

The Pioneer

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Photo by Debbie MacNevin

Whooo are you?

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo brought its showcase of animals to Travelodge in Belleville Friday. One of the Little Ray's staff members, McKenzi, is seen here with Khaleesi. After Khaleesi had finally calmed down, people were able to see her beautiful large eyes and the colours of her feathers. For photos and story, see page 5.

Student government selected

By Amy Walton

Loyalist has a new student government. The polls were tallied and it was announced on Facebook that Anam Memon is the new business studies leader, and Ravikumar Patel is the new international leader. Most of the other positions were acclaimed. It was time to vote this week for your student government leaders, the ones who will be the eyes, ears and helpers of the students and school. The current student government members organized an event to get people participating and voting for the next business

studies leader and international leader on Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Shark Tank pub. They called it Eat, Greet and Vote, and there were free tacos and drinks for anyone who wanted to eat. There was also music being played and a booth set up so that students could vote for their upcoming student leaders. An even bigger incentive to vote is that you could have won one of two \$250 prizes just by voting. The voting polls were open from Monday to Wednesday and closed at 4 p.m. Late Wednesday afternoon, the polls were tallied and it was announced on

Facebook to all students that Anam Memon is the new Business Studies Leader, and Ravikumar Patel is the new International Leader. In an interview, Alicia Douglas, the current Justice Studies leader and upcoming Student Government President as of April 1 talked about what being a leader meant to her and about her upcoming role as Student Government President. "The main focus is to be that voice for all other students, kind of like an advocate for the school. I want to have people feel like they can come up to me, say anything they need, like if they need help with anyone, or they have any suggestions. I'd say

the president plays a pretty big role in student life on campus." She then spoke about what the new elected student government leaders elected should expect in their upcoming roles. "The business leader is a school leader. They will be the active voice for that entire part of the school, the business part. They will have class leaders that will essentially report to them with feedback from their individual classes. They're supposed to be a representation of that part of the school. They will be their voice and someone they can talk to about issues their having. "The international leader is not a school leader, but the international stu-

dents are a very big part of our school community. So, having that representation is essential for our board to work. Basically, it all comes down to having the confidence in yourself to do a good job and always doing what's asked of you, and then going above and beyond that." Douglas said she finds it very empowering to be a part of the student council. "Through this past year on student government, I've really grown as a person and developed a lot more self-confidence than I had. So being president, to me, was me thinking that I was going to try and see what's would come out of it. ...See Government, page 2



By Brian Choi

Off-roading fun

Greg and Christine Banister came to the Quinte Sportsman and RV Show last weekend to compare off-road vehicles to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. They were happy sitting on off-road vehicle at the show, held last weekend at the Quinte Wellness Centre. For another photo and story, see page 4.

Foot bridge gets a facelift

By Jessie Munro

Construction will begin this summer on the Catharine Street pedestrian bridge, after it was deemed unsafe for use last July. It is anticipated that construction of the downtown pedestrian bridge will begin in July 16 and will be finished in 2020, if an authorization from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans grants permission. The budget for the project is \$3.7 million. The removal and replacement of the bridge will cost approximately \$3 million. The rest of the cost will be for the cost of construction inspection, testing that needs to be done during construction, and engineering fees. Senior Project Manager Barry Simpson of the City of Belleville says the bridge was a danger to the community because of its deteriorating structure. "When it first came to our attention, we had our engineers investigate it and their recommendations were that without more investigation, and doing some deconstructive field testing, we couldn't determine whether we could deem that it is safe to go up and do some rehab stuff," says Simpson. Because some members of the community were still using the bridge even after it was closed and barricaded with signs up, metal fences around the structure had to be set up to detour people from using it. "We've had a lot of complaints since it being closed from residents who use it and downtown businesses, so I think it will be good to get it replaced," Simpson says. ...See Bridge, page 2



Photo by Amy Walton

Glenn Dayton and other student council candidates serve tacos to students at the “Eat, Greet and Vote” event that brought everyone together with music and food and so that they could vote for their new Business Studies and International leader.

Government...

Continued from Page 1

“I’m really passionate about this school. I came from five hours away to attend Loyalist, so I really like the

school; I fell in love with it since I walked through the doors. Having some part in it was something I really wanted to do and being on student government this year made that more attainable and desirable for me to accomplish.”
Douglas believes approachability

is one of the main attributes that a good Student Government leader should have, and our leaders should feel open and approachable. Being outgoing and having a friendly personality will help a lot, and if you aren’t completely confident in yourself, being on student government

will help you gain more confidence than you had previously.

Even Douglas said she found herself pretty outgoing before joining student government but she said the opportunity of being on student government has expanded that even more.

A leader who can bring new ideas to student government is always a benefit to the college, and it is hoped the best is to come with our new Business Studies and International leader along with the rest of the already acclaimed student government members.



Photo by Jessie Munro

The Catharine Street pedestrian bridge in Belleville has been closed since last July due to unsafe conditions. Construction is anticipated to begin in July and will be finished in 2020.

Bridge...

Continued from Page 1

The current bridge was much smaller, a single lane.

“There were problems with people cycling over it, and if people are cycling over it, it’s hard for people to walk by.”

The new pedestrian bridge will be three metres wide, similar to the pedestrian walking paths, to accommodate pedes-

trians, bicyclists and light service vehicles. Lighting will be added to the bridge to improve safety during the night.

Architectural elements have been inspired by other bridges in Belleville, like the steel arches from the upper and lower concrete arch bridges.

Some decorative features such as colour changing LED lights and an observation deck will be added.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or DFO, has determined that the proposed project could result in serious harm to fish and their habitats, which is

prohibited under subsection 35(1) of the Fisheries Act, unless authorized.

City consultants are currently discussing an option of using an access platform over the river, which would require approximately six foundation footings that would be less intrusive to the fish habitats instead of using temporary cofferdams (a watertight enclosure to allow construction on the waterline and bridges) and rock jetties, which would displace the fish from their natural habitat for six months.

However, using an access platform may

cost more.

“Additional measures such as hoarding, netting and tarping are used to ensure debris does not enter the fish habitat.”

The DFO is particularly worried about one endangered species, channel darters, which are known to inhabit the Moira River.

Simpson says that the environmental consultants did fish sampling and didn’t find any channel darters, but the river has still been deemed as a critical habitat.

The consultants are currently discussing an offsetting plan that is needed for

the authorization from the DFO.

The plan includes placement of boulders on the river bottom to create resting areas for fish, placement of stone around the centre pier to create new fish habitat, and repair of nearby embankment failures to minimize erosion and sediment entering the river.

To keep the pedestrian bridge in good condition, as in the past, every two years, structural engineers will complete inspections of the bridge and identify any problems, as well as provide a timeline on any repairs that are required.

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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Ontario
Community
Newspapers
Association



Photo by Amy Walton

Say oink

Ruth Forget uses an almond to command her therapy pig Molly to sit and stay in-front of a group of Loyalist Wellness students. It's Molly's second time at Loyalist for a "Stress Less with Molly the Pig" event. Students greeted and pet Molly with giant smiles on their faces.

College creating cleanse for cleaner water

By Natasha MacDonald

As part of recent efforts to make Loyalist College more sustainable, a storm water pond is in the works to do just that. The campus is funding the pond as both an educational resource and sustainable filtration system.

Mark Kirkpatrick, director of facilities and information technology services at Loyalist, is overseeing the college's new pond project.

"Traditionally, there were two major outflows, all that water would go from all of the runoff of all of the buildings and all of the sidewalks and all of the parking lots flow underneath through distribution and then outflows basically into Potters Creek. So, that means all the hydrocarbons and all the stuff that was on the cars, the salt and everything else was going in Potters Creek. "Being good stewards of our land, and wanting to do

the right things, we needed to put in a proper cleansing system, or storm pond. For site planning purposes, if you want to have the college grow, you won't have any more expanse. You have to send the storm water somewhere, not just dumping it untreated in Potters Creek," says Kirkpatrick.

The main objective of the storm water pond, which holds a total water volume of 8,374 cubic metres, is to have cleaner water filter through to Potters Creek. This cleansing system works as the heavy particles and debris fall to the bottom and then creates a cleaner outflow of water to the creek.

Although some trees had to be removed for the construction of the pond, there is a plan in place to plant more trees in the spring, so the area can go back to its natural state. The added seeds and trees planted will aid in preventing erosion and channel from the

'Being good stewards of our land, and wanting to do the right things, we needed to put in a proper cleansing system, or storm pond.'

Director of facilities Mark Kirkpatrick

burm.

The burm, or large pile of soil, is used to catch the runoff and redirect it back into the pond. This part is still in process and will be completed after the snow is gone. Even though the space is currently a construction zone, the principle is that since the water is always moving, and any ice on top of it isn't as thick as you think it is, there will not be plans for it to

have alternative uses during the winter, such as skating. There is also no current plan for building a bridge or bike path, but the design has it included in case there are future plans to do so.

The pond will act as an educational site with additional plans for an Indigenous ceremonial space outdoors.

"We created a secondary system to Potters Creek. One is the traditional storm water pond outflow system, but we created a second one that looks like a zig zag pattern, on the left hand side of the creek, which will let the water meander through a bunch of different planting and stuff which actually cleanses the water more.

"The concept is that our faculty and students can go back and do water testing and different types of planting in those areas. So, they can control the outflows about how water goes which way, so they can learn how the water works

and how it's cleaned from a sustainability perspective.

"It has not been approved, but the hope is that we will be constructing that as an Indigenous outdoor ceremonial space. And it will double up as a teaching space for students. It's an outdoor space that people can use for teaching and learning, or it'll be a nice design space with a fireplace in the middle for Indigenous ceremony.

"We're going to go through the process to see if we can get the funding for it. Assuming we do, we would start construction in the spring. The designs are done. We also worked with our Indigenous folks for the design," says Kirkpatrick.

The project involves approvals from both the Quinte Conservation Authority and Environment Canada, but has been worked on internally with staff and faculty when it comes to the design.

Education funding changes for children with autism

Parents concerned changes won't be good for their children

By Andrej Ivanov

The Ontario government announced on March 11 it would be allocating funds to help schools better provide assistance for students on the autism spectrum.

However, this announcement comes on the coattails of what many are calling massive budget cuts in funding for families with children on the spectrum.

In a press release, the Ontario government stated that it would fund an "ASD-specific Additional Qualifications course" for teachers. The idea, the government stated, is to fund and prepare schools to allow children with autism to be well supported in a classroom setting.

For Sarah Daley, the mother of a seven-year-old autistic boy, that doesn't sound reasonable at all.

"It is very hard for teachers to handle kids these days with behaviour issues, and let alone with children who are even higher needs," said Daley.

She explained that teachers tend to send kids with autism home "for their own safety."

This announcement came following budget cuts for families with children with autism. Family members say they would not be able to afford different types of treatments because the allocations, dependent on the child's age and the family's income, would not be enough to pay for the already very expensive therapy.

Daley was one of the organizers of a Belleville protest on Feb. 15 that brought out about 70 people to Bay of

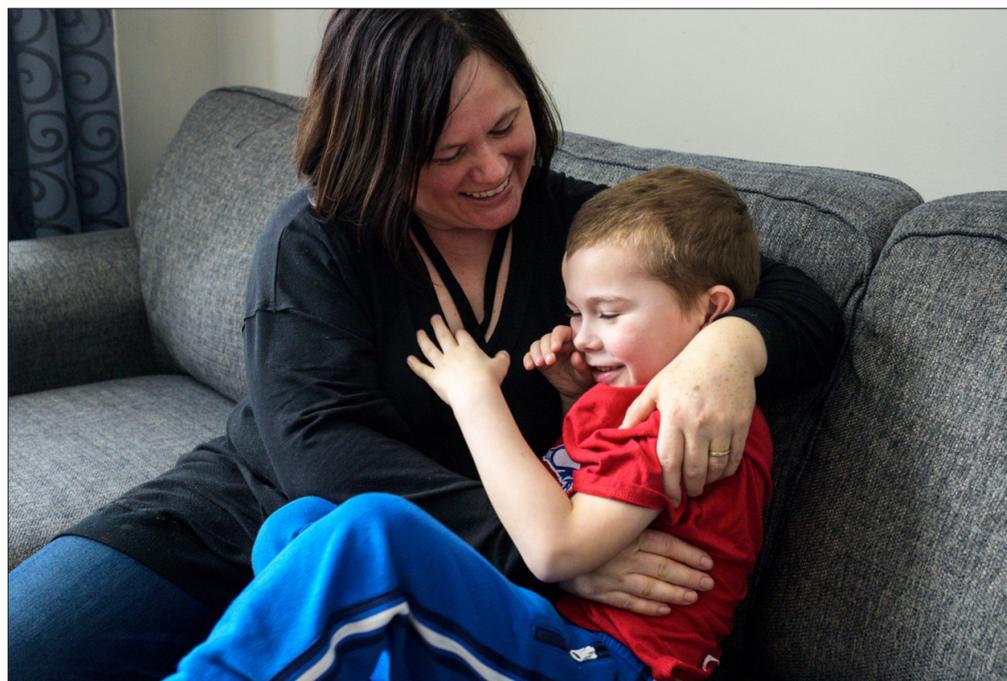


Photo by Andrej Ivanov

Sarah Daley hugs her son, Alex Martin, 7, in her home in Belleville. Daley is one of the organizers of a protest in Belleville against the funding cuts put forth by the Ontario Conservative government last February. Daley's youngest son is on the autism spectrum and gets special therapy. He will be integrating into the school system soon.

Quinte MPP Todd Smith's office. Protesters demanded that the programs put in place be changed.

In Daley's case, she said they are fortunate that their son, Alex, is at the end of his one-on-one therapy session.

"The skills that they are working now on are not as conducive for one-on-one. They will pay for therapy on our own until December, once our

contract is done in June," explained Daley. This will cost around \$5,000 per month.

Daley explained that these costs are far worse for kids who have not received therapy yet. She explained that just to get an assessment cost their family about \$1,000 because it was so personalized. Everything is tailored to the child and treatment centres' approach is that people will

come back for therapy for some time, Daley said.

The Diagnostics and Statistics Manual, used by psychologists, defines Autism Spectrum Disorders as "Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested by the following, currently or by history." Due to the broad nature of the symptoms and severity, therapy needs to be tailored to

each individual person.

"It's definitely a good thing that they will give teachers more training. However, it doesn't replace therapy, and kids entering as a result of these changes are not ready to be in a classroom," said Daley.

Children will be placed in a class environment and they may not necessarily adapt very well, depending on their needs, she said. The process takes months to do, explained Daley. It also takes the school making a lot of accommodations, depending on the severity of the child's condition.

The government's plan should be based on the child's needs rather than income, said Daley.

"It should be a direct funding model, eliminating duplication, allowing parents to use it for other therapies such as speech and language therapy and occupational therapy for sensory needs and physical skills," said Daley.

Currently, Speech and Language therapy is very expensive and are not included in the plans offered, and these are some things that people need, over Applied Behavioural Analysis therapy. Occupational therapy is offered in treatment centres until the age of five and is offered in schools. However, Daley found out that it is a nine-month waitlist to get into the school's occupational therapy program.

Daley explained that the same protest group would be organizing another protest on April 30, around Bell Boulevard or the downtown area. Daley added that there will definitely be a protest and walk in Brighton through the organization Adam's Hope on April 8, and her group is considering if they want to do an explainer talk, possibly on March 30.

"I am not interested in politics. But I got involved in this because I think of all the families that are not as fortunate as us," said Daley.



Photo by Amy Walton

Different craft beer vendors participated in a tug-a-war face off on Sat. 9 at Signal Brewery during the Maple Frolic Craft Beer Fest. There was lots of activities for adults and children to participate in.

Brewery organizes winter festival

By Amy Walton

A brisk and bright March morning started with sweet syrup being poured over hot pancakes inside the Signal Brewery, as families and friends enjoyed a hearty breakfast before the day's events began.

The Signal Maple Frolic Craft Beer Fest on Saturday was a winter festival of sorts, but with lots of beer. The activities started at 10 a.m., beginning with the pancake breakfast with maple syrup from Sugarbush Pure 62 and two locally sourced sausages served inside the brewery. After that, the activities continued outside where eight Ontario craft breweries were set up in booths, along with Apple Falls Cider Kinship and Sandbanks Estate Winery.

The festival took place in Corbyville

and was the first of its kind hosted by Signal Brewing Company & Henry's, located at 86-87 River Road, the former home of Corby Distillery.

After the pancake breakfast, the day's activities kicked off with Belleville Mayor Mitch Panciuk, Paul Ferguson from Cool 100.1FM radio station, and Richard Courneyea, brand ambassador for Signal Brewing Company, cracking open the first cold beer of the day in celebration of the start of the day's events.

"I've been impressed by the transformation of this whole area," said Panciuk in his opening remarks. "An event like today really helps us celebrate not just the history of Belleville and Corbyville, but also the future. I want to thank Richard and Shawna and their family for having the vision and

foresight to deal with even people like me who kind of doubted it. This facility is such a credit now to our city."

The Maple Frolic Craft Beer Fest showcased local beer, cider, wine and spirit businesses. Admission was \$20, and kids got in free. With your admission, you received a complimentary mug with the Frolic Fest logo, with a token that was good for one of the beverage vendors, or hot food that was also available. Pulled pork and chicken tacos were served along with mini sliders that warmed festival goers up as they walked outside in chilly weather with breezes coming from the Moira River directly behind the setup.

To reach the festival setup, you walked through Signal Brewery and had to cross a bridge that overlooked the water, which was

beaming with sunlight and had geese flocking on the other side of the river. Festival goers would stop on the bridge to get pictures with their friends and family because the sight was geographically beautiful.

There were several fireplaces set up around the festival for people to sit down and warm their hands and feet. The festival had a wide range of ages attend. Many families brought their kids and some were walking around with their dogs as well. While parents were sipping locally brewed beverages, their children could enjoy running around playing laser tag around the grounds.

Dog-sledding rides were available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. across the street for an additional purchase, and many parents let their children be pulled around by the sled

dogs while accompanied by a seasoned professional. Other activities included a tug-a-war and bucket ball. Kids enjoyed maple snow taffy by local company Yearwood's Sugar Bush, a delicious sweet treat that was made before their own eyes.

To bring a cheery ambience to the festival, a big tent was set up for people to eat and enjoy live music throughout the day. After the outside activities ended at 8 p.m., the good times continued inside the brewery with a Maple Frolic Craft Beer After Party that had three local bands performing, The Chalk Lines, Hot Lips and The LAD Classic.

To finish of the night with a bang, a display of fireworks was set off above the water, creating a colourful display, a great ending to the first-ever Maple Frolic Craft Beer Fest.

Students pitch ideas in final day of competition

By Sasha Seftor

Loyalist College students pitched their personal brand or business idea to compete for cash during a new initiative launched by the schools media and business faculty.

The pitch competition, over the last two weeks, with the finals held Wednesday, was designed to help students identify and develop their ability to sell the skills that they have worked hard to learn while at college. Dean of the School of Media, Business, Access

and CEd, Kathleen Bazkur organized the event.

Bazkur said she believes the competition is an important learning tool for students.

"I would suggest students start thinking about their personal brand in their first week of college. Five minutes with the right person can change your life, both personally and professionally.

"I think we do a great job of giving students experiential learning opportunities so I am confident that graduates of Loyalist College are well equipped

with a toolkit of skills relevant to the industry to which they want to go.

"However, students don't always have the verbal presentation skills and it's been said that speaking to a group of people can be one of the most stressful things that an individual experiences. I have always been aware of the power of being a great speaker. This competition will help students develop their verbal presentation skills."

Contestants were each given five minutes to sell themselves to the judges, who they are, what they are working

towards and how they want to market themselves.

Dozens of students entered the competition and after an elimination round, six were left standing. Student brands and ideas ranged from community programming to cannabis health and wellness promotion.

In the end the victors were a group of students from Enactus, a student-run volunteer program, who pitched the branding work they had done for the Kenhteke Seed Sanctuary, an organization based in Tyendinaga which has

facilitated the creation of a community garden and seed library.

The group won \$1,000 for their efforts while runner-up Emilie Leneveu, a cannabis applied science student, took home \$500 for her social media branding, and Student President Scott Rook left with \$250 extra in his pocket for his work with student government.

The college plans to run the competition again next year and hopes to build on the already well-attended and popular event.

Outdoor fun taken indoors at Wellness Centre

By Brian Choi

When spring finally begins, people who have been stuck inside because of the winter cold begin to move outside more and become much more active.

The first to welcome these activities are those who supply outdoor equipment. The Quinte Sportsman and RV Show is held in the hopes that people will go out, buy and use these products, and the exhibition is already in its 19th year.

The Sportsman show, which has been highly acclaimed by people interested in outdoor activities in recent years, was held at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre for three days over the weekend.

The event is divided into vendors who supply products for people to participate in, and the consumers who purchase those products.

Ben Bray is one of the vendors who supply these products. Bray works at the Harley-Davidson dealer shop, which features weekend leisure motorcycles.

In the past, only young people used to ride motorcycles, but older people now enjoy it as well.

Bray told a funny story that an older man in his 80s who bought a Harley Davidson at his dealer shop, and travelled back and forth to the United States.

Because Canada boasts many lakes and vast land, many people here are uniquely interested in outdoor sports. By attending these exhibitions, it is good to have pre-targeted customers because business owners can get e-mail addresses or contacts from customers interested in buying their products in the future.

Greg and Christine Banister, who were



Photo by Brian Choi

Dale O'Hara is a fishing fan. He enjoyed checking out the latest in fishing boats at the Quinte Sportsman and RV Show last weekend.

at the exhibition to see off-road vehicles, have been married for 20 years and both have plans to enjoy offline sports outdoors to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary.

They said that it would be fantastic if they travelled in an RV together to some forested wilderness areas. The couple said they came out to the sportsman show to

find an off-road vehicle suitable for them.

Dale O'Hara and his wife were very interested in fishing, so they came to see the angling equipment. O'Hara loves the sport and goes fishing every weekend. He goes fishing and shares his catch with his relatives.

O'Hara and Grant Gannon have known each other about seven years and have a

great friendship through fishing. Gannon runs a company that makes covers for boats and yachts and has three employees.

O'Hara and Gannon enjoy fishing together on weekends. O'Hara participated in the sportsman show to kill two birds with one stone: he went to cheer Grant up, see his face, and enjoy the event.

Gannon's company creates covers by

using a laser and cutting system to form into steel frames.

All of the foundation information is made by using digital information from the computer, so that it can be conveniently extracted and used. It has been about 14 years since Gannon started his business, and he has been very successful.

Gannon commented that it costs about \$2,500 to make the covers as people see them in pictures. If a client has any plans for having a boat, people find the covers a very useful product because they prevent damage from the sun and the wind.

Some whole families came out together for the sportsman show. Marc and Katrina Henshaw were also at the exhibition hall with three children. They came to the event for a trailer to use with their family on weekends.

They said they have an RV at home, but they're looking at it carefully because it's meant to stay in the backyard, so they're thinking about buying a proper one that moves.

They added the sportsman event could give them good information about a variety of trailers so they could look at the products carefully.

When asked how they met, the Henshaws said they met each other fatefully at the University of British Columbia.

They have been married for 13 years and have three children. Marc Henshaw is a pastor and Katrina Henshaw works as a teacher. The couple said that as their children grew older, they wanted to go camping outside to make any lasting memories for their family.

It was obvious by the large attendance at the event that people's interest in outdoor products was very high.



Chloe the sloth hangs off the end of the blanket held by staff member Kayla Seguin. Chloe is from the zoo's Hamilton location.

Zoo brings animals on the road

By Debbie MacNevin

Animals are all around us. They can be seen anywhere, from far-off jungles, in our backyards and even in our own homes. We've always had a curious nature when it comes to animals, and more specifically, animals in the wild.

We have this fascination with these animals mainly because we don't see them every day. Seeing animals that are not like the common house cat or dog, up close, make us 'Oohh' and 'Aahh'.

The chances of any of us seeing an alligator in our backyards here in Canada are slim to none. What about a sloth or a full-grown python? You won't get to see these types of animals in your own backyard... or do you? Well not quite, but Little Ray's Reptile Zoo has taken a selection of their animals and taken them on the road.

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is Canada's largest exotic animal rescue team. They have zoos in two Ontario locations, one in Hamilton and one in Ottawa, but they also have locations in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and are expanding to the United States.

Little Ray's Reptiles arrived Friday in Belleville for four days. This is the second year that the zoo has brought the exhibit to the city. Little Ray's Reptiles brought an exhibit of different animals to showcase to people, and to teach them that these animals are not meant to be housebound and called pets.

Staff members with Little Ray's Reptiles also want to teach people who have some of these animals as pets, such as spiders, lizards and rabbits, how to properly take care of them. Along with Little Ray's Reptiles is Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue, which is a wildlife rehabilitation centre. The Soper Creek staff members help to get animals that are injured or in need of care back to good health and then they send them back into the wild where they belong. Some of these animals can imprint on humans, which means they become too friendly with them and do not want to go back into the wild. They also brought some animals with them. They educated people on why it's important not to have these animals as pets, or take in an animal not knowing its proper needs and care.



A woman reaches out to feel the back of an armadillo.

Soper Creek taught the audience about different categories of animals. Based on what they eat, animals are divided into three categories: herbivores (who only eat plants), omnivores (who eat both plants and meat) and carnivores (who only eat meat). Just by looking at their skulls, the staff members were able to tell us what category they belonged to.

They also brought an animal from each group to show what some of these animals look like. They had Alan the groundhog and Stella the opossum. Staff members told people different facts about each animal to give more insight on the animal's life and how the function.

The star of their show was Aurora, a bobcat. They explained that the bobcat is one of three cats you'll see in Ontario. Aurora played on the

stage inside of a box just like our own house cats. She even had her own cat toy just like our house cats do, the only difference is, these cats may act like an every day domestic house cat, but they are not.

Aurora has all her claws and teeth, and like any wild animal, she is not meant to be kept in a house. The audience had a fun time watching this wild cat pounce about and have some fun.

Each team had their own show with a selection of animals on display. Little Ray's has animals such as Felix the skunk and Khaleesi the owl but one of the big stars of the exhibition was Chloe, the two-toed sloth.

People gathered around just to get a picture with her. A lot of people came to get a look at Chloe and only her. However, because she is so

young, audience members were unable to touch her. Sloths sleep for most of the day, so she could not be out on display for very long. Chloe is from the Hamilton zoo location, so Kayla Seguin, who is a staff member, joined the travelling team and has become a person of familiarity for Chloe.

Seguin had seen Little Ray's for the first time at her home in Windsor. With a growing passion for animals and for the company, in a short time, she became a volunteer and from a volunteer, she became a member of the team.

Seguin sometimes must bring her work home, which her new roommates found interesting and exciting when she moved to Hamilton. However, they weren't too happy when she brought a small skunk named Felix home. Seguin had helped train and take care of Felix ever since he was a baby.

"He looks at me as mom. They call me skunk mom. I seem to be the only person he responds to best, which I also love, because I've always had a love for skunks. Getting to have this bond and a relationship with this animal is phenomenal."

Seguin was the second face out of the Hamilton team that Felix saw. She recalls a time where she had a slight tug of war with a baby Felix over a bag of grapes. Felix is now a year old.

The team members also spoke about how you can save turtles just by helping them off the road. A female turtle will lay her eggs in the same spot. That's not just once, that's every year. So, a lot of the issues with turtles being killed on the road are that the turtle would return to see its babies and would get hit by a car.

Little Ray's staff explained to the audience that if you do see one, to simply pull over and help move it. You are not only saving one turtle line, but a generation of turtles.

The exhibit made the message clear that it is important to help animals of all kinds and why wild animals are not meant to be household pets. They delivered the message in hopes that animal-loving people will take this and apply it to their daily lives.

Taking little steps towards helping wildlife will save lives, so that in the future, we can still encounter these animals.



(Left) One of the Little Ray's staff members, McKenzie, shows Khaleesi. When she brought the owl on stage, the owl wouldn't stay steady. The bird was flapping his wings, demonstrating his large wing span.

(Above) Staff member Sarah places a small lizard on her hand for the audience to get a better look at it.



(From left) International Women's Day committee member Mieke Thorne, Ellen Carlisle of the Sexual Assault Centre, and councillors Pat Culhane and Kelly McCaw take part in the International Women's Day march for women's rights in downtown Belleville on March 8.

March for women's rights



Story and Photos TaeHyeong Kim

"Women's right are human's rights!"
 "Equal pay for equal work!"
 "Education for all!"
 "What do we want? Freedom! When do we want it? Now!"

On the afternoon of March 8 in downtown Belleville, these were the slogans for women's rights that rang out in the air. The event was the 26th march in Belleville to mark International Women's Day, which is a cry for the rights of women everywhere.

On March 8, 1908, more than 15,000 women in the United States gathered at Rutgers Square in New York to hold a massive demonstration to win the right to vote and unionism. At the demonstration, the workers shouted, "Please give us for bread and roses." Here, bread represents the plight of women living on low wages compared to men, and the rose means suffrage.

Since then, the demand for women's rights has spread worldwide, and the United Nations designated 1975 as the "Year of the World's Women" and in 1977, formally designated March 8 as International Women's Day.

"International Women's Day is about honouring the wisdom and leadership of women around the world. And it's about calling for gender equality worldwide," said Jane Rabinowicz. She was the guest speaker for the Belleville Women's Day event.

Participants with pickets started marching at Bridge Street United Church at 4:30 p.m. Participants marched a little over a kilometre from Bridge Street, Front Street, and Pinnacle Street and shouted for women's equality rights.

More than 100 participants attended the march. Most were women, but a few male participants and children also joined the march. During the event, people in nearby buildings and passing cars responded to the slogans, shouting support and ringing their car horns.

"We have actually done a lot, I mean women have advanced a lot, but for example, there is still no equal pay yet," said Mieke Thorne, a member of the Belleville International Women's Day Committee. "There are still child brides. There is still violence against the women and girls. We have a lot of things to do to make people aware," she said.

This event was organized by the Belleville International Women's Day Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from local organizations.

After finishing the march, there was a public lecture about the rights of women, from Rabinowicz. She is executive director of USC Canada, a non-profit organization founded in 1945 and rooted in the notion of human dignity and equality.

The campaign theme of this year is 'Balance for better.' "Balance is about recognizing the different, but equally important, roles that people of different genders play in their families and communities," said Rabinowicz. "Yet women's work is often unrecognized and unpaid. Balance for better is about acknowledging all women do for their families and communities, and support their leadership," she said.

On March 8 and the following weekend, marches and rallies were held to promote women's equality and empowerment in Ontario, in Canada and globally.



(Above) Participants called out slogans for women's rights as they took part in the International Women's Day march.

(Left) Onlookers come out to cheer during the march for women's rights on March 8.



Marchers carry signs that deal with women's issues during the walk on Front Street.



Photo by TaeHeyong Kim

Artist at work

James Keirstead poses at the studio with his painting tool knife in Kingston. He is famous for painting Canadian landscapes with knives instead of brushes to express distinctive and bold textures in his work. For a video look at this story, click here:

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

Videos tell the story



Photo by Natasha MacDonald

Karter Banger is approaching a celebration roast of 10 years of performing this coming March. Banger is a prominent member of Canada's Capital Kings, recipient of Mr. Capital Pride 2016, and paving the way for other drag kings. Here, Banger takes a moment to assess his make-up. When Banger is "in-face" (meaning dressed in drag) he uses the pronouns, 'him' and 'he'. The pre-show prep is done in the venue's ladies washroom. Becoming a drag king, almost a decade ago now, has given this king confidence and self-empowerment.

For a video look at this story, click here:

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

Tiff Siddall smiles through the window of her newly opened barber shop on Pinnacle street in Belleville. Siddall is one of the growing number young entrepreneurs building a business in the slowly gentrifying downtown core of the city.

To hear her story, click here:

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



Photo by Sasha Seftor