



Photo by Frank Moses

End of an era

Loyalist maintenance personnel haul away the last smoking shelter on the Loyalist College campus Tuesday. Ontario colleges and universities enacted a sweeping ban on all smoking and vaping on Jan 1, 2019. Health Canada claims that each day, 100 Canadians die of a smoking-related illness.

Cannabis in the County

By Matthew Botha

The municipality of Prince Edward County is leaning towards opting in to allow a retail cannabis storefront in the community.

A meeting with the committee of the whole of county council was held at the Prince Edward Community Centre on Jan. 9. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the committee's stance on how they will deal with the upcoming vote on Jan. 22, to decide whether or not they want to opt in to have cannabis stores within their jurisdiction. There were a range of opinions and views expressed about the issue at the meeting.

The stores will be regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and will have strict guidelines about their proximity to school buildings, times of operation and products sold. Some

people say they believe the government is moving too fast and forcing municipalities to make decisions without enough information. With cannabis just recently becoming legalized, there are no examples of successful and safe storefronts for municipalities to look at before making their decision.

"Nobody in Canada has had any experience at all with legal, on-street retail of cannabis," said Richard Jones, a professional engineer and lawyer, during a presentation to the members of council committee.

"There is some daydream of pools of money that are going to flow. The issue that is before you as a council is whether or not you wish to be a willing host and make that election permanently before Jan. 22, before you have any knowledge of how on-street retailing of cannabis will work in Ontario."

Kids can, and always have been able to purchase cannabis anywhere. I'd rather we have a storefront where we know where its coming from. Take the power away from the bad guys."

Harley Branscome

Jones also pointed out that, in his view, once the decision to opt in is made, the provincial government will take over, leaving the municipality with little say as to how it will be regulated.

For others, the idea of having a storefront so members of the community can safely purchase marijuana without worrying about where it comes from just makes sense.

Harley Branscome, a retired Toronto stock trader, said it's a way to cut down the black-market trade.

"I've been smoking cannabis since I was 16," said Branscome. "Kids can, and always have been able to purchase cannabis anywhere. I'd rather we have a storefront where we know where it's coming from. Take the power away from the bad guys."

Branscome isn't alone in his stance. According to polls done by the county, 63 per cent of its residents support tightly regulated storefronts.

The Canadian government has also set aside \$30 million to assist municipalities with the transition to legal cannabis.

Once the decision to opt in is made, the County would receive an initial payment of \$34,750, with secondary payments being made of a minimum of \$5,000. Some entrepreneurs say this influx of cash is a way the community can capitalize on the legalization, offering new opportunities to bring in people to the county.

"I come from a background in marketing and I think this is an incredible business opportunity," says Lindsey Cepek, a promoter of Cannabis LP. "I think it's an awesome chance for the County to get involved in something that is so timely and is going to impact the community regardless."

With the general decision already having been made to opt in, the vote on Jan. 22 will seal the County's stance on how they will proceed with this new endeavour.

Kingston rally supports pipeline protest

By Shelby Lisk

Over 100 individuals gathered at the Confederation Basin Marina in Kingston Saturday to show their solidarity with the Unist'ot'en camp and the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in British Columbia.

A remote road in northern B.C. is the site of the Unist'ot'en resistance camp at Talbits Kwah (Gosnell Creek) and Wedzin Kwah (Morice River) to block employees of the Coastal GasLink, a subsidiary of TransCanada Corp., from accessing the worksites to start construction on the TransCanada Coastal GasLink pipeline.

The Wet'suwet'en were given 72 hours to remove physical barriers to allow contractors and employees access. A second blockade, called Gidim'ten access point, was set up further along the road.

Tensions mounted on Jan. 8 when the RCMP entered the Gidim'ten camp and arrested 14 people for allegedly failing to follow the court injunction to remove the blockade.

TransCanada Corp. says it has signed agreements with the elected councils of all 20 First Nations along the pipeline route, however, hereditary chiefs have not given permission for the pipeline construction to begin.

Following the heat of the conflict, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with the Assembly of First Nations on Jan. 14 to speak about his commitment to reconciliation in Canada.

"Canada cannot move forward if Indigenous peoples continue to be held back. Together with Indigenous partners, the government of Canada is working hard to move the dial on reconciliation, and today's meeting with the AFN was an important step. By having open conversations and taking concrete action, we can make real and lasting change for Indigenous peoples and all Canadians," said



Photo by Shelby Lisk

Shappire Nightwind stands with demonstrators at the defend Unist'ot'en gathering in Confederation basin in Kingston on Saturday afternoon. The Wet'suwet'en First Nation in B.C. have been blocking their land from the construction of the TransCanada Coastal GasLink pipeline.

Trudeau in a statement.

Protests in solidarity with Unist'ot'en have erupted across the country including two rolling blockades on Ontario's Hwy. 401 and Hwy. 402 on Friday.

"We have to become and stay strong in support of the front line at Unist'ot'en,"

said Robert Lovelace as he opened the demonstration in Kingston. "Unist'ot'en is the front line. Not just of jurisdictional questions, which are really important in terms of justice in this country, but also because Unist'ot'en represents a place where people have come together and said

"We don't need another pipeline. We don't need another pipeline because we already have what we need. In fact, we probably have a lot more than what we need."

Following his words, the group of supporters marched the streets of downtown Kingston, shutting down intersections to

hear from passionate speakers about the situation. Pamphlets were circulated to pedestrians as the organizers stopped to chat and inform people about the conflict in BC.

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There will always be the kids who love skating and the ones who don't. One participant wanted nothing to do with the event. He sat in the middle of the ice and didn't budge. "I love working with kids of all ages. Each age has such great aspects and challenges and they always make it fun at the rink," said coach Lindsay Newbery.

Learning to skate at pre-CanSkate

**Story and Photos
by Desirée Decoste**

An influential learn-to-skate program that centres on fun, support and basic skill development was hosted by the Trenton Figure Skating Club last Saturday.

The event, at the Duncan Memorial Community Gardens Arena, was one of the pre-CanSkate that the figure skating club hosts.

Based on Sport Canada's long-term athlete development principles, CanSkate focuses on physical literacy and the necessary skills needed to take part in any ice sport or to skate as a recreational activity. It is a program that is for beginner skaters from children to adults. There are also options if you wish to just improve your basic skills, whether that be for figure skating, hockey or just skating for fun.

Trenton Figure Skating Club has been around since 1957, 62 years, and has been a member of Skate Canada Eastern Ontario just as long. This is the first year that they have had a synchro team. The Bay of Quinte synchro team hold their practices before the CanSkate event and when they are done practising, some of the members stay and assist with the CanSkate.

There are 90 participants in CanSkate and they have a star program which has 34. It's run by National Coaching Certi-

fication Program, with trained professional coaches and assisted by trained program assistants.

Some of the things you learn in the program are a complete series of balance, control and agility skills taught in six stages of learning that pertain to hockey, ringette, speed skating and figure skating as well as general recreational skating. CanSkate uses nationally-tested and proven curriculum and delivery methods that guarantee skater success in developing stronger basic skills and developing them faster, according to the Trenton Figure Skating Club website.

If you're interested in joining the program, some of the things you can expect are action, movement and fun. Lessons are given in a group format with a coach-to-student ratio of a maximum 1:10.

Skaters progress at their own rate and coaches make sessions active using teaching aids, upbeat music and a wide variety of activities that create a motivational environment and promote learning. Badges, ribbons and other incentives are used to benchmark skaters' progress and reward effort and participation, according to the figure skating club's website.

Participants need to have skates, a CSA approved hockey helmet, warm clothes and be ready to learn and have fun.



(Above) Juliette Dorland is one of the participants in the pre-CanSkate event. Learning to move while skating is one of many things you learn when you join the pre-CanSkate.



(Left) Lindsay Newbery is a coach for both the Bay of Quinte synchro team and the pre-CanSkate and CanSkate events. CanSkate is for anyone and everyone who wants to learn or upgrade their skating skills.

Protest...

Continued from Page 1

The pamphlet holds a message from the Unist'ot'en camp: "There can be no question now that this is an issue of Wet'suwet'en rights and title. We have demonstrated that this fight is about more than a pipeline: it is about the right

of Indigenous peoples around the world to exercise free, prior and informed consent".

Krista Flute, one of the organizers, stood in the intersections of Princess and King streets to deliver her message.

"This is about consent. Consent of our nations, people and traditional governments, consent of our land, consent of our bodies. Canada does not have our consent. Legally and morally we must stop Canada. We do not need Canada's consent to stop and get rid of their invasions," said Flute as the traffic backed up along the busy road.

The group returned to Confederation Basin to end the demonstration with a travelling song.

The Pioneer


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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.

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 Matthew Syriac Elzas

Hunter Yarrow is the assistant and helper to Rob Kirk, owner of Tyrannosaurus Pets and manager of the Belleville store. Yarrow is a student and works part-time at the store. Here, he refills a female rat’s water bowl.

Pet stores become a family affair

By Matthew Syriac Elias

Tyrannosaurus Pets is a home first, then a pet store.

Rob Kirk owns the Tyrannosaurus Pets name and he runs the Belleville branch of the store on his own. His wife, Crystal Kirk, runs the slightly bigger Trenton store which also offers grooming services. With an ardent passion for animals and properly taking care of them, the Kirks have been running the stores for over two years.

Kirk insists the store is more than an ordinary pet store, and offers exotic pet

food, products and various awareness programs. Along with the sales part of the store, he also shows a humane side to his beloved animals. One of those animals is Slimer, a black and white Tegu lizard.

“Slimer was dropped off at the store. He was seriously malnourished; you can see ribs and bones protruding. Nobody wanted to go anywhere near him. “We worked with him for around seven months to get him into a healthy state, and probably three more months to make him friendly. He tried to bite everyone, and escape from every enclosure,

all the time,” says Kirk.

Thanks to Kirk’s attention and care, Slimer is now healthy, friendly and has found a home at Tyrannosaurus Pets. Slimer is not for sale and is a special attraction of the “Wild Zoo” party events the Kirks organize for kids, and elderly care homes.

Almost all of the pets in the store are captive bred in Canada, with very few exceptions. Kirk tries to make sure that his exotic pets are non-venomous and could never pose even the smallest of dangers to people. He tries to impart knowledge about animals and

proper care of them that he has gained throughout the years, so that people can get better understanding of the creatures, and how to keep them as pets and treat them with respect.

“I source them from a couple of distributors that I have, as well as small breeders that I have made contacts with over the years. As much as I can, they are all captive bred.

“Some animals that we sell here in the country must be captive bred. Turtles, and tortoises are some examples. There is no more legal importation allowed of those animals. All of those turtles and

tortoises have to be Canadian bred.”

Kirk employs one assistant, Hunter Yarrow, who is a student who works part time at the store and has the responsibility of feeding most of the pets.

For the Trenton store, Jennifer Neil assists Crystal Kirk with most of the activities in the store. Neil has been an employee for eight months and is a former employee of Petcetera with over 10 years of experience in the trade. Neil says her favourite pet is Harvey, a 10-year-old ferret, making it the oldest animal in the store. Ferrets generally have an average lifespan of just seven years.

We asked about free speech

By Frank Moses

In recent years, protests on Ontario university and college campuses have raised questions on what constitutes free speech and hate speech.

“Colleges and universities should be places where students engage in open and respectful debate,” said Premier Doug Ford on August 30, 2018 before enacting legislation that demanded Ontario colleges and universities adopt free speech policies

in 2019 – or face funding cuts.

On January 9, 2019, Loyalist College students and staff were asked one question: “What is the difference between free speech and hate speech?” Their answers were wide-ranging, and proved the question is one that requires deep consideration.

To hear these varied opinions on the topic, go to: <https://vimeo.com/loyalistphotoj/freespeech>

Memorial Arena in limbo

By Kyle Visser

In downtown Belleville, there sits an old building close to the hearts of many in the community. That building is the Memorial Arena ice hockey rink. Built in 1929, the downtown arena was home to the 1959 World Champions, The Belleville McFarlands.

The Memorial Arena was designated a historical site under the Ontario Heritage Act back in 2003. But after an equipment failure in 2010, the rink shut its old doors for good. Many people around the city have been asking since then “What’s going to happen with it?”

“Till the day it closed, the Memorial had the best ice in town,” said Paul Svoboda, former sports journalist for the Belleville Intelligencer.

Svoboda, like many others in this community, grew up playing on that ice. The Memorial was a heavily utilized spot for junior, minor, senior and church hockey groups throughout its long history.

Many have criticized the city for not doing something with the building as part of the Downtown

Revitalization program in the last number of years. The City of Belleville spent around \$30 million on the downtown renovations, and some think some of that money should have gone towards the Memorial Arena.

In the spring of 2018, the building was listed with Ekort Realty for \$499,900. According to realtor Joe Shunock, there was plenty of interest in the building.

Proposals were made to turn the arena into an outdoor ice rink, a part of the farmers market or an open park area. Shunock warns, however, that despite the price of 500-grand, there may also be high costs in refurbishing the inner workings of the 1920s era building.

The proposals and other offers were being discussed by last year’s city council, but with the timing of the 2018 Belleville municipal election, those discussions had to be suspended.

Now it’s 2019, and a fresh set of councillors and politicians is in power. Officially, the building is off the market, and the new councillors will look at the Memorial Arena, over 10 years after its doors were closed for the last time.

Back in 1920, the city of Bel-

leville purchased the property for the Memorial Arena. Originally, the arena was named the Hume Arena until 1946 where it was renamed in recognition of the local men killed in the First and Second World Wars. The arena seems to have a history of being rejected. According to the Belleville Intelligencer, a 1958 plan of \$215,000 to replace the seating, heating system and renovating the entrance was turned down by city council. Years later in 1971, the city also turned down a plan to turn the Memorial Arena into a “community centre” for an estimate \$890,000.

The only renovations that took place before the 21st century were in 1977, when a \$26,000 renovation was made to ensure safety standards were met, and in 1986, \$37,000 was spent on the ice making equipment at the facility.

In 2005, Barry Bryan Associates completed a feasibility study of the arena and suggested it would cost around \$5.7 million to renovate the facility and maintain it as an arena.

Five years later in 2010, the arena shut its doors due to equipment failure.



Photo by Kyle Visser

Paul Svoboda stands in front of the old Memorial Arena building. The arena has been closed up since 2010 after failures with the ice equipment inside. The city has been criticized for not doing anything with the historic site since it has been closed.



Photo by Shelby Lisk

Chilly fun

A group of friends pass the puck around the ice on Victoria Harbour in Belleville recently. The cold temperatures have allowed the ice to freeze to safe conditions for skating. City officials say the ice is between 7.5 and 9.5 inches thick and officially took down the warning signs on Friday. The city will continue regular inspections.

Trees part of recycling program

Christmas trees ground up into mulch or saved for nesting animals

By Kyle Visser

The new year is upon us and the Christmas season is behind us, including the ever-festive trees. Once again this year, after the holidays, Belleville provided a free Christmas tree pickup as part of its recycling program.

According to the City of Belleville website, trees could be picked up on designated date for each street in the city, depending on their geographic area. Starting from Jan. 2, residents east of the Moira River and north of Victoria Avenue had to have their trees placed on the roadside, free of ornaments and tinsel by 8 a.m.

After that, trees were picked up east of the river and south of Victoria Street on Jan. 4, then west of Moira River and then north, then south of the CNR tracks on Jan. 7, then Jan. 9, respectively.

But what happens to the trees af-



Photo by Kyle Visser

Paul Whiteman loads Christmas trees from the downtown region into his truck to be taken to Sandy Pines Wildlife

ter they are picked up?

Taylor Dall, green co-ordinator for City of Belleville, says after the trees are picked up, depending on when and where, the trailer-mounted wood chipper will come by and grind them up into mulch.

Dall says the city has a large pile of mulch that is used for everything from parks to walking trails and flowerbeds to garden fixtures and roadside plant fixtures. This pile is added to with felled trees and shrubbery during other seasons throughout the year.

However, there is another lesser known use for Christmas trees. Retired school teacher Eveline Kerr said that she saw a Facebook post from the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre asking for Christmas trees for their porcupines. "I was just browsing on Facebook and saw this post about porcupines nesting in Christmas trees and I thought 'What a great idea!' I should see if the city will give any trees to the wildlife centre, ' "

Kerr contacted the city of Belleville and they agreed to donate 50 trees to the wildlife centre.

Last Saturday, Kerr and her assistant Paul Wiseman loaded the trees into a trailer and took them to the wildlife centre for the porcupines.



Photo by Frank Moses

Mr. Moosie visits

Belleville police Staff Sergeant Ray Aubertin, flanked by Military Police Sergeant Matthew Tremblay and OPP Constable Derrick Osmond, displays Mr. Moosie. The mascot has journeyed across the United States and Canada from department to department after a Pennsylvania police officer was given the mascot over two years ago by a five-year-old girl, who wanted to help keep police officers safe. Loyalist Police Foundations student were present to hear Mr. Moosie's story, who visits a week with each department. The Belleville Police Service will hand him off to the OPP after the Cops and Kids Ice Fishing Derby this weekend.



Photo by Mari Hiramoto

Quinte West Fire Department hosted Cold Water Rescue training on the Bay of Quinte Jan. 13. Quinte West and Belleville fire departments participated in the exercise.

Winter safety on the ice

By Mari Hiramoto

Quinte West Fire Department hosted Ice Water Rescue Training on Jan. 13, starting at 8:45 am. Twelve people participated in the two-hour training session under the direction of two instructors, Perry Holland and Ron Switzer.

At least two people are needed to save a person who fallen into icy water. First, one

rescuer throws a life ring to the drowning person in the water and after he catches it, they pull the person up onto the surface. After successfully saving the person from the water, they hop on an inflatable rescue boat which is connected by two ropes to the shore.

“The purpose of the training, as we do every year, is to train in ice water emergencies in the event one does occur.

“We go over different techniques and situations. Everyone at the hall does six hours of training in ice water -- two hours in class and four hours on the ice,” said Ryan Genereaux, who has been working as a captain at Station 3 for the fire department for 12 years.

All of the trainees were wearing protective suits to keep their body temperature up. Deidre Brock, one of the students who

participated in the training, said they were all sweating in the suits, even after spending two hours in the ice water. In a real situation, a person who needs to be rescued wouldn't be wearing one of the suits, and might not even be conscious to catch a life ring or to respond to the rescuers. The students were learning different skills through this training to save local people in various emergency situations.



Photo by Mari Hiramoto

Josh Sawyer in a fire truck after the training session.



(Above) Belleville volunteer firefighters Josh Sawyer (in water) and Ron Switzer assist trainee Diedra Brock in an open water rescue exercise on the Bay of Quinte Sunday morning. Firefighters practice a host of such life saving measures as part of their weekly training.

Photo by Frank Moses

(Left) From left, Josh Sawyer, Deidre Brock, and Kyle Lysk, during the training.

Photo by Mari Hiramoto

Volleyball teams see weekend action

Teams hope to take win this weekend in Ottawa

By Matthew Botha

The Loyalist Lancers saw an epic weekend of action as both the men's and women's volleyball teams battled it out against the Durham Lords on Friday.

The women's team started off the night with a tough 3-0 loss to the Lords. Although they didn't take the win, they dominated their defensive line with a 3.0 block average, causing the Lords to make live changes to their playbook. Fourth-year player Jilian Hoftzyer showed her defensive strength with an impressive seven kills and three blocks.

Raven Maracle also stepped up by racking up 15 points for the Lancers, placing her as the top scoring player for the match. The team has lost several key players since the season started, but they aren't about to let that stop them.

"Currently, we are in a playoff position, and our goal is to stay there and work our way up in the standings," says Hoftzyer, a driving force on the team.

"Unfortunately, we've ran into some bumps in the road with injuries and had to move people into new positions, but everyone is working really hard to help each other and to better the team."

The men's team saw another intense rally winning a five set match over the Lords 15-12. The game was a battle from start to finish, with a score difference of only a couple points throughout each set. The Lancers lost their first set 25-23, but did not let that get them down they came back to dominate, winning both the second and third set.

The Lords, not a team to quit, pushed back and won the fourth set, forcing the Lancers into a fifth round. With Josh Roberts serving, the team was able to secure the victory and take their second win of the year.

Both the men's and women's teams will be looking to take home a win next weekend as they travel to Ottawa to take on the Algonquin Thunder, as well as the La Cité Coyotes.



Loyalist Lancers Josh Roberts blasts a kill shot passed two Durham Lords blockers. The Lancers would go on to win the game in five sets.

Photo by Sasha Seftor

Basketball teams score big on weekend



By Sasha Seftor

The Loyalist Lancers men's and women's basketball teams both emerged victorious from their bouts against the Georgian Grizzlies Saturday evening at Loyalist College.

The Lancers women's team tipped off first and hit the ground running, barely giving the Grizzlies a chance to catch their breath on their way to a commanding 68-47 victory over the visiting team.

In their first victory of 2019, the Lancers were led by second-year player Brittany Mason who posted an impressive 22 points and 14 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season.

Other standouts for the Lancers were first-year athlete Kate Raso who was dominant on the defensive end, recording three of the Lancers 12 defensive steals along with 13 points. Hometown hero Piper Kehoe also stepped up her game to record 17 points off the bench for the Lancers.

In attendance at the game were members of the Belleville Spirits girls bantam team, a local competitive youth basketball organization, whose constant cheers and encouraging energy no doubt inspired the Lancers on their way to a decisive victory.

The Lancers men's team started slow, trading baskets with the Grizzlies back and forth during the first quarter before taking command of the fast-paced game, never looking back and recording a convincing 85-64 win.

The Lancers were led by second-year player Angelo Sarsonas who was the game's leading scorer with 22 points, six rebounds and three steals. Other standouts for the Lancers were DJ Atkinson who tallied 18 points, three rebounds and 3 steals, as well as first year player Akim Rout who got the crowd out of their seats with two monster blocks on the defensive end.

With the win, the Lancers move into sixth place in the eastern division of the OCAA. With their eyes on a playoff spot, they will look to improve their record as the regular season begins to wind down.



Photos by Sasha Seftor

(Left) Loyalist Lancers Brittany Mason drives the lane, blowing past Georgian Grizzlies defenders to score two of her game high 22 points. The lancers would go on to win the game 68-47. (Above) Loyalist Lancers Raymond Yeung fights off Georgian Grizzlies defender to score two of his 13 points during the 4th quarter of a game at Loyalist College. The Lancers would go on to win the game 85-64.