cab for another exorbitantly high rate or bundle up for the hour-long walk from the bus station to the colleges' front door. The weekend hours are even worse and on statutory holidays service is almost non-existent.

I know Belleville doesn't need the same public transit system that there is in place in Ottawa, Toronto or Montreal but for fares paid, I feel service should be proportionally better.

In my hometown of Ottawa, the bus fare is \$3.40 cash, or \$3.00 flat if you purchase the two bus tickets it requires for transit. For merely 60 cents more, major bus routes run 24 hours a day, with service until 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. on weekdays, transfers are given on all rides and can be used to go any direction without additional payment, as long as you use the transfer within the two-hour time printed on the ticket, not

too mention most, if not all major buses have a GPS system, allowing for real-time updates on the bus's location on its route and a warning system if there are going to be any delays.

A few simple solutions to many of the problems people experience on Belleville Transit can be resolved quickly. Of the 15 buses in the fleet only 11 of them are on the road at any given time, during rush hour times such as 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., they could utilize the other four buses to ease transportation to and from the college, or all around the city in general. There could be room in the \$4,178,900 budget for a few extra routes during the day, and possibly one or two "night routes" that operate around where the bars and late night necessities that move people from downtown back to the campus and beyond.

I'm not asking for a million-dollar overhaul to the bus system in place. There are many other things on the city's plate this year, such as the downtown revitalization plan, and Belleville's strategic plan this year is jam packed with ideas and projects. Hopefully when the next mayor is elected the public transportation system will be higher up on the list of priorities.

Government slow to deal with native issues

By Sarah Vissers

Women in Canada are still suffering from Old World values, particularly those with indigenous ties to our home and native land.

Six hundred. That's approximately how many aboriginal women and girls have gone missing or been murdered in Canada dating back about as far as the 1960s. This oft-cited number comes from a study by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) called *Sisters in Spirit*.

Many of these cases have happened in the last 20 years, including the infamous Robert Pickton case and the Highway of Tears.

The federal government is slow to solve this serious issue, and it's embarrassing. As recent as February, the NWAC and others have gone to Parliament to ask — nay, beg — the government to hold a national inquiry. The govern-

ment has yet to oblige.

This inquiry would help us understand why so many aboriginal women and girls are struck by such violence in this country, and tell us how we can prevent it from happening to more. Yet for a country whose pride and joy is our Charter of Rights and our international reputation as peacekeepers, we're doing a very poor job of protecting our own, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Even the United Nations special rapporteur, James Anaya, has said he finds the *Sisters in Spirit* statistics disturbing. When the UN, which works in Third-World countries where there is almost no standard of human rights protection, finds something in Canada disturbing, you know it's a real problem.

An inquiry into this matter would help to figure out why these women go missing and more importantly, what factors led them there.

The reasons for these disturbing instances are clear to many critics of the Canadian government: long-standing, systemic racism and the issues that stem from it, such as social and mental health issues.

Canada demonstrated pride in our indigenous peoples and their cultures when the world was watching us in 2010 during the Olympics, but it was merely a veneer of sincere respect for Canada's original inhabitants. From stealing their land at the very beginning, to residential schools and a flawed serial killer investigation, Canada has proven it does not care about Canada's indigenous peoples time and again.

It's 2014, but Canada is still living in 1867. Some of us need a kick in the pants to finally start caring and helping the people who need it most: those we have neglected since the beginning.

An official inquiry is merely the first step.

The Pioneer

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