

THE SURVEYOR

March 5, 2009

Holland College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

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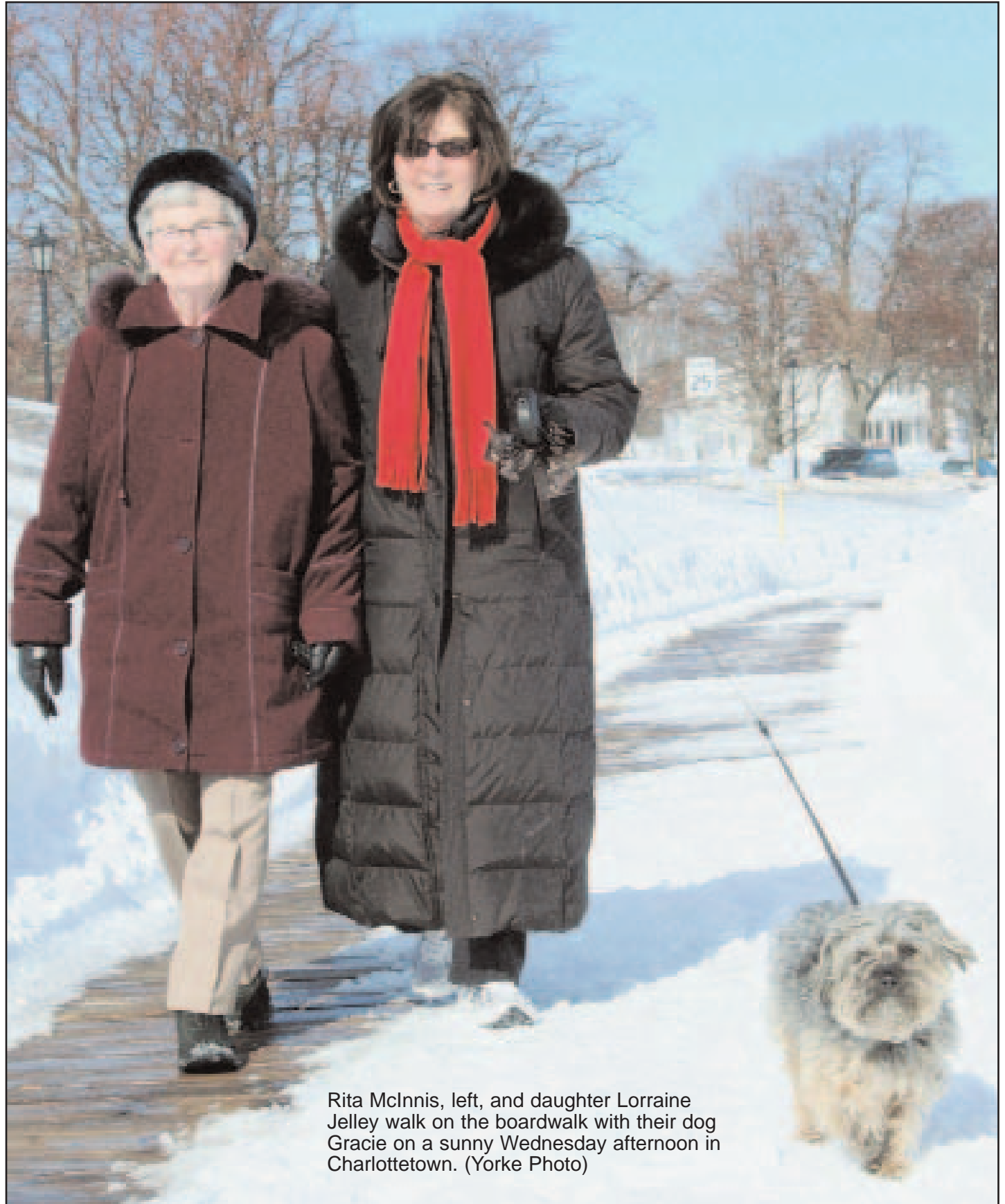
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Rita McInnis, left, and daughter Lorraine Jelley walk on the boardwalk with their dog Gracie on a sunny Wednesday afternoon in Charlottetown. (Yorke Photo)

Exchange students open cultural doors

By SAMANTHA MACKINNON



Arts (left) and MacDonald smile for the camera at the MacDonald household in Stratford. Mackinnon Photo.

Having an exchange student live with you, whether it be for a week or a year, is something everyone should experience, says Allason MacDonald.

She is an 19-year-old student at UPEI who over the past five years has had many experiences with exchange students in her home.

Her mother, Sandra MacDonald, heard about another family's experience and jumped at the chance to have a student.

"Mom was excited. I was busy with school and my social life and my sister had moved out. She was lonely I think."

Students through Education First tours, an exchange program, stay a year with a family.

In the cases of MacDonald's exchange students, they got to explore Canadian culture, she said.

The students who stayed with the MacDonald family for three weeks at a time with the program Study Abroad Canada were in Canada to learn English as a second language, she said.

"It was harder to warm up to them, communication was harder and they weren't around for near as long."

Students here for the year go to a high school close to the house they are staying in, while the students who stay for three weeks attend a special Study Abroad

Canada high school for their short stay.

MacDonald has one sister, who moved out when she was young, so she said it's hard to adapt when other people are living in her home, especially ones who are close in age.

When the students first arrive it is very awkward, she said.

"It's like a little mini-adoption into your family, and I'm 19 years old."

The first of the exchange students was from Brazil and MacDonald said at first she found it hard to warm up to her, but by the year's end she had opposite feelings.

"When she was leaving it was

like my sibling was moving away from home, I cried."

MacDonald said the boy who stayed with the family for three weeks was from Mexico and he cut his visit short because he was not adapting well to Canadian culture.

Boys are more likely to go home early on exchanges, she said.

The exchange student from Brazil found the culture strange because in her culture the father is the boss in the house, although children are closer to the mother, said MacDonald.

"My dad isn't around a lot because of work, so she found it so strange when we'd say, Mom's the boss."

All of the students had two things in common: their hatred of our cold weather and their love for our friendly citizens, she said.

"They thought it was crazy just how cold it could get, and just how friendly people were here."

MacDonald found all the students nice and easy to get along with, but said the boy from Mexico was too young to be away from his home. When he left early, she was not surprised.

It was a great experience, and Islanders benefit from the experience, MacDonald said.

"Somewhere small like on the Island, it's too easy to pre-judge. These situations put you out there so you get a taste of different cultures and realize that we're all

pretty similar."

MacDonald found someone particularly similar in her latest exchange student from Holland, Anouk Arts.

Arts is 17 years old and came to P.E.I. in August of 2008. She is scheduled to return to Holland in July. She is in Grade 12 at Charlottetown Rural and is enjoying it, she said.

"I am most excited about prom."

Arts has found the weather to be different and enjoys the friendly people on the Island, she said.

She is very comfortable living with MacDonald and her family, although she admits the transition was a little rough at first.

"My English was not so good at first, so it was hard to talk, now it's much better."

Arts does have her moments of homesickness, as any exchange student would, she said.

"I miss home sometimes and my family, but I love it here."

Sharing their cultures has been a fun experience she will miss once Arts goes home, said MacDonald.

"I'll really miss her, but the experience has been a great one."

Her family may take in another exchange student after Arts has to go home, MacDonald said.

"We're getting used to having them around now. I can definitely see us doing it again in the future."

Business students travel to Qatar for competition

By JACLYN CRAWFORD

Five Holland College students are going to Doha, Qatar to participate in an International Business Case Studies Competition.

On March 8, four Business students and one Graphic Design student fly to the Middle East to represent P.E.I. in a competition to learn about and display their own problem-solving skills in the world of business.

Nikkie Gallant, a first-year Business Administration student, said she is looking forward to the trip and intends to absorb as much information about the business world.

"I hope to gain experience in analyzing businesses using strate-

"I hope to gain experience in analyzing businesses using strategic thinking"

- Nikkie Gallant

gic thinking."

This is the fourth annual International Case Studies Competition, but it is the first time Holland College students have been

invited.

Brian Murray, a Business studies instructor, said the competition was trying to become more international. There are five teams from Canada going and Holland College was invited to go.

The business program just found out about the invitation in the middle of January. By the end of the month the team was assembled and they were practising. They practise every Friday at noon.

The team consists of four Business students, Nikkie Gallant, Natasha Mermys-Ball, Tyler Ranahan, Adam MacKay and Steven Stretch, and a Graphic Design student, Kim Sparkes. The team needed at least one student

from outside of Business and Sparkes was chosen to help with the presentation aspect.

In the competition, students are given four to five page scenarios, usually relating to a business in trouble. They are real business, and real problems usually, but sometimes the names have been changed.

Each group gets a set time to read the scenario and come up with a solution to be presented in as a powerpoint slideshow to a pannel of judges.

They are competing with 11 other teams and each team goes through three scenarios. The top three teams then battle for the top three spots.

Students are judged based on

their solution, as compared to the recommended solution, financial and ethical decisions and their presentations.

The team doesn't know what the prize is yet, but Murray assumes it will involve plaques, presentations, or maybe a small sum of money.

"It's mostly for bragging rights," said Murray.

The winning team will hopefully go back next year to defend their championship too, he added.

The team also has a blog they plan to update while they are away, said Murray - www.hollandcollegebusinessteam09.blogspot.com features biographies on the team members and information about the trip.

Snow removal tricky in Charlottetown

By JENNIFER MICHELS



Snow removal in Charlottetown begins after a storm hits the Maritimes. Michels Photo.

Removing the snow from the streets of Charlottetown is an ongoing battle, says Public Works employee Billy Lawlor.

The downtown area is done first, then the plows work out from there, Lawlor said.

The businesses have to be done first.

It can take up to six days working 16-hour shifts from midnight until 4 p.m. to clean the streets of Charlottetown after a recent storm, Lawlor said.

“Especially after this much snow.”

The snow is put in the centre of the roads.

Once the roads of Charlottetown have been plowed, the snow is picked up and taken to the water-front where the town has a large field to dump the snow, Lawlor said.

The sidewalks are plowed ahead of the streets so the snow can be blown into the streets, then pushed by the plow when the

roads are cleared, he said.

People need to understand when removing heavy snow the equipment can break down, and it does, Lawlor said.

For backup, Charlottetown’s fire hall has equipment to clear snow.

Paramedic student Kris Mollon said it’s not done as fast as it

should be.

It’s a slow process, but it tends to put people in danger, Mollon said. If the sidewalks aren’t cleared, people have to walk on the roads and all the sidewalks are not done at the same time, he said.

“It’s only a matter of time that

something serious happens.”

The government should mandate the workers to have the roads cleared by a certain amount of time.

It should be better than six days, he said. After a recent storm, the sidewalks weren’t safe for people with limited mobility, Mollon

said. It was impossible to get around.

The way the workers clear the roads is an excellent idea because it removes the snow instead of pushing it in the way, Mollon said.

It should be no surprise when the Maritimes get a lot of heavy snow, Mollon said.

The money should go towards the equipment and having more people working to get the job done faster.

It’s not fair to ask the workers to work longer hours to remove the snow, Mollon said. Instead there should be more workers working fewer hours.

“If they had all the resources they needed, it should take a maximum of three days.”

Paramedics are fined if they don’t respond to a call on time, Mollon said. It should be the same way for workers clearing the roads.

A life is more important than money, Mollon said.

“It’s all about safety first.”

Student filmmaker broadens skills in Interactive Multimedia

By RYAN CONWAY

“A film of mine is actually featured on indymogul.com, a site directed at independent filmmakers.”

His film was featured on episode 17 of their Best Short Films in the World show where they show clips of independent films.

“I made this video during my film course and it is one of the ones I’m more proud of because of the clever dialogue (that is what I am told anyway).”

Rodd said the students in the course are learning interactive multimedia, which is a combination of audio/video, web design, and graphic design.

“I gravitate towards the audio/video aspects. I like sitting down and editing video and doing a lot of Photoshop work.”

Interactive multimedia teaches you to do a lot of things, he said.

“A lot of mediums converge where the Internet merges the video, audio and graphic aspects in ways that couldn’t be done before.”

Jonathon Rodd already had a diploma in Digital Filmmaking but he knew that probably wouldn’t be enough to land him a job he would enjoy.

Not wanting to be a starving artist, the Holland College student decided to enrol in Interactive Multimedia, where he could learn new skills to improve his filmmaking, as well as find a job he could enjoy as he sharpened his skills.

Rodd is in the Interactive Multimedia program, but before entering the program he received a diploma in digital filmmaking at the Centre for Arts and Technology in Fredericton, NB.

Rodd said he entered the program because filmmakers sometimes go unnoticed for years before getting their first break.

He is glad this multimedia program gives him the freedom to be employed in a field he enjoys, while he continues to strengthen his skills as a filmmaker.



Interactive Multimedia student and independent filmmaker Jonathon Rodd, is busy at his work station. Conway Photo.

Holland College course instructor April Condon said she teaches in terms of A/V is in the development of videos or promotional pieces that add value to websites.

“In terms of multimedia, it is to

shoot the video to enhance a website.”

She said students also learn authorizing DVDs, how to storyboard their projects, different camera moves and angles, as well

as different editing techniques.

This is definitely a field of work in which you would need the proper training, she said.

Students spend a week or two just setting up equipment, using lighting kits, learning how to use the camera and playing with the light settings before they can record anything, she said.

“You need to know your equipment before you’re on site. That is not the time to learn.”

The same kind of care is needed in filmmaking as well.

Rodd said a decent camera is needed to make a film, along with at least three stand-in lights. The need to organize the time of everyone on the set is also very important.

“You need a lot of discipline and the ability to manage a lot of people.”

Rodd recommends the course to students who have good computer skills who are interested in the field. He also recommends students work hard on their portfolio before submitting it.

Ryan Conway asks, 'Should *O Canada* be played in public schools?'



"Kind of. It's good to have in elementary schools, but in other schools, I don't know."
- Brent Mitton



"Yes. It seems unpatriotic if we don't."
- Dan Pettit



"Yes. Because it is part of our heritage."
- Mandy Langford



"I think that perhaps it should be left up to the teachers."
- Joan Diamond



"Singing the anthem should be the students' personal choice."
- Steve Brun

Prevention is key to fewer house fires, says fire inspector

By LAURA YORKE

The number of house fires in Atlantic Canada has shot up, a recent report from the Canadian Red Cross shows.

Since Dec. 21, the average number of responses to fires per day is 1.5 compared to less than 0.5 in past years, said Tanya Mullally, manager of operations for the Red Cross in Charlottetown.

"We've seen about a 25 to 50 per cent increase."

Fires in large apartment complexes in cities like Dartmouth drive up the numbers, she said.

"The number of people assisted has risen significantly."

Last summer in Charlottetown alone there were fires at two 12-unit and one 10-unit apartment complexes, with the 10-unit being completely burned out, she said.

"It's not normal here on P.E.I."

Not only have the numbers of fires and other disasters climbed, the severity of them has increased, she said.

"Over the past year or so, events have become larger or on a grander scale."

Every year, the Canadian Red Cross responds to 20,000 disasters and every year four million

Canadians need some sort of assistance, she said.

"[There are] more frequent, more intense events."

No common factor

Mullally said there is no common factor behind the increase in house fires, but part of it could have something to do with a change in lifestyles.

"We live in bigger apartment buildings. One fire affects more people."

Another cause for the increase in fires is temperature, said Dave Rossiter, fire safety officer with the provincial fire marshal's office.

"We've had a much colder winter. The heating system is maxed out at all times."

And when the heater is on full blast and is close to or touching combustible items, such as curtains, they are more likely to catch fire, he said.

Preventative maintenance is an effective way to get the numbers down, said Rossiter.

"Make sure the flue is cleaned prior to the season. Check the clearance between the heater and combustibles."

College exceeds goal in United Way campaign

By CASSANDRA BERNARD

The United Way campaign at Holland College met and exceeded its goal of \$12,500 this year.

The three-week campaign raised \$15,221.29. The money will help United Way to build strong Island communities.

Cheryl Preston, a liaison for the president's office of Holland College, said the United Way spends a lot of time researching where their donations would be best spent.

"The donations do make a difference."

United Way conducts a needs assessment survey to identify needs of Islanders for five different population groups.

Groups who benefit from the project are children, youths, families, seniors and those with disabilities.

At Holland College, the student union has been more engaged in the campaign over the last two years.

College president Brian McMillan said the program gives the student union a leadership role.

"Students are a part of who we are here."

Within classrooms at Holland College students had the chance to help make a pledge.

Some activities the college put on included pajama day and a jelly bean guess. Two classrooms – carpentry and medical services –

at made special donations.

Donations to the United Way come from two sources. One of the biggest contributors is the staff at Holland College, and the other is extra fundraising from students.

There are 22 team leaders throughout college campuses across the province who take part in the program.

Millie MacKenzie is a co-ordinator for the program and she has put a tremendous amount of time and effort on the campaign, the president said.

Other ways

McMillan said there are other ways to help the United Way reach its target.

"You can donate to another association and United Way will give to the other organization."

McMillan said this helps gather new supporters for the United Way

"The United Way will support your charity or association."

McMillan said the college continues to reach the target goal each year.

"As president, it makes me proud our staff and students value helping others."

Though P.E.I. is facing tough times with the economy, the college continues to exceed goals, McMillan said.

"It says a lot about the type of people we have here, we put oth-

ers first and it shows in the students and all of us."

To help motivate the staff at Holland College, MacKenzie offered prizes to those who submitted their pledges early, said Preston.

During the first week of the campaign prizes were given to Nadine Stavert, who won an annual day off.

This prize was donated by the president's office.

Christina Clements received a gift certificate for the Holland College bookstore, donated by the vice president and chief learning officer.

Anne Farrell won a golf-bag-tag and a golf divot tool that was donated by the manager of Student Services and Athletics.

During the second week, prizes were given to Ann MacLeod who also received an annual day off.

Mary Lou Storey won a framed photograph donated by Shirley Gallant.

Dan Doiron also received a gift certificate for the Holland College bookstore donated by Business Studies and Hospitality and Tourism departments.

Besides contributions from the college, other locals donated including UPEI, the public school system, the business community, and hospitals.

Citizens may also make donations when door-to-door events are taking place.

Paramedicine students learn human touch

By JILLIANNE HAMILTON

Holland College primary care paramedicine students Amanda Dyke of Truro, N.S. and Geneieve Ferris of Dartmouth, N.S. learned plenty about people skills and dealing with the family of patients while on their recent on-the-job training.

Dyke, 20, said she felt prepared for most of the challenges OJT could and did provide.

“We had a list of skills to check off anyways on OJT. I got to do all my mandatory skills, such as spinal immobilizations and CPR and all the other ones.”

Ferris, 22, said she had no expectations before leaving the safety of the classroom and heading out in an ambulance.

“Like usual, people are like, ‘Ah, I’m gonna see something gross and disgusting.’ Then you actually see something gross and disgusting. I didn’t find that it was too bad.”

Dealing with upset family members was a new challenge and one that is sometimes hard to deal with, said Ferris.

“It’s different dealing with the patient and some of the stuff they’re going through. It’s 100 per cent different dealing with the family who’s screaming and whatnot.”

Dyke and Ferris returned to Charlottetown in early February to continue their training, concentrating on trauma, paediatrics and toxicology. “So, some of the cases I saw... say, toxicology and trauma, my preceptor kind of said, ‘OK. You’re gonna watch this and watch what we’re doing and we’ll



Paramedicine student Geneieve Ferris takes the heart rate of classmate Amanda Dyke. Hamilton Photo.

get you to help in the ways that you can,” Dyke said.

One patient had to have a splint put on his broken femur, she said.

“And I had no idea how to do it ‘cause we haven’t done it yet. So, I got to watch them do it and learn from it.”

Each student is assigned to a preceptor, Dyke explained.

“It’s kind of the person who’s in charge of you, in charge of your safety and well-being while you’re there. And they’re your

teacher.”

Ferris said different types of patients make for different types of experiences and can make or break a medic’s shift.

“You’re taking these really nice – well, most of the time – really nice geriatric people and you’re taking them from hospital to hospital and they’re so excited with the fact that they’re actually getting outside.”

Just being able to see the sky from the back windows of the

ambulance is a treat for them, Ferris said.

“It’s like a child going to Disneyland and they’re in the back of your ambulance going for a transfer.”

Dealing with children is a lot different than dealing with adults, said Ferris. “We had one. We were trying to take his blood pressure and we said, ‘We’re going to take your blood pressure.’ And he thought we were gonna give him a needle or something and he

started to bawl.”

Dyke said paramedics travel all over the area they are assigned to.

“Sometimes we went to the city. Sometimes we went to New Glasgow. Sometimes we went to Kentville. It all kind of depends on where dispatch puts you.”

It’s hard to train for particular situations in class, Dyke said, so hands-on training is important for this particular program.

“You can go through scenarios in class on how to communicate with patients, but you can’t really learn that stuff until you’re out doing it.”

After graduation, Dyke plans to get work in Nova Scotia and possibly New Brunswick.

“And then from there, after a few years as primary care paramedic, I’m going to do my ACP (advanced care paramedicine).”

Ferris hopes to work in triage at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax.

“I’m going to take different training courses, stuff like that. See if I can get onto an EMT swat,” she said.

Ferris said she learned many things during her OJT but quickly realized her fondness for people.

“I swear to God, you can be the crankiest god d*** person on the planet and I will make you laugh. Give me 15 minutes.”

Besides dealing with upset family members and personal grief towards patients, there are lots of other things that no PCP student can learn from a textbook.

“They throw you out there. Here, you know the human system,” Ferris said. “Now learn the human soul.”

Male nurses have no problem with stereotype

By JENNIFER MICHELS

Some patients might prefer to be taken care of by a woman, says practical nursing student at Holland College in Charlottetown.

But Shane Campbell says he hasn’t witnessed patients asking for a woman to nurse them instead of a male.

Before a clinical internship began he was told it was a possibility.

His comments follow a meeting

of the Canadian Nursing Students Association in Charlottetown. The need for more men in nursing was one of the topics discussed.

Practical nursing student Aaron Cudmore has dealt with both men and women working in the nursing field.

He has not had any problems with discrimination while at work, Cudmore said.

“As long as the care’s good, that’s what matters.”

Practical nursing student Joshua Poole said he has encountered

some limitations, such as patients wanting a woman to take care of them instead of a man.

But the staff Poole worked with has not shown any bias towards him, he said.

“They’re excited to see men get into the profession.”

Encouraged

He is encouraged to be a nurse, not discriminated against, Poole said.

Practical Nursing instructor Andrea Slysz agrees.

She said she enjoyed working with male students. It wasn’t looked at as any different. Men going into the nursing field are confident with who they are and aren’t bothered by stereotype.

“The name nursing leads to the feminine side because women nurse babies.”

Practical Nursing instructor Christie Lougheed-Bambrick said there is less stigma than in the past.

Although peers might discriminate towards males in the nursing

profession, within the profession it’s not a problem, Lougheed-Bambrick said. It’s an advantage to have both men and women in the profession.

“Very few patients have a problem with a male caregiver.”

Men taking the practical nursing program at Holland College have found it a positive experience, Lougheed-Bambrick said.

Slysz said in the class men are appreciated. There hasn’t been any experiences with stigma in the classroom, she said.

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.

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**The Surveyor
would like to thank
The Guardian
for its continuing
support in the
publication of this
newspaper.**

Everyone's addicted to text messaging...lol

By JENNIFER MICHELS

What's the first thing you think of when asked this: Name something you can't live without?

On average people say it's their computer or their cellphone. You know, the electronics we can't seem to live without.

Which brings me to my problem.

Everywhere you go, people are sending instant messages to each other. Things like "lol," "tyl" and "brb," have become the new English language for the next generation.

It all started with the computer and MSN Messenger. Now people have gotten to the point that it takes too much time to go on the computer to talk to someone.

Good thing we have Blackberries or people wouldn't have time to communicate at all.

The cellphone has saved the world as we know it.

It's not that I don't enjoy having a cellphone, it can be a useful tool to have.

And yes, I enjoy texting just as much as the next person.

But.

Nothing is more irritating than walking into a room full of people and someone decides to socialize on their cellphone with someone who isn't even in the room.

You would think a group of



people would bring a variety of conversation topics to the table.

Well you wouldn't know it.

There is almost always that one person who decides the people they're with are not talking about.

I bet it makes the people in the room feel good about themselves, not.

Unless the person you're talking

to is dying, there is no reason for you to be talking to them with other people around.

And if they are dying, I would suggest you tell them to call 911 instead of texting you.

Just saying.

I understand if the person texting you is someone you haven't seen or talked to in awhile.

But if I missed a friend enough to text her while I was hanging out with my other friends, I would call her.

You know, have an actual conversation with the person you miss so much that you feel the need to ignore the friends sitting right beside you.

I know talking on the phone and face to face with someone isn't as popular as it used to be.

Why, I really don't know.

But it can be more entertaining to hear and see the expressions of others during the conversation.

I honestly have nothing against texting, but you should know when it's OK to text someone when you're with your friends and when you're just being rude.

Not to mention the expense of having text messaging on your phone bill each month.

If you've got unlimited text messaging, that's great. But if your phone bill is over \$100 a month, you might want to reconsider where your money's going.

And for those of you who are addicted to texting, and since there is no rehab for texting, there is always the good old computer.

Since instant messaging on the computer is free.

Who knew the trick to saving money while continuing to message your friends was right at your finger tips?

The renaming of a king

By JILLIANNE HAMILTON

Not that many college-age kids give a flying cod piece, but this year marks the 500th anniversary of the coronation of English king Henry VIII.

I'm a long-time fan of Henry Tudor and his achievements. He's best-known for being a turkey leg-eating, wife-beheading womanizer who was a strict Catholic one minute and an anti-papal bad boy the next.

But despite his bad reputation, some historians want King Harry to be bestowed with the title of "Henry The Great" (and not just because of his size).

And what better time to give Henry the title than this?

But what's so "great" about this guy anyway? He's been dead for a million years. (More like 460.) Why is his story still relevant?

Henry had his faults, especially when he was older. But compared to his royal contemporaries, he was a chivalrous romantic, inspired by whimsical tales of King Arthur and his court.

He divorced his first wife, a Spanish princess, to marry someone he was in love with, something that no other English king had ever done. To do this, he rejected the Pope's wishes, named himself Head of the Church of England, divorced Catherine and married Anne Boleyn.

I don't know about you, but risking purgatory so you can marry the woman you love is a bit romantic, isn't it?

Later, Boleyn was executed on fake charges of adultery.

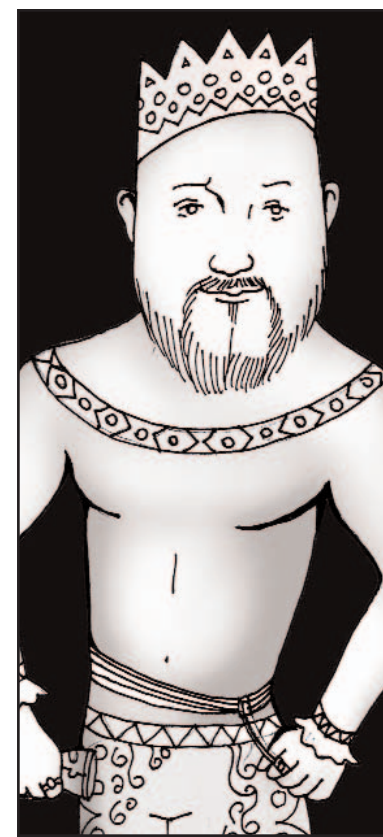
His third wife died in childbirth and his fourth wife agreed to a divorce and lived wealthy for the rest of her life. Henry's fifth wife,

a 16-year-old, was executed for adultery (but at least this time, the charges weren't so fake). His 6th wife, Katherine Parr, acted as nurse and companion during Henry's final years.

Henry VIII died in 1547. During his life, he poured thousands into the English navy. He was a patron of the arts and the first English monarch to authorize an English-language Bible. By separating England from the power of Rome, Henry instilled a sense of identity and pride in his people.

His daughter by Boleyn, Elizabeth I, is known as one of the greatest monarchs in history.

He may not have been the perfect ruler. He was, however, one of the more *human* of all the English monarchs. And definitely one of the most interesting. And for that reason, he deserves to be called "Henry The Great."



Residents more educated today about heating homes, says plumber

By CASSANDRA BERNARD

This winter in Charlottetown has been a cold one reaching -30 C on more than a few days.

Local plumbers are urging homeowners to keep their heat turned up to prevent their pipes from freezing.

Grant Smith with Mr. Plumber said they've had quite a few people with frozen pipes this winter.

"Not as many as before because people seem to be more educated now."

Blossoms Restaurant on University Avenue in Charlottetown was one of many who did not keep their heat turned up during cold weather recently, which resulted in frozen pipes.

Gloria Choy said the pipes froze due to very cold weather and not keeping the heat turned up all the way.

"It has happened in this building before on occasion."

The frozen pipes burst, causing water damage. When this happened the restaurant was forced to keep its dining room area closed until the heat was fixed.

"On those days, all we can offer is take-out."

Today, people make sure their furnaces are turned up when it is minus-degree weather, Smith said.

When it is cold outside and there is wind, the wind creates a



Blossoms Restaurant on Queen Street had water damage caused by pipes bursting. Bernard Photo.

draft.

"Even with a hole in your wall the size of a nail hole, the draft can get in and it could feel like -20 degrees on the other side of the hole."

Those who live in the country have homes that may not be as

insulated as newer homes, Smith said.

"In those situations, people leave water dripping.

"This keeps water moving through the pipes and prevents the pipes from freezing during the cold winter months."

Blair Garnhum, a plumber for Bevan Bros, said they have had a few reports of drafts causing frozen pipes.

"We have had a few others where people don't leave their heat turned up enough. Others where not enough heat is getting

to other rooms and those pipes freeze."

Garnhum said the biggest cause would be wind, causing drafts. He heard of cases where people leave their homes and run out of oil, but it has not been a major concern this year.

Producers need to take responsibility for waste their products create: Jardine

By LESLIE KEEPING

From an environmental perspective, plastic bags aren't that harmful, the director of pollution prevention for the Department of Environment, Energy, and Forestry said Jan 26.

Don Jardine said although plastic bags are harmful, they can be recycled, unlike many packaged products with mixed plastics.

"Plastic bags are just the tip of

the iceberg."

Islanders are already taking action to limit the number of plastic bags.

Sharon Labchuk, leader of P.E.I.'s Green party, said she's amazed at the number of people she sees using cloth bags in grocery stores.

"It is improving, I've noticed an improvement in the last six months."

There's still lots of room for

improvement though and she says people's good intentions aren't enough, she said.

"I think the province should ban them."

Jardine said the bigger problem lies with packaging of products. It should be up to the producer of the products to take responsibility for it.

The Canadian Wireless Technology Association is already taking action to deal with the trash its

products produce. It describes itself as an authority on wireless issues, developments and trends in Canada.

On Jan. 20, the association announced it was launching the Recycle My Cell program, a free program organized by the group and other cellphone providers to allow people to recycle old cellphones easily.

Initiatives like this need to be taken by other producers to deal

with the trash their products produce, Jardine said.

"That's an organization that takes responsibility for its product."

There are plenty of programs in place to deal with plastic bags, but there is no legislation in place to ban them, or charge consumers for using them, he said.

However, he suspects P.E.I. will see a law passed on plastic bags within the next year.

Some owners struggle to keep their pets during period of economic uncertainty

By JILLIANNE HAMILTON



The P.E.I. Humane Society in Charlottetown has many animals available for adoption. Hamilton Photo.

The economic crisis isn't affecting P.E.I. pet owners too dramatically – yet, says an Island animal shelter employee.

Still, P.E.I. Humane Society development coordinator Kelly Mullaly said there has been a 20 per cent increase in the number of dogs left at the shelter compared to this time last year.

“We’re not 100 per cent sure why and we’re not sure if that would go necessarily back to people having some economic problems now. It’s possible, since it is more expensive to take care of a dog than to take care of a cat.”

But the number of pets being dropped off at the shelter has increased by a huge percentage in the past few months, she said.

“We’re kind of taking a watch and wait position right now. It hasn’t been very dramatic for us but we don’t know what this year is going to hold and the next year after that. It almost feels like the worst is still to come.”

Over the past couple of years, people have left their pets because the owners are leaving the Island to work in more prosperous provinces, particularly Alberta, Mullaly said.

“That has slowed down, obviously, because not so many people are going out west.”

The shelter has received more calls recently about litters of puppies or kittens and owners not being able to afford to feed them, Mullaly said.

“So, we have felt it a little bit. But maybe not as dramatically as some of the other parts of Canada

have.”

People may have to start making some decisions about their priorities on where they are spending their money, she added.

“They may be changing the food or the cost of the food they buy for their pet.

“The extras, like toys and treats, may have fallen off the list. Hard to say for sure.”

But the actual animals weren't the only thing that Humane Society staff have to worry about in these uncertain times.

Fundraising is also a major issue.

“We were very concerned that that was probably going to take a big dip because peoples’ priorities have to change a little bit. But thank goodness, we’ve been hold-

ing steady in that regard, too.”

Volunteers haven't been in short supply at the shelter recently either, Mullaly said.

“Maybe because some folks are having trouble finding work, or as much work as they want to, and they want to keep their résumé well-rounded by doing that kind of work with us.”

The Tack Store in Charlotte-

town sells gear for horseback riding. Employee Jenifer Dyment said horses are a bit different than other pets when it comes to economic issues, as they are usually non-negotiable.

“An owner might move their horse to a cheaper location, but for most horse owners, they are pets, like your cat or dog. When cash gets tight, you don't sell. You adapt.”

Nova Scotia Agricultural College student and animal lover Nicole Hawkes worked at a veterinary clinic in Sackville, N.B. last summer.

She said grooming prices have gone up and vet charges have generally stayed the same, but the economic crisis definitely is taking a toll on pets.

“There are lots of people who need to give their pets up because they can't afford it.”

Animal control officers often have to collect pets from homes when families can't afford to care of them, Hawkes said.

“This one lady told us all about how people can't afford to look after them, or that people just don't admit it and have their pets taken away from them.”

According to the British Columbia SPCA, the economy is affecting the health of animals.

Because of financial troubles, many families are not able to fulfill the needs of their pets. People are buying lower quality pet food and taking their pet to the veterinarian less often.

Some cities have set up pet food banks in order to help struggling pet owners in their, and their furry companion's, time of need.

Apple users best form of Mac anti-virus: technician

By PETER CORBETT

The Internet community formed by Mac users is the biggest thing standing in the way of viruses spreading to Apple computers, says a Mac technician from Holland College.

Brian Langille, a Mac technician at Holland College in Char-

lottetown, said as security threats continue to become a concern among home computer owners and security software developers such as Symantec and Intego have been releasing antivirus software for Macs.

These releases have been coming in spite of Apple's assurances that its operating systems are not

vulnerable to the viruses affecting Microsoft's Windows operating systems.

Langille said he doesn't think Mac users are likely to run into the same problems that have plagued many Windows users in the past because Mac owners simply wouldn't stand for it.

“The warning against it would

spread faster than the virus.”

Miriam Howards, a graphic designer from Sydney, said she has been using Macs at work and home for six years and has never run into a virus, despite a large amount of downloading.

However, Langille said anti-virus software for Macs can play a role in stopping Macs from

being used as carriers to Windows based PCs.

He also said it is the lower number of people who own Macs compared to those who own PCs that slows down any virus threat to Apple computers.

“It's a smaller community, but they band together faster.”

Teen pregnancy rate down while abortion rate climbs

By JENNIFER MICHELS

At age 19 you have your whole life ahead of you.

That's how it was for Amber Kierstead. She was living in Hamilton, Ont. She had moved there from Amherst, N.S. shortly after graduating from high school in 2007.

Kierstead planned to move back home in a year's time to attend college.

She had applied to schools and was enjoying her time in Hamilton working in retail.

Then she discovered she was pregnant. She had only been with her boyfriend for a few months, but still expected his support.

By July 2008, Kierstead had moved back to Amherst and was living with her mother, stepfather and sister. Her boyfriend had planned to move to Amherst the following November.

Plans changed when Kierstead found out the father was no longer planning to move to Amherst. He was staying in Hamilton with his family.

By November, Kierstead had moved out of her mother's home and into her own apartment.

Kierstead maintained contact with the father even though he was still not willing to support her and their unborn child.

When Kierstead found out she was having a boy she had a name ready, Jaden Alexander Wayne.

Kierstead has received financial support from the child's father, allowing her to purchase a stroller and car seat.

She is working as a telephone operator for now. She was due to give birth early this month.

Like many other young women her age, she is learning how difficult it is going to be to raise a child on her own.

And she is not alone.

While teen pregnancy rates in Canada have gone down every year since 1994, teenage abortion rates are higher.

In 1997 abortion rose from 43 per cent in 1995 to 48 per cent. Among girls aged 15 to 17, some 54 per cent of pregnancies ended in abortion.

In Ontario and Alberta, 96.5 per cent of single pregnant teenagers had an abortion done in a hospital, while 96.1 per cent had an abortion done at a clinic.

Until recently, women who got

pregnant at a young age were removed from school and hidden from the public eye.

Today pregnancy has become a common topic in the news. Stars like 16-year-old Jamie-Lynn Spears are having children, giving young girls the idea it's OK.

Maclean's magazine said unplanned pregnancy has become a popular way to make money. Movies like *Knocked Up*, *Juno* and *Waitress*, along with celebrity moms, are part of a trend taking the world of teens by storm.

Maggie's Place, a well-known support group in Amherst, N.S., has weekly meetings for mothers and a library full of information.

Prenatal program coordinator Donna Farrell said the programs offered at Maggie's Place are available to all mothers or mothers-to-be.

There is a group for young moms who need help from other mothers.

She tries to keep the groups neutral, Farrell said. Teenagers shouldn't have to feel like their being put on the spot during the programs, she said.

"I wouldn't want to single anyone out."



Amber Kierstead is due to give birth to a boy this month in Amherst, N.S. Michels Photo.

P.E.I. pharmacists say morning-after pills don't need to be on drug store shelves

By TAYLOR FLEMMING

Contraceptives such as Plan B, 'the morning-after pill', should not be sold on the shelf with other products, say some P.E.I. pharmacists.

Pharmacies across the country have been given the authority to choose whether or not to put the morning-after pill on the shelves in the store, but many chose to keep it behind the counter with most prescription drugs.

This choice has sparked some debate.

Critics say girls should be able

to get access to the drug easily.

Neila Auld, the P.E.I. Pharmacy Board registrar, said they've given pharmacies the right to make the choice.

"It's up to the individual pharmacies to decide whether or not they want to have the contraceptive in the front of the store."

Auld said having the drug behind the counter is still an easy way for women to get it and it is better than getting a prescription.

"It's still far more accessible than going to a physician, which used to be the case."

Donna Gibbins of Murphy's Pharmacy said although the store

isn't forced to keep it behind the counter, they choose to do so.

"You don't need a prescription, but we just don't feel comfortable putting it out with the shampoo."

Auld said girls need proper counselling on how to use the product, which they would get from the pharmacist.

"There is a protocol to go through to get it and if it were on the shelf pharmacists might not notice people picking it up."

Gibbins said they like to give information about the product to people who've never used it before.

"Like, if you need Gravol, there's just different ways of taking it."

Jane Smith, not her real name, has taken Plan B.

She said if she hadn't gotten the drug from a pharmacist, she wouldn't have known how to use it properly.

"With the [pills] you get in Hunter River, you take one pill right away, and you take the other one I think 12 hours later.

"And in [Charlottetown] you just take both right away."

Auld said Plan B is a type of drug which cannot be in the front of the store if the pharmacist is

not on duty, which is another reason why the pharmacies might choose not to have it in the open.

"If [the pharmacists] leave and lock up the store, they cannot have it on the shelf.

"Moving it every day is just a hassle for everyone."

Smith said girls wouldn't completely avoid embarrassment, whether the pill was being sold behind the desk or not.

"Even if it was on the shelf, you would still have to give it to the cashier to pay for it, so it's not like you can get away without being seen with it."

Energy drinks: helping or hurting?

By SAMANTHA
MACKINNON

When you're finishing off a regular can of Red Bull, you might want to consider you're drinking the equivalent of about four cans of Pepsi.

There is about 38 mg of caffeine in a can of Pepsi and about 155 mg in a regular can of Red Bull.

Red Bull and other energy drinks were created to boost mental and physical awareness, according to Health Canada.

But are these seemingly magical energy drinks safe?

When P.E.I. lifted its can ban in 2008 energy drinks began flying off the shelves.

Well-known brands include Red Bull, Red Rain, Hype and Jolt.

It's easy to grab an energy drink in the morning if you're tired, said a sales associate at Winners in Charlottetown, Caitey Gallant.

"I don't have them a lot, but if I'm feeling tired at work, I grab one to pick up my energy level a little."

It's an alternative to drinking coffee for those who don't like it, Gallant said.

"Not that energy drinks taste much better."

In cases like Gallant's having one can of energy drink is not



Adrien Chandler drinks a Red Bull, a popular energy drink. MacKinnon Photo.

harmful, but Health Canada warns drinking more than two cans a day can present serious health risks.

Adverse reactions reported to Health Canada included nausea, vomiting, heart irregularities and electrolyte disturbances.

Although product labels warn consumers to drink only two cans a day, not everyone is paying attention.

And like everything today, you can "biggy-size" your energy drink.

After trying a 'double-gulp size' Black Stallion energy drink, Lucas Hennessey remembers his brother ending up in a semi-comatose state.

"It was really weird, we were worried."

The double-gulp size is a two-litre can.

As well, Black Stallion and other energy drinks have yet to be authorized for sale as a natural health product, nor do they have a natural health product number, says Health Canada.

Red Bull is the only energy drink in Canada with that authorization and number.

The jittery feeling you get is pretty common after drinking even a second can of Red Bull, said a sales associate at the Charlottetown Mall, Emily Gallant.

"I've had more than one before and definitely felt more energetic."

At the same time, some people are not believers in energy drinks.

They are simply a new way for companies to make money off of people, especially youths, said Chevon Sheppard.

"They're stupid and they don't work."

Are genetically modified products good for you?

By AMY MCGEOGHEGAN

Genetically modified animals cannot be introduced into the Canadian market until rigorous safety assessments are conducted, says Health Canada's media relations officer.

Christelle Legault said the safety assessments are conducted by various regulatory bodies like Health Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"HC, CFIA and EC demonstrate that their (GE animals) introduction does not pose a risk to food and feed safety, human and animal health, and to the Canadian

government."

Legault said food derived from genetically modified animals is considered a novel food.

"Developers must not introduce the products of any GE animals into the human food supply in Canada."

Novel foods are subject to Food and Drug Regulations.

She said GE animals can only enter the market if they have been subject to a pre-market safety requirement.

"Similar pre-market approval requirements exist under the Feeds Act, for feed ingredients derived from these animals."

Health Canada establishes poli-

cies and standards for foods derived from GE animals while the CFIA implements and enforces them.

CFIA district veterinarian Margaret McGeoghegan said from an environmental and industry point of view it is a good idea.

"It provides a product that otherwise we couldn't produce from here."

McGeoghegan said from an idealist's point of view anything that strays from what God created can't be good.

"Somewhere down the line the system will fall apart."

She recalled the various cloning tests being done.

"Somewhere down the line, the system will fall apart."

- Margaret McGeoghegan

able to hold up physically under normal husbandry practices," she said.

McGeoghegan said proof has yet to be made that GMO food has any effects on the person who eats it.

"Personally I think the cells are cells, therefore the muscle tissue or flesh that we eat is still muscle tissue, so I doubt that it will have any effect on the consumer, but over time the nutritional value of the product may prove to be less."

There are no products derived from genetically modified or engineered animals approved in Canada.

"The cloned sheep and other animals have proven to have shortened life spans and are not

Ultrasound an art and a science, says sonographer at Island hospital

Test offers reassurance for expecting mothers

By AMY MCGEOGHEGAN

Ultrasounds are done to screen for abnormalities that can be fixed before birth or after, says a Queen Elizabeth Hospital sonographer.

Kathy Ready said ultrasounds are nature's way of letting you know everything is OK.

"It's an art and a science."

Ready said ultrasound technology started around the Second World War with the sonar the military used to depict submarines in the ocean.

"They thought we can do this for people too."

A person was then immersed in a bathtub attached to a swivel ultrasound arm.

Ultrasound is a high-pitched sound frequency that humans can't detect.

The sound penetrates the skin and allows doctors to visualize muscles, tendons, and many internal organs, their size, structure and any pathological lesions that may cause harm to your body.

It is also commonly used during pregnancy and for Margaret Rooney, who is 19 weeks pregnant, it's reassuring to see everything is OK.

"It's amazing," she said as she watched her baby on the screen.

"I like seeing that the baby is perfect and whole."

The ultrasound shows the baby as black, white and grey.

White represents the bone, black is the fluid around the baby and grey is the tissue.

Rooney said an ultrasound makes her feel more comfortable about her pregnancy.

"It's really reassuring to see

you're only half way through, but your baby is growing healthy."

Ready said ultrasound has been used heavily since the 1980s.

"Ultrasound is still revolutionizing."

She said 20 years ago they looked for basic things like the head, feet, heartbeat.

"Now we can look at each feature."

Ultrasound is completely operator-dependant.

"What you scan is what you see and it has no biological effects and it's wonderful," Ready said.

"It's exciting to work in a field that is only getting better."

Rooney said she loves seeing her baby.

"There's just something about seeing the heart, toes and the little nose that makes a mom's heart go crazy."



Nineteen-week-old Rooney baby pictured in an ultrasound photo. Submitted Photo.

Centre offers pregnant women options

By AMY MCGEOGHEGAN

Island Pregnancy Care and Support Centre helps people connect to their purpose in life, says the Charlottetown centre executive director.

Rinda Dean and the other employees and volunteers at the centre are dedicated to offering women options about their unplanned pregnancies.

Dean said many of the women who come to these centres are deeply conflicted about being pregnant.

"We want it to be a welcoming atmosphere for clients and make sure they have the information to understand what is going on inside of them."

A study done by Statistics Canada reported 447,485 pregnancies in 2005, and of those, 96,815 were aborted.

Abortion became the most common outcome of teenage pregnancy in 1997.

Dean said over the years pregnancy centres have found that women who have an abortion

often experience regret.

"On the other hand, women who carry their babies to term don't live with regret afterwards."

The centre pamphlet states women often do not choose abortion, they seek abortion when they feel like they have no other choice.

A woman who asked to remain anonymous said when she was 15 she felt she had no other option but abortion.

"I just wanted to put my past behind me and move on.

"The quickest way was to abort my baby and then I could get my life back on track."

She said in her mind she wasn't that far along in her pregnancy and it was only a blob of tissue, not a life.

Today, she feels she made a mistake.

"Having an abortion was the worst mistake of my life."

"If I could go back and change things I would have had my baby and given it up for adoption."

She said she didn't understand

at the time what was going on inside of her and how it would affect her later in life.

"This is why the Pregnancy Care and Support Centres are much needed. Women can have the information needed to make the best choices for their situation."

"There are other choices besides abortion," she said.

Back at the centre, Dean said employees and volunteers are low key on abortion.

"We are not a medical facility and do not refer abortions."

She said they want to help clients figure out what they really want.

"The fetal development is huge.

"Our policy is not to interfere with the woman's right to choose."

"We let them know it's OK and give them options," she said.

The centre offers free confidential counselling, free pregnancy tests, non-judgmental caring support and other programs to help individuals and families coping with unplanned pregnancies.

John Howard Society tries to help people solve problems: Stretch

By KATELYN FARRIS

It's all about volunteers helping inmates, says the coordinator of the P.E.I. John Howard Society.

Becky Stretch has been working for the John Howard Society for four and half years.

Stretch said the main goal of the society is to solve problems.

"We have a group of volunteers who get together and brain storm ideas on how to help people."

The society was started in 1867s, starting in Toronto when a group of church workers looked to bring 'spiritual' help to the prisoners in the Toronto jail.

In the year 1931, a reverend by the name of J. Dinnage Hobden formed a similar group in B.C. under the name of the John Howard Society.

The group was named after

John Howard, a well-known prison reformer who lived from 1726 to 1790.

The society offers programs such as the LEAP, a program for kids who leave high school early and need help finding options on what to do.

Executive director Craig Jones of the national John Howard Society said the society is extremely important to inmates.

"It's been long practised that inmates who maintain contact outside have a better chance of getting out and back into society."

The society assists between a 100 and a 1,000 inmates in a year.

They try to help inmates fit back into society, Jones said.

"We teach them literacy if they need it, life skills and how to get and keep a job."

Artist adapts to new culture

Columbian painter finds a way to tell his story in Prince Edward Island

By PATRICIA URENA

He found a way to tell his story. Mauricio Aristizabal of Charlottetown works at night.

The best way to listen is when there is silence, he said.

"That's why my life is at night."

Born in Cali, Colombia in 1978, he lived most of his adolescence in Medellin and other cities in that South American country.

These changes reflect in his art and have helped him cultivate his portfolio, Aristizabal said.

"Change is good and has been a big part of my artistic and personal growth."

Aristizabal arrived in P.E.I. not sure how he would express his ideas through art.

"In art, I found a way of telling my story, but in P.E.I. I found the method."

He is interested to find out why people do what they do.

"I want to understand how it is to live in their city by analyzing Charlottetown and how they relate to it."

Aristizabal moved to the island in 2007 with his parents to reunite with his sisters, who have been living in Canada for several years.

Aristizabal won a \$4,000 grant from the Prince Edward Island Arts Council to finance his work.

He is working on 10 paintings and a movie he says will tell the



Mauricio Aristizabal working on a landscape in his studio. Urena Photo.

story on what people think about winter and why they are so afraid of it.

He has sold seven paintings, including two he sold in Charlottetown, Aristizabal said.

"I'm where I need to be. We flow together. We move without time," he said, referring to his life

in Charlottetown.

Charlottetown's peace, its earthy glow, its architectural differences compared to what he was used to in Colombia, have made P.E.I. home, Aristizabal said.

"There is no other place like this one."

It's hard to sell paintings, but

you need to know who you are as an artist and fight for it, Aristizabal said.

"I believe in diversity and acceptance, that's why I paint nudes."

Jo Edge, a local artist, said it is not easy to make money in this field.

There are a lot of creative people around, but it's hard to be an artist.

"You have to be diverse to appeal to people, I paint people's houses and I make costumes."

Aristizabal joined La Bella College in Medellin just when the academy was changing from teaching classical art to contemporary, he said.

He studied anatomy while there. "My academic studies were between classical and modern art."

Aristizabal mixes both in his work.

Nudes is Aristizabal's response to his studies at the academy.

"It's what I learned," he said.

"I want people to look at my work and know what the story is behind it."

The influences which inspired Aristizabal were many and varied.

"I found inspiration in architecture, mathematics and the world around me."

"You have to try to understand the world around you to make good art."

His life hasn't changed much from when he lived in Colombia.

"What changes is your perception of life," he said.

"Colombia is full of diversities and political problems. Meditating on my surroundings made me who I am today."

Charlottetown director works hard to get film to public

By LESLIE KEEPING

His latest film will be a cult hit, a Charlottetown film director says.

In an interview last October, Adam Perry had just started production on his film *Jiggers*, a comedic drama about an asthmatic step-dancer paired with a caucasian rapper to pursue a music career.

Since then he's been through hell and back, but he says he's very close to finishing the film.

"There's tons of material that I never got around to shooting, but

the end product I'm very, very pleased with and it has exceeded my expectations."

The production has been dogged by several delays, such as scheduling conflicts and a re-write of the original script.

"The amount of time I've spent in post-production, after everything was shot, was highly underestimated."

Jeremy Larter, who played the character Slender Tips Doucette, said the delays in shooting made it difficult to stay in character.

"One of the big challenges was trying to keep the character con-

sistent because there'd be weeks at a time, and even month-long stretches, where we wouldn't shoot."

That wasn't even the most difficult part of the experience, he said.

"The hardest part of the whole experience was keeping my sideburns and mustache from July until November."

"My girlfriend didn't really like it that much."

Despite time and budget constraints, Larter said Perry did a good job on the film.

"It's a pretty massive undertak-

ing...Adam did really well, the scope of it's pretty impressive."

Though Perry did get funding for the project from the Island Media Arts co-op and Tech P.E.I., he said his aspirations for *Jiggers* were still bigger than his wallet.

"We re-wrote it, re-structured it a bit but in the end, I think it's turned out for the better."

Larter said what the story turned into was one about family.

"The importance of family, whether it's a surrogate family or your real family."

Perry said his only goal was to

entertain and get in a few laughs.

"I've had the privilege of working with the best actors in P.E.I. and it's amazing that I've taken some of the funniest people and made them serious."

Perry doesn't know when he can make the film available to the public, but it will be available as 10 episodes online at www.jiggers.ca once he has mastered the audio.

The film will free to watch online or for download in high quality for a low fee soon.

How To Lose Friends and Alienate People

...and waste the cost of a movie rental

By JILLIANNE HAMILTON

Based on Toby Young's 2001 memoir of the same title, *How To Lose Friends and Alienate People* is a cliché from start to finish and a knockoff of five other movies, all of which are better than this one.

As an avid fan of romantic comedies and English actor Simon Pegg, I had high hopes for this film. I really did. It looked clever and cute. And who doesn't love peering into the glamorous lives of A-list celebrities like a voyeur?

Pegg's character, Sydney Young, is a struggling journalist in London who gets the opportunity to work for a prestigious celebrity magazine in New York. He tries to be different and write what he wants, but he ends up selling his soul and bowing to the powers of those who can help his career progress.

Pegg's characters are always lovable. They're always a bit clumsy and awkwardly charming. And good for him for breaking into American film, even if it wasn't a great one. But he brings that weird, nerdy, English charm to all his projects, making him a pleasure to watch on-screen, even in this piece of cinematic garbage.



Simon Pegg and Kirsten Dunst star in *How To Lose Friends and Alienate People*, released on DVD on Feb. 17. Photo courtesy of MGM.

There was nothing fresh or new about this film. The characters are generic beyond compare and the story has been done a thousand times. An underdog gets the chance to see how the celebrities live, only to find that it's not as fabulous as they always thought.

(How original!)

This film is generally a lesser version of *The Devil Wears Prada*

(2006) but with a male lead. Fashion models are replaced by movie stars and Meryl Streep is replaced by Jeff Bridges as the scary, intimidating editor.

Kudos, though, to Gillian Anderson (of *X-Files* fame) for her performance of high profile publicist Eleanor Johnson. She was fabulous and scary. Megan Fox (*Transformers*, *Hope &*

Faith) plays the young, pouted-lipped celebrity Sophie Maes and the object of Young's lust.

Kirsten Dunst portrays Young's love interest and fellow journalist, Alison Olsen. She's a serious writer who is trapped writing the fluff stories she always despised. She hates her life and, at one point, is seen drowning her sorrows away by drinking wine right

from the bottle. (My kinda girl.)

At one point, a scene is directly copied from *There's Something About Mary* (1998). Young tries to befriend the dog of a love interest. Instead of seriously wounding the dog (like Ben Stiller's character did), Young accidentally kills the dog. (Call me old-fashioned but a dead dog doesn't make for good comedy.)

The film doesn't paint journalists in a positive light. But it's honest in its portrayal of competition in an office environment (except for a particularly awkward scene involving an office prank and a stripper). It also explores the friendships and rivalries that develop between coworkers.

I chuckled seven times during this movie, which runs almost two hours long. (Yes, I counted.) And I don't mean to demean myself or my sense of humour, but generally, I'm easily amused. So that says something.

Despite this waste of money and time, the film has a wonderful soundtrack, featuring Joey Ramone, The Kinks, Scissor Sisters and The Killers. Instead of renting this movie, just go buy the soundtrack. And then go rent *The Devil Wears Prada* and pretend Anne Hathaway is a dude.

The Lonely Island more incredible than bad

By JACLYN CRAWFORD

Andy Samberg has done it again. He has created another comedic masterpiece to add to his résumé.

This time Samberg has teamed up with Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone, under the name The Lonely Island, and recorded a hip-hop comedy album featuring some of the biggest names in the music industry today.

The album, *Incredibad*, features songs, such as "Lazy Sunday" (featuring Chris Parnell), "Dick in a Box" (featuring Justin Timberlake) and "Jizz In My Pants" which premiered on *Saturday*

Night Live, which Samberg co-stars on.

Listening to this album for the first time, many would assume this was a normal hip-hop album, but upon further inspection of the lyrics, it is obvious this album is not typical.

"Boombox", the story of a boombox's power to bring love to any society, is told with the help of Julian Casablancas (of The Strokes). The first time I heard this song I almost peed my pants I was laughing so hard (which may not have been the safest thing to do while I was driving).

"Normal Guy" initially caught me off-guard, but it was just so

random, I didn't care by the end of the minute and a half.

"Like A Boss" gives a look into the average day of Samberg as the boss. Some of his tasks include leading a workshop, eating a bagel, turning into a jet, bombing the Russians and crashing into the sun causing his death.

Lyrics like these are the reason I keep going back to the album. It's like listening to "SNL: The Musical."

Jack Black, T-Pain, Norah Jones and Natalie Portman are also guests on the album, which I think gives the album credibility.

These guys know how to write and they have big names to back

up their work.

While some of the lyrics are crude and pointless, young adults everywhere are looking for this kind of comedy today.

If excessive swearing doesn't offend you, and you aren't repulsed by graphic imagery, you will most likely find the lyrics funny.

They also have talent to back up the laughs. This music is legitimately good.

I started getting the songs stuck in my head and I kept singing the songs, not because they were funny, but because I legitimately like the music (which is saying a lot because I usually hate rap.)

This laughter continued through the whole CD.

The only time I stopped laughing was when the album was over, at which point I caught my breath and started laughing again when the CD player started it over.

Anyone who is a fan of Samberg's humour or any of his work (*Hot Rod* was incredible and *SNL* is untouchable by any other skit show) will love this album.

My only suggestion is don't listen to this album while you are driving. It could potentially lead to multiple car pile-ups if you tend to close your eyes while you laugh, like I do.

Michele Bradley new president of student union

By RYAN CONWAY

It is a wonderful feeling and a great honour to be voted in as student union president, said Michele Bradley, who was elected as the Holland College Student Union president on Feb. 27.

Bradley won the election after defeating former student union president, Matthew Gallant, by 92 votes.

Bradley said she is an outgoing person who isn't out to necessarily change Holland College too much, but rather to get more people involved in school activities and to make them active in the union.

She said one of her goals is to find one or two representatives from each program to help increase the union's presence throughout the college.

"I would also like to get around the campuses to meet the student body and let them know I am here for them."

The decision to run for president first crossed her mind when she noticed a lack of student involvement in the student union, she said.

"People weren't getting involved and I wanted to know why."

She said she has some good qualities, which will benefit the student union.

"I am a leader and a team player. I have skills that will be an asset to the position of president."

Getting all of the Holland College campuses involved with the student union is a top priority, she said.

"I want to get a leader for every campus who would bring their issues to my attention and I would get on top of these issues right away."

She said two of her main goals as president are to continue her studies without letting the responsibilities as union president get in the way and to make a positive impact on the union.

"I wouldn't want to slack off on my studies because it is the reason why I am here at Holland College in the first place, but I would also love to affect as many people as I can while I'm here as president."

Brendan Hensen is also a newly elected member of the student union. He will be the new financial director for the student union.

Hensen defeated Matthew McInnis by about 75 votes in this past Friday's student union elec-



Michele Bradley won the student union election on Feb. 27. Conway Photo.

tion.

Hensen said the election was nerve racking for him, but he definitely felt happy when it was done.

"During the election I felt nervous and because I really wanted to win. It is a good feeling for sure to have won."

As soon as he heard the descrip-

tion of the finance director's job, he knew he had the right qualifications to do the job, he said.

"The job itself is kind of like a second on the job training."

"I can use the training I have as an accountant to do things like balancing the student union finances, so it is a good way to test and improve the skills I have in this field."

Like Bradley, he would like to see other students take part in the union.

"I would like to see more student involvement in the union."

He said he wants to do the best job possible for both the union and the students of Holland College.

"The two people who have been in my position before me have things set up well for me and I want to carry that on and to treat the job with as much respect as possible."

He said he wants to use the one-month grace period he has before taking over as finance director to learn as much as he possibly can so he can do the best job possible.

"I want to be the fly on the wall and learn as much as I possibly can."

Tourism with a twist growing in popularity

By SHELBY MCDONALD

Bryan Carr of Stanley Bridge, has an unusual talent, oyster shucking.

The 22-year-old has been shucking for the past six years.

Carr's parents own, Carr's Oyster Bar & Lounge in Stanley Bridge and Carr's lobster pound where Carr works.

Oyster shucking is not easy thing Carr said.

"There is a technique to shucking an oyster. You need to have patience, because you aren't going to open one on your first try."

Tyne Valley and Charlottetown host annual shucking competitions.

Carr has been a participant for the past six years.

"Tyne Valley hosts the Canadian Championships and Charlottetown hosts the World and Island Championships at the Shellfish

food Festival in September. In 2003 I placed third out of 30 in Tyne Valley.

"I was pretty happy with myself because I only had a couple years experience under my belt."

Most of his days can be spent shucking oysters for curious tourists who have never tried them before.

"For some reason people are very scared to try oysters, so I like to persuade them to try and get them to taste them."

"Some people actually do and realize they're not as bad as they seem."

Some tourists have come in with smashed oysters.

"I've had a few people come in confused on why they can't open their oysters with hammers. It was a mess, all their oysters were smashed and ruined."

There is a special tool that unlocks the oyster, Carr said.

"The tool of choice is simply an oyster knife. It's not a regular knife. It's got a larger rounded handle with a skinny sharp edged blade pointy end so that you can get under the hinge to unlock the oyster."

Carr is trying to branch out, taking individual jobs for functions and events to shuck oysters at.

"I did a lot of weddings this summer. I'm also getting calls at random to come shuck for events."

Different reactions

He has seen different reactions from first-time oyster eaters.

"It's funny to watch their face prepare to eat it and then after when they realize they are still alive after the whole ordeal. I don't like when people complain it looks like snot, but then I laugh when they figure out that they are actually delicious."

And Carr isn't the only guy trying to give tourists a hands on experience.

Jeff MacNeill runs MacNeill's Tuna and Deep Sea Fishing.

Normally, MacNeill starts getting calls for bookings around Christmas.

"Most calls come from B.C., Florida, New York, lots of Europeans," MacNeill said.

Tourists usually have a lot of questions.

"What's the biggest fish you've caught? How much do you make lobster fishing? What's the biggest lobster you've ever caught? Lots of questions like that," MacNeill said.

"A young girl came out on one of the tours and she was just beautiful. She takes out this picture and says 'Remember this.'"

"It was her and I 10 years ago, and then she says, 'You promised you'd marry me.'" Her mother

passed on and they hadn't been back for years because of financial reasons, but she came back with her friends all that time later," he said.

"It was nice to see the impact my deep sea fishing tour made on her."

"Made me smile."

Eco tourism is becoming very popular and he is getting lots of calls for it.

"I do bird watching, whale watching, lots of stuff like that, people ask to go seal watching."

"And then I tell them about how the seals eat the fish, eat the lobsters and then they actually want to shoot a seal rather than see one."

Calls for bookings this summer are slower than usual.

"It's been very slow this season so far and with the economy, I can see it being like that all summer."

Rockets play it safe and win game

By JACLYN CRAWFORD

The P.E.I. Rocket beat the Quebec Remparts 5-3 in a Quebec Major Junior hockey league game Feb. 21, ending their four-game losing streak.

The Rocket faced the Ramparts at the Civic Centre and pulled out a win in the third period, scoring all five of their goals in the final period.

Rocket Goalie Bobby Nadeau said the win was thanks to hard work on a difficult night overall.

"Tonight we didn't play with fire," he said.

This wasn't so obvious in the first period, when the Rocket trailed the Remparts 2-0.

Dmitri Kugryshev scored the first goal for Quebec, within the first six minutes of the game. He was assisted by Benjamin Breault.

Their second goal was scored by Mikhail Stefanovich assisted by Kevin Marshall and Guillaume Monsat, with just under two minutes left.

The fans sighed as the puck slid and landed inside the net. There were no goals scored in the second period.

In the third period, the Rocket scored after just over two minutes. It was Benjamin Cavasant's, 31st goal of the season, assisted by Jordon Southorn, and Jason Legault.

Quebec scored again in the first 10 minutes when Krugrychev, broke away from the pack and made his way quickly down the ice, managing to get the puck past the Rocket goalie for an unassisted goal, making the score 3-1 for the Ramparts.

The Rocket score again about 12 minutes in, on a powerplay, making the score 3-2 for the



Players scramble to get the puck at the hockey game on Feb. 21 at the Civic Centre in Charlottetown. Crawford Photo.

Ramparts. It was Legault's 10th goal of the season.

Cavasant managed to tie the game with his second goal of the period, assisted by Maxime Lévesque, and Legault.

With just over a minute left in the game, Ben Duffy, scored a go-ahead goal, bringing the score to

4-3 for the Rocket. Quebec called a time out.

Tension was high in the stadium as fans watched the clock count down. With two seconds left Lenehan, assisted by Jarrad Struthers, scored a fifth and final goal for the Rocket, giving them a 5-3 victory.

Rocket Forward Jordan Escott, number 21, said he was pleased with the game.

The team was off to a slow start, but came back in the third period.

"[Tying the game] really gave us a spark." This win saved the Rocket from their longest losing

streak of the season, added Escott.

Nadeau said he wants to build on this win. However, winning isn't his top priority during a home game.

It's important to put in constant effort while playing a home game, he said.

"The final score doesn't matter."

Cultural festival to be part of Canada Games

By NICHOLAS OAKES

The 2009 Canada Summer Games are on P.E.I. from Aug. 15-29 and there is more involved than just sporting events.

A cultural festival showcasing various Island communities will take place over the two week span. Twelve days of the games

will have one community spotlighted each day, for a total of 12 communities.

David Hennessey, the coordinator of ceremonies, protocol, and hospitality with the Canada Games, said the games committee will do the core programming for each day, which includes booking a hall and providing entertainment

in each community.

The Cuisine Machine will also be on hand to provide free samples of a local recipe each day.

The rest of it is up to the community, Hennessey said.

"We're asking the community to supplement that to make it a full day event." He hopes a community can have their themed day

while a sport is being contested.

"Hopefully we can make the schedule so it works out that way." Hennessey is excited by the idea.

"(This is) a chance for P.E.I. to showcase its culture to the rest of Canada."

One of the communities already confirmed as part of the festival is

Georgetown. Mayor Peter Llewellyn said the town plans on spotlighting the harbour and showcasing the great impact shipbuilding has on the town.

The Canada Games has a normal return rate of 70 per cent for people who come to the games and Llewellyn hopes Georgetown can capitalize on that.



He shoots, he scores!



The P.E.I. Rocket won against the Quebec Remparts 5-3 in a Quebec Major Junior hockey league game on Feb. 21. More game info on page 15. Photos by Jaclyn Crawford and Patricia Urena.

