

On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

Do you feel safe walking around on the ice on campus?



Chris Cook, first-year TV and new media, "I am scared of falling, too many people have hurt themselves on that ice."



Hayden Sharp, second-year protection, security and investigation, "I'm not really worried about ice. If I fall then I fall."



Kaitlyn Packman, second-year, protection, security and investigation, "Ya, I am worried because I've seen people fall and hurt themselves. I don't want to hurt myself."



Cameron Herrema, third-year police foundations, "I'm a little worried because I have fallen a few times already and hurt my tail bone."



Chris Dalbianco, second-year customs and borders, "Not really. It's kind of fun to be honest. I like sliding around but you can tell people are worried. I notice people walking around like my grandmother."



Jade VanderWal, first-year nursing, "Yes I am nervous, considering I have already fallen and gave myself a blood blister."

Editorial

Wind power smart in theory

Wind power is still one of the cleanest and safest methods of energy production. The environmental impact of wind power is minor compared to coal, gas or nuclear. However, political agendas and irresponsible corporate policing has blindfolded us to the dangers of our current sources of energy generation.

Nuclear, while stable, efficient and clean, has the potential to be catastrophic if a disaster occurs. Burning fossil fuels involves extraction, processing and burning, which is not good for the environment from start to finish.

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), in 1998, Ontarians used 140 terawatt-hours of energy, and in 2013, we used 140.07 terawatt-hours. While the yearly fluctuations can range anywhere from negative six per cent to a four per cent increase, in the last 16 years, there has been only a 0.005 per cent increase.

The idea of wind power is smart, innovative and in theory, harmless to the environment. However, the economics of wind power are a conundrum. Currently a lack of storage capabilities means that when the wind blows, the grid must be fed with electricity.

However, the wind doesn't always blow and other sources must be used to meet the demand. These sources include alternate generation methods like nuclear or coal as well as buying power from neighbours like the province of Quebec and New York State.

In an article published by the Canadian Press on Sept. 13 of last year, Ontario has generated a surplus of energy since 2006.

Again, the problem comes back to the lack of storage capabilities. If the wind is turning the turbines, the power that is generated has to be diverted. If the grid is currently at capacity, the energy is often diverted to another province or state and that comes at a cost. That cost has peaked up at upwards to \$200 million in a year to sell excess energy.

Wind power is free to generate and the carbon footprint created to build turbines is recovered quickly.

At Ostrander Point in Prince Edward County, Gilead Power has been trying to build a wind farm but the project has been halted by the vigilant Prince Edward County Field Naturalists. Their arguments are over the wetland that exists there where Blanding's turtles, a species at risk, live, as well as species of frogs and migratory birds that cross Lake Ontario.

Inevitably, we need to move away from archaic forms of energy production. Currently when comparing wind power to other sources, the list of pros and cons looks relatively benign compared to other sources.

Wind is definitely a step in the right direction and citizens need to stop being so short-sighted when comparing the immediate cost versus the long-term benefits of wind. If wind projects are currently inefficient, more research needs to be done to improve the technology.

Why can't turbines be remotely disabled during periods of surplus? Wind projects need a better implementation strategy to become more efficient. If there are many wind farms powering Ontario, the chance of a loss of wind power can be stabilized and we can reduce the amount of power we draw from other sources and perhaps even reduce the excess of energy we create.

Ontario needs to maintain a diversified energy portfolio, but also needs to develop a more thorough energy plan to make wind power more practical.

Christopher King

Student parking lot continues causing problems

It seems that the P10 lot at Loyalist College has increasingly become more impractical and inconvenient for many paying students.

Finding a decent parking spot in the P10 lot on any day has always been a feat in itself. The lack of lines distinguishing each parking spot leaves it a complete mess. Rows upon rows of crooked cars litter the lot and make for plenty of wasted space.

This winter's extreme weather has only amplified the problems students are facing regarding this parking lot. The great amount of ice and the lack of proper lighting on this "temporary lot" have raised safety concerns and now half of the lot has been closed off instead of being properly cleared.

According to Grant Brummell, supervisor of facilities services, the college is saving about \$2,000 a month in plowing costs and there has been an estimated 150 parking spaces lost.

This loss of parking spaces now forces many students to park in lots that are further away and creates much difficulty in this already problematic parking lot.

Proper clearing of this lot from the start may have helped it not get to the extremely slippery state that it's in now. It really seems as though the clearing and upkeep of that lot really is not on any priority list.

The half of the lot that isn't closed has a lot of ice on it as well, and it doesn't seem to get salted often to help with the extreme ice.

The lack of lighting at night is one of the major reasons they have closed off half of the lot, according to Brummell.

That being said, there aren't any lights on the ice-covered half that is still in use. The only light that provides a bit of help at night is one of the lights from the sports field.

The P10 parking lot has been considered a temporary lot for over three years now. It has been a subject of discussion in previous years because of the struggles students face with the delineation of parking spaces as well as the awful potholes in the warmer months.

When will something be done in to make it a proper parking lot?

Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

*Opinion*

Should we be switching off incandescent bulbs for good?

By Suzy Willig

Well, the old trusted incandescent bulbs are now being dimmed. The plan is that by the end of the year, they will be phased out completely.

It seems, though, that the general consensus is that this policy is not a people pleaser. The criticisms range from the actual colour of light produced by the bulbs, to bird care centres being affected by this ban.

Generally, people are being told that LED bulbs and CFLs, or compact fluorescent light bulbs, are the more efficient option.

These CFL bulbs are supposed to last longer than incandescents, making them more efficient, but how is this possible when they contain toxic mercury and are a threat to humans, and can even be fatal to children if a bulb is broken and mercury vapour is released?

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The fact that we're expected to dispose of these CFL bulbs by taking them to a RONA or a household hazardous waste depot is another inconvenient factor, especially because a lot of people don't even take the time to separate garbage from recycling.

pecially because a lot of people don't even take the time to separate garbage from recycling. The Association of Lighting and Mercury recyclers are reporting that 98 per cent are ending up in landfills.

So, instead of being more efficient, we're polluting the earth with toxic mercury.

Even just small factors, such having blue-tinged lighting in your home are a

turn-off. Incandescents were the most natural-coloured bulbs, and that's the way people liked it.

The CFL bulbs also have a poor warm-up time in some situations. For instance, if you have one in your closet, and haven't used it in awhile, it takes a noticeable amount of time to get bright, and they certainly don't thrive in cold temperatures.

CFL bulbs take a considerable amount of time, even up to five minutes to light up after being cold, an issue that incandescent bulbs never had.

Ottawa's Wild Bird Care Centre is also reaching out for help, as incandescent bulbs are a huge asset to them when providing warmth for birds that are injured and recovering.

Mireille Goguen, who works at the centre, has said that the ban came as a shock to them, and they're already running short on the bulbs.

All in all, not a lot of people are happy about this ban. Light bulbs are not only costing us a lot more, but are also giving us unflattering light in our homes.

Pet care important during the winter weather

By Anna Brown

Winter is a fantastic time for dogs, jumping in piles of snow, barking at snowmen, and marking their scent, leaving it for other dogs to discover.

It's not all fun and games. Salt, although good for getting rid of slippery ice, makes dog's feet dry and sore. Washing your dog's feet in lukewarm water when you get home from a walk in the winter can significantly help remove the salt.

"If you live near a pond or lake, be very cautious about letting your rambunctious dog off the leash. Animals can easily fall through the ice, and it is very difficult for them to escape on their own. If you must let your dogs loose near open water, stay with them at all times," says the American Animal

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American Animal Hospital Association

Hospital Association.

If you feel cold, your dog does too. Some breeds are more equipped for winter. For

example, Huskies are a breed equipped for winter weather. With their thick coat and larger size, they are able to regulate their temperature better than smaller dogs like chihuahuas with their short coat and small size.

The American Animal Hospital Association says, "Pets lose most of their body heat from the pads of their feet, their ears, and their respiratory tract."

To ensure your dog is safe in the winter, keep a close eye on them when they're outside. Some signs that they are getting too cold include shivering, whining and anxiety. They may also slow down or stop moving. Look for somewhere warm to get out of the cold, wrapping your dog in a blanket, or giving them something to stand on as they lose most of their heat through their feet.

The Pioneer

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.

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