

Candidates debate at Loyalist

By Micah Bond

“Every day I put my pants on and I become the mayor,” said Richard Courneyea Tuesday.

Seven mayoral candidates attended a debate at Loyalist College. The candidates discussed a variety of topics, ranging from stimulating the economy by growing the city’s talent pool with more science and technology courses at Loyalist to concerns and alternatives to the costly proposed bike trail linking Loyalist to downtown.

Several other miscellaneous items also came up, including construction of the new police station, palliative care facilities, renewable energy and care for the homeless and elderly.

In his opening statement, Lonnie Herrington said families in Belleville are falling apart.

“Every year, our children are leaving Belleville for reasons like higher levels of education, jobs, housing and personal security. Once they are gone and find out what other communities have to offer, they don’t come back,” he said.

Jill Raycroft said Loyalist needs to ensure its students are taking viable courses that will allow them to stay in the area and encourage new industry to come to Belleville because of its existing talent pool.

“We have excellent programs that often send our students, our graduates, around the world. What can we do to keep them here?” she said.

Raycroft was a program coordinator/development officer at Loyalist for 13 years.

Herrington echoed this sentiment. “We need to have Loyalist upgrade their courses and get more into science and technology programs.”

In conversation with people in perspective industry, Herrington said he has found the biggest concern they have is finding a viable workforce in Belleville.

He also said the city should reallocate money for infrastructure and invest it in education.

Richard Courneyea took a different approach and said he plans to encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing venture capital or some other form of assistance.

“Small business represents 71 per cent of our business population in our community and is the engine that actually drives our community forward,” he said.

Taso Christopher said that increasing infrastructure is key to attracting the investment industry to Belleville because it shows that the city is proactive and forward thinking.

He said that that the city needs to create an infrastructure environment that the private sector will invest in. That will put more than 100 jobs on the table, he



Photo by Andrew Lahodrynsky

Mayoral hopeful Kenzo Dozono shows his support for the Loyalist College women’s soccer team that has recently advanced to the playoffs during his opening remarks. The college held a debate Tuesday involving all seven candidates running for the top position. Topics ranged from where funding was going to come from to expanding career opportunities in the city.

said.

The candidates disagreed over the proposed bike path that would run from Bridge Street West to Loyalist on a number of different points.

Courneyea said, “We have a huge deficiency in our roads, people can’t ride their bikes in some cases on the roads. In my opinion, the decision to spend \$2.8 million on a bike trail to Loyalist College is premature.

“I’m not saying it should never happen, but I think at this time we have higher priorities that need to be addressed.”

He mentioned the possibility of making transit to Loyalist faster using the existing bus system but did not go into

detail.

Raycroft said the original plan was to extend Bridge Street to the college. She said Loyalist already has a Walk Safe program on campus because of safety concerns and said this is an issue with the proposed and isolated bike path.

She said for that reason extending Bridge Street to the college should be reconsidered.

Pat Culhane said the city’s transportation master plan contains a cycling component for the whole city. She said it’s a dream that will cost upwards of \$43 million. “If you don’t start somewhere, you will never achieve your goal.”

She said that biking is essential to the eventual decrease in dependence on automobiles and it will bring more people to the community.

Courneyea raised concerns that the decision to spend money on the path was not transparent and there was no public consultation. He said that council has to be held accountable for that in this election.

Raycroft said, “I would agree that the process by which they went from \$85,000 to \$2.8 million to decide on that bike lane was flawed. Anybody sitting in that room wondered what happened except for the council members, apparently.” Christopher defended the decision.

“The transportation master plan did go through public information centres,” he said, adding there were also a number of open public meetings.

“The money was in the reserves so there was no extra load on the taxpayers and when it was done, it was done in an open transparent session,” he said.

Loyalist College president, Maureen Piercy, attended the event and asked, given Loyalist’s effect on the economy, how the candidates planned to continue supporting the college. She said Loyalist is responsible for approximately 5.4 per cent of the Loyalist Service Region’s Gross Regional Product.

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Cars PURR along for humane society

By Dillan Cools

Families and friends came from all corners of Prince Edward County and beyond last Saturday to participate in the first Picton Ultimate Road Rally, with proceeds being donated to the Loyalist Humane Society.

The rally took 25 teams on a scenic four-hour drive around the County where they racked up points by answering questions, completing challenges and collecting samples.

“It was a great day. I was kind of thinking ‘oh no!’ What did we get ourselves in to, but it was a lot of fun,” said Karen Dernford-McIntosh, who participated in the rally with her husband Brian McIntosh.

“I mean, we live in Picton so we know the County, but even living here for a year now and coming here for years and years, we still managed to find things we hadn’t seen before,” she added.

The family friendly rally was open to teams of all ages and sizes with the largest team having seven members, six of whom were young girls celebrating a friend’s birthday. Despite the dodgy weather which might have made some of the unregistered teams shy away from the course, the turnout was strong with over 60 registered participants showing up and many arriving early, eager to get started.

“I’ve been on two or three car rallies in the past and I always found them a lot of fun,” said Bev Humphrey, a key organizer who came up with the idea.

“We wanted it to be a little different than some rallies, some are just a poker run, some are just answering questions all along the way, generally that’s what you see. On our route, people had to be observant because there would be a list of things they had to look for and there were challenges that we made,” said Humphrey.

The first challenge spot was at H.J. McFarland Conservation Area and keeping aligned to the feline theme, teams threw litter bags through holes in a board that had been painted with cats and dogs by local artist and core rally organizer Lorrie Scott.

“It was a lot of fun!” said Julie Miller, who, along with Deb Hedges, supervised the first challenge and both sit on the Picton Recreation Committee which played a large role in making the rally a reality.

The Picton Recreation Committee is a community organization that hosts cultural and recreational activities in the area and promotes an active lifestyle.

Humphrey and her team were faced with the creation of a complex event that required a lot of preparation, seamless organization and of course, money.

“It was just me and some friends and then we thought, well, how are we going to do that, how are we going to cover the costs,” said Humphrey.

Last year, Miller and Hedges organized a kayak-paddling event with the help of the committee and proceeds were also donated to the Loyalist Humane Society.

“We thought we would help them because they helped us, things like this all run on volunteers and the more you have the easier,” said Miller.

“They gave us a budget to work with, it was fantastic and then we just sort of hit the ground running,” said Humphrey.

“We thought, wouldn’t it be nice if we had the acronym PURR, what could we call it then. So we started with the acronym and built the words around it, so it’s the Picton Ultimate Road Rally,” explained Humphrey.

The money received from the Picton Recreation Committee offset the expensive advertising costs and allowed for the registration money to go directly to the Loyalist Humane Society. At the end of the day, total proceeds generated by the PURR cleared \$1,000 and were estimated to be as high as \$1,400.

“I’m always looking for ways to give them more money because they do so much with so very little,” said Humphrey, who has experience working as a fundraiser for Pathways to Independence.

The second challenge spot located in Cherry Valley included two timed events; one had teams solve a handmade puzzle

designed by Lorrie Scott with the Loyalist Humane Society’s emblem on it, and the other was a catwalk maze that had been built by Bev Humphrey.

“We’ve gone right from people not having a clue, to people being able to do the puzzle and finishing it in record time,” said Debbie Rankin, a member of the Picton Recreation Committee who supervised the stage.

While in Cherry Valley, teams got a kick out of counting the number of tires surrounding a large oak tree which, just like the puzzle, proved to be much more difficult than anticipated. Some go-getters also seized the perfect opportunity to collect an acorn from below the tree as it was worth one of the maximum 100 points at the end of the day.

“At the last possible minute, Matt jumps out of the car, runs across the road and takes a selfie of himself with a horse and it counted for two points,” said DeeDee Coackley, who was first to finish the circuit along with friends Matthew and Becky Weaver, who learned of the rally on Facebook.

The group attributed a combination of having been born and raised in Picton, knowing the area well, being close friends and a slight competitive nature to their speedy return.

The rally commenced with a barbecue and raffle at the Picton Curling Club where scores were tabulated and the winners announced. Thanks to the generous donations made by numerous sponsors and local stores, there was a large collection of door prizes and none of the teams went home empty handed.

“There is something happening almost every weekend, some fundraiser or some sort of group so a lot of businesses get people in every day asking for donations and considering that ... they were still very generous, they were still very supportive, and we really appreciated it as I know the other groups do to,” said Humphrey.

“If we can keep our volunteer base up we’d like to do it again, only a different time of year,” said Humphrey.

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Photo by William Acri

Shane Patrick Sabourin, of Carleton Place, Ont., is removed by police from Loyalist College Tuesday. Sabourin was charged with one count each of possession of a dangerous weapon, assault of a police officer, resisting arrest and possession of a controlled substance. The 24-year-old was seen on Loyalist College campus acting suspiciously but did not brandish a weapon. He was later subdued with pepper spray after being confrontational with officers.



Photo by Nakita Krucker

Jasmin Grégoire harvests grapes at Broken Stone Winery’s second annual Harvest Party on Oct. 4th. Grégoire drove down from Montreal with his wife, Betty Gosselin, to help Broken Stone bring in the grape harvest and experience a bit of rural vineyard life.

Winery celebrates the harvest

By Nakita Krucker

On Saturday morning a fairly new winery to the Prince Edward County region, Broken Stone, hosted their second annual Harvest Party.

Tim Kuepfer and spouse, Micheline, owners and founders of Broken Stone, opened their doors to the public to help bring in the harvest and share a bit of the wine-making process.

“It was a more challenging season due to the damp and cold, that means more

fungi, so a more vigilant approach needs to be taken throughout the season and during harvest....however the results were better,” explained Kuepfer, head wine maker, after the two day harvest commenced. The volunteers managed to harvest a third of the grapes which would be going towards making the winery’s pinot noir specialty.

The Kuepfers raised their three daughters within the city, but about five years ago they started to cultivate their dream of a rural life. They purchased their 34

acre farm in 2009 and have been working tirelessly on weekends and throughout the summer to turn this dream into a reality. “It takes time,” recited Kuepfer in reference to many of the happenings throughout the day. Once when the grape crusher de-stemmer broke, adding much delay to the wine making process, and once more when referring to this whole vineyard development. They are in no rush, but are instead focused on enjoying the process and exposing their daughters and whoever joins in their rural venture,

to country living.

What started as mainly friends and family soon involved volunteers from across Ontario and a couple from Montreal. Jasmin Grégoire and Betty Gosselin drove down from Montreal for the weekend to get the county experience and were pleasantly surprised with their day out at Broken Stone. “This is our 10th winery in the county we’ve seen and the most rewarding since we actually get to participate by harvesting,” stated Gosselin over a bowl of nourishing chili

and a glass of Broken Stone’s 2013 Pinot Noir.

The harvest is in full swing across the county and helping with the harvest is not only limited to the Harvest Party experience at Broken Stone. Sandbanks Estate Winery also enjoyed having the public assist in the harvest and on Oct. 11, Grange of Prince Edward is having a harvest party of their own. If you are looking to explore the county this weekend, the grape harvest at a local vineyard is a fantastic outing suitable for all ages.

Glanmore celebrates culture and history

Historic site opens its door for tea fundraiser

By Hannah Eden

Glanmore National Historic Site of Canada opened its doors Sunday to celebrate the history and culture of the site with a Harvest Tea fundraiser.

The event was hosted by Friends of Glanmore, a registered volunteer run charity dedicated to the conservation of artwork and restoration of Glanmore House.

“This tea is to provide a different opportunity for people to come and see the museum in a different way,” said Melissa Wakeling, education and marketing co-ordinator for Glanmore.

“Our Friends of Glanmore are actually the hosts of the events – that’s our volunteer group. They do a lot of fundraiser work throughout the year and then they pick projects to spend the funds on. This time they have selected the reproduction of curtains for the second bedroom.”

Built in 1883 for banker and financier J.P.C. Phillips, the regally adorned house boasts more than 20,000 artifacts, made to depict the original style and taste of the era.

The sheer volume of priceless collections housed in the museum is the sole purpose for events such as the Harvest Tea.



Photo by Hannah Eden

Denzy James, 9, sits with her mother Belinda James during the Harvest Tea and Tour at Glanmore National Historic Site on Sunday afternoon. The tea was hosted by volunteer group Friends of Glanmore, a registered charity dedicated to the conversation and restoration of Glanmore House.

scones and they’ll be served with homemade strawberry jam as well as honey-ginger, pumpkin butter,” Wakeling shared.

“Now doesn’t that sound delicious!”

Educational services are also a huge part of Glanmore House’s involvement in the local community with school groups taking tours of the grand halls and rooms as part of the education curriculum.

With the changing culture of ‘quick’ access to information, museums such as Glanmore House are a great way for children to immerse themselves in history – a piece of culture left behind by past Belleville residents.

“I always encourage young people to come and visit Glanmore and get involved here,” says Wakeling.

“For example, this spring we will have

‘This tea is to provide a different opportunity for people to come and see the museum in a different way.’

Education and marketing co-ordinator Melissa Wakeling

an exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum. It’s called Gift of the Nile. A lot of young people have visited Glanmore as a schoolchild, but I encourage them to come back.”

With two tea sittings and two guided tours underway, Sunday proved a huge

success for all coordinators and volunteers involved.

“My favourite part of my job at Glanmore is the people,” shared Wakeling.

“I like meeting people when they come and visitors. People are usually excited and interested.”?The chatter of plates and spoons sung from the tea room on Sunday afternoon and reflected the excited talk among guests as they marvelled at the house and its significance to the community.

“I don’t know if it’s a nostalgic thing or its due to the popularity of shows such as Downton Abbey,” said Wakeling.

“But people want to come and have tea!”

For a multi-media view of the event, go to:
<http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=39876>

Debate...

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Culhane said that in the past, council has assisted Loyalist but it is extremely difficult to project that going forward. She said the college is more than welcome to bring its needs to council to be discussed.

Kenzo Dozono said Loyalist is the heart and soul of the community. “Without Loyalist College, I do not think we have a future.

“President Maureen Piercy, don’t ask us for support, we force you to be together with us and we will demand city council grow with Loyalist college’s future,” he said.

The panel also discussed the delays in construction of a new police station.

Dozono said he has been an interpreter for many companies and has found that when companies are considering moving to an area, they first ask what kind of policing and fire services are in place.

He said this problem must be solved as fast as possible to help bring industry and jobs to Belleville.

Bill Glisky said, “I am as frustrated as many people that four years after we had this discussion in the last election, we’re still having this discussion.” He said he is committed to completing the police station so it will not be an issue in the next election.

Christopher, who is on the steering committee for the project, said much of the work has already been done. “We have had the consultations. We have done the planning. We have done the reviews. They are done. The funding is in place.”

In the strategic plan, he said it was slated for 2014 so it’s only a couple months behind schedule.

Herrington said he would like to see shovels in the ground before Christmas.

Glisky said he hopes to introduce programs to make it easier for people to get nutritious food on their tables. The best way to fight poverty in the community, he added, is to get people working and the best way to do that is to ensure they have necessities like food and good housing.

Culhane said that there is a need for hospice beds. “Like it or not, there is an issue in this community with people who are dying and dying at home.” She said when these people are eventually admitted to hospital, they put a strain on resources intended for more acute care.

She said she wants to look into getting a residential hospice for the community.



Photo by Dillan Cools

(From left) Barb Boos and Charlene Bonham-Carter celebrate after successfully completing the Cat Walk Maze at the Picton Ultimate Road Rally's second challenge stage in Cherry Valley last Saturday. The wooden labyrinth was designed and built by Bev Humphrey, one of the core group of organizers and volunteers that made the rally a reality. See story, page 1.

Participants come out to Run for the Cure

By Giovanni Capriotti

A sunny and chilly Sunday in Toronto accompanied the annual Run For the Cure fundraiser organized by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Since the early hours of the morning, the field beside University of Toronto convocation hall was scattered with men, women and children wearing pink.

It was a morning dedicated to all the people who had to fight cancer. The survivors were celebrated; the ones who lost their battle remembered and most of all, research was hailed as a tool to have a breast cancer free world in the very near future.

Cinthyia Mulligan from CTV, and a

breast cancer survivor, was the presenter of the day.

"I am truly delighted by the massive participation of Torontonians in this event. As a winner over the disease, I feel lucky but at the same time, I need to express gratitude to the prevention, which is what the CBCF is promoting in its campaigns."

Since 1986, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has been at the forefront of a nationwide movement to raise awareness and mobilize action on breast cancer. According to the statistics, one in nine women in Canada are expected to develop the disease during their lifetimes (by the age of 90) and the five-year survival rate is roughly 88 per cent.

Singer Kathy Philips, who showed bald

at the last edition of the fundraiser, because of the chemotherapy she had to undergo to fight her cancer, raised \$20,000 through her Facebook page and was visibly happy for her victory over the disease, "Breast cancer does not discriminate," she said. "I was healthy and fit when I was diagnosed. Research and periodical screenings are the only weapons we have to fight. Keep donating please."

Prevention and systematic research of the causes are the pillars on which CBCF works on a daily basis. Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer diagnosis in women in Canada over the age of 20 and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Canadian women, after lung cancer.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne did not experience the disease herself, but had her partner affected by it.

"I am glad to see all this people here today. This is a great message to breast cancer. We will get rid of you," she stated while wearing her running outfit.

Breast cancer is a complex disease with no single cause. Scientific evidence shows that a combination of internal and external factors influences a person's risk of developing the pathology.

There are some risk factors for breast cancer that we can't change – these are known as non-modifiable risk factors. Inherited causes of breast cancer are an example of a non-modifiable risk factor. They are part of the genetic makeup we

received from our parents and do not change through life.

Modifiable risk factors for breast cancer are factors that can be changed. These are factors that we have more influence over and can affect us throughout our lives. They include our lifestyle and the environment we live in, for example, our level of physical activity, how much alcohol we drink, our use of hormone replacement therapy and our exposure to chemicals that are known to change cell DNA.

Awareness and co-operation in fighting the disease seem to be growing in Canada and across the 65 communities where the run has been held. This represents the challenge that an entire country has thrown at breast cancer.



Photos by Kayleen Preston

(Left) While explaining what the 'fox' transmitters were, Brian Williams noticed a fox beside him. The fox kept its distance, but was calm and curious. Williams could not contain his excitement as he went to grab his camera from his truck to capture a photo of the fox.

(Above) After about an hour and a half of searching, Williams found the unmanned transmitter. It was secretly hidden within the trees, and the antenna was wrapped around light coloured branches to make it more difficult to see. It was found in a small park by the Picton Airport.

Enthusiasts go on 'hunt' with transmitters

By Kayleen Preston

The cold and the rain didn't keep six of the members of the Quinte Amateur Radio Club (QARC) from participating in their fall Tour of the County 'Fox Hunt' Oct. 4.

The members had three hours to find two hidden radio transmitters ('foxes') that beamed a tone for approximately a minute, every three-four minutes. Both of the transmitters had a different tone to help decipher between the two.

In order to find the transmitters, the members used various types of directional antennas, which helped them determine the direction they should drive towards. They used different tools also to strengthen or weaken the signal. Depending on how close or far they were from the transmitter. This helped them determine how far the transmitter was from where they were receiving the signal.

The winner is not determined by who

found the 'foxes' the fastest, it is determined by who found the most in the least kilometres driven. Before the beginning of the hunt, all of the participants set their trip odometers to zero kilometres, and once they found a 'fox' they recorded the amount of kilometres driven. Each 'fox' has a different coloured pen to indicate that the member did find the transmitter.

The club hosts two "Tour's of the County" each year; one in the spring, and one in the fall. Generally the "Tour of the County" hunts have three hidden 'foxes' to find in three hours.

Brian Williams, the president of the QARC and has been a member since 2005.

"Now it would sound like three hours is a long of time to do that, but to tell you the truth, when there are three 'foxes' out there, most people still only find two," he elaborated

They also do small monthly hunts from spring to fall, which only have one or two

'foxes' to find in 90 minutes. The larger turn out of the members is during the "Tour of the County" hunts.

Williams, did not win the hunt on Saturday, but he feels he is the true winner, since he saw a real fox while looking for the transmitter by Picton's Airport. He chuckled at the coincidence of seeing a live fox while looking for the transmitter 'foxes'. "See that's why it's an entertaining experience, you never know what you're going to run into".

All of the members who participated found the unmanned 'fox' that was hidden close to the Picton Airport, but none were able to find the 'fox' that was manned by David Ward a member of the club. As Williams described it, the 'foxes' have "all kinds of places to hide" in the county, as long as they are not on private property or in an unsafe area, such as a busy road.

An unmanned 'fox' is solely a box transmitter with an antenna hidden in

trees or other places to make it difficult for the members to see it. While the manned 'fox' is usually a member sitting on the side of a quite side road transmitting from their vehicle.

After the hunt was over at 3:00pm, the participants regrouped in the Wellington Library basement. They shared their trials and tribulations from the hunt, as well as a few snacks and beverages. They also viewed a map using a projector. The map showed the paths that each member drove while on the hunt, as long as their vehicle sent off a beacon. This map displayed a live view of the members as they drove.

Although this weekend's festivities were all about friendly competition, this is also to help the group practice in the case of an illegal transmission. If this were to happen, the group would work together to find out where the signal was coming from in order to disable the broadcast. They are able to do this even if they all

had heard the transmission for only a few short moments. Granted, this is a very rare occurrence.

It is not a rare occurrence that the club helps with major events, such as the MS bike/walk and Halloween. Members of the group either set up a post or patrol around depending on the event. If there is an incident or accident, they report the location to the appropriate force so they can act appropriately and efficiently. For the member's safety they do not get involved in the situation, they only give the coordinates of the location.

Once a week the members meet for breakfast at the Quinte Restaurant. Williams explained that generally during these meetings they do not discuss amateur radio, but it is gratifying to interact with the other members. Monthly they meet at the Pioneer Building at Loyalist College for presentations from members of their group, or around Canada.



Photo by Annie Sakkab

Eleanor Hands is comforted by Doreen Guimont while talking about the murder of her 32-year-old daughter Nicole who was killed 13 years ago. Her daughter had three children: 13 months, three years and six years old.

Vigil raises awareness for missing women

Over 120 people gathered for ceremony to bring attention to issue

By Thomas Surian

Sisters in Spirit held their 6th annual vigil in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory this Saturday, to raise awareness for the overwhelming number of murdered and missing aboriginal woman across Canada.

According to the RCMP, a total of 1,181 aboriginal woman and girls have gone missing or been murdered between 1980

and 2012.

Over 120 supporters gathered at the Karonhyak'tatye sports complex on York Road Saturday afternoon, joining the 84 similar ceremonies that took place in communities across the country.

Betty Carr-Braint an Elder-in-residence at the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre at Queen's University, played a large part in organizing the ceremony.

"The vigil is to bring honor and respect to the missing and murdered aboriginal women, and to educate and bring awareness to the broader community about these tragedies," said Carr-Braint

The ceremony was originally set to

take place in a field but because of the pour weather conditions It was moved to a sheltered lacrosse box. The native women's association constructed a wall of 1,181 handmade felt dolls as a visual representation of each of the missing and murdered native woman. This acted as a backdrop for the speakers and performers.

Linda Lafort learned all too quickly the effects a murder can have on a family, when her step daughter was brutally murdered. She shared her story in the hope that her first-hand experience will help increase awareness surrounding the issue.

"I think the more that people get to

hear the real-life stories and what's going on, they are more than just statistics in a newspaper. I think the more it touches the hearts of the other people to say yeah, let's push the government to do something; to make changes," said Lafort.

"This in not just an aboriginal issue. It's a issue for all Canadians across Canada," said Carr-Braint.

During the time of the vigil a small protest also took place on Hwy 49 blocking Skyway Bridge, connecting Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory to Prince Edward County. The protesters were primarily men with a few women, while the vigil was primarily attended by women.

"Our vigil is here. we've been doing it for many years and we chose to do it in this way, and other people chose to do it in a different way," said Carr-Braint.

"We're actually very separate, but you know, everybody is trying to do their part to get the message out there," said Carr-Braint.

She stressed the importance of having men involved in these types of events, although the number of men is small, it is growing slowly, as awareness increases.

"I think it's really important for men to be engaged and have their voices heard just to say this is not ok," said Carr-Braint.

Bridge blockade brings attention to issue

By Andrew Johnson

Dark clouds crept in from Prince Edward County, threatening rain on an already cool and gloomy Saturday afternoon over a nearly vacant Skyway Bridge on Highway 49. With it came a biting wind and, almost instinctively, a large, burly man wearing shades and a forest leaf ball cap emblazoned with the words *Mohawk*, donning the apparently ubiquitous hunting camouflage, threw another log on the fire.

He was one of nearly a dozen or so people gathered around the flames burning on the shoulder on the north side of the bridge. They sat or wandered between the empty bridge and a gathering of Tyendinaga Police squad cars, whose drivers were idly directing traffic to the nearest detour. One female, the rest male, all proud Tyendinaga First Nation people, crept closer to the warmth, casually sipping from their Tim Horton's coffee cups, taking breaks to crack a joke or two, relief from the serious discussion going on seconds earlier.

That discussion, indeed the entire reason for their being there and for shutting down the bridge - much to the dismay of drivers trying to get home or otherwise - concerned their anger and frustration over the staggering number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. In May, 2014 the RCMP estimated that some 1, 181 indigenous women and girls were murdered or went missing since 1980, with Amnesty International estimating the numbers to be much higher due to gaps in police reporting. They also report that an Aboriginal woman in Canada is four-times more likely to be murdered than a non-Aboriginal. Violence against these women and girls is just as likely to come from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men, on reserves and in cities alike, in what they claim is nothing short of a "national human rights crisis".

While none of the members of this small yet divisive protest would give me their names, for fear of reprisal or incrimination from authorities, they all had plenty to say:

"Our women are sacred in our culture and in our communities, they are the birth-givers; but there are 1,200 families missing a loved one and we're here because we're trying to protect our women," said one man, his face hidden behind dark



Photo by Andrew Johnson

Protesters from the Tyendinaga First Nation, who requested to be indetified only as "The Mohawk Men," discuss their intentions with Ron Maracle, centre, chief of the Tyendinaga Police last Saturday. Nearly a dozen demonstrators closed down the Skyway Bridge on Highway 49 to protest against Stephen Harper's refusal to call a federal inquiry into the disproportionate number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. The Native Women's Association of Canada has organized vigils across Canada every Oct. 4th since 2011 to bring awareness to violence against Aboriginal women.

'Our women are sacred in our culture and in our communities, they are the birth-givers; but there are 1,200 families missing a loved one and we're here because we're trying to protect our women.'

Commented one protester

across Canada to draw attention to the issue.

Harper, for his part, has stuck to his byline that these matters should be considered a criminal issue, not a sociological phenomenon, and should be dealt with by law enforcement, not the government.

That's precisely what angers these protesters. To them, their missing and murdered women have seen very little justice done to them under the auspices of law enforcement. To classify these cases as simply criminal episodes is, to them, akin to saying they're "just another native" killed or missing. One of the female protesters told me:

"We need closure, we need healing, and we can't start the healing until we find out why this is happening to our girls."

As the sun began to set, the remaining Tyendinaga police officers conducted their third shift change of the day. One thing was certain from talking to the demonstrators: while their group was small, they made clear they were willing to go to lengths to have their voices heard. How far those lengths will stretch remains to be seen.

The fire began to die and I began to wonder: will Prime Minister Harper, or anyone after him, ever agree to shine a light on these missing and murdered women?

Fall in the air at downtown festival

By David Fransky

The Flavours of Fall Festival was very successful one this year in downtown Belleville.

There were many events at the festival and they were very informative for adults as well as for the children.

Everybody was entertained by a bluegrass band, as people went around to vendors, asking about what they were presenting and how they created their offerings.

It was also interesting to see how children responded to be able to go on wagon rides and inside a fire truck.

Lt. Glenn Lochhead of the Belleville Fire Department talked about his experience on the service, as well as his role at the event.

“As long as the festival has been here and the Belleville Fire Department has been there, the trucks have been here. I am here to volunteer my time to help promote the city of Belleville.” Glenn added the department was promoting what they do as career firefighters and displaying some of the tools of the trade, like the boots, coats and fire truck.

“I would like to see it continue,” said Lochhead of the fall festival. “I would like to see it bigger next year.”

The bluegrass band Wrought Iron Roots has been together for almost four years and this is their second year coming to the festival. Brandon Whaley is the band leader with his brother Travis and three friends, Richard Ellis, Lindsay Couch and Bruce Forsthye.

“I hope it keeps going because it is a really cool event,” said Whaley. He added that the group has only been coming the festival as a group and they all love the music that they play.

He plays the mandolin, Travis plays the guitar and the banjo, Lindsay is on the fiddle, Richard plays the drums while Bruce plays bass guitar. They play a lot of county songs.

Most of the group comes from Trenton with Lindsay from Stirling. They met on an ad from Kijiji. Lindsay, Chris and Richard were looking for bandmates and Brandon and Travis answered the ad. They found out that they lived three houses down. They met for a jazz session and found out that they sounded great together. They have been together ever since.

Two other musicians, Ron and Greg, played electric guitar and bass guitar. They played Johnny Cash songs like *Ring of Fire*.

“I have been coming to this event for 40 years and I love it,” Greg said.

Greg is also good at electronics and so is Ron. They helped tune the band Rock Iron Roots when they were playing songs and then they worked on an electronic tuner. The electronic tuner makes sure all the instruments and sound equipment are working correctly and are in sync with each other. They said it was fun for them to play for the people who were there.

Despite the gray cloudy sky, the festival was a great success for all that attended it.



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Prince Edward County resident Amelia McKinley is greeted by Pachi the mascot while visiting Belleville’s annual harvest festival, held last Saturday. Pachi is the mascot representing the 2015 Pan American games being held in Toronto.



(Above) During the Flavours of Fall festival Saturday, many of the dance schools around Belleville competed in a Chilean dance-off. Angela Maracle’s Dance Studio delighted onlooking festivalgoers with displays of speed and grace.

Photo by Andrzej Terrence

(Right) Brandon Whaley, his brother Travis, Richard Ellis, Lindsay Couch and Bruce Forsthye are playing bluegrass music on Front Street Saturday. Brandon is on the mandolin, Travis plays the guitar and the banjo, Lindsay is on the fiddle, Richard plays the drums while Bruce plays bass guitar.

Photo by David Fransky



Photo by Nino Liu

Pumpkin carving was a popular activity during the fall festival.



(Right) - Dylan Bennett, 10 months, wields a rubber mallet in the arts and crafts tent at the Flavours of Fall festival in downtown Belleville.

Photo by Gabrielle Smith