



Photo by Heather Waldron

(From left) Students Connor Patrick and Dane McLaren chow down on some pastry samples from the new and improved Loyalist Market in Belleville while students and faculty lineup in the hallway behind them. Patrick and McLaren, who were patrons of the former market down the hall, were thrilled to see the market reopen last Thursday.

Tasty opening for food market with relaunch by culinary program

By Heather Waldron

Students and faculty lined the hallway on Jan. 19, the grand opening day of The Loyalist Market, in Belleville, patiently awaiting their turns to try the market's fresh baked goods.

Located just steps away from the main entrance, the market's sweet aroma filled the corridors of the college and the temptation to indulge was noticeable. The displays were filled with rich pastries, tarts and doughnuts and the options were bountiful.

Loyalist students Connor Patrick and Dane McLaren were frequent patrons of the former market down the hall before it closed in December

2022.

"We were wondering what was happening. It's pretty exciting because we used to go in between classes and get doughnuts and stuff so I'm pretty hyped that it's open," said McLaren, who bought a loaf of bread and a Danish pastry.

Loyalist Market chefs Scott Royce and Karin Desveault said that the project has been in the works for over five years.

In 2018, Desveault travelled down to Cincinnati with, now acting president, Mark Kirkpatrick and support staff member and part-time faculty member Cory Mestre to scope out other campus food service layouts

and to assess a suitable construction plan.

"We started to work with the Kasian Architectural Firm along with our leadership team. We mapped out what the functionality and vision of the facility would look like in terms of work integrated learning experiences for the students and what would best benefit their time with us and how to best service the college community," said Desveault.

"This isn't our project. This is the college's project and it takes so many minds and ideas that came together to make this all work. We had a couple of hiccups along the way, and I think it was helpful to work together to make

it happen," added Royce.

With COVID-19 on the rise in 2020, there were supply chain and labour issues, a carpentry strike and other roadblocks along the way. However, according to Desveault, with patience, the expertise of the construction company and Royce's attention to detail, the team overcame those challenges.

Asked about the grand opening day, Royce said: "It was very exciting. We made a great deal of sales. We saw lots of familiar faces come back around and we saw some of our grads come back. Seeing the excitement and seeing how much they had waited was really rewarding."

The chefs are eager to continue showcasing the products that their culinary students prepare and they are motivated to ensure that the market is providing what the college community seeks at a reasonable price. Their objective is that the student population can afford nutritious handmade food.

The chefs are also looking forward to the next phase of renovations, in February, with a kitchen upgrade and the construction of a new restaurant aptly called Nourish. They said that their goal is to elevate the program and put Belleville and Loyalist College on the map for food, beverage and hospitality.

Accommodation issues faced by students

By Nav Rahi

Accommodation has become a major issue among international students attending school in the Quinte area. Many international students say they are facing difficulties finding accommodation for themselves.

There are 580 beds available in both apartment and townhouse residences at Loyalist College, according to Braden Root-McCaig, Director, Marketing and Communications.

Some international students say they had to stay in motels for short periods in their initial days and some had to come from the GTA to Belleville daily on the train or get a ride here until they could find a place in Belleville.

"When you are moving to another country for a better education, the first thing you need is a roof over your head. We spent thousands of dollars to study in Canada and it is very depressing when you finally reach at your destination, and you do not find a place to live," said Saloni Dadra. Dadra is among those students who used to come from Mississauga on the train in her initial days at college.

According to the college website, on-campus housing for winter 2023 is currently full at Loyalist College, but the school is helping students to find accommodation off-campus via some social media sites like Place4students, Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace. To help students, the college also decided to reduce the residence fees from \$6,200 to \$3,400 for the 8-month contract



Photo by Nav Rahi

A room shared by three international student in the basement of a detached house in the east end of Belleville.

for both domestic and international students.

"The college has been providing support to international students needing accommodations upon arrival by paying

for hotel rooms while students navigate finding long term accommodations. The College has been very supportive of new arriving students by ensuring that they have a safe place to stay upon arrival.

Loyalist College works closely with local hotels to provide these rooms," said Root-McCaig.

Loyalist also introduced a Home Sharing program, which promotes

intergenerational living for Loyalist students with a focus on international students, and adults 55 years of age and older in the city. Home Share Loyalist was launched on National Seniors Day and United Nations International Day of Older persons.

International students from India have created a group on Facebook and WhatsApp to help each other find affordable accommodation. Students who leased a house in Belleville area post in these groups when they have space available, whether it is private or sharing, so that new students from India can contact them to reserve the room before coming to Canada.

Many students say they must go through a lot to share a house with other students. In some cases, where only six people are allowed in a house, 10-12 are sharing the house because some of them, who started living with them temporarily until they find another accommodation, ended up living there permanently because they did not find another place.

Loyalist and international students from the college are taking some steps to solve the problem, but finding an accommodation in Belleville is still not easy.

International students can find more information about home share program at <http://homeshareloyalist.com> and join a Facebook group created by Loyalist graduates called Loyalist College Belleville Off Campus Student Housing, which most of students find very helpful.



Photo by Hunter Middleton

Bill Lucas completes a daily task of organizing movies to go back into circulation after being returned by renters. Lucas commented that over the Christmas break, they had great business with lots of people coming into the store.

Video store reopens its doors

Jumbo Video moves to downtown Belleville

By Hunter Middleton

The beloved Jumbo Video store reopened its doors in downtown Belleville on Dec. 1, of last year, under new management by Bill Lucas and Nigel Hartwell, and many local residents welcomed its return.

After the close of Jumbo Video in the fall of 2021, many customers turned to streaming services to get their cinematic fix. The excitement of the reopening started to build in November of 2022 when signage at the new location was

spotted, and the store would become one of two locations left in Canada. The news took to the Belleville Neighbours Facebook group gaining over 100 shares and more than 100 positive comments and reactions.

Jumbo Video has slowly become integrated into the downtown core and community of Belleville, with many of their store neighbours and previous store regulars sharing warm welcomes. Many things stayed the same in the transfer of ownership of the store, such as the iconic free popcorn machine and thousands of titles to choose from. A variety of new things have been added as well. Alongside the thousands of titles to browse through, customers also have the chance to shop for signed headshots from celebrities and a variety of collectibles.

Customers now have the chance to purchase a membership to the store with three different tiers. Each comes with perks, although they differ from the original “rent ten, then get one free.” Hartwell and Lucas decided to shake things up, and work in reverse, with the customer receiving so many free rentals a month, but after the number has been reached, then it’s time to pay, Lucas commented,

“One of the main reasons we even decided to open a video store in the first place is people right now are paying for all kinds of streaming services. They all add up and, in most cases, you can get all the new releases you want but there’s a lot of stuff that was filmed and created long before streaming services existed and you still can’t get on most streaming

services.”

While many of the titles in the store consist of films that have come off the big screen mixed in with them are films from independent filmmakers. Both Lucas and Hartwell are currently in the professional film industry with this comes a soft spot for independent filmmakers. Due to this, they provide the service that if the filmmaker offers a copy of their film, they will add it to the new releases free of charge to help with the promotion of the film.

With the return of Jumbo Video came the return of both filmmakers to their roots, with both owners being initially from the Quinte area. Being back in the Quinte area brought them support and agreement from their families and friends to open the store. One of the

struggles that the store is looking to face this year is clarifying the information about the opening. Google is currently working against them by showing people the old store location and false information. An ad campaign will be launched later this spring to assist in correcting information about the new site and what the store offers. Currently, much of this information is being spread by word of mouth or over social media.

Jumbo Video is located at 318 Front St. in Belleville. The current hours of operation are Wednesdays 12-7, Thursdays 12-7, Fridays 12-8, Saturdays 12-8, and Sundays 12-6, and closed Mondays and Tuesdays. More information can be found at the store’s website <https://jumbovideobelleville.com/>

Gamers come out for a night of food and fun

By Kenzie Friesen

Twenty-sided dice were rolled, laughs were shared, and burgers with drinks were served at the Smokin’ 116 Bistro and Bar’s first ever Dungeons & Dragons game night. Every table in the bistro was filled with teams of four people who were either meeting for the first time, or friends playing in a campaign together.

“I felt like there was a need for some Dungeons & Dragons in this area,” says event organizer Steph Barton, when asked for her inspiration behind the game night.

“I play D&D as well and just love it... D&D itself is getting a lot more popular, and I feel like people were craving for there to be something more, so why not give it to them?”

A Dungeons and Dragons -themed game night was something that Barton had wanted to turn into a reality for a long while but was struggling with finding a place big enough to host such an event, until she reached out to the Smokin’ 116 Bistro & Bar owner, Al Ladhani. Ladhani had also seen a need in for Belleville players of the game to have somewhere to enjoy playing again, and he was more than happy to facilitate the event for the evening.

Tickets for Barton’s attracted more attention than she thought after first announcing the event on Facebook, and successfully managed to sell out of all tickets for the game night more than five days before the ticket sales were meant to end. It was soon decided by both owners and event planner that due to the huge success of their first Dungeons and Dragons event, they would be working on more Dungeons & Dragons -themed events in the future.

“The Smokin’ 116 Bistro & Bar has only been open for about three years, and two of those years COVID took from us. So, it felt like we had to start all over again this year” said bar and bistro owner Ladhani.

The Dungeons and Dragons community in Belleville also had to start all over again since the pandemic had unfortunately been the cause of the closing of the very few places in the city that did offer Dungeons and Dragons -themed events. There was nowhere for players to meet up



Photo by Kenzie Friesen

Tables packed with different Dungeons & Dragons parties filled the Smokin’ 116 Bar & Bistro Sunday after a long break due to the pandemic. The co-owner of the restaurant, Al Ladhani, as well as the event planner, Steph Barton, said they were thrilled by the booming success of the event.

with their game party in person anymore. “Getting to play with people again at a big event like this one almost feels surreal after two years of only playing online,” one happy player said. “There are limitless possibilities with D&D that you can’t get playing any other game,” he said before

quickly going back to playing the game with his party.

“That has to be my favorite part of the event,” says Barton. “I love seeing people make new friends. Even right now as I’m looking out, I can see people who have never met each other before that will

probably become lifelong friends just because of the game. And I think that’s really special.”

The same feeling could be felt all around the bar and bistro that night, as smiles never seemed to fade on the faces of those playing their favourite

fantasy game once again with old and new friends around them. Every table stayed right until closing time that night and agreed that they would be seeing more of each other at any other Dungeons and Dragons event that the future holds.



Photo by Heather Waldron

Vino Noronha of the Not Alone Team Quinte evaluates one of their tiny shelters for Belleville's homeless population. Until the team finds the capital and land to place them permanently, the cabins acquired for their Tiny Shelter initiative will be stored on farmland belonging to a NAT board member.

Tiny Shelters initiative to help homeless

By Heather Waldron

Not Alone Team Quinte, a non-profit grassroots organization, hopes to build 10-20 tiny shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness in Belleville.

The Tiny Shelters initiative is dedicated to ensuring that everyone in the Belleville region has a safe and warm place to call home.

In August 2022, Debbie Pike and Vino Noronha, of The Not Alone Team first approached city council to present the idea of tiny shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Noronha added that they are in conversation with other tiny house initiatives such as Kitchener, Ontario's project called a Better Tent City which currently houses approximately 50 individuals. The Belleville City Council endorsed the project and agreed to fund \$25,000 to put a concept plan together and hire a consultant to help with their organiza-

tion. The project has received letters of support from the MP Ryan Williams, public health, the Enrichment Centre, the Academy of Learning and the Grace Inn Shelter.

"We can do better than having our homeless neighbors in tents," said Noronha.

So far, the Not Alone Team has acquired five cabins with funding from Belleville community members and from faith organizations. They hope to have them up and running by the summer to ensure stability before the coming winter. The cabins are currently stored on the farmland of a NAT board member until they find the capital and land to place the shelters permanently. Noronha says that ideally they would acquire land on the outskirts of the city with a pre-existing building connected to a heating source and plumbing that could be used as a hub for showers and washrooms. The ideal arrangement would be to lease

a space for at least 18 months, however the cabins are portable and can easily be moved with a forklift. The committee is intent on building 10 to 20 insulated and fireproof tiny shelters.

Noronha says that it's an opportunity to get individuals off the street and provide them with stability. The hope is that they will use the opportunity as a stepping stone to move into more permanent housing.

According to a housing rental platform called Zumper.com, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Belleville was \$1,500 as of June 2022, a three per cent increase from the year before.

The Not Alone Team Website states that as of April 2021, 180 individuals in Belleville were experiencing homelessness, 72 of which have been homeless for more than a year. 75.3 per cent of those have reported a mental or physical disability and 67.9 per cent were registered

on the Ontario Disability Support program. The website also explains that 98.8 per cent of respondents to their survey expressed a willingness to do volunteer work on site and 96.3 per cent were willing to pay from their OW/ODSP allowance to cover their program fee.

"So many wonderful people stepped up with so many skillsets: city planners, home builders – all volunteering their time and faith group organizations, financial service people, directors of poverty and homeless organizations," said Noronha.

Noronha added that other than capital and land, there are a few ways that people can help. The team is looking for volunteers who can help with fundraising, with social media and website maintenance.

Tony D'Amato Stotz, the founder of BetterStreet, an organization that consults and helps launch tiny home initiatives across Ontario says that the Not

Alone Team Quinte is a group of people who solve problems and who care about people on the street.

"They're ready to get their hands dirty and they're ready to really get out there and do the work. The steering committee has executive directors of major organizations in Belleville. It has engineers and planners. There is so much professional experience there and when you combine that activist spirit with the skills and diversity. You have a really strong team," Says Stortz

He added: "People are freezing to death right now. A tiny homes project can be rolled out quickly. It's relatively affordable compared to other options and it saves people's lives right now. We have to start saving lives right now."

Donations can be made on their main website <https://www.notalone-teamquinte.com> with a note to direct the funds to the Tiny Shelter project.

Market offers Korean and Japanese fare

By Hunter Middleton

Belleville welcomes Chef Box Plus, a Korean and Japanese market with an official opening on Jan. 20.

After a soft opening in December 2022, the store kicked off its official celebration with warm, ready-to-eat food with samples of foods they carry in store so that customers could sample before they took them home.

In an online interview, they explained that this is one of the unique services they provide. "Sampling is one of our unique approaches to customers that provide unbiased and objective tryout and offer an opportunity to have an experience of new and unique items at Chef Box Plus."

In celebration of its opening, the store is having a sale over the next month, and customers can find deals from now until Feb. 20. The sale also introduces the Chef Box Plus Pay Card, a reloadable payment card that provides customers with an easy way to purchase items within the store. Purchases made with this card come with a 10 percent discount but is currently 15 percent off with the month-long sale.

Chef Box Plus consists of two main parts – the market and the sampling. The market is comprised of drinks, sauces, prepackaged and frozen foods ranging from savoury foods such as curries, ramen, dumplings, and corn-dogs. In contrast to the savoury, they carry many sweet foods like frozen-

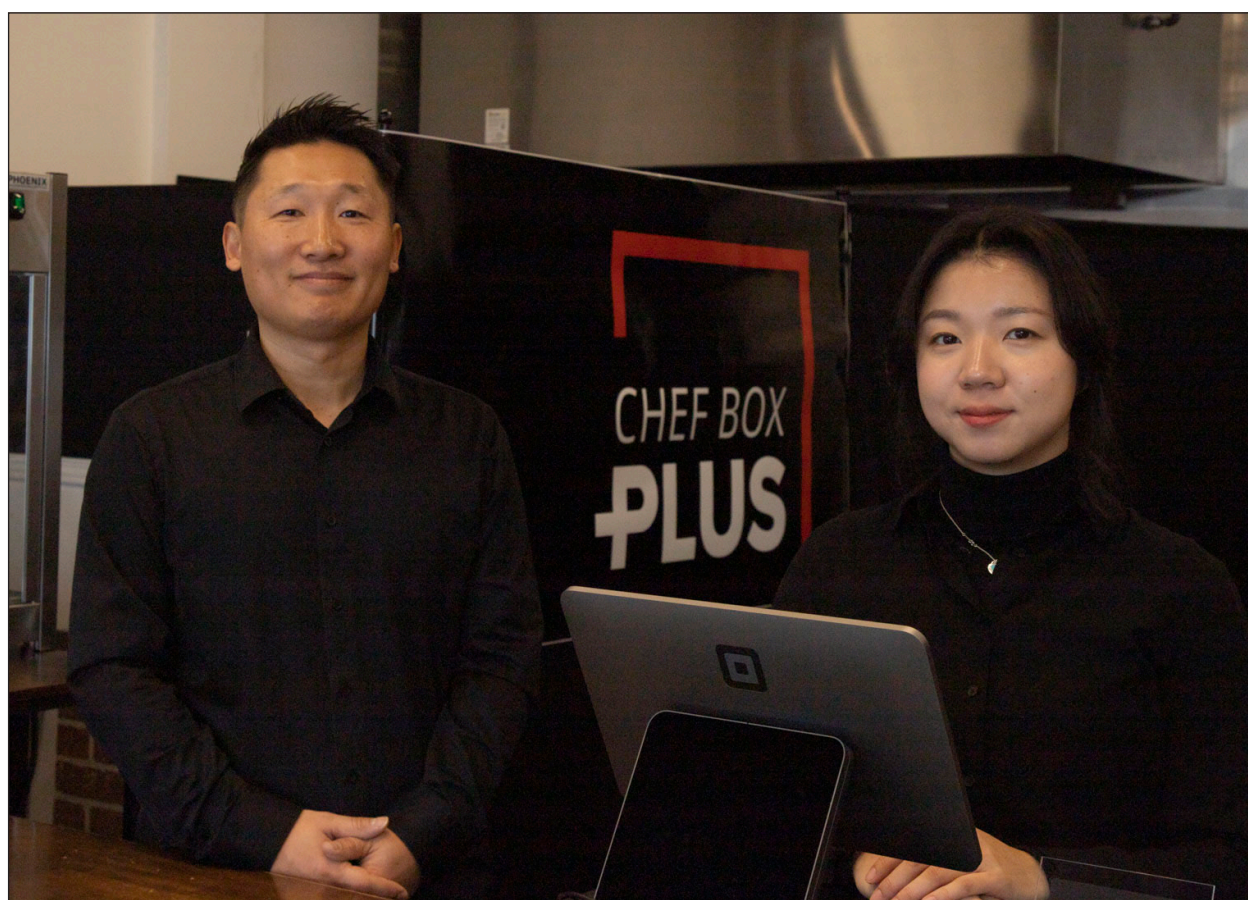


Photo by Hunter Middleton

Two of the three members of management, managers Jim Oh and Hai Yoo, at the grand opening of Chef Box Plus. Chef Box Plus is a store that offers a variety of Japanese and Korean foods.

treats, hard candies, and cookie-type snacks. Many of the products are by the brand Monteur, a well-known Japanese premium brand known for its high quality and delicacy.

The arrival of Chef box Plus didn't go unnoticed, as they received warm welcomes from the community. Doki Doki, a business downtown that has a small section of imported Japanese snacks and drinks, shared their welcome to the new business during the store's soft opening. The news of the reopening has brought positive comments from social media and word of mouth around Belleville, with many urging their friends and neighbours to check out what Chef Box Plus has to offer.

When asked about the reasoning behind opening Chef Box Plus in Belleville, they responded, "All of our members are enthusiasts of Korean and Japanese food. We wanted to run the business that carries items we like and wanted to be involved in the local community to share our joy of eating Korean and Japanese items."

The grand opening was just the first step for the future of Chef Box Plus in the Quinte area. College Street will be the first of many locations they hope open in 2023, with other possible locations in surrounding areas, such as Trenton. Chef Box Plus is located at 94 College Street, west, beside Pizza Nova. Store hours are Closed Sundays, open, 10 am to 8 pm, Monday to Saturday.



Photo by Nav Rahi

(From left) Kristy Dalby and Katie McIntyre are welcoming the residents with jellybean guessing contest at first Winterfest at London Avenue Park, Picton.

First Winterfest for Picton Heights

By Nav Rahi

Winterfest took place at London Avenue Park, Picton for the first time Jan. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The festival was a great success and brought fun and joy to the residents of the Heights area of Picton. Residents from the neighbourhood came out of their homes with their families and children to take part in the pop-up party.

The event was organized by The Department of Illumination, The Baxter Arts Centre, Prince Edward Learning Centre (PELC) and Greater Than County Youth Collective and supported by Picton Recreation Committee, Prince Edward Public Library, Feed Me Love, The County Kids Read and Base31.

Giant puppets were seen roaming around the event the whole time. The puppet performance was managed by The Department of Illumination.

“The idea behind Winterfest was really to create a fun, free, family friendly afternoon for the community here. We do think this community up here is a little bit underserved. So, we really wanted to bring the party to this park that doesn't really see a lot of activity, especially this time of year,” said Krista Dalby, artist director of The Department of Illumination.

“The winter can be very isolating for people and really just an opportunity for people to get out and meet each

other and have some fun,” she added.

Winterfest started with a jellybean-guessing contest by Katie McIntyre, from the Thrive PEC, who was volunteering at the event. A jar full of colourful jellybeans was placed by the entrance. Whoever guessed the closest to the actual number will win all the jellybeans. All the children participated in the contest and the winner will be announced soon.

“It is a great way to be together as a community. So, one of the things we really want to do is support and build relationships together here in the community. Let people meet each other or deepen their relationships and kind of get together and have togetherness, inclusivity and some fun together as well,” said McIntyre.

The very first booth was from Feed Me Love by Chef Andrew Johnston. Johnston warmed up everybody with free hot vegetarian chili and cornbread was offered by Sharon Hart.

“I love doing this stuff, and this is my community and definitely, I am happy to be part of it,” Johnston said.

There were some free fun games for children from Skee-Ball, jigsaw puzzles to Four Up. All the games were really enjoyed by all the kids and free books were provided to the children by the County Kids Read.

“It is to give fun things to do to all the kids up on heights at their own park,” said Debbie Rankin, from the Picton Recreation Committee.



Photo by Nav Rahi

Participants throw a ball on a cardboard Skee-Ball game installed by The Baxter Arts Centre during Winterfest.

“Sometimes one of these gets to be a big hit, and becomes an annual fest,” she added.

After seeing the excitement among all the residents and the great success of the event, it is expected that the other

event would take a place in spring, which was confirmed by the event organizers.

Gritty game for Lancers and Coyotes

By Kenzie Friesen

The intensity between the Loyalist Lancers and the La Cité Coyotes basketball teams began as soon as the first whistle blew in Loyalist College gymnasium last Saturday afternoon.

There was still heat left on the court from the Lancers previous night's game with the Algonquin Wolves, where the Loyalist Lancer's managed to play their best defensive game all season, but fell short to the Wolves by just one point.

This loss however, only seemed to fuel the Lancers as they roared to a start with first year player, Jayden Jack, making a successful jump shot within the first few minutes of the game. The first strong cheers from the crowd encouraged the Lancers to keep it up, as the team was quickly leading the game with a 17 - 7 reading on the scoreboard.

More points were scored by other Lancer members such as Ahmed Ismail, D'Shawn Nicely, and Isa Beckles-Croft, eventually bringing the score up to 22 - 14 within the first ten minutes of the game.

“We're a young team, we have a lot of first-year players, and so we're really learning as we go,” says Kevin McGuire, the head basketball coach for the Loyalist team.

“Each new game is a new experience to try to learn and improve from and add to our games in the future.”

A different kind of energy took over the court as the second quarter of the game began, and the Coyotes became more determined than ever to catch up to the Lancers in the

scores. The two teams scrimmaged with each other until La Cité ended up outscoring the Lancers by the end of the quarter, ending with a close new score of 19 - 18 for the Coyotes.

The heat kept rising until in the third quarter in the game, with the Loyalist Lancers fighting harder than ever to win back the lead. La Cité fought back just as hard again this quarter, and still managed to outscore the Lancers yet again with a final score of 26 - 20.

The fourth quarter of the game was the grittiest, and most suspenseful one yet as both teams gave it all they had before the final buzzer went off. The action began when Jayden Jack made another early and successful layup for his team, and the excitement quickly got the entire audience on their feet and cheering as loud as they could.

This only encouraged the Lancers further, as players D'Shawn Nicely, and Ahmed Ismail also made multiple impressive shots for their team, helping them quickly secure a 83 - 77 win for Loyalist Lancers team.

Pride never left the Lancer coaches face while his team cheered and celebrated their win together on the court.

“We've had a strong first half to the season,” says Kevin McGuire, with a smile on his face.

“What I was the happiest about was that the only games we lost in the first half of the season were to teams that were above us in the standings. We beat all the teams we were supposed to beat, and we were competitive with the teams above us, so I've been very happy this season.”



Jayden Jack of the Loyalist Lancers lines up to take his free throw shots during the third quarter of the Lancers' Saturday night game with the La Cité Coyotes. Jack was able to successfully make both of the shots for his team.

Photo by Kenzie Friesen