



Photo by Damon MacLean

Protestors set up a camp and blockade near the intersection of Wymans and Melrose Road outside of Belleville. The blockade has halted train traffic from Toronto to Ottawa and from Toronto to Montreal over the past week. The protestors aim is to draw attention to the arrests in the Wet'suwet'en by the RCMP.

Protesters continue blockade

By Damon MacLean and Daniel Geleyn

Protesters are continuing a blockade over the railway tracks east of Belleville near the intersection of Wymans Road and Melrose Road in Tyendinaga.

Signs that proclaimed 'Indian Land', as well as flags, were raised to display both Mohawk and Wigwam heritage. The objective of the protest is to draw attention to the arrests of Indigenous people in the Wet'suwet'en and to show the importance of standing with Indigenous people as a whole.

The small group of Indigenous people from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory

have been camped by the CN Rail lines on Wyman Road in Marysville for about one week.

"We're getting a lot of support from people around. There was someone from Ottawa here the other day," says Wayne, one of the protesters who has been at the blockade since last Friday and would give only his first name. "I was at the Oka crisis near Montreal. I was just a young lad then," he says proudly.

The group seems to be enjoying the media attention they are getting, although most protesters do not want images of their faces published. And protesters seem prepared for a long stay,

with a trailer, a portable toilet and a camp fire to warm up.

"I felt insulted after the police negotiators told us it was time to all go home. I am at home," Wayne says.

Many passenger and freight trains have been cancelled or postponed by CN since the beginning of this blockade. CN has now cancelled all its trains through this area until at least late on Thursday, Feb. 13. The police has already warned the group they will face arrest if they do not leave, but that does not seem to have deterred those at the blockade yet.

A recent viral hashtag, #westandwithset'suwet'en, started to

garner attention over the past couple of months. Media coverage had been sporadic on the topic until the recent blockade was set up in the Bay of Quinte, cancelling all train travel east of Toronto.

The Wet'suwet'en is located in north-western British Columbia and is centred around three main lakes which include Burns Lake, Francois Lake and Broman Lake, as well as the Bulkley River. The RCMP has been instructed to remove people in camps on the territory that are resisting the installation of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

The Tyendinaga blockade has caused disruption to transportation from To-

ronto to Ottawa, and from Toronto to Montreal. Via Canada has been releasing daily travel advisory reports. None of the parties involved are satisfied with how the situation is being dealt with.

At a press conference in Senegal Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the blockade situation.

"This is an issue of concern. Obviously, I've had regular briefings and updates and I will be speaking with ministers a little later today on exactly this issue. We recognize the important democratic right of peaceful protests.

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Families from China settling in at CFB Trenton

By Damon MacLean

Members of the media were invited on to Canadian Forces Base Trenton last Thursday to experience where Canadian evacuees from China would be when they arrived.

A group of Canadians trapped in China were evacuated by plane and brought back home to Canada on Friday, in the wake of the novel coronavirus epidemic. A second and third plane have now returned from China, with a total of 400 people now in quarantine at the base.

None of the evacuees has displayed symptoms of the novel coronavirus.

CFB Trenton, Canada's largest military air base, was selected as the location for the airliner to land and a quarantine for the passengers to be established.

Upon arrival, none of the passengers displayed signs or symptoms of the suspected novel coronavirus. They are currently residing in quarantine at the Yukon Lodge on the base until the 14-day period of isolation is completed. After the two-week period finishes and if no symptoms have developed, the citizens will be released.

Last Thursday afternoon, members of the media from various local, national and international news agencies were greeted by Corporal Major Trevor Reid, who informed the journalists that audio recordings and interviews on the initial tour would not be permitted.

Members of the media were guided through the same procedure the Canadians from China would be facing. First, it was explained that the quarantine officer would board the plane, wearing the appropriate PPE, or personal protective equipment, which would be determined by health officials. The officer would then ask if anyone was feeling sick. If none of the passengers were displaying symptoms, they were to have been taken off of the airliner and then be brought into the hangar.

Three large banners zip-tied to the fence, displaying the warm message 'Welcome Home,' would then most likely meet

the eyes of the exhausted Canadians in the hangar.

Next, passengers were filed between gates marked A, B, and C. This was the preliminary checkpoint. Procedures completed at this preliminary stage included providing identification. There were bottles of hand sanitizer at the end of the table where the passengers were first assessed. Passengers were then asked to remove any protective masks and be supplied with a new one as a replacement.

The replacement masks, however, would not be a mandatory part of the procedure, and passengers were not forced to wear them.

There was also a single large red flag on each of the individual tables. It was explained that the flags were meant to be used as an emergency signalling device, to capture the attention of EMAT, the Emergency Medical Assistance Team, which was located near the rear right corner of the structure. Also, this was the location where any prescription medications the citizens may not have been able to bring with them would be identified.

The following step was called secondary. Secondary was identified as a location for further health assessments to ensure the Canadians were virus-free. Depending on the results of the assessment, the patient are to be treated on-site, unless they require any further medical attention. In that case, they are to be transported to a hospital.

After secondary screening, the passengers were to be sent to Red Cross representatives in the hangar. Here, they were provided with any necessities that they would need, in that moment, or will need for the 14-day quarantine period. There were basic comfort items available here, including teddy bears for the children and there were also diapers for infants and toddlers.

EMAT, which stands for emergency medical assistance team, was the next station showed to the media. EMAT is the location of the hangar where any passengers were to have been sent if they



Photo by Damon MacLean

Corporal Major Trevor Reid addresses media at the CFB Trenton airbase. The base was selected as the landing point and host for Canadians stranded in China during the novel coronavirus outbreak. Members of the press were invited for a tour of the base and to witness the procedures the passengers of the flight would face upon arrival.

displayed any symptoms of the novel coronavirus or general sickness. EMAT had two standardized negative pressure containment units set up in case a passenger needs to be placed in isolation. The standard negative pressure containment unit wasn't the only tent set up in the hangar. Near the front, there was also a diapering station.

After the screening and assistance by the Red Cross officials, the Canadians boarded a coach line bus and were transported to where they would spend the coming two weeks. They were to be filed on the bus and brought to Yukon Lodge,

on the base.

Families were to be kept together in the hotel and single individuals were in their own rooms.

The Red Cross, with the help of EMAT and other organizations, was working to ensure the safety of the guests of Yukon Lodge, health-care providers and the general public as a whole.

General Jonathan Vance issued a message on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces and the government of Canada asking for the public's support and informing the public that the virus was unlikely to spread.

Vance then retweeted the statement on his personal Twitter account with the following message: "To our CAF families: as the CAF helps Canadians returning from China, I want you to know that I have full confidence in the protocols and measures in place to safeguard CAF members and Canadians." In the retweeted letter, Vance sent a direct message to people in the affected region. "To our neighbours in the Trenton area, let me assure you while we host our fellow citizens as they are undergoing medical observation and evaluation, there is no risk to you and your families."



Photo by Alex Filipe

Seventy-nine-year-old Elder George sits by the fire at a demonstration by Mohawk members in Tyendinaga. George has been at the blockade near CN Railway tracks since it began on Feb. 6.

Blockade...

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“This is an important part of our democracy in Canada, but we are also a country with a rule of law and we need to make sure that those laws are respected. That is why I am encouraging all parties

to dialogue to resolve this as quickly as possible.”

A tweet from RealPeoplesMedia opposes how the events are being managed. “Last time we checked The Oxford English Dictionary, the definition of reconciliation meant ‘the restoration of friendly relations’. The current situation in Tyendinaga looks exactly the opposite of reconciliation. But I guess this is the

government’s version of truth!” The organization has openly displayed its disgust with the government’s management of the events affecting the country.

Minister of Transport Marc Garneau has also responded by releasing a statement Wednesday explaining the ministry’s stance on the issue.

“The federal government is closely monitoring the protests that are disrupt-

ing rail service across our country. We are working with our provincial counterparts; ministers across our government continue to engage with their colleagues, and our officials have an open line of communication with the provinces.

“Canada’s rail network connects our country and Canadians. It is how Canadians get to work, and back home to their loved ones. It transports the food and

goods we all depend on in our day-to-day lives. Ports on our coasts are central to getting the goods that hard working Canadians sell and produce to market.”

Garneau also agreed with Trudeau saying, “There is time for all parties to engage in open and respectful dialogue to ensure this situation is resolved peacefully, and we strongly urge these parties to do so.”

Centre adds new home for animals

By Jessica Munro

A new barn and aquatic centre at Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre will soon be ready to house a multitude of wild animals, aquatic birds and semi-aquatic mammals.

The new barn will allow for intermediate housing at the Napanee area rehabilitation centre, known as the SPWC, for animals that are not ready to be outside yet, or ready to be released into the wild again.

Leah Birmingham, an assistant director says, “Our indoor caging is fairly small in size and perfect for the animals when they come in. They’re in intensive care and they need small spaces that are warmer, and they’re needed to be handled a few times a day.” Eventually the wildlife needs bigger space to work on reconditioning the rescued animals to go back to the wild.

After a fire three years ago that destroyed

the previous barn, the new one has been a work in progress since the spring that followed.

“We’ve had some rather unfortunate circumstances that delayed us,” says Birmingham. “The initial contractor who is a big supporter of Sandy Pines, had kind of worked with us to design the notion of having both the barn and aquatic centre, he had a really bad accident. He’s now recovering from severe head trauma, so that put a delay to everything.”

Staff members had anticipated the aquatic centre would have been done by Christmas of this year, and they hope it will be completed in two to four weeks and start housing animals. There will be pools for birds and semi aquatic animals and floors that radiate heat.

The barn was completed last year, which is used for a wide range of animals, from a litter of 12 opossums that are currently in two

different cages, to pigs, coyotes, swans and more wildlife, but the aquatic centre is still under construction. Birmingham believes that throughout their lifetimes, the new barn and aquatic centre will house thousands of animals.

“At this time of year, it varies, we have about 200 to 400 animals,” says Birmingham. At the entrance of the building hangs a sign with the number of animals they have that day.

“Because people find bats in their apartments and houses, they can’t take them outside because it’s too cold. So, they end up staying here with us until spring when it’s warm and there’s bugs for them to eat.”

The SPWC has several different species of ducks, that have different kinds of trauma that are being treated, and they have porcupines, squirrels and raccoons and also, two late season fawns, says Birmingham.

Currently, there are many animals waiting for the aquatic centre to be open. This includes a coyote that had to be put in in an outside enclosure for more space. But Birmingham says he could have done better in the aquatic centre with the radiated heat floors and more of a shelter.

On the weekend, Sandy Pines had its 15th annual arts and jewelry sale at Frontenac Mall in Kingston.

“All year long, very generous people donate previously loved jewelry, and estate jewelry, and art as well,” Birmingham says. The volunteers collect it and get it appraised, and organize it based on different styles and fashion trends.

“They price it out at rock bottom prices, so it’s a great deal for those who attend. As well, it raises a fair amount of funds for us every year.”

On average, the fundraiser brings Sandy

Pines around \$6,000, but they’ve had years that bring in as much as \$16,000. The weather occasionally interrupts the fundraiser and many people can’t make it out to the mall to support the SPWC.

In the spring, the rehabilitation centre will be opening its doors to the public during the ‘baby shower event’, on Mother’s Day this year, when the centre allows community members to come in and see what they do at Sandy Pines.

Because many of the animals that come into Sandy Pines are adults, they tend to get stressed out about humans. That is why the baby shower happens during the spring, because the babies that are found and brought into the centre are not aware of humans, so they don’t get stressed.

For video of the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, click on the link:

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

Snowmobile racers rip up West Lake

By Alex Filipe

The engine roars emanating out of West Lake this weekend were the handiwork of a number of racers and their tuned-up snowmobiles.

As they leaned into the turns on the track for the Ontario Snowmobile Oval Races, the snowmobile drivers looked more like motorcycle racers with their bodies hanging perilously close to the ice. But for these seasoned racers, West Lake’s ice was perfect for their oval track.

Alongside the fast-paced and high-speed racers were a smaller and more tame group of younger competitors. But don’t mistake their lack of speed for a lack of passion.

“I’m gonna keep on racing. I want to be a pro someday,” exclaimed five-and-a-half year old Genevieve MacCormack.

After watching her older brother race for so many years, she was determined to get her own snowmobile and race just like him.

“My older son races as well too. He’s been racing for eight years now. She’s grown up watching her older brother race, and so every year it’s: ‘Do I get a snowmobile this year?’” explained Genevieve’s father Scott MacCormack.

For the MacCormack family, racing is in their blood.

“If we’re not doing ice racing, we’re doing snocross. In the summer my son also does carting, and she will start that up in two years,” MacCormack explained.

While ice oval racers may build their snowmobiles low, light and streamlined, snocross requires a different beast. With snowy hills that resemble a moto-cross track, snocross racers need their snowmobiles to be able to take the impact of landing from the heights the hills launch them to.

Even though MacCormack is not a racer himself, he enjoys the sport



PHoto by Alex Filipe

Scott MacCormack and his daughter Genevieve with her snowmobile. They took part in the Ontario Snowmobile Oval Races at West Lake.

because it lets him spend quality time with his kids.

“I love snowmobile racing because it lets me spend time with my kids and the things that they learn. When you’re trying to teach them a new

concept and they finally get it, it just clicks and you can see it on the track,” he said.

You might assume that the thing Genevieve likes most about snowmobile racing would be either the

adrenaline rush of the speed or the glory that comes with victory. But the most important thing for the five-and-a-half year old is also the most important aspect of the sport in general, the sense of community it

fosters.

“The thing I like most about racing is meeting new friends,” she says.

To see video of the race, click on the link: <https://vimeo.com/loyalistphotoj/snowmobilewestlake>



Photo by Jessica Munro

Madelaine Reddick plays with a kaleidoscope at the Canada at Play travelling exhibit at the Glanmore museum in Belleville, Ont. The exhibit is from the Royal Ontario Museum and showcases toys and games from 130 years.

Toys take a step back in time

Travelling exhibit looks at favourites from 130 years ago

By Jessica Munro

Take a stroll through the past with the new travelling exhibit, ‘Canada at Play,’ at the Glanmore National Historic Site in Belleville, Ont.

The exhibit features toys, games and sports as old as 130 years. ‘Canada at Play’ is a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum, which will be in the breakfast room at Glanmore Museum un-

til April 19 of this year.

A long table with six chairs sits in the centre of the breakfast room with a variety of different toys from different eras that can be used for hands-on playing.

“There’s examples of toys as hands on exploration,” says Education and Marketing Co-ordinator at the Glanmore Museum, Melissa Wakeling.

Some of the toys include puzzles, kaleidoscopes filled with colourful beads, medium and large tops spin on the table, and a film strip projector, called a magic lantern, that points towards a white screen to play a short movie as you move the film strip.

“It looks at 130 years of favourite Canadian toys, games and sports,” says

Wakeling.

Four display cases of different types of toys and games sit in each corner of the room. There are factory and handmade toys, including an antique doll and a wooden rocking horse. There is also an at-home display of a wooden table hockey game, as well as different educational toys, like a globe and a wood block train. Snowshoes and a lacrosse stick sit in a display case of winter sports.

One of the more popular toys includes a stereoscope, which is from the mid-Victorian era, around 1860s to 1900s and was a very popular toy, says Wakeling. The stereoscope is used to view 3D photographs, and now has evolved into the Viewmaster which is still used today.

“One of the themes of the exhibit is, despite all the developments in science, medicine and technology, our love of childhood toys and games has remained constant and a lot of them are still played with today,” explains Wakeling.

The historic house serves Belleville as community museum, and staff work to find exhibits that will be of interest of the community. “It allows us to track the different audiences that might not visit us otherwise,” says Wakeling.

Admission to view the toys, games and sports exhibit, which opened Feb. 1 at Glanmore costs the usual museum entrance fee: \$8 for adults, \$6.50 for students and seniors and \$4.50 for children 5-12, and children under five are free to

explore the natural history house.

“It has been unofficially open for the last couple days now,” says Wakeling. Canada at Play is not the only travelling exhibit the Glanmore will have. The museum tries to bring in at least one travelling exhibit a year.

Last July, a travelling exhibit called ‘Unmasking Influenza Traveling Exhibition’ opened, which looked at the lasting impact of the influenza pandemic in Canada. Approximately a thousand people come to visit the exhibit throughout its few weeks at Glanmore.

“We usually have a lot of school programs as well, but because of the teachers work to rule, a lot of that has impacted us as well,” says Wakeling.

Striking continues for Ontario teachers

By Deepak Sharma

Thousands of public elementary teachers took to the streets in a province-wide, two one-day strike last Thursday Monday of this week.

Approximately one million elementary school students were out of their classes because of the strike. Some parents and students also joined this strike with teachers

in a show of support. The strike happened across the province, including in the Quinte region.

The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario has been protesting for a long time, but this was the first Ontario-wide strike day. There were some plans for contract talks between the two sides, but nothing concrete has happened between the government and ETFO.

There are many reasons behind this strike, but growing concerns over potential incidences of violence in classrooms is one of the big issues on the table. Strikers are also looking for some long-term guarantee over class sizes, because numbers are increasing, especially in kindergarten. There is a guarantee for primary class sizes, but teachers are looking for similar plans for kindergarten classes too.

“There was little bit progress in the last week. Talks broke down because the government’s negotiators were not interested in talking about the real issues on the table. That’s why here we are,” local ETFO President Dave Henderson says.

Some parents say they appreciate the issues for which teachers are fighting, but because of the strike leaving students out of classes, there are also some parents who want

their children and their teachers in the classroom.

“I realize it’s a very big inconvenience for parents and none of us want to be here, but this is the last result. If parents are upset about it and I am sure they are, I have total sympathy with that,” Henderson says.

There are plans for more rotating strikes in Ontario. Current information can be found on the union’s website, at www.etfocb.ca

Cornerstone business saying goodbye

By Alex Filipe

The Super Duper on Bridge Street has been providing its services to Belleville for 41 years. While many stopped by for a drink, snack or some smokes, they stayed for the hospitality and sense of community its owner Mike Saleh brought.

“Sometimes when it was very cold, I let the homeless stay in the back room to keep warm,” Saleh said. “I gave them food, bread, milk... but never cigarettes.”

Since opening his store in 1979, Saleh has seen Belleville grow over the years, including his customers. He noted that the children who bought candy from his shelves now have their own children, whose eyes widen at the sight of those same candy aisles. But for Saleh, the ‘Friendly City’ has lost some of its neighbourly love.

“The people have changed themselves. They were more friendly and helpful before. The city was like a village, but now it has doubled in size,” Saleh said.

Throughout the years one thing remained the same, Saleh being behind his till and helping those who were fortunate enough to pass by in front of it.

“I’ve worked every single day, I never took a day off,” Saleh explained. “Now I will spend time with my grandchildren and family.”

When Saleh wasn’t working, he was laying the foundation for

the Islamic Society of Belleville to flourish. While the mosque now boasts attendance in the hundreds, it had humble beginnings.

“First we started in a gas station garage on Hwy 2. We were only six people,” Saleh said. “Now we are over 100.”

Customers were more like family, and Saleh looked out for them and in turn, they looked out for him. The mutual respect for one another helped keep the store safe in all hours of the night, as it was the only 24 hour store in Belleville for many years. In his 41 years, Saleh could only remember one incident of armed robbery.

“Maybe it was God and the neighbours. They always looked after me,” Saleh said.

Saleh’s Super Duper has become a cultural icon for the city of Belleville, from the clangs of the bells that hang in front of the doors, to the Commodore 64 computer monitor sporting the burned-in image of the store’s security feeds. For the many customers who have grown up with the Super Duper, its closing is like losing a friend.

“So many of my customers have come in crying. It’s what makes it hard on me,” said Saleh.

As Belleville continues to grow and change, those living in it could strive to foster the sense of community Saleh and his corner store had. Every ounce of his store radiated what Belleville stands for, even its more rougher edges.



Photo by Alex Filipe

Mike Saleh in one of the many aisles of his Belleville convenience store, Super Duper. After 41 years he is shuttering his doors, marking the end of a community icon.

With a little help from our friends



Cristina Seffini and Darcy Eligh have been friends for 12 years. They met as students at Loyalist College. “Even if we’re not there for each other every single day, we’re still there,” Darcy said.
Photo by Sam Brown



Gail Genereaux and Lori Baker, who have been coworkers for 31 years, have done a lot of things together like travel to the East Coast.

By Jessica Munro

A friend is someone who is honest with you and who supports you. They are also someone who calls you uncomfortable nicknames and someone who irritates you just a little bit.

Friendship can come into your life at any time. It could be in preschool, college or university or someone you meet in the grocery store checkout line. Friendship can even blossom into something more than just friends.

Alex and Amber Paz met in school 25 years ago, before marrying five years later. “Amber will tell you that I was very standoffish in school. I was too much of a preppy she would say,” says Alex Paz. “I would go around in my turtle-neck acting like I was just above everyone else. She brought me down a couple more pegs... we became really close friends at first and then we became more than friends. Next thing you know, we got married.”

A friend is not just a number on social media. It’s someone who has your back when things start to get tough. A good friend who is non-judgemental and accepts you as who you are, but they also keep you humble.

“Though we’ve moved about 45 times, we’ve remained and stayed very close,” says Paz. Alex says his wife is his best friend. “She is without a doubt my best friend. Without a doubt.” The Pazs are parents of two boys and they also own and operate the Focus Coffee Bar in downtown Belleville, Ont.

“When we got married, we travelled to Europe for nine months, so we quit our jobs. We had really good jobs, and just travelled through Europe. I ended up carrying her backpack for six of those nine months because she couldn’t do it. She said her shoulders were hurting too much,” says Paz. “So, that was a really good foundation for us.”



(Above, left) Dylan Hendrick, left, and Molly Gastle, have been life-long friends and even lovers for a brief period.
Photo by Alex Filipe

(Above, right) Sydney Small-Smith and Breanna Roberts-MacDonald are best friends. They first met in high school through a friend and they now do almost everything together.
Photo by Gagandeep Sarangal

(Right) Belleville Scout-Guide Museum Curator Paul Deryaw and Exhibit Developer L.Col Terry Honor (ret'd) bonded over a search for the history of Deryaw's grandfather. Since then, they have to worked together for over 15 years to build better displays for medals and other awards at the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Military Museum.
Photo by Jonathan Matthie





Photo by Brucklan Cuellar

Kevin Lynch (39) checks the Belleville Senators Captain Frank Corrado (37) on the sideboards at the Sens 100th home game. The Senators achieved a 3-2 overtime victory against the Laval Rockets on Feb. 8.



(Above) Three-year-old Aubrey Cain, dressed as Spiderman, holds her free shirt during Superhero Night at the Belleville Senators 100th hockey game.

Photo by Alex Filipe

(Right) Loyalist Lancers women's basketball team played a strong game against U of T Mississauga this past Friday. Late in the game, they lost momentum and lost 81-71.

Photograph by Gagandeep Sarangal



Photo by Damon MacLean

Loyalist Lancers women's basketball team guard Lee Siega jumps for the ball after a penalty shot preventing the visiting team from getting a successful rebound.



Photo by James McAlpine

Arm wrestling Oaklie Armstrong (right) and Jordan Jones battle for second place in the men's Left Arm 165 weight division at Arm Fight 203 (hosted by Arm Fight Club), with referees Daylan Thomas and Dan Farrow (right) presiding over the match at the Ramada Inn. Jones was the victor and placed second in the division.