



Photo by Alex Lupul

Evening blaze

A group of onlookers watch as a house fire is extinguished on 4th Street in Deseronto on Nov. 17. Deseronto, Mohawk and Napanee fire departments were called to the site shortly before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, with no injuries being reported.

Flu shots tough to acquire

By Alex Bowman

With COVID-19 still looming over our everyday lives, many await the promised vaccine to put an end to the thousands of deaths in our country. But there is another vaccine that is also more important than ever this season: the flu shot.

Since the province recently announced that the seasonal flu vaccine be administered by online appointment only to reduce COVID-19 exposure, this leaves those without internet access in the dark.

One such demographic that will be hugely impacted by this decision is the homeless.

With many homeless individuals living without access to the internet, they will not have the same access to the flu shot others in the community have.

However, this is not the only barrier the homeless face this flu season. With the recent reports that flu shot supplies cannot meet demand, this provides yet another barrier to this community.

“Our guests don’t really tune into the news or social media, so it is likely they don’t even know there is a shortage. This is just another barrier for them,” says Allison Alexiou, who works at one of the many homeless shelters downtown Toronto.

In the past couple of months, the province had made an effort to provide mobile clinics to homeless shelters for COVID-19 testing, leaving hope they would provide flu shot clinics as well.

“Although we have had mobile clinics come to our shelter to provide COVID-19 testing outside to make it more accessible to

our guests, I haven’t heard anyone mention the flu shot at all.”

According to an article written in The Washington Post by Carmen Heredia Rodriguez in 2018, since the homeless population visits overcrowded shelters each day, and have access to fewer resources, they are at a higher risk for illness.

A study completed in Toronto by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, found that out of 75 participants, only 6.7 per cent had received vaccinations in the previous year. Research in New York showed that just 25 per cent of homeless participants had received the flu shot, also noting that the flu or flu-like illness was the cause of death for 3.4 per cent of homeless individuals in the city.

With health officials like Dr. Samantha Hill, president of the Ontario Medical As-

sociation, urging everyone in a CTV News article to get their flu shot this year as to not overwhelm hospitals with flu patients during the pandemic, and with the homeless community being at a higher risk – we need everyone to have access to this vaccine.

“ERs and hospitals are usually overrun in the winter with flu, so they are hoping more people would get immunized in order to cut those numbers down,” says Jennifer Haller, Student Life campus nurse at Loyalist College.

According to Haller, based on what she has read, the province only orders so many shots based on the amount of people who received them the previous year.

“With the pandemic, more people have been encouraged to get them so that hospitals can focus their attention on the surge of CO-

VID patients, not COVID and flu patients.”

With this information rapidly circulating, many pharmacies have cancelled all flu shot appointments due to a province-wide supply issue.

But according to Haller, it seems that the ministry is stating that there is not a supply shortage at all. However, that is not the case for many communities in Ontario.

Some pharmacies like Remedy’sRx in Bowmanville, must continuously update their Instagram and social media accounts to let people know when they have received a new batch of flu shots, and when they have run out.

Watching the madness unfold around the flu shot this season, one can only imagine what it will be like when and if, we finally get our hands on a COVID-19 vaccination.

Business booming for young entrepreneur

By Alex Bowman

With one arm resting on the arm of his parents’ new gray couch and the other around his Rottweiler dog Stella, he looks out the back window, the sunlight just blanketing his black hair, round-stubbed face, and eyeglasses.

“After high school, I had absolutely no clue what I wanted to do, I was lost,” recounted Ryan Forde, in his distinct bass tone.

Standing at six feet five inches tall at the age of 24, Forde took up almost two couch cushions in his parents’ living room, sitting tall in his black track pants and grey tee.

“Growing up my dream job was similar to many other kids... firefighting.”

Looking at Forde, he is the picture-perfect firefighter, exactly what you would imagine. Tall, wide and rugged, he may present as a stereotypical tough guy, but on the inside, he is caring and incredibly passionate about his work.

“Ryan gives his all when he sets his mind to something, especially if it’s something he is passionate about. He will commit one hundred percent,” said his older sister Kaitlyn Forde, dotingly.

“Ryan is always worried about making everyone else in his life happy and is always putting others before himself. It’s a double-edged sword for him because he doesn’t always put himself first.”

Forde represents a lot of young adults who follow a pathway through university or college, and then change their minds, exiting post-secondary. Whether the educational experience was tough, or they still have some growing up to do, the path to finding yourself can be extremely tenuous.

As a kid growing up in the small town of Bowmanville, Forde was able to make



Photo by Alex Bowman

Ryan Forde, 24, from Bowmanville, stands in front of his freshly cleaned Dodge Ram alongside some of his car detailing supplies, in Bowmanville.

friends that he has kept to this day and was raised by two strong, goal-driven parents – living quite the happy life.

With his parents being his childhood heroes, especially his father, who has run his own business since Ryan was young, Forde was lucky enough to have the answers to a lot of questions he had about pursuing his own dreams.

But after leaving high school, taking courses that would guarantee an easy pass, Forde attended Durham College, in the pre-service firefighting program.

“This program was considered paramilitary and was extremely strict. That means uniforms, polished boots, tucked shirt, and straight posture. Each day had two exams and if you failed a practical exam twice, you were removed from the program.”

Struggling with anxiety and his stressful program, Forde left college, landed a steady job installing appliances for General Electric and simultaneously began his path towards his true passion.

“I am very passionate about car detailing. This line of work most definitely gets

me excited and I never lose interest while doing it.”

Starting his own mini business out of his house this past summer, called Friends and Family Detailing, he began to offer his services on a Facebook group he created. Within the first two weeks, Forde had over 12 cars to work on and the word of mouth spread like wildfire.

Since he had been practicing detailing on his own car for years, teaching himself everything there possibly is to know, he realized his calling was right under his nose

all along.

“I enjoy transforming cars and putting smiles on others’ faces.”

With his friends describing him as very caring, the six-foot teddy bear agrees, expressing how truly happy he is to see the smiles on his customers’ faces.

“I have a very big heart. I care for everybody and would give the shirt off my back to anyone.”

Scrolling through his phone, he brings up his Facebook group. There are countless transformation photos and videos of the before and after results.

Watching as a vacuum wand scrapes the seat of a dark coloured driver’s seat, sucking up the brown water and turning the chair back to a light grey, puts a beaming smile on his face and that he says is oddly satisfying.

Although opening a business during the COVID-19 pandemic may seem like a bad idea, Forde explained it was quite the opposite. With everyone having more time on their hands and it becoming common practice to clean your belongings and stay sanitized, business has been booming.

Even if COVID-19 didn’t bring many challenges, Forde faces other challenges – starting a small business as a young adult living at home.

“Opening a small business as a young adult is difficult but can be easily achieved with hard work and the right mindset.”

Knowing the risk of opening an external shop during the winter season and without statistics on how well he would do, he has decided to postpone his grand opening for the spring of 2021, naming his new business Driven by Detail.

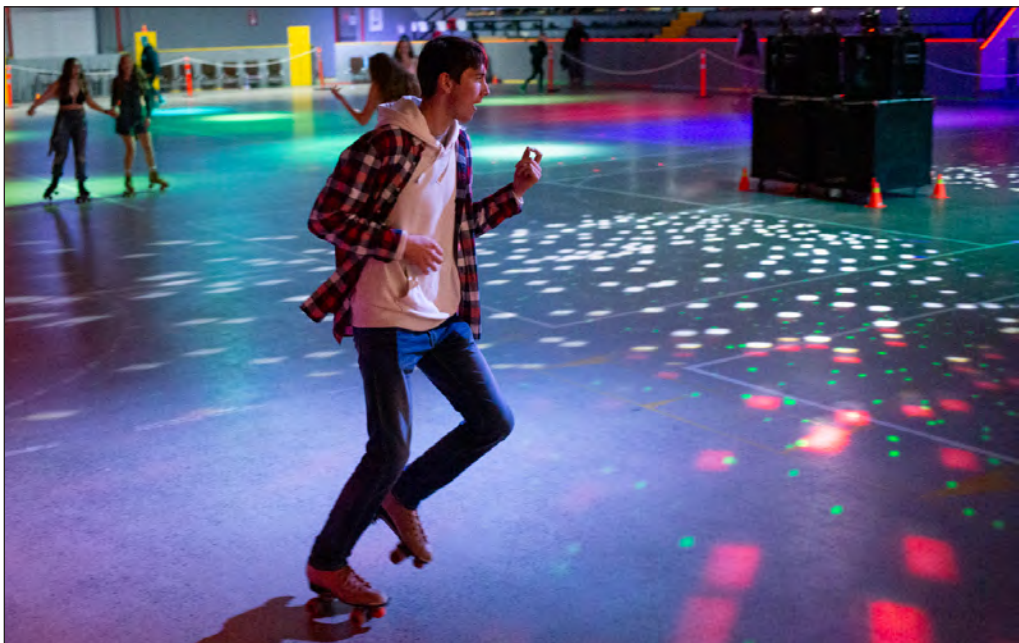
With his drive, passion for business and his caring nature, it’s hard to imagine his business won’t succeed.



Anna Davydova walks in Kensington Market in Toronto. She turns around to look at the bubbles blowing outside of "Dancing Days" retail store.

Photo by Paige White

(Editor's Note): This week, as part of their Introduction to Photojournalism Course, our first-semester students were tasked with finding interesting photos using man-made artificial light sources as the dominant light source. Here are some of their efforts.

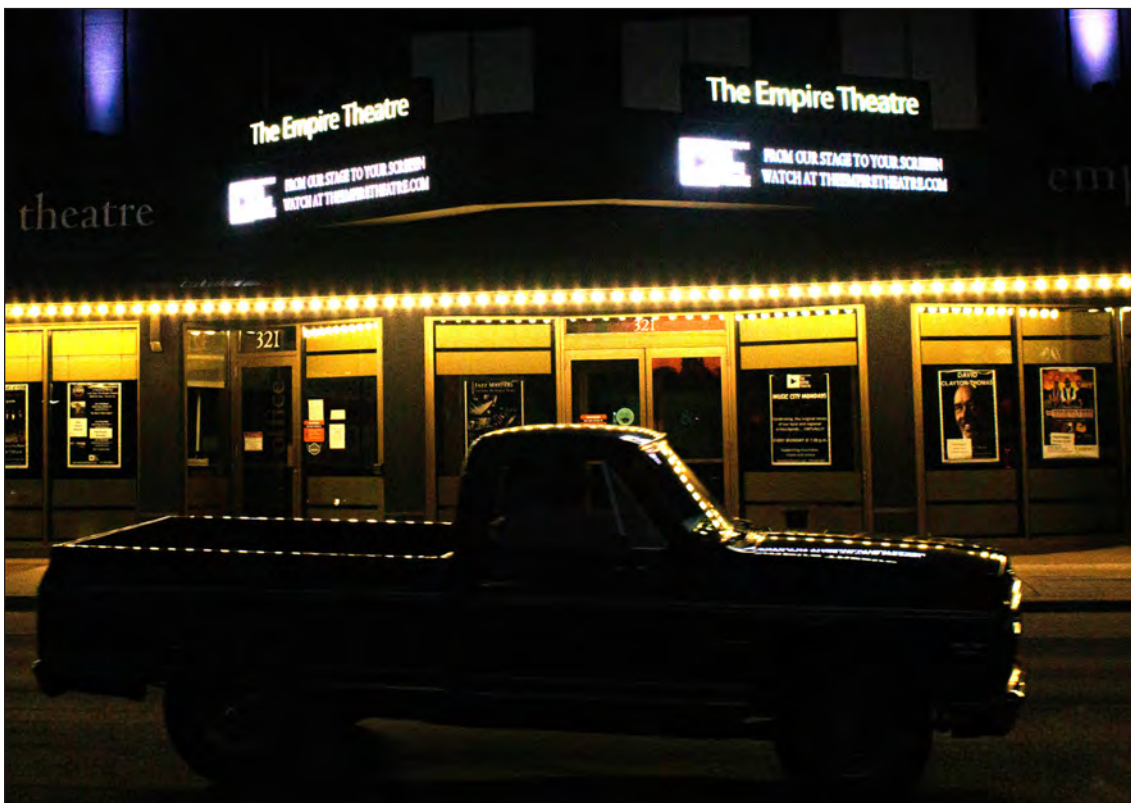
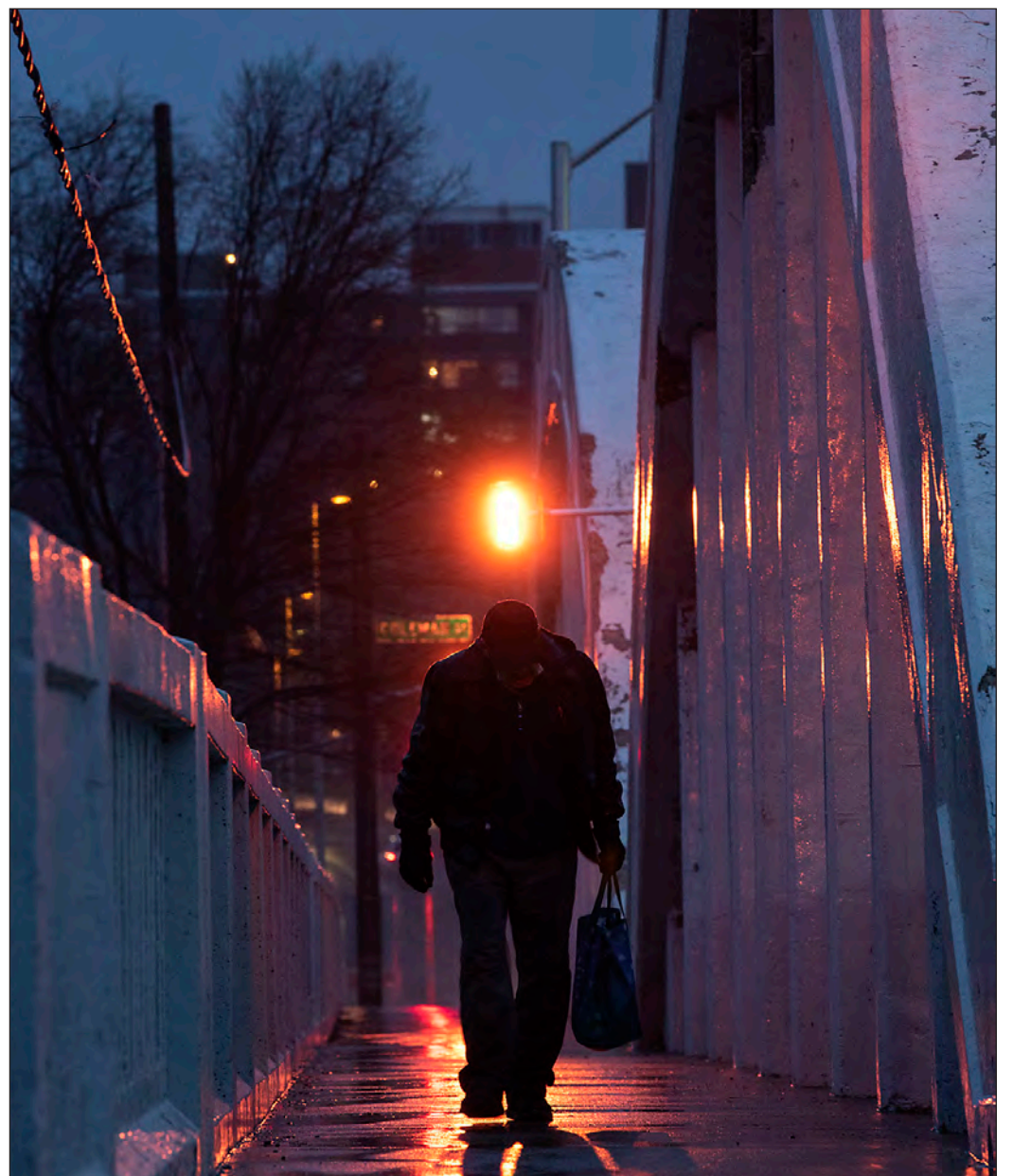


(Above) Disco Ball Events roller rink crew works hard to make the area at the Lennox Agricultural Memorial Centre the new place "to blow off steam while enjoying great DJ tunes and the Disco lights" during the uncertainty of the second wave of COVID-19 in Ontario. Open every weekend, and adhering to public health guidelines, organizers say it is their mission to bring some fun and hope back to the community.

Photo by Christie Leja

(Right) A man walks along Bridge Street East in Belleville during a sudden downpour earlier this month.

Photo by Alex Lupul



(Above) The building that hosts the Empire Theatre has had an on again, off again relationship with being a theatre. Although the doors might be closed for COVID-19, the shows still go on, online. The Empire Theatre is another small business adapting to socially distant guidelines.

Photo by Calder Sidley



(Right) Even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Toronto's Chinatown is still in full force with its storefront markets. Mimicking China's own outdoor markets even more now, people can be found with masks and gloves on while going through the produce at storefronts, which have remained open as essential services within the city's downtown.

Photo by Luke Best