



PICKING GRAPES FOR
21ST ANNUAL ICE
WINE FESTIVAL
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BOWIE LEAVES US
WITH MUSICAL
FAREWELL
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RIVAL AMERICANS WIN GOLD



Overjoyed players of Team U.S.A. are celebrating their fifth gold medal in nine WW18 events after Natalie Snodgrass backhanded the puck in the net at 1:47 of overtime to beat Canada and win the 2016 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) U18 Women's World Hockey Championship at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines on Jan.15. Full coverage, both on-ice and off-ice, from the week-long international event on pages 7-11. PHOTO BY UTSAV GUPTA

Keeping up with winter weather on campus

By LAURA BARTON
Staff Writer

Winter has finally hit and dumped several loads of snow on the region, but Niagara College campuses are prepared.

The college contracts out its winter maintenance jobs to a company called Griffin according to Ralph Scholz, director of Facilities Management Services on campus.

"It ensures that our parking lots are clear, the pedestrian sidewalks, pathways, entrances are clear and efforts are made to prevent

slippery conditions," he explains.

One question is how the warmer temperatures in November and December affected the college's snow removal budget. The answer is it hasn't.

The college is on a three-year contract and a one-year option with Griffin, which, Scholz says, is "effectively a four-year contract" and with that contract comes a fixed price.

Roughly \$300,000 is spent making sure students are able to park and get to their classes safely.

"Unfortunately it is a lot of

money, but to maintain access and to have safe egress in and out of the college, it's worth it," he says.

The monetary risk doesn't lie with the college then, according to Scholz, but with the contracted company.

He also says the company is accredited in winter maintenance and that it has Smart About Salt certification.

According to its website, Smart About Salt is a "not-for-profit organization which offers training to improve winter salting practices on facilities and recognizes industry leaders

through certification."

In an online document, the executive director of the organization, Bob Hodgins, explains salt is used too liberally without consideration of the impact it has on the roadways, infrastructure and environment.

"Because salt is so inexpensive, private contractors have no incentive to use the product judiciously," Hodgins says in the Smart About Salt document.

This accreditation and the flexibility of the staff at Griffin is why the college chose to go with it, Scholz says.

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FRESH FROM COLLEGE GARDEN TO LOCAL KITCHENS
Benchmark's collaboration between School of Environmental and Horticultural Studies and the Canadian Food and Wine Institute provides fresh, local produce.
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