

Warkworth prison remains in lock down

Weeks later, inmates only out of cells to shower

BY JENNIFER O'MEARA
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BRIGHTON -- Three weeks after an inmate riot at Warkworth Correctional Institution, the prison is still in lock down.

On July 21 at 9 p.m., the prison was held in the grip of 211 rioting inmates who refused to leave a recreation yard and broke into the facility's health care centre.

By the end of July 22, the riot had ended peacefully, with inmates deciding to return to their cells and no force was used by the Emergency Response Teams.

In total, 13 inmates were taken to hospital, nine for possible drug overdoses and four for unrelated medical conditions. One inmate, Craig Morton Kimberley, died from a suspected drug overdose and another was in critical condition before recovering at Campbellford Memorial Hospital.

The federal prison has been in lock down since the riot, while Warkworth staff search the areas breached by the rioting inmates and the recreation yard. The prisoners'

cells have already been searched.

"Now we're searching the grounds. All the living units have been searched, contraband has been found," said Ann Anderson, Warkworth's assistant warden.

For the last three weeks, inmates have been kept locked in their cells. Meals are being served to the cells, there is no recreation time, no visitors and no phone calls allowed.

The only time inmates come out of the cells now is to shower, the assistant warden said.

"They are confined to their cells," said Ms. Anderson, who explained the lock down will continue until the prison has been completely searched.

A full investigation into the riot is being conducted by the national headquarters of Correctional Service of Canada. It could take a long time before Warkworth staff know what sparked the riot, said Ms. Anderson.

"There will be inmate interviews, staff interviews and it will be a national investigation," said Ms. Anderson.

"When there's an incident of this severity it is at the national level for investigation purposes."

Long Lunch to serve 1,200 meals

WARKWORTH -- Warkworth is preparing to serve 1,200 guests for the sixth annual Warkworth Long Lunch, on Aug. 16.

"It's just amazing the people who come out," said Delia Leggett, Long Lunch chair. "It's great exposure for the Village of Warkworth."

The lunch idea originated in the village's twin city of Warkworth, New Zealand. The local Warkworth residents agreed to line Main Street with tables and serve hundreds of guests to create a similarity with their New Zealand counterpart.

"The first year we had 500 people going through the doors. Last year we had 1,200," Ms. Leggett said.

However, the celebration's growth spurt is over. Ms. Leggett said organizers have capped the lunch at 1,200 people.

"We came to the conclusion that the purpose of this day is to have fun," Ms. Leggett said. "If it got larger, we don't think we could handle it so that everyone enjoys themselves."

Although attendance is capped, Ms. Leggett said there is no shortage of hungry visitors from across southern Ontario searching for a seat on Main Street.

"A lot of that is due to word of mouth," Ms. Leggett said. "We have a lot of weekenders out here who bring the day trippers."

Preparing the feast begins at 4:30 a.m. as barbecue pits are set up to roast pork and beef. The estimated 150 volunteers begin to set up the tables at 7 a.m. Lunch is served from 11:30 to 3 p.m.

"On the main street, there's homes so everyone is whispering because we don't want to wake people up," Ms. Leggett said. "It's just amazing how the village starts to come alive as more people come out."

Artists from Northumberland County will work along Main Street, while the 'Dixieland Dudes' will perform during the lunch. Ms. Leggett said live music has been a welcomed addition to the event.

Funds raised by the long lunch are used for the re-beautification of the village's downtown.

Tickets are available in Warkworth at the Eclectic Mix and in Campbellford at the Chamber of Commerce. Organizers encourage lunch guests to purchase their tickets before arrival.

For more information visit warkworth.ca.
• Bill Tremblay

TRIBUTE: Artwork dedicated at Cobourg Public Library

Window honours soldier's memory

PETE FISHER

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COBOURG -- A stained glass window commemorates and captures the joys the late Major Michelle Knight Mendes derived in life. The window was dedicated at a ceremony at the Cobourg Public Library just prior to opening for the day on Wednesday.

Surrounded by family and friends, Mendes's mother Dianne Knight spoke of how her daughter loved to read and outlined various images in the artwork.

The artist Linda Whaley, aunt and godmother of Mendes. Years ago, in her travels, Mendes saw a print similar to the stained glass artwork and knew that Whaley would enjoy the card and sent it to her.

"She would be proud to have her named attached to this work of art," Knight said.

The print was modified to reflect the personality of Michelle "Mic" Mendes.

Mendes's cat Tigger is



PETE FISHER Sun Media

(From left) Major Michelle Mendes's aunt, stained glass artist Linda Whaley, husband Victor Mendes and mother Dianne Knight pose with a stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Major Michelle (Knight) Mendes who died in Afghanistan on April 23. The window was presented to Cobourg Public Library Wednesday morning, Aug. 12.

among the books. On one of the spines of the books is the Canadian Forces Intelligence Branch motto, "Out of the Darkness, Light."

The Highway of Heroes insignia which both honours and thanks soldiers for their

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DEDICATION

Window a tribute to Mendes

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service is included. The poppy is in remembrance of those who have given us our freedom. A trillium, Ontario's provincial flower, and the Canadian maple leaf, are "all things Canadian -- just like Michelle; proud, strong and free", Mendes's mother said.

There is also an apple, a symbol of the Knights' family apple orchard and cold stor-

age business located east of Grafton.

The apple represents "the heart of the family," Knight said.

"Today and every day we honour Michelle's legacy with the reminder of not to judge a book by its cover, because everyone has a story."

Read the text of Dianne Knight's speech at www.northumberlandtoday.com.

WIN

PLATT, GEORGE LESLIE, Monday, August 10, 2009, at Warkworth Community Nursing Home, with his family by his side. Les, the eldest son of the late Fred and Olive (Evans) Platt, is lovingly remembered by his wife Winifred (Valentine), daughter Janice and husband Tim Singbeil, daughter Joanne Wopereis, and son Larry Platt and partner Cathy Lamarche, by brothers Donald and Gordon and sister-in-law Lillian, by his grandchildren Rachel and Ryan Wopereis, Jeffery and Steven Platt, Rebecca and Benjamin Singbeil and by his nieces and nephews. Les was predeceased by his sister Doris and her husband Jack Vardy and by his sister-in-law Ruth Platt. Les lived his commitment to family and community, to hard work, honesty, and fun. He loved to share stories and laughter. For many years, he farmed near Morganston and later worked both in auto and real estate sales. He was an avid curler and golfer, a former Mason, a member of St. Paul's United Church and of the Warkworth Service Club. Visitation at the Walas Funeral Home, 70 Church Street, Warkworth, Wednesday, August 12th, 7 to 9 pm. Funeral service at St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, Thursday, August 13th at 11:00 am. Private interment. Les' family would welcome donations in his name to Warkworth Community Nursing Home where he received such wonderful care. Online Condolences can be made at www.quintefuneralcentres.com

JUDGE MENT
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