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BREAKING NEWS AT EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

Christmas spirit moves them



Santa Claus spurs on Kayden Doupe, 5, and his grandmother Sue Doupe near the finish line at the 18th annual Santa Shuffle and Elk Walk to raise funds for the Salvation Army. The Hawrelak Park run saw over 600 runners participate, nearly double the number from last year.

CHRIS SCHWARZ, THE JOURNAL

Freezing rain puts drivers, walkers on slippery slope

City officials urge caution after day of car crashes

STEVE LILLEBUEN
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

Freezing rain and freezing temperatures are making travel treacherous on Edmonton roads and sidewalks, city officials warn. The extreme conditions have police urging motorists to drive slowly today to avoid sliding on the ice coating much of the city's pavement.

"It's looking bad out there," said Acting Staff Sgt. Eric Duvander. "The roads are really starting to glass over."

Minor car crashes were already occurring Saturday as freezing rain fell across the Edmonton region.

Just before 6 p.m., a woman was walking across the street near 109th Street and

105th Avenue when she slipped and fell on the ice, police said. A passing car then struck the woman.

She was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, suffering from minor injuries.

City road crews were placed on double shifts Saturday night as 68 trucks sanded roads and freeways, said Bob Dunford, the city's director of road maintenance.

"Winter is tricky and having freezing rain as the temperatures are falling is the worst possible combination for us," he said. "Take your time out there and be careful."

All major roads were expected to be sanded by Sunday morning.

A low-pressure system slowly moving south from northern Alberta early Saturday brought with it patches of freezing rain that fell all day from Grande Prairie to

Lloydminster, said Brenda Niska-Aro, a meteorologist with Environment Canada. "In areas where it's melted already, the roads will probably be OK," she said. "But (today), when it gets colder, everything will freeze, especially off the main roads."

Temperatures were expected to hover around the freezing mark overnight. By Sunday morning, a cold front was expected to move in, forcing temperatures down around -7 C.

Highways in the Edmonton region were listed in fair condition with slippery and icy sections last night, according to an Alberta Motor Association report.

The worst road conditions were reported between Jasper and Banff, as drifting snow combined with icy sections.

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Artists hope video exhibit on Tourette's speaks to teens

ELIZABETH WITHEY
Journal Culture Writer
EDMONTON

Jagged blades of grass rustle in the breeze. A dancer slaps her hands repeatedly against the floor. Puffy clouds flow high-speed through a Prairie sky.

All this is what it might be like to have Tourette syndrome, according to an interactive video exhibit being developed by two Grant MacEwan College instructors.

Agnieszka Matejko, an artist who teaches sculpture at MacEwan, and Bob Lysay, who teaches design studies, are pooling their vi-

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To watch a clip of The Space Between You and Me, a work-in-progress art installation about Tourette's, go to edmontonjournal.com and click on Videos.

sual art and video production talents to raise awareness among teens about Tourette's, a neurological disorder that causes physical tics and vocalizations. In rare cases, it can compel a sufferer to swear compulsively.

See TOURETTE'S / A2

CITY RALLY AGAINST COALITION DRAWS 500

'I felt I needed to stand up for my vote,' protester says

KEITH GEREIN
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

Most days, John Cristescu is so busy in his twin jobs as an office manager and llama farmer, he has little time to keep up with Canadian politics.

But the events in Ottawa over the past two weeks, in which a coalition of opposition parties moved to take control of the government, made him sit up and pay attention.

The Sherwood Park resident said he was so outraged by the attempt to thwart the choice voters made in the last election, he felt he had to do something.

That something turned out to be his appearance Saturday on the snowy grounds of the Alberta legislature, where more than 500 flag-waving, sign-toting people gathered to protest the coalition.

"I felt I needed to stand up for my vote and my right to determine where this country is going," said Cristescu, who added that he would be just as angry if a Conservative-led coalition tried to take power from a Liberal government.

"This is a blatant disregard for our electoral system. We voted in a legitimate government just weeks ago and we have to give it a chance to work, but because the opposition is unhappy they are trying to undermine that."

While the standoff in Ottawa has

been tense and unpleasant, one good thing to happen is that it has re-energized Canadians like Cristescu in the political process, said Edmonton-Centre MP Laurie Hawn.

After a record-low voter turnout of 59 per cent in the Oct. 14 election, "people realize now that politics matter," he said.

Hawn took a conciliatory tone when speaking to the crowd, saying he hopes all the parties can find a way to work together when Parliament reconvenes in late January. If not, the Conservatives are ready to fight an election, he said.

"This (break) gives everybody a chance to go back to their corner and just calm down a bit," he said. "We can disagree, but let's do it respectfully and peacefully and come back with a solution. Canada is the best country in the world so let's not screw it up."

Other politicians in attendance included Conservative MPs Tim Uppal and Brent Rathgeber.

Former Reform MP Deborah Grey, who was also present, did not speak at the event. She did say in an interview that any coalition requiring the support of the Bloc Quebecois is trouble for Canada.

"The Bloc has one mission only and that's to look after the interests of Quebec," she said.

See PROTEST / A2

■ Rallies across nation / A5



RICK MACWILLIAM, THE JOURNAL

Protester Mac Livingston attends a rally against the Liberal-NDP coalition at the legislature on Saturday.

INSIDE TODAY



Flurries.
High -4. Low -15.
Details / B12

A/News, Opinion,
CityPlus
B/Culture
C/Sports
D/Classified
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Bridge B8
Classified D4
Comics D pullout
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YOUR TURN
Stuart McLean of *The Vinyl Cafe* is performing at the Jubilee on Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. If you go to the show, tell us what you think. Look for the Review by You on the Opinion page.

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OIL COUNTRY
For breaking news, features, blogs, photo galleries and more on the Oilers, go to edmontonjournal.com/oilcountry.

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VIDEO
To watch a clip of *The Space Between You and Me*, a work-in-progress art installation about Tourette's, go to edmontonjournal.com and click on Videos.


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HOLIDAY GUIDE
For gift guides, recipes, decorating tips, photos, travel ideas and hosting dos and don'ts, look under Holiday Guide in the Home tab.

“

PHOTO AND VIDEO
For photos and video from yesterday's anti-coalition rally at the legislature, look under Photos and Videos in the Home tab.

In the cold light of day

**PHOTO GALLERY**
For photos from the multi-house fire in Sherwood Park, look under Photos in the Home tab.

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POLL QUESTION
Where do you prefer to do your Christmas shopping? You have until about noon on Monday to vote.

“

BLOGJAM
Cult of Hockey:
David Staples ponders the riddle of Garon's shootout tactics.

“

Coffee with Cam:
Cam Tait reports on the Mike Dea Classic at St. Francis Xavier.

“

Capital Notebook:
Trish Audette rounds up some stories on the unity implications of this week's political mayhem.

“

You Bet: Curtis Stock shares his Week 14 NFL picks.

“

All Four Cheeks:
Dan Barnes has an update on his hockey pool.

TOMORROW IN YOUR
EDMONTON JOURNAL

Think badminton isn't much of a workout? Cory Tymchuk did, too — until she tried it. Now she's hooked on the fitness and the fun.



MONDAY in
BODY & HEALTH

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‘It's about growth and beauty and acceptance’

TOURETTE'S
Continued from A1

The Space Between You and Me will mingle video clips of young Tourette's sufferers talking about their experiences with interpretive dance and scenes from nature. Using three projectors, the installation will superimpose vibrant imagery on screens of varying transparency, providing a labyrinth that people can walk through and even influence with their shadows and movements.

The project is still a work in progress and not yet open to the public. The artists hope to complete it by next fall, so *The Space Between You and Me* can travel to secondary schools. They have designed it so it is easy to disassemble and transport.

The goal, they say, is to document a physical illness and create art with a clear social purpose: broadening understanding about young people with visible disabilities without portraying them as victims.

“We're not wanting to treat Tourette syndrome as a battle,” said Lysay. People often say they are “batting” cancer or some other disease, but “this isn't about them fighting against it. It's about growth and beauty and acceptance. Sometimes illness isn't a bad thing.”

The symbols in the installation may seem abstract, but Paige Tomashewsky, 15, who was diagnosed with Tourette's two years ago, said it all makes perfect sense.

“It's comparing nature and things you see every day with things people with Tourette's see every day,” Paige said. “If you see a tree branch moving, that's normal. And so if you see someone with Tourette's, that's something normal, too.”

It was Paige who inspired the MacEwan instructors to make the installation. Matejko's and Lysay's families have been friends with the Tomashewskys for years. All of their daughters attended the same school when Paige suddenly developed Tourette's in 2006. While she and her parents coped with the disorder, Matejko and Lysay worried how it would affect social interactions among the families and their children.

“We were scared as parents that our kids would ostracize her,” Matejko said. “Watching a kid come to dinner and suddenly throw her head, it was like the earth shook.”



Grant MacEwan Instructors Bob Lysay and Agnieszka Matejko display their project, titled *The Space Between You and Me*, on the monitors.

INSIDE TOURETTE'S

- What is it: Tourette syndrome is a neurological disorder characterized by tics — involuntary, rapid, repeated sudden movements or vocalizations.
- What causes it: Not known for sure, but likely the abnormal metabolism of brain chemicals, such as dopamine and serotonin.
- When does it develop: Typically in childhood.
- Why is it called Tourette's: It's named after Georges Gilles de la Tourette, a 19th-century French neurologist who initially called the condition *maladie des tics*, or tic disease.

There were so many questions about how to deal with the disorder as a group. “How do we go to a play together? To Whyte Avenue for dinner? It was a life-changing experience for us all,” she said.

Paige says *The Space Between You and Me* will appeal to her peers because it's informative, but not preachy. She said promoting understanding among teens is critical. “Kids can sometimes be very judgmental. If they see something strange, they're more likely to pick on a kid.”

The impact of Paige's disorder motivated the instructors to reach out. They developed a concept and got funding from MacEwan and the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada's Edmonton chapter.

- What are the symptoms: The most common first symptom of Tourette's is a facial tic, such as rapidly blinking eyes or twitches of the mouth. Complex symptoms include jumping, touching other people or things, smelling, twirling about, uttering ordinary words or phrases out of context, echolalia (repeating a sound or word just heard), self-injury actions and coprolalia (saying socially unacceptable words).
- How many are affected: Studies suggest as many as one in 100 when those with transient tics are included.

Source: Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada

Lysay is the technical mastermind behind the installation, Matejko the artistic visionary. It was she who decided interpretive dance and the outdoors would be the best visual symbols of Tourette's. The dance scenes feature repetitive movements typical of the disorder. The young dancer repeatedly pushes her hands away, stomps her feet, twirls and kicks up a leg.

Matejko also wanted imagery from nature to convey the idea that people with Tourette's feel normal. “If we see someone jerking their head or jittering, it's frightening,” Matejko said. “But to them, their motions are natural.”

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Look for Elizabeth Withey's blog, *Salad Daze*, at edmontonjournal.com

Election likely inevitable, ex-MP says

PROTEST
Continued from A1

“They can't get their leadership together and Jack Layton just looks a little too ambitious.”

Grey said another election is likely inevitable, unless the coalition leaders start paying attention to recent polls showing they don't have the support of most Canadians.

Grey, who was the first Reform MP elected to office, acknowledged the Conservatives were partly responsible for the standoff in Ottawa due to their attempt to deny public funds from political parties.

But even after Stephen Harper quickly backtracked on the move, the opposition leaders still went ahead with coalition plans, she said.

“They already had such a taste that this could work and they could grab power at any cost, they wouldn't back down,” she said. “Are they allowed to do it? Sure. But is it smart? I wouldn't go so far (as) to say democracy is under attack, but it's sure unwise and very destabilizing for the country.”

The rally was one of several being held across the country this weekend by the group Canadians for Democracy.

Holding signs such as “Citizens elect government, dictators take government” and “Voters pick the prime minister,” many in the crowd said the rally

was not so much about supporting Harper, but rather protecting voters' choices.

Emcee Daniel Dromarsky said he has no political party affiliations but was inspired to help organize the protest after witnessing what he called a “threat to democracy” by coalition leaders.

He doesn't buy their argument that the current government has to be ousted because of economic crisis. “Just because something is legal — smoking is legal — doesn't mean it's beneficial or edifying,” he said, adding he was heartened by the number of young people at the protest.

Graeme Kryzanowski, a University of Alberta student, said he showed up because he was shocked by the events in Ottawa. “I have to blame the elite three — Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe and Stephane Dion — because it's only been eight weeks since the last election.”

Perhaps the person who stood out most at the rally was Rob Wells, who came with a sign reading “Fire Harper, Save Canada.”

Wells, who got into a shouting match with some of the other attendees, said he was unhappy with all of the party leaders but was especially upset with Harper for deciding to “padlock” Parliament. He said Canada's elected officials should be allowed to resolve the situation as they see fit.

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