



Nathan Rochford

Great outdoors — Lawrence Harvey and Rodney Brown start a fire while ice fishing on the Bay of Quinte Monday. The milder temperatures were great for ice fishermen and the temperature is expected to remain moderate throughout the week.

Loyalist president seeks help for funding facility

City Council asked to help with Loyalist centre

By Clover Raftis

The City of Belleville's budget committee will now consider a \$1-million funding request from Loyalist College.

City council members agreed Monday to send the request to committee after Loyalist College President Maureen Piercy, outlined the need for funding for the college's Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre. The centre is an 110,000-square-foot facility serving students in various science and automotive programs.

Piercy said the funding from the city would assist in equipping the \$22-million project. The college has already received partnership funding from the provincial and federal government, that each contributed \$8.3 million, to the \$22 million project.

"It was great to get council approval to send the project to budget committee and we look forward to discuss it further with them," Piercy said after the meeting.

Councillor Garnet Thompson said he agrees with the need to support local institutions such as Loyalist College.

"This is a vital part of the city of Belleville. We need to realize the value that they are to our community and what they do bring to our community," said Thompson.

"It has a two-fold effect. It brings students in and it also gives the employers here an opportunity to see

first-hand really what they are learning."

The new centre was built for biotechnology and environmental sciences, multi-modal transportation technologies and maintenance; electrical robotics/flexible manufacturing training; power manufacturing and processing; architecture, building sciences and construction/LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building technology. The centre is now in the phase of enhancing the equipment to meet the level of sophistication to make full use of the new facility.

"Many communities support their post-secondary institutions because of how much economic impact the activities from colleges have. Everything from basic literacy to advanced diplomas and training of employed workforce," said Piercy.

"Definitely it has a greater effect in our community," said Thompson, regarding the need for enhancing the centre's equipment. "Because if you can get that technology happening in our community, those employers can almost go and see what's happening right in our community."

"A direct impact would be in recruiting and retaining industry such as Bioniche, Kellogg's, N2Towers and Deloro Stellite," said Piercy.

"Of course then, it keeps those students in our community coming to our community for education" said Thompson.

"It's just so exciting to talk to the students when you go through it, they really are just saying 'It's awesome,'" Piercy said about the new centre.



Adam Jackson

Mayor Neil Ellis looks at Loyalist College President Maureen Piercy as she addresses council Monday night, seeking \$1 million over five years from the City of Belleville. The \$1 million will pay for equipment for the college's new Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre. The request has been referred to the city's budget council for approval.

College welcomes new vice president

Job includes development and recruitment

By Aaron Hinks

Loyalist College's newest vice president says he is looking forward to joining the college's senior management team.

Bill Walsh, current dean of business for Nova Scotia Community College, has accepted the position of vice-president of enrolment management and student services at Loyalist. He will start work March 21.



Bill Walsh

"I've visited the Quinte region and college four or five times in the last year. I'm not very familiar with the area, but I'm ready to learn more," he said in a telephone interview from Nova Scotia.

It will be Walsh's job to direct the development, recruitment, and success strategies aligned with Loyalist's goals.

As the current business dean for NSCC, Walsh's responsibilities involve building programs that will help students acquire the skills needed to gain profit in a very competitive world.

To develop these programs, Walsh used his expertise along with help from faculty and campus management to plan, resource, promote and deliver the best possible programs to meet student needs.

"From my experience, students don't stay in their programs because of financial issues, family issues, or the program is simply not fit for them. Spending time with students is critical in deciding if the program is fit for them."

Walsh has an extensive educational background. Studying at Dalhousie University, he has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, a Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Business Administration, specializing in accounting and finance.

The University of Calgary's Ann Tierney originally accepted the position in December. In January, the college said Tierney would no longer be joining their management team but didn't offer an explanation.

Tierney did not return calls from QNet News.

Kiwanis Club steps back into limelight

By Mariza Dunham Gaspar

Previously faced with an uncertain future, Belleville's Kiwanis Club is working hard to get back on the city's radar.

"There were concerns about the direction of the club, and we weren't certain if we were going to survive," said President Marjorie Buck, the city's former director of recreation and community services.

Buck, a member of Kiwanis International for more than 20 years, is serving her second term as president and is spearheading the revival.

"The biggest thing is we want the community to know that we are still here, that we're helping out the community, raising funds. We need to get a higher profile."

The club had been feeling the pressures of a lack of funding and a steady decrease in membership, ultimately pushing it out of the public eye. However, the Kiwanis Club does not feel these problems alone; service groups are feeling them both

locally and nationally.

According to the 2007 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, Ontario's rate of donation dropped from 90 per cent to 86 per cent in four years. It was the only province with a decreased volunteer rate, from 50 per cent to 47 per cent.

Buck attributed the decreased rate of volunteers in Ontario and Belleville service clubs to the current demands on the working and family lives of community members.

"There are many people in Belleville that are classified as the working poor. There are a lot of people having to hold down two jobs. Concentrating on putting food on the table or heat in the home is more important than committing to be a volunteer or donating," explained Buck.

These trends are evident in the club's move from its own building, and now, the downsizing of rented space on the second floor of the Belleville Recreation Centre on Pinnacle Street.

However, Buck sees the downsiz-

ing as an opportunity.

"That's \$1,000 less that we have to pay in rent, which means it's \$1,000 more that can be put into our community."

The club was to vote Jan. 25 on its next major project. The ideas revolve around revamping old playgrounds or adding a new splash pad beside the skate park, the last project of the Kiwanis Club. It took nearly four years to fund.

The club also continues to be the quiet sponsor of several community events. Members support the annual Quinte Science Fair, many graduation awards and scholarships for elementary and high schools, breakfast clubs, and the Terrific Kids program in 16 public schools in the community.

They also support the Eastern Canada and Caribbean Project of Kiwanis International, a project in conjunction with UNICEF aimed at providing medical services and educating the mothers of children with HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean.

For Armand Quickert, a Kiwanian of 45 years, the club is about more than just the volunteer work. "I enjoy the charity work that we do but I enjoy the fellowship that goes along with it. There is the social aspect to it. It's a good way to meet people in the community and it's just a lot of fun."

However, without volunteers and partnerships, the club and its projects aren't possible. The club has set a target titled "13 x 13," aimed at gaining 13 new members by 2013, its 90th anniversary year.

To make this a reality, the club has added evening meetings for those who cannot make lunch hours and dissolved the "perfect attendance" policy.

Like their neighbouring Kiwanis Clubs of Trenton and Tweed, a website is on the way, and Belleville's own Kiwanis Week will take place in June around the annual chicken barbeque celebration.

"You have to change your club's structure to reflect what's going on

in today's world and I think we're on the right track," said Buck.

After the past five years, there was a decline in volunteers, from 42 in 2005 to the club's current 34, organizers are waiting on three new memberships for this month. One new member, at age 23, will be the youngest member to ever join this branch.

"When I joined over 20 years ago, I was an average Kiwanian, in my 30s," said Buck. "Now, I'm pretty close to being one of the youngest ones there. To have a 23-year-old is quite exciting. I'm hoping to lower the average age of the club."

Buck extends the invitation to join Kiwanis to anyone who has an interest in helping the youth in the community.

The club meets the first, third and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Banquet Centre on Alhambra Square at 12:15 p.m. and the second Monday of every month with a social beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For details, call 613-478-3904.