

Joy Kidd moves ahead after robbery



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Joy Kidd House has a new sound system thanks to Tony's Music Box and house don Carl Burgess. An older sound system, along with a television, was stolen from the house last month. Pictured above are Kidd residents Zack Bate, David Lipsett, Mike Doucette and Kyle Pozer.

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Residents of Joy Kidd house returned to disbelief and disappointment at the close of their Christmas break.

A robbery occurred at some point between Jan. 3 and 4, resulting in the loss of a television, the property of the house, and a \$2,600 sound system – the property of house don Carl Burgess.

Burgess recalls thinking, “is this a joke? Because if it is, we’re not laughing.”

He says that the break-in was a “bummer” for all of the residents, but notably so for a band in Joy Kidd that made the most frequent use of the sound system. Burgess says that the band is very talented and used the equipment on a daily basis while rehearsing.

The stolen equipment included amps, a microphone, a sound mixer and several speakers.

The equipment has been replaced, though, thanks to a generous offer

made by downtown music dealer Tony's Music Box and further contributions from Burgess himself.

Hal Pennell, of Tony's Music Box, manages the store's rentals and guitar divisions. He says he was very disappointed to hear about the January robbery because the task of replacing costly equipment quickly is a difficult one.

Burgess approached Tony's Music Box about the situation the day after he found out about the robbery, and requested a quote on a new sound system for the house.

Burgess and Tony's were in contact for the weeks following, reaching an agreement on the cost of the equipment. Burgess also had to consult the house committee of Joy Kidd and seek approval from the university.

“We put together a couple of ideas and Carl asked us to sharpen our pencils a couple of times, so we did and we put together the best deal that we possibly could do and I guess that was to their satisfaction,” says Pennell.

Pennell says that Tony's was as generous as they could be given the situation. He estimates that the replaced equipment, sold from their rental stock, garnered savings in the

ballpark of 40 to 45 per cent.

The don picked up the equipment last Monday.

Burgess says that the mood has greatly improved in the house, including that the residents were “pretty pumped” when they saw the new sound system.

Following the robbery, he says the university administration was very supportive. All of the exterior locks were changed, which is not a simple task as 200 new keys had to be issued.

Burgess says he is not fearful for the replaced equipment because of the security measures taken by both the university and himself.

“I have burned the Joy Kidd name into everything and engraved it all with a metal engraver. The Joy Kidd name is actually burned into the plastic,” he says.

He also says that the equipment is locked down every night to prevent another robbery.

“I’m pretty confident it won’t go anywhere,” says Burgess.

He notes that a house meeting was held following the robbery where he told residents that they must move ahead, and that is what they did.

The search for the stolen equipment and thieves is ongoing.

Obama visits Ottawa

CARL MEYER
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) – U.S. President Barack Obama's arrival on Parliament Hill was an impressive display of power.

Before his motorcade had even pulled up to the Hill entrance, a helicopter with a sniper leaning out of its door dropped low to the ground and hovered near the East Block.

About a dozen snipers were also perched on the roofs of all three Parliament buildings. They could be seen in full-black outfits, some scanning the crowd with binoculars, some crouching, others standing.

RCMP officers and plainclothes police mingled in the 2500+ crowd on the Hill.

Many streets were closed off. Officers strolled down the centre of the streets, glancing left and right, stopping to observe each individual around.

RCMP vehicles dotted the Parliamentary grounds and double-layered barricades had been set up along the side roads.

Entrance to the grounds required being searched, and resulted in long lineups. One man who jumped the barrier was arrested.

The entrance to Parliament was set up like an airport screening area. Individuals were required to place all metallic objects on X-ray machines with conveyor belts and step through a full-body scanner. An officer with a scanner wand was on the other side in case the scanner was set off.

There were several security checkpoints throughout Parliament. Some officers stopped every passerby, asking them to show their accreditation pass up close.

As Obama's long motorcade rushed

into the entrance to the Hill, a second helicopter arrived, its loud whirr combining with the first helicopter's, creating a deafening roar. Jets also roared overhead.

Police ran up and down the crowd barricades, scanning the crowd with piercing, anxious eyes.

The motorcade included two ambulances, several black SUVs and cars, and two identical presidential limos, one used as a decoy.

As the crowd roared, the motorcade drove quickly behind the East Block and pulled up to the entrance to Centre Block, which had been outfitted with a bulletproof shield.

Obama could be seen exiting the vehicle and entering Parliament, before quickly jogging outside to wave to the crowd, alongside Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

When he did so, several secret service agents rushed outside to protect him.

Despite the degree of armed security, the crowd seemed unfazed, cheering intermittent chants of “Yes we can!” and even cheering when the Peace Tower chimed on its regular 15-minute marks.

Some special-interest groups had shown up to make their cause seen with large banners or signs, but the vast majority of the crowd held up pro-Obama signs, many with his campaign's trademark slogan.

The crowd was mostly docile and content, many chatting quietly about U.S. or Canadian politics, or about Obama himself or his family.

After Obama had entered Parliament, several groups of people sang and danced in front of CBC cameras.

CBC had set up media tents along Wellington Street that were raised off the ground. This is where the organization held their broadcast.

At one point, a small group of protesters with banners walked over to the tents and began chanting in front of cameras. They were quickly broken up by police.

this week in brunswickannews

Vandals on the loose at UNB

Five UNB buildings have recently been vandalized in the form of damage done to windows and doors. Damage occurred at some point during the night on Friday, Feb. 13. Windows were broken at the entrances to both Bailey Hall and Carleton Hall. Two of the Anthropology Building's windows were broken, as well as two at the main entrance to Sir Howard Douglas Hall. A classroom window in Old Head Hall was broken as well.

There are no clues as of yet as to who committed the vandalism. UNB Security would like to be contacted with any information at 453-4830.

Death of RCMP officer, children provoke thoughts on highway safety

An off-duty RCMP officer and his two children were killed last Sunday on Route 7 between Saint John and Fredericton. The accident occurred at about 7 p.m. on Feb. 15 outside of Oromocto when the car lost control and collided with an Acadian Lines bus. The victims have been identified by the RCMP as 31 year-old Const. Jason Porter and his two children Hannah, 5, and Jack, 2.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral, and a Saint John woman has begun a campaign to convince the provincial government to twin the two-lane highway connecting Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John.

Melanie Wills is circulating a petition online, and says she has obtained two-thirds of the 1000 signatures within a mere two days.

Certain areas of Route 7 are already equipped with 4 lanes. Transportation Minister Denis Landry, however, says that expanding the full highway into 4 lanes is “impractical”, reports the CBC. He says traffic counts are too low and the cost is too high.



Simon Leslie / Submitted to the Brunswickan

Not too fun of a snow day

The first floor of Bridges House was flooded on Monday, Feb. 23 following the 50 cm of snow received the previous night. A pipe burst in the first floor men's washroom.