

THE SURVEYOR

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Holland College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

FREE

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Top photo of waves
by Jaclyn Killins.

Geocaching: global hide and seek

Island joins worldwide treasure hunt

By COLIN MACLEAN

The first time Antoinette Goeseels took her kids out geocaching they didn't plan on spending the whole day doing it, but they left the house at 10 a.m. and didn't come home till 6:30 p.m. They spent the day outside getting fresh air, exercise and having fun.

Thousands of people in Canada and around the world are doing the same thing.

The global game of hide and seek called geocaching uses handheld GPS units and the Internet to allow geocachers to go out and find treasure boxes left by fellow participants.

A person enters the GPS coordinates of their treasure box onto www.geocaching.com. Other people enter the coordinates into their GPS units and an arrow points in the direction of the cache. Follow the arrow and find the treasure.

The game is being marketed by the South Shore Tourism Group on P.E.I. as a way for visitors to enjoy the area's beauty and have a great time doing it.

Caches can be hidden almost anywhere and some are much harder to find than others.

"One we found was a Crazy Glue container, camouflaged and strung up in one of the branches of a tree," said Goeseels.

Dan Wall is with the South Shore Tourism Group and he is responsible for bringing the popular sport to the group's attention. He has had similar experiences.

"We spent 15-20 minutes looking for a cache that is hidden on this big cannon in Kensington. We couldn't find it so we gave up, and then a few days later there was online posts from people who had found it. We thought heck, now we have to go back and look for it again."

Wall's first taste of geocaching on P.E.I. came when he set up his first cache within sight of his office window.

"I got an e-mail at 9:30 saying my cache was now online, within two hours I got two e-mails saying different groups of people had visited the cache."

People will go and try to find a cache day or night, said Wall. They just grab their flashlights and go.

Kids love geocaching too, said Goeseels.

Her three kids know how to use the GPS system, so they give her directions on hunts. The system even tells you how fast you are traveling, which isn't always a good thing.

"Every once in a while you will hear a 'Mommy you're speeding' from the back seat," said Goeseels.

Most caches are kid-friendly, no sharp objects or anything dangerous are permitted to be left behind.

Goeseels also said her kids like leaving some of their small toys behind in exchange for new ones.

Two of the tenets of geocaching are when you set up a cache it should be a water-tight container and you should fill it with trinkets.

Continues on page 10



Dancing the night away

Ginney Liu performs a type of traditional Tibetan dance at a recent fundraiser for Adopt-a-Library at the Tourism and Culinary Centre in Charlottetown. Liu, from China, is a participant in the enhancing rural teaching program at Holland College. (See page 3) MacLean photo.

Afghanistan mission can't succeed without change: NDP

By ADAM W. MORRISON

It's important for people to remember it wasn't Stephen Harper who got Canada into the search-and-kill combat mission against the Taliban, says NDP foreign affairs critic Alexa McDonough.

She was in Charlottetown on Nov. 30 to discuss the nation's involvement in Afghanistan and what can be done to bring peace to that country.

"It was Paul Martin who got us into that, and this was below the radar screen to a large extent," she said.

Having gone to Afghanistan, McDonough said there's nothing more dangerous than people who go to a place for either five days or years and they're thinking now authorities on it.

"Truth is you're never an authority on someone else's land. Despite that, I felt I received a reasonable grasp of what Canada's doing in Kabul."

Addressing concerns that Hamid Karzai's government is a collaboration of questionable forces, that's what the country really is like, McDonough said.

"In the cabinet and government, you've got warlords, drug dealers and the Taliban."

McDonough admits she wasn't prepared for just how horrifying the situation in Kandahar really was.

"There's a lot of talk about what's being done there to build peace and reconstruct. But what I know from my



NDP foreign affairs critic Alexa McDonough discusses Canadian involvement in Afghanistan during her speech at Carrefour de l'Isle-St-Jean Nov. 30. Morrison photo.

time there is that it wasn't ever once safe enough to step outside the designated zone.

"So, who's kidding who about reconstruction going on?" Only in the last few months has

there finally been some debate on what's really going on, said McDonough.

"There's been an incredible amount of corruption infecting the Karzai government because there's been a huge number of people whose livelihood is destroyed.

"If people can't eat, they're up for corruption. You do what you do to feed your family."

The mission in Afghanistan can't succeed the way it's headed, added McDonough.

"It remains the most serious responsibility elected officials have in public office, to send men and women into harm's way."

In addition to her title of foreign affairs and international development critic, McDonough was the federal NDP leader from 1995-2003 and provincial Nova Scotia leader from 1981-1994.

Since 1997, she's been a member of Parliament for Halifax.

This year marks the first time a woman has won four consecutive federal terms in Nova Scotia.

Before McDonough spoke, Island NDP leader Dean Constable took the podium.

Though the public often thinks of the Island Democrats as a third party, the party doesn't believe that because the Liberals and Conservatives are one party with two different cultures, said Constable.

"When looking at the last 10 years, and seeing the millions lost in buying and selling seafood companies, golf courses and a casino, it's clear the Conservatives can no longer be trusted in power," he said.

"But don't look to the Liberals because we can remember the cutbacks they ushered in and we can remember why we threw them out of power so many years ago."

When Ghiz and Binns were arguing in the legislature Nov. 29 over the policy to take the assets of seniors to access health care, neither one could say for sure if it was the Liberals or Conservatives that introduced this policy, said Constable.

"Even the party leaders can't tell the difference between a Liberal and Conservative policy. However, you can always tell a Democratic policy because it's the one that helps those in need the most."

Earlier in the month, McDonough extended an invitation to Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor to participate in a forum on the nation's future role in Afghanistan, which was scheduled for Dec. 4. He declined the invitation.

Also last month, Cpl. Albert Storm from Fort Erie, Ont., and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard from Bathurst, NB, were killed in Afghanistan by a suicide bomber.

Proposed graduated licence program unfair to young drivers: instructor

By TERESA WRIGHT CONSTABLE

A new, graduated licensing program proposed by the province is unfair to new drivers, young and old, says a local driving school owner.

Gayle Mooney, owner and operator of ABC Driving School in Charlottetown, said time and age restrictions for new drivers will not necessarily improve their driving skills.

"More than the skill level, it's the attitude a driver has behind the wheel and I don't think you can dictate that by age."

Transportation and Public Works Minister Gail Shea proposed the changes recently in the legislature.

She said she is preparing to table graduated licensing rules that would apply to all new drivers, whether teenagers or adults.

"One of the proposed measures

we are bringing in is that they will be restricted from driving from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. We'll probably be looking at exemptions for persons working after one who may have to get home," said Shea.

Mooney said this is unfair for new drivers who are adults.

"A 16-year-old probably shouldn't be out at two in the morning, unless they're coming from work. But if it's across the board, that means an adult driver 30 years old is not allowed."

The proposed changes will also increase the age from 15 and a half to 16 before a youth can apply for a beginner's licence.

Mooney said it's unfair to assume older means wiser when it comes to students.

"Someone in Grade 12 might be more mature and look at things differently than someone in Grade 10, but does that mean we should penalize them from driving?"

She said there is a general misconception young drivers are the biggest culprits for misconduct on Island roads.

The worst offenders are the adults who've had their licences for years, she said.

"The kids might yahoos a bit, but I get tailgated all the time, even with 'driver training' on the back of the car - that's a bad attitude. We assume the older someone is the more mature."

Mooney believes the province should be looking more toward a driver's attitude than age when putting in restrictions.

"When you label something by age, some people are going to be left out."

She said laws are only changed when there is public outcry.

"Some people will suffer who deserve to be on the road, and for some (the changes) will make it better... but, again, it's the attitude

they have."

An existing passenger restriction allowing three friends to accompany new drivers who are still on their first year of probation is a dangerous distraction, Mooney said.

"I don't think there should be anyone in the back seat at the beginning of their driving."

During question period Nov. 28, Transportation and Public Works Minister Gail Shea said she is preparing to table restrictions for new drivers that would include a ban on cellphones and MP3 players for student drivers.

Mooney said although she agrees with these types of restrictions, they are incomplete if student drivers are being distracted by their peers.

"New drivers are allowed three friends in the car and that is probably more of a distraction than all the other things."

Under the existing licence law, new drivers are on probation for two years after receiving a licence. In the first year there is a restriction of three passengers allowed to travel with the new driver, which can include family and friends.

In the second year, there is no restriction on how many people can travel with the new driver, as long as the number of passengers doesn't exceed the number of seatbelts in the car.

Mooney said there should be a bigger passenger restriction for the number of friends allowed to travel with student drivers.

"Go to a high school. Watch them leave at lunch time and figure out who's on probations in their first year and see how many people they have in the car. You never have as many friends as when you bring a car to school."



Ginney Liu, Karah Scott, Rhonda Yang, Mamie Liu and Maureen Wang join hands during as they perform a traditional dance during the Adopt-a-Library fundraiser. MacLean photos.

Local librarians trying 'to change something in Africa'

By KRISTA MACLEAN

Thousands of miles away in the northern Tigray province of Ethiopia, 2,500 students find themselves lucky enough to attend the Frewoyeni School.

In a province perched on a high plateau, residents of Tigray regularly battle natural disasters, political struggles, a high HIV rate and a low literacy rate. The average Tigrian can hope to live to the age of 46.

Life, by comparison, is much easier here in Charlottetown. Harsh winters are outweighed by beautiful summers, our soils produce good crops, we have well established schools and the majority of Islanders live well into their 70s.

So when a group of P.E.I. librarians went to a regional conference in Fredericton last year and saw a presentation by Stephen Lewis, the head of a Canadian foundation trying to ease the effects of HIV/AIDS in

Africa, they felt compelled to help.

"We were so incredibly moved by (Lewis') speech, we wanted to do something to change something in Africa," said Donald Moses, a librarian at the Tourism and Culinary Centre.

After some research, Island Libraries - made up of Holland College, UPEI and provincial library services - picked Adopt-a-Library, a program run by the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE).

Island Libraries hopes to raise \$2,000 to supplement funds provided by the African government. The extra money will allow Frewoyeni teachers and librarians to purchase locally produced books, North American texts and furniture. The funding will also finance special programs aimed especially at girls and women, for whom education has traditionally been a luxury.

"Literacy is the way to change the

world because when people are literate it enables so many other things," Moses said.

Island Libraries was more than two-thirds of the way to its goal after a major fundraiser held at the Tourism and Culinary Centre late last month raised \$1,400.

The strong, exotic scent of spice filled the basement level of the TCC as people happily handed over their \$5 each and headed straight to the source of the smell.

Second-year culinary students manned each station, wearing their crisp white uniforms embroidered with their name.

Lids of stainless steel food warmers were lifted to reveal authentic African dishes such as five-spice ostrich on couscous, Tunisian hallah with braised duck, sweet potato fritters, marinated lamb ribs and Kenyan corn on the cob.

Plates were piled high with steaming food as people left each station,

but some spicy dishes proved to be too much for some to handle and travel tourism students working as servers circulated the room gathering plates of leftovers.

Many went back for seconds and thirds, however, and culinary students were kept busy refilling the food stations.

An East Coast jam session was the entertainment for the evening, with students, faculty and supporters showing off their talents on stage.

Allan Dowling set the mood as he played a djembe while members of City Stages joined in with saxophone, percussion and cello.

A group of students from China participating in the enhancing rural education program gave an impromptu performance of a traditional type of Tibetan dance.

One by one they joined a line circling around a table, spinning, tapping and joining hands in sync. Even Holland College president Brian

McMillan was pulled into the mix, but bowed out gracefully when the footwork became complicated.

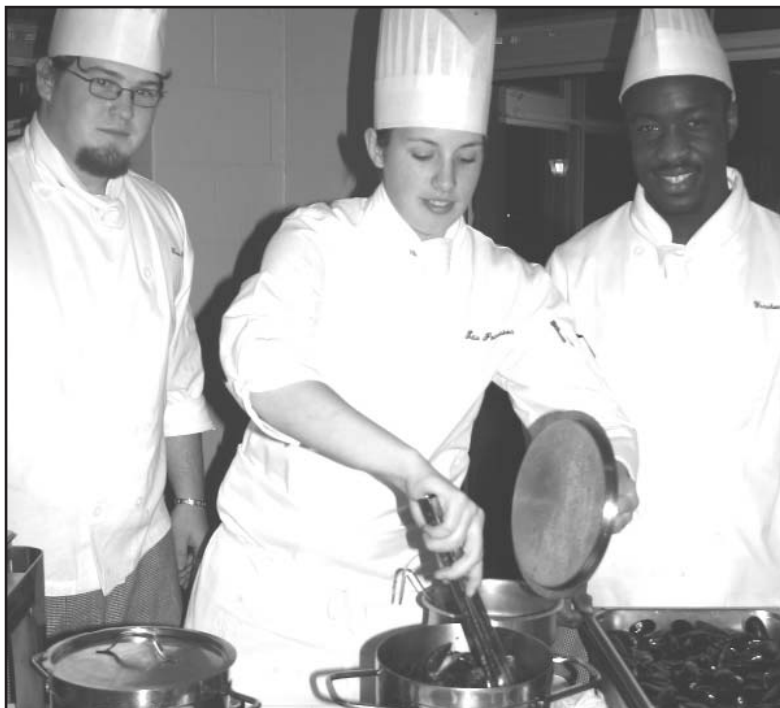
Meanwhile, on the side of the room, people bid in a silent auction for books, Holland College sweaters, wood carvings, jewellery and silk scarves that were later handed out to the highest bidders.

Holland College student Daniel Wheaton ended the evening with his a capella rendition of the Newfoundland folksong Sarah.

"This was our big, big, big push to raise money and awareness for literacy in Africa," Moses said.

"I would have loved to see more people, but it's great to see the people that are here and I'm really pleased with the turnout."

Island Libraries has also been selling organically grown Ethiopian fair trade coffee since fall at Holland College libraries across the province and continued to do so until Dec. 8 to raise the remaining \$600.



Second-year culinary students Kevin Pineo, Katie Paterson and Yenukwa Kombian dish out mussels at the Adopt-a-Library fundraiser.

Culinary students steal the show with authentic African dishes

A group of 16 second-year culinary students volunteered their afternoons for three days to prepare the African cuisine featured at the fundraiser.

Headed by chef Mike Bryanton, who created the menu from recipes he found in books, on the internet and from friends, the students were taught new techniques and ways to experiment with flavours and spices.

"There's been talk in the school of the incredible smell of spice and the different kinds of smells coming from the kitchen," said David Moses, a librarian at the Tourism and Culinary Centre.

The experience of learning traditional African cooking was worth the extra hours in the kitchen, said culinary student Katie Paterson. "There were a lot of things we weren't used to cooking because we've never made

African food, so trying all the techniques and learning all the different cooking was really interesting."

Each student also had to try everything they made. "There's a lot of lamb and it's not really my favourite. Everything is really spicy and some of it is too spicy for me. They use so much of it in African food," she said.

Some dishes were a big hit though, and Paterson said she will continue to make some of the new recipes she learned. "This was primarily a learning experience for the students and it sort of dove tailed with our initiative of raising awareness about literacy in Africa," Moses said. The TCC library donated books in return for the cuisine. The books will be raffled off to raise money for a study tour to Toronto in February. - Krista MacLean



Alan Dowling creates an African beat on the djembae.



Beware when taking off clothes, you may regret it in morning

By KRISTA MACLEAN

An e-mail featuring pictures of a half-dozen girls in various stages of nudity and numerous provocative poses has been circulating throughout the province, and no doubt beyond, over the past few months.

Sound new? No, of course not. Such pictures have been around for centuries in most cultures around the world.

But the e-mail marked 'FWD: Corona Girls' has an Island connection that will not be making it into the P.E.I. tourism brochures next summer.

These pictures, taken at a popular Charlottetown night club frequented in the summer, are of Island girls. And we're not talking Anne of Green Gables.

As I scrolled through the e-mail, I was unsure of what to think at first. I like to consider myself an open-minded person, but as the photos became more and more explicit, freedom of expression began to look more and more like degradation.

The human body, in all its naked splendour, has been the muse for some of the greatest art ever created.

But the drunken expressions and glazed over eyes of the 'Corona girls' does not constitute art.

The photos, taken by a male staff member at the nightclub in a back room, portray young women who entered themselves in a bikini contest, got drunk and apparently lost control of the situation.

Recently, The Guardian broke the story and the night club staff member/photographer was subsequently fired.

But is this whose to blame? Or is anyone even really at fault? The finger could be pointed from person to person and back again with a valid argument to back up each claim.

What ever happened to taking responsibility for your own actions? The Guardian has quoted people who point the finger at the bar because they noted how obviously intoxicated the girls appear, and how they were supposedly fed drinks all night.

Whether this is true or not is not the issue. Free alcohol does not equal mandatory consumption. Funnels were not inserted into the mouths of unknowing participants. Every cooler, beer, shot and cocktail was consumed

after a conscious decision to drink was made.

There are no get-out-of-jail free cards in real life. There are actions, reactions and sometimes consequences.

You can't blame it on the 'Captain', you can't blame it on the bar and you can't blame it on the hundreds of other variables that led to that particular situation at that moment.

At the end of the day, you have only yourself to be accountable to and if you don't have your reputation, what do you have?

We live in a world that is more connected than ever before. Pictures and videos can be taken on digital cameras and cellphones and seconds later be loaded onto the Internet where all content has the possibility of being duplicated, tampered with and sent to person after person.

And yes, your grandmother now knows how to use the Internet too.

So go out, have your fun, be reckless and live in the moment. We are young after all. Just be careful where you take your clothes off. You may regret it in the morning.

We're no longer peacekeepers We're no longer the nice guys

By KATIE SMITH

When I was a kid in school and the teacher would ask, 'what does it mean to be Canadian?' one answer that always warranted a pat on the shoulder was "we're peacekeepers.

We help countries by providing them with food, water and clothing."

We were taught this and told to be proud. Told we could hold our heads up high, and no matter where we went in the world, we'd be liked because we helped people. Because we were nice.

Looking at our country today, I feel like I was lied to.

Fellow Canadians, we are no longer peacekeepers. We're no longer the nice guys.

We are in a war, on a Canadian-led mission in Afghanistan, a country that has undergone civil conflict for decades.

We've offered a mere 2,200 troops to rebuild and bring peace to a nation,

while warfare is happening all around.

Considering our troops continue to come home in body bags, I'm not so sure how successful we've been thus far.

We're not there keeping the peace. We're making the peace. And how does one make peace? By sending in armed forces and pumping millions of tax dollars into a mission that has no end in sight, of course. Because when I think peace, I think guns. Obviously.

There are a few things I would like to say to Stephen Harper: It's not our mission. It's not our war. It's not our responsibility.

I'm not going to cop out and say even though I don't support the mission, I support the troops. Of course we all support the troops.

Speaking out against a war we have no business being a part of has nothing to do with the troops and everything to do with common sense.

Why fight a losing battle, one where even if we win, we lose?

Why are we sacrificing the lives of our own people when they aren't equipped with enough soldiers, artillery or funding to prevail?

And no, I'm not suggesting an increase of any of those things. You need to bring our troops home, Mr. Harper. You are our leader and as such, you have a responsibility to uphold the rights of your citizens. But who's rights are you upholding?

Certainly not those of the troops. And by sacrificing health care, child-care, education and the environment to fund this mission, you aren't upholding the rights of the rest of Canadians, either.

Deal with issues at home, first. After you've done that, then you can start thinking about fixing other parts of the world. Maybe it's not that I was lied to all those years ago.

Maybe today we're just living in a different Canada.

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Symphony orchestra serves up heavenly fare

A review
by **TERESA
WRIGHT CONSTABLE**

The gods would have been pleased by the latest offering from the P.E.I. Symphony Orchestra in late November.

The theme of this second concert in the orchestra season paid tribute to Pan and Jupiter: Music of the Gods.

But tribute was also paid to John Allan Cameron at the beginning of the concert on the Confederation Centre's mainstage.

His recent passing and featured performance with the orchestra in the late 1980s earned him a standing ovation before even a note was played.

The concert was an interesting mix of old and new. All three pieces in the first half had a modernly dissonant flair. Mozart brought the end of the afternoon into a familiar classical realm.

The beginning Rossini overture began softly with a simple plucking of strings, an oboe sweetly rising, answered by the clarinet. Tension built and fell back again easily in the quick gestures of conductor James Mark's baton. During speedy, difficult passages, the strings players were put to the test. First violinist and concertmaster Hok Kwan notably made this look effortless.

The piece was a wonderful start to the afternoon, keeping the mood light. It lent an airy but grounded tone to the opening of the concert.

Soloist Morgan Saulnier delivered a flawless solo in the second piece, Carl



P.E.I. Symphony conductor James Mark, soloist Morgan Saulnier and symphony administrator Annette Campbell give a pre-concert talk before performing on the Confederation Centre mainstage last month. Wright Constable photo.

Nielsen's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra. Saulnier won the opportunity to play with the symphony when she was awarded the Suzanne Brenton Award at the 2005 Queens County Music Festival. She was thrilled with how the concert went.

"The energy was up from me and from the orchestra and it came together really well. I'm very happy."

Her fingers flew through the allegro sections effortlessly. Swaying gracefully as she played, her movements echoed the fluidity of her sound. Every note was sharp and smooth all at once.

A section featuring bass trombone and flute together was especially interesting. The light trills of Saulnier's flute against the heavy, sustained quality of the trombone created a striking beauty. Saulnier added a fresh intensity to her performance. Her solo was not a mere delivery of notes on a page, but one showing depth and understanding of what the composer intended.

The Suite Hebraique that followed by Srul Irving Glick is the fourth of six such suites by the late Canadian composer. It is in largely traditional har-

monies and had a distinctively Middle Eastern flavour.

The six movements in the piece musically invoked Jewish culture in a chant, a lullaby, dialogues, and dances. In the last movement, the Circle Dance, you could easily close your eyes and picture a Jewish wedding, everyone dancing with hands raised in the air. But from the bobbing heads and smiles in the crowd of over 600, it was obvious many in the audience came only to hear the final piece, Mozart's Jupiter Symphony.

Many Mozart fans present on Sunday afternoon obviously knew it so well, they could have conducted it themselves.

This last of Mozart's symphonies has a very recognizable theme. It opens with three thunderbolts - great orchestral hammer blows on the note of C, with a tension of rising notes before each. The violins struggled a bit in some of the more challenging and brisk runs. Nevertheless, the orchestra achieved a fine and vigorous energy throughout.

The finale was most impressive, when the orchestra intensified the complexity of the counterpoint with high energy. Even when Mozart stacks up the themes at the end, every voice was clear and powerful.

It was a wonderful performance. The orchestra did an excellent job and Saulnier showed herself to be a young musician with blossoming talent and promise. And the music was, indeed, fit for the gods.

I wouldn't have wanted to spend my Sunday afternoon anywhere else.

Quick facts

about

Morgan Saulnier

- Saulnier earned her bachelor of music, first-class standing, from UPEI in 2006.

- She was awarded Highest Standing Music Student for each year of her degree.

- She has earned an RCM silver medal for highest mark in Atlantic Canada, twice for flute and once for piano.

- She received RCM's recognition for the highest mark in Canada for Grade 8 flute.

- She is pursuing a master's degree in flute performance at Memorial University.

- She has represented Nova Scotia and P.E.I. at the National Music Festival in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Letter to editor

Unveiling cloak of inaccuracy

Re: Sarah Thorne's editorial entitled Dr. Phil is Springer in better suit (Surveyor, Nov. 24). Congratulations on a wonderful piece of journalism! Your article is an excellent piece of critical thinking that correctly challenges the media to responsible reporting on this plague of "reality based" theatre that masquerades as a talk show. You correctly unveiled the cloak of inaccuracy associated with Dr Phil's presentation of facts. Well done. - Helen Flynn, Program Manager, Health and Community Studies

We live in the Reliance Age, not Information Age

An opinion
by **MATTHEW DAYE**

A short in a trans-former in Charlottetown Nov. 28 cut power to the east and west wings of Holland College Charlottetown centre.

People walked through the unnaturally dark hallways (considering it was bright and sunny outside), trying to figure out what was going on and what it is they could or should do.

Everyone was lost.

In the journalism department students wandered around talking, completely unsure of what to do without their

computers, believing that without power they would get the day off since they had no computers to work with.

One student went so far as to grab the antique typewriter that was on display as the tools of yesteryear and attempted to bang out a story, much to the amusement of the others in the class.

We live in the information age, a virtual universe of information at our fingertips. We can find out anything simply by Googling the topic.

But is the information age a misnomer?

I'm starting to believe this is now the Reliance

Age, where people can seem smart as long as they have access to the internet, but are lost without it.

Students stared at blank screens instead of picking up paper and pen to write their stories. We have become that dependent on technology.

There are very few places that can survive in our western world when the computer goes down, or even the cash register.

Most cash registers can be opened manually to get at the money, and people could easily write down the cost of items and do the math, but without technology's

crutch we fall to the floor and wait for it to pick us up again.

Technology is not a bad thing and does make our lives easier.

But our generation, some of the generations before us and definitely the generations ahead have stopped using the technology as a tool to help them accomplish their tasks. They rely on it like life support and seem to break down when it does.

Humanity has become like a plugged-in appliance, and without the cord plugged in we become big useless paperweights.

Before you think this is for the sake of drama, go a single day without using any electricity and see how well you fair.

You'll likely survive but will you be productive and happy?

You may think that you've gone without watching TV or surfing the Net for a day before, but that may have been by choice.

When you are stuck in a situation where you can't use those things at all, you'll likely start to worry, and some may even panic.

Religion may be the opiate of the masses, but technology is the cocaine.

Institute, college discuss opportunities to make the most of wind power

By ANDREA MACRAE

Wind energy on P.E.I. needs more workers and Holland College may be able to provide trained people to fill the bill, says the director of the wind institute at North Cape.

When Anne Forbes, the executive director of the Wind Energy Institute of Canada, presented an overview of her organization at a meeting last month at Holland College, she talked about the labour needs of the Island's wind industry.

Some of the college's existing programs can help fill the shortage, said Forbes.

"The beauty of that is if you're thinking in the area of developing a windsmithing program, that you've already got bases in significant programs."

The college offers diplomas in Electrical Technology and Electromechanical Technology. Forbes said WEICan is a natural site for on-the-job training, but the industry needs more people ready to hit the ground immediately.

"If we can provide those people who are ready to go, that would be wonderful because the industry needs them now. It absolutely needs them now."

Assembly people are learning on the job, she said.

Safety awareness, technical and electromechanical skills are critical.

"That's what you need at the top of an 80-metre tower and the wind's blowing and you're put-

ting the blades on.

"It requires absolutely impeccable skill."

Service is another area of opportunity. Forbes said turbine manufacturers offer five-year service contracts and General Electric has just cut its service to two years.

"How are they going to keep those turbines going?" Forbes asked. "There's virtually nobody there to do it. Even on the small wind."

Engineers are harder to find, she said. General Electric is hiring them from Germany in large numbers.

Europe, especially Germany, is the leader in large turbines, but some of them can't handle the North Cape winds, said Forbes.

That creates the opportunity for the institute to provide a product test centre and receive training for Canadian workers.

The institute, which opened its 7,860-square-foot facility in October, is creating accommodations on site for future employees, students and contractors.

"I think there's going to be an awful lot of people coming and going from North Cape. That requires services."

Holland College president Brian McMillan said the visit was a chance for Forbes to get to know the college and learn what it has to offer.

"Now that she has an understanding of what our strengths are and how we could be a resource, we're going to have a follow up meeting to take a look at ways in



Anne Forbes, executive director of Wind Energy Institute of Canada, at a recent meeting at Holland College. MacRae photo.

which the college can more specifically become part of the WEICan."

McMillan said there will be dis-

cussions with program managers and a separate conversation about the potential for possible research opportunities.

WEICan, along with other contractors, is building turbines at the Eastern Kings Wind Farm, owned and operated by P.E.I. Energy Corporation.

- The wind farm will consist of 10 Vestas V-90 turbines with a capacity of three megawatts each, for a total capacity of 30 megawatts.

- The rotor diameter is 90 metres, thus the name V-90.

- Vestas is the largest turbine manufacturer in the world and the V-90 is the largest wind turbine in North America.

- The P.E.I. project will be the first V-90 wind farm in North America.

- The height to the hub (the nose of the turbine) is 81 metres – equivalent to a 26-storey building. The turbines at North Cape have a 50-metre hub height. The Peace Tower in Ottawa is 92.2 metres high.

- The project capital cost is approximately \$56 million.

- Annual production will be 90-95 million kilowatt hours, enough electricity to power about 12,000 homes.

- It will supply about 7.5 per cent of P.E.I.'s electricity.

- The wind farm will be in operation by the end of 2006.

Source: Environment Department release Nov. 3, 2006

Wind energy program coming to Holland College

By LINDSAY CARROLL

Holland College will soon have the best wind energy program in Canada, says a college program manager.

Kent Sheen, program manager of aerospace, industry and trades, said he is excited about the new program being developed at the college for the growing industry of wind farming.

"It will be the best in Canada."

Because P.E.I. is such a small province, its dedication to renewable resources will mean a large

portion of the province's electricity could one day be generated by wind, said Sheen.

Right now, 7.5 per cent of the province's electricity is supplied by wind energy.

Holland College president Brian McMillan met with Anne Forbes, the executive director of the Wind Energy Institute of Canada, a couple of weeks ago to discuss a partnership between the college and the institute that would help students get hands-on wind-turbine experience.

McMillan said the wind farm

will provide excellent lab sites and resources for the students that would not normally be available.

"They have equipment there that's rather unique, because there are different types of windmills."

Sheen said there is no standardized training available for wind farming, something he hopes the college will soon change.

He would like to see a one-year wind energy program that would include the two-year electro-mechanical program as a prerequisite.

The program would specialize

in things like safety for climbing wind turbines, which has never been taught before.

A shorter program of about six months may also be included for entry-level positions. It would assist graduates of the program in repair and maintenance of wind turbines.

With the recent boom in the alternative energy sector, Sheen said graduates will have no problem finding jobs.

"There is a tremendous demand today for technicians."

McMillan is working to secure

the funding necessary to expand the Charlottetown Centre campus for the new trades programs.

"Ideally, I'd like to do it within a year."

A proposal is in the works to be submitted to the provincial government by Christmas outlining what kind of funding is needed.

The project is expected to cost the college close to \$2 million, said Sheen.

McMillan is confident the province will support the college's proposal because of its dedication to renewable energy.

Stunning lobster more humane practice: inventor

By KATIE SMITH

Simon Buckhaven, a lawyer from England, is concerned about animal welfare.

One day while vacationing with his family in France, Buckhaven stopped at a grocery store to buy some lobster for his son's birthday.

"They pulled out a live lobster, about to throw it into a pot of boiling water," Buckhaven said via telephone from England. "I thought they'd kill it in some way first, like you kill a chicken or whatever."

They didn't.

"No, you can't do that!" he said, as the lobster made its way into the pot.

Buckhaven said he "sheepishly bought one that was already cooked" and left the shop, appalled.

"I thought to myself, 'Only in France can they behave so barbarically.'"

But when Buckhaven returned to England, he discovered most people cook lobster that way.

There must be a better, more humane way to prepare lobster and crab, he thought.

By applying the same principle as one would to cows, pigs, sheep, chicken and other animals stunned prior to being killed, Buckhaven invented the CrustaStun, a crustacean stunner, which made the list of Time magazine's Best Inventions of 2006.

"You stun them first. You stun them before you kill them so they don't feel pain."

The CrustaStun, which will hit markets in December, comes in two styles: the single stunner, designed for restaurants and personal use, stuns one lobster at a time and costs around \$4,000 per unit.

The machine is a box made of stainless steel. The top raises, the crustacean is placed in the box and is zapped with 110 volts, rendering the creature unconscious.

The second model, the continuous flow stunner, is ideal for seafood processors. It stuns 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of lobster an hour and costs about \$100,000.

This model is much larger, with a conveyor belt that runs through a metal frame enclosed in a plexi-glass security cage.

The industrial version is being manufactured on P.E.I. by Charlottetown Metal Products.

Wendell MacDonald, the gener-



This industrial version of the CrustaStun, a new invention designed to render lobster and crab unconscious before cooking them, is being manufactured on P.E.I. by Charlottetown Metal Products. Submitted photo.

al manager of CMP, said his company does a lot of work in Ireland and the U.K. and was contacted by Buckhaven four years ago to manufacture his invention.

MacDonald said his company has already sold two units to the U.K.

The biggest reason processors are looking for a more humane way to deal with live crustacean is pressure from high-scale dining rooms and grocery chains.

"Those two processors were basically, I shouldn't say forced, but very strongly persuaded to buy this system or they would lose clients."

Pressures from lobby groups and animal rights activists will soon lead to legislation, MacDonald said.

"This movement is coming on very rapidly, so I'd say in a few years, yes, it will be a pretty steady product line.

"There have been several pro-

posals (for machines) and we keep getting inquiries."

The CrustaStun has a simple premise: render lobster or crab unconscious before killing them so to reduce their pain.

But would such a product ever be used by chefs?

Allan Williams, a research and development chef at the Culinary Institute of Canada in Charlottetown, said the idea is interesting, but he would like to see more research done to determine whether lobsters do in fact feel pain.

Otherwise, the product wouldn't be useful.

"I would assume (a lobster) was killed instantly. Now they still move around in the water, but that could be just nerves and stuff like that.

"I don't think I would use it, or take the time, unless the studies prove it, to stun the lobster just before I put them in a pot of boil-

ing water."

When chefs want to kill a lobster before grilling it on a barbecue, for example, they stab it through the back of the body in order to kill it, then cook it, Williams said.

"We cut it alive, killing it instantly, then barbeque it. But if you could do something like (stun it), then yeah, if it's not too expensive."

As far as the school goes, it likes to stay up to date about what's going on in the food industry, he said.

"If it started to take off or something like that, I could see us probably looking into it, for sure, just to be able to teach the students how to use it."

Do lobsters feel pain?

"Some people say they can hear them scream and things like that, but I don't think that's true. I've never heard one scream," he said with a laugh.

Do lobsters really feel pain?

By KATIE SMITH

Atlantic Canadians have been eating lobster for many years.

The most common way we prepare lobster is by throwing the live creature into a boiling pot of water.

Sure it thrashes around in the pot for a few seconds, but does that mean anything? And what is that noise?

Is the lobster actually screaming in pain?

No, said Dr. Spencer Greenwood, a veterinarian and research scientist at the Atlantic Veterinary College Lobster Science Centre in Charlottetown.

"People talk about the scream. There's no doubt that that's due to air escaping from the carapace. They're like any organism that has connective tissue – it's going to trap gas inside of it."

It's hard to say if a lobster feels pain because pain is subjective, he said.

"We know that there is a good nervous system there, that's a complex nervous system that's adopted to a lobster in their natural environment. But it's a nervous system like that of insects, not like that of mammals.

"If we don't have a problem killing a mosquito, why do we have a problem killing a lobster?"

Another reason it's hard to gauge the pain of a lobster is they have a process called autotomy, the ability to drop limbs when they feel stressed or under attack, Greenwood said.

"So an animal that has the ability to drop a limb, a leg, does it perceive pain in the same way that you would expect us to?

"Sure they have the ability to sense their environment. Sure they have the ability to be aware. But does that mean pain? I think the jury's still out on that."

Montague man helps rebuild lives in war zone

Shane Llewellyn one of 40 engineers sent to Afghanistan airfield to work on a variety of projects there

By **LORIE O'HALLORAN**

Afghanistan may be far from here, but the war has touched the lives of a family in Montague.

Corporal Shane Llewellyn, a Montague native, is in Kandahar with the 17 Wing Construction Engineering personnel preparing wood to be used in the construction of a new Canada House at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Llewellyn is one of the 40 Canadian engineers sent to the airfield to construct a variety of projects.

Llewellyn and his wife, Judy, live in Gaagetown, N.B. and have a son Preston, who is 20 years old. Shane has spent 25 years in the Canadian Forces. Born to Beth and the late Preston Llewellyn of Montague, Llewellyn is the youngest of seven children.

He has been in Kandahar for the past year and is expected to return for a couple of days leave in January of 2007.

There are approximately 2,300 Canadian Forces personnel deployed with Canada's Task Force Afghanistan.

The mission is to help Afghans rebuild their lives, their families, their communities and their nation. Canadian operations provide a secure environment for them to recover from more than 25 years of conflict.



Montague native Corporal Shane Llewellyn saws wood to be used in the construction of a new Canada House at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Llewellyn was one of the 40 Canadian engineers sent to the airfield to construct a variety of projects. Submitted photo.

Facts about war in Afghanistan

By **STACEY MURRAY**

- 36 other countries are serving alongside Canadians in Afghanistan.
- 44 soldiers have died in Afghanistan since 2002, 36 of which from 2006 alone.
- There have been six incidences of friendly fire since 2002, and four accidental deaths.
- There are 2,336 soldiers serving in Afghanistan, 2,286 of which are part of Operation ATHENA, which is Canada's NATO led operation.
- In total there are roughly 62,000 members of the regular force and 25,000 Reservists within the Canadian forces.

Source: Department of National Defence website

Canada part of long-term plan in Afghanistan: ambassador

By **STACEY MURRAY**

The key to achieving victory is getting Afghanistan on its feet, Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan told students and Island residents last month.

David Sproule spoke to a group at the University of Prince Edward Island about the progress made in Afghanistan and work that still needs to be done.

The country, ranked sixth poorest in the world, has been in a state of war for most of the last 30 years and the country's infrastructure has been destroyed as a result.

Sproule said achievements have been made since Canadian forces entered Afghanistan in 2001, such as the first democratically elected government in the country's history.

In October 2004, President

Hamid Karzai was elected with a 55 per cent majority and national assembly and provincial elections were held less than a year later.

Canada, along with other nations, has set out to develop a stable infrastructure by improving roads and developing educational facilities and other key institutions.

Sproule said every step Canada takes is part of a larger vision.

"The international community has a plan, it has a comprehensive plan and Canada is part of working on that plan."

Liberating women is a major part of the mission and, since entering Afghanistan five years ago, 25 per cent of MPs are women and five million children are now enrolled in school, with one-third of them girls, Sproule said.

"We don't ever want to again see

images of girls being denied access to school and women being beaten off the streets for potentially violating regulations."

Despite the success, audience members had some tough questions for the ambassador following his speech.

Chris Carson, a student at UPEI, asked how soldiers felt about signing up for a peacekeeping mission when the focus seems to be shifting to that of a combat mission.

Sproule defended Canada's position in Afghanistan and maintained it is still a peacekeeping mission, although not in the traditional sense as international conflicts have grown increasingly complex.

Local activist Leo Broderick, who also attended the speech, said there is a consensus among many Canadians that the situation in

Afghanistan is similar to that of Iraq and that Canada has aligned itself with the United States.

While Sproule said he wasn't an expert on Iraq, he said Canada was in Afghanistan with the blessing of the Afghan government.

He also said the discussion wasn't about the United States' role in the country, but Canada's role.

Broderick also talked about the dire situation for women living in the country and cited cases from the government of injustice to women.

Afghan MP Malalai Joya painted a different picture than that of Sproule when speaking to students at the University of Ottawa in September.

She said women still face many problems in society and freedom of speech is non-existent in the country.

Joya was elected into the government and since then she has survived four assassination attempts.

She is best known for accusing her government of corruption and calling some members warlords in a speech she gave.

After the speech, she was threatened by some of her peers.

"One of them shouted 'prostitute, take her and rape her,'" she told students at the University of Ottawa.

Sproule said there is still a long way to go, but Canada is in for the long run to promote stability and peace in Afghanistan, as well as protecting the international community.

"We are here because we never want a reprise of what happened on Sept. 11."

Ionized bracelets: worth the money?

By STEVE BRUN

Have you ever seen commercials for ionized bracelets and pendants like the Q-Ray products advertised on infomercials and said, 'Great, but what do they do?'

The Golf Channel features commercials of PGA Tour professionals like Mark Calcavecchia, Charles Howell III, Justin Rose and Tommy Armour III all talking about the health benefits of ionized bracelets and pendants made up of not much more than copper, silver or gold.

They say wearing the bracelets can improve golf games and overall health.

Trouble is, they never explain how.

The website www.magnetictherapysales.com sells Q-Ray bracelets and pendants for prices starting at \$129 and ranging up to \$2,000.

Every home, business or commercial building is awash with an electromagnetic field (EMF), which could be harmful to the human body, says the site.

Bracelet proponents say they reduce the effects of EMF and build up the body's own natural energy field.

Q-Ray's website says the bracelets put out "subtle energies" that can't be observed or measured by any known instrumentation.

So if we can't observe them, how do we know they exist?

Many people who swear by Q-Ray are not getting paid to do so.

Matt Nykyforchyn, 27, of Charlottetown is a newlywed and avid golfer who received a Q-Ray as a wedding gift.

While he hasn't noticed any significant change while wearing the bracelet, his golf game seems to have



Notron's Jewellers employee Sandra Gillis displays one of the Q-Ray ionized bracelets sold at the store. The bracelets have become popular among people seeking stress relief, improvement in their sport and help with aches and pains. Brun photo.

improved.

"I've been golfing four times since the wedding," he said "I'm definitely making better swings. I'm putting less effort in and getting the same results."

Nykyforchyn said if he didn't receive the Q-Ray as a gift, he would have bought one.

"I always wanted one and I needed a piece of jewelry for my right arm."

While the science of the bracelet may seem suspect, Nykyforchyn said the effects aren't all psychological.

"I definitely think there's an in-your-head element, but it definitely had an effect."

People who think the bracelet is the cure for arthritis and other ailments, however, should not look to the products as easy answers, he said.

"It's not going to change your life, it's just going to make your blood flow better."

Q-Ray's brochure said the ancient oriental yin-yang theory states a person has achieved the state of ch'i when the body's negative energy (yin) and positive energy (yang) are in balance.

Q-Ray engineers incorporated this theory into their modern design, believing a balanced ch'i allows body and mind to perform to its full potential.

Norton's Jewellers in Charlottetown sells Q-Ray bracelets at prices ranging from \$79.95 to \$279.95.

The products are popular among many different age groups and people seem to be sold on them already

when they come to the store, said assistant manager Laura-Lee Lewis.

"They seem to sell pretty easily on their own."

Buyers include young and old customers and athletes seeking to improve their game, said Lewis, who added older customers seeking help with aches and pains are probably the biggest group.

Norton's also sees a normal number of returns from people claiming the Q-Ray didn't work for them, she said.

Lewis said she probably wouldn't buy a bracelet for herself, but wouldn't rule it out under certain circumstances.

"If so many people are wearing them or say that it works, I guess you'd try anything."

Opposition supports ATV legislation

By MATTHEW DAYE

Owners and operators of ATVs under the age of 14 will no longer be allowed to operate their vehicles if the legislature's transportation committee's suggestions become law.

Gary Dunning sells ATVs at Kawasaki Toy Master motor sports dealerships and he said the committee is going about it the wrong way. He's seen 12-year-olds drive better than adults in both skill and safety.

The proposed rules say ATV riders 14 to 16 years old would require a license and certified safety training.

They would have to wear safety gear and be directly supervised by an adult. They would operate a vehicle of a proper size and weight for the rider.

Dunning said they're important guidelines, but training should be the focus, not age.

"The biggest problem is the lack of safety training," he said. "That will fix 80, 90 per cent of the problem."

Dunning started driving dirt bikes when he was four, but he only drove when he was under his parent's supervision. The new rules would allow children under 12 to ride dirt bikes, but only while competing or training for competition and they would face the same requirements as ATV riders 14 to 16 in age.

One of the proposals is designated trails for bikes and ATVs.

Dunning said that would prevent many accidents.

"The trail system would be safe place to ride," he said "You're not driving down a field where you didn't know there was a ditch two feet deep."

Transportation minister Gail Shea has said she plans to introduce the legislation this fall.

Opposition Leader Robert Ghis supports the plan.

"The safety of our Islanders is the concern here," Ghis said. "The safety of our children and future generations is our concern here and we're looking forward to seeing any legislation come forward as soon as possible."

Liquor Commission hopes to cash in on Sunday shopping

Board of directors develops a plan to let open stores on the Sabbath

By JARROD YEO

The Prince Edward Island Liquor Control Commission wants to jump on the Sunday shopping bandwagon.

Its board of directors met in late November to develop a plan to open on Sundays after the government announced plans to allow retailers to open on Sundays from May to December.

Commission chair Wayne MacDougall said P.E.I. is one of the last places in Canada where stores don't sell alcohol on Sunday.

"Out of 10 provinces, P.E.I and Nova Scotia don't have the opportuni-

ty to be open. We're in the service retail business and good service is our objective."

MacDougall said a business case analysis would determine which stores would open.

"We'd see which ones most customers went to. We have to pay higher wages on Sunday so we have to make sure it's profitable to be open. Not every store would be."

MacDougall doesn't expect Islanders to oppose the proposal.

"If you look at New Brunswick, there's all kinds of people shopping at the Dieppe Liquor Store for example. It's time to make the change. We

"Consumption is something we can't impose upon consumers, but we want the sale to take place."

might as well keep the money on the Island."

Tourism minister Philip Brown said he supports the proposal because tourists often expect to be able to buy alcohol on Sunday.

"I've heard the concerns of operators and visitors that access to beer, wine and spirits is something they've become accustomed to, so when they

come here they find it somewhat strange that they're not able to access these services."

Brown views it as an enhancement of the service, rather than a promotion for further consumption.

"We advocate strongly the responsible use of alcohol and the commission has been able to ensure that sales take place in an orderly and responsible manner. Consumption is something we can't impose upon consumers, but we want the sale to take place."

If approved, the commission would set the hours of operation.

Geocaching...cont. from page 1

This usually consists of small children's toys, pins, pencils, bumper stickers and just about anything you can think of.

When you find a cache, you sign the log book inside, then you take an item. The catch is you need to leave something in return.

It relies on people following the rules and unfortunately sometimes people just don't play fair.

"One time a person left a broken bungee cord in my cache," said Goeseels.

You can even buy geocaching accessories, called "geoswag," from geocaching.com. There are fake rocks that double as containers for caches, personalised coins to leave behind and trackable "travel bugs."

The local project cost roughly \$26,000 and is a partnership supported by the South Shore Tourism Group, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Tourism PEI and the Central Development Corporation.

"We wouldn't have been able to do it without ACOA and the province," said Wall.



Upon finding a cache, players take and leave trinkets and sign the journal inside. MacLean photo.

The money has gone to marketing, which includes a website and a pamphlet. Also, a new GPS units have been purchased to loan to interested group members.

Goeseels owns and operates the Dutch Inn in Cornwall. She is a member of the South Shore Tourism Group and is hopeful for the future of the program. She hopes to have packages set up soon for people who want to visit the Island and go geocaching.

"It's one more attraction that would set my business apart from others," she said.

The south shore is the first area in Atlantic Canada to market the game as a tourist attraction, said Wall.

"We want our operators to lead the way."

People were asking about geocaching at the tourism centres this summer, said Wall. Now when they visit, staff will have resources on the Island to help them enjoy their visit that much more.

And geocaching is free after you purchase a GPS system.

"We're trying to keep it from becoming commercial," said Wall.

The idea is when people come here to geocache they will do other things as well.

The only time a tourist might need to spend money to play is if they don't have their own GPS unit and they needed to rent one.

So far things are going well. The south shore group has set up roughly 20 caches and many Island geocachers have been busy setting up their own as well. Last year there was around 57 caches on the Island. This year there are over 200 and more are being added.

"There are a lot of people hiding them. It leads me to wonder if there are as many people looking," laughed Wall. The group is continuing to monitor the program to see if people consider P.E.I. a geocaching hot spot or not.



Nurse Heather Hubley gives Priscilla MacKinnon her flu shot on Nov. 29 at Holland College. Staff from the Charlottetown Travel Clinic were at the Charlottetown Centre campus to offer shots to students and staff. Reeves photo.

Prevent spreading flu, know symptoms: pharmacist

By LORIE O'HALLORAN

Flu shot supplies have been distributed to community health centres and clinics are being set up to administer vaccinations, says Dr. Lamont Sweet, the chief health officer for P.E.I.

Sweet said the Island received enough of the vaccination to treat 42,000 Islanders.

"We expect 70 per cent of those treated will be seniors."

The flu shot can minimize the chance of getting the flu and can reduce the chance of getting pneumonia, he said.

"But it does not give 100 per cent protection from the flu."

Anyone can get a flu shot, but it is recom-

Avoiding spread of flu

- Get an annual flu shot
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds
- Cover up when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue, or raise your arm to your face to cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Keep shared surface areas clean.
- If you get sick, stay home.

mended seniors and children ages six to 23 months because they are in a higher risk group, he said. The flu shots that are available cover types A and A-B influenza.

"These are the most likely ones to be circulating this year."

Erin MacKenzie, a pharmacist at Shopper's Drug Mart, said it is important people know what the symptoms of the flu are and ways to prevent the spread of the virus.

"That's the key."

There are many over the counter medications that could help with flu symptoms, but they must be taken within two days of the first symptoms, said MacKenzie.

"If you are into day three, then those medications will not work."

As part of their Health Watch program, Shopper's Drug Mart produced a booklet that provides information on cold, flu's and possible remedies, MacKenzie said.

P.E.I. only province with new meningitis vaccine

Island's chief health officer says vaccine will immunize against four strains of bacterial meningitis

By CHARISSA REEVES

Prince Edward Island is the first province in Canada to offer a new vaccine to protect against meningitis.

Lamont Sweet, chief health officer for the province, said the new vaccine will immunize against four strains of bacterial meningitis; A, C, Y and W-135.

There are five strains of meningitis which can affect humans, the vaccine used by the rest of Canada

only protects against one, C.

The vaccine is for bacterial meningitis, not viral meningitis.

Viral meningitis can have long-term damaging effects, but bacterial meningitis can be fatal if not diagnosed quickly, said Dr. Ray Cooke from the P.E.I. Foreign Travel Clinic.

"It's like being rich with a hundred \$1s or a hundred \$100s. One is a bit different than the other."

The vaccine will be given to all Grade 9 students in the province.

There is only a limited amount of the vaccine available coming from the United States, said Sweet.

"We have a small population and we are able to immunize all of our students with the supply of vaccine out there, but there is not enough for the larger provinces, so they are going to have to wait."

There have been other provinces with smaller populations looking at the vaccine but so far P.E.I. is the only one to go with it, said Sweet.

"When we get a good vaccine we don't mind being first."

The last case of bacterial meningitis on the Island was a Y strain back in the 1990s.

Strains Y and W-135 have become increasingly common in the rest of Canada over the last few years, said Sweet.

"So what we are afraid of is like the rest of the country we would start getting Y and W-135."

There are relatively few problems associated with the vaccine,

said Sweet.

"You can get swelling of the arm and tenderness, and you can get flu-like symptoms after most of these vaccines."

So far there have been no problems with the vaccine, said Sweet. Nurses started innoculating students in Grade 9 the second last week in November

They hope to have all Grade 9 students in the province vaccinated by the end of January, said Sweet.

Thief makes off with nearly \$1,000

By NATHAN ROCHFORD

A Holland College student says she may sue the school following a break and enter that ended in the theft of \$963 worth of personal property on a recent Monday afternoon.

Lyndsay Sullivan, a resident of Glendenning Hall, said the school didn't tell her she could buy insurance for her individual room until after the theft.

College residences are not insured as a whole, but students can request insurance on their individual rooms, which protects students against theft, or any outside damages.

"I'm mad that no one can do anything about it," Sullivan said. "They're taking it very lightly. I want to sue the school and I will pursue money through the school."

The break-in happened around 2 p.m. while Sullivan's roommate, Erica Dodge, was napping with her bedroom door closed.

"I heard rustling around and I yelled for Lyndsay, then I heard whoever it was start running. I yelled stop, but she ran away," Dodge said.

The suspect managed to escape with a \$500 digital camera, a



Residence supervisor Bill Weatherbie reminds students to lock their doors. Rochford photo.

memory card, a Columbia winter coat, a sweater, a leather belt, and a pair of jeans.

None of the items were recovered upon the suspect's arrest.

"A lot of that is going on now," residence supervisor Bill

Weatherbie said. "You can expect more as December comes. It's just that time of year."

This is the second security issue since the residence elevator was vandalized earlier this fall.

However, Weatherbie said he

does not plan to change much as of yet. "My biggest thing is to make sure everyone's door is locked," he said. "Some kids say they like to leave their door's open. "Well here's a prime example why you shouldn't."

Thieves target Honda Civic more than any other

By CHRISTY MARSTERS

The 2000 Honda Civic SiR 2-door is considered to be the most frequently stolen vehicle in Canada by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. And the Civic was rated No. 1 and No. 2 on the list of top 10 stolen vehicles.

Honda Sales Representative Wilbur Birt said the Honda Civic is probably the No. 1 selling car in Charlottetown and the SiR 2-door is a souped up sports model.

The Honda Civic is the No. 1 car sold in Canada, so it makes sense it would be the No. 1 vehicle stolen and the SiR model is an attractive model for teenagers to steal, said Birt.

"[It's stolen] because of the fact it's appealing to the younger element of people."

The Honda Civic Si 2-door Hatchback was rated No. 5 and No. 8 on the Insurance Bureau of Canada list of most stolen vehicles.

On the U.S insurance industry's list the four-door Civic was considered the safest small car model last year.

Honda's greatest priority is safety for everyone, but security features on the Civic have been improved since 2000 because newer models have an immobilizing system feature, Birt said.

"It's harder to unlock the door but there's nothing to stop them [people] smashing a window."

Jessi Rax owns a reliable Honda Civic and her vehicle has never been stolen.

"I like it [the Honda Civic]. It has a good engine and it's easy to find parts for."

Charlottetown police constable Gary Clow said he could recall the K-car being stolen quite frequently because that vehicle used to be easy to break into, but the Honda Civic didn't come to mind.

"It's stolen no more than any other car."

Slow down in winter

By ANDREA MACRAE

When winter hits, and it will, drivers need to remember two things. Slow down. And make sure you can see where you're going. That's the advice from two people who spend many hours on P.E.I. roads.

Rick Cooke, a driving instructor with JVI Provincial Transportation and Safety Academy in Summerside, and RCMP Sgt. Mike Murphy both offered very similar advice on winter driving safety.

"What we find here, especially during the first snowfall of the season, is that people fail to adjust their driving based on the road conditions," said Murphy.

Cooke agreed people tend to drive much faster than they should. "Even though the weather gets bad, they're still trying to drive 80 kilometres in an 80 zone instead of slowing down a little bit," he said. "You need more time because you're going to slide a lot farther in bad weather."

The other problem Cooke sees is peephole driving.

"They're just looking out a little hole in the windshield rather than waiting for the whole window to clear off."

It's something that can't be stressed enough, said Murphy.

"Here, those are the two biggest factors that contribute to accidents, the failing to adjust the speed to the conditions and having proper visibility all the way around the vehicle before they hit the road."

Bad weather and high snowbanks can block sight lines making it hard just to get going from home.

"As far as going in and out of your driveway, I'd recommend that they back in and drive out because of the visibility factor," said Cooke.

In the same vein, he said drivers should make sure the defrosters work on all windows and check the wipers. It's also important to allow more time to use turn signals, position the car and begin to brake earlier.

In severe weather the RCMP ask people to avoid driving, said Murphy.



Honda sales representative Wilbur Birt stands behind the new Civic. Birt refers to Honda vehicles as his "babies." Marsters photo.

Holland College instructor brings comedy into classroom

By CHRISTY MARSTERS

The room was dark, with only the glow from monitors offering a source of light. The glow of computer screens and the constant clicking sound of keyboards from all directions would send any outsider into an instant state of hypnosis.

Black chairs were scattered across the room and when sat upon they provided the perfect back support and cushioning for a person to relax. Perhaps to even drift off for a moment or two because the atmosphere in the room could be appreciated by any college student who had been up the night before enjoying the college lifestyle and wanted nothing more than sleep.

It was difficult to understand why everyone in the room seemed full of energy and wide awake.

Then the Interactive Multimedia instructor for Holland College walked into his classroom.

Patrick Ledwell strode across the classroom and began to address the class. He is a man who could best be described in comparison with a tree. Tall and slender he stood at the front of the room, waving his arms around like branches blowing in the wind.

His hair sprouted out at every angle and was gelled with the same crunch as leaves. He wore the traditional pleated pants and tucked-in grid pattern shirt of any stereotypical computer geek, but there was something in his demeanor that made Ledwell unique.

Computer work and web design would seem as frustrating to learn as it would be difficult to teach.

Knowing people learn at different paces and in a variety of ways, it appears almost impossible to have everyone in this diverse classroom engaged, but for Ledwell this com-



Patrick Ledwell doesn't want the typical office picture. He decided to strick this comedic pose by his brothers painting hanging in his office. Marsters photo.

munication skill seems natural. He teaches his students by allowing them to look at an aspect they are struggling to learn in a different way and encourages them to make their own connections.

"People should do things to stretch their own abilities," he said.

When students seem lost, Ledwell uses questioning to steer them in the right direction and he is always available for one-on-one time with anyone who required help.

Recently, he found time for the stu-

dent who needed help, the phone in his office that constantly rang, the random walk-ins who appear at his office door after-hours, his wife who he would go to lunch with and the student journalist searching for someone to give her the time for a story.

Tara Costello Ledwell works at Holland College as the sports and leisure instructor and she married Patrick Ledwell in July 2006. She praised her husband's good qualities and positive attitude.

"Patrick is intelligent, funny, loyal

and a hard worker. If he has to get up at four or five in the morning four or five times a week, then he will."

The students in the interactive multimedia course also value their teacher's unique qualities. He is good at teaching a course that would be hard for most others to teach, student Maggie Facey said.

"He tries his best to make things entertaining, so that's a good thing."

Barbara Perry is another student who thinks Ledwell is an entertaining teacher. He is a serious teacher in one

sense because he makes sure to take his students through difficult computer processes from the beginning and step-by-step so students are able to understand. But the entertainment he provides is also an asset to the class.

"He's kind of like a stand up comedian (in class)."

This statement is ironic because, whether or not Perry realized it, her teacher really is an actual stand-up comedian.

There is a connection between being a stand-up comedian and being a teacher because in both cases it is important to keep an audience engaged and entertained. Ledwell incorporates jokes and random inserts of humour, such as the uncommon term "wonky" to describe a web design idea to his students.

"It's a great thing to make a group of people laugh," he said.

Having a good sense of humour and a positive attitude helped Ledwell better himself in his professional career and in more difficult times. When his father was going through cancer treatment it was a difficult time for Ledwell, but using his positive attitude to get through that motivated him to organize the Comedy Care Unit Fundraiser with his wife.

The event allowed Ledwell to tell jokes to the general public and help sick patients be positive during their own struggles.

Ledwell wanted to participate in this fundraiser because he aimed to make each day better and the challenges easier for those under pressure in the hospital.

"Plus some people in the room would throw money in the bucket and we raised \$1,300 this year for the hospital because of this event."

Beloved Charlottetown couple sell business after 46 years

By SARAH THORNE

One of the oldest restaurants in Charlottetown will be handed over to new owners in mid-December.

Elias (Louis) and Faida Rashed recently sold the Town and Contry Restaurant on Queen Street, a business they've owned and operated since 1964.

Dec. 15 is their last day.

"We're leaving a lot of history behind us. It's a long time, you know," said Louis as he looked around the dining room Nov. 24.

Louis came to the Island from Lebanon in 1959 with his brother Cy,

at 21. Their other two brothers George and Labeeb, were already here.

Louis and a partner bought the Town and Country in 1964. They opened for business on April 14 of that year, Louis said.

"It seems like yesterday. We opened at 11 a.m. It was packed."

Louis met Fadia when he returned home for a visit in 1970. They were married and three months later made the trip back to Canada together. At the time Faida was pregnant with their first child, Susie. They also have two sons, Danny and Joe.

When Joe was 12, Faida and Louis

took him to their village in Lebanon. He's as popular there as he is in Charlottetown, Faida said.

"Joe was walking down the road and everyone said, 'Who's your father, Joe?' And they all knew Louis. He used to play basketball in the village."

One time, a musician from Charlottetown was playing at a music festival in Halifax.

"Who's the most popular guy from P.E.I.?" he asked the crowd.

"Louis Rashed!" someone called back.

Faida didn't become involved in the business until 1980, but she has

worked almost every day and night since.

She has mixed emotions about retirement.

"I am excited...happy and sad. We have a lot of good customers and we're going to miss them."

It's the right time to sell, Louis said.

"It's retirement time. We had a chance to sell it now...It's just the proper time."

It's going to be hard to say goodbye, but they're excited about having more time to themselves.

"We're going to have lots of time for our grandchildren and she's going to make lots of food for me," Louis

said, smiling at his wife.

Some of the regulars were surprised when they heard the news, he said.

"They wish us well but they're going to miss us. It's mixed reactions."

It's more than just a restaurant, it's a family, and that's what has helped them survive for so long, Faida said.

"A lot of restaurants came, so many businesses closed their doors and we still stand. We worked hard, we didn't give up."

They've made thousands of friends over the years, Louis said.

"They'll always be in our hearts. We can't thank them enough."

New tobacco regulations step backwards: clerk

“Kids are being told that if they want to be cool, then they should have a cigarette in their hand”

By MARGIE HOLMES

The new regulations on stores caught selling cigarettes to minors seem to be a step backwards, says one young store worker.

Josh Borges, 22, has worked at the Needs Convenience Store on Euston Street for about a year and he was surprised by the new regulations announced Nov 21.

Besides reduced fines, stores will be warned twice before being issued the \$250 penalty.

The smoking problem is obvious to Borges when he deals with groups of minors from Birchwood Junior High School who loiter in front of the store on their lunch break.

The day the new regulations were released he dealt with three different minors attempting to buy cigarettes without identification.

With his piercings and dyed blue hair, he isn't easily fooled when it comes to picking out minors at the counter.

“Usually if they are 19 they don't mind showing me their I.D., some even take it as a compliment.

“When a big deal is made over the I.D. then I know they are not 19.”

Stores were also given a clean



Needs employee Josh Borges thinks new tobacco regulations will make it easier for minors to get their hands on cigarettes. Holmes photo

slate under the new regulations. Stores issued warnings in the last few years still get two warnings before being charged \$250.

Eight retailers have been caught selling tobacco to minors more than once since 2002. It is estimated that one in 10 retailers will sell to minors.

While there may be some relief for the public and health advocates across the Island over these new rules, in the long run the rules must get tougher as the years go by, said Borges.

“I think these rules will make the kids want to try harder to buy smokes, you know, the cool thing

to do is rebel.”

His store has not been issued a warning over tobacco sales since he has been working there.

But he has heard of few stores that have.

There are changes the government could order that would make his job easier, he said.

“I hate those cigarette covers, they're ridiculous. People don't not want to smoke because they can't see smokes. I'd rather the smokes be taken off the shelves and be left under the counter where I can only see them.”

Taking \$250 out of the pocket of the owner of a small store when business has not been great that year due to high electricity bills and wages would be felt, he said.

A smoker himself, Borges remembers not too long ago fretting over how to get his hands on a pack of smokes for the week.

The decision for a worker or owner to sell to a suspected minor comes down to money and morals, said Borges.

“Usually people selling smokes to minors are people who were buying smokes when they were minors.”

As young as he is, he is not surprised by the groups of young kids smoking in front of the store doors while annoyed customers squeeze by to reach the store.

Advertisement on the internet and television still have a significant influence over a youth's decision on what shampoo to use and whether or not they should attempt smoking, Borges said.

“Smoking is in the movies. The hottest actors smoke. Kids are being told that if they want to be cool, then they should have a cigarette in their hand.”

Aging players part of unique hockey team

By DANIEL MARK WHEATON

On Saturday nights in Kensington a group of men get together to play hockey.

These men aren't high school jocks or fresh-out-of-college athletes seeking the thrill of slap shots, body checking and the occasional scuffle between players.

It's not an “old-timers hockey league” either—traditional old-timers leagues are for people 35 years and older.

This group is more experienced than that. They're 45 plus.

Ken Hickey skated when he was younger, but was off skates for about 18 years when he start-

ed back up with this group.

Now he's on the ice three times a week, playing both in Kensington on Saturday nights and noon-time hockey in Summerside.

Hickey sees a lot of benefits to playing the sport at his age.

“It's camaraderie between the guys, health issues and exercise, and it's just the well-being of your body.”

Usually 15 to 20 guys get together on Saturday night, he said.

“We all have a great time and it's almost just a social event now.”

Gary Arsenault was glad to see this new group developed. He played on the old-timers hockey

“I think everybody should do it. It's just perfect. It's healthy. It's fun. It's the way of life. Not everybody plays hockey but for those of us that do, this is the hockey—low stress.”

- Gary Arsenault

team with some of the guys who joined this older team.

“We were approaching 50 and still have to play with these 35-year-old kids.”

He said the roughness was tak-

ing the fun out of the sport.

They get together very informally. Half of them wear white, the others wear red, and they hit the ice ready for some action.

“When there's no goalie we just turn the net backwards and have to ricochet off the board to score.”

There's a league in New Brunswick they can play against, Arsenault said.

“Last year we went to a tournament and it was great fun.”

Players put in \$10 to cover the cost of ice time. They play for an hour and a half.

The local Legion sponsors the group, providing them with food after the game and a discount on drinks.

Arsenault played hockey for a

military base team when he was younger. He's continued to play hockey and is loving being a part of a unique older team.

“I think it's the best time I've had since playing on the base team.”

Without any body contact, he has to skate better than ever.

“I skate harder than I've ever skated because you can't hit. All you do is just play and play and play.”

Arsenault wishes the team played more than once a week.

“I think everybody should do it. It's just perfect. It's healthy. It's fun. It's the way of life. Not everybody plays hockey but for those of us that do, this is the hockey—low stress.”

Dion elected new leader of Liberal Party of Canada

By KATIE SMITH

The federal Liberal party came out of the recent leadership convention in great shape, says the MP from Malpeque.

Wayne Easter, who supported front-runner Michael Ignatieff throughout the campaign, said he will stand behind Stephane Dion, the new leader of the Liberal party of Canada.

"I think, at the end of the day, the leader was somewhat of a surprise from the early running. But as Stephane said, it was quite a journey."

Dion won the leadership election on the fourth ballot against Ignatieff with 54.7 per cent of the vote Dec. 2 in Montreal.

Easter said Dion's strong federalist views are something he values in a leader.

"I want to see a leader that believes in one Canada."

Although he would like to have seen Ignatieff win, Easter said it's important the party supports its new leader.

"We all have to support Stephane. We have to ensure the party comes together for the good of the country and we have to unite under the leader that the convention elected.

"I'm pleased. We're in good shape and I think we can go forward as a party under a strong leader and regain the confidence of Canadians."

Cardigan MP Lawrence MacAulay, who supported Bob Rae during the campaign, said he supported Dion on the last ballot, primarily because of his direction on social policy.

"He's strong on social programs. He's a great defender of the nation as one Canada."

Dion has a great chance of winning the next federal election, he said.

"(Dion) is quite capable of doing it. I also believe that people are very concerned with (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper. So, with the two combinations, I think he has an excellent chance."

Mark O'Halloran, president of

"You could really feel the movement that wasn't being directed from the top. It was coming from every individual voting with their conscious."

- Sean Casey

the P.E.I. Young Liberals, said the Island's young Liberals, for the most part, supported Rae.

"But once he dropped off, a lot of Rae supporters didn't go with Ignatieff, they went with Dion because their ideological standpoint is similar.

"I don't think it's going to be a major change from what people actually truly wanted."

Dion has a great deal of experience to bring to the party, he said, adding the best part of the convention was the feeling of party unity.

"There were no real awkward spots or division among party

members. By the end of the day, everyone was like 'yeah, this is the one leader, let's back him and get ready for the next election.'"

The president of the P.E.I. Liberal party, Sean Casey, said the election results were due to a grassroots movement come the end of the convention.

"The party establishment seemed to be behind Mr. Ignatieff. All of the candidates, for the most part, seemed to be going towards Mr. Rae. And the grassroots of the party just said 'excuse me, fellas, this is our party and this is the way we want to take it.' You could really feel the movement that wasn't being directed from the top. It was absolutely coming from every individual voting with their conscious."

Casey said he believes the divide among the party is a now a thing of the past and that he supports Dion as leader.

"I don't see anything but great things for the leader and the party going forward."

Facts about Stephane Dion

- Dion captured 54.7 per cent of the fourth ballot to win the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada on Dec. 2, 2006.

- Dion has a husky named "Kyoto" that he and his family purchased "to cheer themselves up after the Liberals lost the last [2006] election."

- Dion has dual Canadian-French citizenship (his mother, Denyse, was born in Paris.)

- In May 1999, Dion was the subject of a pie-in-the-face incident organized by the Montreal group, *Les Entartistes*. Dion was not happy and pressed charges, resulting in assault convictions for two members of the pie-throwing group.

- complied by Jarrod Yeo

Islanders curl to raise money for cancer

By KATIE SMITH

Seven years ago, Betty Peters lost her daughter to cancer.

Elaine Gaudet was only 25 years old when she died from acute leukemia in 1999.

To help deal with her pain, Peters turned to curling.

"I just had to get out, mix with people. It takes my mind off of everything for two hours. (It) takes my mind away from all the worries."

Peters said the sport has helped her get back on her feet and, as a way to show her appreciation, she volunteers her time at the Curl for Cancer fundraising event each year. This is her seventh year helping out.

"There was a wonderful turnout this weekend."

The Curl for Cancer fundraiser was held recently at the Charlottetown Curling Club.

Ted Marsh, one of the event organizers, said the club raised in excess of \$10,000 this year.

"It's a little better than last year, so



Lawrence Walus, with the Canadian Cancer Society and Curl for Cancer founder Carole Kennedy, at a recent curling fundraising event at the Charlottetown Curling Club. Smith photo.

that would probably be our biggest year yet."

There were 60 teams competing in the event in six different draws, for a

total of 240 curlers, he said.

"We can't get any bigger than that. It went very well."

Carole Kennedy founded Curl for

Cancer in 1984 when she first started curling. The president at the time, Doug Cameron, put her on a committee, hoping she'd think of ways to bring more people into the club.

"It was my first year as a curler. I didn't know what the heck I was doing," she said with a laugh.

Because she's a Christian, she said she wanted to do something that would help people at the same time as promote the club.

The event was originally called the David H. Matheson Memorial Curl for Cancer Fundraising Extravaganza, but was later shortened to Curl for Cancer, she said, adding Cameron was a competitive curler who died from cancer, so it was appropriate to name the event after him.

There was another reason she focused on raising money for the disease. "To be honest, too many people in my family were dying of cancer all around me. I thought 'there's go to be some way to help.' You feel so helpless, you don't know what to do. So I thought I'd do this."

The fundraiser has grown significantly since it began and curling clubs around the world now host their own Curl for Cancer events, she said.

"It raises millions of dollars every year."

The Charlottetown club has raised more than \$130,000 since it started 22 years ago, she added.

Kennedy said all of the money raised from the event goes to the Canadian Cancer Society.

"I've seen too many fundraisers where you raise funds and by the time the Cancer Society gets the money, there's very little left. Here, every cent those curlers give at the door goes to the Cancer Society. It's the one thing that I'm most proud of."

Kennedy now spends a lot of her time promoting the fundraiser at both the national and international stage.

"I'm grateful I was able to help."

As for Peters, she said she plans to continue curling and volunteering at the event. "It keeps my sanity, keeps me going. It's good exercise and it's fun."

ESL program eases newcomer's transition into Canada

By **STEPHEN BRUN**

Holland College's programs in adult education are a hit with new immigrants to Canada and the school has added three new classes because of it, says the program's co-ordinator.

Joy MacDonald, a former teacher with the adult education program, has been the department's co-ordinator for 10 years and is proud to see how far it has come.

The college teaches new immigrants to Canada to speak English from levels one to eight, a high skill level compared with other provinces, which may contribute to the program's success, MacDonald said.

"Twelve years ago when it started, there was only one class with 12 students."

Those classes only went to level three, but now Prince Edward Island is one of the few provinces in Canada teaching up to level eight.

New Brunswick teaches to level three and Nova Scotia goes to level five, she said.

Along with English as a Second Language (ESL), the department offers the Language Institution for Newcomers to Canada programs (LINC), an enhanced version of ESL that can place graduates in the work force once completed.



Young Hee Ann from Korea, Zahra Ahmed Aden from Somalia and Ofelia Prada from Colombia during their dictation class, part of the Holland College ESL program. Brun photo.

Recently, new federal and provincial government funding allowed the department to add three new classes.

This increased the number of students from 56 to 150, MacDonald said.

The students average about 30 years of age and must be referred to Holland College and sponsored

through Immigration Canada.

The most represented nations are China, Korea and Columbia, but a Burmese mother and her five children joined the program recently, said MacDonald.

"We've got about 24 countries represented and 29 languages and dialects spoken."

Part of the challenge and adven-

ture of the program is getting past the culture differences and recognizing the tumultuous times the students come from, MacDonald said.

"The biggest challenge is probably culture shock, weather, food issues and feeling comfortable in Canada."

The goal is to have students

continue to more post-secondary education or to feel comfortable in the work force, but this is sometimes challenging given their backgrounds in their home countries, MacDonald said.

A new student recently arrived who is licensed as a cardiologist in his country, but lacks the proper training to the job by Canadian standards, she said.

Others who are doctors, nurses and engineers from foreign countries face similar problems in Canada, MacDonald said.

"It's tricky because there may be jobs but they may not be able to get jobs in their profession."

Among the learning tools used by the department, the students create a small newspaper, The New Citizen, and an international choir, she said.

"A lot of them can sing in English even if they can't speak it."

Unlike many instructors at the college, staff in the department have almost constant contact with the students, requiring a special and diverse range of teachers.

"We get all their issues and problems because we're the first contact in Canada," said MacDonald.

ESL programs run at night, while LINC and enhanced ESL are run during weekdays.

World comes together to protest war

December 22 is World Orgasm Day this year

By **ADAM W. MORRISON**

Later this month organizers plan an anti-war demonstration without protesting or marching.

Instead, Donna Sheenan and Paul Reffell, a San Francisco-based couple, are planning to mark Dec. 22, Winter Solstice Day, as Global Orgasm Day.

The hope is to effect positive change in the Earth's energy field with the largest possible surge of human energy.

Though this event is being held worldwide, it's especially for countries with weapons of mass destruction.

The event gives an incredible feeling of peace during and afterwards, said Reffell.

"Your mind is like a blank, in a meditative state."

The response has included interview requests from radio and television stations from around the world, magazines, newspapers, and e-mails from every continent save Antarctica, said Reffell.

They've also heard from Iraq war veterans.

"They were all for it.

"The majority of responses have been respectful, something we've tried hard to foster by not stressing the prurient side. The website is receiving up to 176,000 visitors a day."

Especially within the last few years, the U.S. remains prudish towards sex, said Sheenan.

"Even the word orgasm trips the porn filters on our e-mail, which is astounding when considering the sex drive in humans is at the core of everything we do."

Though the event is to last the entire day, the plan was to originally have it synchronized to the minute, said Sheenan.

"We realized how difficult that would be, and how it would eliminate many people from participating."

This event isn't the first time something like has been held.

"When we started this, we thought we'd come up with a new idea. Then we heard from the organizer of GlobalGasm, who had a more purely sexual take on it."

In 2002, Sheenan held a similar demonstration by having 50 naked women spell out the word peace. That demonstration led to Baring Witness, a smaller movement featuring unclothed demonstrations around the world.

Researchers awarded patent for epilepsy research model

By **ADAM W. MORRISON**

Several UPEI researchers have been recognized with a U.S. patent for creating an animal model to help scientists understand how epilepsy develops.

It's an acknowledgment the researchers have done something useful for understanding epilepsy, and it's a good feeling, says UPEI biomedical science professor Andrew Tasker.

The researchers include biology professor Tracy Doucette, psychology professor Catherine Ryan, UPEI graduate Melissa Perry, Henriette Husum Bak-Jensen, and Tasker. Having a patent is a boost to their careers, said Tasker.

"A patent resonates with the public because it's seen as an invention and it tells them

research at UPEI is world class and may benefit them or people they know.

"It also shows the public that science may be a worthwhile career path."

What makes this particular model unique compared to past models is the precipitating events are minor while the changes in brain structure and function progress with age.

This may allow researchers to better understand how epilepsy develops.

The changes are subtle in the model and though the rat appears normal while growing, the changes are occurring in its brain to the point where the rat shows seizure-like behavior.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by episodes of sensory disturbance, loss of consciousness or convulsions.



Amiel Leblanc of Cardigan is an Island drum maker. Leblanc has a workshop in his hometown and recently opened a store in Charlottetown called Funkfactory Drumshop, located on the corner of Hillsborough and Euston streets. Smith photo.



Holland College store clerk Ruth Ann O'Neill gets into the Christmas mood by filling the school's bookstore with decorations. McInnis photo.

*Happy Holidays
2006 from the
Journalism class*



Two-year-old Eric Steele of Georgetown enjoyed a day at the park last month. O'Halloran photo.



Marjorie McGee, Kings County Memorial Hospitals Auxiliary, held Kim Collings, at a Craft Fair held at the Montague Intermediate School recently. O'Halloran photo.



The Administrative Assistant program sold tickets on two baskets to raise money for Christmas Daddies. Paige Gallant drew the name of winner Eileen C. Rowe, while Bonnie Byrne (centre) and Samantha Shaw look on. Smith photo.