

The Eastender

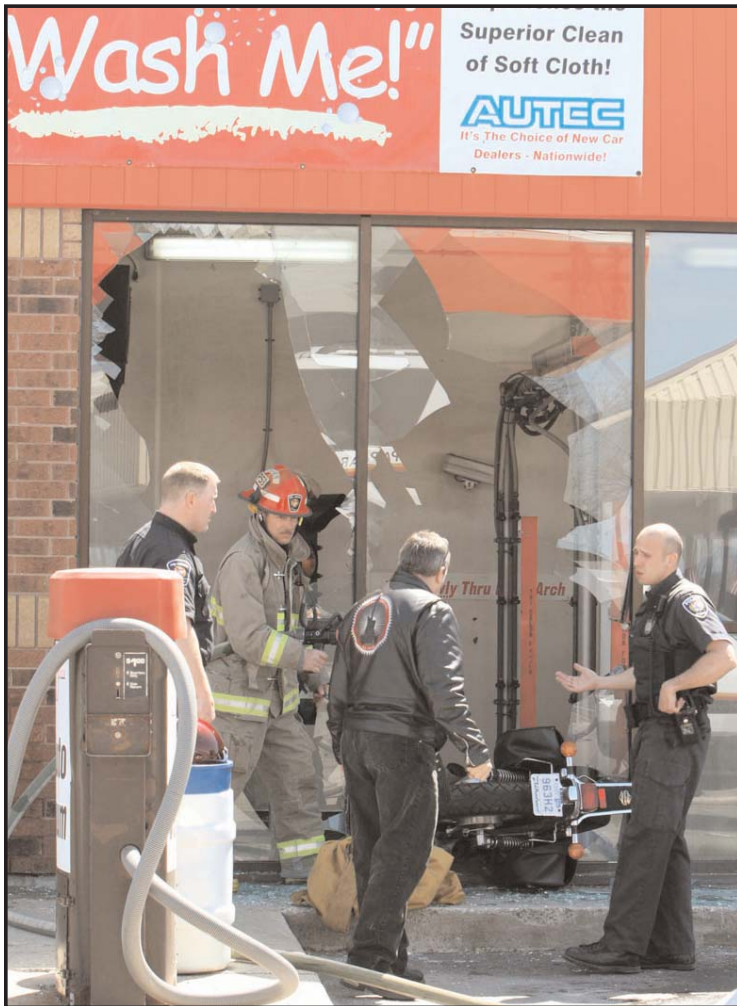
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- arts directory •

April 27, 2007

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 21



Emergency workers survey the damage after a motorcycle crashed through the glass at the Mr. Gas car wash on Trim Road last Sunday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

City to take over Ray Friel Complex

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The City of Ottawa plans to take over the operation of the Ray Friel Complex from Serco Facilities Management who are said to be losing more than \$1 million a year on the recreation facility.

Serco has been managing the Ray Friel Complex since 1997 under an agreement with the former municipality of Cumberland. In 2003, the city entered a public private partnership with the global facilities management company to build an

additional rink on the site in exchange for a purchase of service agreement and a guarantee of the debt incurred in building the rink.

Due to a number of reasons, Serco has been unable to realize the objectives of their original business case and are losing money hand over fist.

According to a report in the *Ottawa Citizen* on Thursday, councillors were informed on Wednesday that Serco wanted an additional \$2 million a year to continue running the facility.

CLICK HERE TO CONT p2>

Agreement reached on future of Navan Road landfill site

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Members of the Friends of the Mer Bleue have reached an agreement with Waste Services Inc. over the future of the Navan Road landfill site.

Under the agreement, WSI has committed that there will be no more expansion applications following the current application before the Ministry of Environment. They have also agreed to work with Friends of the Mer Bleue to put in place controls over odour, road dirt and property value protection. The two groups have also agreed to form a public advisory committee to monitor those controls.

“We believe that this agreement is a positive outcome,” says FOMB co-chair Jim Petrie. “FOMB has agreed not to oppose the expansion in return for WSI agreeing to put in place many safeguards and guarantees for the local community, including the commitment that there will be no more expansion applications.”

The agreement means that the current expansion application will proceed with the support of the community group. The application calls for an additional 13 metres in height and 130 metres laterally and will extend the lifespan of the site an additional 10 to 11 years. The landfill site was scheduled

to be decommissioned in 2011.

“We had a pretty good relationship with the community before this process and hopefully this agreement will restore that harmony,” says WSI’s district manager Norm Castonguay.

A meeting to explain the full ramifications of the agreement will be held on Monday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Notre-Dames-Champs Community Centre on Navan Road.

Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess says the agreement is a clear example of what can happen when reasonable minded people sit down to discuss their issues in an effort to find a fair and equitable solution.

“This is the result of hard

work by reasonable people on both sides and it is truly a win-win solution,” says Bloess.

The environmental assessment for the Navan Road landfill expansion has been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and the application is presently being reviewed. The Friends of the Mer Bleue and WSI expect both the city and the MOE to endorse their agreement and have asked that the terms be included in WSI’s Certificate of Approval.

The Navan Road landfill only accepts construction debris and household items such as furniture, appliances and renovation materials. It does not accept any wet or organic waste.

Community briefs

Fire razes 100-year-old house on Sarsfield hog farm

SARFIELD — A fire at the hog farm on Lafleur Road near Sarsfield has left a 100-year-old farm house and an 8,000 sq. ft. storage shed in ruin. Fire crews were called to the scene at about 6 p.m. When they arrived the house was fully engulfed in flames and high winds had spread the blaze to a nearby barn that was being used to store equipment. According to eye witnesses, workers on the the farm had managed to get a number of trucks and other machinery items out of the barn before it was fully engulfed as well. The fire crews managed to keep the flames away from the main storage barns on the farm which contain over 1,000 sows.

Orléans hair salon to hold Cuts for Cancer this weekend

ORLÉANS — For the eighth year in a row, Diann's Beauty Salon owners Diann Lalande and Sylvie Simard, plan to roll up their sleeves and join the fight against cancer by donating 100 per cent of their receipts on April 28th to the Regional Cancer centre. Last year, the two women raised over \$2,700. The salon will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointments necessary. Members of the public are invited to get their hair cut or just drop off a donation. Diann's Beauty Salon is located at 2172 Trim Road, just south of Innes.

Cardinal Creek spring clean-up on this weekend

ORLÉANS — The Cardinal Creek Community Association (CCCA) is inviting local residents to show their community pride by cleaning up the local parks, public paths, streets and open spaces between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. Residents can pick up their city-supplied garbage bags and gloves at various locations in the Spring Ridge, Cardinal Trail, Oakridge Gate and East Village communities (Trim Rd corridor, between St. Joseph Blvd and Innes Rd). A listing of distribution centres is available at www.cardinalcreek.org.

Kiwanis Club of Orléans offers Mother's Day roses

ORLÉANS — The Kiwanis Club of Orléans is once again taking orders from people who want to send their mother a bouquet of long stem roses on Mother's Day. For only \$25/dozen the Kiwanis Club of Orléans will deliver your gift to your mother or spouse with a card for her to enjoy. Orders can be placed on-line at www.orleans-kiwanis.com. This year Mother's Day falls on May 13.

City to assume operation of recreational facility

Cont'd from page 1

Armed with a separate consultant's report which indicated that Serco is underperforming in several areas and would rather pull out of the deal than continue on, council decided to direct staff to negotiate an exit arrangement that will include taking over the \$12 million debt remaining on the books for building the rink. No time frame has been given for the takeover.

The arrangement between Serco

which operates in 37 countries around the world and employs over 40,000 people, was thought to be too good to be true from the outset.

On the Ray Friel website Serco makes the claim that residents of Ottawa's eastern communities benefit from the expanded recreational and community programming while taxpayers benefit from significant long term savings. As it turns out the project has failed miserably on both fronts.

Liberals to chose federal candidate this Sunday

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Local Liberals will be gathering at Garneau High School this Sunday to choose a candidate to run in the next federal election against Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau.

After wavering between several possible dates including April 21 and more recently May 6, the Liberal riding association decided on April 29 as a happy medium and also because the auditorium at Garneau High School was available.

There are five candidates vying for the nomination with former MP Marc Godbout considered to be the front runner. Others in the race include Beacon Hill-Cyrville Coun. Michel Bellemare, former riding association president Marc Thibault, former former Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson; and long-time Liberal supporter Rachel Decoste.

Many of the candidates have been campaigning either officially or unofficially for the past several months including selling Liberal Party memberships. The trick now will be getting all those people who bought memberships to come out to the meeting and cast their ballot.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. with the speeches commencing a half hour later. Depending how long the speeches last, actual voting should commence at about 12:30 p.m. or 1 p.m.

Because the Liberal Party employs a preferential ballot for nominations, members will only have to vote once and indicate their selections from their first choice to their fifth. If none of the candidates are able to get a majority of the first place ballots, the first and second choices are then added together and the candidate with the highest combined vote will be declared the winner.



Michel Bellemare



Marc Godbout

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Local high schools fare well in Fraser Institute report

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

According to the Fraser Institute's latest Report Card on Ontario Secondary Schools, the east end's 10 high schools are doing a better than average job of teaching their students reading and arithmetic.

Seven of the high schools scored at or better than the provincial average of 6.2 including Colonel By Secondary School which scored a nine, placing it 14th out of the 719 schools included in the study.

Coming in second place was Garneau High School with an 8.5, while St. Peter High School scored an 8.1 and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Beatrice Desloges both scored an 8.0. Next on the list was Gisele Lalonde with a 7.7. St. Matthew High School scored a 7.3 and Gloucester High School came in at the provincial average of 6.2. Cairine Wilson (5.1) and Louis Riel (4.1) both scored below the provincial average.

The rankings are based on province wide test results in Grade 9 math and Grad 10 literacy, along with failure rates. The difference in scores between male and female students taking the EQAO math and OSSLT literacy tests are also taken into account. The smaller the gap between gender-based results, the higher the score.

Colonel By has traditionally ranked high in the Fraser Institute report due to its ability to attract students to its International Baccalaureate program. This year fully 30 per cent of the students in Grade 9 are enrolled in the IB Foundation Years program. This is reflected in the fact that the school scored an average 3.0 in the Grade 9 EQAO tests for academic math which is comparable to the advanced program from years gone by.

To put the figure in perspective, students are given an EQAO mark of one through 4. An achievement level of one or two suggests that the student has not yet met the provincial standard. Level 3 is considered the provincial standard and Level 4 repre-

sents achievement well above the expected level. The provincial average in academic math is 2.6. Seven of the 11 high schools in the east end scored at or above the provincial average.

The provincial average in applied mathematics, which is comparable to the general program under the old system, is 2.1. Seven of the 11 schools in the east end scored above the provincial average, while Gisele Lalonde scored just below at 2.0.

Taking a look at the OSSLT scores, all but one of the schools scored above the provincial average of 81.6 per cent, and in most cases the schools scored significantly higher than the provincial average.

Once again Colonel By had the highest percentage with 98.2 per cent of the students passing the initial test. St. Matthew came in fifth with 89 per cent of the students passing the initial test, but 93 per cent of the students failed the first test passed a subsequent test.

The distinction of having the most improved overall score went to Gisele Lalonde which received a 7.7 this year compared to 6.6 last year.

As for Cairine Wilson, there are several factors why the school scored so low, not the least of which is that fact that the school has the highest concentration of special needs students in the east end at 22.4 per cent. The next highest is Lester B. Pearson at 21.1 per cent which is reflected in the fact that the school had the second lowest score in the east end at 5.8.

The other contributing factor to Cairine Wilson's low ranking is its low student population which leaves it vulnerable to cyclical trends in aptitude levels. The school has just over 150 students enrolled in Grade 9 compared to other high schools in the east end like St. Matthew and Sir Wilfrid Laurier which have nearly twice that number.

The above mitigating factors aside, Cairine Wilson principal Bruce Whitehead admits the school could have been doing a



According to the latest Fraser Institute Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools, Colonel By Secondary School is ranked fourth in Ottawa and 14th in the entire province. Photo supplied

better job teaching math and English to students on the lower end of the aptitude scale. To that end, the school introduced local developed courses in both courses at the beginning of the year to help build up the students' skill level

"We used the EQAO results as a gauge to help us move forward. We accepted the fact that we need to improve and that's what we're doing," says Whitehead who expects the school's EQAO tests results in applied math should be higher next year.

It should also be noted that the Fraser Institute report only takes achievements in math and literacy into account in grading the schools and not every student is a math whiz. Students who may not be doing well in math, may be doing well in other courses such as languages, geography, history etc.

Committee fails to endorse proposed anti-idling bylaw

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The city's planning and environment committee has voted down a controversial bylaw that would make it illegal to leave you car idling for more than three minutes in certain weather conditions.

Ottawa is one of the few remaining major cities in the country that does not have an anti-idling bylaw on the books. While a number of the municipalities actively enforce idling through the issuance of fines, most rely on education and warnings, or do complaints-based enforcement.

The anti-idling bylaw put forward by staff at Tuesday's committee meeting would make it illegal for motor vehicles to be left running for more than three minutes when

the outside air temperature is above 5°C and less than 27°C. Failure to comply would result in a \$100 fine.

After a lengthy debate, the proposed bylaw was defeated on a 4-4 tie with councillors Peter Hume, Clive Doucet, Gord Hunter and Peggy Feltmate all voting in favour and councillors Bob Monette, Jan Harder, Shad Qadri and Steve Desroches all voting against.

Monette summed up the position of the dissenting councillors, claiming that the bylaw would be virtually unenforceable.

"I'd love to see the first time someone took us to court and the bylaw officer would have to produce evidence that the temperature was such and such and they timed them for three minutes. It's ridiculous," the

Orléans Ward councillor argued.

As for the claim that Ottawa is the only major city in the country that doesn't have a bylaw, Monette said that he doubted he would lose any sleep over the distinction.

"Yes, we're one of the only cities (without a bylaw) and I'm proud of it. If the other cities want a stupid bylaw, that doesn't mean we have to have one," said Monette who is also against a litany of potential regulatory bylaws coming down the pipe that will take aim the cosmetic use of pesticides, smoking in cars and the use of trans fats in local restaurants.

Although the planning and environment committee failed to endorse the proposed anti-idling bylaw, it will still be brought forward to city council on May 9.

Staff to present Splash Wave Pool options to committee

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Wave pool enthusiasts hoping to get back into the swim of things at the Splash Wave Pool on Ogilvie Road, will have to wait another six months before wave swims will resume at the facility.

Wave swims were suspended at the pool last summer when structural problems started to appear in the 20-year-old floating bulkhead that separated the L-shaped pool into a wave pool, or a 25-metre lap pool depending on the configuration.

After issuing a public tender to replace the bulkhead, a company was selected to do the work in November.

During testing, the new fibreglass bulkhead started showing signs of structural fatigue within seconds.

The company went back to the drawing board and tried several times to find a solution but to no avail.

The city finally stepped in and cancelled the contract rather than let the situation drag out.

After exploring the idea of giving the contract to another company without any guarantee of success, staff are recommending that the city put in a permanent bulkhead during previously scheduled renovations this summer.

Putting in a permanent bulkhead has

three advantages. The first is that it offers a permanent solution without the possibility of prohibitive lifecycle costs.

The second and third advantage is that it doesn't have to be moved which requires additional staff and presents a safety risk to employees.

The downside of putting in a permanent bulkhead is that it takes away the possibility to alter the configuration to allow for a 25 metre lap pool.

In practical terms that means that the Gloucester Synchro Club will no longer be able to use the facility for training purposes. It also means that the higher level swim programs will have to be taught elsewhere.

One possible solution would be to expand the deep end of the pool and create a stand alone 25 metre lap pool at a cost of \$1.8 million.

The city's east end parks and recreation manager, Dan Brisebois, says the expansion recommendation will likely have to wait until next year's budget process.

In the meantime, the city plans to work with Gloucester Synchro to try and find pool time elsewhere.

They also intend to move forward with plans to build a new pool in the Avalon/Notting Gate community by the fall of 2008.



Wave swims at the Splash Wave Pool on Ogilvie Road have been suspended since last summer while the city tries to replace the facility's floating bulkhead.

File photo

Staff will present their recommendation to install a permanent bulkhead at the Splash Wave Pool during the next community and protective services committee meeting.

Summer camps offer wide variety of programs for kids

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The end of April is usually synonymous with tax return season, but it is also the time parents should start thinking about summer camps for their kids. Fortunately in the far east end there are a myriad of possibilities to choose from that cater to wide variety of interests.

The Orleans Young Players Theatre School is once again offering one and two week summer camps for juniors (Grade 3 to 6) and seniors (Grade 7 and up). The camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a cost of \$185 per week. Extended hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. are also available at an additional cost.

All camps end with a full performance on stage at the Orleans Theatre with lights, sound and special effects.

To find out more visit the OYP website at www.oyplayers.on.ca.

If your child has always had an interest in dancing you may want to think about enrolling them in one of the camps being offered by Leeming Danceworks between July 4 and July 27.

The dance studio has a day camp program for children ages 4 to 14 incorporating jazz, ballet, tap and hip hop. Dance related activities include creative movement, costume design, stage make-up, hairstyling, musical theatre, arts and crafts and music appreciation.

The camps are taught by qualified and experienced instructors with sessions last-

ing one, two, three or four weeks.

The full day camp for six to 12 year olds runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with one hour of free day care provided before and after each session. The cost is \$195 per week.

The half-day camp for four and five year olds runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at a cost of \$110 per week. Lunch is not included.

For more information call 830-5230, or drop by the studio at 1420 Youville Dr. between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. during the week.

Many parents use both the OYP camp and the Leeming Danceworks camp to see if theatre or dance is something their child truly wants to get involved in without making having to make a long term commitment.

The Superdome Sports Camp is also a great way to expose your child to a variety of sports to see if they might be interested in pursuing something further.

The Superdome offers quality instruction in a wide variety of sports, with particular attention given to developing the participants self-esteem using four basic principles of fun, participation, skill development and fair play.

The camp is geared for children 6 to 13 years of age. Indoor and outdoor activities include golf on the indoor driving range, archery, soccer, softball, ultimate frisbee, touch football, volleyball and much more.

The camp runs from July 3 to Aug. 31. Each session is five days except for the week of July 3 and Aug. 7 which are four days. The cost per week is \$189 which

includes a daily lunch.

Each daily session runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with after care available from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at an extra charge of \$5 per day.

Campers are asked to bring running shoes, sunscreen, shorts and a T-shirt, a sweatshirt, sweatpants and snacks for breaks.

To find out more information or to view the lunch menu visit www.superdome.ca/summerncamp.shtml.

The Visual Arts Centre Orleans located on the main floor of the Orleans Recreation Centre is offering summer classes for students in two different age groups: from 6 to 8 years of age and from 9 to 12. Each program is a week in length with classes normally held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. every morning.

Some of the programs being offered include cartooning, sculpture and paper maché. One of the camps is called Camp DADA in which the participants will journey into the absurd during a fun-filled week of surreal activities.

The cost of each week long set of classes is \$140 for VACO members and \$150 for non-members.

To register or to find out more information call 613-830-5420.

Last but not least, the Ray Friel Centre has a log list of summer camps including a sports camp, aquatics camp, mad science camp, dance camp etc. For more information visit www.rayfriel.com.

The Eastender

Fred Sherwin
Editor & Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor to *The Eastender* e-mail the-eastender@orleansonline.ca.

Letters should be limited to 250 words.

The Eastender reserves the right to edit correspondence for length with a commitment to maintaining the integrity and spirit of the content.

Double vision

The mayor's 1,000 days of transformation initiative is barely into day two and he's already having to deal with a credibility issue.

According to a report in the *Ottawa Citizen*, the consulting firm hired to undertake the initial phase of the "corporate visioning" exercise has direct ties to Calian Technologies, the company Larry O'Brien founded and ran before throwing his hat into the ring to run for the mayor's job.

It's bad enough that residents and special interests groups are being forced to participate in another navel gazing exercise less than six years after the vaunted 20/20 Smart Growth Summit.

Remember that one? According to the city's website, the 20/20 exercise was supposed to "set out the city's blueprint for where residents want to be in 20 years and how to get there ... by building on the quality of life the citizens of Ottawa value, based on the principles they have expressed". Sound familiar?

And the politicians wonder why people's interest in O'Brien's 1,000 days of transformation is so low. Here's one for ya, how about they've been down this road before. They hired the babysitters, came out to the meetings and took part in the working groups and they were told they were setting out the city's blueprint for the next 20 years.

Now the newly-elected mayor wants to get many of those very same people to do it all over again for the sole reason that he's a new mayor. And what's the first thing he does? He suggests that the city hire a bunch of former business associates to hold the meetings and facilitate the process.

Memo to Larry O'Brien: In case you haven't noticed by now, politics is all about optics and public perception. To suggest the city hire a group of individuals with direct ties to your former company and not expect it to raise a few eyebrows is the height of naivete. It doesn't matter a wick that they're all exceptional people. What matters is the perception and the perception is that it's the same old same old. So if those people who you are trying to bring to the table decide to take a flyer, don't blame them. Like I said, they've been down this road before.

I distinctly remember at one 20/20 meeting, someone standing up and asking, "How do we know that if we go through this process we're actually going to be listened to and we're not just wasting our time?" As it turned out they were listened to, they just weren't told that they'd have to do it all over again in 20/07.

- Fred Sherwin, editor

Business transformation initiative spells end to business as usual

Don't look now, but the City of Ottawa is heading for a period of labour unrest that will make the 1996 OC Transpo strike pale in comparison.

By changing the name of the corporate service department to the business transformation department, the mayor has put the city's unions on notice that the good old days are over.

No more automatic three per cent salary increases and iron clad job security.

In the high tech industry from which O'Brien was cast, "business transformation" is just another word for "restructuring" and "downsizing", both of which are four letter words to most unions.

The first step the city should take in transforming how it does business is hire an outside firm that specializes in restructuring and downsizing and have them come in and conduct a thorough staff audit to find out where the redundancies are. Only then can council start paring away at staffing levels without seriously jeopardizing service levels.

There is no question that if council wants to hold the line on taxes they'll have to bring down staff compensation costs, or at least freeze them.

This year's budget contains an additional \$27 million to cover compensation costs brought on by previously negotiated contract settlements. In terms of the average property tax bill that represents a three per cent increase.

Fortunately for the city, they were able to cover off the increase without having to cut services or raise taxes, but even a moron can tell that it is not a sustainable solution. Staff are going to have to do more with less or at least the same amount with less.

It is fundamentally flawed to pay for negotiated salary increases by cutting services.

If you're going to give staff a raise you either have the huevos rancheros to pay for the increase by raising taxes or you tell the unions that there is only so much money in the pot and if they want an increase the additional cost will have to be covered through staff reductions.

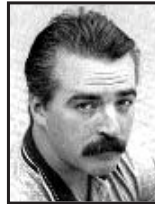
The unions will go ballistic and probably end up walking off the job, but then it will be up to the residents to decide whether they're willing to have their garbage sit on the curb for a couple of weeks or accept a tax hike to settle the dispute and give the unions what they want.

Although my approach is much more abrupt, I believe O'Brien's course of action will be to outsource wherever they can, which in the end will mean a lot fewer union jobs and inevitably labour unrest and possibly even a strike.

Whatever course of action the city takes, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to realize that the days of the status quo are numbered.

Whatever "business transformation" means, you can bet the one thing it doesn't mean is status quo, which can only mean bad news for the unions.

The question that remains to be answered is whether or not a majority of city councillors are willing to risk a strike in order to deliver on O'Brien's election promise to freeze taxes for the next three years. Based on the recent budget deliberations most would rather impose a rate of inflation increase rather than risk a potential labour crisis, in which case everyone's happy except for Larry O'Brien and the people who elected him.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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Christina Aguilera concert tops fantastic birthday

Hi everyone. It's been a long time since I last wrote and so much has happened.

My B-day happened and also Easter and also I have some comments on American Idol.

I got a lot of stuff for my birthday, but the best gift was a pair of tickets to the Christina Aguilera and the Pussy Cat Dolls at Scotiabank Place. I went with my best friend Chevy and we had a blast.

We were only two rows from the stage! It was soooo good. Christina sang all the songs from her new CD "Back to Basics" plus some other songs like "Beautiful" and "Dirty".



My Aunt Julie gave me a digital camera which is really neat. (She's actually my Mom's best friend, but I call her my Aunt because I've known her all my life.) My brothers got me an iTunes card so I can download some more songs for my iPod and my father still has to get me a web cam for my computer so I

can do video messaging with my friends.

Easter was fun. I got a giant chocolate Easter bunny, but my Dad ate most of it and I cleaned up in the Easter egg hunt.

On American Idol, Sanjaya finally got voted off, which is too bad because he was really funny. My Dad thinks its going to come down to Jordin Sparks or Melinda. I think Melinda's going to win, but I'm hoping for Blake.

Speaking of television my new favourite show is "Ugly Betty". It's really funny and I think the Betty person is really cute.

Billy has finished his puppy kindergarten and he's starting to follow instructions better and he's not acting as crazy anymore, but I think it has more to do with getting him fixed than it does the puppy lessons.

I can hardly wait for two weeks from now. I'm going to a space camp in Montreal with my class for a couple of days.

It sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun. We're going to be doing a whole bunch of cool things and visiting the Canadian Space Agency and best of all we get to sleep over.

I'll tell you all about it in my next column. ttfn

Local Business

Everything under the sun and then some

Special to The Eastender

When Don and Netta Robertson first entered into the equipment rental business 15 years ago, they did so with the objective of catering to small and mid-sized contractors as well as homeowners with a commitment to service, selection and quality.

As a project manager in the commercial construction industry at the time, Don Robertson experienced poor service and a level of corporate arrogance that often exists in the vacuum of a monopoly when dealing with rental companies in the area. He was going to do business differently and so Robertson Rent-All was born.

The business was originally located on Innes Road at Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. and the moved to a larger location across from Builders Warehouse in 1995. Over time small contractors and area homeowners grew to appreciate Robertson's commitment to service to the point where visiting the store was like going to see an old neighbour or a long time friend.

Through the years, Robertson Rent-All has remained unabashedly committed to their customers who, in turn, remain loyal to them.

"We'll see some customers one year when they're doing a renovation and then not see them for three or four years until they start another project," says Netta Robertson. "I can't imagine doing business any place else.

Orléans has been very good to us."

It is with that attitude and a die hard commitment to its customers that Robertson Rent-All has been able to hold its own and even thrive against competition.

The biggest difference is service. Robertson Rent-All is unique in that they rent equipment by the hour. You can also reserve your equipment in advance and have it delivered to your home or site. And if you ever have a problem with a piece of equipment during a job, they will come out and replace it for you if they can't figure out what the problem is over the phone.

"We've had the odd customer check out the competition, but they normally come back and tell us that our customer service is number one and we keep striving to do even more," says Robertson. "You can't stay complacent. You have to keep trying to do things better."

In the effort to constantly keep improving the way they do business, the Robertsons began searching for a new larger location about three years ago, but there wasn't much available in the area that fit with what they were looking for. Then last September they located a piece of land on Innes Road near Tenth Line and decided to construct their own building to fit their needs.

The building was completed in January 2006 and they moved



Robertson Rent-All and Fitness Equipment is located on the south side of Innes Road near Tenth Line. File photo

in and opened the doors on February 6, 2006. You can't miss it! It's the big red building next to McDonald's.

The new location offers a complete line of hand and power tools including floor sanders, nailers, generators, compressors, ladders, lighting, welding equipment, scaffolding, landscaping equipment, moving supplies, small tractors and even party rentals.

You name it and Robertson Rent-All likely has it. They even started renting six person hot tubs which are delivered right to your backyard and set up.

Several years ago they also branched out into the exercise equipment business. "I thought it would be a good idea to give people a chance to rent equipment before they went out and bought

it. Exercise equipment can represent a substantial investment so having the opportunity to try it out first makes a lot of sense," says Robertson.

Now most of their business is the sale of new equipment as can be seen in their bright showroom.

Robertson Fitness Equipment carries a large variety of treadmills, gym systems, exercise bikes, step machines and ellipticals made by companies like Weider, Pro Form and Reebok. They also carry a complete line of boxing and martial arts equipment.

To find out how Robertson Rent-All can help make life easier, why not drop by their new showroom at 4380 Innes Road or give them a call at 834-1077. It could make the world of difference.

Local sports

Orléans youngster has whale of a rookie season

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Question: What does nine-year-old Suraj Bali and Wayne Gretzky have in common? Answer: Besides sharing the same birthday, they also share an ability to score goals – lots and lots of goals.

Playing in his first year of organized hockey, Bali racked up 63 goals in 30-plus games as a member of the Cumberland All-Stars Atom C House League team.

In the recent Bell Sensplex Tournament he scored eight of his team's 10 goals in three games and drew an assist on one of the other goals. In the semi-final he scored three times including the game winner in a 4-3 win over the Canterbury Commandos.

Perhaps most impressive of all is the fact that he scored everyone of his team's goals through the first seven games of the season. Not bad considering that Suraj only started skating three years ago during the after school program at the Ray Friel Complex.

Once he learned how to skate he started playing shinny with the older kids, some of whom played competitive peewee hockey. Before long they started teaching him how to take a decent wrist shot with some power behind it. He was a quick learner.

At the beginning of the season, he relied on his shot to make up for his skating ability, but as the season wore on his skating improved leaps and bounds to the point where he was able to maintain his scoring pace even after he was placed on defence.

His coach Ian Connell says Suraj impressed him just as much off the ice as he did on.

"I can't remember if it was our eighth or ninth game, but one of the other kids scored

and Suraj was jumping up and down on the bench and I asked him why he was so excited and it was because someone else on the team had scored. He said his wish had come true," says Connell.

Not surprisingly Suraj's favourite team is the Senators and his favourite player is Dany Heatley because they both wear the same number 15. One of his most prized possessions is a Sens jersey he received for making the all-star team at the Bell Capital Cup where he scored two goals and an assist in the team's lone win.

"I like everything about hockey. I like the passing and the skating. I like the big sirens when they score. It's exciting," says Suraj.

His biggest fans are his father Ravi, his mother Aneeta and his two older sister Priya and Sheetal who attended everyone of his games.

Although his father never played ice hockey, he did play competitive field hockey for 10 years and he's an avid Sens fan as well, so when his son expressed an interest in playing hockey last year he didn't hesitate to sign him up.

"He was very interested in playing and he always played around the house with a mini stick and a ball, so we took him to the House League try-outs and he made the House C team," says Ravi who plans to enroll Suraj in two hockey camps this summer to try and improve his game even further.

Connell believes Suraj will only get stronger as he develops physically and gains more experience.

"I don't see him staying at House C, that's for sure," says Connell.

Who knows maybe one day he will



Nine-year-old Suraj Bali from Orleans scored 63 goals in 30-plus games playing for the Atom C Cumberland All-Stars in the Gloucester Hockey Association House League File photo

follow in the footsteps of Robin Bawa and Manny Malhotra, the only two players of East Indian descent to play in the NHL. Bawa was called up for a five game stint with the Washington Capitals during the 1989/90 season and Malhotra is an integral member of the Columbus Blue Jackets. This past season he racked up nine goals and 12 assists in 82 games.

Bédard suffers second loss as ERA balloons over 6.10

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Navan native Erik Bédard's up and down start to the Major League Baseball season took another hit on Monday as the big left-hander got shelled for five runs in the fourth inning against the Oakland A's for his second loss of the young season.

Before all the fireworks, Bédard looked to have the game in cruise control, having retired nine batters in a row.

The wheels fell off in the fourth inning when Shannon Stewart hit a 3-2 pitch into shallow centre. The next batter up drove an 0-1 pitch over the rightfield fence for a homerun. Bédard then struck out Eric Chavez for the first out of the inning.

A Mike Piazza single and double by Bobby Crosby would give the A's another run when Mark Ellis hit into a fielder's choice.

After Todd Walker reached first base on a walk, Bédard let a pitch get away which allowed Crosby to score from third.

Jason Kendall then drove another 3-2 offering into shallow centre to score Ellis for the A's fifth run of the inning. Fortunately for Bédard and the rest of the Baltimore Orioles, Kendall was thrown out trying to steal second to end the inning.

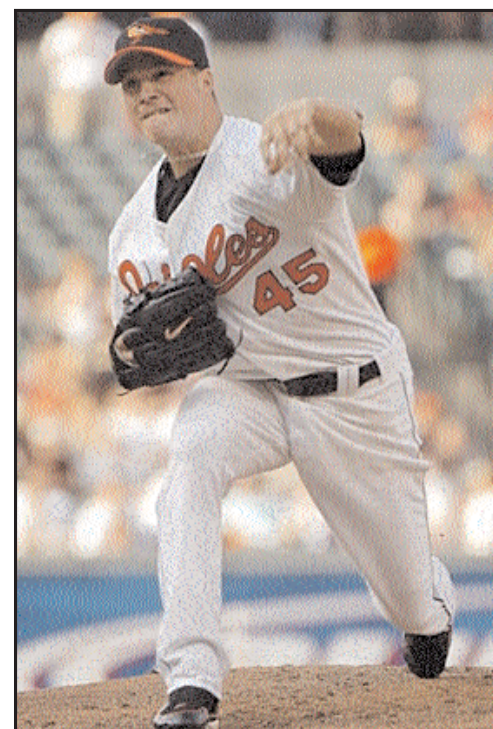
Bédard would pitch one more inning in which he struck out three A's hitters, but the damage had already been done. The Orioles eventually lost the game 6-5.

After the game Bédard was at a loss to explain his early season inconsistency.

"It's always frustrating when you give up five runs in one inning. One or two's not bad, but five's kind of frustrating," said Bédard who's ERA now stands at 6.11.

Orioles' manager Sam Perlozzo tried to take some of the heat off Bédard, saying he's confident he'll eventually come around.

"He's going to be good for us all year long," Perlozzo said. "I think sometimes we get into positions where we expect a guy to be great every time he goes out, and it doesn't happen that way all the time."



Erik Bédard

Artscetera

Colonel By pair included in poetry anthology

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the past five years the Gloucester Spoken Art Society has encouraged budding poets at Colonel By Secondary School by including some of their work in an Instant Anthology.

This year two students managed to have their work included in the collection of poetry put together by Gloucester Spoken Art founder Asoka Weerasinghe.

Amber Gordon is a Grade 12 student who specializes in writing narratives. About a month ago her creative writing teacher Angela Evans challenged her to write a poem. At the time she was reading a book by American poet Diane Ackerman which contained an exercise to write a love poem without using clichés.

"It was around the time things started warming up and I was sick of winter and happy that spring was coming, so I wrote a poem about my general love of the world and nature," says Gordon, who read her poem during the Gloucester Spoken Art Society's meeting at Cafe Margit on Sunday.

Gordon spends the majority of her spare time writing prose and when she's not writing she's reading. "I usually only write

poems when they're assigned to me. My poetry folder on my computer is very small," she says.

"She's far too modest," says Evans. "Her imagery is fantastic."

Gordon plans to go to the University of Victoria next fall where she has been accepted into the Faculty of Fine Arts for writing.

Matt Francis is also a Grade 12 student at Colonel By and is Gordon's polar opposite when it comes to writing poetry. He started writing poetry in Grade 6 and has developed his craft to the point where he produces at least one good poem every two weeks.

"I'm always writing things down, but as far as poems go I'll get a good one about once a fortnight," says Francis, who usually shares his work with his teacher and two close friends.

The poem he chose to read on Sunday and which was selected for the Instant Anthology is entitled "Cain", about a street prostitute who sat beside him at a train station during a visit to Caen, France. The poem is filled with imagery in describing the women to the reader.

"It's something that stuck with me and I wanted to share with other people," says Francis.



Colonel By poets Amber Gordon and Matt Francis hold up a copy of the Gloucester Spoken Art Society's Instant Anthology which contains two of their poems. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Community calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

THE ENCORE THEATRE COMPANY and Orleans Young Players present: "The Killdeer" by Canadian playwright James Reaney as part of the OYP Reaney Student Showcase. "The Killdeer" is a gothic story about freedom and innocence. Recommended or audiences age 12 and up. Venue: Orleans Theatre, 255 Centrum Blvd. Curtain time is 7 p.m. Tickets: \$7 for children, students and OYP families. All other tickets \$10. Call 613-830-7360 or visit www.oyplayers.on.ca or reservations.

CONCERTS

CUMBERLAND presents Quebec pianist David Jalbert at 8 p.m. at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. (just north of Hwy. 174). Tickets \$22 for adults; \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students 25 and under. A short

reception will follow the performance in the church hall. For more information call 613-837-6104.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

BUFFET STYLE BREAKFAST served from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. Homestyle cooking served by volunteers. This is a fundraising event for the Legion.

CUTS FOR CANCER

For the eighth year in a row, Diann's Beauty Salon owners Diann Lalande and Sylvie Simard, plan to roll up their sleeves and join the fight against cancer by donating 100 per cent of their receipts on April 28th to the Regional Cancer centre. Last year, the two women raised over \$2,700. The salon will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointments necessary. Members of

the public are invited to get their hair cut or just drop off a donation. Diann's Beauty Salon is located at 2172 Trim Road, just south of Innes.

BIKE AND TOY

SALE at Dunning Foubert Elementary School on Prestwick Sreet in Queenswood Heights from 9 a.m. to noon. Items can be dropped off at the school Friday, April 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Dunning Foubert School Council.

CARDINAL CREEK SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Cardinal Creek Community Association (CCCA) invites local residents to show their community pride by cleaning up our local parks, public paths, streets and open spaces from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 pm. Residents are invited to pick up their city-

supplied garbage bags and gloves at various locations in the Spring Ridge, Cardinal Trail, Oakridge Gate and East Village communities (Trim Rd corridor, between St. Joseph Blvd and Innes Rd). A listing of distribution centres is available at www.cardinalcreek.org.

TENNIS

REGISTRATION for the Queenswood Fallingbrook Tennis Club from 9 a.m. to 12.00 noon, at Kinsella Courts. Registration is also at the QHCC on Duford Drive beginning April 16, Monday to Thursday from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Save \$5 per adult or \$10 per family membership by registering before May 12. For more information call Denise at 613-824-6319 or Pat at 613-837-7994.

THE ENCORE| THEATRE COMPANY

and Orleans Young Players present: "The Killdeer" by Canadian playwright James Reaney. Recommended or audiences age 12 and up at the Orleans Theatre, 255 Centrum Blvd. Curtain time is 7 p.m. Special matinee performance today only at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$7 for children, students and OYP families. All other tickets \$10.

OPEN MUSICAL

JAM SESSION from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. All entertainers welcome.

MARC DUBOIS AND THE TALEGATORS

will be performing at Jacques' Trap Roadhouse in Carlsbad Springs from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. For more information visit www.jacquestrapp.ca.