



Photo by Sarah Vissers

Winter that never ends

Patti Thornton braves the wind to deliver the mail to businesses downtown Belleville during the snow storm on Wednesday, March 12. A total of 16cm fell throughout the day, setting a record for March. Weather is supposed to warm up again next week.

Lost diary returned after 60 years

By Kaitlin Abeele

Sgt. Bill Ferguson never expected to hold his war diary again after leaving it hidden inside a barn on a German farm in 1945.

Ferguson had been injured and captured during the raid on Dieppe during the Second World War, after he was hit in the chest by shrapnel.

“Think of the loudest noise you’ve ever heard. I don’t care what kind, just noise. Then double it, triple it and so on, for the noise on that beach,” said Ferguson in a taped account of his war time experiences, prior to his death in 2005.

Ferguson spent four years as a prisoner of war in Germany, in the Stalag IX-C POW camp near the town of Bad Sulza.

“Life in the camp was very exciting of course,”

laughed Ferguson, whose voice crackled on the tape recorder in his kitchen.

Throughout his captivity, he had kept a journal, which described daily life in the camp, contained drawings done by fellow prisoners, and photos from home.

As the war came to an end, the prisoners were marched out of the camp and through the countryside until they stopped at a small farm to sleep for the night. Bodo Zschack, the 10-year-old son of the farmer, brought fruit and hay to the soldiers camped out in the barn.

Ferguson made one last entry in his journal before hiding it inside the hay, and falling asleep.

“He tucked it in the hay so the Germans wouldn’t take it from him. Then he was rousted early in the morning and he consequently left it behind,” said

Don Ferguson, who is Sgt. Bill Ferguson’s nephew.

It was early in the morning when a fellow prisoner ran into the barn, announcing the arrival of American soldiers. They were free at last.

In all of the excitement, Ferguson forgot the precious journal tucked away inside the barn.

Ferguson travelled back home to Toronto, to his wife Doris and family. But the dampness of the city made it difficult to breathe with the chest injury he had sustained during the war. Ferguson decided to move to a dryer climate, and so he moved with Doris to Thousand Oaks, California and started a family in 1958.

The diary became a distant memory, like the ones contained inside its pages.

That is until the spring of 2004, when an Englishman named John Bennett and his wife travelled to

the Portuguese archipelago of Madeira, where they met a German couple with an interesting story.

The husband, Bodo Zschack, who was nearing 70 years old, told the Bennetts about a diary he had found as a child inside his father’s old barn, which he now owned. The Bennetts agreed to help Bodo track down the owner of the diary.

The Bennetts travelled to Bodo’s home in Wildetaube a few months later, where Bodo showed them the diary. There was no way to identify the writer, until Bennett found a letter tucked inside the pages, which Ferguson’s father had written him, and which contained Ferguson’s full name and rank.

Bennett approached Canada’s Veterans Affairs, who contacted Ferguson, now 92, in California.

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Loyalist alumnus shares photos of homeland

By Emily Cumming

Loyalist grad and Afghan native Farzana Wahidy delivered a presentation on her photographic work to students in Alumni Hall last night, the same day that Canada’s mission in Afghanistan officially came to an end.

In the midst of the 12 year mission, which claimed the lives of 162 Canadians, Wahidy first travelled to Canada in 2007 to study photojournalism at Loyalist College. She later returned to Afghanistan to pursue work on a long-term project to document the diverse lives of women in her country.

When the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan 1996, girls were forced to leave school and many women were not permitted to leave their homes without a male guardian. Wahidy said that the Taliban regime “took everything from us.”

With the support of her father and his belief in education, Wahidy began attending an underground school. Seeing her world change around her, she decided that she wanted to study journalism to share the story of women’s lives in Afghanistan.

During the presentation she explained how she first became aware of photojournalism. While working part-time, an opportunity came up to apply for a course in photojournalism and she was intrigued because of the “journalism” part of “photojournalism.”

She was accepted into the competitive program and soon began working for AFP as a part-time photographer and then for AP full time during the 5 months leading up to her arrival in Canada.



Photo by Justin Chin

Farzana Wahidy, the first female Afghan photojournalist to work for a wire service and a graduate of the photojournalism program at Loyalist College, speaks to photojournalism students at Alumni Hall, Loyalist College on Wednesday.

Farzana began her photojournalism studies at Loyalist in 2007 and said that “photography became more valuable” while at Loyalist. She became determined to “work to do something with photography.”

When she returned to Afghanistan in 2009, she decided that she wanted to freelance rather than work for an agency in order to focus on telling the stories that were important to her.

Wahidy has photographed a wide range of women in many different circumstances and has focused extensively on the violence against women in Afghanistan. While showing a

slideshow of her photographs, she explained the backstory of many of the women portrayed and shared her personal experience photographing and gaining access to her subjects.

Wahidy visited a burn unit in a hospital where women were being treated for burns due to self-immolation. She

has also photographed women coping with drug addiction, and women in prison (often sentenced for adultery and other moral crimes.)

In addition to portraying the many hardships that women face, she has also documented the many accomplishments women in Afghanistan have made in the past 10 years. She has photographed a governor, a police chief, and a midwife.

Wahidy says that things are starting to change since western forces have been withdrawing and scaling back military presence in the country. “If we lose security, women lose everything”

Wahidy is currently embarking on a new project. She is putting together a 23 month-long program to train young photographers in her country, create a database of images that can be accessed by media outlets and is lobbying for copyright law to protect photographers in Afghanistan.

She says that her time at Loyalist helped her to “find the confidence to be a photographer.”

“When I think of Farzana, the first words that I think of are courage and commitment,” said Frank O’Connor, coordinator of the photojournalism program, who organized the event. “It would be really easy, when you live in a country like Afghanistan where being a woman is so challenging, to just give up. Farzana has chosen to exercise her courage and commitment.”

The event ended with many questions from students and O’Connor believes that the talk resonated with many students. “I’ve already had 3 female students come up to me and say ‘I needed that’”

Struggling to stay above poverty line

By Hannah Yoon

Dollarama may not have been the first choice for Sheri Chard of Belleville, but a job is a job.

Chard, 35, has been there for four months as a part-time worker and earns minimum wage. Her hours are limited to 12-18 hours a week if she's lucky. This means she is averaging \$170 each week.

Despite a recent announcement on the increase of minimum wage to \$11 in June 2014 by Ontario Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne, many believe it is not enough.

The latest increase in minimum wage still leaves 16 per cent of these workers living below the poverty line.

As it is for most people, working at a part-time minimum wage job wasn't Chard's dream job.

"I always wanted to be a police officer. But I foolishly had a child very young. I was 16 when I got pregnant with her and 17 when I had her. And it does put a damper on things. It changes your course of what you're going to do," says Chard.

Chard had to adjust to this change. Since the age of 17, Chard has only been able to work minimum-wage jobs. From bartending to being a bouncer and working in a factory, Chard has been all over the map with minimum-wage jobs.

Chard, along with her daughters and her boyfriend, Bruce Campbell, live in a rented house where she pays all-inclusive rent each month.

With the help of Campbell's monthly income of \$2,500, the family is able to get by each month. On top of this income, she also receives a monthly baby bonus cheque from the government for her daughters, who are 13 and 17 years old.

However, the cost of feeding a family of four along with taking care of pets can be quite expensive. Chard spends up to \$500 a month on groceries. On top of food, Chard has to pay cell phone and the TV bills which amounts to \$300 each month.

Although she has regular bills to pay, she also has to deal with the lives of her teenage daughters. They need money for



Photo by Hannah Yoon

Sheri Chard, 35, spends time in her home in Belleville Feb. 2. Chard earns minimum wage at Dollarama and finds it a struggle to keep up with her expenses. Though her boyfriend, Bruce Campbell (not shown) earns more, it's still difficult to make ends meet.

clothes, school activities, trips and their social lives. Recently, her eldest daughter had to go in for surgery, which was an unplanned expense for the month.

Even though Chard isn't totally satisfied at Dollarama, she knows this is something to be thankful for. On top of

that, she finds she would rather be working a minimum-wage job than to stay at home.

"It's boring staying at home all the time. It's the other reason I work. I work because I have to. If I want to survive, I have to work," she said.

Chard said she doesn't believe the increase will make a difference in her life. On top of the pay being very minimal, Chard said it is strenuous work. For Chard, the pay isn't enough to compensate for the hard work.

She said she finds it hard to advance or

move up in minimum-wage jobs, which pushes her to consider finding a second job.

"It's just not enough. Prices are increasing everywhere. Also, the minimum wage jobs that are out there are hard. They are rough."

Anti-poverty groups say \$11 an hour not enough

By Duncan Cairns-Brenner

The Ontario Liberal government has raised provincial minimum wage to \$11 an hour from \$10.25. This will be implemented starting June 1, which will tie Ontario and Nunavut as the provinces with the nation's highest minimum wages.

However, anti-poverty groups in Ontario petitioned for a \$14 an hour minimum wage, which would place all minimum wage workers roughly 10 per cent above the poverty line. Instead the provincial government decided to raise minimum wage in step with inflation, correcting for the three years minimum wage remained static.

In an official Ontario government press release, the wage hike is cited as being, "part of the provincial government's commitment to fairness." But, is this increase significant to low income workers in Belleville?

Statistics Canada does not publish an absolute measure of poverty in Canada but its statisticians do collect data for what they call Low Income Cut-Offs. LICs are based on the proportion of a family units income that goes towards necessities: food, clothing, and housing. Since living costs are relative, Stats Can divides up LICs into five categories based on the size of the community a family lives in. In Ontario the difference between an LIC in a rural community, and one in a city of over 500,000 for a family of three is about \$8000.

Belleville's LIC is \$29,652 for a family of three, falling into the middle category of the LICs: census agglomeration between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants. These LIC numbers are from 2011, but since minimum wage has stagnated while the price of necessities has risen, one can assume they are only a conservative estimate of where people really fit economically.

According to a 2013 report on low income earners issued by Toronto's Wellesley Institute, over 40 per cent of minimum wage workers are over 24, the majority of those being recent immigrants, or single parents. Stats Can expands on this, stating that 81 per cent of minimum wage earners are persons under 25 or women between 25 and 54.

At the current minimum wage, \$10.25, in order for a single mother of two to make \$29,652, the LIC for a family of three in Belleville, she would need to work almost 3,000 hours, the equivalent of just over 72 40-hour work weeks. At \$11 an hour, she would need to work just shy of 2,700 hours, or slightly over 67 40-hour work weeks. Either way, the family would come up short.

Another Stats Can report shows that roughly 60 per cent of all minimum wage employees only work part time, less than 30 hours a week.

Many of societies most vulnerable people live on

minimum wage. A 2013 poll taken by the Canadian Medical Association showed that only 39 per cent of poorer Canadians are in good health, while 68 per cent of the richest are.

Minimum wage is designed to function as a stepping stone for further opportunity: to give youth experience and make them marketable, to help pay for an education, and to help people get a job quickly to get back on their feet. Minimum wage jobs, by their basic construct, are not meant to be permanent employment, merely a means to something else.

But, millions of Canadians live off minimum wage. Stats Can estimates that just under 50 per cent of Bellevillians live on a before tax income under \$28,000 a year, with 30 per cent living on one under \$14,000. With statistics like that, it's hard to argue that bumping up the minimum wage by 75 cents will make a lot off difference to those living off it.

Bel Marine Retirement residents still living outside of their home

By James Wood

The newspapers on the front step of the Bel Marine Retirement Residence are piling up, and it has been five weeks since anyone has needed to collect them.

Following an electrical fire that forced an evacuation, the building has been empty save for the comings and goings of the owners and repair workers.

Evacuated residents have been put up in homes and hotels, with the bulk of the home's occupants being housed on the fourth floor of the Travelodge Hotel.

Residents are two to a room, with a television and comfortable beds for all.

A nurse's office is at the end of the hallway closest to the elevators, and residents move throughout the hotel. The chairs in the lobby are a gathering point for residents, who will sit and chat to pass the time. However, the long wait has worn a bit thin for some residents, with added roommates and a change in surroundings leaving residents longing to return back home.

"Everyone's anxious to get home," said Craig Chamberlain, an evacuated resi-

dent. "I'm not used to sharing a room, and now I'm sharing a room." Although the hotel is comfortable, the change in setting has disrupted some resident's regular routines, and a stay of five weeks was not what they had in mind.

"I think most of us when we came over thought we'd be here for a few days, not this long," said Chamberlain.

Despite the long wait, however, communications between Bel Marine staff and their evacuated residents have been good.

"When they know something, they

tell us," said Chamberlain. The managerial team is composed of two owners, Jeannie Griggs and Raj Uthaya. Griggs is the day to day manager at Bel Marine.

"This week," said Griggs, when asked about when she hoped to have residents back home into the residence.

The scene at the residence itself is one of busy repair. Seen through the front window, it is evident that wiring is being replaced and insulation being moved around.

The building itself has gone through multiple owners. "It's an old building,

it has its issues, hopefully they'll get them all corrected," said Vickie Hartwell, a healthcare worker for Bel Marine.

Having worked at Bel Marine for the past two years, she had not noticed any major issues in the maintenance of the building. However, the building's age may be a key factor. "I forget how old the building is. I know it was there when I was a kid and I'm 53 years old!" said Hartwell.

If all goes well, residents should be returned home within the week.

Diary...

Continued from Page 1

In late fall, Bennett received a phone call from Ferguson, and Bennett explained that he wanted to return the diary that had been lost for so many years. The catch, however, was that Ferguson must return to Germany to reclaim it.

"I remember Bill telling me, he said 'You know, I'm going to get my book, but the only thing is I have to go there,'" recalled Don.

So in April 2005, Ferguson travelled with his son Drew and daughter-in-law Cherie to the town of Wildetaube, where they were met by a huge crowd of townspeople and reporters, all wanting to celebrate and share in the return of the diary to its rightful owner.

At last, Ferguson got to hold his diary again, with the red maple leaf emblazoned on the cover. It was 60 years to the day that he had last held it in his hands. Ferguson was almost completely blind by this time, so he held the diary up against his face, using a magnifying glass to make out small details. He knew his wife Doris, who had by now passed away, would have been so happy to read the tales contained inside.

Upon returning from Germany, Ferguson stopped in Toronto, where he visited with his nephew Don, who travelled into the city from his home in Brighton, Ont. Don remembers holding the diary in his hands, and feeling overwhelmed by emotion as he held such an important piece of his family's history.

"I saw his book. I had to move it away because I was crying. Probably as much as he did at the time," said Don, wiping away a tear.

It was only a little more than a week later that Don received another phone call from his uncle.

"It was on a Sunday, we had some company in the house for dinner. I got a phone call. I knew it was my uncle. My wife said, 'well, we have company.' I said I know I'll make it brief. But he was the one that was brief. He said 'you

probably won't hear from me again, and you'll know why.' And the next day he had passed away," said Don.

It's nearly been nine years since Ferguson returned to Germany, and reclaimed the lost diary. The stories inside the diary are important pieces of history for the Ferguson family. But the story of how the diary was finally found is the greatest of them all.

For a video look at this story, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=35596>



Photo archives

Canadian prisoners walk after the Battle of Dieppe in France during WWII. A total of 3,623 of the 6,086 men were killed during the battle.



Submitted Photo

Sgt. Bill Ferguson holds his war diary once again after losing it as a POW in Germany 60 years ago. Ferguson lived in a POW camp for four years during World War Two, after sustaining a serious chest injury during the first Dieppe Raid. He left the diary inside a barn where the soldiers were ordered to rest for the evening. In the early morning, the American troops had arrived at the farm to free the prisoners, and Bill left his diary hidden inside the hay.

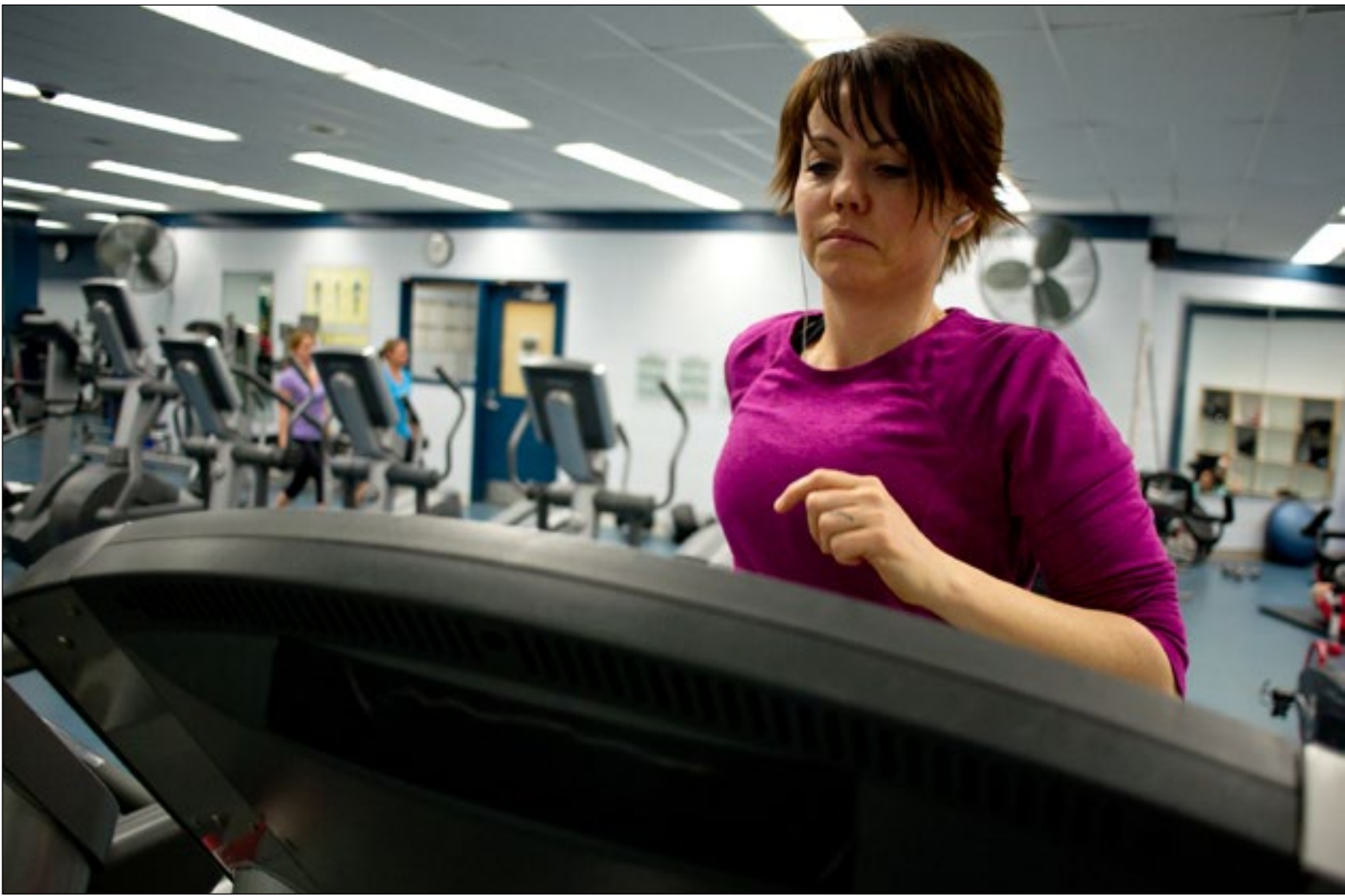


Photo by James Wood

Loyalist College payroll officer Kari-Lee Latta runs on the treadmill in the fitness centre of the school. Latta is a regular runner and exercises on her lunch breaks at the college. She looks forward to running in the upcoming Quinte West Healthy Half Marathon.

Half-marathon part of 40th birthday wish

By Solana Cain

With her 40th birthday around the corner, Kari-Lee Latta is lacing up to compete in the fifth-annual Quinte West Healthy Half Marathon in support of the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"It's just something I like to do. I like to run," said Latta, who is a payroll officer at Loyalist College.

Latta has set a list of goals for what she wants to accomplish before her milestone birthday in August.

Included on that list are relay events: Doomsday Dash, Mud Hero and Tough Mudder.

But first, the Healthy Half-Marathon happening Sunday, April 27 in Trenton.

"I haven't registered yet but I'm going to," said Latta about the marathon, but she's been running three times a week for the last month in preparation.

"I run during lunchtime," said Latta, who keeps the same route, jogging off campus and up to the bridge at Moira and Sidney streets, and back.

'I probably run six to eight kilometres about twice a week here and then on Sundays I do my long runs, about 14 km.'

Runner Kari-Lee Latta

"I probably run six to eight kilometres about twice a week here and then on Sundays I do my long runs, about 14 km," she said.

Latta, who lives in Prince Edward County, prefers to run in the spring and fall.

"Rain is okay to run in," she said.

"Winter is a bit hard just because there are slick conditions that occur so ... you're more worried about injury, trying not to slip."

Latta has participated in track and field since she was a

child. She finds running to be a good stress reliever.

"It's a good time to reflect, and think about what I'm going to do for the rest of the day," she said.

Participants in the Healthy Half Marathon can walk or run the five-km, 10-km and half marathon, which start and finish at city hall in Trenton.

"Currently, registrations are up from last year at this time," said Bojanna Louth, the hospital foundation's social events coordinator.

All proceeds raised go directly towards priority medical equipment.

Louth said this year's goal is \$20,000, and that last year the marathon raised a little more than \$18,000.

Runners can register for the marathon at www.racerooster.com. The fee is \$50 per entrant except if you're running the Hospital Mile, which is \$10, and the children's run is free.

In its first four years, the marathon has raised more than \$50,000 for the foundation.

The event starts at 9 a.m. on April 27.

Spring open house Saturday

By Justin Chin

Loyalist College will be hosting the first of its kind Spring Open House this Saturday in the hopes of recruiting students to enrol in September.

This will be the first time the college is hosting an open house on a weekend in March.

In previous years, Loyalist would host "Loyalist Days" throughout a week with each day focused on a particular area of study.

"We are not sure how many people are coming," said Gretta Barnwell, recruitment officer at Loyalist College. "We hope the weather will cooperate."

Approximately 750 prospective students and their parents participated in the "Loyalist Days" last year.

There were people who couldn't make it throughout the week in the past, Barnwell said, so college officials decided to host a Saturday open house.

"We really wanted to give an opportunity for those people who are on March Break and have the chance to come, which is why we introduced a Saturday open house."

It provides an opportunity to allow students and parents to spend time at the college and speak to faculty and students about their different programs of interest in one day, which had happened over a span of the week, she added.

"There were students who are interested in media and in human studies. This way, they have the chance to speak to faculties from both areas on one day," said Barnwell.

Perspective students and parents will be able to speak with faculty and students about programs and their interests, as well as a tour of the digital media centre, skills centre and residence on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"This is a first for us. We'll see how it goes."

Students and guests will be able to speak to faculty about their program of interest at booths.

There will be another open house on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where students and guests can attend program specific information sessions on their area of interest.

Student vice-president brings wealth of experience to role

By Jonathan King

"I'm kind of a movie buff, so this is a hard question, my favourite movie...." laughed Jasmine Chapman, student vice president at Loyalist College. "I have to say Captain America. It's really nerdy, but whatever!"

She sat down Monday for a Pioneer interview - but only after student president Chantal Johnston had pre-approved the questions. Chapman had no comment about the approval process.

Chapman is a first-year radio broadcasting student and also the media, arts and design student leader here at Loyalist College. She's a recent transfer from the television and new media program, giving her two years of student experience at the college.

Students around the college may have noticed the red flyers on tables encouraging them to vote for Chapman in the upcoming elections, but students paid more attention when Chapman came visiting students with baked goods and

candy, but she was doing more than sweetening up students for the student elections.

"I think my investment into the campaign paid off. I mean I won, so it benefited a lot. It shows how hard I work in the campaign, it's how hard I'll work for the students," Chapman said. "But everyone loves food."

Chapman has been campaigning non-stop since the race started. She was always in the cafeteria giving out flyers and treats, and was the only candidate most people knew because she was always out interacting with students at pub nights on the campus, dean's meetings and operating booths for student government. When election days came, she was one of the few names many people recognized on the ballot.

"I just thought if I don't get my name out when they go to vote they won't vote for me," she said.

Chapman has plenty of experience in student politics, giving her an edge on the road to a vice-presidential position.

'I just thought if I don't get my name out when they go to vote they won't vote for me.'

Jasmine Chapman

Chapman has spent time as class leader in high school as well as student leader. Most recently she has held the position of media, arts and design leader.

"I think my experiences put me higher up on the scale and I'm willing to push. Most people can take no for an answer, but not me. I try to get it done, I try to contact the right people to push things forward," she explained. "I push for things that other people in my position haven't done, like I'm going to as many deans meetings to see what can be changed," she continued.

This year's student election had a

turnout of 348 ballots cast, or 13 per cent of Loyalists' student population of about 2670 students.

"I feel like students aren't sure when they can vote and they didn't know they could've voted the following week," Chapman said.

Chapman had tons of support for her campaign from friends and family, helping push her along her political career at Loyalist.

"Family was the major support, from my parents and little sister," Chapman smiled, "If every politician has a marketing team, my dad was my marketing team," she laughed.

"Without them I wouldn't have been able to do it myself. My mother was helping me bake and my sister wrapped the suckers and stickers. Friends would wear t-shirts with my name on them and talk about me," Chapman says. "People made comments about my parents helping me but I worked two or three jobs at a time and I really wanted it, and it is a paid position so I will be reimbursed

over time."

Most students forget that student government positions are paid only minimum wage and the hours vary so much week by week, it's challenging to put a solid number to hours worked or a monthly salary.

Student government members also need to balance their studies with their student government position, Chapman said she tackles this problem by being adamant with her organization and schedule, keeping her on track and rock solid in case of a bump on the political road.

"For me it's all scheduling and organization. It can be very difficult but manageable," she said.

What's in store for Chapman in her future as a student politician at Loyalist is still uncertain however, there's still a possibility of running for student president next year. She has the know-how and after a year of being vice-president, she has the experience under her belt.

Community music comes alive at Loyalist College

An interest in music only requirement for participants

By Julia Karpiuk

There's a void at Loyalist College.

About three years ago, Pam Fairbank recognized this void and decided to do something about it. For years, Fairbank, who works at Loyalist, recognized an interest in the arts that certain students had, specifically music.

"We always have lots of support for varsity sport," said Fairbank, "what if I want an opportunity that's not basketball."

As a result of Fairbank's effort, the Loyalist College Community Choir came.

The only qualifications to join are an interest in singing, "I wanted a true community choir," said Fairbank.

Every Wednesday night about 15 regulars gather in the Alumni Hall to share the gift of singing. The choir has an open door policy. It's a group that holds different spectrums of experience; anyone is welcome; students, workers at the college, alumni and friends of Loyalist.

Running the show musically is Reanda Smith, who is fresh out of Queen's University. She's been working with the choir for a year at only 23 and full of optimism, she's been bringing a new light to the LCC.

Originally from Oshawa, Smith now resides in Kingston. She's been working



File photo by James Wood

Conductor Reanda-Lee Smith conducts the choir in an exercise during a rehearsal of the Loyalist Choir in Alumni Hall.

with music all her life and is finding it a very rewarding experience to be working with this choir.

"I think it helps gives students that have that love of singing and a passion for the arts an outlet...if there's no choir available

it's hard to get out and share your gift with people" pointed out Smith.

Her goal is to provide a fun and safe environment to explore music.

"Having a choir and being able to sing as a community really takes the pressure off of a lot of people, and that helps make it really just an experience of fun and an exciting collaborative rather than anxiety provoking doing it on your own."

Coming from a musical background, she believes that when in a choir, it is just as important to have fun but as well, to learn. Technique, music theory and the basics of reading music are all touched upon in practices.

"Not only do I want the members to just have fun and share their gift, I want them to be able to take away from it a better understanding of music in general."

The choir is thinking about fundraisers to stir awareness of the choir as well to help the finances.

Reanda is very optimistic about the future of the choir; she would love for the choir to become a staple at campus events and making the choir a recognizable feature of the college. Her experience has been rewarding thus far.

"I like seeing them come together... I've had the privilege to see people making new friends and people getting more comfortable with their singing voices ... I can see that their musical creativity wheels are starting to turn"

The choir meets on Wednesdays at 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Anyone is welcome.

Director of former experimental farm shares stories of government-run agency

By Anica James

A fan hums in unison with Harold Blair Heeney's trembling nerves, as he gently rocks back and forth on his La-Z-Boy in his apartment at the Quinte Gardens retirement residence. Books and photo albums are strewn across his lap and piled high on the small table next to him. He leafs through the pages in search of his article *Smithfield Experimental Farm: 1944-1985*.

"I was the director so I had a lot of responsibilities," Heeney, now 93, says of his former job at the government-run Smithfield Experimental Farm. Flipping through an old photo album he points out the old house that he and his family lived in on the farm.

"My family and I sold our house in Ottawa and moved to a house on the farm," Heeney says, frowning his brow. "My kids were upset because they had to change friends and school, but my wife and I enjoyed the country living. It was a lot simpler then."

Heeney was appointed the director of Smithfield from 1960-1979, where he developed and administered the facility, which included recruiting and training staff. He was also responsible for building laboratories on the property. Studies were made on various types of fruits and vegetables during the 19 years Heeney was in charge of the facility, before he retired in 1979.

"Previous to 1960 only minimal technical staff were permanently located at the Smithfield Experimental Farm," Heeney says. "Laboratories did not exist before me, so work, research and administration were supervised by staff at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, which caused a delay in production. I changed all of that and brought work to the Quinte region."

Located between Trenton and Brighton, just north of Highway 2, the derelict buildings that remain on the farm offer a glimpse into the region's agricultural past.

Historically, the areas along the St. Lawrence River and the north shore of Lake Ontario have been important apple production areas in Canada since the region was first settled. As late as 1940, Prince Edward and Hastings counties were two of the most important areas in Ontario for the production of crops for processing, particularly tomatoes, peas



Photo by Anica James

Harold Blair Heeney sits in his residence at the Quinte Gardens retirement home on Monday. Heeney was the director of the former Smithfield Experimental Farm, located west of Trenton, from 1960-1979. He has published 27 books and has received a number of awards for his involvement with the Canadian horticultural and agricultural societies.

and corn.

"The Quinte region has always been known for being at the forefront of the fruit and vegetable industry in Ontario," Heeney says, who has published 27 books about horticultural and agricultural issues. A number of his books concern the development and cultivation of different tomato and apple species in Ontario.

"However, it was not until 1944 that funds could be obtained to purchase land for the establishment of a research facility

in the Trenton area," Heeney says.

The farm officially closed its doors in 1996 and staff relocated to the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. Since then the relinquished property has been undergoing a facelift.

According to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency archives, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) proposed the demolition of building #1, a laboratory, and building #7, an office, at the former AAFC Smithfield Experimen-

tal Farm in 2009.

Trenton residents Rick and Aaron Lange purchased the land from the government in 2012 and currently use the farmland to grow soya beans and corn.

"The government was unable to sell the land in the state that it was in," says Aaron Lange. "My father and I bought the land for a good price, and at the request of the government, we are going to continue removing the buildings on the property. We removed one this past summer because it

was full of mold and asbestos."

Sighing heavily, Heeney looks around his room, staring at the artwork on his walls and half-completed crossword puzzles jumbled on the floor.

"I still drive by the old farm from time to time," he says. "Both my son and daughter live out near Brighton so I still take a detour every now and then to look at it but it has changed so much. I have fond memories of the place, but now they can belong to someone else."

Chefs serve wild game to the adventurous

By Guillaume Nolet

Some of Quebec's chefs are going wild.

"I will take the squirrel special, please."

Some of Quebec's finest chefs will soon be able to serve wild squirrels, muskrat and beaver among other wild game meat, to their most adventurous customers.

This comes after an announcement made last week by the provincial government to allow a number of restaurants, such as Montreal's famous Toqué and Au Pied de Cochon, to add wild game meat to their menus as part of a new pilot project.

A cooking instructor in Loyalist College's culinary skills program, Chef Levi Richards, said he is pleased with the proactive approach taken by Quebec.

"I'm all for it, as long as it is regulated and it does not put any species at risk. It's a good way to look at new and different meat for people."

With better education toward the origin and tradition of this type of food, Richards said the same idea could be realized in Ontario.

"It might be a shock or sounds weird for mainstream people to eat this type of food, but the Ontario government could eventually, if people are educated properly, implement a similar program," said Richards.

Having cooked and tasted beaver and muskrat in the past, Richards said that it's no filet mignon, but cooked

'It might be a shock or sounds weird for mainstream people to eat this type of food, but the Ontario government could eventually, if people are educated properly, implement a similar program.'

Chef Levi Richards

properly, braised for example, it is definitely something to try.

"The customer is looking for different tastes, different avenues, beyond beef, and some of those wild animals are maybe leaner and better for our system," concluded Richards.

Avid hunters such as John Ward, in line at a Belleville hunting and fishing store, said he thinks this new program is a great initiative by the Quebec government and a good way to endorse hunting.

"What a great way to help promote the image of hunting and trapping in general. Hunters often get bad press,

because people think we just hunt for trophies, while in fact, a big majority of us do it for the meat," said Ward.

"People will be more aware of the different options out there and will be surprised to discover the great taste of game meat," added Ward, who has been hunting for the last 35 years.

Jolanta Kowalski, senior media relations officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario, explained there are certain circumstances in Ontario where game meat can be served in restaurants such as deer, elk and some furbearing mammals.

"If you lawfully bought game meat, e.g. white-tailed deer from a deer farm, you can serve it in a restaurant," said Kowalski.

If there was an interest in serving wild game meat, such as the one introduced in Quebec, Ontario would need to make modifications to its legislation.

"The province would need to make changes to the Ministry of Natural Resources legislation as well as other legislation such as the Food Premises regulation under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*," said Kowalski.

Quebec's wildlife and environmental minister, Yves-Francois Boisvert, said that only non-endangered species, and those known to be safe for human consumption, free of bacteria or illnesses, will be served during this pilot project that should start early next fall.

Belleville native receives accolades as goaltender at Queen's

Receives titles of MVP, rookie of the year and goaltender of the year

By Sarah Taylor

It was a very successful year for Queen's Gaels' goaltender Kevin Bailie, who received the titles of most valuable player in the east, rookie of the year and goaltender of the year.

"It's just his focus. I've never seen a kid his age have the focus that he does," said Gaels hockey coach, Brett Gibson.

Although the 22-year-old Belleville native said he is very excited about his awards, his team's success is more prominent.

"Everyone wants those awards. But during that time when I found out, we were in the middle of playoffs and I told everyone I would trade that a million times over to win a championship, I think that's more important to me. But to be recognized like that is always obviously really nice," said Bailie.

He said he also feels the awards are not an individual success.

"Although they're individual awards, there's no way if you had guys not trying hard enough blocking shots on you it would ever happen," said Bailie.

Bailie started playing hockey when he was seven years old and a year later, went into the net. At the age of 15, he was drafted into the OHL by the Oshawa Generals and later played for the London Knights. In 2012, Bailie was nominated for OHL MVP.

Bailie described playing on a university team as being much more competitive and intense than in the OHL.

"The competition between schools is a lot more heated because all the students get involved and it's bigger than just the hockey team... it's a battle of which school is better in that sense," said Bailie.

Now that the season has come to an end, Bailie reflected on the season.

"Everyone loves to play hockey. You don't realize it as much when you're playing it. It's more like right now when you're done and how much you miss it," said Bailie.

The hockey player is currently in his first year of the general arts program and dreams of becoming a lawyer one day. Once he completes his degree he plans to consider his options in hockey.

"The sky is the limit for him... I could see him playing as high as he wants to. That's how good he is," said Gibson.

Frozen lakes this winter result in bird deaths

By Nathan Zbeetnoff

A large number of birds have been dying all across the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are 92 per cent frozen over this cold winter, and because of this, the birds are not able to get food for themselves. So many birds are dying, officials with the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee originally thought there might have been another reason for it.

Carcasses were sent to the Wildlife Centre in Guelph to identify the issue and they said "it was malnutrition, along with poor muscle mass and definitely starvation." The wildlife centre found about the issue from people in the Quinte West area finding deceased birds along the edges of the water. People started phoning wildlife and rehabilitation centres, explaining the issue.

Small and large communities that live near the birds have taken things into their own hands and are to trying feed the birds whenever they can.

"In Barcovan, they dredge the water, which sometimes takes away their food source and it doesn't come back in time for them" Lisa Peterson, a licenced wildlife custodian said.

Peterson started a petition to try and lift the bylaw in Cobourg. Over 1,000 people have signed and that number will continue climbing until



Photo by Elaine Bombay

Carol Whitehouse of Brighton feeds corn to the swans, geese and ducks at Barcovan Beach. The extreme cold and heavy ice have made it difficult for the birds to get food this winter and hundreds have died. Volunteers and others like Whitehouse who have heard of their plight have been feeding the birds.

the end of April.

When Bill Thompson, a resident of Cobourg, found out that the birds were in distress he started feeding the birds. Thompson started feeding the birds in January and didn't have

any issues until February 18 from a bylaw officer. He was written a ticket for \$105. Thompson continued to help the birds by feeding them, which lead to him getting an additional ticket of \$105.

"We are not asking for them to remove or change the bylaw. We are asking for amnesty," Peterson said. The request is that they also lift Thompson's tickets as well.

Monument makers honour the past

By Mitch Ward

On a small, low table by the front door of Campbell Monument Company on Dundas Street West, there is a small display. In a presentation case is a pewter medallion, about two inches in diameter. Inscribed around the edge is the name of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Along with traditional monuments, the term used in the memorial business for what people normally refer to as grave markers or tombstones, the craftspeople engrave uniform blocks of grey granite with the names of Ontario veterans.

Since 2006, the craftspeople at the Campbell production facility have produced hundreds of monuments for the CWGC since 2007, and over 1,656 grave markers for the Last Post Fund.

The employees work to deliver monuments for deceased veterans twice a year to cemeteries all over Ontario.

Some reach cemeteries in areas so remote that it requires them to be airlifted in.

The company first won a contract with the Last Post Fund in 2006. Kathleen Robinson, the facility and design manager, explained how it came about.

“My aunt actually, called me on a Saturday and said ‘I just saw something in the Toronto Star that you might be interested in.’ It was a call for tender to supply the Last Post Fund with the monuments for all of Ontario.”

The CWGC office is in the same Ottawa building as the Last Post Fund. It wasn’t long, only a year, before they asked Campbell Monuments for a sample of their work.

The work on the veteran monuments is in addition to the regular monuments, where demand is steady.

“We like to see about eight monuments go out the back door on a daily basis, and our full time staff work from April to December,” said monument designer Mary Martin.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded in 1917, and their stated goal is to honour the 1 million and seven hundred thousand men and women who died during the two world wars as



Photo by Mitch Ward

Kevin Soules of Campbell Monuments company clamps a rubber mylar stencil onto a blank granite grave marker, inside of an industrial sand blasting machine. Soules has worked in the workshop since 2010, after visiting with his mother on a “Take your kid to work day.”

part of a Commonwealth nation.

They work on creating and maintaining war cemeteries in over 153 countries.

The work of crafting monuments comes down to monument production facilities like the one at Campbell Monuments, which is now employee owned.

The building, built in 1989 to update the Campbell family’s four-generation

business, could be compared to a car dealership in a way.

There are outdoor display models, a showroom inside, and offices and private meeting rooms. The only difference of course is what they’re selling, and the fact that they build the product in the same building.

The production facility features a conveyor

belt where blank granite slabs are rolled along to the stenciling area.

There, custom-made designs are printed on rubber and Mylar sheets using a large format printer. Then, craftspeople carefully cut out the letters and patterns of the stencils.

These tough stencils are then double checked, signed off by design managers

and attached to the front of the granite markers. Workers then wheel the larger markers into industrial sandblasters, and stand back as the machines turn the blank stones into permanent memorials.

“It’s been a really nice thing for us, and it’s been neat. To have that pride, and workmanship, it’s nice to have been apart of it all,” said Robinson.



Photo by James Wood

Inn From the Cold volunteers are framed by the kitchen shelves in the basement of Bridge Street United Church as they prepare for a celebratory lunch, held for everyone who gave their time to the program. Inn From the Cold is a free dinner service provided every single night during the months of January and February.

Inn from the Cold serves community

By James Wood

Over the past two months, volunteers have been coming to Bridge Street United Church and giving their time to help combat food insecurity in the Hastings and Prince Edward region. Thousands of meals were prepared, served, and cleaned up after, and hundreds were saved for future use.

Many people in the community were helped by the service, which ran seven nights a week, four-o’clock to six-thirty, without fail.

The service has now concluded its run for this year, and the numbers for overall usage are down compared to last year’s information.

However, the drop in numbers may not necessarily show a drop in need. It may simply reflect the fact that this years winter has been difficult for residents to get to the meals in the first place.

“Availability isn’t an issue, accessibility is,” said Ian Sutherland, co-coordinator of the Inn from the Cold program and congregation member at Bridge Street. “The people who are needful in terms of food often have coexisting issues, and mobility is certainly one of them,” said Sutherland. The geography of Belleville and the surrounding area has a role to play in access to the building.

Bridge Street sits on a hill in the east side of Belleville, and the walk up was often slippery or tough to get through, especially for a resident with mobility issues. “Though the city has done its best this year, sidewalks are not as clear as they were this past winter,” said Sutherland.

The difficulty in access led to a significant drop in visits to the service. “Our numbers were down probably 15 per cent, and that translates into 300 or 400 meals,” said Sutherland. This means that despite the 3850 hot meals served

to residents, hundreds more could have been served.

“Food is the most fluid item in the budget,” said Ruth Ingersoll, executive director of the Community Development Council of Quinte. With major costs such as rent, hydro, and transportation being given priority over food, it means that hard months such as January and February will have scant food budgets for those in the lowest quintile of income. “Hugely impactful,” said Ingersoll, when asked about the role that Inn From the Cold plays in those harsh months.

Despite the impact that the program has on the community and levels of food insecurity, a lack of reliable transport to the church building does play a role in the numbers of residents reached who need the food offered. “Transit could be a piece to the puzzle,” said Ingersoll.

The program will resume next January.

Text with 911 to be introduced here

Speech and hearing impaired will benefit from service

By Jonathan King

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication Commission’s plans to enhance 911 systems for those with speech or hearing impairments has come full circle since their announcement January last year.

Belleville Police have started rolling out plans for their Text with 911 system for those with speech and hearing impairments. Those who wish to use Text with 911 will have to register beforehand with their wireless carrier before being able to use the service, meaning those without disabilities won’t have access to the new technology rolling out this year.

As the service becomes available, those who are hearing or speech impaired will call 911 and the emergency notification center, where calls are handled, will get a notification to initiate a text conversation. The feature will only be available to police stations and emergency centers who’ve introduced the changes to their call centre, furthermore, the CRTC stresses that the texts directly to “911” don’t go to EMS services.

“Services such as 911 are critical to the health and safety of all Canadians,” said CRTC Chairman Jean-Pierre Blais, in a press release in January of last year. “This initiative is a perfect example of how technology can be used to improve access to 911 services for Canadians with disabilities. I would like to thank those who participated in last year’s trial. Its success convinced us that expanding the initiative across the country is not only possible, but also in the public interest.”

The CRTC doesn’t have a cost es-

timate for research, development or implementation they said in an email interview that “each stakeholder is responsible for their own costs.” In that same email, CRTC also disclosed that they’ve been looking into Text with 911 since 2009. The email also said that as all wireless carriers are able to provide Text with 911 and that it’s now the emergency call centers responsibility to implement the new technology which is legislated by provincial or municipal governments.

Belleville Police will spend \$20,000 to upgrade 911 services in Belleville, a mere six per cent of the police services \$320,000 proposed annual budget, according to an interview between Cory McMullen and The Intelligencer on March 7th.

“The service is amazing, exactly what we all need! I know we will feel protected since we finally have an access to Text with 911 when we need help. Some people don’t have voice minutes on their phones; this method would make things much easier,” said Emily LaFleur, a first-year photojournalism student said who is also hearing impaired. “We have been waiting for this to happen for years, this will save a lot of lives; deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people too.”

When asked about other services that the CRTC can provide in order to improve the lives of the 10 per cent of Canadians who are deaf or hard of hearing, LaFleur said she would like to see the return of Video-Relay Service, or VRS.

“Text with 911 is a great start, but I feel that VRS (Video-relay service) should be back in Canada. It will allow us to sign freely with the interpreter on a television or a computer, get them to call anyone I want. It can be for ordering food, taxi, or a call to a person who doesn’t have a Skype account or a cell-phone,” she said.

Online retail impacts on Belleville’s retail landscape

Vacant storefronts across the city an indication of problem

By Mitch Ward

The retail landscape in Belleville is becoming an example of the national shift towards online retail and away from walk-in stores.

The most recent North American retailer with a presence in Belleville to announce closings is Staples.

The company did not give specifics, but did announce that it will be closing 225 stores in North America by 2015.

If the Bell Boulevard location is

closed, it could become another vacant storefront, like that of the former wZellers location across the road that closed last year.

General manager of the Quinte Mall, Alexandra Benjafield, who oversees the plaza that includes the Staples outlet, said she was not concerned with the possibility of having to deal with a vacant property in the near future.

One factor mentioned in the Staples financial press release was the move to online retail.

Bill Saunders of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce confirmed this trend.

“The entire retail market is changing. People are doing more online shopping. Those numbers are rising

dramatically every year. Presumably, this is taking away from in-store sales.

“So retailers are moving towards making sure they have an online presence.”

The downtown cores of Belleville and neighbouring Trenton are more reminders of the decline.

Research from the Office of Consumer Affairs showed that despite the success of Canadian malls, space is becoming limited as municipalities move toward building more industrial-based businesses and office space for companies.

Combined with a rising cut to retail-based jobs by major companies, the large number of part-time workers relying on the jobs will be at risk.

Especially at risk is the more mature workforce.

Research by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce showed that the population aged 55 and over had the largest increase in employment in 2013.

With the move to online retailing, companies are looking for a different kind of employee.

“There is a shift towards retailers hiring folks with IT skills, online skills and social media skills, to support the online retail business. And because of that, you see slower hiring or reduced hiring in the traditional retail businesses,” said Saunders.

Despite the worrying stats, the retail situation in Belleville is still healthy,

according to City Economics manager Karen Poste.

“In general terms, retail is doing extremely well in Belleville. We are the retail centre for a much larger region than just the city of Belleville. We attract customers from 50 kilometres away. We have a lot of the big name stores here, as well as several private label stores that are doing quite well.”

At the moment, city officials say they aren’t worried about the retail economy.

Poste added, “There’s nothing in the information that we have that indicates any sort of looming cloud over the retail economy in Belleville.”

Collectors gone wild

By Sarah Taylor

It's more than likely that we all know someone who is a collector of something. When many of us were children, it was all about our awesome collections.

Collecting is very natural for humans. A collection may be tied to a memory in one's life or an interest or passion.

Collections may be contrived from a series of gifts, souvenirs or practical items in our lives. Sometimes people are curious to learn about something new so they begin a collection.

A collection may be very meaningful to someone and is a way to express oneself through something personal.

The first-year photojournalism students were assigned to find and photograph someone with their unique collection.



Photo by Dillan Cools

Film enthusiast Taz Madden sits with his extensive video cassette collection in his west Toronto apartment. Madden's collection includes everything from Don Cherry's *Rock'Em Sock'Em Hockey* 9 to Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* and have been gathered primarily from thrift stores and the garbage.



(Left) Steve Davis is a collector of many things, including records, Niagara Falls memorabilia, and tobacco. However, his most cherished is his extensive collection of taxidermy. Davis is the proud owner of approximately 40 taxidermy pieces that he has gathered over the last five years.

Photo by Carla Antonio

(Left) Amy Valencourt's vice is collecting crushed-flat cans from different areas, claiming that a lot can be told about the demographics of each particular neighbourhood from which each came. Photo by Bradley Ruszkowski

(Right) Roger Wood is an artist, collector and a flea market junkie. He's been collecting for years, odd, mysterious, eccentric and worn-out things. He's also been a clock maker for years, originally as gifts for friends. Photo by Annie Sakkab



(Above) Kevin Vanclef sits among his treasured and impressive collection of Elvis memorabilia. Vanclef has been collecting Elvis Presley treasures since the death of his mother, whom was a staunch Elvis fan. He owns around 300 Elvis LP's and 50 plus Elvis 45's to name just a few of his prized collectables. Photo by Graeme Murphy

(Left) Japanese-born Hideki Saito is an avid seven-inch vinyls collector. He collects rock and roll from 1950 to 1965. Instead of keeping the records on a shelf, he hangs them on the wall using an antidust spray. He is always going to vinyl fairs and garage sales in search of hidden gems. In his Toronto home, all the walls facing west are covered in his precious collection. Photo by Giovanni Capriotti

On the street

Sarah Vissers asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

Do you think schools are tough enough on students who cheat?



Arshdeep Sidhu, second-year general arts and science, “I think schools need to be tough. They gave us time to study, so if still you’re cheating on an exam or test, that’s not really good.”



Sandeep Kaur, first-year general arts and science, “Yes. I think teachers give us enough time, and explain everything on their test, and then students may not be cheating on a test.”



Curtis Lazarus, third-year animation, “Maybe a little tough, but there should be a good punishment just for people cheat on tests and stuff, not ‘you’re kicked out of college.’”



Courtney Maillett, first-year welding, “I think for the most part they are, yeah. I know for my course, we had that problem last semester and they were pretty good at handling it.”



John Waltz, first-year general arts and science, “It’s hard to say, because I think the expectations are so high, students feel the need to cheat because it’s more about grades than about what we learn.”



Jessica d’Amboise, second-year chemical engineering, “They could be a little bit stricter, because it does happen way too often, and very easily.”

Editorial

Normalizing the culture of assault

In a world where women are encouraged to advance their careers, empower themselves and break free of past oppression, you would think that desire for equality would extend to campus life. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The University of Ottawa’s men’s varsity hockey team has been suspended after sexual assault allegations from an incident in February. Similarly, student union vice president Anne-Marie Roy was the subject of a demeaning Facebook conversation held by five students that came to light last week. We live in a world where when someone tries to rise above and bring awareness to this issue, they are silenced. Roy has four of five of the men who had the conversation about her trying to press charges, stating the conversation was private. Society is to blame for the normalization of rape culture. One of the first things people ask when they hear about a sexual assault case is “Well, what was she wearing?” Women get the blame; because the victim was drinking, or wearing a low-cut shirt, or high heels, it means she was asking for it. Sexual assault, harassment and rape need to be talked about. We as a society need to recognize the serious issue we have at hand and address it. Sweeping it under the rug and silencing women who are speaking out against attackers and abusers is not the solution. Treating it as a joke, as so often seen in pop culture, is not the solution. The justification for rape culture is that it is engrained into student culture – the party life, comments made about women in locker rooms, frosh week and frat house chants – it’s all harmless fun. The people participating in these chants and conversations want no harm to come to the people they are talking about. That may be the case - but it is not harmless. According to the American Association of University Women, an estimated 25 per cent of women experience sexual assault while attending post-secondary – 20 per cent of which occurred on campus. When you compare to the 4 per cent of women who experience sexual assault while in prison, it is pretty shocking. Shouldn’t those attending post-secondary feel safe and secure on campus? Just because one thing becomes the social or cultural norm does not mean it is correct. You only have to look at our past to see that. Sexual harassment and assault are wrong, no matter the context.

Dayna Lefebvre

Marijuana legalization would save government money

Imagine going to the store, buying a bag of marijuana, and then driving home to use the drug. This seems to be the future of the regulations on marijuana in Canada. In many cases the legalization of marijuana would benefit many aspects of Canada, from opening job opportunities to cutting of the lifeblood of gangs. A study in 2007 by Health Canada reported that 8.2 percent of young Canadians used cannabis on a daily basis. There is a huge amount of growing support for legalizing marijuana. In recent years the Liberal party of Canada has published a policy favouring legalizing marijuana. In past weeks Minister of Justice Peter MacKay said he is considering ticketing people for small amounts of marijuana rather than facing criminal charges. MacKay has been meeting with multiple police chiefs in British Columbia to talk. Rather than decriminalizing the drug, it seems the government is really just thinking of ways to regulate the substance and make money off it while doing it. Arrest for marijuana possession has risen by 41 percent since the Tories came to power in 2006. There have been more than 405,000 people arrested on pot-related charges since the Conservatives came to power. A Maclean’s article stated that in 2002 the senate pegged the annual cost of cannabis to law enforcement and the justice system at \$300 million to \$500 million. The legalization would not only help save the government money from enforcing the drug but it is estimated that it will make \$4 billion each year in revenue, and thousands of new jobs. Contrary to the belief that the black market will remain, the Liberal party estimates the price of marijuana will cost 30 to 35 percent less than the current black market because it is easier to produce and not as risky as the black market. A commercial from marijuanadoctors.com depicts a man selling types of fish from his coat on the street. “You wouldn’t buy fish from this guy, so why buy marijuana from him?” says the dealer in the commercial. Legalizing pot prices would set a new standard of drug quality. One that’s healthier and regulated, letting the buyer know it’s content. But with the freedom of legal pot, there are repercussions that might follow. Steps would have to be made in prevention and education programs to educate the public about the health risks and consequences of the drug. And an increase in prevention in youth, put into the school system. For centuries, the prohibition of marijuana has created an underground market for fueling profits for gangs trickling down to even kids who can easily get their hands on marijuana. But by legalizing marijuana, it would cut off the underground market while at the same time opening up new job opportunities and revenue for the Canadian economy.

Justin Greaves



Opinion

Service dogs a privilege, not a right

Contract signed when someone agrees to foster a puppy

By Samantha Hobbs

All college students start their mornings off in similar ways. They get up, get ready and rush out the door with everything they need for the day. Now I start my day the same way but I have something extra in my morning routine. She’s 70 pounds, black, furry and her name is Jazzy. Jazzy is my service dog guide. She is specially trained for me and accompanies me everywhere I go. The people that train these dogs are a major part of what makes service dogs so good at their job. Another huge part is the dog’s foster family, the people that they live with while they grow from puppy into dog. When the organization decides that the dog is old enough and is ready to be

trained the dog must be returned. Although they get attached to the dog, the dog is going to make a person with a disability’s life better. One foster parent has made the news lately because she refused to return her foster puppy when it was recall by the organization. In July 2011, Tammy Hall began to foster a golden retriever named Gabby. Gabby is from the National Service Dog Training Centre. In April 2012, Gabby was recalled to begin her training. At first Hall agreed to return the dog. Then she would not be returning Gabby due to health problems. When a person agrees to foster a puppy that is going to be a service dog, they must sign a contract. The contract basically states that the persons will care for the dog and teach them basic skills. When the owner of the dog, in this case the National Service Dog Training Centre, decides the dog is ready for training they must return it. Hall actually got a lawyer to try to adopt Gabby. The case has gone to court.

Chances are she is not going to win the case. She knew when she agreed to care for Gabby she would have to return her. Legally Gabby belongs to the National Service Dog Training Centre. As for Gabby’s health problems, health problems do not mean she can’t work. It just means it may limit the kind of work she is able to do. Hall is not qualified to decide whether Gabby is not healthy enough to work, it should be determined by a professional. By keeping the dog when she is able to work, Hall is preventing a disabled person from getting a service dog that may be life saving. I received Jazzy a year ago from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide. I completed training and graduated from the school with Jazzy. Technically she is my dog, but she belongs to the foundation and if they feel the need they can take her back. When it’s time for Jazzy to retire I will not automatically get to keep her. I will have apply to adopt her. Having Jazzy is a privilege and I am grateful for her and would never argue with the people who made having her possible.

Fake IDs use real people’s names and addresses

Not a victimless crime as some people want to believe

By Samantha Quinn

When people think fake IDs, they think harmlessly going to buy a fake driver’s license with made-up information on it for a new identity. In reality, it hurts someone who notices they are missing their wallet. Young teenagers going to Toronto and buying an ID to go to the bars always seems harmless; victimless, even in this generation pretty common. In reality that is not the case.

When you buy a fake ID with someone’s name, and address, it has been proven that these addresses are people’s actual home addresses, names, postal code and signature, living somewhere else in the country, or even province. The differences are hard to spot, but the people who are using them sometimes are. Businesses are hiding under the term ‘souvenir shops.’ They are knowingly giving fake IDs to 14-year-olds, giving them the opportunity to put themselves in overwhelming situations. The differences are getting harder to spot every year as the technology of it all is advancing. Fake IDs all started with a laminated piece of paper and a cut-out photo taken in someone’s basement. Now, bouncers can’t tell the difference. It has become

a sophisticated crime that more and more people are getting away with. After several bad calls, underage kids walk into a bar and are welcomed into things much before their time. It leads into more serious situations that they aren’t ready for, such as sexual assault and sometimes even death. According to a CBSA (Canadian Border Services Agency) report, under the Criminal Code, someone can only be found guilty of forgery if police can prove they intended their product to be used as a fake. While underage teens party hard, somewhere else, someone suffers through the crime of identity theft. It can escalate if given the right materials such things as a credit card and social insurance numbers. Credit scores drop and money is lost.

The Pioneer

The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

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