



By Andrej Ivanov

Fiery crash

“There were no injuries,” said fire prevention officer Kevin Duncan. “The cause of the fire was not determined because they burn so fast,” said Duncan. “There are lots of car fires on the 401,” he said.

Keeping safe behind the wheel

By Jonathan Ludlow

Tires sliding. Loss of control. Panic. Metal cracking. Glass breaking. Sirens blaring. Whenever you are in a vehicle, there is an inherent danger. Something we can take for granted without realizing,

is that when you step into a vehicle, suddenly you are wielding a thousand-pound weapon. You are now shouldering the responsibility for the safety of yourself and everyone around you. When you sit behind the wheel, you should have the confidence in yourself to know what you’re doing and know that you

can handle a situation thrown your way. When the snow falls, that confidence can quickly become fool-hardiness. The second that first snow falls, the conditions you drive in take a drastic turn, and you need to adapt. On the surface, it would seem to be common sense.

So why is that nearly every day in the winter, you hear there has been an accident. Someone lost control. Taken to the hospital for injuries. Passed away. Gary Magwood, a former professional race car driver and driving instructor, who lives in the Quinte area, believes a vast majority of accidents can be avoided

if people learn to “unlock their eyes.” He mentions that when we are confronted with a threat to our well-being, our natural instinct is to stare directly at the threat and keep our eyes locked on to it. And when our eyes are locked onto that threat, we subconsciously deviate towards it.See Safe, page 2

Running for leader too financially risky for MPP Todd Smith

By Cassie Gibbons

Prince Edward Hastings MPP Todd Smith is making waves in the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario’s leadership race. Despite strong early local support for his campaign, Smith announced recently that he would not be running for leadership of the Ontario PC party “at this time” in a Facebook post citing a number of reasons. Not the least of which is the steep \$125,000 entry fee. The fee is broken down into three sections, a \$75,000 flat fee, plus \$25,000 to access the party membership list, and a \$25,000 compliance deposit. “The potential risk financially was too much to take on at this time. It’s also an unprecedented timeline, I only had a week to gather the funds,” says Smith. The leadership race comes at a time of change for Smith and his family, with Smith’s daughter preparing to attend college next year. Although the fee was not the only reason Smith opted to forgo the election, he feels it presents a significant roadblock to other members who wish to run. “I feel the fees unfortunately excluded some of the Progressive Conservative party’s most experienced caucus members,” says Smith. Despite rescinding his interest in party leadership, Smith, a resident of the Quinte area for over 20 years and a Loyalist College graduate, says he remains dedicated to his constituency. “I’m still the MPP for Prince Edward Hastings, that hasn’t changed,” says Smith. Although not seeking leadership himself, Smith doesn’t plan on sitting idly by during this election, choosing instead to support his colleague

‘I feel the fees unfortunately excluded some of the Progressive Conservative party’s most experienced caucus members.’

MPP Todd Smith

and leadership candidate, Christine Elliott. Elliott announced her candidacy by tweeting “I’m in!” on Feb 1, 2018. Elliott would resign her position as Ontario’s first ever Patient Ombudsmen that same day. Elliott, former MPP for Whitby Oshawa, is no stranger to leadership races, having run twice before in both the 2009 and 2015, although unsuccessfully. “I plan on throwing my support behind Christine Elliott. I’ll be working with her as her campaign co-chair,” exclaims Smith. Smith officially announced his campaign co-chair position in a tweet on Tuesday afternoon, stating Elliott is “ready to be Premier on day one.” This is not the first time Smith has supported one of Elliott’s campaigns, having supported her throughout her 2015 bid for leadership. Elliott would eventually lose that campaign to Patrick Brown, now the former leader of the Ontario PC party. With Caroline Mulroney, daughter of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Doug Ford, former Toronto city councillor and brother of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford, also announcing their candidacies for PC leadership, it is likely Elliott and Smith have their work cut out for them.



Photo by Abigail Paquin

Proud to call Canada home

Claudia Goncalves has lived in Canada for a year and a half and is originally from New York City. “I think the biggest change for me was almost a change in attitude, a change in my day to day so it’s really not a cliché (about nice Canadians). It really is a kinder, more generous personality. That was it means to me, to be Canadian,” she said.



Photo by Jonathan Ludlow

Winter driving can be a dizzying, terrifying experience, especially for those new to the experience.

Safe...

Continued from Page 1

“If you and I were in a conflict, I’m not going to take my eyes off you. But in a vehicle, you cannot stare at the threat. It’s counter-intuitive to what we normally do, but it is a learned response that you almost have to experience,” Magwood explains.

“If you stare at it, you’ll steer at it,” says Magwood. “If your eyes are locked, your brakes are locked.”

In 1988, after being approached by the Labatt Brewing Company, Magwood began working with the Labatt

Road Scholarship.

“The idea was, to go on campus and present in an auditorium. We would present for about 45 minutes -- what you can do when everything unravels.

“We would then pick a hundred students and over the weekend, we would have a skid school on campus. We’d take a parking lot and slick it down, and do four sessions a weekend.

“The students did all the driving. There would be all kinds of braking exercise with pylons and they’d have to brake and steer around all that kind of stuff.”

Loyalist College’s own Claude Garipey, a professor in the film and TV production program, recalls being

involved with the program in July of 1990, in Blainville, Que.

“It was the Labatt scholarship. It was a course, I guess you would call it, or an event that was taken from city to city...to promote proper driving techniques.

“I was the director of photography on it. I was deciding the shots and all that with the director.”

After participating in the program, the following year, Magwood was contacted again to take the Labatt Road Scholarship nationwide, coast to coast.

“I think in that time, in the following seven years, I was on something like 72 college and university cam-

puses. I think I talked to about 35,000 kids in lecture halls, and probably about 15,000 kids went through the driving program,” explains Magwood.

Doing the Labatt Road Scholarship, Magwood came to realize that to get his message out was not impossible, even if the students were complete and total beginners to driving.

“If we could teach every driver in this country how to look where they want to go in a crisis or emergency, I guarantee we would have fewer crashes.”

Unfortunately, Magwood believes that current licencing has lagged behind the technology of the times and the traffic density and the current

system to him seems inadequate, and although things have changed, provincial government planners are still a bit behind the times.

“It doesn’t address the core reasons why we crash cars. Just because you’re proficient at parallel parking, isn’t going to bail you out of a crisis.”

In the years since Magwood instructed, the population has grown, there are more cars on the road and the technology in them has advanced.

“You and I, with our right foot and our left foot -- and with ‘these’ [he says, pointing to his eyes] -- we still have the best response. I don’t care how much technology they put in a car.”

Fostering a passion for animal lover

**Story, photos
by Hayden Morgan**

Few are willing to go above and beyond in the name of animal care, but not Kaydee Allen. While being full-time at the Quinte Humane Society and working towards being a veterinary tech, Allen has numerous foster cats at home on top of having a few of her own. Twenty to be exact.

Their names are Syd, Leo, Lincoln, Brandy, Jake, Little Girl, Auggie, Miley, Fred, Rufus, Beau and Lucky. Allen also has multiple unnamed cats that are new-comers to her ‘foster room’ at home. Their ages range from eight months to two years.

“I always loved animals growing up. I used to take in feral cats when I was younger and my parents would get mad at me. When I got to high school my friend suggested I take a co-op course and work at the Quinte Humane Society. I’ve been there ever since,” Allen described on her animal care path.

Allen is currently in the process of upgrading some of her school courses to become a veterinary technician, at which time she will have to move to Ottawa.

Over the past six months, Allen has fostered over 50 cats at her home in Belleville, with an average of one to two cats finding forever homes every week. Some of the cats however are not in the best condition and need to be rehabilitated, said Allen. Some of their ailments

could be anything from a feline cold to missing ears and broken limbs.

“When people come in to the humane society to adopt a cat, I actually suggest to come to my place and check out the cats there. It’s really a partnership sometimes. If there’s no room at the centre, I take in what I can, especially injured cats that need recovery.” Allen does anything she can to help the cats, even taking in strays that come to her door, or the rare time when someone drops one off.

Most animal shelters have an in-house vet to take care of all the animal’s health needs. Unfortunately for the local humane society, there is simply no room or budget for a veterinarian on site. But things have started looking up for Belleville’s overcrowded and overworked animal shelter.

In 2015, a well-known advocate of animal care died and left the QHS \$1 million dollars. Coupled with other funding, property has been purchased on Wallbridge-Loyalist Road in order to build a new centre better equipped to handle the volume of animals that require care in the Quinte region.

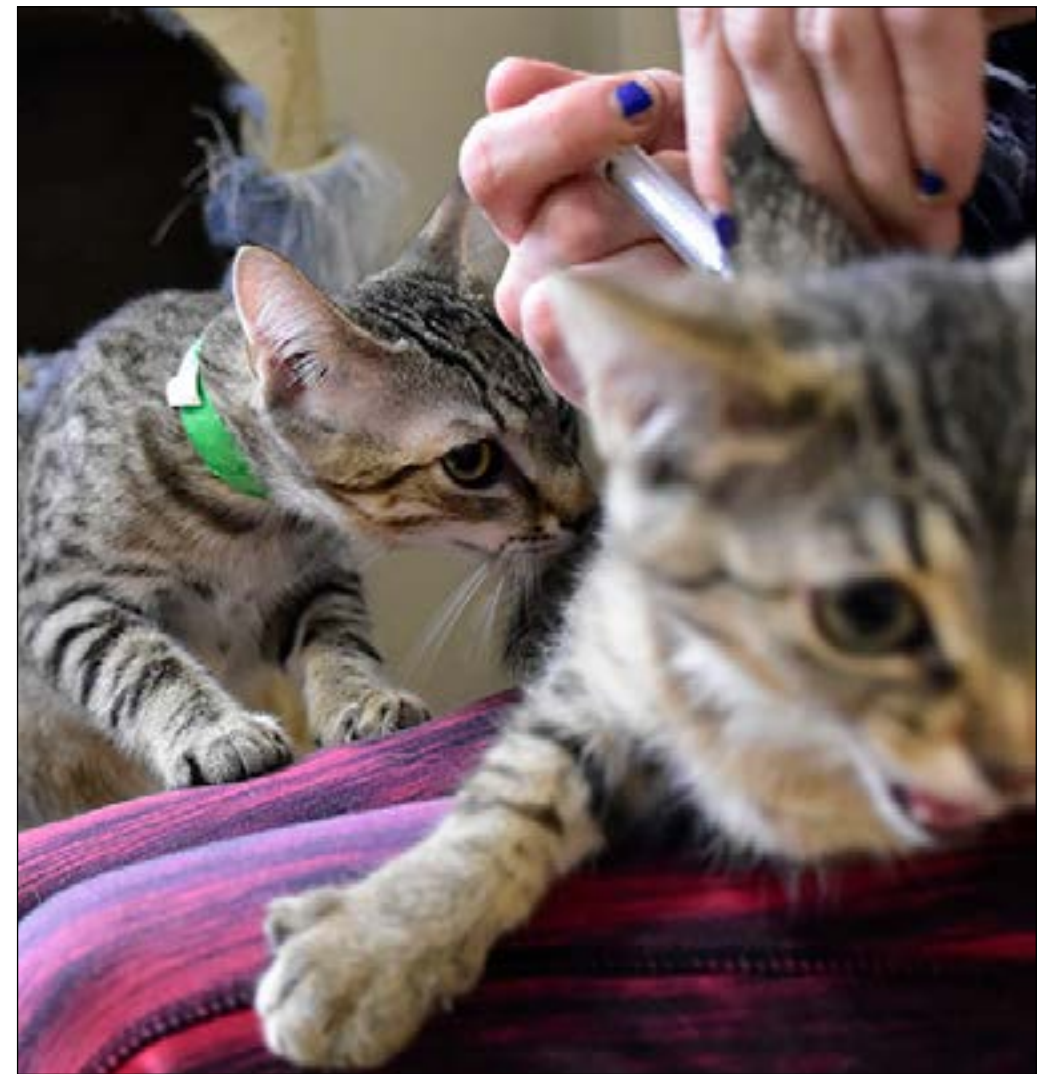
If everything goes according to plan, Allen hopes the new centre will be built by the time she returns from Ottawa after completing her vet-tech training.

In the meantime, Allen says she will continue to work hard to find forever homes for as many cats as possible, in hopes that someone else will take up the call, as she has.



(Above) Kaydee Allen, 23, made a room for foster cats in her apartment. Allen has been caring for overflow cats for the Quinte Humane Society for over a year now.

(Left) Allen’s provides all the necessities to safely house the felines provided free by Quinte Humane Society.



The Pioneer

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The Pioneer is 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.

The Pioneer welcomes your letters and comments. Please send material to the editor at the address below before Wednesday. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

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Photo by Wyatt Brooks

Progressive Conservative party candidate Caroline Mulroney meets with supporters at the Greater Napanee Fire Station on Friday. 95-year-old Marion Balance expresses her support for Mulroney and her organization.

Caroline Mulroney stops in Napanee

By Wyatt Brooks

Napanee residents gathered Friday to listen and talk to Caroline Mulroney, a leadership candidate who could potentially be the next premier of Ontario.

Mulroney stopped at the Greater Napanee Fire Services Station on a snowy evening to talk community, the cost of living in Ontario and the provincial Liberal government.

After former Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown's resignation, Mulroney put her name forward to run for the leadership with less than two months until the election of a new party

leader. What would approximately be a 12-month election for a party leader now must be decided by March 10, giving the elected candidate just three months to prepare for the provincial election on June 7.

"I put my name forward to be leader because we have a provincial election coming up," Mulroney said. "The party needs to decide who they think is best to lead them in defeating Kathleen Wynne and win the election for the PC party. I believe I am that person."

Mulroney went on to discuss her experience in the private sector being a lawyer and a businesswoman, starting

from a charity organization she runs called The Shoebox Project, which delivers gifts to women in homeless shelters.

After facing criticism for being new to the party and new to politics, Mulroney said that being fresh is beneficial to the party, and it's something the province needs.

"I come to this with no baggage, just the desire to work hard. And I know I can lead the party. We need something completely new. Fifteen years of Liberal government, of fiscal mismanagement, waste, scandal and of unaffordability have to end. And I know Ontarians want to see something new and something

different."

Mulroney criticised the price of living in Ontario and how families and business owners are unable to survive with rising prices in the province. She said she plans to change that as party leader.

"We want to work hard to get Ontario back on track," she said. "We need to do this. Ontarians can't afford to live in the province they love anymore. Government is getting in the way and making life harder for families, small business owners, even big business owners and for people across this province. So Daryl (Kramp) and I are in the same

boat. We want to work together to get Ontario back on track."

Mulroney runs with the full support of former Prince Edward-Hastings MP Daryl Kramp, who came out to show and discuss his backing of Mulroney and will serve as the candidate for the PC party in the Hastings-Lennox Addington riding for the general election.

"I've got to know this lady a little bit, and I am impressed. She's a very bright and capable lady who's made an unbelievable contribution. There's no doubt we have to make a change in this province," Kramp said. "I have a great deal of confidence in Caroline Mulroney."

Science involved in making a good brew

Loyalist teams up with Quinte Craft Association for beer testing

By Makayla Jaring

Have you ever wondered how much science goes into making the perfectly brewed beer?

Loyalist College's Bio tech lab and the Bay of Quinte Craft Association teamed up to allow locally sourced breweries to come and test out their beers. About eight regional breweries attended the event and participants were all very eager to get their beers into the lab to be tested. Anton Paar is the company that supplied the lab with the proper measuring equipment they needed to test the Co2, alcohol percentage, sugar content, as well as how much oxygen was in these brewers' beer. "This workshop is very significant because it gives us the opportunity to work with craft brewers in our region," says Kari Kramp, bioscience professor and director of the event. "We are to show them how we are able to support the advancement of their product and to help them maintain their high-quality products." Once it came time for the brewers to test their beers, they had to shake them so that the oxygen trapped at the top of the can or bottle would be distributed evenly throughout the drink.

Once the beer is well-shaken, it is placed into an air-tight chamber and a small hole is punctured in the top. Canned beers were flipped upside down to give the lab engineers an even surface to puncture a hole into.

A metal tube is then lowered down into the drink to suck up part of the sample. It then goes through tubes and filters to test and break

'It is very important from a brewery prospective to do in-line testing because it gives the most accurate reading.'
Bioscience professor Kari Kramp

down the beers elements. The whole process takes about 90 seconds. All the brewers were fascinated on how the machines worked and were excited to see if their standard testing equipment has been giving them accurate readings or not.

After the group had all tested out their beers, they headed to Signal Brewery in Corbyville, just north of Belleville.

"We've had a lot of fun with Signal. They've been great in being part of our set up," Kramp states. The Loyalist bio tech team was able to bring their portable testers to do in-line testing. In-line testing is when the machine is connected directly to the brewers' tanks and the beer is taken directly from the line.

"It is very important from a brewery prospective to do in-line testing because it gives the most accurate reading," Kramp adds. The portable testing kit includes a handheld alcohol and Co2 reader, a monitor that reads off and shows how the beer is broken down, and an air-tight chamber that can test the brewers' bottles and cans. The monitor can be connected to the tank and makes it possible to do in-line testing. The brewers were laughing and enjoying themselves as the workshop went on, trading information and tips and how they have mastered their brews.



Photo by Makayla Jaring

(From left) Martin Haas, service engineer for Anton Paar explains how the portable testing equipment works at the Signal brewery. Ryan Kreutzwiser, owner of Lake on the Mountain Brewery, tests out the handheld alcohol and Co2 tester.



Photo by Abigail Paquin

The Film and TV Production students at Loyalist College produced films that will be screened at Alumni Hall on Feb. 28. From left, Sean Williamson, Sara Philips and Cameron Frenken are one of the teams with entries.

Loyalist ready to screen at DocFest

By Abigail Paquin

Loyalist College film and TV production students are getting ready to screen their films to start off the annual Belleville Downtown DocFest. On Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., there will be a free public screening of films produced by students in the FTVP program in Alumni Hall at Loyalist. In teams of four, FTVP students have created four-minute documentaries on topics of local interest. There will be eight to 10 documentaries out of 32 that are picked by faculty members to show.

“They cover a variety of topics,” Paul Papadopoulos, FTVP professor, said. They include stories about artists in the Quinte region, a student who loves building and racing cars but who suffered a life-changing accident, a professor in the culinary program who is pursuing a World Jujitsu Championship, despite suffering a severe concussion, and many more topics. “The two our group are doing is ‘Carving Forward’ about a wood carver and ‘Hard Pressed,’ about a small apple cider company in Picton,” said Sara Phillips, a second-year student in the

FTVP program. “They will be screened at Alumni Hall and judged there and possibly entered into DocFest if the director decides so.” Phillips has been working in a group of three with Sean Williamson and Cameron Frenken. A panel of judges will individually critique the films and choose the top four films to be screened at the DocFest from March 2 to 4. “I’m nervous but excited,” Phillips said. “I’m looking forward to hearing what other people think of what we created and hearing how I can improve

in the future.” She said it will be especially hard when the documentaries are screened in front of so many incredible judges and other students in the program who know what they’re doing. “I would say that almost all of the students are very excited and nervous about producing quality work that will be screened,” Papadopoulos said. DocFest, which is now going into its seventh year, is a weekend community-oriented documentary festival that focus on issues to promote cultural, economic, and environmental awareness.

This year, a total of 61 films will be shown, the highest number yet. All the early bird tickets have been sold in January and the regular passes are going quickly. The documentaries will be presented at The Empire Theatre, Belleville Theatre Guild, the CORE centre, the Belleville Public library and the Bridge Street United Church. This year, there are 17 films created by local filmmakers, including the ones from the FTVP program. It’s a good way for students to interact with the community and show off their work.

The last family jeweller standing

By Makayla Jaring

After being open since 1955, John O’Connor is finally closing up his jewelry store and is going to start crossing things off his bucket list. O’Connor’s Jewellers was first opened by Gerry, John O’Connor’s father. O’Connor took over full ownership of the store in 1999 when his father passed away. Being the third oldest shop in Belleville O’Connor has watched Front Street in Belleville go through some major changes. “There used to be six family-owned jewelry stores located in Belleville, and now we are the last one standing,” O’Connor says. Outside of being a jeweler, O’Connor very much enjoys collecting gems, rocks and minerals. Some of his favourites are displayed around his store. “I have been collecting gems, rocks and minerals for around 40 years,” O’Connor states. Although they are not for sale at this time, a selected bunch will be going up for sale once it comes closer to his closing date. “I wish I could keep all of them, but there is just not enough room in my apartment, so I’ll have to let some of them go and have other people enjoy them,” O’Connor adds. When you walk into the shop you are greeted by a welcoming smile and O’Connors joke of the day. “I always try and have a different joke every day. Sometimes I even have to make them up,” O’Connor says as he laughs at one of his jokes. “I have some customers that don’t come into buy anything, just to hear the joke of the day.” You can tell that O’Connor cares very deeply about what he does for work because of the amount of knowledge he can share with you from just a short visit from his shop. He has one piece of jewelry that is his favorite. It is a necklace made from sterling silver and a moon-rock. He received the rock from a friend and thought it would look nice as a piece of jewelry. Once the store comes closer to its closing date, a few days after Christmas 2018, O’Connor wants to work on checking things off his bucket list. “The first thing I want to do is go to the Smithsonian. I want to see the Hope Diamond, Archie Bunker’s chair, Fonzie’s jacket, the Spirit of St. Louis, the Apollo space capsule, and a lot more things,” O’Connor mentions. “But before I do all of that, I want to take a five year nap.” Even though O’Connor is ready to close up shop and start a new chapter in his life, once it comes time to close those doors for good it will be a bitter sweet ending. It will be the end of the last family owned jewelry store on Front Street. For a video link to the story, click here: <https://vimeo.com/255806228>



By Makayla Jaring

John O’Connor shows off his favorite piece of jewelry. The necklace is a brown moonstone given to him by a friend. He thought the stone so beautiful, he wanted to turn it into a necklace. The chain and the plaque are made from sterling silver.

Support for hospice

By Jonathan Ludlow

Bad weather put a damper on the roads but it wasn’t enough to dampen the night at Belleville’s Masonic Lodge. Belleville’s Masonic Lodge played host to the very first The Heart of Hastings Hospice Valentines Fundraiser Dance and Vendor Show on Saturday. The Heart of Hastings Hospice is a volunteer support service dedicated to improving the quality of life for those with life-limiting illnesses. “We provide patients and their families with supportive, compassionate care within their own homes, in nursing or retirement homes, and at our Residential Hospice located in Madoc. We serve the Municipalities of Centre Hastings, Marmora and Lake, Tweed, Tudor and Cashel and the Townships of Madoc and Stirling-Rawdon.” Taken directly from The Heart of Hastings Hospice website. Deciding on supporting the hospice was the culmination of a few reasons, according to Diane Wood of MGCreations, who hosted the evening. MGCreations is a small business selling homemade jewelry, décor and graphic design products. Originally Mistress Gothica Creations, Wood says the name was shortened to MGCreations when she joined with her current business partner. “My business partner is a personal support worker who has worked with the Hospice and was impressed with both the staff and programs and services the offer,” says Wood. “My own reasons were personal,” says Wood. “Many people I know have had family members helped by THOHH and recently, so was my mother.” “With a name like The Heart of Hastings Hospice, Valentine’s Day seemed to be the logical choice for the event.” A silent auction and mystery bag sale also contributed to the event with all proceeds raised going towards The Heart of Hastings Hospice. “The silent auction went over well,” says Wood. “We also like the mystery bag idea as the unsold bags are given to the hospice to continue to sell.” “We are of course disappointed with a low turnout for the event. The weather definitely did not help our cause any. We are agreed that we will try again next year.” Wood stated that they would like to make the fundraiser an annual event.



Stefan Marie, left, and Sean Sullivan, rebuild a house that was destroyed by Hurricane Irma in the South Reward neighbourhood of Sint Maarten. The hurricane made landfall in Sint Maarten early morning Sept. 6 and was the strongest recorded storm in the Atlantic, sustaining windspeeds of close to 300 km/h. The French government estimated that 95 percent of the island sustained severe structural damage.



Local NGO K1 Britannia distributes food from a storage locker in Phillipsburg.



Debris collected from the hurricane burns at the dump in the centre of the city.



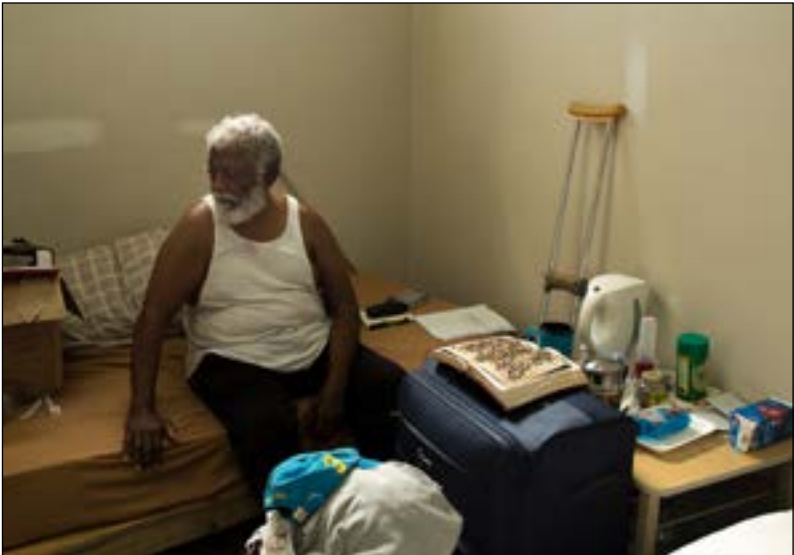
A man walks out from the piles of hurricane debris on the makeshift dump on Pond Island. People rebuilding their homes have been scavenging useful debris to use as building material. This post-Irma section of the dump neighbours the Little League Stadium and was piled on a section of the sports complex slated to be soccer fields before the hurricane. When the dutch first landed the pond was used to produce salt and was the bedrock of Sint Maarten's economy. As the garbage piles in the centre of Sint Maarten it often catches fire and has increasingly become an eye sore for locals.



Keno Clarke walks through whats left of his living room in Dutch Quarter.



Beatrice George and her son AJ slept in a car for three days after Irma hit.



Franklin Nichols in his locker room shelter at the Little League Stadium.



A home being rebuilt in Simpson Bay is seen with a luxury yacht.

Rebuilding Paradise

Photos and words by Andrew Ryan

On the evening of Sept. 5, 2017 as skies darkened and winds began to gently bend Dutch Sint Maarten's picturesque palm trees, Keno Clarke and his family left their meagre tin-roofed shack with what they could carry, and walked five miles to the safety of an aunt who lived encased in concrete.

"We couldn't walk with nothing heavy because it was so sudden," said Clarke who added that his neighbours' nonchalant attitude anticipating Hurricane Irma spelled disaster from the get-go. Clarke, his wife, and two kids packed their clothes into a barrel but left the fridge, beds, and furniture behind.

Irma, the strongest storm ever recorded in the Atlantic with wind speeds at the eye wall sustaining 298 km/h for over 30 hours, reached the 87 square kilometre island at 5 a.m.

The French government reported that 95 per cent of the island saw severe structural damage and an official death toll of six, though the number of missing people remains much higher, and the Dutch interior minister called the destruction in Sint Maarten "enormous".

Nine hours before Irma made landfall, Clarke said the noises from wind and debris were so terrifying that he was convinced that their home in Dutch Quarter, a historically low-income neighbourhood, would be gone when they returned.

The family of four didn't anticipate that Irma would shatter wind speed records and leave the idyllic nation of 33,000 completely devastated.

While Beatrice George was waiting for the five a.m. morning radio update her power abruptly cut out. She was with her two sons in the upper floor of a duplex constructed above a concrete roof. As the record breaking winds approached, George said she watched sliding glass doors swell into her living room before exploding back out of the home.

"Everything is gone—My upstairs unit is gone. So I lost my home," she said. "I had to throw everything in the garbage."

In the three days following the hurricane, while the island descended into looting and theft, George and her three-year-old son, AJ, slept in their Jeep outside of their home.

George is now at the temporary shelter for families displaced by Irma located in

the island's carnival fairgrounds, which currently holds 63 people. A small catch in the public safety net of the nearly 2,000 people who were left homeless after the storm.

Next door, Franklin Nichols stays in the makeshift shelter for those alone and displaced by Irma, among many of the country's elderly.

"In February, I'll be 67—I'm in a shelter. I've never been in a shelter before. I feel very terrible about this situation that's taking place right now," he said. His previous home survived five other hurricanes but now, Nichols shares a cramped locker-room with another elderly and disabled man in the Little League Stadium on Pond Island—directly adjacent to the dump filled with the fruits of Irma's destruction.

"Irma was devious compared to Luis [in 1995]. All hell broke loose on the face of the earth," Nichols continued.

As the country struggles to reestablish its tourism industry as the "Rolls-Royce" of the Caribbean, many on the island have now been left with no work. The day after, Irma Keno Clarke came back to his neighbourhood and said the scene was terrifying.

"We were walking by the trees—a lot of trees were in the road and the electrical poles. Then we see our house," he pauses. "The roof was gone. There were kids; there were people, everybody was screaming. Everybody was crying."

Now Clarke, spends all of his spare time footing the bill to reconstruct his rented home with his own hands. He continues to pay rent to his landlord while working for half of his regular wage and sleeps in an improvised bed in what used to be his bathroom. Clarke says he's been forced to stay in his half built house, without his family to discourage thieves from stealing what belongings remain in the home.

Now nearly six months after Irma made landfall, optimism is high. Most residents are scrambling to upgrade tin-roofs into resistant concrete ones, as 2018's hurricane season approaches. A small number of cruise ships continue to dock daily bringing tourists to the boardwalk feeding the duty-free high-end designer shops, jewelry stores, and bars along the main strip of Phillipsburg. As Carnival and Jouvert approaches, the island families in the shelter will be moved to a different location by Feb. 28th.



A parishoner of the Dutch Quarter Pentecostal Church, Eglise Sur Le Rocher, worships during a Sunday morning service in the historically low-income neighbourhood. The area is a mix of different immigrants from around the Caribbean and the island has a strong Christian base resulting in a variety of churches across Sint Maarten.

“We were walking by the trees—a lot of trees were in the road and the les. Then we see our house,” he pauses. “The roof was gone. There were kids; there were people, everybody was screaming. Everybody was crying.”
- Keno Clarke