

The Surveyor

March 7, 2008

Holland College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

FREE

INSIDE



Holland College ready for student union elections. page 2



P.E.I. to test electronic poker tables. page 11



Best Buddies lend a helping hand. page 4



Toddlers caught on camera. Photos on page 16



Roger Vail of the Charlottetown chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society sets up his 125-lb telescope before a night of stargazing. Sukie photo. See story, page 2.

They've got the whole world in their hands

By TYLER DUNHAM

They want to break the stereotype as pot-smoking, hemp-loving, sign-waving hippies picketing in boats beside oil tankers.

They are the Environmental Club of Holland College and their goal is to show people it's no longer the duty of just one particular group to concern itself with the state of the environment.

The onus on is everyone, club member Derrick Vokey said.

"Just ordinary people who are all concerned about the future of the environment, for their kids and their future."

Club member Merrett Wallace said it is ultimately a duty of all students.

"Those individuals who are interested in finding out more on what they can do to become environmentally friendly, those who would like to share their past experiences and for those who just want to meet new people in

different programs and do their part to help the environment."

Saving the environment doesn't have to be a full-time job, Wallace said.

"It's about taking baby steps, getting involved, getting others interested. That really helps. It all depends on your outlook and whether you can start committing yourself to making changes and influencing others to do the same."

And although it may feel like an

overwhelming job when no one else is helping, the key is determination, Wallace said.

"I guess some people may think it's a lost cause, as many people are not doing their part, when they can do small things like properly sort their garbage, composting, and recycling. Like all things in life, you have to keep positive and keep trying. If I don't do my part...no one will."

Continued on page 2

Student union elections set for March 11

By KATHERINE HUNT

Students at Holland College got a new health plan in 2007. It was one of the highlights for the current president of the student union.

Samantha Stewart's term in office comes to an end March 11 when students elect a new president and executive. This year's elections are a month earlier than previous years to give those elected extra time to prepare.

Stewart said the year as president also included the formation of a number of new committees and even wireless Internet.

"We're going in the direction we've been trying to go in the first place. We're making things stronger and keeping it going."

Before this year the student union was run primarily by staff, but this year the students have controlled most of the coordinated events and new committees.

Dylan White, who is running for technology director, said the stu-

dent union is the backbone to Holland College because it represents the students. "Holland College is your college. The students make the school."

Getting involved with student activities, leadership skills, financial budgeting, enthusiasm and a sense of professionalism are some of the required qualities and actions of those elected to student union. Stewart learned through her position as president how a school functions as a community and the politics keeping it flowing.

"The whole thing is an experience within itself. Guiding people but also learning from them, it's all just fascinating."

The candidates running are all from the Holland College Charlottetown Centre. Rob Diamond, Karine Jolicoeur, and Joanie Murray are running for president.

There is a four-way competition between Scott Eldershaw, Dylan White, Sean Clarke and Marie-Hélène Hachey for technology

director. And Stephen Stretch is the only candidate running for financial director. The candidates seem strong this year, which looks good for next year, said Stewart.

"Depending on the executives I think it [student union] will progress."

Sean Clarke, who is also running for technology director, said his goals are to connect all Holland College campuses through technology and start a campus club directory. He wants to assist students in extracurricular and normal school life.

"I hope to continue to improve after the previous people and help maintain what they've established."

Stewart hopes next year her successor and other representatives will be able to spend surpluses wisely and get more students involved with activities.

"They must be capable of persuading people to have school spirit."



Samantha Stewart, Holland College student union president, stands outside the student union office. Hunt photo.

They've got the whole world in their hands

Continued from page one

Club member Dana Race said helping save the environment can be as simple as being careful which items are being purchased.

"You choose what you buy, so when you choose an alternative that's environmentally friendly, you're immediately sending a message that you're only going to support good practices.

"When you choose the more friendly option, you're being an environmentalist."

In the end, only so much can be done to save the environment, but it can still be enough to make a difference, Wallace said.

"With the help of others, and getting recognition that there is actually a problem, then perhaps we can actually change things and leave something valuable for future generations."

The club is in its infant stage, but recognition is slowly building, Wallace said.

"The HC Student Union is coming on board so it's only a matter



Mary Taylor, the lab-assistant for the environmental applied sciences program at Holland College, demonstrates the value of recycling. Mair photo.

of time before ECHC gets more attention and more students involved."

Even if students can't attend regular meetings, they're still welcome to come as often as possible, Wallace said.

"The ECHC is made up of a great bunch of people who are willing to fill you in on the details if you miss a meeting."

The club meets every Friday at noon in the Wildlife Conservation Technology classroom.

Astronomy club celebrates 20 years gazing up at stars

By NATALIE HUNT

A Charlottetown club is celebrating an anniversary this year.

The Charlottetown chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Charlottetown Chapter is celebrating its 20-year anniversary this year.

Clair Perry, Earl Wannacott and Brian Gorvette established the club in 1988 because they were always talking about astronomy.

When Halley's comet came around in 1996 it helped them gain more members, Perry said. "People were really interested."

The club has grown from its original 10-12 members to an attendance of roughly 25 members a month with members of all ages, from a 13-year-old who comes with his parents to some members over 80.

Roger Vail, a four-year member, said at their meetings they discuss the latest astronomical news, what's going on in the sky for the month and they have a presenta-

tion from an expert on a constellation, a star or a historical figure. "We get really good speakers in."

Vail became interested in astronomy when he was about eight years old and he first learned the bright star in the sky was the planet Venus. He was fascinated, but there was no information out at the time.

"I've always been reading and trying to find out more."

Vail joined the club to learn more about astronomy and "to meet people with the same interest in astronomy."

Vail set up the club's telescope at the Jack Frost children's festival on the weekend of Feb. 23. It was aimed at Saturn and its moon Titan.

The lineup started while he was setting up the telescope and didn't end until 9:15 p.m. when the festival was over, he said.

There was between 500-600 people of all ages who wanted to see Saturn.

Gas tax to be a permanent help for municipalities

By ROSS MAIR

Municipalities across Canada will be getting a boost from the federal government due to the recently approved budget.

The federal government promised the continuation of the gas tax program, ensuring cities and towns across Canada will get extra funding.

Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee said he was pleased with the federal government initiative to make the program a permanent service. He's pleased as well as with the overall budget.

The gas tax money means the ordinary citizen won't be expected to pay higher taxes for fixing roads, something he said would be unacceptable.

"Citizens can't afford to pay more taxes," he said. "It allows us to plan long-term and means less dollars the city's budget has to use."

Director of corporate services of Charlottetown Donna Waddell said this will make future planning and improving city infrastructure much easier.

"Over the last couple years the program was not promised, so we didn't know if we were getting more money for the next year."

Two cents of every litre of gasoline bought in Canada will go to municipal governments all across Canada. "In 2007 it was \$900,000, this year it will be \$1.2 million and next year it will be \$1.5 million," she said.

All of that will come directly from the federal government.

Public works is eager to get to work with their budget said Waddell.

"As soon as we can get the weather."

Another program involved in the recent budget was \$1.3 billion to improve public transit nationally.

What that means for Charlottetown is the possibility of building bicycle routes throughout the city as an alternative method of transportation.

It is in the planning phase, said the mayor.

"If we were to put another bus on the road, it would drive up operating costs, bike paths will provide an alternative."

Shawna MacAusland asks: Do you think the government is doing enough to keep consumers safe?



Andrea MacDonald

"I would say no. I'm sure there is more they could do."



Chantal Lavoie

"They're not very responsible in making sure things are safe. They should be more concerned."



George Kells

"I think the government is doing fine. We don't need to be worrying about all the nonsense."



Mirjana Laurence

"No. There has been an abundance of information about toxins in plastics. It makes me wonder why we aren't taking it seriously."



Brent Nicholson

"I do. The government plays a role, but they can't respond quickly enough."

With new literacy tools, reading has never been so simple

By TAUNYA MURCHISON

Gayle McCutcheon, a single mother of two, knows the distress of a literacy problem. Her 10-year-old son has just been diagnosed as learning deficient.

"It's hard for a parent to sit and watch their child feel insecure and teased at school. There's nothing worse."

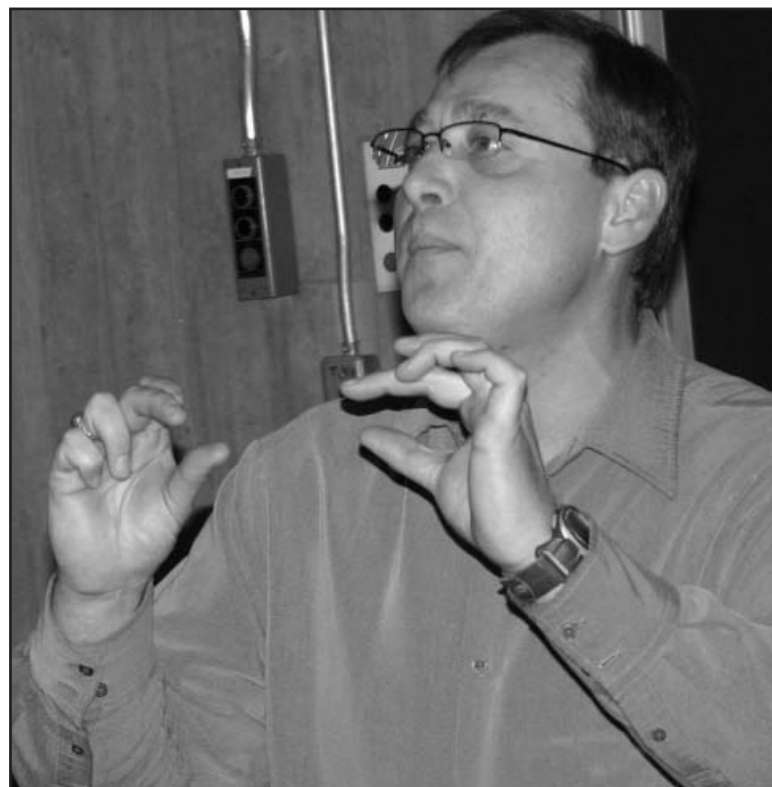
McCutcheon, who saw traits of a learning deficiency in her son at a young age, said it makes life easier now knowing what her son's disorder is.

"I knew something wasn't right when other kids around him were advancing quicker and the stress that he would have when it came to reading."

People diagnosed with literacy problems will no longer have to worry about feeling inadequate or depending on others, says a Cape Breton Island company with a new line of literacy tools.

Ian McVicar, the director of operations for Premier Assistive Canada, demonstrated the new tools that focus on helping those with reading and writing difficulties during a recent visit to Holland College

McVicar demonstrated a few of the 28 products that enable those with literacy problems to function normally.



Ian McVicar speaks Holland College the lecture hall. He was promoting his company's literacy program. Seymour photo

The Universal Reader, which sells for \$79, is easily-installed software that reads the text back to you as you highlight it.

The software also comes in a variety of voices, ranging from female to male and English to

French-Canadian.

Along with the Universal Reader, McVicar displayed a talking calculator, audio summarization (which allows you to transfer entire files of text onto an mp3 player to listen to), a state-of-the-

art dictionary and helpful features that combine computers and literacy skills in a simple manner.

McVicar describes the latest software as the "tools for life."

"You're learning deficient 24/7. You have to learn to deal with that ... you never know where you'll be in life."

McVicar said he has witnessed the new software benefiting students already.

"D students are turning into C students. Isn't that incredible?"

Literacy tools should be available on all computers in the future, said McVicar.

"The end goal is not just the literacy tools but to break down the barriers of everything."

Modern technology should benefit the student or consumer, said McVicar.

"Curriculum has to work for you, not the other way around."

The new literacy tools are a positive approach on fixing the barriers preventing learning-deficient people of all ages, from living a "normal life," said Gayle McCutcheon.

"It sounds so advanced. It proves to all that independency is only a step away.

"I'd be surprised if schools across the country don't start taking advantage of these new programs."

Excitement of disabled clients inspires UPEI Best Buddies coordinator

By ELLEN KLEIN

Observing the enthusiasm of buddy candidates is very rewarding, says the Best Buddies P.E.I. chapter campus coordinator.

Emily Tumblin, 21, a full-time UPEI student and part-time UPEI recruitment department employee, has been working with her “buddy advocate”, Mary Ellen Robertson, 22, of Charlottetown, to match handicapped young adults to buddy volunteers since early in 2007.

Best Buddies head office called her at UPEI because she had volunteered with the program through a friend while at Mount Allison University before coming to UPEI.

P.E.I. did not have a program then, Tumblin said.

“I said, yeah, I’d do it.”

When Robertson was meeting Tumblin for the first time, she expected someone older.

And Tumblin said Robertson has grown since starting with Best Buddies.

“When I first met Mary Ellen,

Founded in 1989

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. It was founded in 1989 in the U.S. by Anthony Kennedy Shriver and incorporated as a national charity organization in 1995 with chapters at over 70 campuses across Canada. Each chapter is managed by a campus coordinator, a student volunteer like Tumblin and works with a host site, matching student volunteers with a Buddy, using a personality profile and an interview. The P.E.I. chapter works with Association for Community Living’s Bridget Cairns. To volunteer, call Emily Tumblin at (902) 888-8936 or email at emily_tumblin@hotmail.com.

she was very quiet.”

Robertson said she was stubborn. “I keep at something until

it’s done.”

The two work in tandem, pairing clients with volunteers and fundraising, she said.

“What I am is a buddy advocate.”

Tumblin said clients have a variety of disabilities, from cerebral palsy to Down Syndrome. Some are autistic.

“They are people regardless of what is going on.”

The challenge in P.E.I. has been overcoming ignorance, she added.

“[There is] a lack of knowledge.”

Twice a semester, the group holds group activities. March 9, it meets the N.S. chapter at Dalhousie University for a game day.

There are eight student volunteers with seven buddies, so far, but there are many more who have applied for the program.

So there is an urgent need for volunteers.

To date, volunteers have only been from UPEI, but Tumblin is recruiting from Holland College as well. “It would be nice to have both together.”



Emily Tumblin and Mary Ellen Robertson hold a Best Buddies T-shirt. Klein photo.

Young adults don't recognize grief symptoms: counsellor says

By ELLEN KLEIN

Young adults don't always recognize symptoms of grief in their own lives, says a Charlottetown grief counselor.

Andrea Conway is the hospice coordinator of patient services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown. She is also involved with the Queens chapter of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association in P.E.I.

She was originally scheduled to give a *Dealing with Loss* workshop for Holland College students at the Tourism and Culinary Centre on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 6-9 p.m. at the request of the college's counseling department. Low registration numbers were responsible for the cancellation of the workshop. Most young adults find it harder to express what they are feeling, Conway said.

“They often feel that they are a little weird and maybe crazy.”

June Harper of Holland College's counseling services said



Andrea Conway offers help to students coping with grief at Holland College. Klein photo.

she organized the workshop to help students.

“[It was] in response to student needs who are dealing with immi-

nent loss or who have had a loss.”

Roughly 20 per cent of her work is directly or indirectly involved with the grieving process, Harper said.

“They may see me about difficulty in sleeping, attendance, depression, or academic concerns, but then disclose they are trying to cope with a very ill or death of a parent, sibling, immediate family member, or close friend.”

Conway said young adults fear the stigma of going to a counselor, so it's harder to get them to come to this type of event.

“They don't have a base of experience to recognize symptoms.”

Symptoms such as depression, anger, sleeplessness, racing or obsessive thoughts may indicate unresolved grief, she said. “Not moving through it is not normal.”

Conway spent her early years in Cape Town, South Africa, where she also got her education. She had four years of psychotherapy training and was often confronted

with grieving people, even among volunteers, she said.

Grief counseling has evolved over the years, starting with the medical model, which suggested grief was not normal.

But now it is seen as a normal part of life, she said.

“You get to the point where you can come out the other end of a rather sad tunnel.” Some get stuck,” Conway added. “They need a little kick start.”

Harper had hoped participants would leave the session knowing what they are experiencing is normal and with healthy coping tips, she said.

“Every person deals with grief differently and for different lengths of time and there are supports in place that can help them through that difficult time.”

Conway has offered her counseling services to Holland College students in lieu of the *Dealing With Loss* workshop. Call June Harper at 894-6833, or email jharper@hollandc.pe.ca.

Grief: signs and symptoms

- Sadness and low mood
- Shock, disbelief and confusion
- Anger and irritability
- Loss of interest or pleasure in things
- Passive wish to “join the loved one”
- Anxiety
- Obsession with what was lost
- Numbness and emptiness, fatigue
- Appetite and sleep disturbances

Taken from <http://yourtotal-health.ivillage.com/grief.pri nt.html>

A green Island is better for tourism, says kayaking and bicycle rental owner

By TAUNYA MURCHISON

On the edge of Morell's river, under the shade of a towering elm tree, Donna Glass washed her windows with the newspaper she read that summer morning.

A family of four excitedly walked up the steps to begin their kayaking adventure, but they were sidetracked by Glass and her cleaning tools.

"What are you doing with that paper?" asked the curious five-year-old with his French accent.

"I guess you could say I was saving the environment one newspaper at a time," smirked Glass.

Her growing business, Kingfisher Outdoors Inc., is a kayaking and bicycle rental she considers a niche market or a "nature-based tourism" attraction. It's a leading factor in why her business tends to thrive during the four months of operation, she says.

The tourism business is on the increase across Canada, according to Statistics Canada.

Sharon Labchuk, leader of the P.E.I. Green Party, has been working towards a green Island for decades. A safer, pesticide-free environment would make the tourism industry greater than ever, she said. "Tourists are looking for different opportunities. Tourists could visit organic farms and eat locally produced foods and wines and not just look at potato fields."

Labchuk said her committee receives many calls from tourists



Turning P.E.I. into the first green province and eliminating excessive pollution and pesticide use could boost the Island's tourism rates and generate a healthy environment. Murchison photo.

Tourism up

Statistics Canada says 2007 reported the 17th consecutive increase in tourism. Despite fewer same-day and overnight visitors in Canada, the increase was one per cent. Canadians travelling within Canada rose 1.3 per cent with U.S. visitors dropping 1.7 per cent and other countries slipping 0.5 per cent.

wanting someone to help with the pesticide use on P.E.I.

"Ten to 15 per cent of Canadians are pesticide sensitive. There was once when people called say-

ing they had to leave because of the pesticides."

Labchuk, who has appeared in newspapers and documentaries across the nation, said she does so to alert tourists. "It's the pressure from outside Canada that the government listens to. Obviously the P.E.I. government doesn't care about what Islanders think."

Don Cudmore, the executive director of TIAPEI, said a green province would help boost tourism rates. "If we give it some additional effort and perceive it (P.E.I.) the way the world does, then we would benefit from a green environment."

Everyone should look at being as "friendly to the environment as

possible," Cudmore said "In reality, I know the market is out there for our products and we could work towards it. It's not something that will happen overnight however."

A business owner in summer and conference organizer in winter, Glass said business has increased by word of mouth with people driving by rather than help from Tourism P.E.I.

"There has been an increase in international customers, however, Canadian tourists, especially from Quebec, are still the biggest percentage of my customers."

Glass said looking at the global picture and the importance of protecting our environment could boost tourism on P.E.I.

"We are a small enough province that we can be the first to go completely green and promote that as a reason people would want to visit."

Glass would love to see pesticides banned and P.E.I. to become the first province to produce everything organically.

"I have traveled to over 27 countries in the world and I know that the environment is a big issue everywhere I have been."

There are many reasons why U.S. tourism rates fell in Canada, Glass said. "I think that our drop in U.S. tourism took a hit after the Twin Towers attack and, of course, Bush's war on terrorism or his ability to create fear in people to benefit his campaign."

Gluten-free bread in the making

Changing the way people with Celiac Disease view food

By ROSS MAIR

When people think of bread and what it's made of, they usually think wheat.

But a recent product being developed at the Food Technology Centre in Charlottetown is changing all that.

Jim Smith is the executive director in charge of the plant that is developing the product.

He said this will change the way many people on a wheat-free diet or suffer from Celiac Disease view bread.

"It's doing quite well," he said of the dry mixture that can be used to make various breads like waffles, muffins, and bagels.

Brenda and Wayne Vandinkerken of Duinkerken foods approached the FTC concerned there is a lack of gluten-free quality products on the market that meet their standards.

Pizza is also on the menu over at the centre.

Halifax pizza maker Angello Alof approached them with the idea of developing an organic pizza and serving it in schools as a substitute for store-bought pizza or other deep-fried foods.

"The future of this country is our children, and if they're well educated and healthy, that's the best thing that we can do and the best reward we can get," he said.

Because of funding from the provincial government and groups such as the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency companies can develop and perfect all foods and learn how to produce them as effectively as possible.

As for the gluten-free bread, it would go great with a bit of solid honey, which they are also developing.

Healthy eating on menu at Morell Consolidated School

By ROSS MAIR

Organic pizza was expected to grace the menu at Morell Consolidated school on March 6 in what is a trial run to see if it's a hit with the kids.

The pizza, developed at the food technology centre in Charlottetown, is the work of Halifax-based pizza maker Angello Alof.

Alof feels strongly about ensuring children not only get their nutrition, but from quality sources.

"The future of this country is our children, and if they're well educated and healthy, that's the best thing that we can do and the best reward we can get," he said.

Leo Hendrickon, principal at

Morell Consolidated, welcomes the idea of organic pizza being tested in his school.

He said the pizza will be tested on a Grade 8 class at no cost to the school or the students.

"I'm here to provide a meal for less for the kids. We're not doing this to try and make money," he said.

If the pizzas a hit, he suspects to be selling much more of it. Hendrickon also said that children's eating habits seem to be much healthier now than the past.

"The kids here seem to be eating quite healthy, quite well."

If the trial goes well, you should expect to see Alof at other schools, promoting his idea.



Organic produce on display at the Charlottetown co-op and is available at many other grocers/grocery stores.. Mair photo.

No apology to First Nations necessary

By RYAN ROSS

The chief of the Assembly of First Nations wants Canada to issue an apology to our aboriginal people after Australia recently issued one to their own.

Phil Fontaine said the Australian apology was “inspirational and sets a very high standard.”

Fontaine wants Stephen Harper to follow through on a promise he made in the throne speech to apologize for government handling of aboriginal schools “to close this sad chapter in our history.”

But in 1998, the Canadian government apologized to people who were abused at residential schools and compensation was paid to the victims.

The statement made at the time also called for changes between Canadian aboriginals and the government. This was all done long before the Australian government issued its apology.

For Fontaine, “the statement of reconciliation” in 1998 was only a statement of regret, not a “full and sincere apology.”

It was a satisfactory response to an unfortunate situation that happened decades before the current government was even in power.

To me, an apology by people who were not involved in the



original situation would be hollow. What does it matter to Harper if he says he is sorry for how children were treated in the rural schools? He wasn't involved and his government wasn't involved.

And if Fontaine wasn't satisfied with the government's first apology, who's to say he will like the next one?

Should Harper apologize for the sponsorship scandal, since it was a problem created by a previous government? There should be a

certain level of responsibility of each government for the actions of the people who came before. There should also be limits.

Governments should not have to apologize for everything that happened before they came to power.

If that were the case, Harper would have to apologize for ballooning deficits after the Second World War and any other wrongs people find with past governments.

It's called the son paying for the

sins of the father. We don't expect it from our neighbours and shouldn't expect it from our government.

Governments make mistakes every day. Some have bigger impacts than others but it's a part of the way our country is run.

Every time the Queen visits Canada, Acadians ask her for an apology for something that happened in 1755. She shouldn't have to apologize any more than Stephen Harper.

Police shouldn't patrol clash of the cliques

By MELISSA MCINNIS

Problems between two cliques of students at Three Oaks Senior High School prompted school board officials to have police patrol at the high school Feb. 26.

Tensions surfaced between the two groups on a Friday when school officials ended lunch break early after about 200 students gathered to argue in the hallways.

Of course there would be a lot of students, every kid likes to watch a fight.

The dispute apparently grew over the weekend through Facebook, said the superintendent of Western School Board.

Some messages were threatening, so police were at the school Monday.

I heard this battle of the cliques was about school benches - the smoker's bench versus the prep's bench.

If this is what kids are fighting



over, they are pathetic. Disputes grew over the weekend on the Facebook group Three Oaks Turf Wars, now deleted.

Are kids serious when they

make threats through Facebook? And was calling the police to patrol the school really necessary?

They were taking things so far as to make threatening comments.

Don't these kids have anything better to do on the weekend?

I don't think calling the police was necessary. In the Guardian article about the incident, the vice-principal said no punches were thrown and no weapons were produced or used.

I think that's enough reason to leave the police out of it.

No one was hurt, unless by words, and that's something kids will get over.

School board officials have taken disciplinary action and suspended some students. They didn't need the police to use their own authority.

I think it was a good idea to keep the police informed in case violence broke out. Then they would be prepared if they had to rush to the scene.

There will always be cliques and they will always clash. But it doesn't mean police need to be there.

The Surveyor

is a learning tool for students in the Journalism program at Holland College.

Opinions expressed in *The Surveyor* do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration.

Editorial Staff

MANAGING EDITORS

RYAN ROSS

MELISSA MCINNIS

CONTACT US

by mail at
Journalism Program
140 Weymouth Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 4Z1

by e-mail at
wyoung@hollandc.pe.ca
rmaclean@hollandc.pe.ca

or by telephone at
(902) 566-9589, 566-9591,
629-4229, 566-9389 or 566-9588

REPORTERS/

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Stephanie Burmeister

Ashley Dunbar

Tyler Dunham

Katherine Hunt

Natalie Hunt

Ellen Klein

Shawna MacAusland

Melissa McInnis

Ross Mair

Samara Meade

Ryan Ross

Robyn Seymour

Christina Sukie

Kerrie Thompson

Al MacLeod

Taunya Murchison

Editorial Illustration:

Natasha Kudashkina

The Surveyor would like to thank **Transcontinental Prince Edward Island** and **The Guardian** for their continuing support.

Students drink to feel comfortable: counsellor

By NATALIE HUNT

Emily Sentence, 18, drinks on the weekends with her friends because it makes the night more fun, the jokes funnier, makes her forget her worries if she has any and just lets her have a good time.

"It lets me let loose and have fun after a bad week at school."

Sentence doesn't feel she is dependant on drinking to have a good time, but the fact that she might some day worries her.

"There's always a possibility of it. The way I'm going now, I doubt I would though."

Sentence isn't alone when it comes to students binge drinking on the weekends.

According to the Canada Safety Council, binge drinking is consuming five or more drinks on a single occasion.

And according to a study done

at George Mason University, in Washington D.C., 42 per cent of Canadian students participated in binge drinking in the last week.

Tom Corcoran, a counsellor at Holland College, said he hasn't spoken to many students about drinking problems.

"It would not be more than a handful over the last two school years."

He said students will drink to fit in and feel more comfortable.

Corcoran said there's a fair amount of alcohol consumed and some are probably drinking too much.

"It mirrors the general population."

Sentence said she never turns to alcohol when she has problems.

"Whenever I have a problem I just talk to my friends about it or just spend sometime by myself."



Emily Sentence getting ready to pour herself a drink of rum from a three-litre bottle of Bacardi. Hunt photo.

Alcohol: Decisions, decisions, decisions

Self Evaluation

Are you in financial difficulty as result of your drinking?

Do you drink alone?

Do you require more alcohol to achieve the same effects?

Do you drink more than you used to?

Do you sometimes gulp your drinks?

Do you drink to relax?

Do you ever forget things while drinking?

Do you keep alcohol hidden for a quick pick-me-up?

Is your drinking jeopardizing your academic performance?

Have you ever hurt yourself or other persons after drinking?

Do you drive after using alcohol?

Is your alcohol affecting your interpersonal relationships?

Have you ever needed a morning eye-opener drink?

Have you ever felt guilty about your drinking?

Have you ever been annoyed by criticism of your drinking?

Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?

If a number of the above sound like you, or if you feel defensive about answering these questions, it may indicate a problem exists.

You can get a professional evaluation at Addictions Services – 1-888-299-8399.

(Provided by Tom Corcoran, Holland College counselling service)

Teens wanting to fit in feel the pressure to smoke

By ROBYN SEYMOUR

Many teens face pressure from their peers on a daily basis- pressure to fit in, pressure to smoke.

Laken McHugh, an 18-year-old college student from North River, N.L., faces this obstacle every time she decides to hang out with friends. McHugh is an occasional smoker who feels the need to smoke in order to fit in.

She said she is constantly surrounded by friends who smoke cigarettes and that influence pressures her to smoke. "I feel left out when they are smoking and I'm

Young people find ways to buy tobacco, even though it's illegal

The Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) found there was no difference in smoking prevalence among teens aged 15 to 19. Approximately 385,000 Canadians in this age group (18 per cent) reported they smoked daily or occasionally. And 52 per cent of teen smokers, too young to be legally sold tobacco products, said they acquired their cigarettes by buy-

ing, stealing or receiving them from friends or relatives. The other 48 per cent reported they bought their cigarettes directly from retailers.

Out of all teens aged 15 to 18 who purchased or tried to purchase tobacco products directly from retailers, 59 per cent said they were asked at least once in the past year for proof of age. A further 46 per cent of all teens

not. I can tell they look down at me. Like I'm not a part of the

group, like an outsider." And Statistics Canada shows McHugh is

under the age of 19 said they were refused at least one sale in the past year, by retailers, because they did not have proper identification. With underage persons being able to purchase cigarettes without being asked for an I.D., the rate of underage smokers increases. Many illegal customers find it convenient to obtain cigarettes for themselves, leaving parents in the dark.

not alone. There are over 25,000 Canadians who smoke, 13,000

being females.

Cassandra Bishop of Cupids, N.L. is a 16-year-old high school student won't reveal her source for cigarettes, but her parents would disagree with her underage smoking. "They think it's wrong for a young person to be abusing their bodies like that. They think it looks weird for a girl to be smoking."

Bishop said she does not smoke to fit in but to relieve stress. "If I'm really mad and feeling crappy, it just lets me forget everything for that couple of minutes I'm smoking it."

Robyn Seymour asks: Do you think the legal drinking age in P.E.I. should be increased or decreased?



Colin Harvey

"Young folks these days are too into alcohol and throwing their lives away."



Jason Stevens

"People are responsible enough and should be able to make their own decisions when they are 19."



Laura Grant

"They should definitely make it 20 years old because it is more of a medium since this is a university town."



Robin McCabe

"You should be able to be a teenager and enjoy drinking but not have to fully be an adult."



Ryan Leger

"It would cut out bootleggers and older people buying the booze for younger kids."

Memories of war cross generations

By ELLEN KLEIN

Marjorie Frizzell was 11 when she had her first experience with war.

It was the summer of 1939. She was picking strawberries in a field near her family farm in Highbank, P.E.I. Just as she finished filling her bucket she heard a roar and looked up.

"There were planes flying in formation."

She fell to the ground in terror, dropping her berries.

She thought war had come to P.E.I.

Brenda Hunter of Pleasant Grove, P.E.I. had a similar response in 2006 after she learned her son, an engineer in the military, was going to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

At first when she heard the news, she was worried. Then she reasoned it was a job, like any other job. She couldn't allow herself to fret.

"You don't know what's going to happen."

Shortly after, while she was attending Holland College, there was a bomb scare at the college. She wasn't frightened.

The next day, while she was in a bathroom at the college, a fire alarm went off.

"It came down on me like a ton of bricks."

Hunter wept in the tiny cubicle. Frizzell's memories include watching her mother knit things for soldiers in Europe and people buying bonds to raise money for the war effort.

Hunter can send packages with cookies and other treats to her son, who is still overseas.

They go to a designated address and the military redirects them to each recipient. Not even family members know where the soldiers are.

She also gets update letters and brochures from a military family support service. Her involvement with the organization is limited, however, because she does not live near her son's base, which is off-Island.

During the Second World War, Frizzell met a young soldier at one of the many events held for the troops, called "times" by locals. She was very young and had promised her parents she would not dance at the function.

After the soldier was stationed



Marjorie Frizzell holds a booklet of Second World War ration stamps she found in family storage. Klein photo.



Brenda Hunter stands by her mailbox she has draped with a yellow ribbon in anticipation of her son's return from Kandahar. Klein photo.

in Europe, she received a photograph with a letter from him in which he wrote upon his return he would teach her to dance. He never made it home.

Hunter said a mother is always going to worry about her children.

"You hope you won't see anyone coming up your driveway."

But it's a lot different for soldiers now than it was years ago, she said. Soldiers are deployed for smaller periods of time and they are chosen from existing mil-

itary personnel.

But war has been going on since the world was made, Hunter added.

"I don't see it ever ending."

Frizzell agrees.

War is inevitable, she said.

"None of us believes in war, but when you think what the alternative could have been, had nobody done anything...it's an inborn need, the preservation of life."

She is a chicken with a very low pain threshold, but she would still protect a person under attack, she said.

"You don't have an instinct to kill, but you just want to stop it."

Hunter said she feels bad when soldiers get killed, but it's no different than when four young Mounties got killed in the line of duty recently.

"You don't have to be overseas to be in a war zone."

Frizzell has kept a lengthy diary of wartime memories she shares with anyone who will listen.

Hunter keeps a yellow ribbon tied around her mailbox anticipating the day when she welcomes her son back to Canadian soil, safe from harm.

Generations of Icelanders remember Holocaust

By KERRIE THOMPSON

In the Second World War it is estimated between nine and 11 million people were murdered in the German concentration camps alone.

Kristjana Wendel, 18, is the granddaughter of Kristjan Wendel of Iceland, a Catholic who was born in Weimer, Germany and who was sent to the concentration camp Buchenwald at the age of nine.

Germans focused most of their attention on deporting the Jewish people, helping Jews was a crime.

Her grandfather and his family helped to smuggle a Jewish family out of their town when the Nazi's invaded.

Wendel said she was five years old when she and her twin brother, Mikael Wendel, first heard about the things her grandfather went through.

"We didn't understand much of it."

Daniel Wendel, 25, the second eldest son in the family, said he remembers when him and his younger brother, Matthew Wendel, 23, understood what had happened during the Holocaust.

"We often played army games as kids, but as soon as we were told about the things that went on, we put our GI Joe's aside."

She said she often wonders what would have happened if he'd died.

It's one of the only thoughts that passes through her mind when she thinks about her grandfather and the Holocaust, she said.

"Looking at the way life is today and what I'm doing and how much fun I'm having and the possibility that I might not be here doing everything I'm doing."

She has watched movies made about the Holocaust based in concentration camps.

She does not find it hard to watch them and she just can't turn her back on them.

"It touches me deeper than other people because I think about how hard it must have been for him."

Holland College library extends hours

By SHAWNA
MACAUSLAND

The Holland College library in Charlottetown is now open two hours later to keep up with the increasing demand by students and staff.

Since the library moved two years ago, usage has doubled, said school librarian Andrea Stewart.

"We've had requests from students and management, especially management and the student council, to extend the hours," Stewart said.

The students and staff are eager to use the resources the college offers in the new library, she said.

"Students are continuously coming in to use the computers."

The library offers seven new computers, 80 study carrels, bookable rooms and a brand new look.

"It has definitely been a lot busier," said Stewart.

The new colour of the walls and a better location make the library a cozier place, she said.

"It's a much more inviting, brighter space."

New students took a tour of the library during orientation to help make them feel welcome.

Many students have said the library is an invitational space for the students, said Stewart.

The new hours make it easier for the students living in the dorms nearby to come in the evenings to get work done.

"Students are taking advantage of the bookable rooms," she said.

However the new hours are only a trial unless students take advantage of them.

"If students aren't coming in,

then we won't keep open later."

Before it got its new home, the library was a small space upstairs with fewer resources.

"We were hidden away in the west wing," said Stewart.

The staff doesn't seem to mind sticking around for the extra hours.

"I think it's great for students to be able to access the library during these extended hours," said librarian Donald Moses.

"I hope students take advantage of the extended hours."



Andrea Stewart helps a student at the library. MacAusland photo

Group offers taste of life overseas: Stewart

By STEPHANIE
BURMEISTER

A new group started at Holland College this year, it joined the World University Service of Canada, better known as WUSC.

UPEI has been involved with WUSC for 20 years and it was time for P.E.I.'s college to follow in the university's footsteps, said staff advisor Andrea Stewart.

"UPEI has been a great mentor and I'm sure we'll be working together quite a lot over the next few years."

Stewart said WUSC provides an amazing opportunity to experience life overseas in one of their many volunteer programs like Students Without Borders.

Students Without Borders offers university and college students exciting volunteer learning opportunities in a developing country during an academic term.

It offers the chance to make a difference in the lives of people living in communities in Africa, Asia or South America.

It can be a life-altering experience with destinations like the Balkan, Haiti and Peru, the program wins many students over, Stewart said.

And it has delivered meaningful results in promoting basic and higher education, the fight against HIV/AIDS and sanitation, she said.

The program is only one of the many WUSC offers. In some developing countries, getting an education can be dangerous, due to war or political repression, she said.

Students are often persecuted,



"It's amazing what I've learned so far." Karalee McAskill loves being part of WUSC. Burmeister photo

imprisoned or forced into exile, joining the ranks of the world's estimated 10 million refugees.

They have virtually no opportunity for post-secondary education, Stewart said.

Through WUSC's unique Student Refugee Program, students can help a student refugee re-settle in Canada and pursue their studies in an environment free of violence and fear.

It's a program that changes their life and usually the life of the sponsoring student, as they gain hands-on, real-life experience in refugee sponsorship and development issues.

And this is what moved Karalee McAskill to join WUSC at the

college.

McAskill is a full-time student at Holland College. She said joining WUSC is a great thing that doesn't eat up a lot of time.

"It makes me feel good to be able to participate in good projects.

"And if you're someone who care about others, you should join."

It is reassuring to know organizations like WUSC exist, she said.

And the things you learn in an organization like this range from local food security to anti-racism.

"Those are important topics for P.E.I. because lot's of old habits are still here. People have never learned anything else and it is good to update them."

WUSC Holland College is open to anyone and there is no cost to join.

Students who would like to join can do so at the library or on the Facebook group, which is easily found by searching for Holland College WUSC, Stewart said.

The meetings are Mondays at 5 p.m. at the UPEI library. The first Holland College meeting was set for March 1.

Stewart encourages students to join to start helping make this world a little bit better.

"I really want this to be a student-driven organizations. I am really just the staff advisor."

Stewart said it doesn't take up more time than the students want it to and she says it is worth it.

"Work locally to make a difference globally."

AD
RQ
Health
4 X 7.5

Aggressive parents, coaches put too much pressure on young hockey players: minor hockey coach

By AL MACLEOD

Aggressive parents and coaches involved in children's organized hockey activities are the leading cause of aggressive behaviour on the ice by the players, says a Charlottetown minor hockey league coach.

Ewan Bowman, 37, made the comments in reaction to an on-ice incident involving eight-year-old minor league hockey players fighting during a game in Guelph, Ont., in November, 2007.

Bowman has more than 10 years experience coaching minor league hockey players and is involved with four different levels of coaching with children from ages four to 15.

He has never experienced an incident where his players got into a fight on the ice.

Courses dealing with bullying and other physical issues are mandatory for all minor league hockey coaches.

Videos and booklets designed to educate anyone involved with minor hockey are also available from Nike Canada.

Bowman said kids react emotionally and physically to pressure from their parents and coaches.

"That's the mentality (aggressive behaviour) the kids see (from their parents), that's the way they are gonna be."

Troy Howatt, Officials Council chair and board of directors member for Hockey P.E.I., said sometimes parents and coaches get aggressive because they are emotionally into the game as part of their competitive nature.

"No one ever plays to lose... they play to win."

There are rules to ensure parents and coaches do not cross the line on what is acceptable. Coaches have a responsibility and will be punished if they violate the rules set out in the Hockey Canada rulebook, Howatt said.

"Referees are empowered to remove verbally abusive parents."

However, it is not always easy to remove these parents because typically the referees officiating a minor hockey game are between the ages of 13 and 15, Howatt said. "It takes a lot of courage (for a younger official) to throw a par-



Ewan Bowman's minor hockey Timbit team practises before its game at the MacLauchlan Arena in Charlottetown. MacLeod photo.

ent out of the game."

Bowman said professional hockey does a good job teaching kids aggressive behaviour (such as the Todd Bertuzzi attack on Steve Moore) is wrong and kids

at a young age understand that.

When an incident like the one in Guelph takes place, it has little to do with players trying to emulate what players in the NHL do.

"Tempers get the better of peo-

ple (NHL players) sometimes and bad things happen."

Minor hockey should be played as a "controlled aggressive sport" where physical altercations are policed and not allowed to get out of hand, Bowman said.

"Play with an edge but not over the edge, like Mark Messier did."

If minor hockey allowed hitting at a younger age, it would give the kids an outlet to let their aggressions out instead of using sticks and fighting to solve their problem, Bowman said.

"Kids are used to running into each other (at a young age) anyway, it would curb their frustrations (if contact was allowed)."

The coach involved with the incident in Guelph opened the door to allow his players on to the ice to fight and he should be suspended for a long time Bowman said.

That action spoke louder than any words and told the kids it was OK to get involved in the fight, Bowman added.

"Some coaches think they are coaching in the NHL instead of kids."

Sports and leisure students enjoy winter camping

By ELLEN KLEIN

Imagine sleeping inside a dug out mound of snow built with your own hands, covered with a winter sleeping bag (if you're smart), praying the temperature stays cold. Yes you read it right – cold, so your little, wannabe igloo doesn't melt and collapse on you in the middle of the night.

This is what students and an instructor from Holland College's Sports and Leisure Management program did on Feb. 9, at Strathgartney provincial park, P.E.I.

Winter camping takes place each year and it takes some physical ability, said Randy Campbell who is enjoying his first year teaching the program.

"Technically, it's not that difficult."

The group left early that Saturday morning and returned, none the worse for wear, Sunday afternoon. Participants unloaded piles of pots, pans, propane stoves,

sleeping gear, sleds, tarps and shovels, said Campbell.

"Lots of shovels."

Eli Fisher, first-year Sports and Leisure student, said they had to lug the gear behind them on sleds.

"It's challenging, but it's lots of fun."

Despite the fact he did not have warm enough bedding and did not sleep well, his cheeks were rosy and his eyes were clear as he spoke.

When the bus arrived at Strathgartney, the group had to dig Quinzees, or snow houses.

The men challenged the women to a contest to determine who would finish first. The men won.

The women's was not big enough at first, Fisher said.

"We got ours at first try."

Sledding on a circuit of trails after hours of hiking on Saturday made for hearty appetites.

Food preparation was one of the easy things, Fisher said.

The group had the whole out-

doors as a refrigerator. Couple that with the absence of predators and eating a steak cooked on an open fire was reasonably simple and a savoury treat.

Campbell said the biggest challenge was staying dry.

"It takes experience to learn to stay dry."

Some gear works and some doesn't, he said.

Fisher brought two changes of clothing and the first outfit lasted up until bedtime.

"For two days I did OK."

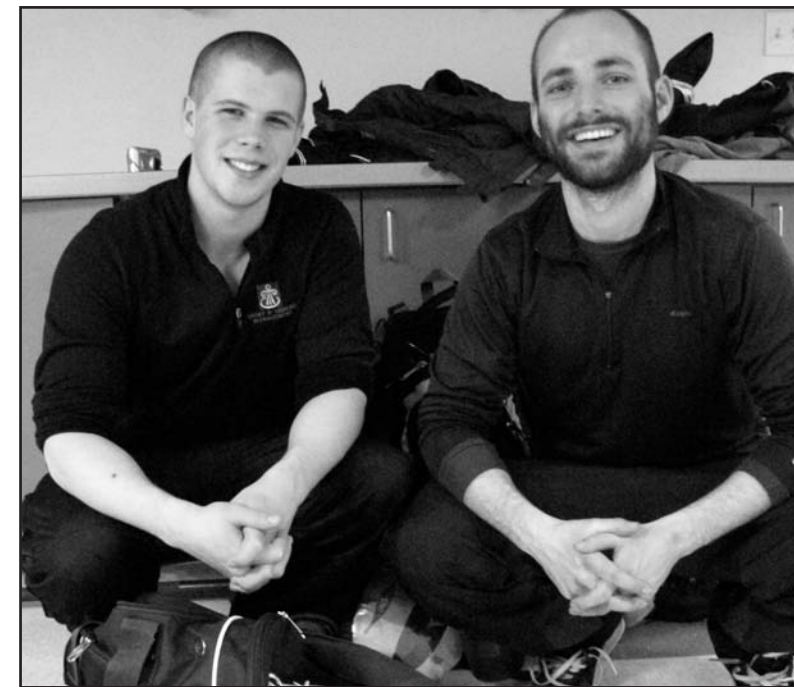
Campbell said risks involved avoiding widow-makers, which are trees partly blown over from wind.

"Make sure you don't camp underneath one of them."

Fisher said Quinzees can collapse.

Campbell added they could hear foxes or coyotes fighting at night.

"But that was really of no concern."



Eli Fisher and Randy Campbell with gear upon returning from a Sports and Leisure Management winter camping trip. Klein photo.

Pilot program tests electronic poker tables

By AL MACLEOD

P.E.I. has been selected by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation as the site for a pilot program to test the popularity of unmanned electronic poker tables.

The poker tables work in a virtual environment, which means the chips, cards and the dealer are part of the table's programming.

This allows for reduced costs to the vendor and less time spent on dealing and calculating payouts.

The electronic poker tables are manufactured by PokerTek and a number of them are already installed in casinos in Montreal and other areas of Quebec as well as British Columbia.

The pilot program will consist of two tables placed in P.E.I. bars. The bids to receive the tables are due by March 10.

Don Gorveatt, director of mental health and addictions on P.E.I., said he is not familiar with the actual product.

But his department will follow the progression of the games and how it affects people.

"Any new products around gambling affect our service."

His department has not been

contacted by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation about the pilot program and the only information he has is through the media to this point, said Gorveatt.

"We work closely with the Atlantic Lottery Corporation and the (Charlottetown) Racino... this program is only in bars right now."

The game will affect people in different ways much like any other game where gambling is concerned, Gorveatt said.

"It will certainly have a negative impact on some people and to others, it will be just another game."

Paula Dyke, Atlantic Lottery Corporation director of public affairs, said all new games go through a third-party assessment for things like quality assurance and the affect on society.

The electronic poker tables will fall under the same guidelines.

"This pilot is to look at the game and how it will fit in the gaming mix on P.E.I."

This game will be no different from any of the other games available on P.E.I. and it is subject to review and recommendations from the third party assessment, Dyke said. "It (the game) is being used in many different environments."



Charlottetown Driving Park Entertainment Centre representative Mel Pasher behind a modern poker table, which could become obsolete with the introduction of the new virtual tables. MacLeod Photo.



MAKE THE PLAYOFFS - Tyrell Williams of the Holland College Hurricanes avoids Colin Johnston of UNBSJ Feb. 23 at UPEI. The Hurricanes lost a close game in their first playoff game ever recently against Mount Allison. Sukie photo.

Dinner salutes women in sports

By SAMARA MEADE

Cassie Campbell is coming to Charlottetown on March 13 as a guest at the first annual Women in Sport dinner, an appropriate representative for the event, Mayor Clifford Lee said at a news conference Feb. 22.

The dinner will be the first ever to celebrate women in sport across Canada.

Albert Roche, manager of student athletics and services of Holland College, and Mike Redmond, coach of the UPEI's women soccer team, are the driving force behind this event.

It is a good way to promote varsity opportunities for female athletes, said Roche.

"This promises to be an evening of fun and celebration. We are lucky to have a celebrity like Cassie Campbell join us."

Campbell is the former captain of the Canadian women's national hockey team and a Hockey Night in Canada reporter.

Roche asked the mayor to be a partner in the event and Lee said he was excited to do so.

Charlottetown is behind women in sports, he said.

"We have to make sure women have the opportunity to play and take part in sport."

Discussion of the concept between the athletic departments went on for some time and when Campbell agreed to be the speaker, everything fell into place very quickly, Redmond said.

"The dinner promises to be an exciting affair with significant benefit for stakeholders across the province."

The coach of the UPEI Panther's volleyball team, Lynn Budrow, said the dinner will serve

to highlight a necessary growth in women in sport by bringing more females into coaching and playing sports in general.

"Holland College and UPEI together have mutual support for female athlete and academic success," said Budrow.

The Women in Sport dinner will be hosted by Holland College and UPEI at the Culinary Institute of Canada at 7 p.m.

It will feature live entertainment and a silent auction with proceeds going towards the development of women's varsity sports programs and athletic awards at UPEI and Holland College.

The dinner will be emceed by Matt Rainnie of CBC's Radio's Mainstreet program and will be hosted by both post-secondary institutions, and their athletes, who will represent their school colours with great pride.

P.E.I. struggles to accept gays

By MELISSA MCINNIS

To say P.E.I. in 2008 is a farce, says the co-chairman of the Abegweit Rainbow Collective.

That's because Shawn McDonald sees P.E.I. as a place struggling to accept the gay community.

The Island is behind the times, said McDonald. "P.E.I. in general is pretty redneck."

The Abegweit Rainbow Collective is a community-based volunteer organization providing support, education and advocacy to bisexual, gay, lesbian, trans-gendered and two-spirited Islanders.

A poll on the organization's website suggests 8.3 per cent of people feel they can't be themselves in public with their partners on P.E.I.

That is because they fear violence, said McDonald.

P.E.I. Pride, a march of celebration, is held each year to celebrate diversity. The march began as a protest about being excluded for who they are.

No one is excluded from any

events the community hosts, as long as they are respectful, said McDonald.

He remembers a couple of years ago a older man sitting in a lawn chair each year at the march holding a sign saying "Say no to homosexual marriage."

Unexpectedly last year the man was not sitting in his lawn chair, but at the wharf eating hotdogs and pop with those celebrating.

The situation is changing because people have started gaining more rights in the community, said McDonald. Still, it is still illegal for homosexuals to donate blood, sperm and organs.

Phillip Adam Rafuse, commonly known as P.A., co-founded the Gay/Straight Alliance at Charlottetown Rural High School.

It is the only group in Island high schools promoting understanding and acceptance between gay, lesbian, straight and bi-sexu-

al students. The feedback from the students is mostly welcomed, but sometimes students act inconsiderately, said Rafuse.

Allegedly, students were making comments about gays in a classroom, he said.

To get the group up and running, he had to talk to teachers and write a letter to the principal. The principal brought the issue up at a school board meeting, which wanted a letter

"I get picked on every now and then for being gay."

- Phillip Adam Rafuse

to clarify the role the alliance would play.

Social challenges are something everyone goes through, Rafuse said.

"I get picked on every now and then for being gay," he said. "I'd get picked on a lot more if I gave people the chance.

"People are brought up that way...they grow up with the idea that gay people are wishy-washy little fruits."



P.A. Rafuse, 17, co-founded the Gay/Straight Alliance at Charlottetown Rural High School. McInnis photo.

Muslims in P.E.I. need place to call their own

By RYAN ROSS

The Island's growing Muslim community needs its own gathering place, says the president of the Muslim Society of Prince Edward Island.

But a spokesperson for the Jewish community, meanwhile, said their group isn't big enough to support a synagogue.

Najam Chishti, the president of the Muslim society, moved to P.E.I. from Pakistan in 1979.

Chishti said the community needs a place where they can meet to discuss issues within the Muslim community. "The main objective is to get a place of our own to meet regularly."

Charlottetown does have a mosque in a renovated basement, but it is owned by one person, not the entire Muslim community, he said. Chishti said P.E.I. is the only province without a permanent mosque and that's one of the criteria for Muslim immigrants.

"It does affect, to a certain extent, because it affects prayers."

The Island's Muslim community has grown to over 100 families since he moved to P.E.I., due mostly to immigration, and there is a need for new facilities, such as a Muslim cemetery, he said.

"As the community is growing, the need is getting greater."

Chishti said they need at least \$500,000 to build an Islamic centre and cemetery and the community wants to pursue it.

"It is long overdue."

But John Zarwan, a spokesman for the P.E.I. Jewish Community, said even though the number of Jewish families on the Island is also growing, there aren't enough people to support a formal gathering place. There are about 80-90 families, but there are not enough people or the financial support for a synagogue, similar to other Island churches, he said.

"There are lots of empty

churches."

Zarwan said there are members of the Jewish community who go to synagogues in other cities off-Island. "There are members who are fairly observant."

There doesn't seem to be a lot of interest in a part-time rabbi, but there is a traveling rabbi who fills in when there is a death within the community, he said. "We certainly couldn't support a full-time rabbi."

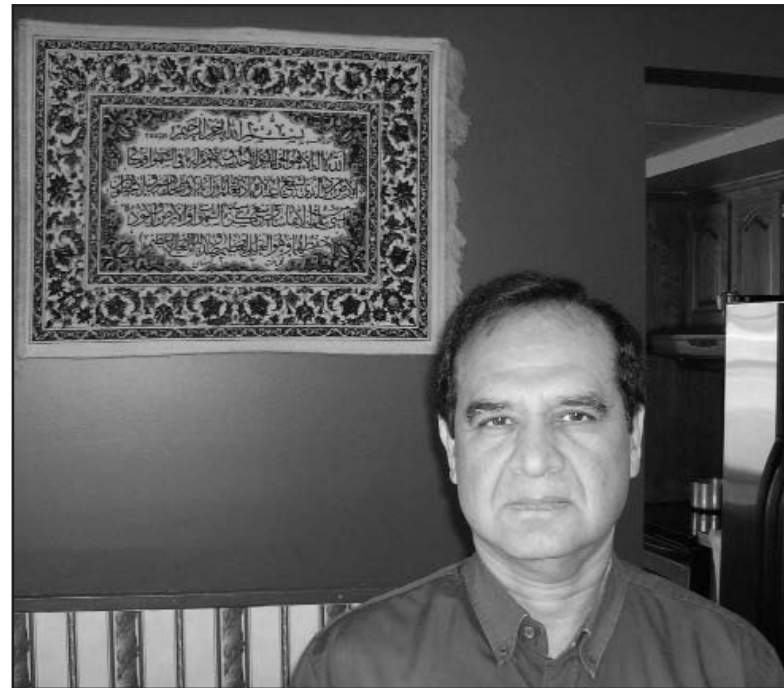
Zarwan, who is not originally from P.E.I., said since he moved here seven years ago, changes to the P.E.I. Jewish Community's board members and philosophy have increased attendance at community events.

The number of Jewish residents has also increased, he said.

"Mostly through in-migration."

Zarwan said there is always an interest within the Jewish community to have a formal structure.

"There are some people who would like to have it."



Najam Chishti with an Arabic tapestry at his home in Charlottetown. The tapestry depicts an Islamic blessing on the home. Ross photo

Conception Bay South model goes international

By ROBYN SEYMOUR

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, 17-year-old Jenna Berman has been living her dream as a model since 2001.

Berman moved with her family to Conception Bay South in 2004, but she returned to South Africa last year.

She plans to return to Newfoundland for a visit in April.

Berman was discovered when she was 11 years old by Sheila Wallis from Kidz Casting in South Africa.

She didn't know anything about the industry at the time, but she was excited when a girl in her class told her she knew someone who was photographed in a children's clothing catalogue and was paid well.

After school she went to a phone book and called the first children's modeling agency she found, which happened to be Kidz Casting.

"I made an appointment to go see Sheila without even asking my mom, but she took me."

Wallis signed her and shortly after sent her to casting.

Berman's first booking was with a television commercial advertisement for water guns. She was paid roughly \$3,300, the agency took 36 per cent.

"That's still a lot [of money] for a few hours of running around some mansion's garden squirting water at kids."

Berman's mother, Karin, said she was proud her daughter chose to do her first commercial and even cancelled a summer holiday with the rest of the family so Jenna could fulfill her obligations.

"That first commercial took the entire day to make and was a magnificent experience."

In 2003 her family moved to Manuels, N.L., for her father's work.

"My dad is a doctor and when I turned 13 he moved my family to Newfoundland because Canada is a better place for doctors."

Before the move she had no previous connection to Newfoundland and Labrador and had not traveled before, Berman said. When she was 16 years old a friend suggested she e-mail some photos to Michele Miller, the owner of an international model management in Barrie, Ont. A few months later Berman flew to Bar-



Jenna Berman, 17, from South Africa poses for a professional photo shoot. She has been modeling since 2004. Submitted photo.

rie to meet Miller and participate in her annual cover model search.

During her time with Miller she did a few shows and answer questions for Fashion Television. Miller then became Berman's main agent and manager.

"That's when things got serious," Berman said.

She moved back to South Africa in July 2007 to live with her boyfriend and further her career, but she feels she never officially moved out of her parent's house. The worst part of the career is being away from her family, but she has been traveling alone since she was 13, she said.

"I really miss my family. I miss

my parents a lot and I feel like I'm missing out on my brother growing up."

Her parents, Michael and Karin, and her 14-year-old brother still live in Conception Bay South and it is important for her to visit them.

Berman's mother said she really misses her daughter when she is away, "but it's no big train smash."

They are always concerned with Berman's safety, but her daughter is a responsible and intelligent young adult who knows how to deal with difficult situations, she said.

"We keep close contact and try

to keep up my confidence in the good of the process."

Her daughter's modeling career has liberated her to do what she really wants and to express herself creatively, she said.

"Needless to say, I do pray a lot for her safety though."

Berman said Newfoundland is a very good place to ground yourself. She loves the fact it is peaceful and there is not a lot of traffic.

"It's a very special place and the people are one of a kind."

Berman plans to return to Newfoundland at the beginning of April, but can only stay 19 days. Then she travels to Tokyo for a two-month modeling contract.

"I'll get to immerse myself in a completely different culture for a long time, as opposed to going there on holiday or a few days."

She loves to travel because it gives her the chance to see all different cultures and places and practice her photography. Berman said.

"I use traveling as an opportunity to take pictures of the places I go. Just being in a place where nobody knows you is quite surreal."

Recently she shot for a pop art photo shoot for a German photographer. Pop art is when you take a photo and edit it heavily, making it almost look like a painting.

She finds inspiration from a Buddhist saying: "Rather than fighting the current, plant your feet firmly in the ground and allow the waters to rush around you."

"I think things will happen if they need to happen," said Berman.

Even with her career taking up most of her spare time, she finds time for her hobbies, which include dancing, photography and being with friends.

"I've been dancing all my life and hate that I can't go to classes while I'm traveling."

Berman misses her friends when she is traveling, but tries to visit them whenever possible.

Sandra-Lee Elford is one of Berman's close friends in Newfoundland.

Her first impression of her was that she was charismatic, beautiful and different.

"The girl is the most beautiful, down-to-earth person I've ever met, but she has brains too." Elford said.

Berman can hold a conversation with anyone and she doesn't fit into the model stereotype, she said.

"She's too nice, too sweet and can eat a burger better than anyone I know."

One of Berman's best qualities is her dedication, Elford said.

"She'd fly to the end of the Earth to make it in her career. It's not easy on a girl to build a life in a country, then move to a new one thousands of miles away and build it all over again, only to have to leave yet again."

Even though Berman loves modeling she hopes to be on the other end of the camera one day.

Local Celtic artist performs song honouring dying father at Hospice Ceilidh

By ELLEN KLEIN

Michael Pendergast of P.E.I. sings and plays Celtic music at Avonlea Village each summer. His name has become a household word for those who attend ceilidhs Island-wide.

Two years ago, his father died, surrounded by family members. Pendergast wrote a song about it, This I Know.

On Feb. 24 at the Carrefour Theatre in Charlottetown he sang the tribute piece to a sold-out audience at the Hospice Ceilidh, accompanied by his six-string guitar and a lone spotlight.

Pendergast was one of five performers who donated their acts to the second annual fundraiser ceilidh organized by the Queens county chapter of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of P.E.I.

The Ross Family, a Shirley's Celtic Dancers troupe called The Six Pack, Jim Smith and Eddie Quinn were featured in the evening of Celtic music and dance.

Shirley Arsenault is a bereavement coordinator of the Queens county group.

Arsenault began working with



Michael Pendergast performs This I Know, a song he wrote about his father's dying experience, at the Hospice Ceilidh at the Carrefour Theatre on Feb. 24. Ward photo

the organization after the loss of her daughter found her working in bereavement work.

She helped organize the ceilidh with the direction of an advisory committee, she said.

"I know Michael Pendergast. I just got on the phone."

The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of P.E.I. is a regis-

tered charity that has been providing care and support to the terminally ill and their families in P.E.I. since 1985.

The organization does not charge for services, so 90 per cent of its operating income is raised through donations, memorials, bequests and fundraising events like the ceilidh.

Last year's ceilidh was sold out as well, Arsenault added.

"This time of year you want something to go to."

All those who donated their talents had a reason.

Jim Smith is a hospice volunteer. So is Marlene MacDonald's mother, she said. MacDonald, who emceed the evening, is Eastlink's Health Matters host.

Before last year's ceilidh, the Queen's county group had a large yard sale to raise funds, Arsenault said.

"It was a humungous amount of work."

When the idea to do a ceilidh came up, everyone jumped on it.

While the musicians, vocalists and dancers were the highlight of the ceilidh, there were others who helped as well.

Every Friday, the nuns at Notre Dame Convent in Charlottetown make fudge for sale.

They have developed a loyal clientele, said Kaye Larkin, who volunteers with the Queens Hospice chapter and works at the convent.

Last year, Larkin asked the nuns to donate their fudge to sell to the audience at the hospice ceilidh.

A few people who knew in

advance bought every bag.

This year, the nuns came through with a repeat performance.

And true to form, loyal customers who bought ceilidh tickets bought the fudge before the show began, Larkin said.

"They (the nuns) looked forward to it. I just mention it and they do it."

Before the show began, people in the audience tried to trade none-nun-made fudge for nun-made fudge.

Some audience members thought it was divinity fudge, with lots of nuts.

Susan Taylor McConnell, who heads up the P.E.I. group, said hospice enables terminally ill people to die well.

"By dying well, we mean living as fully, completely and joyously as possible until we actually take our last breath...living with dignity, surrounded by love and respect, and above all, good pain and symptom control."

For more information or to donate to the organization, call the provincial office on Brighton Road in Charlottetown at (902) 368-4498, or visit the website at www.hospicepei.ca.

The men behind the microphone: Tale of two hosts

By ASHLEY DUNBAR

It started early for one Charlottetown radio show host.

The other needed a push from the woman who became his wife.

Colin McKay and Zack Bell host the K-Rock radio station in Charlottetown.

McKay, from Kennebecasis Valley near Saint John, began being interested in radio when he was young.

"I've always been interested in radio, ever since I can remember."

McKay attended broadcasting school in Saint John, N.B. and began volunteering at different radio stations around the province.

"In broadcasting school I learned how to operate a sound board, edit, tape, write commer-

cials and news articles, and much more."

Bell, from Guernsey Cove in P.E.I., lived in Toronto for six years and attended the University of Toronto for a couple years, then UPEI.

It took a push from his girlfriend, now his wife, for him to realize he wanted to get into radio and he could actually do it.

"I have always loved radio, even when I was a kid growing up on P.E.I."

On a recent morning the K-Rock morning show was focused on the weather and getting the news out to the people of P.E.I.

"We try to stay as local as possible. It's what's going on around us that people want to hear about," said McKay.

A typical day at K-Rock usually

starts around 3:30 a.m. and goes to noon for McKay and Bell.

Bell said the day usually starts with checking what news there was from yesterday that can be written as a new story for the morning.

Then they check various media for any other material they may have missed.

"Basically it's writing news, sports and weather until 6 a.m. and then we just make sure we have enough ... for the morning," said Bell.

The rest is just reading news and being funny, said Bell.

McKay loves living in Charlottetown and working at K-Rock.

"Charlottetown has always been a place I wanted to go and when a job opportunity opened up I took it and I love it."

McKay's not sure what the future holds for him.

"I have goals set for myself, but they always change, so who knows."

The best part of his job is keeping people informed, said Bell.

"I love the fact that people can base their entire day on something that I say in the morning."

Bell is undecided about his future, but he has have given himself a few years.

"I love my job so much here in P.E.I."

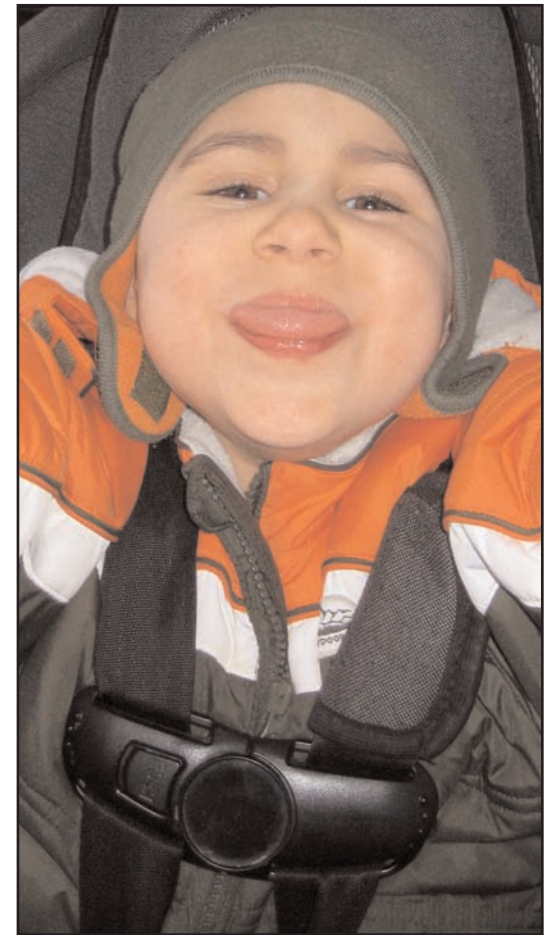
He strives to be the best and would love to move up in his career, Bell said.

"I am so happy right now with my job that I really haven't really had a chance to assess my goals for later in life."



Colin McKay reads the morning weather report for a Friday morning at the K-Rock radio station. Dunbar photo.

Full page ad National defence



Toddlers caught on Holland College camera

Above left: Madison Boeteng waits in her stroller bundled up against the cold at the Jack Frost Festival. Ross photo. Above right: Logan McInnis acts silly for the camera. McInnis photo.



Spencer Morton feeds a sheep at the Jack Frost Festival petting zoo. Ross photo.



A rosy-cheeked Izaiah MacAusland plays at home. MacAusland photo.



Jasmine Pretty is in a big mess after feeding herself dinner. Seymour photo.