



Photo by Paige White

Lockdown showdown

Police officers and health officials leave Park Provisioners Barbershop & Haberdashery on Front Street after the store reopened despite Ontario's COVID-19 lockdown. The re-opening came after store owner Kyle Thomson posted a video to Facebook saying he would open on Wednesday regardless of current restrictions. Within the first half an hour of opening, Belleville Police fined Kyle Thomson \$750 for failure to comply with an order made during a declared emergency. Park Provisioners was also issued a temporary closure order by Hastings Prince Edward Public Health. A small group of patrons gathered to shop and support Park Provisioners.

Businesses find ways to survive

Pandemic restrictions result in many changes to business operations

By Daniel Geleyn

Ten months of pandemic restrictions have produced significant changes to many businesses as they have had to change the way they are delivering their wares and services.

"The pandemic has affected everyone and business has certainly not been im-

mune," says Jill Raycroft, CEO of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce.

"It is also clear how valuable small business is to the economy as the government has put billions of dollars into replacing what usually comes from business owners' pockets, from wages to rent," adds Raycroft.

The changes required to adapt during this pandemic have affected every business but not necessarily equally.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has not affected businesses equally, it can be a case of thrive or survive depending on the

sector and the ability of the company to implement change," says Suzanne Andrews, CEO at the Quinte West Chamber of Commerce.

But there are no questions that adapting to this new reality has been a challenge for all of them.

"While we all support the need to keep each other safe, small business owners have a long list of things to do to ensure they don't contribute to the spread," says Raycroft. But she is also quick to add that "there is little evidence to support shopping in a small store or eating in a restaur-

ant puts you at risk. None of our cases locally have been attributed to these situations."

The efforts by many local governments to get residents to shop locally appears to be working, according to some of the businesses we visited. In addition, putting their businesses online was also a significant factor for success for many of them.

Here is a look at some of those businesses, in the areas covered by our second-year photojournalism students, and some comments on how they have navigated these difficult times.

David Dossett has been the owner of Martello Alley in downtown Kingston since July 2015. His unique store, located in the back of an alley, features art from local artists. "The shutdowns definitely affected us as most people want to see the pieces of art before they buy," he says. But he adds that he had a very successful summer in 2020. Most tourists that summer were from close to Kingston and buying from local artists was very important to them.

...See Businesses, page 5

Belleville council seat remains unfilled

By James McAlpine

Belleville city council voted 5-3 Wednesday afternoon to refuse formal acceptance of a report recommending the appointment of a new councillor to fill a vacant council seat.

The position became vacant after the passing of Councillor Pat Culhane in November.

The report was created by a committee consisting of seven voting members, including Councillor Kelly McCaw, and six community members including Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan, Cory MacKay, Dr. Julie Gowthorpe, Tracy Wright, Stacey Love and Sydney Jarvis.

The aim of the report was to identify possible appointees for the council seat that, in addition to meeting the high expectations of the Belleville constituency in character and ability, would also increase diversity on the council to include more women and minority representation.

The Ontario Municipal Act allows for multiple solutions to a council vacancy, including appointments of this nature, although how common it is varies from municipality to municipality.

One solution that has been undertaken by council previously, in response to the loss of a councillor, is to appoint the individual who received the next highest number of votes in the last municipal election. In this case, Belleville resident Tyler Allsopp was the council runner-up, as the next highest vote-getter and would become the new councillor. A third option is to hold a by-election for eligible candidates.

Mayor Mitch Panciuk expressed gratitude to the 19 applicants in the report who applied for the council appointment

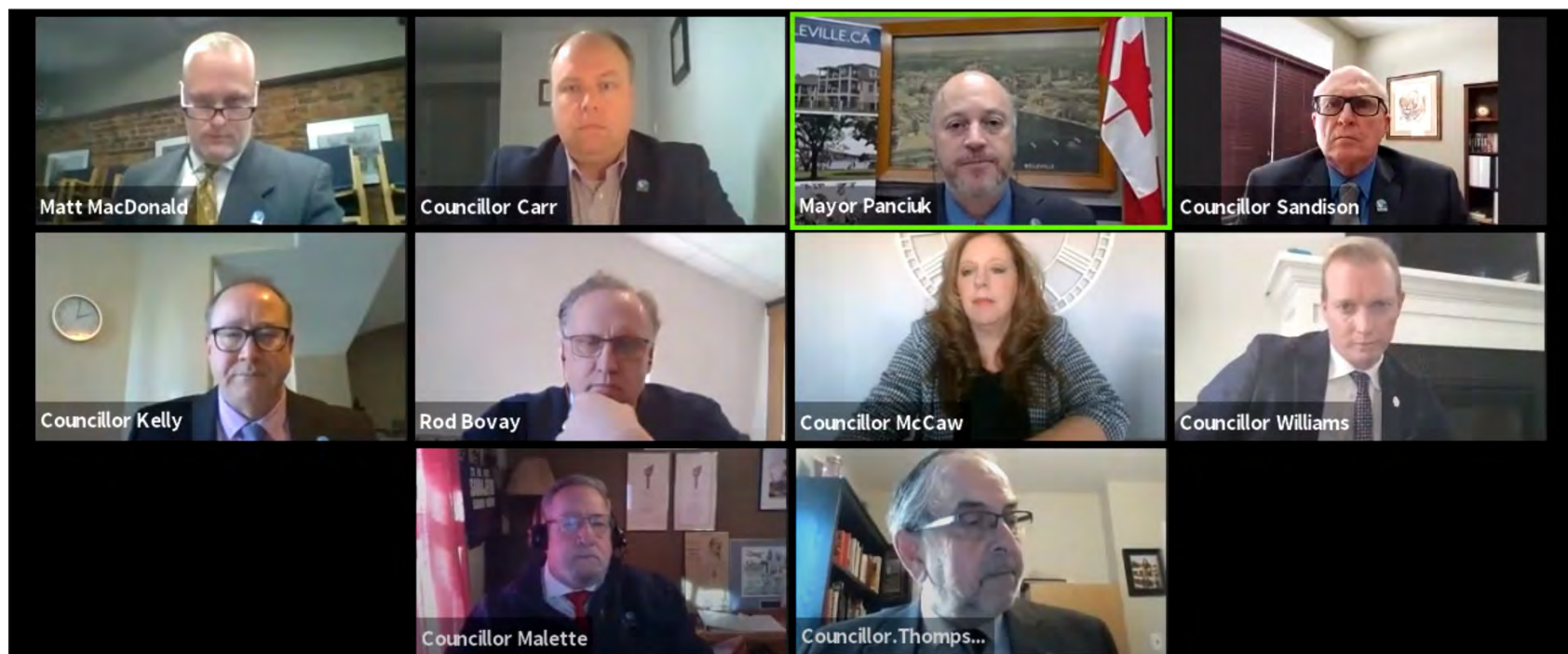


Photo by James McAlpine

The Belleville City Council, after commissioning a committee to evaluate possible appointees to replace the late Pat Culhane, has voted 5-3 to not receive the committee's report - and will have to come to a decision Monday on the vacancy.

position, and some words of regret as numerous other members of the community, whom he did not name, had come to him to say that they had been intimidated, or otherwise, from applying.

"Public service is an honour, and it's a privilege, and I know it is a goal for each of us to have more of our residents participate," said Panciuk. "I also want to recognize the courage it took for all of these applicants to come forward."

"It is unacceptable behavior to intimidate, or as I understand the term, now

is 'dox' and bully in order to discourage qualified individuals from submitting applications. I have been told by some that they would have applied, but for this behaviour. And, we even have seen some applicants withdraw from the process. Some who were never even going to apply were accused of already having been selected, and were contacted at their workplace with 'heavy suggestions' that they should not seek this position.

"We are the friendly city, and we are an inclusive community where

there is respect for different points of view," said Panciuk. "I recognize the sharp divide between what many consider proper representation on the one hand, and the results of the previous election on the other."

Besides Panciuk, no other members of council made statements at the meeting about the matter before them.

With the proposal to formally accept the report being rejected 5-3 (councillors Sean Kelly, Chris Malette, Garnet Thompson, Ryan Williams, Paul Carr opposed its

acceptance, and Bill Sandison, Kelly McCaw, Mitch Panciuk supported receiving it), the decision now moves to a meeting on Monday for a decision to be made in regard to the empty seat. That meeting is now just outside the time frame allotted by the Municipal Act for the council to come to a decision about the vacancy.

The entirety of Panciuk's speech is available on the Belleville City Hall YouTube channel, as part of the 24-minute long meeting, and provides more nuance to some of the finer points of the topic.



Photos by Daniel Geleyn

The McMullen Manor in Verona, a 28 single-bedroom apartment complex, was gutted by fire on Jan. 7. The communities of Verona, South Frontenac, Kingston and beyond all responded overwhelmingly to support those who lost everything, including support from the Verona Free Methodist Church.

Community comes together to help Verona fire victims

By Daniel Geleyn

Community members from the small south Frontenac community of Verona demonstrated their compassion as they rallied together to help residents who lost everything in a tragic fire on Jan. 7.

At about 10 p.m. that evening, a fire broke out in the McMullen Manor apartment complex in Verona. The complex had 28 one-bedroom units and was home to about 30 residents. Fortunately, there was no loss of human life, thanks to smoke alarms in the building which alerted residents.

Three of the residents of the complex were also members of the Verona Free Methodist Church, less than 100 metres away.

"One of them texted me and said my house is on fire," says Pastor Kathy Casement. "That's all I got so I phoned 911 to confirm the extent and found out the whole building was indeed in flames."

The pastor then started making calls to her members for help. Within minutes, members of the congregation had opened the church and informed the authorities that the victims could use their facilities. Kielo Carlson, a member of the congregation since 2011, said "There was no one here when I arrived but then the emergency people started directing the residents to the church, so they started coming in."

The residents were offered warm and cold drinks and snacks. Most of them were in a state of shock, many of them still wearing their pyjamas.

"I've been running a clothing store called Style Revival where I provide clothing for free in the basement of the church since 2012," says Carlson. "I took many of those residents to our store so they could at least get some clothes."

By the early hours of the next morning, all the residents were able to either stay with friends or family in nearby communities, or they were lodged in a Kingston hotel co-ordinated by the Kingston Frontenac

'Thank goodness that the church and the community association were there. It makes me feel very happy to be part of such a caring community.'

Resident Susanne Casement

Housing Corporation.

"We stayed until all the residents were safely placed and were able to close the church at about 2:30 in the morning," says Casement.

The Verona Community Association stepped up the next morning and used the cooking facilities at the Free Methodist Church to provide meals for the emergency people working at the scene all day Friday and Saturday. "The food was all donated by local stores and restaurants," says Casement.

The news of the fire spread quickly and donations to help the people who lost everything in the fire started coming in.

"We started getting donations from people as far away as Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa," says Carlson.

They received so much that they had to divert the donated items to other neighbouring communities which also became overwhelmed with all the items being donated. More than a week later, they still have large bags of unopened donations filling the basement of the church.

Susanne Casement, a long-time resident of Verona who found out about the fire the next morning, was inspired by the outpouring of support from her community. "Thank goodness that the church and the community association were there," she says. "It makes me feel very happy to be part of such a caring community."



Kielo Carlson, a member of the Free Methodist Church, opened her business, Style Renewal, to help victims of the fire in Verona. Her clothing store accepts donations and provides its products free of charge for anyone who needs it.

Curbside pickup one way to make sales safe

By Madison Ladouceur

With the growing number of new coronavirus cases in Canada, many Ontario businesses are struggling with the new stay-at-home order issued on Thursday, Jan. 14.

Many establishments have been moved to curbside pickup and online order pickups at their stores, not allowing customers to enter the storefront.

For the millions of big box company workers, these times have posed a lot of changes for them as well as customers, in terms of how things operate in their regular workdays. In Belleville, over half of the "non-essential" businesses have gone into curbside pickup due to the pandemic.

Best Buy Manager Nicole Ausken recently discussed the process of how access has been limited in stores when the second lockdown

'In the next few months, it would be great to open up again, but it'll need to be done slowly and step by step to ensure the safety of staff and customers.'

Best Buy Manager Nicole Ausken

started.

"Limiting store access happened in steps as well. Usually only allowing two customers per one employee into the building, always making sure there is enough room for physi-

cal distancing. It has since gone to curbside."

Since the second lockdown, most businesses are seeing more customers than the first lockdown because it is believed people have a better understanding this time around about the options to either shop local, and the new options to order online or to do curbside pickups.

Ausken said reopening to the public is the main goal, but making sure it is done safely for everyone.

"In the next few months, it would be great to open up again, but it'll need to be done slowly and step by step to ensure the safety of staff and customers."

In other stores, the environment seems to have changed. There's no doubt that we are not all used to this new normal, but along with people staying at home, the people who are still working have to endure the

new normal in their workplaces. Most businesses have been doing the same as Best Buy, regarding having their customers order online and even have the option for curbside pickup.

It seems as though ordering online and picking products up through a company's curbside option has become our new normal for bigger companies. As well as many small businesses, those options have become the safest way to get products from stores, without risking the health of others during these times.

Erin, an employee from Toys "R" Us in Belleville, who asked not to release her last name, said the store has had to change its ways of working to online and curbside pickups again from the first lockdown.

"We've been able to transition to online and in-store pickups, so we've been able to

transition pretty good into doing that. But as soon as they say that we are able to open up, we will be ready for them."

Erin said store employees have received more customers after adding on the Babies' "R" Us portion of their store, and more people have been utilizing the products more often, as well as customers utilizing the curbside pickups and online options.

"There's definitely more than it was last time, because we have Babies 'R' Us as well, so it's like the baby stuff seems to be going pretty well!"

With the pandemic seeming to not be slowing down anytime soon, could curbside be the new normal? Could not seeing the inside of a store be our new normal? If people wear masks, and socially distance, maybe someday things will go back to normal.



Photo by Madison Ladouceur

Andrew Wright, a Hastings Housing employee at Youth Habilitation Quinte in downtown Belleville. Wright is a Loyalist College graduate from the social service worker program. He did his placement at Youthab before getting a job there in August.

Reaching out to young people mandate of organization

By Madison Ladouceur

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, the number of children and young adults struggling with mental health is at a staggering 10 to 20 per cent in Canada.

Approximately one in five children in Ontario alone is struggling. Along with mental health, the numbers are rising for youth homelessness in Canada. In one year, over 35,000 Canadians between 16 and 25 experience homelessness and the numbers have only been rising more due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

Youth Habilitation Quinte is one

of many organizations that is determined to help any youth in Belleville who needs it. Youthab works alongside some other organizations that hold events like the free lunches at different churches around Belleville. The primary areas within the organization are mental health services and the Housing Resource Centre.

Andrew Wright, a graduate of the social service worker (SSW) program at Loyalist College, is currently working at the Youth Habilitation Quinte after completing his second placement there. Wright explained Youthab and what the organization has to offer.

"What we do at Youthab, is we offer a few different services here that help people in the community. So, one half would be the mental health services that we offer. So we have a whole bunch of mental health therapists on staff, people who help with addictions, and then what I do in our section is the Hasting Housing Resource Centre. Our goal is to house as many people in different situations."

Wright said that even during the pandemic, Youthab staff members still see a lot of people coming for help, despite there being less in-person contact. With everything going on, they are meeting with a lot more clients over the phone

than in previous years.

"It's been a bit different this year I would say, than it usually is. We obviously don't have as many walk-ins, clients, anymore. We will still get people just coming up to the door, but usually, we kind of get them set up with something immediate right away then make a follow-up appointment. We are seeing less foot traffic, but we are still seeing a good amount of people."

Youthab is connected to various companies and organizations in different fields of mental health, addiction and many more. For example, in Wright's area of Youthab, to help youth find appropriate

housing, they gather the resources from different landlords, rental sites and postings to find a home that meets the needs of the person at hand. They also help with trying to find jobs.

In all, Youthab has presented itself as a strong organization that stands to help youth in need of a hand in the right direction. They have also proven that even during a pandemic, where numbers are the highest for youth struggling with mental health and homelessness, they are still standing strong, ready to help anyone who needs it.

A little glimmer of hope for some people in these truly dark times.

Loyalist College services help students stay connected

By James McAlpine

Mental health is a difficult thing to manage and deal with, even during the best of times, and right now, we find ourselves in an unprecedented time -- creating unprecedented types of issues especially for students here at Loyalist College.

Many of the things we can do to try to help ourselves and our mental health, such as finding healthy ways of coping and managing stress, can become difficult when we lose sight of what we need to do to accomplish those goals. Or there can be more challenges, if there are issues with accessibility to services, or if the process seems unmanageable.

Head of Student Services Aaron Doupe and his team at Loyalist College work very hard to make sure that even in the wake of COVID-19, students can connect with the help they need.

If you're experiencing symptoms like procrastination, anxiety, nutrition concerns, stress about finances, loneliness, self-doubt or disappointment, post-grad concerns, homesickness, alienation, suicidal ideation, tension with family, friends, or roommates, addiction, and more, Doupe recommends one main thing. Get in contact.

"The best thing to do that I tell students is just to reach out to us. So take that first step and e-mail studentsuccess@loyalist-college.com, and that really just gets the ball rolling," says Doupe.

"So, in terms of actionable pieces that's number one. Send us a quick e-mail and we'll make sure that we match a student with supports."

The process after getting in contact is just filling out a few confidentiality forms and providing some general information in regards to what you're experiencing.

"We use that information from the

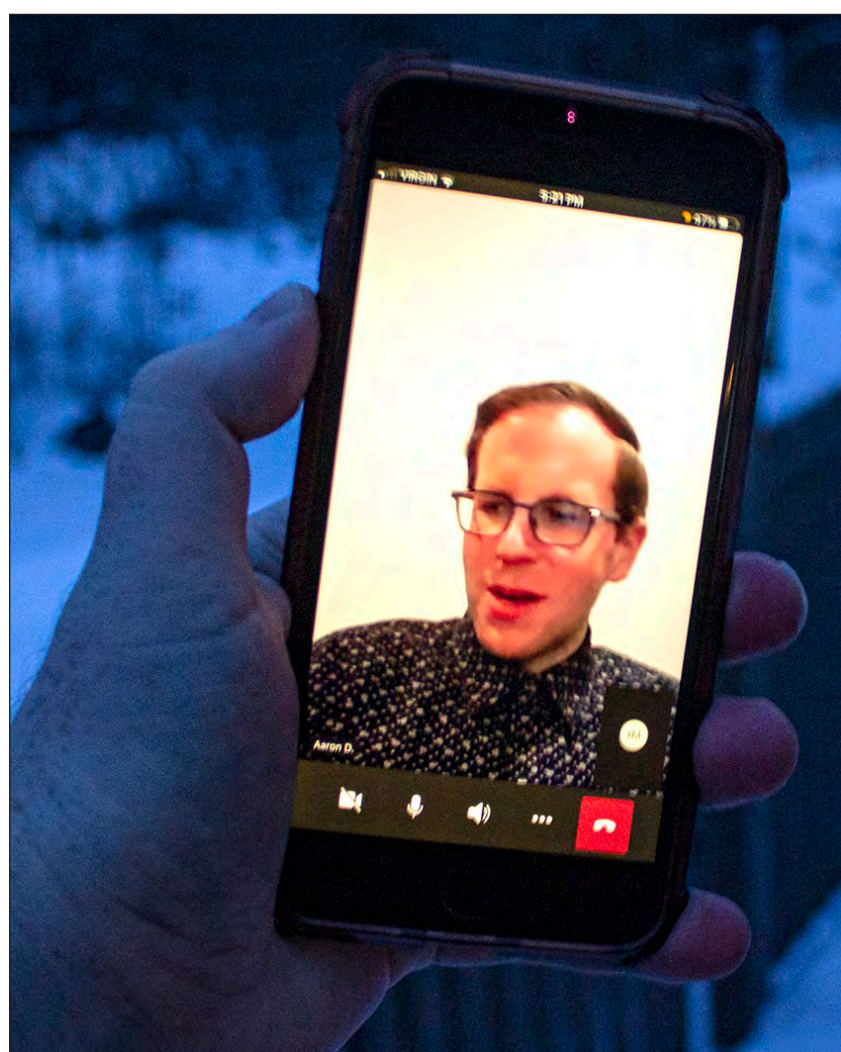


Photo by James McAlpine

Aaron Doupe, head of student services at Loyalist, conducts all his meetings with students remotely due to COVID-19 protocols.

forms to get a sense of the urgency, what the student is looking for, and to try and match them. So, in most cases, we just connect them right away with either Kathy or

Julie, who are our two full time counsellors, and then they connect to set up the first meeting. So it just takes a couple e-mails back and forth to get set up and then students are good to go."

With COVID-19, a lot of the assistance has shifted to being done remotely, but with just as much vigour.

"The actual appointments themselves are telephone appointments, so of course we normally would be offering, you know, those confidential, free appointments, one on one, in person with our counsellors. But right now, we make sure that they're able to offer the confidential services remotely by telephone."

Thankfully, the transition has been relatively smooth, all things considered for the students and the counsellors.

"We found initially some students were a little bit skeptical of making that transition from in-person to telephone, but so far, we've had some good feedback and I think folks really transitioned and made that adaptation quite smoothly."

Accessibility is a really important question both financially and literally, the good news is currently the only necessity is a phone and internet connection.

"Our services are funded in part by the government and by the college. And so, we encourage every student to take advantage of them."

It's important as well, however, to consider what the intent of these services is, and what they look like in practice.

"It's a supportive environment. They're gonna focus on solutions. And listening, so asking questions, hearing what students have to say, and really working with students, to kind of prioritize, what is of interest to them? What are they looking to get support on? And it's subjective, so if after a few sessions you're feeling like you've got what you need out of it, then that's great,"

says Doupe.

But if you're not quite there yet not, then you're free to continue throughout the entirety of the academic year, and if necessary, there are partnerships in place for people to go beyond the scope of the Student Success office. For example, if necessary, they can assist with getting referrals within the community outside of the Student Success office for conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and some students may even be able to obtain additional funding to further assist in that area as well. For many referrals giving specialized support, students can have up to five sessions for free. Some of these partnerships within the community are helped, funded, and facilitated by the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health.

Additionally, for after hours support, Loyalist Student Government as of September 2019 has joined a growing number of colleges and universities in working with the Student Support Program which provides 24/7 mental health support to all Loyalist College full-time and part-time day students at the Belleville campus.

The service is available with a team of counsellors who speak over a dozen languages and come from a variety of cultures, marking increased accessibility for the international students at Loyalist College and their experiences.

The "My SSP" app which is available for both iOS and from the Google Play app stores has articles, videos and other mental health resources as well as direct access to a counsellor by telephone or chat on demand, who can also liaison with counsellors from the Student Success office. The SSP service's number is 1-844-451-9700.

"My main message is just to reach out. The services are free, they are confidential and supportive. We are here for students," concludes Doupe.



Photo by Olivia Ashopenace

Inside the We Thrive Centre, Dawn Benway works with a face mask on and behind protective glass. She is the reception manager and director of First Impressions.

Centre offers place for healing

By Olivia Ashopenace

The We Thrive Centre is a place of healing.

It is a holistic wellness centre located in downtown Belleville, right beside City Hall. The centre offers services that help heal the mind, body and soul, and it also offers classes and events that contribute to wellness.

"I believe it was 2017, so this will be our fourth year," Dawn Benway said about the opening of the centre. She is the reception manager and director of first impressions

at the We Thrive Centre.

There are many ways the people of the centre help individuals heal or take care of themselves physically or mentally.

"So, we offer all kinds of holistic wellness type services. So, we have massage therapy, all registered massage therapists are here. We have psychotherapy and counselling. We have the esthetician, with our spa services, that we do a lot of like facials, manicures, pedicures. We have self-love and life coaching. We do a lot of classes and events. We have hypnotherapy as well. We do meditation. Holistic nutri-

tion, we have as well too. Yeah, we have a lot services available," Benway said.

During the lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions, the We Thrive Centre is still open and offering services such as massage therapy, and most of their classes are being delivered by Zoom. At the entrance of the centre, a sign on the door encourages people to wear their face masks and use the hand-sanitizer by the door.

"A lot of the classes are virtual right now. We even have a virtual yoga class happening as well. We have a 21 Day Yoga Challenge happening and that's all virtual.

All our guided meditation is done virtually as well," Benway said.

To make progress and move on with the challenging way the pandemic has changed the way people do things today, We Thrive is moving along and hoping to go more virtually.

"We are hoping to get a few classes and events done virtually because that's the way it's all going right now. We usually have rock painting here, which everybody loves. It's usually very therapeutic, but we can't have these in house. So, we're hoping to maybe put something out there and do

it virtually to kind of keep engaged and connected. We just try and offer a safe space," Benway said.

The We Thrive Centre is more than just a building, it is a healing place, a safe place. Staff at the centre strive to make people feel welcome and offer to help people with their services.

"It's not a business. It's not just another building down here. It's a safe place. It's a place to come to for solutions to feel well, to even come and have a cup of tea. I love the whole team, the whole family aspect of it. Come with open arms."

Cold weather no barrier for market vendors

By Olivia Ashopenace

In downtown Belleville, the Farmers Market remains open and is brimming with energy from the vendors standing by their stalls, with their wares and produce on display to sell to people who walk through and browse at the tables. Despite the coldness of winter and the lockdown, the market is still open.

The market is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is open year-round, rain or shine. The Farmers Market has been around for about 204 years.

"There are 40 vendors, in the summer we are at our peak. There are a lot of craft vendors," says Jackie Tapp, the co-ordinator of the Farmers Market. She has a face mask and has her hood on to keep herself warm from the cold.

Not only is Tapp the co-ordinator of the market, she is also a vendor. She has been involved with the market for 30 years. Her products include home-baking, produce, meats, plants, flowers and more.

"The old vendors decided to stay home when we went into lockdown," Tapp says.

There are several vendors at the market who still come to the market and set up their stalls. They wear their face masks while at the market. Many of the vendors sell an assortment of goods at the market and most of them are warm and friendly.

Renate Haan of Haanover View Farms has been a vendor at the market for 15 years. The products she sells come from her family farm.

"We sell produce meat, rabbit, sunflower seeds, maple syrup. We produce everything that we sell. It's been an excellent year. Food sales are okay," Haan says.

The vendors who have their stall set up across from Renate Haan are Matt and Irene Lucy. Their business is called Kingston Natural Foods, and they have been vendors at the market for 15 years.

"It's been good. We used to be at the Kingston's Farmers Market," Matt and Irene Lucy say, as they stand behind their stall at the market. They sell vegan, dairy-free, some gluten-free, and grain-free products.

Other vendors who have a stall at the market are Carol and Rick Walter. They are friendly people and love coming to the market to sell their wares.

"We sell C+W homemade foods and handmade crafts. We love it, we love the people," Carol says. "We have been vendors since September 22, 2020."

Another vendor who comes and sets up a stall at the market is Dave F. Correa. He cooks and prepares delicious foods for sale. "I've been a vendor here since Christmas,



Photo by Olivia Ashopenace

At Belleville's Farmers Market, Jackie Tapp, co-ordinator of the market, sells produce, home-baked goods, meats, flowers, and plants. She has been a co-ordinator and vendor for 30 years.

2019," Correa says. Correa is a chef who sells pot pies, sausage rolls, international soups and entrées, which he prepares himself and he also does catering.

Carl Huffman, another vendor, stands behind his stall, wearing a face mask and hat.

"I've been a vendor at the market for four years," Huffman says. At his stall he sells

pickles, relishes, jams, jellies, maple syrup, organic fruits and vegetables, pies, teas, cookies, hot chocolate, baking and home-canning goods.

Antonina V. Durham comes to the market with her dog Tucker. She encourages people to pet her friendly dog.

"I've been a vendor for 12 years. The people here at the market are friendly," Durham

says. She sells jams, baked goods, and products for a variety of fundraisers that assist local and international projects.

Claude Matthews, a vendor from the market, sells coffees made from assorted fair-trade coffee beans from a truck he parks at his stall.

"I've been a vendor for 14 years," Matthews says from behind the counter

of his stall.

The Farmers Market is a warm and welcoming place despite the cold winter weather. The market and its vendors still open up for business during the lockdown, and follow safety procedures.

"We wear our masks," Tapp says, "and we sometimes stay open almost till dark."



David Dossett, owner of Martello Alley in Kingston.
Photo by Daniel Geleyn

Business during COVID

...Continued from Page 1

Kathryn Brown, owner and currently the only employee of Kate's Kitchen, runs her small business on Front Street in downtown Belleville. "I think people made a conscious effort to shop local, so for me, I had a successful second half of the year," she says. But the first lockdown in Ontario was difficult as Brown had to lay off her employees because of the financial strain caused by the pandemic.

Sonya deWal is the owner of Gourmet Diem, a small cafe located in downtown Belleville. She also provides catering and sells specialty foods and cookware. "Right now with the lockdown we are slow, just walk-in and take-out only. Yeah, it's very devastating," says deWal.

Tina Koonings is the owner of the Stirling General Mercantile. When asked about how the pandemic has affected her business, Koonings said "We had to close our store in Bancroft but the business here will survive. We have a variety in here that people want. They want candy from their childhood."

Taylor Russet, 21, transformed this Trenton small-town staple that used to be called The Grind over this past fall. The new store, now called The Grind&Vine, now serves both coffee and wine. Since its opening Russet has braved vandalism and a fall in business due to the pandemic but he continues to keep a smile on his face. "It's been slow," Russet says, "but that's good because it means people are staying home."

Kathryn Corbett, the co-owner of Lighthouse Books on Main Street, Brighton, is

loved by local teens and young adults from her days as the librarian at the nearby elementary school. Since then, she has made waves as a small-business owner on Brighton's main drag. Lighthouse Books remains open for curbside pickup for all of Brighton's bookworms looking for a new read during quarantine.

Tracey Pettigrew is the owner of Paisley's Wee British Shoppe in Clarington near Bowmanville, a store known for its imported British goods. Pettigrew, who was born in Paisley, a small town outside of Glasgow, Scotland, has been operating the store for over 10 years now. Reflecting on how COVID has affected her store's operations, she says the pandemic has changed business in many ways, especially in terms of operating hours and staffing. But when discussing sales, she said "Encouraging people to order online actually increased our customer base which is good."

Discussing store closures and lockdown procedures, Pettigrew says she completely understands why stores must close and how it could help save lives, but it is still hard to see big box stores open and thriving while some small businesses are forced to close their doors.

Mike and Jessica Irvine, a father and daughter team, operate "Mikes Countertop Shop" in the west end of Sudbury. The shop, which has been operating for a decade, has recently instated new safety measures to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic, including limiting store capacity to one person at a time, and sanitizing all display countertops after each customer visit. The volume of their business has remained relatively stable during this pandemic.



Kathryn Brown, owner of Kate's Kitchen, in Belleville.
Photo by Madison Ladouceur



(Above) Kathryn Corbett, co-owner of Lighthouse Books in Brighton.
Photo by Natalie Cummings



(Right) Tracey Pettigrew, owner of Paisley's Wee British Shoppe in Clarington.
Photo by Alex Bowman