



Roger Fobister, left, gives square dance lessons during the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's 40th anniversary celebration.

Clinic helps secure benefits

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She is grateful to the staff of the clinic. Lois Medicine came to the clinic three years ago. At the time, she was looking for help obtaining identification.

"This means that there is help here for other people . . . and now I see people on the streets with no ID's and I try to bring them here for help," said Medicine.

"Without ID where are you going to go," said Medicine, who added that it is a big problem for the homeless population of the city.

Richard Atkinson has been a licensed paralegal with Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic for 37 years.

"It really is amazing that we can celebrate this," said Atkinson.

The clinic was established by Legal Aid Ontario to serve people of low-income and to do "poverty law," added Atkinson.

One of the big things that the clinic helps people with is getting them every benefit that they are entitled to under social assistance both provincially and federally.

Atkinson said the range of services offered by the clinic is extensive and the only areas that they don't assist with are in criminal matters and family law.

He said the services the clinic offers are "absolutely vital, there are so many people who are left behind" in navigating the system due to language or literacy skills.

The clinic has assisted thousands of clients to help them keep their housing and obtain necessary benefits since opening in 1978.

Ideas help survive natural disasters

BY HEATHER PEDEN
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The Agora at Lakehead University was filled with excited chatter on Thursday as the 65 high school students taking part in the countrywide Shad program presented their ideas for solving a particular social problem.

Asked to create a product or service that would make Canadian communities more resilient in the face of natural disasters, the students worked in groups and learned how to apply knowledge of science, the arts, and business in a collaborative way.

Mike Dohan, a member of the faculty of business administration at Lakehead, has worked with the Shad students for the last four or five years teaching them about entrepreneurship. He called the problem the students were faced with this year as very unique and important.

"It's something you don't think about during peaceful and quiet times (which means) they have to be that much more creative, these kids are really sharp," said Dohan.

In addressing the problem, the students from across the country worked together in groups coming up with ideas such as a portable easy-to-build home, no bigger than a

small room, that can be installed in an emergency to house people affected by disaster. Another used drone technology for search and rescue, while other groups came up with early warning systems and apps for connecting with help.

Ivy Deng and Hank Kohn, both from Toronto and heading into Grade 11, worked in a team of 10 to develop an app to address two problems they discovered during their research, lack of communication between the government and citizens for efficient evacuation, and connecting those who need help with those who can provide it.

"After the natural disaster a lot of Canadians were willing to help others and reach out to their communities, however they lacked the centralized hub of linking themselves to people who needed the help, so we created an app to solve both these problems," said Deng.

Kohn described their app as focusing on the before, during, and after phases of the natural disaster, getting the information about being prepared, helping people find alternate routes of evacuation, and connecting those who need help with those who are offering help.

The month-long Shad program wrapped up on Thursday and students flew home on Friday.



From left, Ivy Deng and Hank Kohn talk about their project with Mike Dohan.

Moose hunting violators punished with fines

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Two southern Ontario men have been fined thousands of dollars for moose-hunting violations.

On Oct. 23, 2017, conservation officers were conducting a moose decoy operation in the Red Lake area and observed Terry Petropoulos of Markham, Ont., hunting alone.

Petropoulos noticed the moose decoy and

while standing on the road, fired once across the lane of traffic at the decoy.

He did not have a bull moose licence and was only licenced to hunt calf moose. He was also found to be more than 11 kilometres away from other members of his hunting party, who had the bull moose tag.

Petropoulos pleaded guilty on July 18 in a Red Lake courtroom and was fined \$2,500 for hunting a bull moose without a licence, \$1,200

for shooting across a roadway and \$500 for allowing a moose to become unsuitable for human consumption.

He also is suspended from hunting for one year.

Another member of Petropoulos' hunting party, Leo Cossetto of Newmarket, Ont., was inspected later that day and conservation officers found he had harvested a cow moose earlier that week and placed his game seal on that

moose.

He was still continuing to hunt moose with other members of his group but was more than five kilometres away from the other members of that hunting group.

The cow moose had also become unsuitable for human consumption as proper precautions in handling the moose were not taken.

Cossetto pleaded guilty to hunting without a licence and was fined \$1,000.

Basic income pilot 'quite expensive'

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"So I'll be working with my colleagues . . . in making sure that we have an ability to integrate people back into the workforce where they can and making sure that they keep more money in their pockets."

The minister would not say how much the change was expected to cost. "This decision isn't about saving money, this decision is about fixing a broken system," she said.

The province will also wind down Ontario's basic income pilot project, which provided payments to 4,000 low-income people in communities including Hamilton, Brantford, Thunder Bay and Lindsay. Single participants receive up to \$16,989 a year while couples receive up to \$24,027, less 50 per cent of any earned income.

Asked how the government determined the pilot was ineffective before it was over, MacLeod simply said the program was "not doing what it's intended to do and it's quite expensive."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said the government's plan was "appalling" and would push people who were already struggling into deeper poverty.

"Mr. Ford's attack on low-income people is disgusting," the Opposition leader said in a statement. "And cancelling the unfinished and promising basic income pilot project is a waste and a shame."

The announcement was also panned by Green party Leader Mike Schreiner, who said assistance rates were too low even with the increase promised by the Liberals.

"They (the Tories) certainly seem more interested in tearing things down than building things up," he said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's Children, Community and Social Services Minister Lisa Macleod, seated on the chair turned sideways, attends Question Period at Queen's Park in Toronto on Tuesday.



THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL/BRENT LINTON

From left, Carley Pope, a PhD candidate at Lakehead University, poses for a photograph with Andrea Swinton, chief executive officer for Mental Health Research Canada. Pope spoke about the research for her thesis on postpartum depression on Tuesday at the university.

Study recruiting subjects

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"Mindfulness is characterized as paying attention to moment-to-moment present experiences in a purposeful and non-judgemental way."

Research has found that higher dispositional mindfulness is associated with better physical and mental health outcomes.

Pope is supervised by Dr. Dwight Mazmanian and has been conducting this research in two phases.

Phase 1 evaluates the association between a mother's dispositional mindfulness and their resiliency. It also considers quality of life and well-being using an online questionnaire format.

Phase 2 uses a randomized control study to investigate a community-based perinatal mindfulness program. The

question: Could mindfulness skills support a mother's resiliency to stress, and improve quality of life and well-being?

Data collection for phase 1 has recently been completed and Pope looks forward to sharing the results once they become available. Pope is recruiting participants for the community-based perinatal program she is investigating.

Recruitment is planned to end in December, at which time Pope will continue to follow the participants in the study until they are at 12 weeks postpartum to determine the potential benefits of the program.

"I would like to thank Mental Health Research Canada for supporting my training through the studentship they awarded me," Pope said. "I am especially grateful as this

funding allows me to pursue an ambitious research project that has potential implications for pregnant women both in Northern Ontario and globally."

Andrea Swinton, chief executive officer at Mental Health Research Canada, travelled to Thunder Bay for the research update.

"Mental Health Research Canada is proud to support researchers like Carley Pope, who moves the dial on maternal mental health," Swinton said. "Her work brings promise to new mothers facing mental health challenges, their children and the communities around them. We look forward to continuing to advance the work of this emerging researcher, and others, who work towards a Canada with the best mental health for all."

Driver dies as vehicle rolls into ditch

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Police are investigating a collision that claimed the life of a southern Ontario man on Monday.

OPP responded to a crash involving one vehicle on Highway 17 around 8:15 p.m., about 30 kilometres west of Ignace.

A westbound tractor trailer left the roadway, rolled and came to rest in the ditch.

Paramedics and volunteer fire crews from Ignace attended the crash scene.

The driver, 55-year-old James Duchene of Aylmer, Ont., was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash is still under investigation.

Fire hazard remained high to extreme

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

There were six new wildfires in the Northwest region by the early evening of Tuesday, said Ontario fire officials.

As of that time, there were 103 active fires in the region, 23 of which were not under control.

The fire hazard was extreme in the Kenora, Dryden and Fort Frances Districts and high in the Thunder Bay and north shore areas of the Nipigon Districts.

Conditions in the Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts range from a low hazard in the far north to moderate and high towards the south.

A weather system moving through the region is expected to provide some relief to the escalated forest fire hazard.