



Photo by Aman Parhar

March for women's rights

Mariam, Nauul and Anaam Mustafa march for women's rights. The Mustafa family are from Syria and they moved to Canada as refugees escaping the civil war. Men, women and children participated in this year's International Women's Day march through Belleville Wednesday. Signs, posters and banners were held high into the air as the crowds chanted phrases like, "Women owe you nothing," "one people one world," and "women's rights are human rights."

Motion 103 stirs up response

By Noah Park

Over a 1,000 people gathered at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square Saturday in response to the new M-103, a motion appealing to the Canadian government to address Islamophobia.

The rally called, March for Freedom, Liberty and Justice, organized by the Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens, or CCCC, to oppose M-103, was heavily countered by hundreds of upset Torontonians.

In a phone interview, Georges Hallak, the founder of CCCC, said the goal was to "educate the people about the M-103, Islam and the Sharia law".

However, it quickly escalated into a shouting match between the two opposing sides, as dozens of officers created barriers between the two sides with their bicycles.

By the end of the rally, things got more aggressive. The people from the CCCC had to be escorted out of sight by the police, in fear of the angry protestors.

"Shame! Shame! Shame! Racist scum has got to go," chanted the hundreds of people who had gathered.

Sandra Solomon, countered those who chanted by shouting into the microphone, "Islam is evil! Sharia law is evil! I am a victim of Islam."

For Solomon, a 38-year-old Palestinian

ex-Muslim who lived in Saudi Arabia before coming to Canada, M-103 is an "Islamic Fascist motion" and is a beginning of the implementation of Sharia law into Canadian law.

"It silences the freedom of speech. As Canadians, we stand for freedom of speech. As an ex Muslim, I know exactly what Islam is about. So it is my duty to protect home," said the apostate.

Among the same crowd of about 50 people on the anti-M-103 side, Tassos Pletis, a 25-year-old screening agent for a background screening company in Toronto, shared similar views on M-103 with Solomon.

"I believe it's a blasphemy law, essen-

tially. If you want to have a secular country, you can't have it two ways. You can't say, "Well, you can't criticize this one but say what you want for the other one." To me, it's not about the individual Muslims, but the ideology of Islam and what it represents," said Pletis.

The 25-year-old argued that Islam is not only incompatible, but dangerous, to Canada, citing his family history.

"My mom's side is Armenian and my dad's side is Greek. Both sides went through 400 to

500 years of Ottoman occupation where it was strict Sharia law. The stuff that they would tell me was very similar to the nasty stuff that we see ISIS doing

now. I don't want to have it here," said Pletis.

The rally continued on as heated conversations erupted here and there at the artificial border created with bicycles.

At one point, the anti-M103 side started waving Canadian flags as they shouted "Freedom," with a song by K'naan, a Somali Canadian artist, playing in the background and the opposition taunted them saying, "That song was written by an immigrant!"

Many Torontonians showed their support for their Muslim neighbours on Saturday.

...See Motion, page 5

Adoptee reflects on life in Canada

By Lori Christmas

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be adopted?

Over 2,000 international children are adopted every year in Canada. The main country in which Canadian parents adopt from is China, which accounts for over 30 per cent of all international adoptions. Every year, hundreds of Chinese toddlers and children come to Canada to start their new life.

But what is life really like for these kids? Growing up and trying to become who you are meant to be is hard enough knowing exactly where you came from. For children who are adopted, this struggle can sometimes become heightened.

Elyse Reynolds was born in Wuhu, China in September of 1998.

"I was found a day after I was born. They could tell because of my umbilical cord. I was put on the staircase of a business building so the people that left me knew that I would be found," Reynolds says, reflecting on what she knows about her earliest days of her life.

"That was early in the morning and it was right across from the police department. So when someone found me, they brought me to the police department and then I was brought to the orphanage," she says.

At the orphanage in Wuhu, she met her nanny that would care for her for over a year, as well as other baby girls who would end up becoming lifelong friends.

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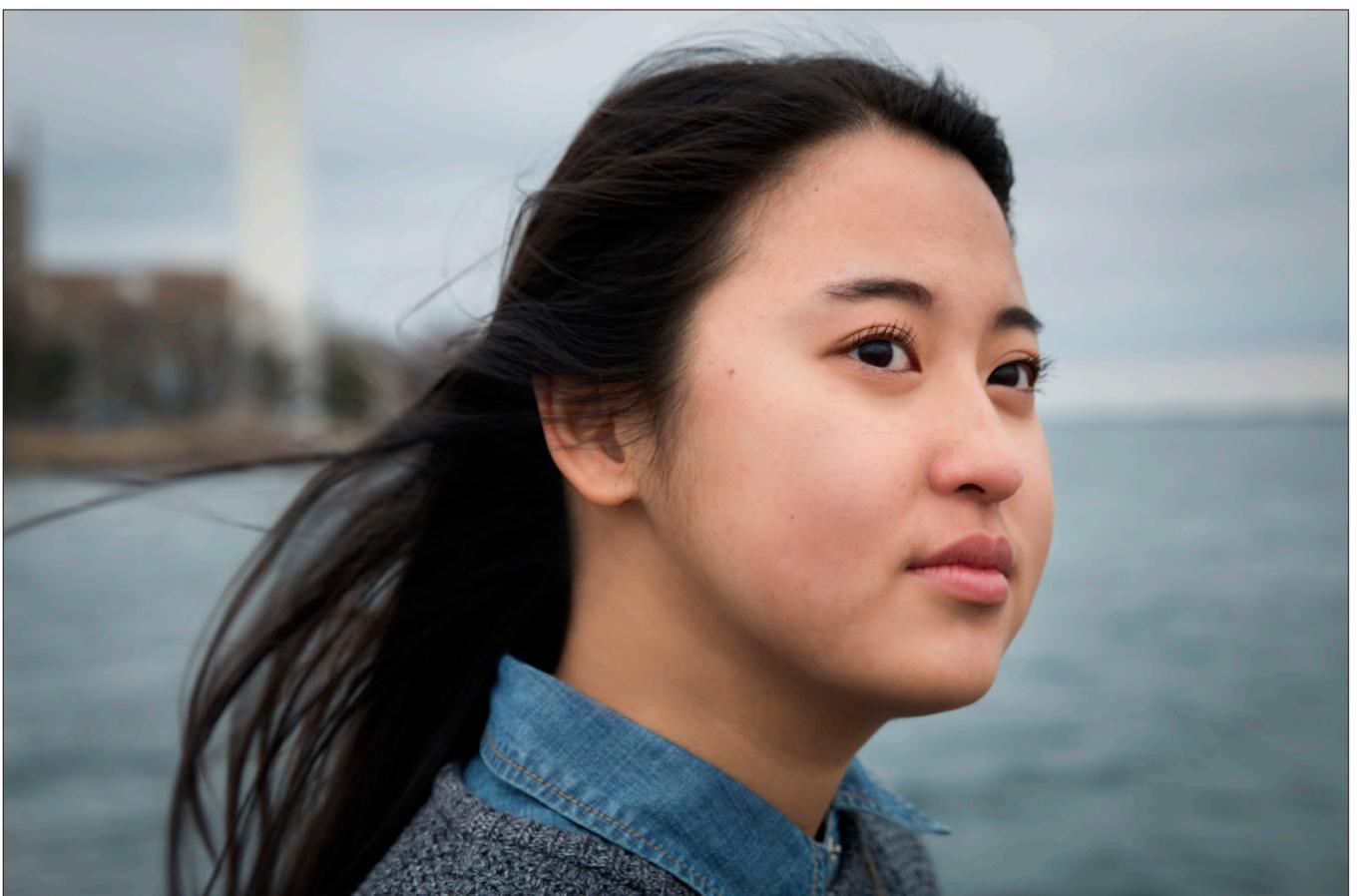


Photo by Lori Christmas

Elyse Reynolds was adopted when she was over a year old from Wuhu, China. Many children who are adopted struggle with questions of identity. "It's always the nature versus nurture argument. What is biologically me and what is actually from how I was brought up?" Reynolds says.

Transfer of care policy causes conflict

By Kael Doomernik

Kailey Ellischapman, a mother of three, gave birth to her son Jesse last month.

Because of circumstances, her youngest daughter was brought into the world by a caesarean section. While pregnant with her son, Ellischapman opted for a natural birth. Giving birth after a caesarean is referred to as a VBAC or vaginal birth after caesarean.

"To me, giving birth naturally was just very important, and though I love my daughter and know she had to come through a caesarean, and that suits her, it was just very important to me to give birth naturally," Ellischapman commented.

There are minor risks with giving birth vaginally after having a caesarean such as uterine rupture, but the risk is a low 1.5 per cent, according to the American Pregnancy Association.

Belleville General Hospital strongly discourages women to stay with their midwives during a VBAC and strongly suggests they do a transfer of care.

A transfer of care means that when the mother goes into active labour, she transfers the primary care by the midwives to an obstetrician, or OB, at the hospital. However, this is not a requirement.

"I think that it's important that women know that they don't have to transfer care... Every woman should be able to stay with her midwife and every midwife should be able to use the practices that they have been trained to use," says Ellischapman.

Ellischapman was given the option but decided that she wanted to keep her midwives instead. It is a requirement of obstetricians in Belleville that there is a transfer of care.

"It wasn't an option per se, but I asked if it was an absolute requirement or just their recommendation and they said that I could choose to refuse a transfer of care and that it would be much easier to do if I went to Cobourg, where the midwives have full scope and where the practising physicians welcome midwives... I reg-

'To me, giving birth naturally was just very important, and though I love my daughter and know she had to come through a caesarean, and that suits her, it was just very important to me to give birth naturally.'

Kailey Ellischapman

istered at Cobourg with the hope that I would go there."

The weather made Ellischapman decide that she was going to give birth in Belleville rather than try to drive during labour to Cobourg.

She said she does not agree with the Quinte Health Care Belleville General Hospital's requirement that there be a transfer of care.

"It's just ridiculous that in this day and age you need to get a pregnant woman to transfer in order to have a baby – that a pregnant woman has to go somewhere else to give birth," Ellischapman says.

In Belleville, Ellischapman says she signed the paperwork to refuse a transfer of care while she was in labour.

"I felt that it was important that if I start my prenatal care with a midwife that I should be able to complete my care with a midwife and not transferring to someone I don't know who has no relationship with me who has no part of my pregnancy, doesn't know the history of my pregnancies.

"In that moment of birthing, I shouldn't have to make that transfer and I wasn't going to make that transfer, so I didn't!" Ellischapman recalls.

Ellischapman was allowed to transfer care in Belleville General and her midwife Sarah assisted in the delivery.

"Every option is an option. It's not a requirement. As a woman, I feel that



Photo by Kael Doomernik

Kailey Ellischapman sits with her daughter born of a caesarean section. Her son, born last month as a VBAC baby, was napping. She refused a transfer of care and decided to keep her midwives through the whole birth process.

it's very important that I decide how I want to be taken care of and what I feel is important for me and my child," states Ellischapman.

Ellischapman gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

"He was born and it was great. It was very empowering... it was beauti-

ful and I'm grateful that I got to push him out," Ellischapman says, smiling.

A comment from Quinte Health Care Belleville General was not avail-

Dodgeball tournament raises funds for youth

By Liam Smyth

Six teams entered the Quinte Christian High School gymnasium on Friday night for two hours of thrilling fun.

The first Dodgeball Unlimited became an instant classic. Registration was \$75 per team with all the proceeds being donated to the Quinte Youth Unlimited foundation, a not-for-profit youth organization.

The event was organized by public re-

lations students at Loyalist College. The event ran smoothly for the two-hour event. It turned out to be a great success, considering it had been run by a group of students who had never had to manage an event with such magnitude.

"The tournament was a huge success in my eyes. Both from raising awareness about the charity, supporting it and participants meeting their competition on the court," said event organizer Steven Schill.

Not only did the night go as planned, but the level of dodge ball was top notch as every team came not only to play but to win the tournament. Every match was close and most of them came down to the wire.

In the end, the two teams standing were Quinte Youth Unlimited and R.O.B. The tournament raised \$487, which exceeded expectations and turned out to be a great day for Quinte youth.

Schill gathered a group of his fellow classmates to help him run the event.

Schill said he hopes that the event can become an annual fundraiser as not only does it raise money for a terrific cause, but was an incredible evening of fun. He is hoping that the event can grow and that the future classes of public relations continue to run the event. He also added that he would gladly keep revisiting Belleville after graduating this year to help out with the event for

years to come.

"It was a great scene to see the number of fellow Loyalist students who had come out to participate and help to fill up the tournament brackets with teams," said Schill.

Quinte Youth Unlimited is a not-for-profit, registered charity and a faith-based, non-denominational, international, youth organization. The Quinte chapter is part of Youth for Christ Canada, which started in 1944.

Adoption...

Continued from Page 1

Introduced in 1979, the one-child policy in China was implemented in an attempt to control the growing population. This policy was strictly enforced and the government imposed fines for violations.

Although there were some exceptions to the policy, many babies, especially girls, were abandoned and put up for adoption between 1979 and 2015 when the policy began to be formally phased out.

"I don't know the reason I was adopted, whether it was the one-child policy or something else," Reynolds says.

Reynolds does not know anything about her birth parents or what life she would have led if she was never adopted.

"I wasn't left with any information or a card or anything and the reason I think there is no information about a lot of people's birth parents is because they didn't want any trace," she says.

"I feel like I'd be very different," says Reynolds, when asked what kind of life she would have had if she wasn't adopted.

"It's always the nature versus nurture argument. What is biologically me and what is actually from how I was brought up? I've always considered myself pretty outgoing but then I wonder if that's because of the life I've had growing up or something else."

Some children who are adopted struggle with these kinds of identity questions. For Reynolds, she keeps a positive attitude and tries not to lose sleep over questions she might never get answers to.

"I'm meant to be here and it doesn't bother me," she says.

On Nov. 14, 1999, Reynolds was ad-

'It's always the nature versus nurture argument. What is biologically me and what is actually from how I was brought up? I've always considered myself pretty outgoing but then I wonder if that's because of the life I've had growing up or something else.'

Elyse Reynolds

opted by her parents Graeme and Carol Reynolds.

"I was in the elevator with my nanny," Reynolds says about the day she met her mother.

"My mom was in the same elevator and she was like, 'That's my kid!', and the nanny was kind of worried and was like, 'Oh, I don't know, we're going to have to check some papers' but my mom knew it was me," she says.

After spending a few weeks in China getting to know her child, Carol was able to take her daughter home to Canada. Carol came to China with about 10 other parents that were also adopting girls from China. Before they came, they acted as a support system for each other when getting prepared for the arrival of their children. About half of the girls were at the same orphanage as Reynolds.

After coming to Canada, the parents wanted the girls to keep in touch and stay connected with people they were with in the early weeks of their lives. From that day on, a sisterhood formed between these girls.

"Having my adoption group in my life has provided me with so much love and gratitude," says Reynolds.

The girls, although they live in different parts of Ontario, try to get together a few times a year to catch up on what is happening in each others lives.

Reynolds says that, "Being able to stay connected with these girls means that I always have someone there who I know will understand where I'm coming from. That bond over adoption is what makes our relationship as a group so important."

This group allows these girls to have a support system and to know that they are not alone in how they feel and what they think. They can be there for each other with everything that is happening in their lives as they grow up, as well as the thing that brought them all together: adoption.

"Some of the other girls are a lot quieter about adoption, won't tell people or are just more shy about it. They think, 'It's a part of me that's missing' or 'I feel like my birth parents didn't want me', which probably isn't true and they loved them, but had to give them up for some reason," Reynolds says about her friends.

"It's interesting to see the different perspectives, but at the same time, it's nice just to have someone who relates to you," she says.

With the struggles of growing up, having someone you can talk to and that will understand you is very important. Reynolds' adoption group serves that purpose.



Name

Elyse Reynolds (far left) is photographed with six other girls in an orphanage in China. All seven children were adopted by their parents from Canada. The girls are now around 18-years-old and still stay in touch to this day.

They're also able to joke around with one another and make light of their experiences.

"We always end up talking like, 'Don't you hate when you're in a grocery store and you're with your parents and the person looks at you and automatically assumes that you're not with your parents because they don't look like you,'" Reynolds says with a laugh.

Reynolds is grateful she has kept in touch with the girls she was adopted with because she can relate to them in more ways than one.

When she went back to visit China in 2007, the owner of the orphanage and the

nanny that cared for her still remembered her.

"They told me they called me chubby pig," Reynolds says, smiling.

"Apparently they remember all the kids that come back."

Reynolds may not ever know what her birth parents were like or why she was given up for adoption, but she doesn't let that affect her life. Although she may have a different background than some of the people she encounters, Reynolds has lived and continues to live a happy and healthy life that every child should be afforded in Canada and around the world.

The Pioneer

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The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

The Pioneer welcomes your letters and comments. Please send material to the editor at the address below before Wednesday. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

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Ontario
Community
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Association



Photo by Taylor Bertelink

Voyo Radoman is a pigeon fancier. He developed a love for pigeons over 33 years ago and has since created a business from his passion, auctioning racing pigeons on his website, Choice Pigeon.

This profession is for the birds

By Taylor Bertelink

A white two story farmhouse sits in Brighton, Ont. on a large property lined with trees where chickens and roosters roam the yard freely. Towards the back of the house there is a large smokey grey coloured barn with a caged enclosure that houses Voyo Radoman's racing pigeons.

Radoman walks through the kitchen stepping on vintage black and white tiles and sits at the dining table placed in front of a large window looking out onto the front yard.

He takes a seat and begins to recount the story of how he became interested in pigeons.

In 1983, at the age of 13, Radoman and his friends were throwing stones at the pigeons in an alleyway of Toronto. To the boys' surprise, a man popped his head up over the fence. The boys turned

to run away when the man called after them and said, "If you want to see the pigeons come on into the yard."

"We came in the yard and he told us about the sport of racing pigeons and so on, and from there, he said if we built a pigeon loft at home then he would give each of us two pigeons free of charge, as long as we learned to respect the birds," recalls Radoman.

This was the beginning of Radoman's 33-year love for pigeons.

Pigeon racing is a somewhat peculiar hobby but is one that has been around for centuries.

Throughout history, pigeons have been used in wars as messengers, kept as pets, and have been adorned by the wealthy for hundreds of years, some are even recognized as heroes.

"The sport of pigeon racing was enjoyed mostly by the wealthy. As time has gone on, people now, from doctors to

lawyers, from the unemployed and the average person, to even celebrities like Mike Tyson take part in pigeon racing – we all find the same thing with pigeons, owning them also gives us a calming feeling," says Radoman.

Today in North America there are over 20,000 registered pigeon lofts and this number is expected to grow as there has been an increasing amount of interest in the sport in the last five years.

Radoman describes how he has heard from people who have anxiety, that when they are with their pigeons they experience a calming effect.

"The sounds of the birds, the cooing and just being with them relaxes people. It does it for me. When I have had a bad day on the job that is the first place I go – my pigeon loft. I take a handful of food and they all come around me and I feed them. It's a change from customers yelling at you to pigeons cooing at you,"

Radoman says with a laugh.

Radoman personally owns eight breeding pairs of racing pigeons and created an online auction site in 2008 called, Choice Pigeon. The process of conducting a pigeon auction begins with photographing the birds that are to be sold. Radoman has a studio set up in his garage specifically for the job. He pays close attention to detail as he photographs the eye of the pigeon.

"It is believed by many people in the pigeon racing world that the markings in the pigeon's eye detect its racing abilities. For example, if the bird has violet eye colouring, it is the greatest prized pigeon," says Radoman.

Through the website hundreds of racing pigeons are auctioned off to the highest bidder and distributed all over Canada.

There are two forms of pigeon racing. Club racing is a small localized

race where 150 to 200 birds compete. Combine racing is done at a much larger scale where 400 to 1500 pigeons are in competition.

When new clients who are looking to buy their first pigeons come to Radoman, he takes time to teach them proper care of the birds and even offers to throw in a few extra pigeons free of charge as a way of paying forward the kinds he has received from fellow pigeon lovers.

Radoman describes his pigeons as being more than just pets. He has a love for the animals and takes pride in feeding them, keeping them safe, and nurturing them.

"My favourite bird is Buggy. He is like me – he has a mind of his own, has an attitude and is a bit distracted. He is different," says Radoman with a grin.

For a video look at this story, go to: <https://vimeo.com/207658909>

World Day of Prayer a call for peace and justice

By Assad Sharifi

According to the World Day of Prayer website, "World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice."

This year's event was held last Friday at the Belleville Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The auditorium soon filled with worshippers, who had

come from far and wide to take part in "World Day of Prayer 2017-Philippines".

This year's prayer was dedicated to the women of the Philippines.

At the beginning of the service, the Philippine national anthem was played and then prayers were offered for the betterment of the Filipino women.

Many of the congregants, representing different churches, took to the po-

dium and recited prayers written by Filipino women and translated into English.

Some historical events related to Christianity in the Philippines were shared. The plight of the women of that impoverished nation was also discussed.

Rev. Robert Wiesner, the church's pastor, began the service.

"Am I being unfair to you?" is a ques-

tion and a concern that billions of people of this world need to be asking one another more often.

"In these times, where fear and division seem rampant, the theme of this World Day of Prayer could not have been chosen better," he continued.

"Am I being unfair to you?" was the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer, which was organized by the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada.

The statement, "Am I being unfair to you" is derived from the Biblical book of Matthew (Mt 20:1-16).

Ruth Kollars, a congregant, summed up the sentiment of this event by saying, "it was a celebration of faith and generosity, and sharing of spirit, I would say, all around the world."

Approximately 150 people from 30 different churches participated in this event.

Students showcase talents at screening

By Martine Foubert

The film and TV production program, or FTVP, showcased their talent at the Loyalist College screening for Belleville's Downtown DocFest on March 1.

Fourteen documentaries were submitted for judging. Students created these short films under the direction of faculty members Claude Gariépy and Paul Papadopoulos in AFP, or the advanced film production class.

Three industry professionals from around Prince Edward County were invited to judge the submissions. The top four documentaries were showcased as part of 'Local Spotlight' on Saturday in this year's Downtown DocFest.

In its first year, Loyalist's DocFest screening in Alumni Hall saw an audience of 50 people to watch 12 four minute shorts. In its fourth year, it gathered over 100 people from around the community and many students to watch the fourteen films.

"It's a great way for students to get critiqued by members of the industry," said Gariépy.

The top four winning crews were going on to the downtown DocFest to talk about their documentaries. They were planning to take questions and comments from the audience.

"Just the fact that they will be looking at their work on the big screen is incredible. It makes that light go on and they realize the value of their work. This is what



Photo by Martine Foubert

Paul Papadopoulos teaches the advanced film production class at Loyalist College in conjunction with Claude Gariépy. This class teaches students the process of making a documentary from beginning to end. These short films were screened at the fourth annual FTVP DocFest at Loyalist College in early March.

it's all about," said Gariépy.

Each team is composed of four students and produces four documentaries

during the year. Every doc is produced in a five-week period, from the pitch to the delivery. Students rotate taking on the

roles of director, camera person, editor and transmedia.

Transmedia gives the production add-

ed value by spreading the word on social media platforms and adding unseen footage online for viewers. Each documentary screened at DocFest has a webpage where people can see extra footage. Transmedia is deemed a necessary skill in today's world by industry professionals.

"We try and get the students to understand the value of pre-production -- sitting down and planning out shoots or talking with talent for example. This is just as important as filming," said Gariépy.

"We've been working on our documentaries since mid-October. We crunch all the steps of making a documentary into five weeks," said Liam Thompson, a student in the program and director of one of the winning submissions.

A *Different Breed of Wine* was one of the four shorts to get voted into Downtown DocFest, along with, Sarah Doucette for *Flying Without Feet*, Simon Sheehan for *Looking Through the Lens* and Marcus Wellman for *Behind the Glass*.

"I think it means a lot to see our work on the big screen. I put a lot of effort in my work. All of the docs I worked on are being screened. That's all my efforts being shown to a lot of people and it's an awesome feeling," said Thompson.

"Being one of the winning teams validates all our hard work and proves that our determination can be for something more than just the classroom," said Thompson.

A delicious family tradition

Third generation of the Dooher family continues to run Campbellford bakery

By Lori Christmas

Growing tired of Tim Hortons baked goods and pastries and looking for an old-fashioned, community bakery with some of the best homemade goods in Ontario?

The small town of Campbellford has just that. It is home to Dooher's Bakery, a family-run business since 1949, when Muriel and Harry Dooher first opened the renowned bakery.

The smell itself is enough to bring anyone who is passing by inside. Filled with the delicious scents of fresh baked bread and sweet cinnamon buns, Dooher's has that homey feel that is hard to find in a chain bakery. Every customer is greeted with a warm smile that keeps them coming back for more. Some people travel as far as the United States to try some of Dooher's famous cream-filled doughnuts.

Dooher's Bakery wouldn't be as good as it is without the hard work and dedication of the Dooher family and all its employees. Cory Dooher, co-owner of the bakery and granddaughter of Muriel and Harry Dooher, starts her day at 3 a.m.

"The first bakers are here at 3:30, so the doughs are started and the oven is turned on. It's busy but this time of year we usually have early days where we start at 3:30 and we're done by 9:30-10 o'clock," says Dooher.

The winter season is definitely less busy than the summertime at Dooher's. In the summer and on special occasions such as Thanksgiving and Easter, there are lines down the street as everyone wants to get their hands on one of the bakery's pumpkin pies or butter tarts to share with their families.

"Summertime our days can go as late as 2 p.m.," says Dooher.

Cory Dooher has dedicated almost all her life to this bakery. She started working at Dooher's when she was just 12 years old. Her grandparents opened the original bakery in Madoc before they moved to Campbellford.

"Grandpa started it with two little wood-burning ovens and basically him and grandma ran it on their own. Grandpa actually baked on a ship in the army and that's where his passion for baking started," Dooher says, describing how the bakery got started.

Before Dooher came back to the

'Grandpa started it with two little wood-burning ovens and basically him and grandma ran it on their own. Grandpa actually baked on a ship in the army and that's where his passion for baking started.'

Cory Dooher

bakery to take over from her parents, she went to school for early childhood education. After going through a hard time, she returned to the bakery, seeing it as a place where she felt at home.

"I went through a severe episode of postpartum depression after my second child was born so that kind of brought me back to the bakery and I've been doing it ever since," she says.

Dooher says she loves working at the bakery because it allows her to feel closer to her grandparents, even after their passing.

"Neither one of my grandparents are alive anymore and it's just important for me to be able to carry it on for them."

She says visiting her grandparents are some of her fondest memories in life as she was able to, "talk to grandpa about what he did and how he started the bakery. The gingerbread men were his special treat."

The delights at Dooher's are some of the best and although many people have approached Cory Dooher about opening their own brand of Dooher's Bakery, she is not interested.

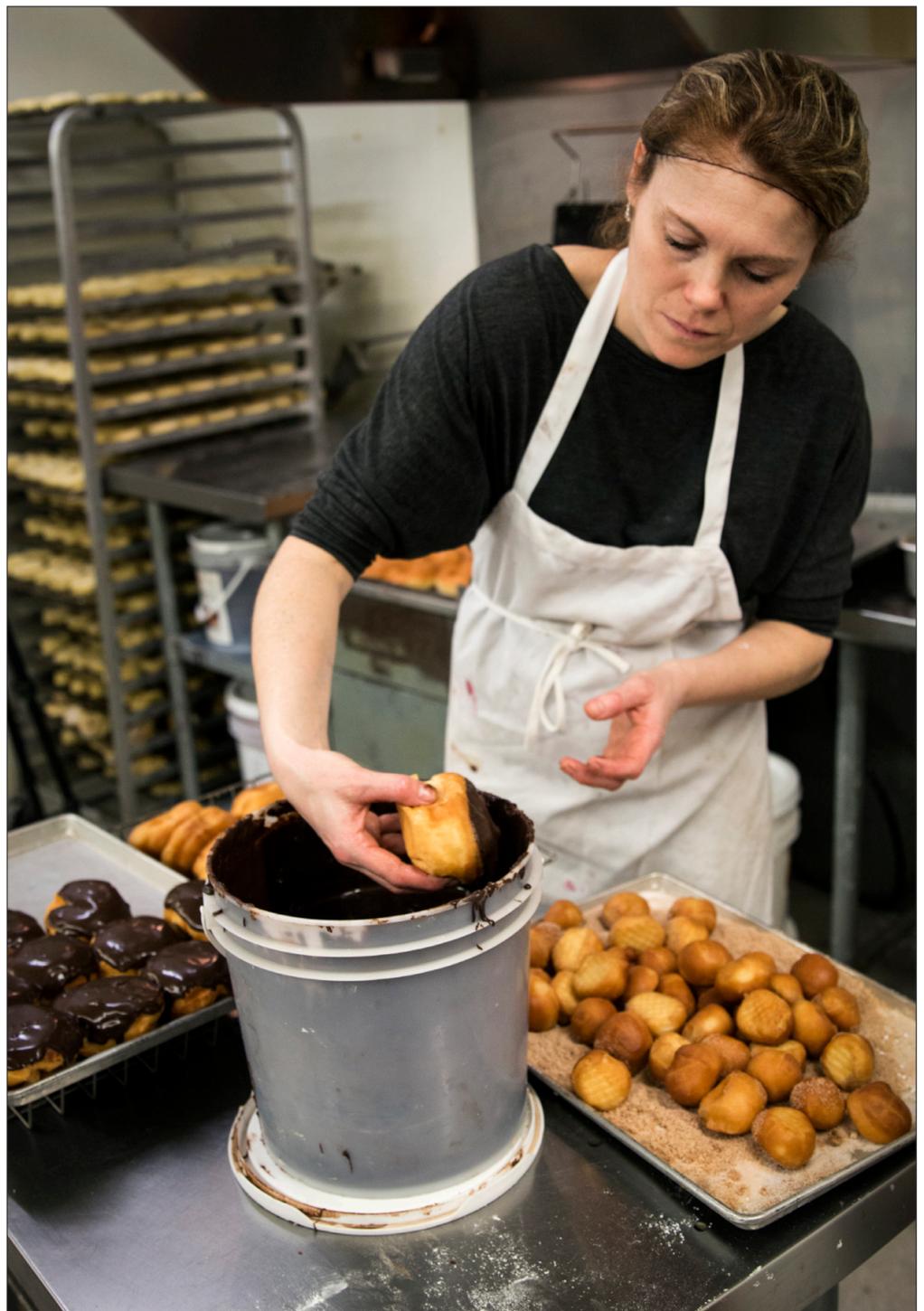
She wants to keep the family business of Dooher's within the family for generations to come. Dooher is hoping that when it comes time for her to retire that one of her three children will be interested in taking over.

For now, Dooher's Bakery continues to make delicious, mouth-watering baked goods that bring people from around the province.

As for Cory Dooher, her biggest challenge she faces is, "trying to run this business while still being a mom to my kids."

Photo by Lori Christmas

Melissa Nicholson dips doughnuts into chocolate at Dooher's Bakery. Dooher's is best known for their Boston cream doughnuts.



Students receive bursaries at Loyalist event

Over \$85,000 of support handed out to under-graduate students at ceremony

By Noah Park

Loyalist College's seriousness about their students' success was reflected as they award 155 under-graduate students various academic awards on March 2.

Thirty-eight designated awards, including aboriginal post-secondary education and training bursary, First Generation bursary, etc., had a total of over \$85,000 monetary support attached to them to help students reach their highest potential.

"These are the best moments in the president's job. The opportunity to celebrate student success is really what it's all about," said president and CEO Ann Marie Vaughan, who filled the position four months ago, in the opening remarks.

The ceremony, emceed by Dianne Spencer, executive director of college advancement and external relations, drew a small number of crowd of approximately 60 people, including the recipients and the donors to the Student Link Lounge.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate our students' success. All of our recipients are so deserving of the awards. Loyalist takes student financial assistance and awards and recognition very seriously," said Spencer.

Students walked down the aisle as their names were called and posed for a quick photo with big smiles on their faces.

Jillian Fisher, a 22-year-old business administration student from Trenton, thanked the school for choosing her for the Kinsmen Club of Trenton bursary.

"I am shocked and honoured. I didn't expect it. I never get picked for anything, not even a Tim Hortons Roll Up the Rim. I am super grateful. This gives me the courage to do better," said Fisher who hopes to be an entrepreneur after graduation.

Some were rewarded with more than one awards for their excellence.

Burk Donio, a 21-year-old first-year welding and fabrication student, re-



Photo by Noah Park

(From left) Kevin Baker receives his award, aboriginal post-secondary education and training bursary, from Paul Latchford, co-ordinator for the Aboriginal Services at Loyalist College.

ceived the CIBC bursary and the aboriginal post-secondary education and training bursary.

"I feel humble that they chose me. It does help me a lot to continue my education. This means a lot to me and it helps me to concentrate in finishing my education," said Donio, who is on the way to be the first person in his family to acquire a college diploma.

Giovanni Cirinna, a second-year biotechnology and chemical engineering technician student, was also among those who received more than one award.

"I feel good. It's nice to get recognized.

'These are the best moments in the president's job. The opportunity to celebrate student success is really what it's all about.'

Ann Marie Vaughan

Receiving this is really important because I'm a mature student and I have a lot of bills to pay. This really helps to offset that while I'm still trying to pay for school," said Cirinna, who is hoping to apply for masters after Loyalist and ultimately working at a hospital for cancer research.

Not only did these awards boost the financial status of students, it gave students a sense of accomplishment and motivation to give back to the society.

"I feel really proud of myself. I feel accomplished. I think it's always nice to get an award and make yourself feel better

about what you are doing for the future," said Autumn Hill, a first-year social service worker student, who received an aboriginal post-secondary education and training bursary.

After graduation, Hill hopes to work with the incarcerated to prepare them to be ready for reintegration back into the society.

"I want to help people in these facilities come back out into the society as a better person. I think it will benefit the society greater than we think and ultimately lower the crime rates," said Hill.



Pravin Patel, a resident of Toronto, waves the Canadian flag and shouts, "Freedom," at the rally organized by the Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens against M-103.

Photos by Noah Park



(From left) Eric Joscy, a 17-year-old supporter of M-103, argues with Eric Brazau, who came out to rally against M-103, at Nathan Phillip Square.

Motion...

Continued from Page 1

Jonah Hundert, a 33-year-old actor from Toronto, was one of the hundreds of people out to voice their stance on the issue.

"I'm here to make sure that the voices of the people who support our Muslim neighbours are louder and greater than the voices of the people who are fuelling bigotry in the form of defending free

speech," said Hundert.

Many people who came out to oppose Islamophobia suspected that rise of organizations like the CCCC are deeply connected with the U.S. presidency. From the beginning of his electoral campaign, Donald Trump has not been quiet about his divisive policy on immigration.

"I see this as an extension of Trump's politics. History is circular, so tomorrow or next 10 years, might be a different conversation, but at the moment, this is the fire we have, which we didn't have to

have, six months ago, pre-Trump," said Hector Mackie, a 28-year-old student from the United Kingdom, who came out to voice solidarity with Muslims.

Sakeenah Zdyea, a 51-year-old former career counsellor and a Muslim, calls these types of events "The Trump Effect."

"Trump has emboldened these people to come out of the woodwork. I grew up in Toronto and I remember the white supremacists but they were always under the radar, not so vocal. But since Trump came and gave them, in my opinion, permission by the way he speaks and treats

people, he has given them courage," said the resident of Toronto of 41 years.

Zdyea also argued that the accusations that Muslims are trying to implement Sharia law in Canada is ridiculous.

"As Muslims living in Canada, we have to follow the laws of Canada. We are ordered to do so by the Qur'an and by our prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him. We have no business putting in Sharia law here."

The difference in the number of people between those supporting the CCCC and those opposed on Saturday was a

clear sign that most who attended support M-103. The opposition outnumbered the CCCC by approximately 30 to one.

"I'm happy to see the number of people here. I'm really glad to see a lot of support from Muslims and non-Muslims alike and we're not going to stop. We're here for good. Every time they come out, we'll come out. And every time there's a chance to preach goodness and kindness and humanity, we'll do that," said Rameez Sheikh, a 25-year-old Muslim resident of Toronto.



(Above, left) A man gets carried off out of the crowd in the aftermath of the rally against M-103.



(Above, right) A protester argues with counter-protesters at the rally against M-103.

(Bottom) Over a 1,000 protestors gathered in support of M-103.





Tyler Davis said he was very proud to have been a part of the International Women's Day march.

Photo by Aman Parhar



Photo by Taylor Bertelink

Mieke Thorne, Organizer of the Women's Day march, says, "this year was more successful than last because there is an increased presence of the younger generation as well as new immigrants here participating. I think that what is happening south of the border right now makes this issue so timely."



(Left) Anna Baldwin, seven, walks in her second ever International Women's Day march through downtown Belleville, holding a sign she created herself. Her grandmother, Cindy Powell says, "I don't think you can ever start too young to advocate for social justice and to show empathy for other people."

(Bottom) Men, women and children participate in this year's International Women's Day march through Belleville. Signs, posters and banners were held high into the air as the crowds chanted phrases like; "Women owe you nothing, one people one world, and women's rights are human rights."

Photos by Taylor Bertelink





Photo by Liam Smyth

Becky Coles admires her pet fish Octavian. He is a beta fish that she has had for a couple of weeks. "Octavian is a great replacement for all the pets that I miss when I am away at school. He loves to watch movies with me and is just always a great friend for me."

LOYAL COMPANIONS

By Lori Christmas

Pets play an important role in people's lives. Whether you own a German shepherd to protect your family or a tabby cat that makes you laugh or a Labrador that keeps you active, there are many reasons and benefits to owning a pet.

Pets have been known to aid people with depression and can help humans become more social. The bond between a pet and its owner is unique. Most people think of their pet as a member of their family.

Aside from being a great companion, pets, especially dogs, can be trained to be seeing-eye dogs, and to detect seizures. They can even be used in occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical rehabilitation. According to the National Centre for Health Research, companion ani-

mals can improve heart health by lowering blood pressure in stressful situations. This is especially beneficial to older patients who may be suffering from heart conditions. Companion animals can also reduce anxiety in children and adults.

The health research centre has done many studies testing the effects that animals have on humans. It is clear that pets contribute to the health of their owners.

"There is evidence that interaction with a companion animal, even for a short time, has a range of benefits," the research centre states.

So, the next time you see your pet, you can thank them for not only putting a smile on your face and keeping you company, but also for benefitting your physical and mental health.

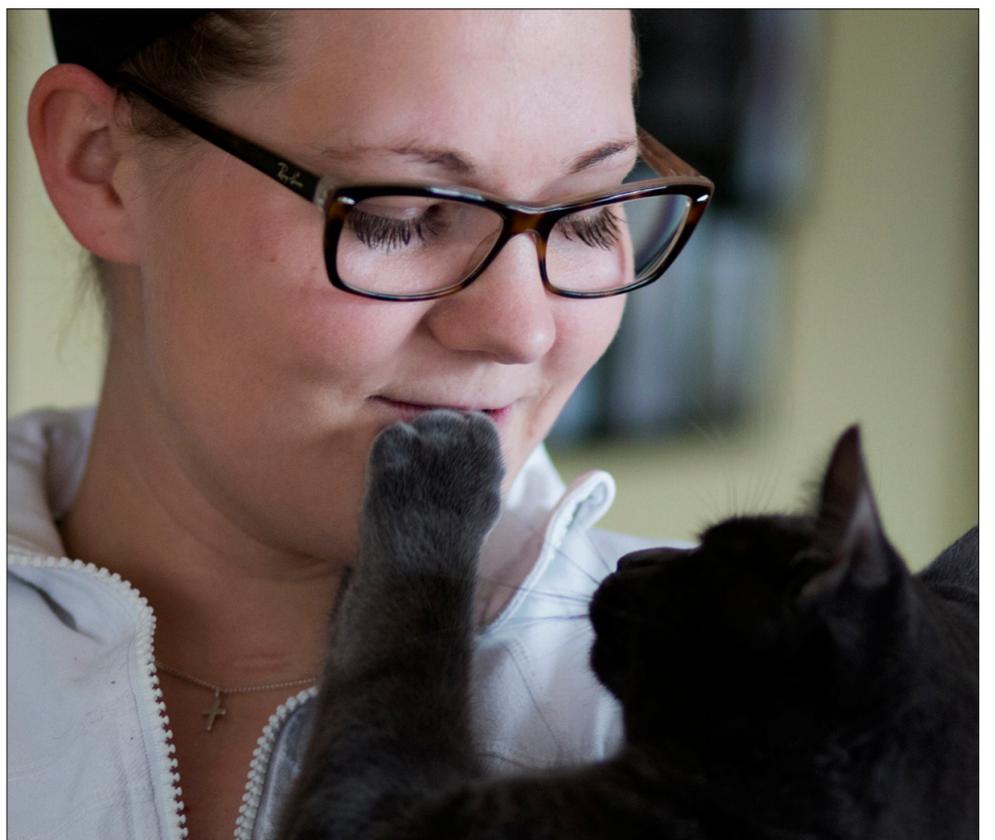


(Above) Kaitland Clapp plays with her pet ball python, rightfully named "No Legs," to relieve her of social anxiety. Although her snake is not a registered therapy animal, Clapp enjoys the company of her pet when she is stressed out.

Photo by Hannah MacLeod

(Right) Twenty-year-old paramedic student Hannah Baker adopted her cat, Clarke, in 2016 from the Belleville Humane Society. "I didn't want a cat until I saw Clarke and knew I had to have him. He is a great cuddler and always keeps you on your toes," Baker says with a laugh.

Photo by Taylor Bertelink



(Left) Leona Skaines and her dog Katie go for a walk in the park. Katie was the smallest dog in her litter and the breeder decided to sell her after a year and Skaines decided to scoop her up. Ever since then, Katie has been a welcome member of the family. "She runs the house," Skaines laughs.

Photo by Kael Doomernik

(Right) Tom McNally and his dog Rockie, a shih-tzu, spend a moment at his house in Belleville. McNally, who is in a wheelchair, says that he sometimes sleeps with his dog and that he misses walking him outside because now he's unable to walk. Rockie enjoys sitting on his lap while he's riding his wheelchair.

