

The magazine for Alumni and Friends

# St. Lawrence

C O L L E G E

## voyageur

Inside this

Winter 2007 issue:

Vet Tech Grads Excel ►

Premier's Awards Nominees ►

Student Recognition Nights ►

### ALUMNI PROFILE



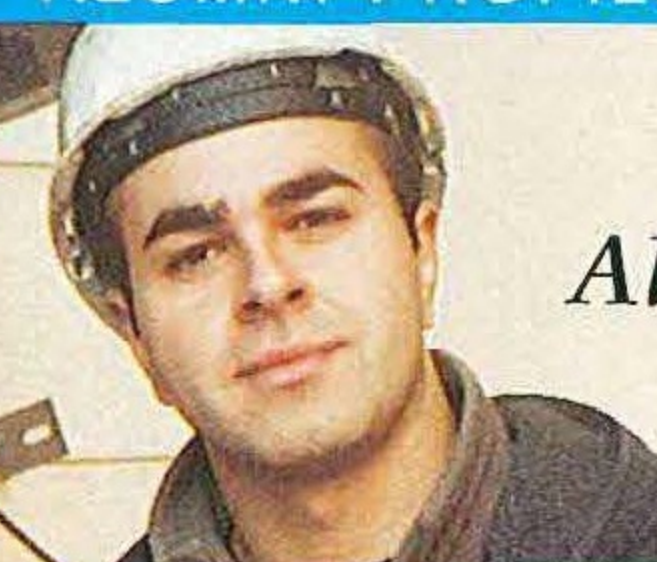
Andrea  
Andrecyk

### ALUMNI PROFILE



Linda  
Gratton

### ALUMNI PROFILE



Ali Kahi

[www.sl.on.ca](http://www.sl.on.ca)

Music Theatre  
students dazzle...



# GROUP HOME and AUTO INSURANCE

(Preferred group rates)<sup>2</sup>  
+ exceptional service) =



**Meloche Monnex**

Insurance for professionals and alumni

## The logical solution

**ESPECIALLY for members of St. Lawrence College Alumni Association.**

With TD Meloche Monnex, Canada's leader in group† home and auto insurance, it all adds up to **exceptional value**. We offer home and auto insurance **EXCLUSIVELY** to members of professional and alumni associations like you. You receive **high-quality insurance products** at **preferred group rates** combined with **exceptional service** throughout the entire sales, service and claims process.



**TO ENJOY preferred group rates  
and exceptional care:**

**1 888 589 5656** or  
**TDMelocheMonnex.com/sl**

Insurance program supported by:



**Meloche Monnex**

Insurance for professionals and alumni

*An affinity for service*

†Group auto insurance rates are not applicable in Prince Edward Island. Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. The TD Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by Security National Insurance Company and distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Quebec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in other provinces and territories.





## Alumni Relations Mission...

The Alumni Relations office exists to maximize positive engagement with our alumni, through life-long, mutually beneficial relationships.

## How to reach us:

### St. Lawrence College Alumni Office

100 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5A6

**Phone from:** Kingston (613) 544-5400, ext.2586 (ALUM)  
 Brockville (613) 345-0660, ext.2586 (ALUM)  
 Cornwall (613) 933-6080, ext.2586 (ALUM)  
 North America (800) 228-4664

**Fax:** (613) 545-3932 **Email:** alumni@sl.on.ca **Web site:** www.sl.on.ca/alumni

St. Lawrence Voyageur magazine is published bi-annually through the St. Lawrence College Alumni Relations Office and is distributed to 45,000 alumni and friends of the College. Contributions of articles and photos about or of interest to our alumni, as well as signed letters to the Editor, are welcomed, and are published at the discretion of the Editor. To have your name added to our distribution list, or to reserve advertising space in St. Lawrence Voyageur, please contact the Alumni Relations Office. Ad rates are available upon request.

The views expressed in the editorials, articles, and advertisements in St. Lawrence Voyageur are not necessarily those of St. Lawrence College, the St. Lawrence College Foundation, or the St. Lawrence College Alumni Association. If you would like to have your name removed from the St. Lawrence Voyageur distribution list, please send a letter to that effect, along with a completed Alumni Record Form (see inside back cover) to the St. Lawrence College Alumni Relations Office. Reproduction of St. Lawrence Voyageur, in whole or in part, is forbidden without the expressed written consent of the Editor.

### Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40010391

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
 Development Office of St. Lawrence College  
 100 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON K7L 5A6  
 email: returnedmail@sl.on.ca

### Publishing Schedule:

Issue ..... Copy/Ads Due ..... Distribution  
 Fall ..... August 1 ..... October  
 Winter ..... December 1 ..... February

### Rates and Terms

Rates and specifications are available on request. Full payment is due at time of publishing. Applicable taxes will be applied to all orders.

### Ad Requirements

Voyageur Magazine is produced using PC Adobe Pagemaker 6.5 and Corel 12.

**Preferred format:** PC compatible PDF or EPS files, with "type converted to curves", accompanied by colour hard-copy proof.

### Photo and text requirements

When supplying photographs for reproduction in St. Lawrence Voyageur, we accept professional quality colour prints or 300dpi TIFF or hi-res JPEG files. Text is preferred in 12-point Times Roman with no indents or highlighting.



Cover Photo by Sean Burns

## On the Cover...

Brockville's Music Theatre students stage a spectacular performance of Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'....

16

## On the Inside...

Alumni Profiles .....	3
Vet Tech grads excel in National Exams .....	8
2006 Premier's Awards Nominees .....	21
Alumni Discounts .....	23
At the Branches .....	24
Echoes .....	25
Student Recognition Nights .....	28

**Editor:** Leah Wales  
**Design/Layout:** Bob Droppo  
**Printing:** Performance Printing  
**Copy Editor:** Jane Rodgers  
 "A+ Editing and Proofreading"

### Contributors:

Marc Aylesworth	Dave McFadden
Clark Billingham	Leisa Price-Storey
Amy Compagnat	Robin Porter
Louise Chatterton Luchuk	Reina Ruest
Carmen Cousineau	Laura Tulchinsky
Chris Coyea	Patricia Valpy
Roxanne Delage	Kelly Wiley
Keith Hare	Alison Wilson
Frank Lockington	

### Photography Contributors:

Sean Burns	Henry Petrynka
Richard Dubois	Jack Tennant
Tony Fohse	Jake Wright
Charles Lauten	



LEAH WALES



**Finding a career is not always an easy task.** I sort of fell into my first job in the hotel industry when Queen's decided I might want to take some "time-off" to reconsider just what I thought I was doing with my education. Being tone-deaf and artistically challenged, any job in the Arts industry was definitely off the list. Needless to say, I stand in complete awe of our incredibly talented Music Theatre Performance students. I hope you enjoy the visual delight of their recent performance of *Beauty and the Beast*, as captured in photos by alumnus Sean Burns (Electronics Engineering Technician, 2000) – see pages 16 and 17. I digress...back to the career thing. Eventually, I did return to Queen's to complete my degree, and got on a satisfying career track that led me to pursue Continuing Education courses at St. Lawrence College and achieve a certificate in Human Resources Management. I found tremendous value in my college training, with its immediate and practical application in my workplace. This appreciation for the College's contribution to my career success, fostered a connection that ultimately led me to working at SLC.

One of the most fascinating aspects of working in our Alumni Department is hearing the stories about what our grads have done with their education. Whether they went straight to their dream job, like Linda Gratton (profile page 4), or took a more winding road, exploring their options, there are a myriad of ways that our graduates are applying the skills and abilities gained while they were students at SLC. Did you think anyone taking the Carpentry program must be planning to use their

new skills building furniture and houses? Think again, and check out Dean Swift's adventure story on page 13. Be inspired by the courage of adult upgrading students, like Patricia Ashie, who has gone on to be a full-time literacy advocate (page 18). Read the feature story on pages 8 and 9 about the incredible success of our Veterinary

potential. People who are dreaming – and making their dreams a reality. This issue reflects the abundance of creativity, dedication, compassion and success in our graduates, faculty and staff. SLC is making a difference – in our communities and around the world – and that is reflected through the contributions of our alumni as employees, volun-

## Editorial...

### *Looking for a former classmate?*

Check out our online alumni directory at [www.sl.on.ca/alumni/alumniontheweb.htm](http://www.sl.on.ca/alumni/alumniontheweb.htm). If your name is not currently in the directory, send us an alumni record update and check the box that gives us permission to add your name to our web list.

### *One of the most fascinating aspects of working in our Alumni Department is hearing the stories about what our grads have done with their education.*

Technology graduates in national exams, and the diverse areas of practice they are now engaged in. Check out our newest feature, profiling a student graduating this year – meet rising star Timothy Porter on page 7. This issue also celebrates our outstanding graduates nominated for the 2006 Premier's Awards. On page 20 you'll find the stories of a mountain-climbing nurse, an entrepreneur whose business is rolling along to great success, and a dedicated child and youth worker making a difference for troubled young people. And there's so much more – so curl up with a good glass of wine or other favourite libation, and soak it all in.

When you get to the end, you'll see there are a couple of common threads. First, our alumni speak very highly of their experience at St. Lawrence College, a credit to our outstanding faculty and the staff and managers who support our students in reaching their goals. Second, it's all about people. People who are fulfilling their limitless

teers and global citizens. You are out there – 'Living it' – and we love to hear how it's going. We want to share your stories and inspire others, so please stay in touch. Contact us at [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca). All the best for 2007 – it's sure to be an exciting year!

Leah Wales, Director  
Alumni, Student & Business  
Operations

### CORRECTION

Apologies to retired faculty member David Schleich for our incorrect spelling of his name in the Fall issue (page 20). The final installment of our 'Reader's History' series acknowledged David's great work in establishing the Greg Awards. Thanks to alumnus Lise-Ann (Daigle) Fleet who took the time to send us a note advising of our error.

### Letters to the Editor

Signed letters to the Editor are welcome at all times, and are published at the Editor's discretion. See the "How to Reach Us" information on page one.





# Andrea Andrecyk



Photo: Gail Burley

By Louise Chatterton-Luchuk

**Brockville resident, Andrea Andrecyk, wasn't sure what academic program she wanted to pursue after high school.**

She just knew that she wanted to live close to home and that she enjoyed expressing herself artistically. So she picked up a St. Lawrence College course calendar and started flipping through the pages. The graphic design program caught her eye, and even though the program wasn't offered at the Brockville campus, Kingston felt close enough to home, so she sent in her application. Little did she know that in addition to gaining important career skills, her college experience would give her the confidence to tackle some other pretty incredible feats before reaching her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Andrea confides that the program was challenging but completely worth it in the long run, and she enthusiastically recommends the program to others. Her time at St. Lawrence College helped her be more independent, taught her how to work well under pressure and to meet deadlines – particularly useful skills when working as a graphic designer for a daily newspaper. Andrea

also credits the program's strong focus on the fundamentals of design. She points out, "You just can't become a designer on the computer. At St. Lawrence College they teach you the first things first, and then you move on to the computer. The professors teach you *all* the aspects of what makes a good designer."

The knowledgeable professors had high expectations, and that inspired Andrea to work hard. Professors also gave students practical experience accepting constructive criticism because student work was regular critiqued in front of everyone. This was a particularly helpful learning tool, says Andrea, because once you are a graphic designer you have to be able to deal with constructive criticism, and the professors helped build students' confidence to do just that.

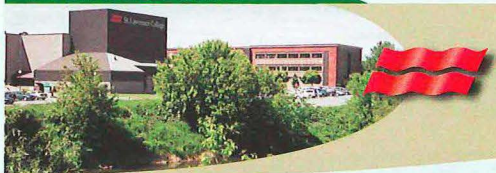
Over the course of the three-year program, Andrea developed a portfolio of her work. Don Niven, program coordinator and professor, considers the portfolio a very unique aspect of the program. Graphic design graduates leave the program with both a transcript of their marks *and* a portfolio of their work. He calls it the tangible

"proof in the pudding" that graduates can show future employers. Andrea agrees that it is very impressive to take your portfolio with you to a job interview: "You know how much work goes into each project, and with your portfolio you can show that to others through all the sketches and thumbnails that led up to the final product. Employers can see your creative process, how your idea developed. A resume can only say so much."

Andrea graduated from the graphic design program in May 1999, but jobs were hard to find, and by January 2000 she still hadn't found work. Undeterred, Andrea decided to break the "you can't get a job without experience and you can't get experience without a job" conundrum. Andrea dropped her resume off at the Kingston Whig-Standard newspaper and told them all she wanted was a chance to volunteer. "I just wanted experience," recalls Andrea. "I hadn't been on the computers since May and I didn't want my skills to get rusty."

This turned out to be a great way to get her foot in the door, and before long Andrea was hired by the Whig-  
*continued on page 22...*





# Linda Gratton



By Roxanne Delage

**By all accounts, Linda Gratton had been living a very full and exciting life, having traveled around the world satisfying her taste for a thrill through scuba diving and skiing.** She even swam with sharks and learned to drive a motorcycle, but still it seemed to her that there was something more she needed to experience, and maybe a career change was in order.

The former flight attendant had always been interested in the medical field, having worked for an optometrist for twelve years and as a dental assistant before that. When weighing her options, Linda considered nursing for a while, but the self-described adrenaline junkie finally found the field of paramedics – and it seemed to be a perfect fit.

Linda says that becoming a paramedic was the hardest thing she's ever done. She acknowledges that she owes her success, in part, to the support she received from her family, friends, and especially her husband of thirteen years, Norm – an OPP officer – whom she calls her inspiration. Not only was

his dedication to his work something she was very proud of and wanted to emulate, but the nature of his job made her feel that she also could be of service to the public in her own way. Linda says that her husband made many sacrifices, both financially and personally, to support her in her new career, and she will always be grateful to him for the opportunity.

In September 2003, Linda began her studies as a mature student, a member of the first class of the new two-year Paramedic program at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall. She never looked back. Of her time there, Linda says the training she received was critical to her success in the "real world." "The instructors were knowledgeable and experienced; the lectures interesting and fun. If you needed something, they would get it for you," she says.

Linda has high praise for Daniel Shannon, professor and coordinator of the paramedic program, who she says is a great asset to the program; she looks upon him as a mentor. His efforts, she feels, were responsible for the success of the fledgling program and of his students. "All the instructors gave it

their all," says Linda.

Shannon, now in his third year teaching the program, says that Linda was an "excellent student," who was motivated and went above and beyond any requirements, "always asking more questions. As much as her talent for the practical aspect of the job," he says, "her caring and compassionate nature, something that can not be taught, is truly what makes her a great paramedic. As a mature student, her life skills and experiences were invaluable to her success."

Soon after graduation, Linda was hired on as a primary care paramedic with the Ottawa Paramedic Service, where she and her partner respond to calls that vary from accident scenes to cardiac emergencies, respiratory crises, and diabetic episodes. Although it can be very stressful at times, with a high level of physicality, Linda thrives on the pace and says that it's the unknown and the critical thinking that appeal to her the most. She even gets a thrill from driving to a call in the busy city traffic. The highlight of her career so far, she says, was the baby she delivered on

*continued on page 22...*





# Ali Kahi

By Leisa Price-Storey

**Originally from Iran, Ali Kahi moved to Canada with his family in 1990.** They settled in Toronto, and Ali looked forward to taking advantage of all the great opportunities his new country had to offer.

One of those chances included pursuing a career in the firefighting field through post-secondary education. Ali chose the Brockville campus of St. Lawrence College, because "I wanted to be away from home and Brockville seemed like the right choice. It was really fun coming from a big city to a small town like Brockville. It has no traffic and you can go from east to west in 15 minutes!"

Ali enrolled in the Pre-Service Firefighter program, which has a three-semester schedule that runs from September straight through to August. The program follows the curriculum developed by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs/Office of the Fire Marshal (OAFM/OFM), and blends theory, lab practice, and field placement to prepare graduates for entry into the firefighting profession. Ali graduated in August 2006.

"The program was fascinating," says 27-year-old Ali. "We all had uniforms and looked and felt really professional." The group worked directly with members of the Brockville Fire Department. "We were getting trained both hands-on and theoretically every week. I really enjoyed the days we would go to the firehall at BFD. We would have hands-on experience of what we had learned the previous day."

He and his classmates worked together as a team, as they would eventually in real-life situations. "From the start, we did everything in a teamwork manner," he explains. "If one was in need of help, we all helped."

"The program contents are well explained throughout our text and workbooks," he says. "The instructors were all qualified," he adds, noting that he credits a lot of his success in the

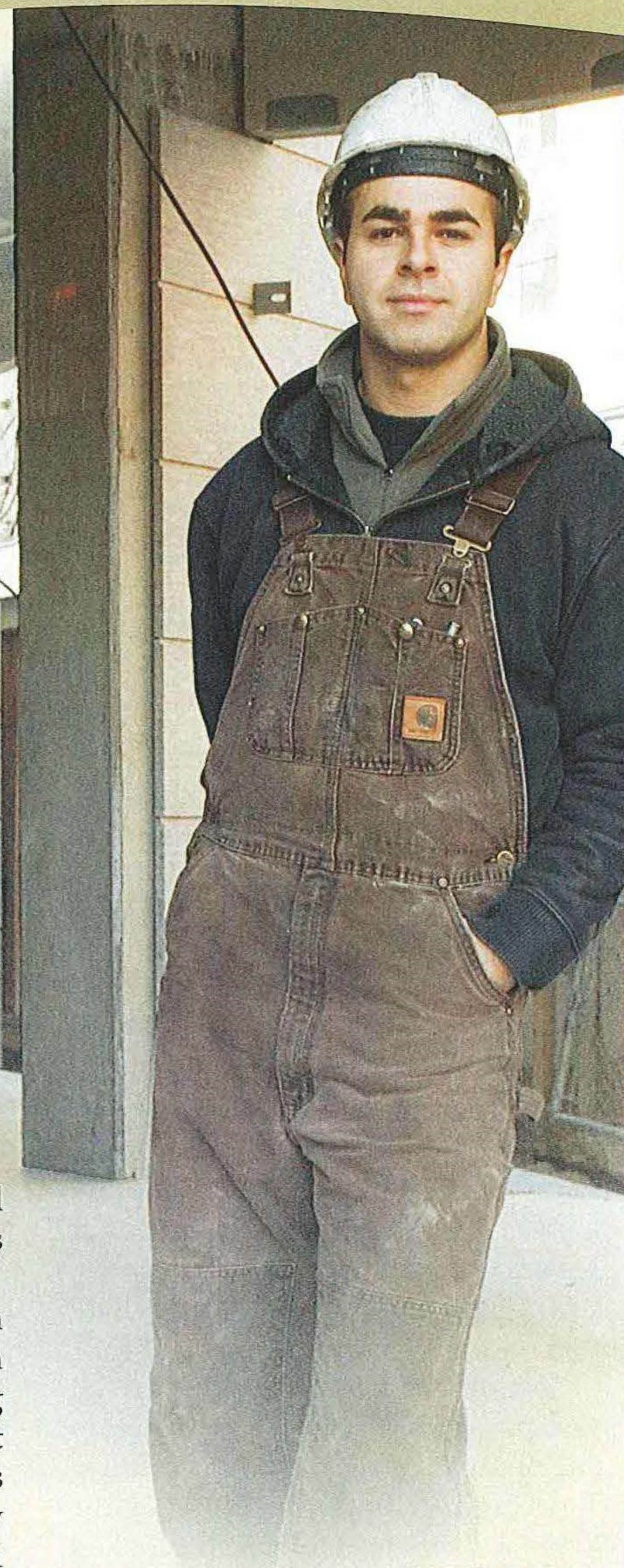
program to his professor, Captain Gary Rutley, who Ali describes as "a retired Firefighter with a lifetime of experience. He is the most influential, amazing man I have ever met. He is our friend and our role model. We were so fortunate. If someone found it too challenging, Capt. Rutley always made time to go over the material so we were all at the same level, and no one would fall behind."

"Ali was an excellent student, a self-starter," states Capt. Rutley. "He was quick on the uptake, mature, participated in class all the time, easy to like, always helpful, quiet and soft-spoken and good at adapting to the demands of the course." A "multi-faceted guy," he adds, "Ali was also an excellent cook," a skill that could be quite beneficial to his future co-workers in the firehall!

"Capt. Rutley definitely made a difference in my life. I think he made a difference in all our lives by trusting and believing in us. It takes a lot of heart to treat and respect all your students equally. We all knew that Capt. Rutley made the program as interesting and challenging as it could get," explains Ali.

Ali says that the program covered all the necessary topics to fully prepare his class for a career in the firefighting field, introducing, developing, and honing skills in proper usage and storage of the tools of the trade, extrication, confined space rescue, trench rescue awareness, automobile extrication, hazardous materials awareness, radio operations, and ice rescue, just to name a few.

Ali also recognizes the program's first coordinator, Cathy TeKamp, as a great supporter and a valuable aid to



the team's success, noting with a grin, "She was wonderful, bringing us homemade cookies and muffins (and fruit) on training days!"

Ali's family is very proud of his decision to attend Brockville's St. Lawrence College, he says. "My father has served in the Military his whole life and two of my sisters are registered nurses," he adds. "So I seemed to fit right in with wanting to help others."

Ali notes that he made "tons" of friends both in and out of school, shared a home in the city with a fellow

*continued on page 15...*



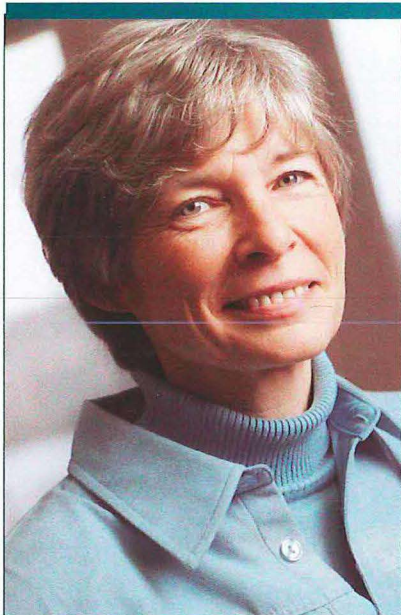


Photo: Tony Founse

## Spotlight on our Fabulous Faculty

### Donna Orwell *mentoring her students to success.*

By Roxanne Delage

**From an early age Donna Orwell was interested in science, particularly natural science and biology,** "I was always in the pond catching things," she says. So it was inevitable that she would eventually receive a Bachelor of Science in Ecology from McGill. With that and a teaching diploma, Donna's career began twenty seven years ago, at a private girls' school in Westmount, Quebec. At that time, she and her husband Edward, a high school teacher, also ran a riding school where they lived on the West Island.

Although Donna had always lived a fast-paced life in the Montreal area, in 1982, she and Edward chose to move to a farm in Green Valley for the rural life. Donna says that they "haven't looked back since." To this day they embrace country living and still work that same farm.

Donna started teaching part time at St Lawrence's Cornwall campus in '85 in various programs, including the trades and arts and science, while she raised her two daughters. Today, twenty-one years later, she's a busy full-time professor in the Career/College Preparatory Program for Adult Learners, and is coordinator of the Environmental Technician Program - a relatively new venture in an expanding field.

Donna believes an effective teacher should have a good knowledge base, keep current, and have the ability to get material across in an innovative and relevant manner - something she strives for and at times finds very challenging in this age of multimedia technology.

Beyond the material, she feels a good teacher should have empathy and understanding for what the

curriculum in "Naturalized Knowledge Systems," with which learners can interpret science to a personal world view and incorporate their scientific mission with unique personal and community outlooks. This project will assist a partnered program delivery with First Nations Technical Institute for aboriginal learners championing water management and other

*"an effective teacher has a good knowledge base, keeps current, and has the ability to get material across in an innovative and relevant manner".*

students might be "coming in with" - especially the adult students, who are dealing with children, bills, and the real world. "A teacher should be approachable for students to talk to for whatever reason," she says.

Donna feels rewarded by the accomplishments of her students, and enjoys the journey along with them, from their first months of trepidation as freshmen, to graduation day when they realize that they have accomplished something big, something they may have thought was beyond them. Their pride in themselves is Donna's best reward.

Donna's Environmental Technician Program currently has two innovative projects underway. One initiative is the creation of new course

environmental issues throughout Ontario. Another project, performed in partnership with the St. Lawrence River Institute, assists both curriculum and community development work. This is an applied research project concerning certain fish species and mercury contamination.

The Environmental Technician Program has just achieved articulation into degree completion with Royal Roads University, and other very good prospects exist for articulating into degrees offered at other post-secondary institutions in environmental management and in aboriginal community management.

Donna is very content in both her professional and personal life, having found her passion early on, surrounded herself with it, and never looked back.





FIRST, YOU  
DREAM IT.  
THEN YOU LIVE IT.

## Timothy Porter

*Soon to be among the first grads of our  
Music Theatre Performance Program.*

By Leisa Price-Storey

**Timothy Porter's got talent, rhythm, and style – and he's working hard at honing these skills** at St. Lawrence College in Brockville as a third-year student in the Music Theatre–Performance program. Tim recently demonstrated his theatrical aptitude as the delightful character Lumiere in Walt Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and is looking forward to captivating his audience as Billy Flynn in the college's next production, *Chicago*, in April 2007.

Born and raised in Tweed, Ontario, twenty-year-old Tim first got hooked on performing during high school. His older sister Sarah encouraged him to audition for a part in a production she was in, *The Leader of the Pack*. "They didn't have enough guys to play all the roles," he says. "Really skeptical at first, I went and auditioned," for a straight acting role, he recalls. When the auditioning crew realized that Tim could also sing, he says, "I ended up getting an even better role," than first intended. "After that I started taking drama classes. My drama teacher was super supportive and thought I had a chance to pursue this as a career."

He went on to perform semi-professional theatre in the Stirling Festival Theatre's Young Company. "The director there liked my stuff," he grins,

adding, "I've been there ever since. I just finished my fifth show there," and he was paid for his performance last summer, officially becoming a professional actor.

Tim chose the Brockville campus of St. Lawrence College after careful deliberation, comparing it to other schools and fulfilling several audition obligations. He based his final choice on the program content and the supportiveness of the instructors. "When we came to our auditions, they were so great, so caring," he says.

"Right from the get-go, the faculty has been great," he says, describing his instructors as "high class. The talent that they're bringing in is really amazing. It's fantastic that we have a lot of professors who are actually in the industry right now, too. The program is very well set up for what I want to do."

In the first year of the program, Tim played the role of Albert in the musical, *The Secret Garden*. He was Don in the *Chorus Line* in his second year, following that with multiple roles in *Ten Lost Years*.

Renting a home in the city with three other classmates, Tim feels that these friends are "my second family. There is not a single one of us who is secluded. We're all so close."

In 2006, Tim received the Brockville Alumni Branch Award, a bursary that

he put towards his living expenses. A recipient of this accolade because of his interest in serving as an ambassador for the program following his graduation, Tim says that he's "more than happy to encourage young performers to come here. I have a very positive attitude towards the college."

Tim says he plans on moving to Toronto and is looking forward to singing, dancing, and acting – "a Triple Threat!" – on some of the big city's stages. No doubt, the professional training he's received and opportunities he's experienced at St. Lawrence College will be a great boon to his budding career. Break a leg, Tim!



Porter delighted audiences with his portrayal of the humorous rascal Lumiere in the College's production of *Beauty and the Beast* last December.



---

# Our Veterinary Technology Grads

By Dr. Clark Billingham

**The Veterinary Technology (VT) program at St. Lawrence College was established in 1969 in response to a National Research Council request.** Dr. Ron Greenwood, then Director of Animal Care Services at Queen's University, and Dr. Ross Beardall of Beardall Animal Hospital spearheaded the development of a two-year program for animal health technicians in Kingston. In 1972, the VT program at St. Lawrence College joined forces with the Kingston Humane Society (KHS), a mutually beneficial relationship that continues to this day. That same year the program expanded to its current status as a three-year diploma course that is still unique in the province, offering extensive training in both clinical and research settings.

*"The company was impressed with the range of skills and abilities I had as a result of my training at St. Lawrence, particularly my familiarity with handling laboratory species, and I was hired at the end of my placement".*

- Josh Leggett

Veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians provide technical support to veterinarians. Their duties may include such things as the handling, restraint, and care of animals, and the collection and testing of samples. They may assist the veterinarian before, during, and after surgery, in addition to preparing and administering medications and vaccines. They often educate clients in animal health care. They may conduct and/or assist in laboratory research. Veterinary technologists and technicians are employed in veterinary clinics, diagnostic laboratories, animal hospitals, animal shelters, zoos, animal research facilities, government, and pharmaceutical companies. They may even come back to teach future technologists and techni-

cians, as is evidenced by SLC graduates who have been and continue to be employed at St. Lawrence College, such as Nancy Watson, who is celebrating her 30<sup>th</sup> year with the College. The success of the program, in fact, owes much to the vision and work of one former graduate, Joanne Hamel and a VT graduate of another program, Barb Donaldson, who both recently retired after 65 collective years of service to the College. The OAVT adopted the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) in 1994 to allow for registration of veterinary technologists. Graduates from St. Lawrence College have historically recorded top marks in these exams. Most recently, the 2006 graduates, representing the 35<sup>th</sup> class of SLC VT graduates, recorded the top average overall marks in the province on the VTNE. Their total marks were

21% higher than the overall average for all North American candidates who wrote the exam. Moreover, within Ontario, they had the highest average marks in 7 of the 8 sections of the exam.

Recent graduates have found employment in various settings and locations. Some have remained in the city, such as Amanda Stewart and Laurel Ballantyne. Amanda works at Princess Animal Hospital, a small animal clinic in Kingston, where she was introduced to the staff during her third-year clinical placement. All third-year VT students must perform a four-week placement in both a clinical and a research setting. Laurel is currently working at Queen's University in a laboratory where she assisted during her research placement. Both acknowledge that the "hands-on

experiences" and "teachers who genuinely care" contributed greatly to their confidence and success entering the working world. Amanda states: "I think St. Lawrence College offers the best training a person looking to become a veterinary technologist could receive. It should definitely be the number one choice of students wanting to enter this profession."

Many 2006 graduates are working in other parts of the province. Melissa DuQuene is a full-time RVT at Northumberland Veterinary Service in Colborne. This is a practice specializing in both small and large animals, and Melissa is responsible for many things, such as assisting in surgeries, performing laboratory tests, and client education. Melissa notes: "Due to the success of the program and my extensive training, I was offered a job before I was even finished school. St. Lawrence College prepared me so well that I was extremely confident in any tasks given to me at my job." She also acknowledges the teachers, stating that "they always had our best interest at heart and would drop anything to help us succeed."

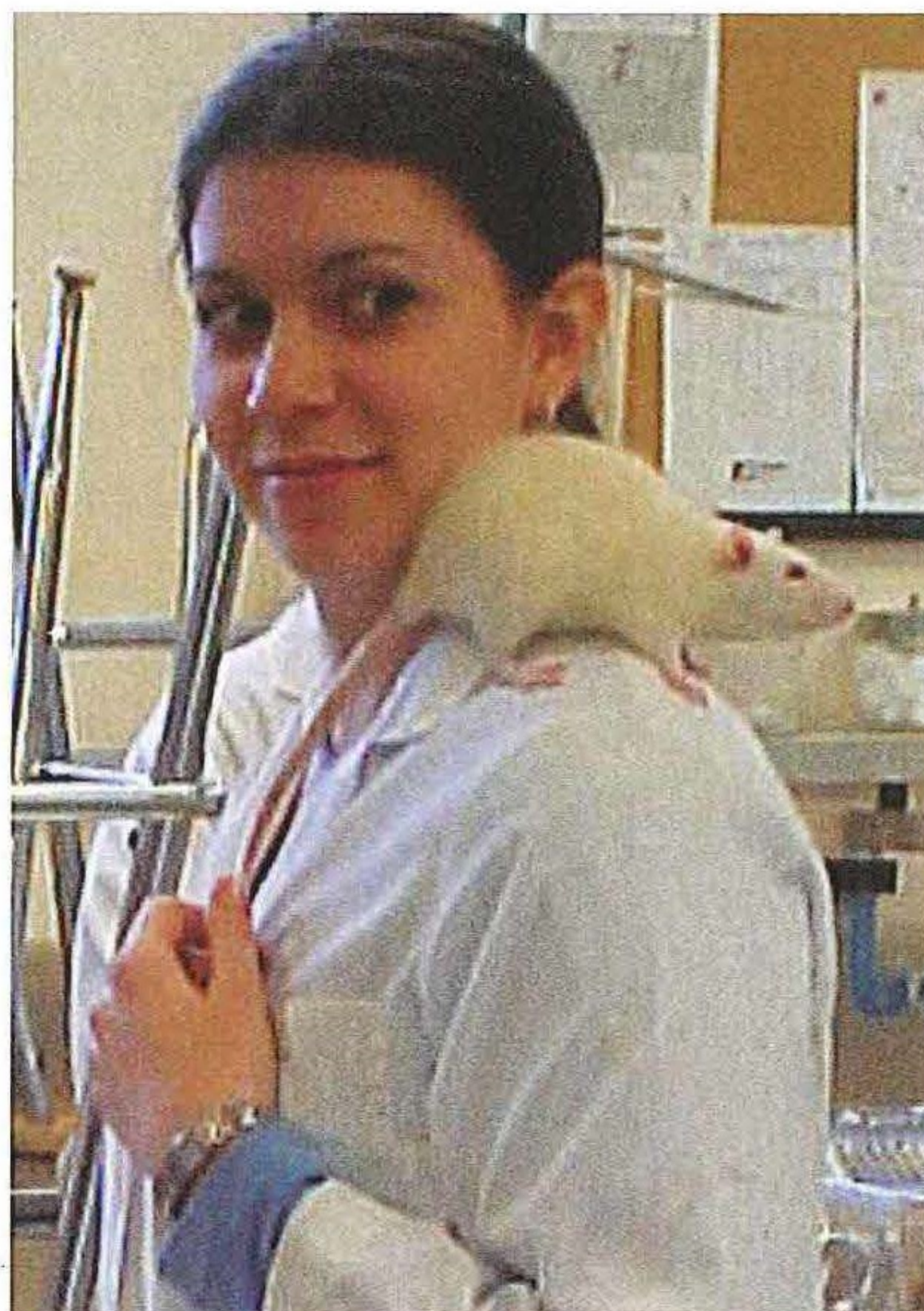
Some 2006 graduates have found employment outside the province. Josh Leggett is currently working in the Imaging Department at Charles River Laboratories in Montreal, where he handles a variety of laboratory species, including rodents and rabbits. He has also been asked to be a member of their Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Like Laurel Ballantyne, Josh secured his position as a direct result of his third-year research placement. He notes that "the company was impressed with the range of skills and abilities I had as a result of my training at St. Lawrence, particularly my familiarity with handling laboratory species, and I was hired at the end of my placement." Josh also enjoyed the hands-on nature of the program and acknowledged "the incredibly



# Tops in the Country

knowledgeable and supportive" faculty. He stated: "In speaking with other VT students from other colleges, I know that the fact that St. Lawrence offers experience with lab animals and large animals, in addition to the dogs and cats so commonly associated with the profession, makes SLC graduates incredibly well rounded and highly skilled to work in a variety of fields."

There are currently 24 provincially approved Animal Health Technology/Veterinary Technology (AHT/VT) programs in Canada, with nine of these being in Ontario. The VT program at St. Lawrence College has been accredited by both the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT). St. Lawrence College also has an agreement with New York's



Laurel Ballantyne and friend

*"I think St. Lawrence College offers the best training a person looking to become a veterinary technologist could receive. It should definitely be the number one choice of students wanting to enter this profession."*

- Amanda Stewart

Mercy College that allows its VT graduates to receive a four-year degree with just one additional year of study at Mercy. The VT program at St. Lawrence College has historically been over-subscribed. Most recently, 446 applications were received for the 50 openings for first year students. St. Lawrence College also offers a one-year Veterinary Assistant program.

On February 17, 2006, the OAVT with its 2000+ members became the first self-regulatory body of veterinary technicians in the world. In response to this milestone event, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) commented on the value of registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) in a press release, saying "RVTs have been an

integral component of the remarkable growth and development of veterinary medicine in the province, providing critical support to veterinarians in the delivery of high-quality veterinary care."

In June 2006, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) approved a motion to make graduates of CVMA-accredited programs eligible for recognition in the United States, and to allow Canadian graduates access to baccalaureate options in the U.S. that are not available in Canada.

For more information on our Veterinary Technology Program, contact Coordinator Dr. Clark Billingham at [cbillinghurst@sl.on.ca](mailto:cbillinghurst@sl.on.ca) or call 613-544-5400 extension 1177.



## SLC partners with National Farmers Union In Kingston on Local Food Initiative

The Building a Sustainable Local Food System project will engage farmers and a broad range of food system stakeholders in a long-term effort to develop markets that can support the farming, processing, and distribution of locally grown food from within 100kms of Kingston, Ontario. During the first half of 2007, the project will build a local network of stakeholders and organize a four-part Focus Group series, hosted at SLC's Kingston Campus, to develop awareness and a strategy for a multi-sectoral action plan.

Part II of the project will use the momentum gathered in the first half to organize a Kingston Area Food Summit conference in the autumn. Again hosted at St. Lawrence College, the Food Summit will bring together food system stakeholders and the general public to draft the guiding principles to local-food-system building and take action on identified development projects. Please watch for further details on this exciting community-based project. This initiative is partially funded by the Agricultural Management Institute and supported by St. Lawrence College.

For more information or to get involved please contact:

Peter Dowling  
Board Member, NFU Local 316  
613-546-0869  
[dowling@sympatico.ca](mailto:dowling@sympatico.ca)



# Now Playing

## Music Theatre Program Presents *New Faces* and *Chicago*.

by Chris Coyea

January through April 2007 promises to be an exciting time for SLC Brockville's Music Theatre-Performance Program. In late February, we will be presenting our first year students in *New Faces of 2007*. This will be a very special glimpse of the Music Theatre-Performance Program's first-year students in a magical evening of song and dance directed by Alex Fleuriiau Chateau. This year we will be trying something different in that we will present *New Faces* in both Brockville and Kingston. *New Faces* can be seen on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Brockville Collegiate Institute

Auditorium and on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kingston at L'Octave Theatre. Seating is limited, so be sure to buy your tickets early.

The Music Theatre Performance Program is also proud to present *Chicago, the musical*, on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Brockville Arts Centre and on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Thousand Islands Playhouse, Gananoque. "A story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery - all those things we hold near and dear to our hearts," *Chicago* promises to be an event you won't want to miss. Again, we are thrilled to offer an original production

of this Broadway legend that features dazzling production numbers and a long list of musical show-stoppers, like "All that Jazz" and "Mr. Cellophane." It will feature the Music Theatre Program's second- and third-year students who I'm sure you will remember from their spell-binding performances in our fall presentation of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. With Stage Direction and Choreography by Monica Morrow and Musical Direction by Christopher Coyea, *Chicago* promises to be a truly memorable evening.

Tickets are on sale now, so beat the rush and get yours today or inquire by email to: [stage@sl.on.ca](mailto:stage@sl.on.ca).



## Transitions Now Open on the Brockville Campus

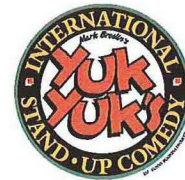
By Barb Guerin

Do you need to experience a transformation of mind, body, and spirit? Want to help current students at the same time? We have just the place where you can do both. Transitions Salon is now open on the Brockville campus and accepting guest appointments to enjoy a variety of pampering services, including manicures, pedicures, facials, hair cuts, colouring, styling, and much more.

Our students experience a real-life, full-service salon environment, working with a team of motivated professionals who share their superior technical skills and knowledge. Each student receives invaluable opportunities daily, working with exceptional quality products and equipment to gain confidence in the newest techniques. This helps them to develop their résumés in prescriptive



recommendation and client services. Our graduates are sought after as the best in this multi-faceted industry. We look forward to sharing the journey with alumni and friends of the College. Don't be disappointed - call now for your personal service. Transitions Hair & Esthetic Training Salon, 2288 Parkedale Avenue, Brockville. Call 613-345-0660, ext 3251 or e-mail us at [transitions@sl.on.ca](mailto:transitions@sl.on.ca)



The St. Lawrence College  
Brockville Alumni Branch Presents

## A Night of Comedy

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Schooners Pub

St. Lawrence College, Brockville Campus

Adults Only

Doors open at 7pm, show begins at 8pm  
Advance tickets \$12. At the Door: \$15.

For tickets,

email: [AlumnibranchB@sl.on.ca](mailto:AlumnibranchB@sl.on.ca)  
or call 613-345-0660, ext. 3777



PSI Compressors Inc.



REHAU  
Unlimited Polymer Solutions





Photo: Charles Lauten

Farah Reslan (center) receives her ACCC/CISCO award from Don Young, Dean of the School of Computer and Engineering Technology and Donna Graves, Coordinator, Computer Networking and Technical Support Program.

## SLC Student Wins National Technology Scholarship for Women

By Laura Tulchinsky

Farah Reslan, a second-year student in Computer Networking and Technical Support at St. Lawrence College, Kingston Campus, is one of only three winners in Canada of the ACCC/CISCO Scholarship of \$1000. As well, the St. Lawrence College Foundation will be matching the scholarship.

"Winning this scholarship is such an honour," said Reslan. "Of course, I'm also pleased the Foundation is matching the scholarship. The money will be very helpful, and the recognition of my hard work by the high-tech industry is a real thrill."

Cisco Systems, Inc., worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the national and international voice of Canada's 150 colleges and institutes, partnered in 2006 to encourage integrated IP-based technology and increase enrollment in IT programs. The CISCO-ACCC Technology Scholarship was designed to encourage more women to enter studies and careers in the growing IT sector.

"Farah is an excellent example for women in technology and is a real inspiration in the way that she is overcoming obstacles and succeeding," said Don Young, Dean, School of Computer & Engineering Technology and School of Skilled Trades & Tourism.

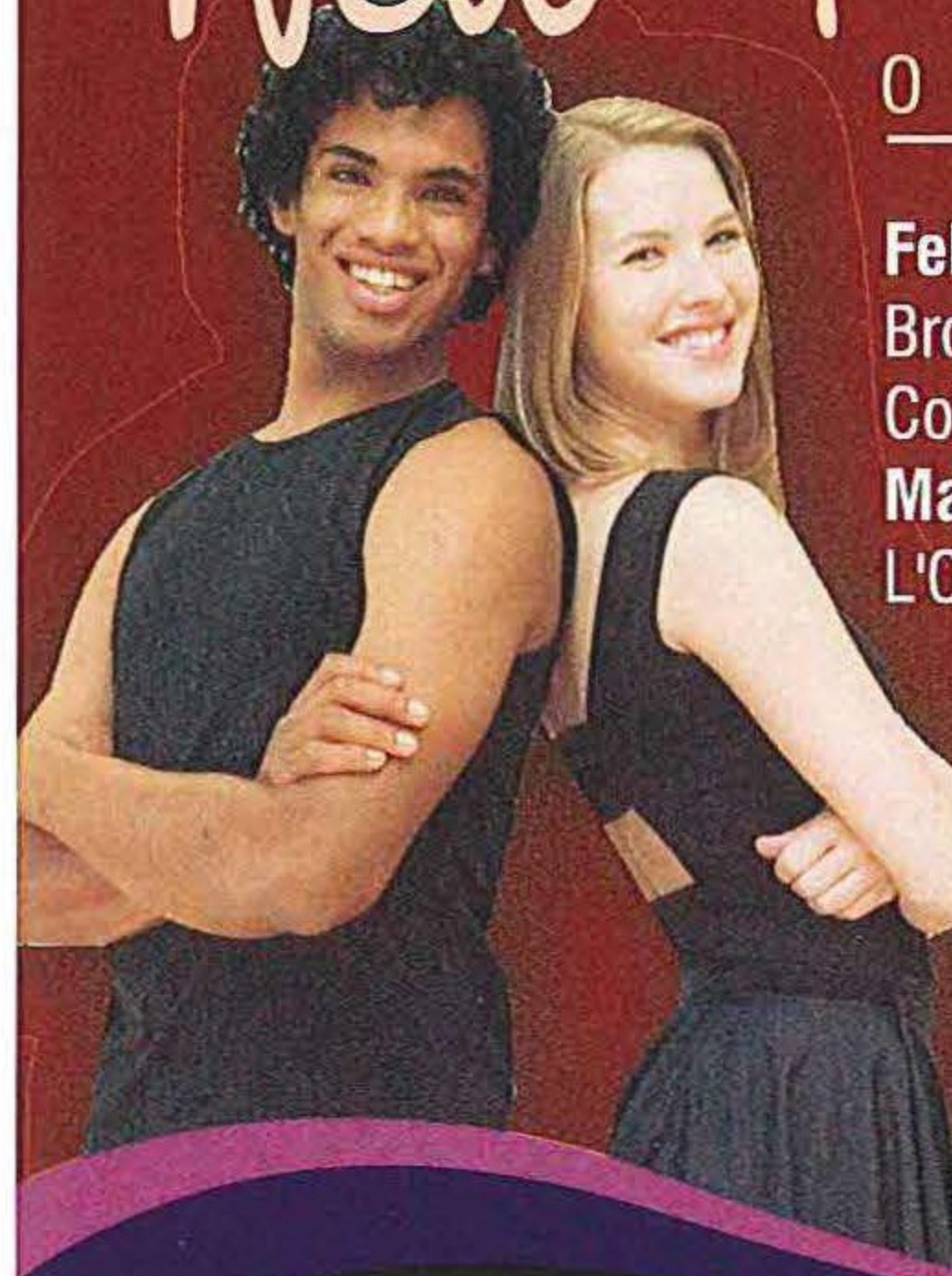
St. Lawrence College offers an extensive Student Awards Program. Awards, scholarships, and bursaries for this purpose are sponsored by organizations and individuals through the St. Lawrence College Foundation. These awards recognize academic excellence, community involvement, contribution to the quality of College life, outstanding achievement, and professional potential. Search our extensive awards database at [www.sl.on.ca/awards](http://www.sl.on.ca/awards).

## St. Lawrence College

### Music Theatre-Performance Program 2007 Spring Program



## New Faces OF 2007



February 24, 2007

Brockville

Collegiate Institute

March 3, 2007

L'Octave Theatre, Kingston

A showcase of creativity and imagination offering a first glimpse of Music Theatre-Performance Program first-year students.

## CHICAGO

Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

April 13, 14 and 15, 2007

Brockville Arts Centre

April 21 and 22, 2007

Thousands Islands Playhouse,  
Gananoque

...an electrifying tale of greed,  
murder and show biz'

For further information & reservations,  
please contact the performance theatre:

Brockville Arts Centre: 613-342-7122

Thousand Islands Playhouse,

Gananoque: 613-382-7020

L'Octave Theatre, Kingston: 613-546-1331

For general inquiries, please email: [stage@sl.on.ca](mailto:stage@sl.on.ca)  
or visit us online at: [www.sl.on.ca](http://www.sl.on.ca)

Season sponsored by

Sodexo



# Cornwall Alumnus sails the Ocean Blue

By Leah Wales

Dean Swift, a 1987 graduate of the Carpentry General Certificate program, had long cherished a special dream – sailing the Atlantic on a boat of his own design, built by his own hands. In the summer of 2006, he made that dream a reality.

Dean's appetite for adventure began with his days in the Royal Canadian Navy, where he enjoyed the opportunity to sample different cultures and distant lands. The experience developed a passion in Dean to see the world, without the restrictions imposed by organizations or tour guides.



talk of the neighbourhood and made me the butt of a few jokes. People started calling me Noah and calling the boat *The Ark*."

Over the next five years, Dean

*"The building process was the talk of the neighbourhood and made me the butt of a few jokes. People started calling me Noah and calling the boat The Ark."*

In 1986, he got the idea to build his own boat and cruise. "It had to be small enough to be affordable, but stout enough for the open sea," Dean says. "My backyard limited the length to 25 feet on deck and my driveway limited the beam to eight feet." The vision was born – his dream ride would be a sailboat, built of wood, epoxy encapsulated. With the basics of carpentry acquired from his cabinetmaker father and skills learned and honed through the carpentry course at SLC, *Lucky Linda* took shape over the following decade and was launched in 1995. According to Dean, "the building process was the

continued to work on the boat and sail it on the St. Lawrence. In 2000, Dean expanded his horizons, sailing the boat downriver and around Nova Scotia to the LaHave River; then he sailed the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick out of the LaHave River Yacht Club over the next six years. In 2006, he was finally ready to take the plunge. Along with crewman John Pierce, from the UK, whom he had met online, he left Bridgewater, N.S., on June 17<sup>th</sup> on his great adventure.

The pair encountered some severe storms, at times battling high winds and 20-foot waves, and once being

blown 160 kilometers off course. For 23 days and 13 hours they sailed, generally with one person on deck, while the other was inside charting course or cooking, "which made it not quite so cramped," says Dean. The pair reached the island of Flores in the Azores, on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 a.m.

Dean reflects on the excursion saying: "The whole experience of building and making an ocean passage on a twenty-five-foot sailboat was one of complete fulfillment. I'd recommend it to anyone". In March, Dean and his wife Linda plan to travel to the island of Horta, in the Azores, where the boat is now docked, and continue the adventure, cruising the Azores this spring, and then on to Morocco and Argentina from there. Happy Sailing, Dean!

**We would love to have more stories to share in *Voyageur* of how our alumni are "Living Your Dreams."**

Tell us what you're up to – reach us by e-mail at [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca) or drop us a line or a phone call and share your adventure stories.

## *Municipal Elections...continued*

the telephone and door-to-door.

Given an estimated eligible voting population of 33,500 in the City of Cornwall, the poll results were considered accurate to within 5%, 95 times out of 100. And accurate they proved to be. The second poll predicted Kilger would capture 43.24% of the vote; election night results gave him 49.2% of the votes. Results for the other four mayoralty candidates were even

closer to the students' forecast. Students also successfully identified 9 of the 10 candidates for councilor who were ultimately selected by voters from a large field of 27 candidates.

The survey and resulting exercise were designed to show students the importance of marketing research, and to give them hands-on experience in delivering a questionnaire and interpreting the results. Students approached the assignment with enthusiasm and integrity, gathering

more than the targeted responses.

A secondary objective was to provide the candidates and the voters in the municipal election with a scientifically accurate poll. The students were encouraged by the response and interest of the media, candidates, and voters in their efforts. Congratulations to this group of students and to Bob Peters for engaging so effectively in our civic process.



# St Lawrence College...a part of your community!



Glenna Schaillee (left) and LouAnn Hamilton greet visitors to the College's new Kemptville office.

By Dave McFadden

The Community Advancement-Skills Training Division (CAST), based on the Brockville Campus of St. Lawrence College, truly exemplifies the 'Community' in 'Community College'. Since its inception six years ago, this division has followed through on its mandate to "push out" and become an active partner in the communities we serve. This dedicated and dynamic group have indeed advanced the cause of our surrounding communities and assisted them in their quest to develop and apply the skills existent in those communities.

The CAST Division includes the staff of several business units - The School of Continuing Education, The School of Distance Education, The Centre for Training and Development, The Eastern Ontario Centre for Advanced Technology (EASTCAT), and Job Connect. In order to be fully involved as partners in our communities, we have established a very visible presence in Smiths Falls, Kemptville, and Elgin and have also established a strong public image in Prescott, Gananoque, Perth, and Carleton Place through a variety of

Service Canada contracts and ENCORE programs administered in those areas.

The Smiths Falls campus has been a robust success, with a full line of Business and Industry training courses and programs being offered and well attended. Continuing Education courses are also a steady offering at this location, and Summer School of the Arts courses have also proved very successful. A full-service computer lab is available and is often full to capacity. The planning process is underway to offer a full-time program in Smiths Falls commencing in the fall of 2007. We also host the Community Planning Project TOPS (Trends, Opportunities and Priorities) from this campus location, to serve the information and planning process for the county of Lanark. The community has embraced this campus and the future looks bright, as we move forward with our partners in the Smiths Falls-Perth-Carleton Place area.

Our Job Connect team is a community force in Brockville, Kingston and downtown Ottawa, as well as at our new office locations in the Municipal Complex in the growing

community of North Grenville in Kemptville and the heritage community of Elgin in North Leeds. This hardworking team exists to match employer needs with available labour, culminating in a successful approach to advancing the local economy.

Our Centre for Training and Development offers training for corporate clients, whether large multinationals like Alcan, or small locally based contractors. We provide a wide variety of training experiences to the counties of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark. Our Service Canada contracts have met with enormous success throughout these counties under the brand names of CASTLE (The Career and Skills Trades Learning Experience), Blossoms (many local beautification projects), and Youth Links/Builds/Skills (diversified youth advancement projects). Our business 'incubator' EASTCAT, continues to offer assistance to those budding entrepreneurs who need help getting established.

The CAST team is a dynamic, professional group that truly enjoys being out in our communities, advancing key causes in each district and meeting the needs of residents of these diverse regions. If you live in Leeds, Grenville, or Lanark and you look around any corner, you will likely see the St. Lawrence College logo flying high - right where you need it to be.

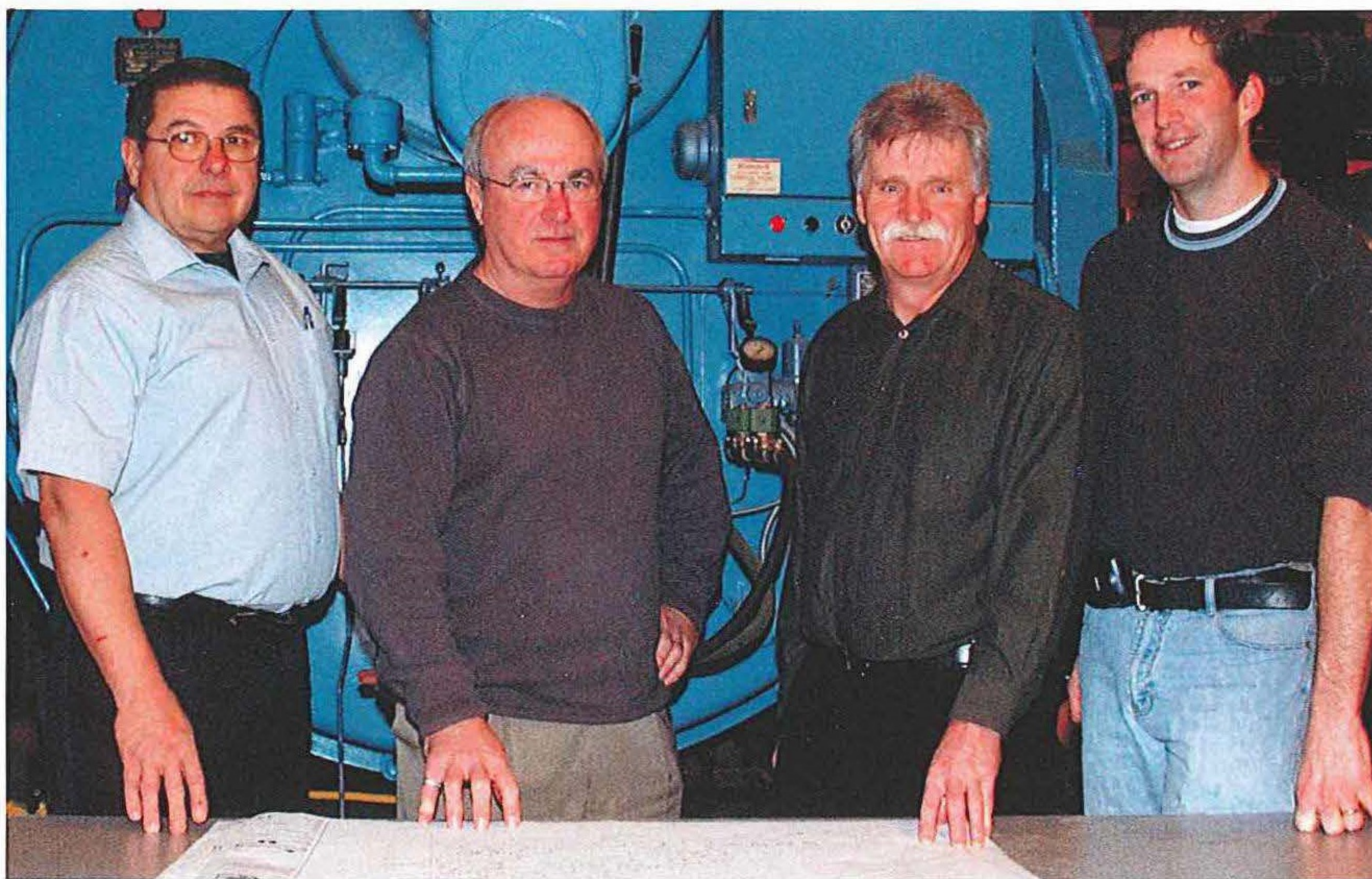


# Reaping the Rewards of Quality and Excellence

The Department of Physical Resources is feeling the benefits of St. Lawrence College's commitment to quality and excellence, including initiatives that benefit the environment.

Four graduates are key contributors to the department's Energy Management Program being implemented at the Cornwall, Brockville, and Kingston campuses in early 2007. J. R. Caron and Larry Godard, both electronics graduates, are directly involved with project coordination and electrical modifications respectively. John MacGregor, a civil graduate, manages overall contract administration, and Hugh Murphy, an instrumentation graduate, is responsible for HVAC modifications.

Executive Director of Physical Resources Blayne Mackey and his team are working with Ameresco Canada, the selected facility renewal partner, to implement retrofits and upgrades anticipated to save more than \$500,000 in operating costs at the three campuses. The project also incorporates approximately \$3.5 million of renewal measures including replacing boilers and chillers with high efficiency technology and fire alarm system replacements.



(Left to right) Larry Godard, Blayne Mackey, John MacGregor, Hugh Murphy are 'at home' in the boiler room on the Kingston Campus.

In line with the college's focus on renewable energy, proposed renewable measures include a solar wall system at the Kingston campus, the latest solar thermal technology at both Cornwall and Kingston campuses, and repair of the wind turbine at the Cornwall campus. Combined measures will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1,350 tonnes annually.

The Energy Management Program is one of the college's initiatives that provides significant benefit to the environment through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and more efficient use of energy.

St. Lawrence College also continues to develop the innovators, leaders, and achievers to bring renewable energies into the mainstream and secure a sustainable future for the environment.

*Ali Kahi...from page 5*



classmate, and worked part time at Boston Pizza during his time in Brockville. He is still in contact with several of these friends, and they see each other regularly.

Ali did his placement in the city of Markham, going on all calls and participating in daily activities, such as truck checks and cleaning the firehall, he says. Afterwards, when his application to the Union of Fire Sprinkler Installers of

Ontario was accepted, he earned a full-time job at LISI Mechanical, where he installs fire sprinklers and checks fire extinguishers. Now living in North York, Ali states that, since "Toronto and surrounding cities do not accept volunteers, I'm volunteering with the Red Cross."

Capt. Rutley says that it's great that Ali landed a job in a related trade: "It will help him pad his resume. The guy is cut out to be a Firefighter," Rutley notes, "and I can also envision Ali as a Fire Prevention Officer. With his people-handling skills and book

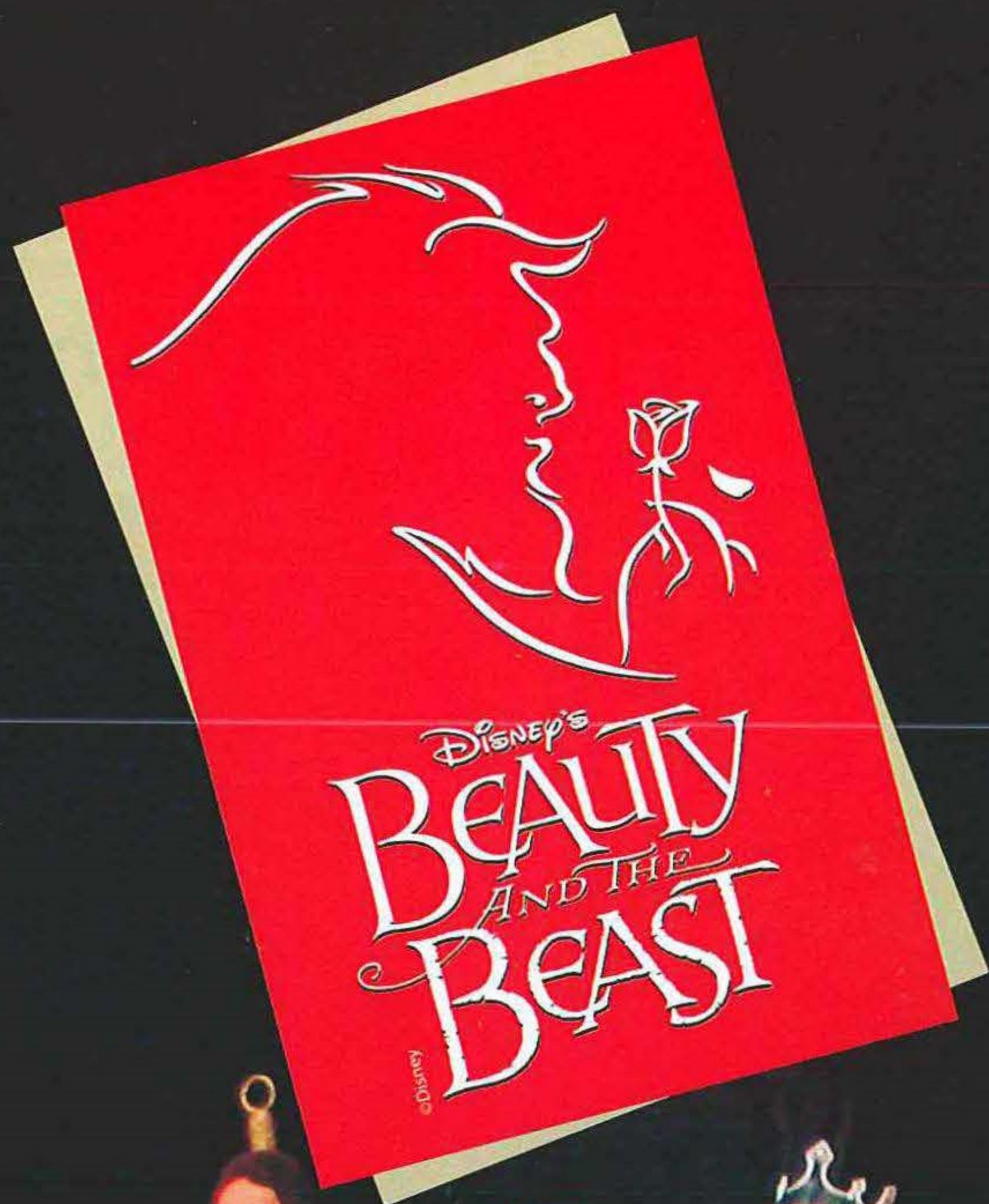
knowledge, Ali would surely be successful at that endeavour."

Currently writing his entrance exam to become a Firefighter for the cities of Markham and Toronto, Ali explains, "In the meantime, I'm continuing with my apprenticeship in fire sprinklers."

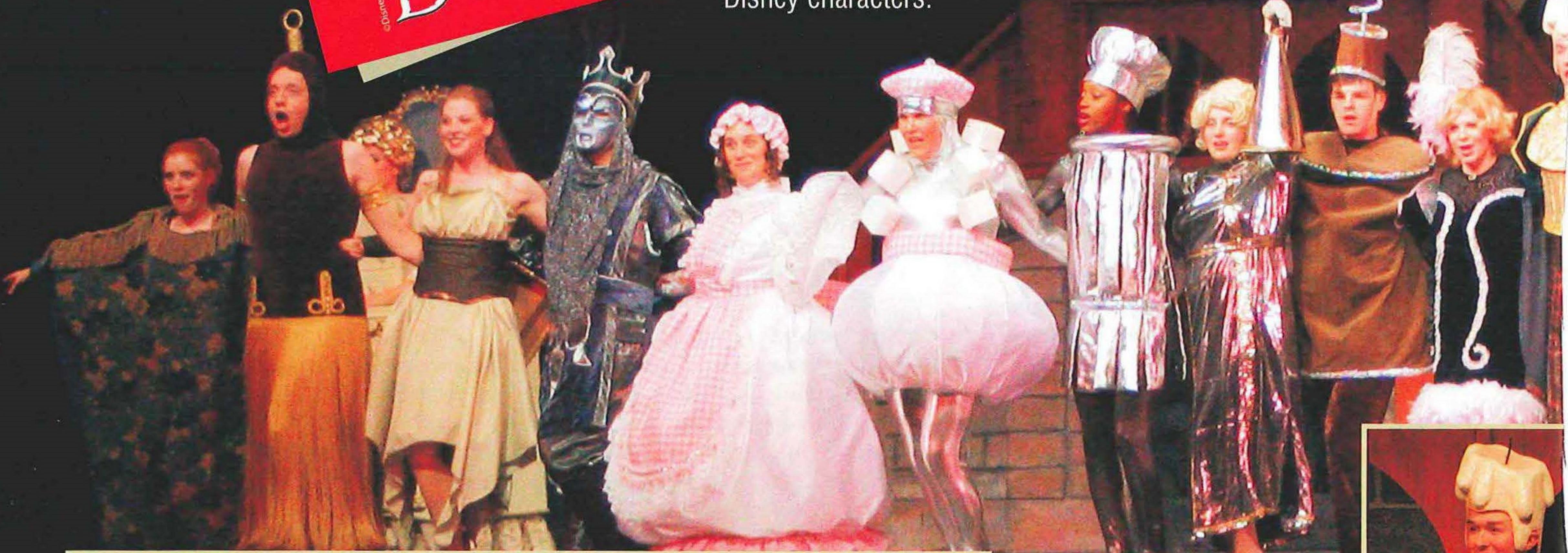
Through his positive, valuable, and memorable educational experience at St. Lawrence College and by working with others in the field, Ali says that he has, "realized that the meaning of a firefighter is not just a career – it's a lifestyle."

For more information about this program: Gary Rutley, Firefighter Program, 613-345-0660, ext. 3580 or Recruiting team dreamit@sl.on.ca, 1-800-463-0752



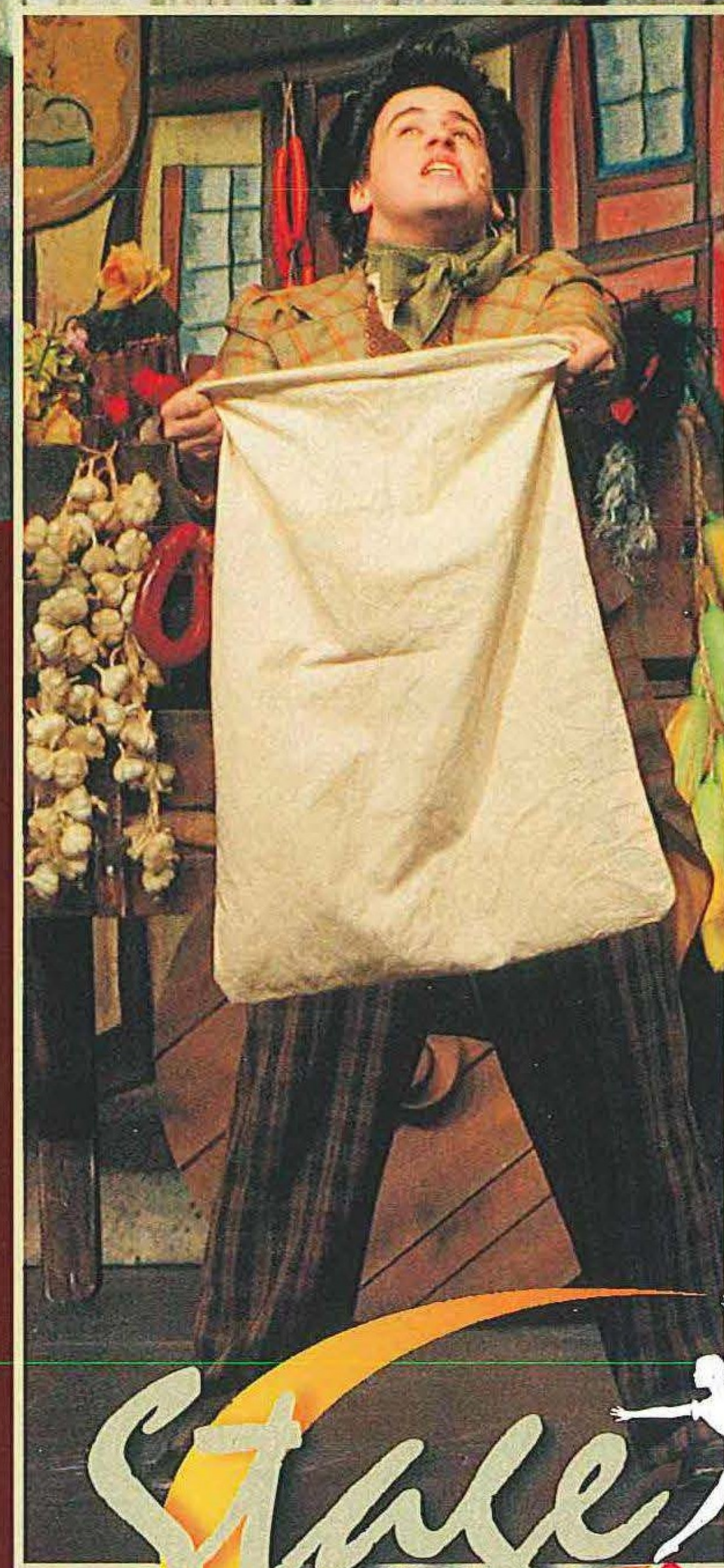
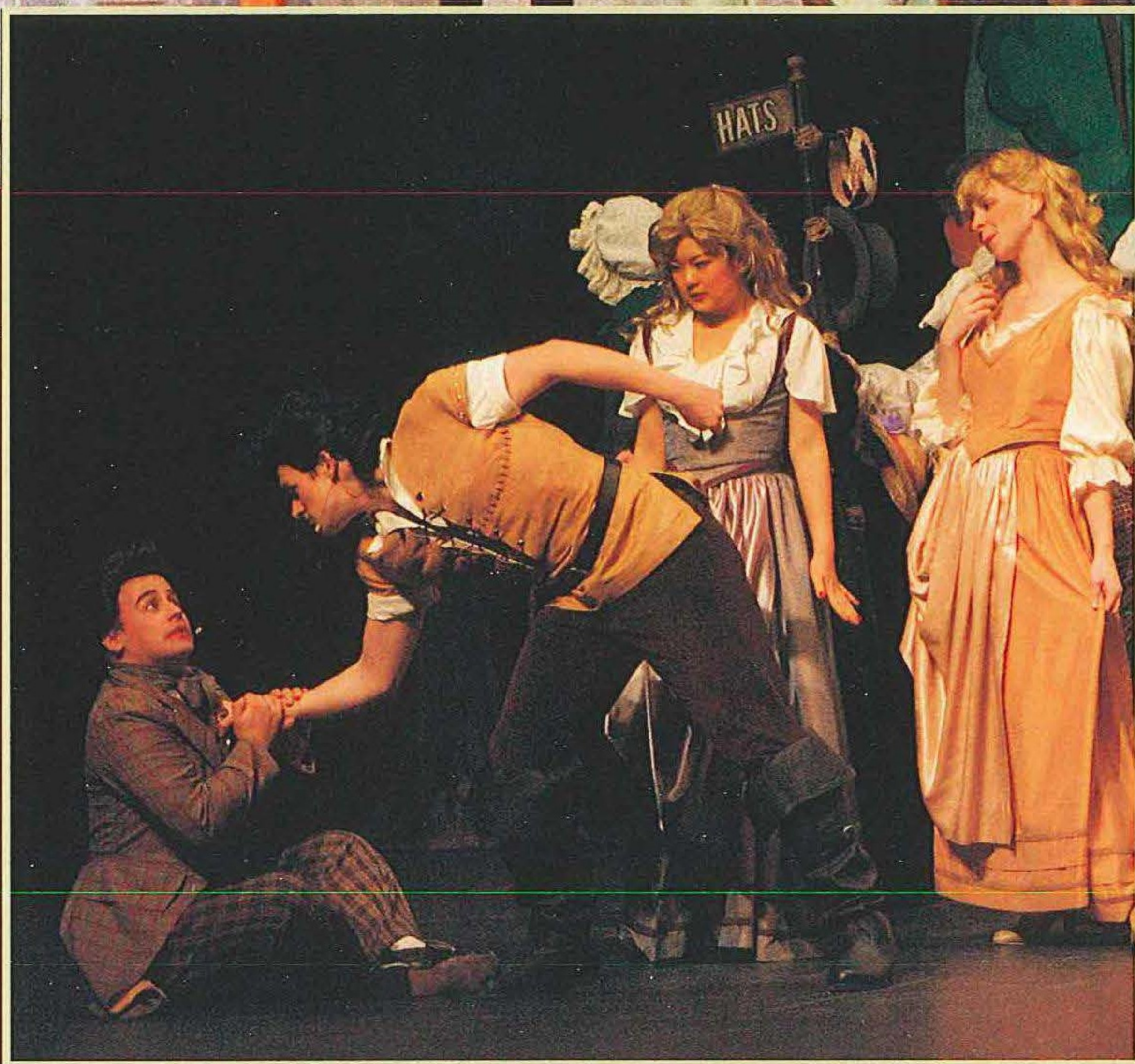
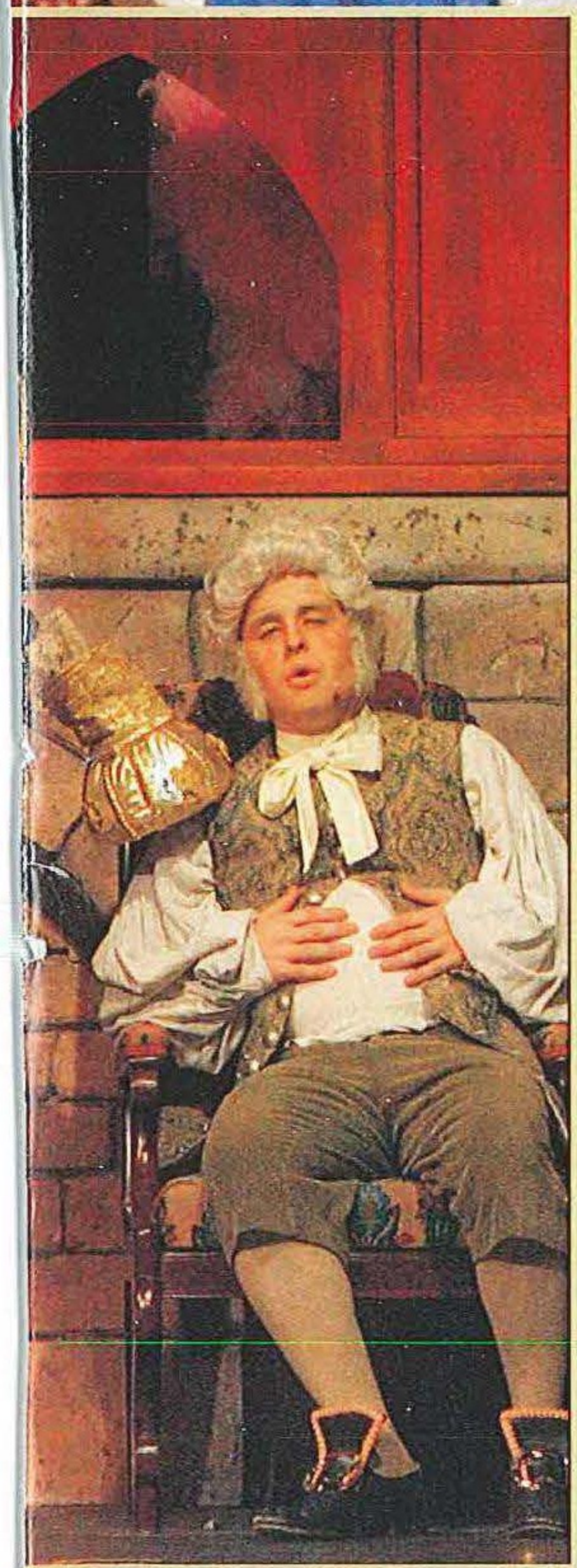


Students of Brockville's Music Theatre Performance Program treated audiences in Cornwall and Brockville to a lavish production of Beauty & the Beast in December. The impressive show hit all the right notes, delighting the crowds with pyrotechnics, gadgets like Maurice's woodchopping invention, dazzling costumes, colourful sets and highly skilled portrayals of the well-known Disney characters.



“ With each scene more spectacular than the one preceding it, this No effort or expenses were spared when it came to including all





Photos: Sean Burns

*Stage*

production didn't disappoint.  
the highlights that Disney fans expected to see". Brockville Recorder & Times



---

# Adult Upgrading Program Prepares Students for Success

By Laura Tulchinsky

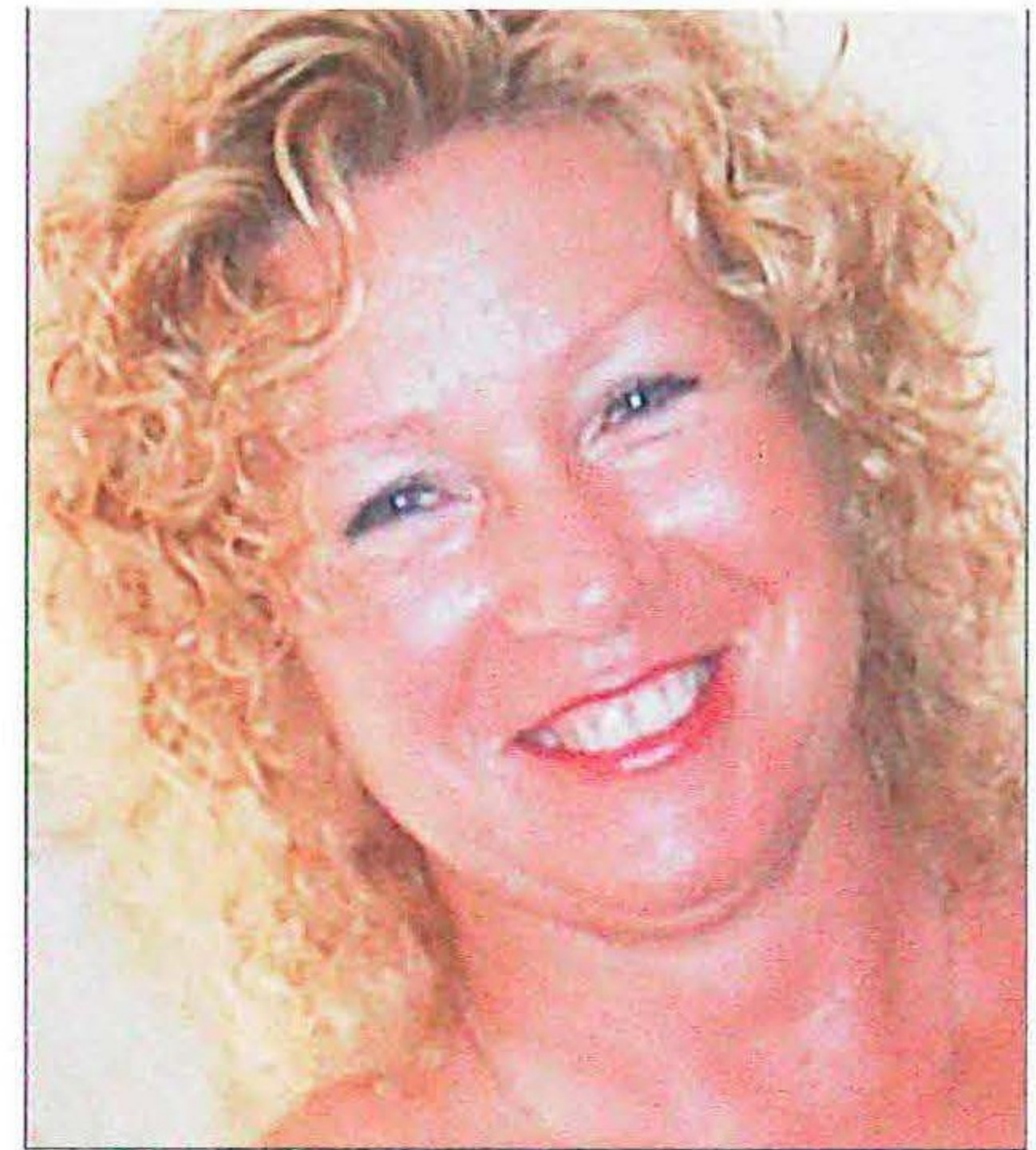
St. Lawrence College, in partnership with Kingston Literacy, the Limestone District School Board, and Northern Connections, has just announced funding for a new program aimed at helping rural learners gain the skills and confidence needed to further their education in either post-secondary or apprenticeship programs.

The new initiative, PALS, *Partnering to Achieve Learning Success*, will allow St. Lawrence College to deliver its popular ACE curriculum (Academic and Career Entrance) to Kingston's outlying communities. The program provides courses equivalent to grade 12 for purposes of admission to college or apprenticeship. The program is free for those who qualify and includes math, sciences, English and computer credits such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. Flexible class schedules and continuous start dates throughout the year accommodate the needs of learners who juggle family and work responsibilities.

Success of the ACE program is evident in graduate Patricia Ashie. Ashie, who completed the program in 2003, has gone on to become a full-time advocate of adult literacy, and is a member of the Ontario Learning Coalition, a former member and Chairperson of the Adult Learners' Network, and a Federal Representative for the Movement for Canadian Literacy. "It took a lot of courage to go through the doors of St. Lawrence College," she said. "But when I finally did, I knew this was the right decision for me. The Adult Upgrading program turned my life around." Patricia attended a World Literacy conference in Africa in January.

As well as funding for the PALS project, St. Lawrence College has received an additional \$62,500 from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to invest in increased delivery of the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program on all our campuses. Enrollment in College Prep programs has increased significantly. In Kingston alone, enrolment has increased by 273% since 2002.

"We are excited to be able to extend our reach to rural communities with this program," said Nancy Scovil, Coordinator Arts and Science, St. Lawrence College. "We'll be providing an opportunity for higher education and confidence building to those who would otherwise experience enormous challenges in accessing the College directly."



Patricia Ashie returned to visit the Kingston campus in November and to share her story with current students in the ACE program.

---

## *Business programs expanding with a NEW Degree –* **Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)**

St. Lawrence College has announced the launch of a new Bachelor of Business Administration degree program in partnership with Laurentian University.

Beginning in the fall of 2007 on the Kingston Campus, the program supports college efforts to provide quality programming responsive to the needs of students and the community. The four-year university degree program expands the College's ability to offer relevant and current course curriculum in an intimate learning environment.

The new degree program will provide a balanced platform of study

that includes accounting, finance, marketing, operations, economics, information technology, international business and entrepreneurship. "The small class sizes and state-of-the-art facilities, along with a talented industry-based faculty who are dedicated to the success of each student will quickly set this program apart from other business programs," says Chris Whitaker, Vice-President Academic and Executive Director, Kingston Campus. "It really is the best of both worlds. We anticipate a strong interest in the program from both secondary school students as well as Business Diploma graduates who may wish to upgrade and update their

current credentials."

"Partnerships in business are essential and we believe that our new collaboration with Laurentian University to deliver this four-year degree at our College is a great example of a win-win partnership. Ultimately, it is the students who will be the big winners, as they will receive an incredible educational experience, right here in Kingston," says Whitaker.

Opportunities for alumni to begin upgrading their diploma to a degree are expected to be available starting in 2008. For more information, contact Robert Tester, Acting Dean, School of Business, by email to [rtester@sl.on.ca](mailto:rtester@sl.on.ca)



# New Art Gallery in the Works for Brockville

By Frank Lockington

Plans are coming together for the creation of a permanent art gallery at the Brockville campus of St. Lawrence College. For over 35 years, the campus has been offering creative arts programming on a part-time basis. This fall, a new full-time Fine Arts diploma program is slated to begin. The timing is right for the development of the campus's first art gallery.

To be located just inside the front entrance of the campus, the gallery is expected to cost \$550,000 and will be financed through donations made to the St. Lawrence College Foundation. The lead gift of \$250,000 has been received from the estate of St. Lawrence College graduate, Marianne van Silfhout.

"Marianne benefited so much not only from the courses that she took at St. Lawrence but also by kinship and friendship from the artists in the com-

munity as a whole," says Pieter Oly, Marianne's nephew. "The donation is a way for her to reciprocate to a school and a community that allowed her to indulge her passion for the arts."

Construction on The van Silfhout Gallery will get underway this spring, with the opening scheduled for the fall. The facility will provide students in the 1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts, Continuing Education Program and the new Fine Arts Diploma Program the chance to exhibit their work right on campus. Once completed, the gallery will become the largest in the Brockville region.

Arts faculty, many of whom have been teaching in the program for years, are excited to learn of this new development. The notion of showcasing student and alumni talent and opening up access to the whole community is overdue.

"As a legacy, I don't think that my Aunt could have wanted anything more

than a gallery such as this, that will foster the continued growth of the arts in the community," says Oly. "The greater Brockville community has done amazing things in terms of its generosity to St. Lawrence College. This is a gift which is in keeping with the spirit and generosity of the entire community."

The balance of the funds required to complete the gallery, \$300,000, will be secured by the Foundation through an appeal to those in the region with an interest in the arts.

"We recently received word that the Ballymenagh Foundation has committed to a gift of \$25,000 in support of the gallery project," says Frank Lockington, Director of Development at St. Lawrence.

To learn more about the project or to support the completion of the gallery, contact the St. Lawrence College Foundation at [foundation@sl.on.ca](mailto:foundation@sl.on.ca) or call Frank Lockington at 613-345-0660 ext.1638.

## summer arts

*Explore your creative spirit  
in the heart of the spectacular  
Thousands Islands.*

Brockville, Ontario, Canada

35<sup>th</sup> Edition

## 1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts

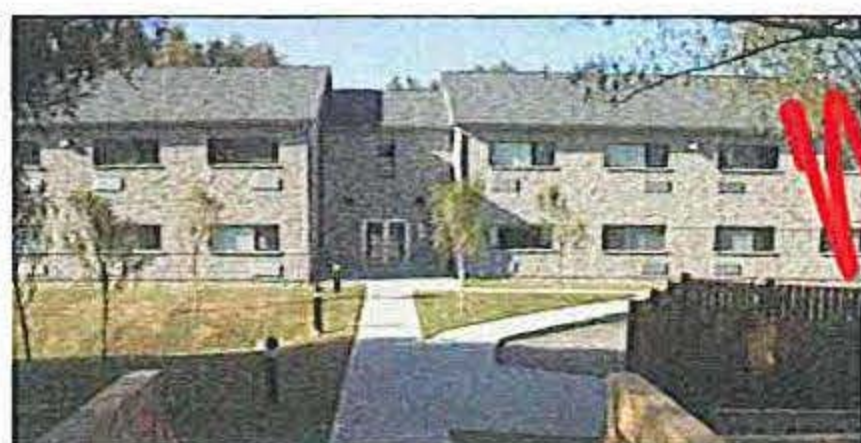
**100s of artists and aspiring artists join us each year in July/August for one of our 2-, 3- or 5-day workshops.**

We offer fine arts in various mediums, woodcarving, jewellery making, textile painting, rug hooking and quilt design to name a few. You will learn from experts in their field and enjoy the camaraderie of other aspiring artists.

**Watch our website for full details or contact us for a brochure**

**1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts**

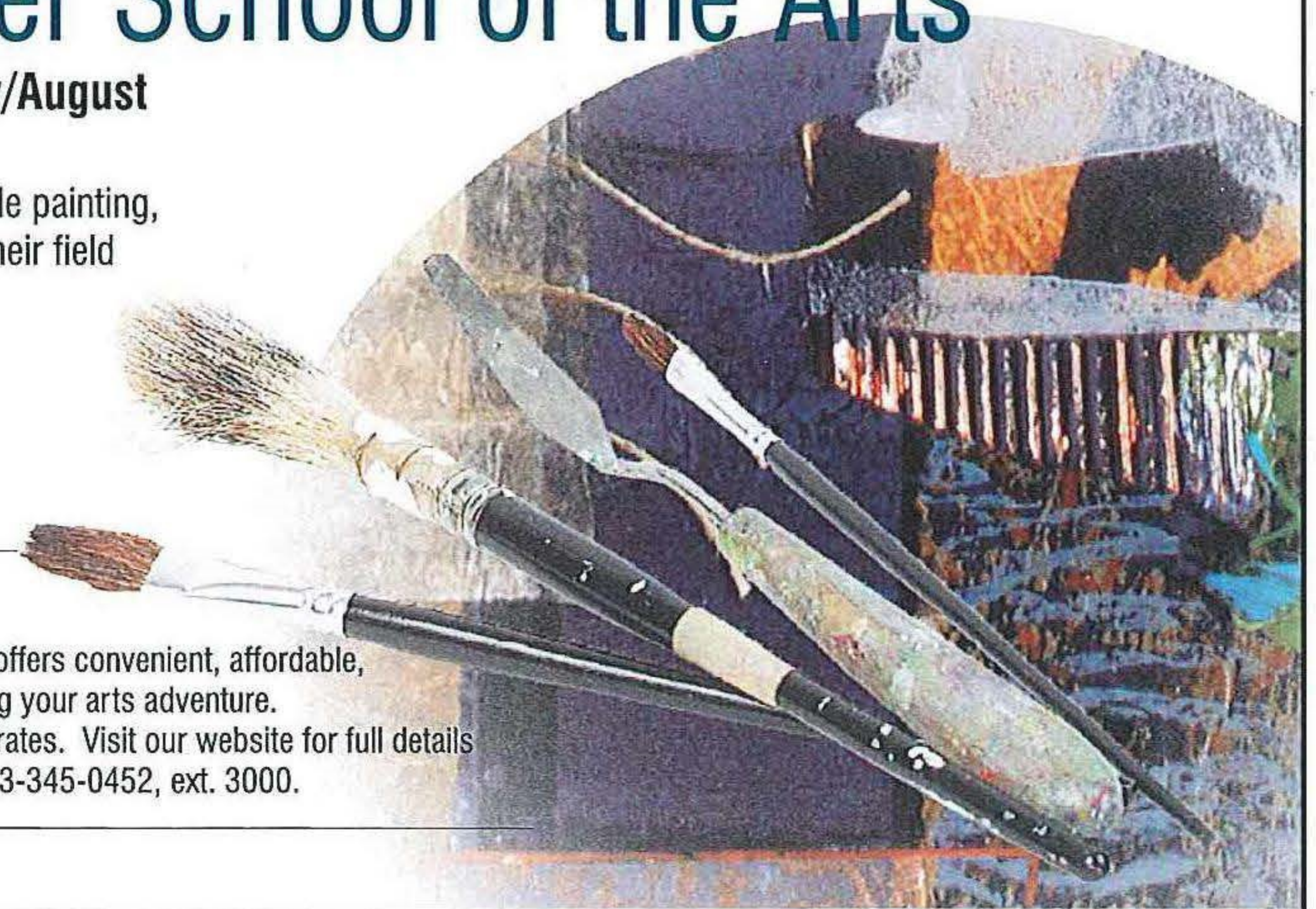
1-888-838-0698 press 6, or 613-345-0660 ext. 3503 [www.sl.on.ca](http://www.sl.on.ca)



**New**

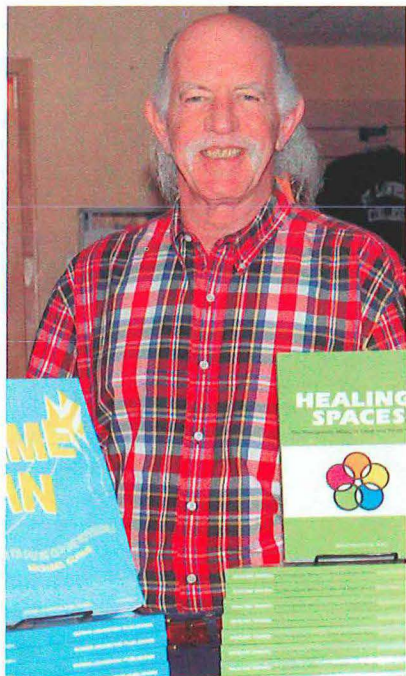
**Stay with us.**

St. Lawrence College Residence offers convenient, affordable, and comfortable accommodation during your arts adventure. Ask for our Summer Arts Adventure special rates. Visit our website for full details or contact us at: [bresidence@sl.on.ca](mailto:bresidence@sl.on.ca) or 613-345-0452, ext. 3000.





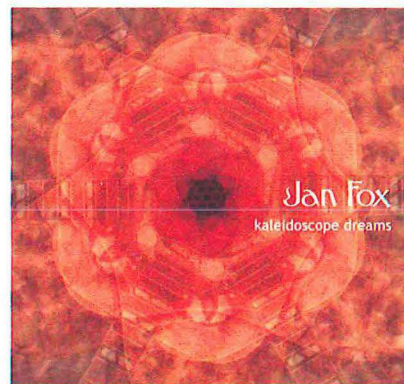
## Faculty Showcasing Talents Beyond the Classroom



**Michael Burns**, faculty member in the Child & Youth Worker program on the Kingston campus has recently published a new textbook entitled *Healing Spaces*. The concept of

therapeutic milieu has been an important part of the field of child and youth care since its early beginnings. Burns's addition to the literature on milieu therapy expands the field's earlier work and provides new avenues for discussion, extending the emphasis on physical, social, and emotional elements to include the cultural and ideological elements of therapeutic environment for troubled children and youth.

The publisher's comments on the text highlight its relevance to today's CYW students: "As a text for those pursuing the child and youth work profession, *Healing Spaces* furnishes a variety of opportunities for students to explore the concepts and ideas within the classroom and field placement settings." Michael has written five books and countless articles in the field of child and youth work. As noted in the Staff Echoes section of the Fall issue of *Voyageur*, Michael was also nominated this year by his first alma mater, St. Clair College, for a Premier's Award for his significant contribution to the Child & Youth Worker field. Congratulations, Mike!



Our very own **Jan Fox**, Coordinator of the Medical Laboratory Science program in Kingston has released her first music CD titled *Kaleidoscope Dreams*. This CD offers great original material and remakes of some old favorites. Remember the song "Paper Roses"? You should hear Jan's version! Jan's CD is for sale in the Campus Bookstore for only \$15, and she is graciously donating a portion of all sales to our Student Emergency Bursary Fund – thanks, Jan! Pick up a copy soon – another great reason to come back and visit the Kingston campus.

## Civil Grad Launches Unique Design Competition with a \$1000 Prize

Blake Van Winckle, a recent graduate of both our Civil Engineering Technology and our Hotel and Restaurant Management programs, and his brother Darren, are tapping into the current trend of renovation and reality TV shows with an interesting, interactive design contest.

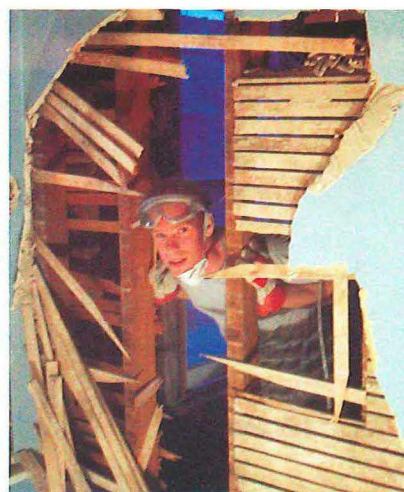
The pair are making-over a 116 year old house located in downtown Kingston, room by room, using the public's help for design ideas, and a great deal of their own manual labour. They are broadcasting their activities live over the internet, using streaming video and audio, making their project the world's first fully interactive, real time renovation.

Visit [civilhouse.ca](http://civilhouse.ca) to learn how to submit your design ideas for the home. Design ideas are posted and voted on by visitors to the site. The chosen designer wins a prize and has the

opportunity to see their idea come to life in real time. The top prize for the project is a \$1000 [civilhouse.ca](http://civilhouse.ca) bursary, which will be awarded to the student who submits the most popular design of the entire project.

As both brothers are recent post secondary school graduates, they recognize the difficulties associated with trying to finance post secondary education. They chose to establish this bursary to help reduce the financial burden, helping one student reach his or her goal of graduation.

"Being fully prepared for the working world, able to think, and able to make the right decisions on how to run a business, are among the greatest benefits of my education at St. Lawrence," says Blake. "I think this project really illustrates just how versatile a college education can be."



Blake Van Winckle hard at work tearing down the walls at civilhouse.

Visit [civilhouse.ca](http://civilhouse.ca) today and get in on your chance to win a \$1000 bursary.



# Premier's Awards Nominees

The Premier's Awards for graduates of Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology honour the important social and economic contribution college graduates make to Ontario and throughout the world. Chosen annually by the College Compensation and Appointments Council, recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Ontario's twenty-four Colleges. Nominees demonstrate outstanding career success related to their college experience and have made a significant contribution to their community. We are delighted to present St. Lawrence College's outstanding 2006 nominees.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES



**Brian Wilcock**

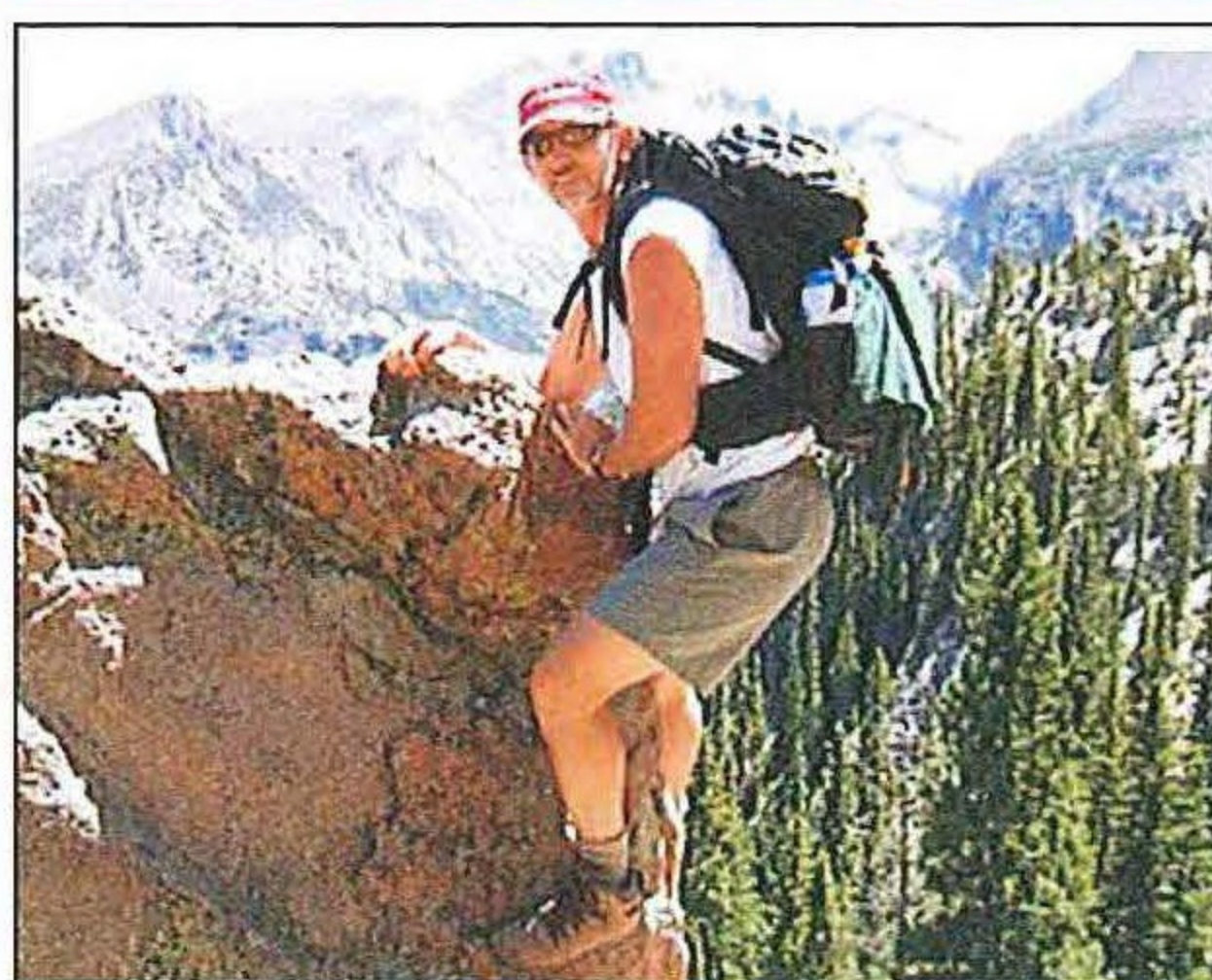
Brian Wilcock overcame early obstacles in life to carve out a successful career as owner and director of three independent children's residential homes. Growing up in a rough neighbourhood in Kingston, the child of a single mother on welfare, Brian was lucky to have a high school teacher who forced him to look to the future and get his life on track.

When he left high school, Brian wanted to do one of two things: either work with "troubled kids" or open his own business. By attending St. Lawrence College, he managed to find a way to do both. Brian studied Child & Youth Work, graduating with distinction in 1998. He then incorporated that knowledge and skill in a business venture, opening his own residential homes for high-risk youth. Looking back now, he sees it as the best of both worlds.

In addition to his hands-on role in the homes, helping develop individualized treatment plans for every child, Brian also teaches part time in the Child & Youth Worker Program at St. Lawrence College. His courses include Behavioural Counselling, Issues in CYW Self-Care, and Professional Communications. He is also a Master Level Instructor in Non-Violent Physical Crisis Intervention.

Brian is an active community volunteer, working with Kinsmen Club of Kingston, L&A Family & Children's Services and others. He is in a committed relationship and the father of a seven-year-old son.

## HEALTH SCIENCES



**Patrick Hickey**

Patrick Hickey graduated from St. Lawrence College with a Nursing Diploma in 1976. He began his working career as an Emergency Room Nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. He went on to become an OR Educator and Nurse Manager, Director of Performance Improvement and Risk Manager for Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, South Carolina. He earned his BScN (1988), MSc: Health Education (2000), Doctor of Public Health (2004), and MScN (2006). He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor/College of Nursing at the University of South Carolina.

Patrick is striving to be the first nurse in the world to complete climbs of the Seven Summits (seven highest points on the seven continents of the world) and in doing so, Patrick hopes to draw greater attention to the nursing shortage. He also wants to highlight that the skill sets fundamental to nursing - leadership, teamwork and communication - can lead you to the top of the world. Patrick has successfully climbed five of the seven summits, and the final two will be completed by March 2007.

Patrick has been elected to the National Board of Directors for the Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN), where he has been involved in national initiatives to improve patient health and successful surgical outcomes. Patrick has been an invited guest speaker and published author of numerous articles on topics including leadership in nursing, health care service for the Hispanic community, and risk management in the OR. He is the recipient of the SC Palmetto Gold Nurse of the Year Award (2002) and the South Carolina Partners of the Americas Volunteer of the Year Award (2004).

## BUSINESS



**Shawn Geary**

Shawn Geary graduated in 1990 from St. Lawrence College with a Business Administration-Marketing diploma. While still a student, he was recruited by Royal Trust Financial Services, while still a student, working for them for two years following graduation. Shawn always had the dream of owning his own business, and in 1993 he purchased McCoy Limousine Services from the retiring owner. He quickly expanded the size and scope of the business, tripling revenues in just three years.

Over the following decade, Shawn developed a transportation company with three subsidiaries, each serving a unique sector of the industry. McCoy Bus Service operates a fleet of eleven full-service buses for hire, as well as a new daily shuttle service between the town of Gananoque and the city of Kingston. McCoy Tours delivers more than 200 leisure tour dates per year throughout Ontario, Quebec, and the Eastern United States. McCoy Casino Shuttle Service provides a weekly bus service to casino destinations in Ontario and Quebec. The companies have a combined staff, including employees and contract drivers, of more than 50. As an owner/operator, Shawn is responsible for all aspects of each business including sales & marketing, human resources, purchasing & finance, public relations, and fleet maintenance.

In 2003, Shawn's business success was recognized by his peers when he was selected as Business of the Year by the Kingston Chamber of Commerce: (category medium-sized business). Shawn demonstrates great corporate citizenship, regularly giving back to the community with financial and in-kind donations to many local Kingston organizations and serving as a volunteer firefighter with the Kingston fire department.

Photo: Kingston Whig Standard





(From left to right) **Matt Beasant**, Copywriter, JWT Toronto; **Adam Fraser**, Account Coordinator, Wunderman Toronto; **Jeanna Murdie**, Corporate Sales and Event Manager, Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa; **Enid Stewart**, Marketing and Tourism Director for the municipality of Quinte West; **Kevin Wright**, Communications Administrator, Toronto Raptors Foundation.

## Alumni Help Students Look to the Future

In December, St. Lawrence College Advertising students got a closer look into their future through a special event suitably named *Future Forecasts*.

The event featured 5 elite graduates of the College's Integrated Marketing & Communications program who have gone on to become professionals in the industry, working in various capacities, including communications, copywriting, sales and marketing. Each graduate shared their personal experiences and ideas

with current and potential students, giving them a chance to look into their future careers and come away with a new perspective on the array of choices.

Students were eager to pose questions of the panelists, asking for tips on getting hired, which IMC courses have proved most useful on the job and how much in demand are the skills they are currently acquiring. The answers were illuminating and no doubt music to the ears of program faculty who heard how the skills and knowledge

they strive to impart to students are used daily in the working world.

The very successful event was entirely organized by current students in Kathy Maher's communications class and featured the incomparable Robin Pepper as Master of Ceremonies. We hope to make it an annual evening and would welcome the involvement of other alumni of the program. Please contact the alumni office to learn how you can help.

*Andrea Andrecyk...from page 3*



Standard and has worked there ever since. Interestingly, the majority of her colleagues are also graduates of the St. Lawrence College graphic design program, and they all proudly display their diplomas on their desks.

Andrea started St. Lawrence Col-

lege as a shy teenager – so shy, she admits, she probably wouldn't have had the nerve to call and order pizza. However, three years at St. Lawrence College shaped her into an independent, confident young woman. Her new winning attitude opened career doors but also spurred her on in other ways.

Andrea is a member of the Canadian National Adaptive Water Ski team and brought home the bronze medal for Canada at the 2005 World Disabled Water Ski championship in Belgium.

For more information about this program: Don Niven, Graphic Design Program, 613-544-5400, ext. 1140 or Recruiting team [dreamit@sl.on.ca](mailto:dreamit@sl.on.ca), 1-800-463-0752

When she first thought about going to Belgium, her nerves held her back, but in the end she decided to go for it. "My time at St. Lawrence shaped me. I gained independence and confidence, and I don't want to let these opportunities pass. If I succeed, if I fail...at least I tried!" she declares.

We wish Andrea all the best at the upcoming world competition to be held in Australia. With any luck, she'll be winning another medal for Canada on her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this May.

*Linda Gratton...from page 4*



scene. "It was a rush that even eclipsed the time I went skydiving," she says.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Linda, now one-and-a-half years into her new career, is already taking it to the next step, having begun training for the Marine Unit, a branch of the Ottawa

Paramedics Service specialty teams that she aspires to join. More than ever, this 'type A' personality understands the need for balance in life, and says that her work has made her grateful to come home to Norm and the cats after each shift. At the end of the day, she says that she has a greater appreciation for life in general, and is motivated even more than ever not to procrastinate, to get things done, and most of all, to enjoy the little things.

For more information about this program: Dan Shannon, Paramedic Program, 613-933-6080, ext. 2124 or Recruiting team [dreamit@sl.on.ca](mailto:dreamit@sl.on.ca), 1-800-463-0752

Although she is very proud of what she does, Linda doesn't see her job as heroic. Her work is very exciting to her, but in more introspective moments, she admits she is honoured simply for the opportunity to touch people's lives in their time of need. "One day you have the privilege of bringing someone into the world, and the next you're holding someone's hand while they are dying," she reflects.





# Alumni Discount Program

**Being a St. Lawrence College graduate has its perks!** The Alumni Relations Office has arranged for a slate of exclusive discounts and value-added incentives for SLC alumni. In many cases, your personalized Alumni Card must be presented in order to receive the discount. **Becoming an Alumni Discount Provider:** Businesses and service providers interested in taking advantage of the preferred purchasing power of thousands of college graduates, as well as free exposure through St. Lawrence *Voyageur* and the Alumni page of the College's website, are encouraged to contact the Alumni Relations Office for more information on how to sign up as an Alumni Discount Provider. **Participating businesses and service providers include:**

## **NEW AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

As a St. Lawrence College Alumni you qualify for an 'Alumni Rate' of \$49.95 per suite, per night, based on double occupancy, plus applicable taxes at any **RESIDENCE & CONFERENCE CENTRE** location (Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor, Kitchener, Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Brampton, Oakville, Hamilton, Oshawa, King City, Brockville and Kamloops B.C.). A portion of the proceeds goes back to the St. Lawrence College Alumni Association. Rooms are primarily available May - August.

For reservations, call **1-877-2-ALUMNI** and ask to be transferred to the location of your choice. Mention your St. Lawrence College Alumni affiliation to receive the appropriate discount.

Checkout [www.checkintothecentre.com](http://www.checkintothecentre.com) for a full list of locations and services.

## **TD Meloche Monnex**

- group rates on home and auto insurance
- 1-888-589-5656 or [www.melochemonnex.com](http://www.melochemonnex.com)

## **MBNA Canada**

- The St. Lawrence College MasterCard
- Call 1-800-416-6345 (quote priority code ASQ6) or apply online at: <http://www.applyonlinenow.com/canada/stlawrencecc>

## **Odyssey Learning Adventures**

- exclusive travel packages and discounts
- Call 1-800-263-0050, (613) 549-3561, or email [learning@odyssey-travel.com](mailto:learning@odyssey-travel.com)

## **Enterprise Rent-a-Car**

- Special corporate rates and services for automobile rentals
- When booking in person or at [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com), quote our corporate class number: 3CA1171.

## **Sony Music Canada**

- Save \$2-\$4 on most CDs and DVDs at [www.shopsonymusic.ca](http://www.shopsonymusic.ca). Password: voyageur.
- Free shipping on two or more items.

## **Speedy Club**

Present your alumni card and reference our member number (Acct. 00084), at any Speedy Auto Service and receive discounts on mufflers, tires and repairs. Benefits:

- 15% off regular-priced purchases (in-stock parts)
- 10% off our everyday low price on Michelin or BFGoodrich tires
- 5% off advertised specials

These discounts cannot be combined with any other loyalty programs.

## **Jumbo Video** (All Kingston locations, Brockville)

- One free "All Time Favourites" rental with any paid "New Release" rental when you show your Alumni Card.

## **Fairmont Hotels & Resorts**

- Discounted rates in Canada
- Ask for the "CAUBO Rate" when you reserve directly, or at the Global Reservation Centre at 1-800-441-1414.

## **Sales Promotion Services Inc. (SPS)**

- Leader in "Value Added" Consumer, Trade, and Sales Incentive Promotions and Contests
- Distributor of quality corporate apparel.
- Additional 15% discount and free embroidery (5000 stitch max.) on orders of 48 pieces or more.
- Call 1-877-885-0989 or visit [www.salespromo.com](http://www.salespromo.com)

## **Canadian MoneySaver Magazine**

- Personal finance advice (tax, investment, and financial planning).
- 1 yr. @ \$19.95 (50% off newsstand).
- Sample at <http://www.canadianmoneysaver.ca> (613-352-7448)

## **Kingston Family YMCA**

(SLC Campus Fitness Facility)

Alumni who show their Alumni Card will be eligible for the discounted student rate when purchasing a single access pass.

## **St. Lawrence College Bookstores**

- Save 10 % on SLC clothing and giftware items. Some restrictions apply.

## **St. Lawrence College Library Memberships**

- Free community membership in first year after graduation; 1/3 off in subsequent years.

## **Confederation Place Hotel, Kingston**

Waterfront property. Special discounted rates for alumni. Call 1-888-825-4656 for reservations or visit [www.confederationplacehotel.com](http://www.confederationplacehotel.com)

## **Hakim Optical**

- Canada-wide 30% Preferred Corporate Discount (with Alumni card) on all regularly priced complete prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, and most contact lenses (except replacement plan contact lenses, disposable and bifocal contacts).

## **Bullseye Promotions**

- 10% discount with SLC Alumni card on a wide variety of customized promotional and embroidered items.

Phone: (613) 389-7228 Fax: 1-866-517-7547

## **NEW Maaco Collision Repair & Auto Painting**

offers auto and truck repairs ranging from minor scrapes, dings and dents to major collision repairs, and complete overall paint services for your vehicles. Alumni facing an 'out of pocket' repair are offered a 10% discount. For insurance claims, Maaco will cover at least 10% of the insured's deductible. Maaco is a national franchise and features the best warranty in the industry. Visit the website at [www.maaco.ca](http://www.maaco.ca)

## **Westbrook Golf Club**

- 18 holes of golf, regularly \$33, just \$23 with your SLC Alumni card! Just have time for nine holes? Play for \$14 instead of the regular price of \$19.
- Call (613) 389 GOLF (4653) for details. [www.westbrookgolfclub.com](http://www.westbrookgolfclub.com)

## **Days Inn, Ramada, Travelodge, Villager, Knights Inn, AmeriHost and Wingate Inn Hotels.**

- Make reservations by calling the following toll free numbers, and quoting our Member Benefits I.D. number: 63954.
- |            |              |             |              |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Days Inn   | 800-268-2195 | Knights Inn | 800-682-1071 |
| Ramada     | 800-462-8035 | Wingate Inn | 877-202-8814 |
| Travelodge | 800-545-5545 | Villager    | 888-821-5779 |
|            |              | AmeriHost   | 800-996-2087 |

## **CAA Northern and Eastern Ontario**

Discounted rates for new members of the Canadian Automobile Association in various regions of Eastern and Northern Ontario. Call for details.

A \$15.00 discount is offered on new memberships only. All new memberships must be directed to Ruth Lamb at 1-800-267-8713 ext. 372, or via email at: [rlamb@caaneo.on.ca](mailto:rlamb@caaneo.on.ca).

## **CAA Central, South Central and Mid-West Ontario**

- The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), Central Ontario, is offering its corporate rate to St. Lawrence College Alumni who sign up as new members. This represents a saving of nearly 20 % off a Basic Membership, and 13 % off a Plus Membership. To take advantage of your discounted rate, contact: Peggy Andrews, (416) 806-2557. Email: [jpan drews7839@rogers.com](mailto:jpan drews7839@rogers.com)

## **Kingston Par 3 Golf Club**

- Play nine holes for just \$12 (save over \$4) with your SLC Alumni card!
- Phone (613) 389-PAR3 (7273)

## **Canadian Shield Executive Golf Club**

- A beautiful par 3 course next door to Sharbot Lake. SLC Alumni special, just \$10 for nine holes!
- For more information: (613) 279-GOLF (4653)

## **Wills Transfer**

- Families moving families: Across town, across the country, or around the world.
- Local moves (100 miles or less), save \$25.
- Long-distance moves (over 100 mi.), save 10%.
- Free mattress bags, two free wardrobe rentals, and boxes half price. Phone: 1-800-267-7937 Web: [www.willstransfer.com](http://www.willstransfer.com)

## **Kingston Community Credit Union**

795 Gardiners Road, ph: 384-5555, [www.kccu.ca](http://www.kccu.ca) No charge for initial cheque order; no service charge for three months on new accounts; 25% discount on safe deposit box rentals, money orders and certified cheques; ¼% discount on posted mortgage rates; ½% discount on loan rates (OAc).

## **NEW Unity Savings and Credit Union**

Offices in Kingston, Cornwall, Napanee, Brockville, Smiths Falls

- No service charge for one year on chequing accounts
  - ½ % Increase above posted rates on GIC's - minimum balance \$1,000.00.
  - Free Financial and Investment Planning.
  - Competitive rates on personal loans
- Visit us at: [www.unitysavings.com](http://www.unitysavings.com)