

## IN BRIEF

**Cormier sentenced to custody, probation**

Cecil William Cormier, 51, of 331 Highway 6, East Amherst, was sentenced to 30 days custody after being found guilty of one count of assault.

Following the custodial sentence, Cormier is to abide by a 12-month probationary order with conditions.

He has until May 20, to pay a \$50 victim fine surcharge. The incident occurred Aug. 28, 2010, in Amherst.

Cormier was also given a suspended sentence of probation for three years after changing his plea to guilty to one count of assault causing bodily harm. The probationary period comes with reporting and conditions.

The incident occurred Jan. 9 in East Amherst.

**Voters should have received information cards by now**

OTTAWA – Elections Canada would like to remind eligible voters to contact their local Elections Canada office if they have not received their voter information card by now or if the card contains errors.

Contact information can be found on the Elections Canada web site [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca), or by calling 1-800-463-6868.

Elections Canada is mailing out reminders this week that also provides information on the voter identification rules. It includes the list of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada for electors to prove their identity and address when they vote.

**Concert set for girl heading to Kenya**

AMHERST – A concert and silent auction is on the schedule next week to help a local girl volunteer in Africa.

Kenya Get Me There? will feature The You-Turns, Local Motives, The Bedroom Session, Taken by Surprise and Paige Black at the Susan Taylor Auditorium (Amherst Regional High School) on April 20.

Admission is \$5 and all monies raised will help support Black in traveling to Kenya with the KULE Foundation this July.

Showtime is 7 p.m.

**New 211 service to be operational by fall 2012**

AMHERST – Nova Scotians will soon get quicker access to public and community services with a new 211 service that will begin in 18 months.

The 211 service will be a toll-free, 24-hour, 365-day-a-year service that will provide people with information and referrals to services offered by all levels of government, government-funded organizations, non-profit and volunteer services. It will also provide non-emergency information and referrals.

It should be running by late 2012.

Amherst Daily News

# Access to justice becomes more restricted

*Bar association urging governments to invest in Legal Aid*

By DARRELL COLE

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

AMHERST – More needs to be done to improve access to justice in this country, says the president of the Canadian Bar Association.

With a number of provinces slashing budgets to Legal Aid, Rodney Snow is urging governments to make an investment in the justice system so ordinary Canadians will face fewer barriers when they attempt to access the courts.

"You can have the best laws on paper in the world, but if Canadians, for whatever reason, cannot access the judicial system to resolve their disputes then it's not going to work," Snow said. "Essential to a functioning democratic society is a system that effectively resolves disputes and does it in a timely way and a way that is fair."

The bar association said governments across the country are under investing in the justice system. Snow understands there's a high demand for public money for areas like health care and education, but said a top priority needs to be the maintenance of an effective justice system.

"Governments need to step forward and invest in the system. It's not a handout and it's not a gift to lawyers," Snow said. "Across the country, governments have been cutting Legal Aid budgets. What it means is that problems are allowed to fester with no early resolution."

Snow believes legal problems eventually become social and health-care problems if not dealt with as early as possible and it governments don't want to pay now to prevent problems from arising they will end up paying later



The Canadian Bar Association is urging governments across the country to begin increasing access to justice through investing in legal aid. Association president Rodney Snow (second from left) and his wife and Springhill native Heather MacFadgen were in Amherst to speak to members of the Cumberland Barristers Association. They are shown with local lawyer David Christie and CBA vice-chair criminal justice section Dan MacRury. DARRELL COLE – AMHERST DAILY NEWS

when the problems do develop.

As well as improving access to justice, the legal community is also concerned with the shrinking number of justice officials in rural Canada.

There is also a challenge of recruiting lawyers to small communities, adding many law school graduates are gravitating to larger centres to practice commercial and corporate law.

"Our population is not getting any smaller and life is not getting any simpler, but the demands on people working in the justice system are increasing," Snow said.

"There are not enough sheriffs. You hear

stories of Legal Aid lawyers going to court at 10 a.m., but not being able to do anything until the afternoon because there's no sheriff available to bring the accused to court.

"We're looking for an investment in the infrastructure of the justice system as well as commitment to make an investment in maintaining order and having an effective method of resolving disputes," Snow said.

With fewer lawyers in rural communities, Snow is questioning how people there will get their disputes resolved. That's why it's essential for government to invest in Legal Aid.

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## Superstore, SaveEasy participating in national food drive for local associations

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

AMHERST – With food banks in constant need of donations, Loblaw Companies Ltd. is launching a national campaign.

Loblaw and its banner stores, including the Atlantic Superstore in Amherst and Oxford SaveEasy, has a national goal to raise \$1.2-million and 1.2-million pounds of food this year during its 2011 Extra Helping Spring National Food Drive.

In Amherst, grocery shoppers are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items or make a cash donation next time they visit their local store until April 28.

"More than 250 families need our help each month to ensure they have nutritious meals," said Charlotte Ross, chair of the Amherst Food Assistance Network. "Programs like the Loblaw 2011 Extra Helping Spring National Food Drive help us to keep our shelves stocked

year-round, and to continue to serve families in our community that otherwise would go hungry."

All food, as well as 70 per cent of the cash, donated during the drive at the Amherst store will go toward the food assistance network.

The remaining 30 per cent of donated cash supports the food distribution system of Feed Nova Scotia to its member food banks throughout the province, ensuring areas where Loblaw does not have a store or franchise are still able to benefit from the food drive.

In Oxford, the same percentage of donations will go to the Oxford and Area Food Bank Association.

According to Feed Nova Scotia, the most needed non-perishable items include canned vegetables, fruit, meat and fish, and flour, sugar, pasta, peanut butter, baked beans, canned or

powdered milk, soups, stews and cereal.

"As Canada's largest grocery retailer, we take seriously the responsibility to support the communities we serve with locally focused efforts like the Loblaw Extra Helping Spring National Food Drive," said Peggy Hornell, Loblaw's senior director of community investment.

"We appreciate the efforts of our customers and their support for local food drives can help those in need."

A second national food drive is scheduled for December 2011.

Loblaw's The Extra Helping Spring National Food Drive is one of its corporate social responsibility pillars to Make a Positive Difference in Our Community. The other Loblaw corporate social responsibility pillars include Respect the Environment, Source with Integrity, Reflect our Nation's Diversity and Be a Great Place to Work.

### Reconnaissance, restitution et réconciliation

Lors des premières activités nationales d'internement au Canada en 1914-1920, des milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants ont été stigmatisés comme étant des «ennemis étrangers». Plusieurs furent emprisonnés. Dépouillés du peu de richesses qu'ils possédaient, forcés d'effectuer des travaux difficiles dans l'arrière-pays du Canada, ils ont également été privés de leurs droits et soumis à d'autres censures sanctionnées par l'état - non pas à cause de quoique ce soit qu'ils avaient fait, mais uniquement à cause de l'endroit d'où ils venaient et de qui ils étaient.

En mai 2008, des représentants de la communauté ukrainienne du Canada ont conclu un accord avec le gouvernement du Canada qui mené à la création d'un fonds de dotation pour financer des projets commémoratifs, éducatifs, académiques et culturels ayant pour but de rappeler à tous les Canadiens cet épisode dans l'histoire de notre pays.

### Recognition, Resitution & Reconciliation

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of men, women and children were branded as "enemy aliens". Many were imprisoned. Stripped of what little wealth they had, forced to do heavy labour in Canada's hinterlands, they were also disenfranchised and subjected to other state sanctioned censures - not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were.

In May 2008 representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community reached an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the creation of an endowment fund to support commemorative, educational, scholarly and cultural projects intended to remind all Canadians of this episode in our nation's history.

Qu'est dans votre coffre?

Fonds canadien de reconnaissance de l'internement durant la Première Guerre mondiale

Pour présenter une demande de subvention ou pour obtenir plus d'information, veuillez consulter l'adresse [www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca) ou appelez sans frais le 1-866-288-7931

Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund

To apply for a grant or for more information please go to [www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca) or phone toll free at 1-866-288-7931

What's in your trunk?