

The Pioneer

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Photo by Sasha Seftor

Students of the University of Toronto marched together from their university's campus to Queen's Park in Toronto to protest changes made to student fees and OSAP. The protest drew hundreds of students, eager to voice their dissent over the changes.

Student organizations furious over education funding changes

By Shelby Lisk

The Ford government has unveiled their plan to reduce tuition for Ontario post-secondary students by 10 per cent.

"For the first time in Ontario, students at every publicly assisted college and university will see their tuition rates go down by 10 per cent thanks to a province-wide tuition rate reduction introduced by Ontario's Government for the People. The tuition rate reduction is the latest step in the Ford Government's plan to keep more money in the pockets of Ontario students and families," stated the Ontario government's official news release posted Jan. 17.

The release stated that, for example, an arts and science undergrad at the University of Guelph would see a reduction in their tuition of \$700 and a Conestoga College student enrolled in practical

nursing would see a decrease of \$300 in their 2019-2020 tuition.

While a decrease in tuition sounds like happy news for students, the announcement came at the same time as proposed cuts to the Ontario Student Assistance Program, or OSAP, and the introduction of a new program, "the student choice initiative," which will allow students to opt out of paying ancillary fees, which are non-academic fees that pay for student services. The Ontario chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students took to their social media with this statement:

"Today's announcement is a devastating one for students and workers in the post-secondary sector in the province of Ontario.

"The announced 'Student Choice Initiative' is a transparent attempt to bankrupt students' unions in the province who

are the most critical of sector underfunding and cuts to needs-based grants.

"The 10 per cent tuition fee reduction is nothing more than a red herring. The proposed cuts to OSAP will harm those students most in need. Moreover, without an increase to operating funds for institutions, this tuition fee reduction will most likely come at the hands of cuts to campus workers and services.

"Students and workers in the province of Ontario will fight this announcement. This government does not represent students."

The main concerns that emerged following the official announcement are what the funding cut will mean for services provided by college and universities across Ontario and what changes are being made to OSAP that will affect students. Specifically, those changes include

no longer offering free tuition to low-income students, replacing grants with loans and getting rid of the six-month interest-free grace period to pay back loans.

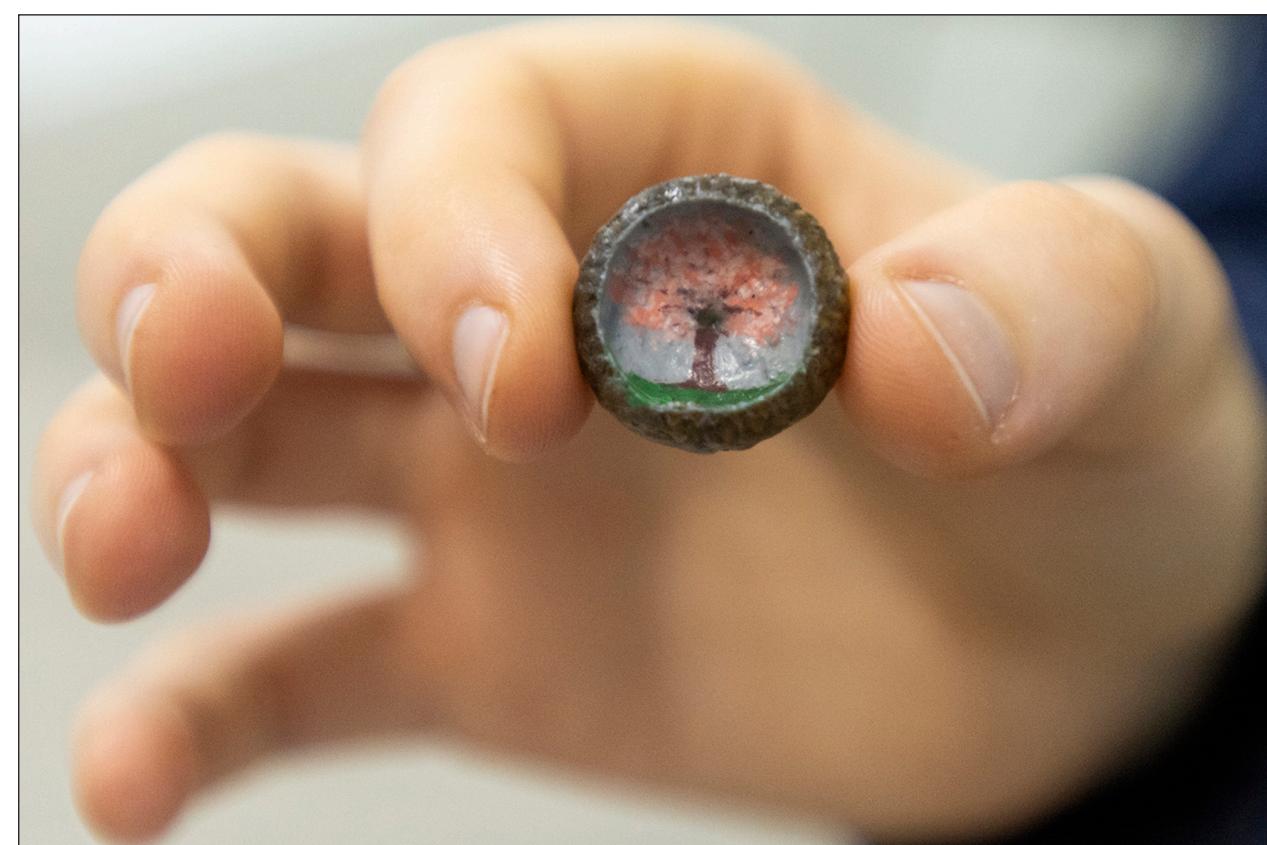
Meanwhile, the PC government stated that it worries about the overspending of the previous provincial leaders, stating that a report released by the Office of the Auditor General for Ontario in December 2018 highlighted concerns that OSAP was causing major overspending while not resulting in proportionately higher enrolment. The summary reported that "OSAP could cost \$2 billion annually by the 2020-2021 fiscal year, a net increase of 50 percent from the 2016/17 fiscal year."

Nour Alideeb, chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario, says that the changes to OSAP will most greatly affect low-income students and those individuals who are most at risk

of becoming trapped in cycles of debt for years after they graduate. "It impacts being able to buy a home, finding really good long-term sustainable jobs, being able to start a family, going on to higher post-secondary education," says Alideeb.

The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario is the oldest and largest student organization in Ontario representing more than 350,000 college and university students in all regions of the province. They have been instrumental in advocating for converting OSAP loans into non-repayable grants, for changing the rules about which spousal and parental income needs to be declared, all of which is being erased in the new OSAP model.

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Tiny artwork

Sonora Plumb paints tiny images and landscapes on acorns and other things she finds in nature. She was inspired by people painting mushrooms back when she lived in Moose Factory, Ont.

Photo by Amy Walton

Pets can also give at blood donor clinics for animals

By TaeHyeong Kim

Your lovely dog can help other dogs that might be sick. For dogs that are sick or injured and need blood, there are animal blood donor clinics to help those pets in need.

"(We do it) to help some other dogs. It's a good idea. Somebody would donate their dog's blood for my dog. Why not donate blood for somebody else?" says Jill Baker, the owner of a three-year-old golden retriever named Jordan who donated his blood for a second time on Monday.

Like a person, blood is needed when a dog or cat is sick or in the surgery because of some injury or health problem. The necessary blood is covered by blood donations. There are dogs that donate blood regularly for other pets that need help across Canada.

A local animal blood bank drive event was held at Foster Park Pet Animal Hos-

pital in Belleville on the afternoon of Jan. 21. The clinic was scheduled from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. with appointments. This event was held in co-operation with the Canadian Animal Blood Bank, a non-profit organization dedicated to supplying blood products to Canadian veterinarians.

The first dog to donate blood on Monday was Silas, whose owner is Demera Hunter. She is a staff member of the hospital that provided the venue for the animal blood bank drive event.

"I think it's really important especially working in this industry, knowing if a dog needs it, then it's available for them. Because, a lot of times go through fast in emergency. So, there is not a lot of time to find a donor. So, a blood bank does really good work," said Hunter.

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Mary Robinson (right), donor recruitment director of Canadian Animal Blood Bank, draws blood from donating dog Jordan at the Foster Park Pet Hospital in Belleville.

Photo by TaeHyung Kim

Pets...

Continued from Page 1

Mary Robinson, who arrived in the hospital in advance, did not take long to get the tools ready for blood collection. She is a donor recruitment director of CABB, and collected blood directly at the local animal hospital.

A big table was set for a dog to lie down on it, and a red pillow was put down for a dog. Beside the table, there was a medical plastic collection bag to put the blood in. Documents checking for blood type and protein content, and treats for the dogs

were set on the other small table.

Silas donated his blood twice on Monday. Robinson took a picture of Silas, then uploaded the photo on Instagram to show what dogs have donated, and to recruit more blood donors.

Prior to the actual blood donation, blood samples were collected to confirm health status like protein concentration and blood type. Robinson checked the name of dog, how old he was, how much he weighed, what vaccine he has had, what time he ate breakfast in the morning, and got a signature from the owners consenting to the blood donation.

Not all dogs can donate blood. A dog must meet several requirements.

"There's a bit of a minimum weight requirement. So, the dogs must be a minimum of 25 kilograms, and up to date on vaccinations. They have to be healthy because certain diseases and medications can be derived from donating temporarily or permanently. They may have to be one year to eight years to start donating. And they have to have a really good temperament," said Robinson.

The procedure for drawing blood is the same as human blood collection. After putting the end of the hose connected to the bag, the sterilized needle is inserted into the neck vein of the dog. The red blood slowly flows into the bag along the hose.

While collecting blood, the dog's own-

er, Demera Hunter, kept petting Silas, and Robinson continued to compliment him saying "Good boy" to prevent Silas from more stressed. In less than 10 minutes, the bag of 450 millilitres was filled with red blood.

Robinson pulled the needle out of Silas's neck and applied pressure to stop the bleeding.

Then she fed Silas a treat. Soon after wrapping some medical tape on his neck and taking a commemorative photo, Silas was able to complete blood donation safely.

Donated blood is separated with the red blood cells and plasma, and sent to the satellite office of the CABB, where distribute the

products to veterinaries across the nation.

"It makes sure that we have enough blood products to support the veterinary community nationally. We currently ship anywhere from 60 to 80 units of blood product a week. So that shows how much what we do need every week," Robinson said.

After donating the blood, it takes three months to return to their original state, including red blood cells. So a dog can donate again after three months.

The demand for dog blood continues to increase, so the CABB needs a lot of dogs to donate their blood. The organization continues to promote blood donation from dogs to their owners.

Tuition...

Continued from Page 1

While the tuition fee cut will save students money, they won't be able to access grants from OSAP and will be taking out higher loans.

"This 10 per cent tuition fee cut is really only helping the people who could already afford it, which are rich people," says Alideeb.

As the third part of the Ontario government's plan, students will now be able to decide which student services they would like to opt in to pay for. Services provided and fought for by student unions which are paid from the student dues, includes health and dental insurance plans, transit passes, support services such as equity centres, sexual violence support centres, food banks, academic support, creating volunteer and job opportunities for students and operating non-profit services like bookstores and cafes.

"This is a cynical move by the provincial government to undermine the very organizations that will fight Doug Ford's cuts to public post-secondary education," said Sami Pritchard, National Executive Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario, in a press release Jan 17.

The CFS also released documents explaining their concern that the tuition slash means universities will be facing a \$360 million cut to revenues while colleges will face an \$80 million cut which will lead to larger class sizes and unfair wages and benefits for workers.

Students rallied with the Canadian

Federation of Students at Queen's Park in Toronto on Friday afternoon.

Joining to show their support was the Ontario Public Service Employees Union or OPSEU.

"They have just blasted a hole in the operating budgets of the colleges and universities. That means more precarious work, less services, and a further assault on the quality of education offered to our students," said RM Kennedy, OPSEU college faculty executive chair in a statement release by OPSEU on Thursday.

NDP MPP Chris Glover, Toronto's Spadina – Fort York riding, has also been vocal about his opposition to the decision.

"This is just another way to undermine student organizations that have often mobilized against the government to call for more funding, free tuition etc. and again, it will disproportionately impact historically marginalized groups who need funding to support their members," he wrote on his Twitter account.

These sentiments were echoed by NDP MPP Joel Harden for the Ottawa Centretown region: "The Ford government announced that they will bring in American-style 'right to work' rules for student unions, making payment of dues optional. This is an attack on services students rely on, an attack on democracy, and an attempt to muzzle Ford's critics," says Harden on his Twitter account Jan. 17 following the announcement.

The PC government is proposing limiting the funding for the groups and services that are put in place to lobby for the interests of students and keep the government accountable for actions that affect students.

"Our campuses are going to have to make tough decisions," says Alideeb. "Can we continue to provide this service to students? Can we continue to hire more staff

so our classrooms have a better student-to-faculty ratio? Who can we make up this money from? International students and students in deregulated programs. So

at the end of the day, it's sort of pitting students against each other while some students get the benefits and other students have to carry the weight of that."



Nour Alideeb, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, pauses before addressing a group of students, faculty members, and staff of Ontario colleges and universities gathered in Queen's Park to protest changes made to OSAP and student fees. "This is a direct attack on the students and we will not stand for it," said Alideeb.

Photo by Sasha Sefer

Ten per cent off: what you need to know about education cuts

By Andrej Ivanov

A 10 per cent tuition cut means approximately \$300 in savings a year for college students and about \$700 annually for university students.

However, these cuts come with several cuts to the Ontario Student Assistance Program, or OSAP, and some major changes to ancillary fees.

According to the media release outlining the tuition cuts, the change in ancillary fees would allow students to choose "which student fees they want to pay and how that money will be allocated. Fees

for essential campus health and safety initiatives will continue to be mandatory."

These fees pay for many resources that the college provides, including clubs and hosting social events, the campus radio station, athletics and campus recreation.

Furthermore, ancillary fees fund many other student services, such as computer labs or the Shark Tank. This would also cause some problems in that the amount allotted to different groups will likely change from semester to semester. The funding would be inconsistent and the various groups at colleges and universi-

ties would have no way of planning projects and budgets.

The biggest changes, however, will be coming to OSAP. The change causing the most heated debate surrounds the removal of the six-month grace period to start repaying student loans.

This means that, although students don't have to pay back their debt immediately, the interest rate will start growing from the moment the student graduates. Roughly calculated, this would add, on a debt of around \$40,000, an additional \$1,200 to pay back. This would later accrue and increase with in-

terest rates.

Another change would be to the grant-to-loan ratio to a "minimum of 50 per cent loan for students in second-entry programs."

This would mean that low-income students would not be able to receive free tuition covered by the OSAP program. It would mean that low-income students would receive loans that they would have to repay. However, the Ford government will "ensure that 82 per cent of grants" will be allotted to students whose family income is under \$50,000, according to their press release.

The Ford government also lowered the threshold for the total amount of income a family has to make to qualify for OSAP. With the previous government, the total income was at \$175,000 and that has now been lowered to \$140,000. This means that students who are not supported by their families with incomes above \$140,000 may not be able to access OSAP.

Overall, the program offers a 10 per cent tuition cut, but it accrues student debt and makes postsecondary education harder to access for low-income applicants.

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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Women March On



Adeaida Ortega stands at the front of a crowd holding a sign which reads "I march for you" during the third annual Women March On opening ceremonies in Toronto.

Photo by Sasha Seftel

By Natasha MacDonald

From pink pussy hats and colourful signs to rainbow pride flags, colour filled the grey, snowy sky at a Women's March Saturday in downtown Toronto.

The charged atmosphere came from the strength in numbers and support for the cause. Marchers said there was a feeling of empowerment and community that was evident during the event, and they said they believe change was in the air.

Hundreds attended and trekked through the freezing temperatures and snow for Saturday's Women's March in Toronto at Nathan Phillips Square. This was the third year for the Women's March, which began in 2017 after the Trump inauguration.

The focus of the protest is for equal rights, equal pay, health care, education, consent, safety for diversity of race, class, and sexual orientation, resisting the new provincial government's continuous cuts, and ending gender-based violence.

Some of the many speaker's included Toronto Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Sandy Hudson, a Black Lives Matter activist, sex-ed activist Rayne Fisher-Quann, Dawn Maracle, a professional speaker and organizer in a variety of groups that focus on the Indigenous community, she is also from Tyendinaga, as well as equity and gender-based violence expert Farrah Khan.

The RAW (Raging Asian Women) drumming group gave a banging performance in the blistering cold, invoking urgency for the importance of equal rights, policy changes and the protesters chanted back, with a boisterous chant of agreement.

Once it was time for the march, the drumming and chanting of, "Women united will never be defeated" began. With thousands of all ages flooding the streets, the marchers followed a route that ended at Queen's Park.

"We've been feminists all our lives and it's important to get out there," said Paula Bowley, 63. "Things are changing, especially with the intersectional approach, which is making a difference."

"I'm happy to see this kind of activism," said Daphne Ballon, 60.

Despite the positives that many saw from the March in Toronto, there has been some controversy on what was alleged to be the original Women's March leadership's connection to anti-semitism. It has been re-

ported that the co-president of the national Women's March, Inc., Tamika Mallory, has an association with the leader of the Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakhan.

March on Canada released a statement to address the concern:

"We, as members of March On Canada, strongly denounce any individual or organization who supports the increasingly hateful rhetoric regarding the Jewish people. In today's world, we must celebrate the diversity of our communities. We must be firm that our steadfast and unwavering commitment to inclusion must include our Jewish sisters, brothers and neighbours.

"It is unacceptable that the leaders of

Women's March Incorporated are normalizing anti-semitism under the guise of the progressive movement. Requests from fellow activists asking Women's March Incorporated to denounce anti-semitism have been met with silence. In our view, that silence equals complicity.

"We feel it's of the utmost importance to speak out to show our solidarity with Jewish communities around the world in their fight against this discrimination."

"March On Canada will not support women's movement that allows anti-semitism to take place at the leadership level — or any level whatsoever. We welcome all those who wish to continue the good work of grassroots feminist organizing in a space of inclusion and acceptance."

Despite the alleged negative affiliation, groups all over the world formed their own marches, like the one that took place in Toronto.

After the end of the march, people left their signs on the Queen's Park statues and in the bushes of a nearby subway station, boldly stating that the march may be over, but the fight for equality didn't end then and that there is power in number and purpose.

The Women's March in Toronto was just one of the few marches that occurred all over Canada and in many other countries where people walked in solidarity with the Women's March on Washington.

For a video look on the march, click on this link:

<https://vimeo.com/loyalistphotoj/womensmarch>



(Above) Dr. Umut Barish came to protest the treatment of women in Turkey during the Women's March in the Waterloo Region in Kitchener, Ont. on Jan. 19. The rally started at Waterloo Square and ended in Kitchener City Hall.

Photo by Andrej Ivanov

(Left) Hundreds of people attended the Women's March in Toronto. This is the third year of the Women's March, which began after the Trump inauguration in 2017. There was a focus on the importance of having an intersectional approach to the issues around women's rights. Here, an attendee stands up for Indigenous rights at Queen's Park.

Photo by Natasha MacDonald



Photo by Sasha Seftor

Dawn Maracle (left) Kristyn Wong-Tam (right) and event organizers lead the Women March On crowd of hundreds from Nathan Phillips Square in to Queens Park in Toronto.

Mohawk speaker opens march with Land Acknowledgement ceremony

By Sasha Seftor

Local woman Dawn Maracle, of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory gave a Land Acknowledgement statement before the third annual Women's March in Toronto Saturday.

Maracle is Mohawk from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in southern Ontario. She has worked with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for over 25 years in Canada and overseas on issues such as women's rights, Indigenous education, activism and health and governance. She has a masters of education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, a

bachelor of education from Queen's University, and bachelor of arts from Trent University.

Currently, Maracle works as a communication co-ordinator for Kairos, a group of 10 churches and religious organizations working together for ecological justice and human rights.

Territorial or land acknowledgement ceremonies are an act of reconciliation which involve recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land upon which the ceremony is taking place home. This is a tradition which dates back centuries for Indigenous people, however, for many non-Indigenous Canadians, it may be a fairly

new concept.

Maracle opened her speech by recognizing the original peoples of the territory, the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Métis, the Wendat, the Chippewa and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

She then called for a peaceful rally, stating that residents of Toronto live in "the dish with one spoon territory." This was a treaty signed by the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg people. The "dish" represents what is now southern Ontario, the sentiment of the treaty being that all people in the territory eat out of the same "dish" and therefore, must ensure the health of the land and the creatures within it, so the "dish" will

never be empty.

Maracle then led the crowd in a thanksgiving address, which is a tradition of the Haudenosaunee people in which one sets the tone of their day, grounding themselves by giving thanks to the creator and creation.

The crowd was then asked to take a moment to think on what it is they are thankful for, before moving on.

Maracle then brought attention to Canada falling short on its duties to its Indigenous people. She specifically cited recent events in British Columbia in which Unist'ot'en peoples were forcibly removed from their homes by the government to ensure the Coastal Gasoline pipeline project shall be removed from their lands and territories for any purposes.

Maracle stated that these actions are directly in opposition to The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of which Canada has signed on to, with no caveats. Article 10 of this declaration states the no Indigenous person shall be removed from their lands and territories for any purposes.

Maracle closed her speech by reminding the crowd and all Canadians that even though the government's report on missing and murdered Indigenous women and children comes out this year, it is not enough. Maracle urged the crowd to pressure the government to do more and make Canada a safe and prosperous place for all people.

Local musicians jam at Night Kitchen Too

Photo by Amy Walton

Belleville's very own Theatre Guild is in its sixth consecutive year presenting Night Kitchen Too, an event that showcases local musicians and poets of all ages in the Quinte and surrounding area, giving them a chance to perform and share their talents in front of an audience of people.

Joe Callahan, along with Gary Magwood, and Marvin Tucker, produce the show to develop a community of musicians who may not have the opportunity to perform as often as they may hope.

Callahan, Magwood and Tucker are all musicians themselves and have been performing in the shows each year. Callahan also attributes the show's continuing success to hosts/performers, Alexandra Bell and Nathan Mahaffy, who are also associate producers.

Night Kitchen Too was adapted from a show presented in Wolfville, Nova Scotia by Andy Flynn and Ariana Nasr who had a collection of musical friends that they brought together to create the first ever Night Kitchen over 12 years ago.

Coincidentally, a couple who performed together back at the original Night Kitchen in Nova Scotia, have recently moved to Belleville and were pleasantly surprised when they saw a flyer in a grocery store for the Night Kitchen Too on Jan. 19. David Marine and Amelia Keating were eager to be a part the oh-so-familiar event.

"We've only been in the area since the summer, but we've seen a real dedication to community both in Belleville and in PEC, not just in music and creative arts but in agriculture, commerce, tourism, the whole shebang. It's how a community is supposed to be."

"So, it's a huge support for local musicians, to know that your community supports you and will even brave a bitter winter night to be there. And let's be honest, these are not easy times for musicians to try to make a living. So, it's vital for musicians to have a venue so welcoming and supportive," said David Morine while discussing how he felt about Belleville adapting the same event and continuing the tradition.

"I think it's wonderful to see a second Night Kitchen starting up. I wish every town in Canada was fortunate enough to have one!"

On Saturday, 12 performers graced the stage at the Pinnacle Playhouse, three Centennial Secondary School students were a part of that 12, and the youngest was Ridley Pierce, who was only 10 years old. Night Kitchen Too has been known to showcase a variety of tal-



Deb Chatreau plays a song at soundcheck before the show "Night Kitchen Too" starts at the Pinnacle Playhouse in Belleville. The show lets seasoned professionals and upcoming artists of all ages showcase their talents in front of a paying audience.

ented musicians of all ages and musical styles.

"We've now had 60 different feature acts spanning the six seasons and have never repeated a feature act ever," Callahan said. "That speaks largely to the depth of talent around here."

Saturday's feature act was a pair named David and Taryn, and the way they came to be the feature also contributes to the notion that talented artists can be found everywhere. Originally the feature performers for the night were Peter Boag and Christine Atrill, but they had to cancel last minute due to the unfortunate

natively bad weather.

Callahan had seen David and Taryn perform recently at Signal, a bar in Belleville. After their performance at Signal, Callahan invited them to come watch Night Kitchen Too, only because they had filled their lineup of performers already. At 1 p.m. Saturday, Callahan called them up to see if they would fill in as the feature act only seven hours later in the day and they graciously accepted.

Night Kitchen Too not only gives up-and-coming artists a chance to showcase their talent in front of others. The seasoned pro-

fessionals who perform offer mentoring and advice to any performer who may want it.

Like the original, Night Kitchen Too is a non-for-profit project, where all proceeds from the concert's admissions are distributed among the performers. Tickets to the show are sold for \$10 each.

The show is in the heart of Downtown Belleville, at the Pinnacle Playhouse located at 256 Pinnacle St. This sixth season of performances still has five upcoming shows if you're interested in seeing local talent thrive on stage. At the end of the show you may dance, sing along, or

simply sit back, close your eyes, and connect with the music.

If you're interested in performing at an upcoming show, Joe Callahan is the talent scout you should contact. He can be reached at jocallahan48@gmail.com. For more information on the event, visit the Night Kitchen Too Facebook page.

To see more about Night Kitchen Too, click on this link:

<https://vimeo.com/loyalistphotoj/soundcheck>



Photo by Brian Choi

The Belleville Curling Club was founded in 1958 and about 300 members are active today. Terry Lynch was the organizer of the recent bonspiel at the club.

Curling fun for young and old

By Brian Choi

Curling may seem to some people to be the slowest of all Olympic winter sports.

However, even though it is a game that seems slow, it is a delicate and sometimes even tense sport. Curling is fun for younger and older people, and it helps everyone to slow down and focus.

Curling originated from a game played during the Middle Ages on frozen lakes and rivers in Scotland where players slid heavy stones onto the ice. Then, in the 17th and 18th centuries, it developed into a winter sport centred in Canada. Since then, it has been selected as an official event at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics.

There are about 120 curling clubs in

Ontario alone. The season starts around October and ends in April. A bonspiel is a tournament or competition between curling clubs.

Usually, four players in a group throw two curling rocks each during the game. The game is played in the form of a tournament. During the break, they spray the ice with small drops of water so it's ready for the next play.

The Belleville Curling Club was founded in 1958. There are about 300 members active members and a committee of 12 members manage the club.

Bob McPherson is a curling centre employee and has been a member of the committee in the past. McPherson checks the facilities for defects and re-

pairs if something goes wrong during the season.

In fact, the club does much of the work in the summer off-season, when they do maintenance such as painting, installing new floors, and replenishing new supplies because they run out of compressed air. McPherson has worked at the curling centre for about 20 years.

Membership fees usually depend on how many games you play, and are usually between \$300 and \$500 in total. The season starts at Thanksgiving or in early October, and runs until early April. It usually takes two hours per game, which means it takes about 15 minutes per person.

Some bonspiel games are for begin-

ners, games that take place every Friday morning, and usually run for one day, but sometimes for two days. The cost of entry to the bonspiel game is usually \$25 per member, and the winner of the game is given a pizza or free meal ticket. The bonspiel is held in the form of a tournament, and some of the best winners have their names inscribed on the bonspiel trophy.

Terry Lynch was the host of Friday's bonspiel game. He works as a volunteer and said he is very happy to serve the community. Besides Lynch, seven to eight people came out to voluntarily prepare items for the event and serve food. Lynch has been a member of the club for about 10 years.

For him, curling is more than just a

sport – it's a social relationship itself. He says that through curling, he has a chance to socialize with neighbours with the same hobby and to take care of his health through exercise. Many companies, organizations, and stores in Belleville also sponsor the curling club. Through curling, the club's members are creating healthy and social relationships.

Janet Quinn is vice president of the curling club. She played in Friday's bonspiel and attended the event with her family. She has enjoyed curling for 12 years.

She says the Belleville curling club brings a sense of community, friendship and harmony rather than competition.

Cops and kids come out for frosty fun at weekend ice fishing derby in Belleville

By TaeHyeong Kim

The Cops and Kids Ice Fishing Derby event was held Saturday on the shores of Lake Ontario on one of the coldest days so far this year.

The event, now in its third year, went from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Herchimer Boat Launch in Belleville.

"We do it because we want a partnership with kids in the community. So we do this as a way to make a friendship through fishing," said Const. Patrick Comeau of the Belleville Police Service.

For this event, members of the police service provided and prepared fishing gear and bait and made holes in the ice for fishing. On the shores of the lake there was a tent to get out of the cold. Chili, donuts, hot chocolate, coffee and Timbits were also available to help keep everyone warm. A free touque was given to the first 100 children at the ice fishing derby. The ambulance service also attended in case of any emergency.

Snow was piled up on the surface of the Bay of Quinte, which was frozen near the Herchimer pier. Some nearby clear ice was over 30 centimetres thick, so there was no need for any concerns about ice safety.

"The hardest thing for today was weather and making sure that everyone was safe," Comeau said.

In the southern Ontario region, there were extreme cold warnings. Even close to noon, the cold still exceeded minus 18 degrees C. Ice holes drilled for ice fishing were frozen over again; the bait was frozen, and the fishing lines were frozen.

However, the cold was not a big problem for the children who were



Photo by TaeHyeong Kim

Rickie Smith (left) and Peyton fish at the 'Cops and Kids Ice fishing Derby' last Saturday. It was held near the Herchimer boat launch in Belleville.

catching fish.

"It's so cold, but it's good," young participant Avery Kelleher said, while laughing brightly as he

showed off the fish he caught in the derby.

"We had over 130 kids, probably got 200 people all together," Co-

meau said.

Many participants pledged to attend next year's derby already.

Today's event was short and sweet

and it was very, very cold, but I continue and do it every year," said Gordon McLean who participated with his son, Kieren.



Photo by Debbie MacNevin

Stephen Zammitti is a Loyalist staff member who is also part of the Magic Wheelchair club. The Magic Wheelchair is a club at loyalist that creates costumes for children in wheelchairs.

Magic of making costumes for children in wheelchairs

By Debbie MacNevin

Halloween is one of the biggest nights of the year for most young children. They rush home from school full of excitement and get into their costumes.

Soon they go from a regular kid to whatever they want to be. That could be anything from a powerful super-hero to pretty princess. Companies all over the world are making it easier and easier for children to become anything they want when it comes to costumes. However, for some children, it isn't as easy as slipping on a cool costume to go out. For those children, it takes a

little more effort.

The non-profit organization, Magic Wheelchair, began in 2015 in Oregon in the United States. A father whose children were in wheelchairs talked with one of his children about what they wanted to be for Halloween. When one of them, who is in a wheelchair, said he wanted to be a pirate, it gave the father the idea to create a costume. He made a pirate ship for his child's costume. That's how it began. From that moment on, the organization has gone nationwide in the United States, creating everything from Halloween costumes to comic convention costumes.

Loyalist College is the first college and the first in Canada to be inspired to create a club with this project. The Magic Wheelchair Club here at a Loyalist creates costumes for local children in wheelchairs using the skills and knowledge they have here at the college. Last year the club created a costume for a boy named Brady Wilson.

Wilson, an 11-year-old boy who is non-verbal and colour-blind. One colour that really stands out to Brady is the colour red. After awhile, his family noticed that one thing that Brady really seems to enjoy most was The Wiggles and he loved the big red car. So, it was the perfect idea his costume.

"When we took Brady out in this, it was awesome to see the response from people that didn't realize that this child was disabled, let alone in a wheelchair," said Stephen Zammitti, who is a Loyalist staff member. "They just thought it was an awesome costume. That he's rolling around in this car."

The big red car was constructed out of foam. The outer shell is hard and resembles much of an actual car. The Loyalist club is interested in taking this farther than they have. Instead of simply creating costumes for children to wear on Halloween, they want to allow the children to be able to use their costumes for things such as go-

ing to a comic convention.

The idea to bring this to Loyalist came from the founder of the club, Cameron McLean. McLean is a Loyalist alumnus. While reading an article about the original organization, McLean had the idea to bring this idea to Loyalist.

McLean, along with Zammitti, thought that Loyalist could really be the cornerstone to making this more of a reality. After the costume was created, Zammitti and McLean joined Wilson and his family on Halloween. Both walked with Wilson, side by side and were dressed as Sharkie and Lanny, Loyalist's mascots.

Fascinating history of tombstones in Belleville

By Matthew Syriac Elias

The dead and buried of Belleville didn't go down without stories to tell through their graveyards and headstones.

The Hastings County Historical Society, or HCHS, kicked off the new year with a public presentation called "The History of Tombstones" on Jan. 15. The event was held at the Maranatha Christian Reformed Church on College Street in Belleville.

Richard Hughes, president of the historical society co-ordinated and kickstarted the event for the night. Less than a year ago, the Archives Association of Ontario awarded the HCHS for its prominent role in the creation of new community archives in Belleville, under the leadership of Hughes.

Downtown Belleville's first of four historical plaques were also unveiled last year, which were inaugurated by then Mayor Taso Christopher.

Minus One Hundred, a talk by historical society board member Trevor Parsons, gave an insight into what was going on in the Belleville area exactly 100 years ago. Parsons cited letters, flyers, and even news headlines from 1919 issues of the Belleville Intelligencer. They included military recruiting ads, a letter between a mother and her son in the military, weekly shopping deals and upcoming movie posters.

"A speech in Belleville by Robert Borden, former Prime Minister at the time, and now the leader of the opposition, met with a bunch of Liberals and did something that our prime ministers tend to do now. He issued a great apology," said Parsons, referring to an article in the Intelligencer.

The main presentation was given by Gary Foster. Foster is an expert on cemeteries and is a Belleville resident well-known for his expertise in the field, knowledge on the history of tombstones, and the Belleville area itself. He frequently conducts presentations and history classes for the historical society, and the public.

A graduate of the archaeology program from Trent University, Foster



Richard Hughes, president of the Hastings County Historical Society, talks at the "History Of Tombstones" event conducted at Maranatha Church, Belleville. Since Hughes's post in the council, the HCHS has won awards from The Archive Association of Ontario, and installation of historical plaques throughout downtown Belleville.

worked as an archaeologist in Parks Canada in Cornwall until 1986, when he moved to Belleville. He currently serves as the president of Campbell Monument, a cemetery headstone and monument company. Campbell Monument has a history of over a century, being locally owned since 1909, and has been an employee-owned company since 1984.

Foster's talk and presentation covered a wide variety of information about the history, trends and evolution of the tomb, and tombstone designs. He emphasised on how the history of Ontario, and the 20th century overall in North America and Europe inspired the designs and trends of monument building throughout.

"Factors of this evolution included

economic state, social cultural values, transportation system and migration patterns," said Foster. "The cemeteries of the past teach us of the times they were built in, providing more information than just names and dates."

Foster mentioned a few historical cemetery monuments found in Belleville too, mentioning lesser known

facts about their design.

Foster also touched on how many tombstones from the past have humorous lines engraved on them sometimes. He mentioned a headstone from 1900 that he had seen, which reads:

"Here lies Doctor Bill, He took one of his own pills, He swore it wouldn't kill, But he's lying awful still."



Photo by Natasha MacDonald

A night to remember at the Glue Pot Pub in Ottawa when its first drag king, Karter Banger, stepped on stage. It was an evening full of fun from comedy by the host and burlesque by the Capital Tease Burlesque group. Banger, the Ottawa-based drag king, poses after a positively received first appearance at the pub.

Karter Banger brings it to the main stage

By Natasha MacDonald

Karter Banger has been performing as a drag king for just shy of a decade. Banger grew up in the small town of Osgoode, eventually making it to Ottawa, which is where it all started.

After making the move, the experiment with performing and impersonating a male persona began. There was a comfort and confidence that grew within all those years of being a drag king performer.

The world has become familiar with drag queens, who are mostly (but not limited to) gay men performing as women. The drag king scene is less well-known and is women, trans or non-binary people of various sexual orientations performing as men.

Banger started off solo and then shortly after, moved to be a part of Canada's Capital Kings Troupe. One of five members, he was also named Mr. Capital Pride 2016.

Being one of the five kings of Canada's Capital King's troupe, Banger is known for being that charming "bro" that exudes a confident character. And that was just the beginning.

Karter Banger is the confident, comedic, curator of character, while Kim Stewart, the actual person behind the drag king, is one that is not seen right off the bat. Although physically embodied in the same human, this is what drag is about. Drag does exactly that. It drags out a part of someone and further acts as an outlet.

Now, specifically with the smaller or lesser known scene of the Kings, they're still a mighty force in the queer community when it comes to identity. Of course, gender-bending is not only visible in that community, but it's where it often makes its first appearance.

A drag king is a gender-inclusive per-

formance take of the male/masculine embodiment. It means a person who identifies as female, genderqueer, non-binary, or trans, outside of drag, and identifies as male, using he/him pronouns while in drag, or "in face." It's playing off stereotypes of masculine or male-associated characteristics to create an enticing, provocative and entertaining performance.

Most of the drag king scene is centred on gay or alternative clubs, as entertainment. Performance is a big part of drag, where there can be lip syncing, dancing and comedic scenarios played out.

The lines between performer Karter Banger and real-life Kim Stewart slowly seeped and mended closer together. The confident and cool, smooth and slick Banger on stage, made for a massive change in the everyday life of Kim Stewart.

At the beginning, Banger was introduced by Stewart and today, you'll likely be meeting Karter first, and maybe get a chance to meet Stewart.

"When I started doing drag, that's why I feel like there was such a line at the beginning because I was actually me. And then I could be that boy, you know? Whereas now... I mean, that was almost 10 years ago. So now, you can call people whatever you want. You don't need to be labelled and I feel like that's why it meshes so well. There's no line anymore. They just overlap each other."

"So, I feel like, since then, I was really trying to find myself. In my regular life, I identify as a female, I go by 'her' and 'she' but I also get that other aspect when I'm in drag and I'm 'he' and I use the male pronouns. And I'm glad that I have both, you know."

Keeping it cool and collected, Banger exudes a compelling, confident persona.

"My stage persona is very confident.

'My stage persona is very confident. Karter is this super confident and charming is what I say. Where my real-life person is that I'm not as outgoing, I'm more of a dork, and if I were to be at a club, I'd be like 'Yeah, I'm going to snap my fingers,' and Karter would definitely never do that. That's not cool.'

Karter Banger

Karter is this super confident and charming is what I say. Where my real-life person is that I'm not as outgoing, I'm more of a dork, and if I were to be at a club, I'd be like 'Yeah, I'm going to snap my fingers,' and Karter would definitely never do that. That's not cool."

Having recently married burlesque dancer, Koston Kreme, the two started off performing together in shows here and there, before discovering a liking for one another. A drag king and a burlesque dancer. Sounds like there is a new fairytale for some to look up to growing up.

Burlesque performer Vixen Vega's most significant memory of Banger was the wedding day.

"Standing in, watching him marry the love of his life. That one pretty much makes up for all greaseball pick-up lines

I've had to endure!"

Both being supportive of one another only adds to the exuding and endearing persona of the Karter Banger band wagon.

From upbeat dance moves and much of the boy-band inspired tunes, Banger is bringing it to the stage with a witty comeback or a stand-up specialty.

Vega sums up the high-top sneaker wearing Karter Banger this way:

"Karter is the charming bad boy your mom always warned you about. He has a way of wrapping his own brand of charisma around all the dirtiest, greaseball qualities of a man. It's like being served Cheez Whiz at a fancy dinner party, but then offered a vintage bottle of merlot. It only takes one glass to overlook the horrid snack."

It can be far from easy talking in front of people, but not for Banger. The thrill of performing on stage is embedded in the ability to appeal to everyone in the audience.

"Much like the wine, after witnessing one Karter Banger performance, the audience is truly captivated," Vega says. "In the blink of an eye, you realize this wily dirtbag has hypnotized you into becoming the guiltiest of your guilty pleasures and the Cheez was the perfect appetizer."

One of Banger's most memorable moments performing was during a troupe show, and the tear away pants the members of the drag king group were wearing to perform in.

"The Toronto Burlesque Festival, we got in... and we were the only drag kings in that show."

"So, when we were backstage, I told the guys, 'So, if your pants start ripping, literally just rip them off and throw them and keep going.'

"So, we started doing the dance and Da-

vid's pants start going. So, he takes them, rips them. We're still dancing and then Jack's pants start ripping, so, he pulls them off, and then we are doing the chorus and the second chorus."

Wait for it...

"And I'm in the front row, right in the middle, and we're going and I could feel my pants start ripping. And right after the chorus, after we were supposed to just rip them off the pants, I was like, 'I just have to keep going.' And threw it and was like, 'Whatever,' and then when it came to the point to rip our pants, only three of us had them. They did it and we did the motion, and afterwards we were like, 'Dammit, these pants!'"

But the audience was far from complaining and were gushing over it the whole time.

From growing up in the small farm town to becoming Mr. Capital Pride, there's never a way to know what direction life can take you. For Karter Banger, the simmering stud muffin, this was exactly what happened.

Although drag is a performance, that doesn't mean it doesn't find its way into everyday life.

Although the song favourite *Filthy* by Justin Timberlake may be a fitting flirtation of his bad behaviour, Banger enjoys a day off, just like the rest.

"So, a perfect day off would be my mom, would have my dog, so I wouldn't have to wake up early, sleeping in and doing nothing. Relaxing, watching some mindless TV, ordering in, have a bag of chips (Plain Ruffles), sweatpants all day. Regular me."

Today, the lines have blurred for Karter Banger and have allowed for the confident, charming and charismatic undertones to amalgamate with Kim Stewart.

Doodlers meet up monthly for some fun

Pop-up cards part of this month's activities

By Mari Hiramoto

Doodle Group held a monthly meet up on Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Parrott Gallery in the Belleville Public Library. Diana Bingham demonstrated how to make pop-up card to the other eight members.

"This is a great little addition to the doodling because we do a lot of greeting cards," said Marita Langlois, the organizer of the Doodle Group.

They usually have eight to 14 people that show up to the meet up. Bingham and Langlois brought most of the supplies for the Friday's session.

Langlois said she has too many supplies at home so she decided to share it with the group members.

There is no membership fees, as the library provides them a room for free. Most of the members are female in their 30's to 60's.

"Every once in a while we get a male member that comes in but I

haven't seen one yet that lasted more than one session," Langlois chuckled.

This group was started a few years ago by Laurie Sinclair and Racheal Como. They were going to cancel the group because there was nobody leading it after both of them had to leave.

Langlois volunteered to become a new organizer and they have been trying different types of artwork every month.

"Usually we are doodling but we'd like to change it up every once in a while," Langlois said.

Last month, they created Christmas cards with "negative space letters" where you leave the space for the letters as blank and doodle all around it. The greeting cards they were creating this time have a couple of red hearts that pop up when it's opened.

They also have a Facebook group where members can share their artwork to each other. Langlois usually takes pictures at the end of session posts them to the page. For more information about the Doodle Group, visit their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/thedoodlegroup/) or call Belleville Public Library (613-968-6731 ext. 2040). Their next meet up is on Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Parrott Gallery.



Photo by Mari Hiramoto

The Doodle Group hosted by Marita Langlois held a monthly event at the Parrot Gallery in the Belleville Public Library Jan. 18. This month, they were working on greeting cards with red hearts that pop up when they open.



(Above) Two people skate over the frozen Bay of Quinte at Meyers Pier while the sun sets on Jan. 13.

Photo by Alex Filipe



(Left) A car was left on the side of the road of Moira Street on Jan. 22. Police said that the car was left abandoned in the ditch.

Photo by Brian Choi



Photo by Sasha Seftner

Ryan Stoness, (top, left), co-ordinator of Wellness Programming for Loyalist College, lounges on a beanbag chair with his team of Wellness Ambassadors in the newly created "Wellness Loft" inside Loyalist College.

College launches Wellness Loft

By Sasha Seftner

Loyalist College has opened a new space for students and staff to unwind and destress from the demands of postsecondary life.

A recent National Health Assessment completed in 2016 found that 44 per cent of the 43,780 Canadian students surveyed felt so depressed over the previous year that it was difficult to function. Colleges and universities across the nation have heard the call to action, with many creating safe spaces for students to destress and creating programs designed to improve the mental health of their participants.

Loyalist is working hard to under-

stand the needs of its students and staff with to foster effective mental health services and provide appropriate wellness programming. Two years ago, the college identified the need create programs and solutions to positively affect waning student mental health with a focus on long-term student wellness.

Ryan Stoness was hired as the co-ordinator of wellness programming at Loyalist and is responsible for increasing a culture of health and wellness at the college.

"Wellness is for everybody, all of the time. We want to eliminate as many barriers as possible and make our programming accessible, valuable and fun," said Stoness of his team's mission.

'Wellness is for everybody, all of the time. We want to eliminate as many barriers as possible and make our programming accessible, valuable and fun.'

Co-ordinator Ryan Stoness

Stoness said he feels this is best accomplished by focusing on two major

areas, developing programs for proactive wellness and putting an emphasis on student engagement and leadership. Stoness is not only involved in creating programs and positions for students but also developing policy and strategy that ensure the college has the wellness of its students in mind at all times.

Asked who may benefit from the services offered by the college Stoness said,

"Everybody needs to work on their wellness. We can all benefit from getting a little more exercise, a little more sleep, a little more time to relax. Those are all things that benefit us when we're at our best or when we're at our worst."

On Jan. 23, Loyalist launched its latest student wellness effort, a barrier-free

safe space called the Wellness Loft. The concept of the loft is that it will be a student-led space where the college's wellness ambassador leadership team will design and put into place programming aimed at improving students' mental health.

The loft itself is furnished with comfortable couches, bean bag chairs, and yoga mats. It is also stocked with healthy snacks and tea should a student need to replenish some energy in-between classes.

The space is open to students weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will run a variety of programs including mental health seminars, relaxation nights, yoga and guided meditation classes.



Lolly Carr came with her mother, Ellen Carr, to the Knitterati knitting club at the Belleville Public Library. Ellen taught her daughter how to knit when Lolly was young. A knitting club is held every two weeks on the second floor of the Belleville Library.

Photos and Story by Brian Choi

Knit one, purl two



(Above) The Knitterati knitting circle gather this week at the Belleville Public Library. The knitting club meets every other week to talk knitting and enjoy each other's company.

(Right) Accuracy is critical in knitting. One participant measures to make sure the size works.



Lolly Carr shows her mother Ellen, how to grip double-pointed knitting needles at the library.



Lolly Carr shows the different needle sizes during the Knitterati knitting circle at the Belleville Public Library.

In historic times, before the clothing industry was developed, winter clothes were mostly made from the hands of mothers. Times may have changed, but some things, like making clothes by hand, have still survived.

Knitterati is a small knitting club held at the Belleville public library. The group meets at 5:30 p.m. every second Tuesday on the second floor of the library. Although there are about 10 members, they usually get about seven to eight members attending.

Annette Buckley is one of the members of Knitterati. She was an immigrant from England to Canada 40 years ago. She is 66 years old. When she was young, she learned to knit from her grandmother and this small knitting helps her keep her life well. She believes that knitting helped her raise two children well. Her husband died at a young age and she has been with her hard-hearted people.

During the Christmas season, she knits and donates children's clothes for those in need. She knits with yarn provided from Belleville Fire Department and gives it back to fire hall for them to donate during the holiday season.

A small baby sweater takes Buckley about two days to make, and a large sweater takes about two weeks to make.

Susan McDonald started to knit when she was eight years old. After more than 50 years of knitting, she has improved enough to make socks without using a pattern.

The charm of knitting is that it is a peaceful and meditative pastime. The members of the local knitting club all agreed that they experienced the peace and relaxation that comes from knitting.

The members said they each donate products they make knitting to their own churches, local fire stations, and donations to their neighbors.

Lolly Carr comes to the knitting group with her mother Ellen Carr. Lolly Carr has been knitting for 25 years. She still does knitting for one to two hours every day.

For her, knitting is relaxation itself. She learned from her mother when she was young, but now she teaches her mother some knitting techniques. It all comes from continuous practice.

With her long experience knitting, she now has an easy grasp of difficult patterns. She is donating her knitted products to the fire department at the end of the year, with Buckley.

This knitting club hasn't membership fee so if you want to be together with them, Just bring your own knitting materials with you.

The group gathers together freely to share information on knitting and share life stories. The members told that once someone gets involved in this club, it would become more and more attractive. Laughter and laughter flowed throughout the knitting.

CAMPUS

CREATIVITY

Photos and Story by Amy Walton

Everyone has a pastime, whether it be watching television, reading a book or going for a walk. But you'd be surprised how many people have unique or extensive hobbies right here at Loyalist College residence.

The Acorn Painter

One creative hobby that many have is painting. There are all sorts of types of painting, realistic painting, abstract painting, watercolour, the list goes on.

However, one resident at Loyalist has a unique aspect to her painting. The way she paints is sustainable and eco-friendly.

Sonora Plumb, who is in a manufacturing program at the college, has an interesting passion of painting acorns. She paints tiny, very detailed designs on the inside of the acorn hat. She also paints full acorns and the little nubs that don't quite grow. She paints tiny eyes on them, making them come to life.

Plumb got inspired to paint acorns after seeing people painting a certain mushroom that grows on trees back when she was living in Moose Factory, Ont. She loved the idea of painting something natural, but she wanted a slightly smaller canvas. She even asked her mom for acorns for Christmas, so her mom collected over a 100 for her to start creating her tiny acorn art.

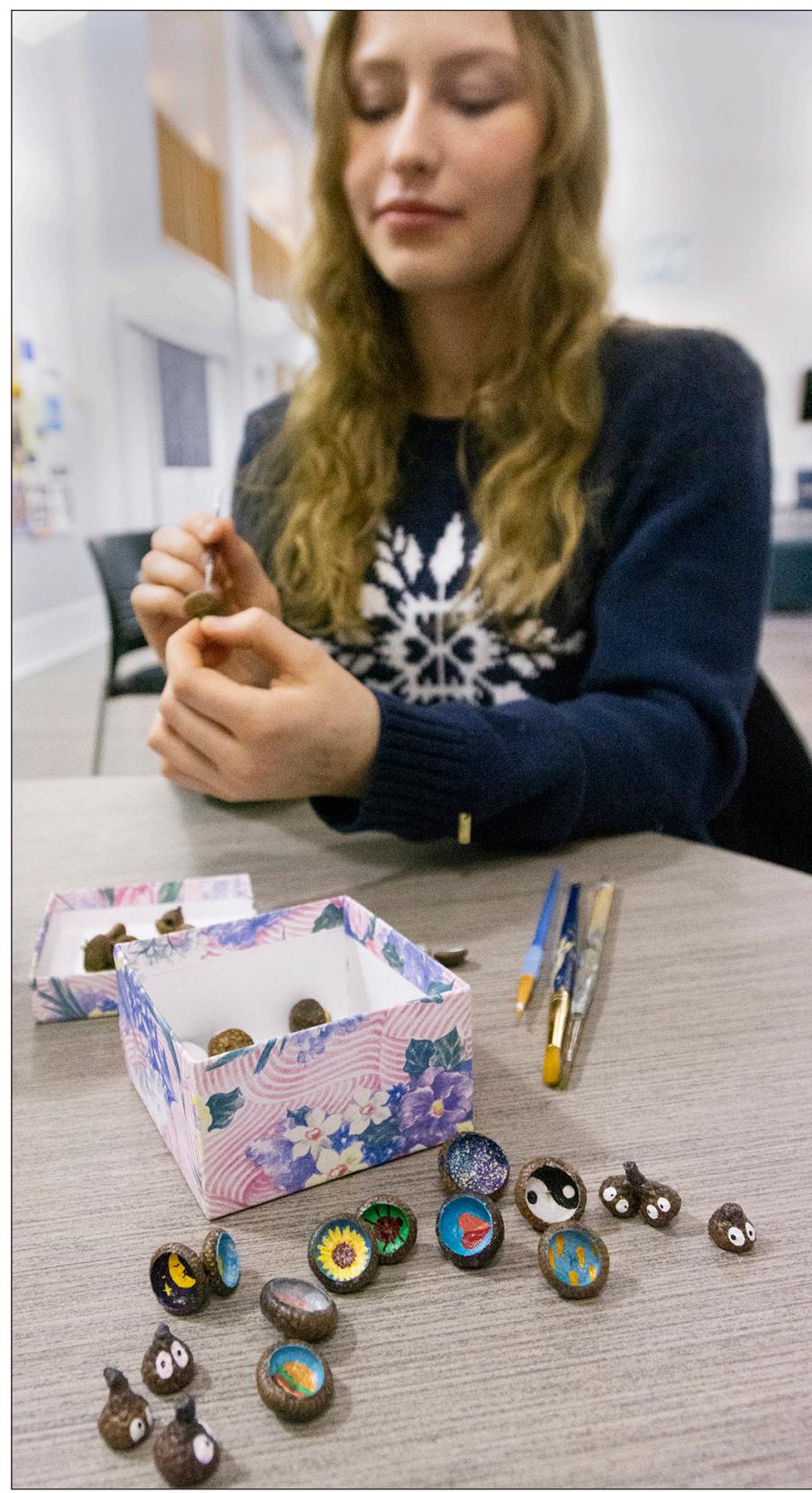
Back in high school, Plumb would ask the woodshop teachers if she could use the scrap wood to do paintings on too. Anything she can get her hands on that is natural, or otherwise would be thrown out, she will use. She likes to repurpose things and bring them to life with her art.

"I do paint on canvases too, but I don't like using them and buying them new because I feel conscious about the environmental impact of it. That's why it's really comforting to me to be able to get stuff that was going to be thrown out anyways, or natural stuff found in nature," Plumb says. She is also a part of the Sustainable Loyalist club so she is passionate about the environment.

"I set out an hour or two to paint a couple so I'm not rushed. It's not like I'm making money off these, it's more like a calming down or getting in touch with myself sort of thing. It's like my personal alone time."

Plumb says her goal is to carve out a specific time each week to something creative.

"I've always said to myself that this skill is not important, but it can actually be useful in your life. It's very calming to just do something that's good at and enjoy."



Sonora Plumb

The Chef

Most people probably wouldn't consider cooking to be an outlandish hobby, seeing as we all must do it at some point. It's quite easy to pop something in the microwave or in the oven, but considerably more difficult to make food by scratch.

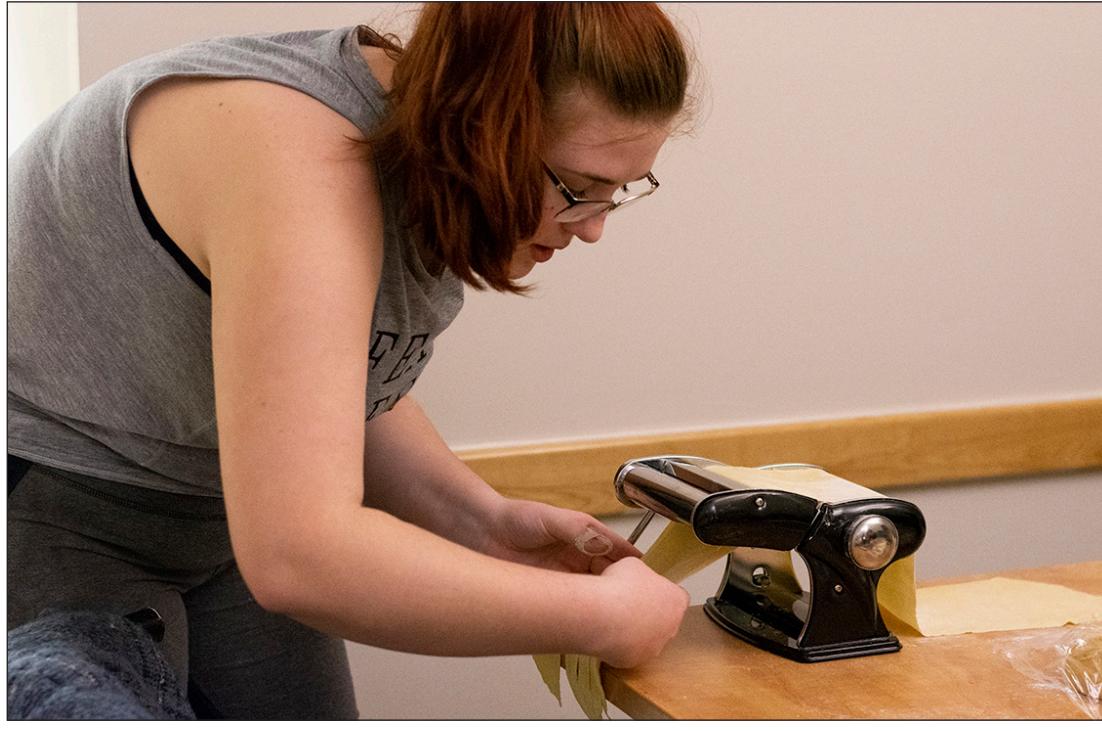
Rachel Frederick is a culinary student at Loyalist and lives on the Loyalist residence, where she cooks all homemade food for herself and her roommates. She recently made a spaghetti dinner, completely from scratch.

She has lots of complex gadgets for making her food, one of them being a pasta-rolling machine. Frederick made the dough by scratch, rolled it over and over, stretching it so that she could put it through the machine, making strings of homemade pasta.

Although this method takes much more time than simply cooking already-made pasta, Frederick likes to go the extra mile and prepare all her food herself.

"There is just something about the way I can take a few simple small ingredients and make something that I can be proud of. However, the thing I love most would have to be the smiles on people's faces when you take the time and effort to make something homemade for them."

It's the little things about cooking that bring her great pleasure. We all know home-cooked meals are always the best meals, and her roommates definitely agree.



Rachel Frederick

The Model Painter

"The skies the limit with this game. Creativity is the main goal," Seth Lightfoot says while describing his passion towards the board game Warhammer 40,000. Models is what he calls the war men figurines that he hand paints with teeny tiny brushes, giving them immense detail in every crevice. He has a collection hundreds of these models and his collection will only keep growing.

"I really wanted to have an impressive army of something I made myself. When I sit here and look at my models, I get happy because they interest me so much. I really enjoy them." Warhammer 40,000 is an interactive board game with army men that you must put together and build yourself. They are very small in size and take a speciality paint and brushes to be able to get the fine detail on them.

Lightfoot enjoys zoning into his own little world while painting his models so that he can one day soon play the action game with his friends who are collectors as well. Lightfoot was introduced to the game in high school when he found a book in the library that was all about the game. He has since became very inspired by it, and two years ago he began his collection.

"It can be tedious sometimes, especially when you mess up. But it feels good when you get it done and you look at the final model and think, 'Wow, I did that. I personally made it look that cool.' It's a good feeling."

Within his hobby, there are many components. There's the game itself, plus painting the models, plus alternative ways of playing the game, which are taught in a book he owns. It's been a motivation for Lightfoot since high school to start his journey playing this game, and he was able to earn the money to start collecting.

"It's an expensive hobby, but to me, it's very worth it in the end game."



Seth Lightfoot

The Digital Cartoonist

Rami Masri moved from Lebanon to Canada so that he could take the animation program here at Loyalist College. He always had a passion for drawing and is very well versed in realistic drawings and has a love of cartoons as well.

Masri has recently begun doing virtual drawings on a program called Procreate. He can create a drawing in only an hour, although he likes to take his time, especially when it comes to the fine details and colouring. In his program, he must make a short video using animations for his final project, and Masri's idea for his video has lots of meaning to him.

He believes that every show, or video of sorts, should have a powerful message to it, and without a message, things can be tedious.

For his final video, he describes a character he has drawn on Procreate named Tim. Tim is being bullied at school, and bad names are flying at him, hitting him until he can't take it anymore. Right when you think Tim has given up, nice words start flowing at him, and he gets the will to live again.

It's a very powerful message with an important real-life lesson that words can really affect people and hurt them, but words can also bring people up and make their day. Masri is compiling a collection of cartoons that he's drawing virtually, so that he may eventually make an art-related Instagram account to showcase his work.

