

# The Eastender

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Friday, Jan. 26

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 9



The St. Matt's Tigers took on the St. Patrick Fighting Irish at Scotiabank Place on Tuesday in one of several high school games that were a lead-up to the Capital Hoops Classic. See story on page 8. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## Mayor unveils plan to balance city's budget

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien unveiled his plan to balance the 2007 budget at the Greater Ottawa Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday.

Speaking in front of the business leaders, O'Brien said that he intends to bring an "entrepreneurial" spirit to city hall by creating a culture of business excellence.

"By definition, an entrepreneur shifts economic resources out of areas of lower yield and into areas of higher yield and higher productivity. When I

talk about creating a culture of excellence, I foresee city that habitually acts in this manner," said O'Brien.

"I believe that actually delivering on the vision of a re-energized and customer-driven city government will determine the ultimate success or failure of this council. To do this, we need to change the culture and paradigm of city hall from a rules-based and risk-averse environment to a mission-focused, customer-centred and entrepreneurial civic enterprise."

[CLICK HERE TO CON'T p2>](#)

## Galipeau clarifies comments made in recent Le Droit article

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa-Orléans MP Royal Galipeau says he was trying to make a point when he told a *Le Droit* reporter that if the residents of Ottawa-Orléans want to see a federal agency or a ministry office locate in the area they should vote Liberal.

The MP's comments appeared in last Friday's edition of the French language paper and were immediately picked up by the French language CBC who put the story at the top of their hourly newscast.

In an interview with *The Eastender* on Tuesday, Galipeau explained that his comments were meant to relate the fact

that he wasn't about to repeat the empty promises made by successive Liberal representatives.

"Those were Liberal promises and the promises of my predecessor. If you want empty promises then you should vote Liberal. I'm not going to follow that pattern. I'm going to follow my own pattern. If I wanted to do things the old way then I wouldn't have run for office," says Galipeau.

"The Liberals promised to bring federal jobs to the east end for the last 30 years and didn't deliver. I'm working on it but I'm not about to make empty promises. Once I have something concrete to announce,

I'm sure all this is going to be forgotten."

During the election campaign Galipeau promised to come to the rescue of the National Research Council campus on Montreal Road which had been the target of repeated budget cuts under the former Liberal government which also implemented a series of measures aimed at decentralizing the NRC.

Since taking office, Galipeau says he's stopped the hemorrhaging and is now working on expanding the NRC's marketing initiatives and adding a technology transfer centre to the research facility.

"The first thing I did was to

reverse the budget cuts and stop the process of chopping off bits and pieces and transferring them to places like New Brunswick and British Columbia just to get votes," says Galipeau. "I've spent several days there and I've met with the president of the NRC a number of times. The next step is to strengthen the marketing department and create a technology transfer centre."

Team Ottawa-Orleans executive director Sandra MacInnes is willing to accept Galipeau's explanation but comments like what appeared in *Le Droit* won't make the job of attracting federal government jobs to the east end any easier.

## Community briefs

### Ottawa police to beef up patrols in Blackburn Hamlet

**OTTAWA** – The Ottawa Police Service intends to assign an additional 32 police officers to patrol the city's neighbourhoods. Several of the officers will be assigned to a new patrol area that takes in Blackburn Hamlet between Hwy. 174 and Anderson Road. The changes will take effect on Jan. 29. The changes are being made to address ongoing concerns about service levels and workloads in some areas of the city including Blackburn Hamlet.

### Women's group founder launches weekly webcast

**ORLEANS** – Women Moving Forward founder Pierrette Raymond can now be seen on a computer near you. The women's networking and support group founder will be launching a weekly webcast this Monday at 10 a.m. That webcast will address issues that are germane to women interested in empowering themselves. Interested listeners can log onto the Women Moving Forward website at anytime during the week and see a previous webcasts in the websites archive. For more information or to long onto this Monday's webcast visit [www.womenmovingforward.com](http://www.womenmovingforward.com).

### Orleans resident wins bevy of prizes in VISA contest

**ORLEANS** — In early December 19-year-old Orléans resident Kathryn Davis took her mom to the mall to pick up some new clothes and supplies for her first year at university. When she purchased two shirts at a store with her VISA card, the sales associate invited her to enter a VISA draw. At first she wasn't going to bother and then she did anyway. She never gave it a second thought until a letter arrived in her mailbox from VISA a week later. When she opened it she was stunned to learn that she had won \$14,000 in electronics. "I screamed with joy. I just couldn't believe it," says Davis. "I read it over and I read it again. And then I went to the bank to make sure the it was authentic." The University of Ottawa student ended up getting a printer, a 61" television, a new washer and dryer, fridge, portable DVD player and sound system.

## Mayor's plan would use up \$15 million surplus from '06

Cont'd from page 1

On the subject of how to achieve a balanced budget, O'Brien set out a series of measures council can take without cutting front line services.

One of the first items O'Brien plans to take aim at is compensation. He has already asked city manager Kent Kirkpatrick to find where efficiencies in staffing can be found through employee turnover.

Specifically, he has suggested that if a position has been left vacant more than six months it should be eliminated.

"I believe we can drive \$10 million to \$15 million in efficiencies through this effort," O'Brien told the Chamber members.

The Mayor also believes efficiencies of up to 10 per cent can be found in engineering activities and fuel and energy consumption.

O'Brien contends another \$30 million to \$35 million can be found in LRT savings, debt instruments, reallocation of the provincial gas tax and fixing provincial cost sharing issues. A further \$5 million can be saved within the waste management, fleet replacement and surface operations budgets.

O'Brien also wants to take the projected \$15 million budget surplus from 2006 and use it to help balance the books in 2007.

"This is your money. And a surplus by definition is over taxation. We have no right to keep it. The best way to return it to taxpayers is to apply it to the 2007 city budget to offset other pressures," said O'Brien.

The total amount of the suggestions O'Brien put forward added up to \$65 - \$75 million. Add in another \$10 million in savings, he believes council will be able to find during

their budget deliberations and a strong desire for the police services department to withdraw an earlier request for an additional \$10.5 million and you end up with a balanced budget.

The Mayor ended his speech by asking the business community to get involved in the budget process by contacting their councillors and letting them know what their budget priorities should be.

"I encourage you to call, fax, e-mail or write your councillor and let them know where you stand on the 2007 budget. It's important," said O'Brien.

The draft budget will be tabled at a special council meeting on Feb. 7 after which the city's residents will get their chance to comment on the document during a series of public consultation meetings from Feb. 12-16.

During his speech, O'Brien also laid out his thought process in trying to address the city's transit and transportation needs in the aftermath of the doomed LRT project.

The Mayor says he plans to give the transit and transportation task force he recently formed until June to table their report "if not sooner".

After reviewing the report himself, he plans to release it to the rest of council for consideration.

"Our long-term transit plans will only survive short-term electoral cycles and changes in government if there is public ownership of a sustainable plan. A plan that is built upon valid assumptions of growth, development and increased ridership. A plan that gives time back to commuters. A plan that makes sense," O'Brien said to a round of applause.

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# Community bids farewell to 'courageous' young girl

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Nearly 400 people filled Divine Infant Catholic Church on Monday to bid farewell to 10-year-old Hannah Billings who passed away last week after a three month battle with terminal cancer.

Hannah was eulogized by Max Keeping as a 'courageous' young lady who always put the concerns of others before her own.

"She was so strong in the face of cancer. She had so much poise and confidence. So much joy and in spite of what she was going through, she was always brave," said Keeping.

"Hannah had a message to other young people that you don't have to grow up to be able to make a difference on this planet. Her last request to her parents was that they help the homeless, help other kids with cancer and help kids who are starving."

Hannah's white casket was carried into the church to the strains of "Bathe Her In Your Love" sung by a joint choir made up of students from Divine Infant and St. Theresa Catholic Schools that was pre-taped before Christmas. On top of the casket was a large bouquet of pink and white flowers topped with a small ceramic angel.

During his eulogy, Keeping read the poem "A Child of Mine" by Edgar Guest which includes the lines, "(She)'ll bring (her) charms to gladden you, and should (her) stay be brief. You'll have (her) lovely memories as solace for your grief."

Hannah Billings was incredibly active as a cancer fighter and fundraiser, volunteering whenever and wherever she was needed. Whenever she stayed at CHEO she often spent time visiting other young cancer patients to help pick up their spirits.

Hannah's father Brian Billings says the thing he'll remember most about his daughter is her unbelievable courage.

"You often hear that courage is when you're afraid of something but you do it anyway. That's the way she was. Before she was diagnosed she was terrified of needles.

At the hospital she went around talking to other kids telling them that it's okay to lose your hair because it will grow back. That was Hannah," Billings says about his daughter.

Hannah was first diagnosed with bone cancer in the spring of 2005. After having a tumour removed from her leg and a round of chemotherapy treatment, she had the bone in her lower leg replaced by an interior prosthesis in the fall of 2006.

More chemotherapy ensued over the next four months and Hannah appeared to be on her way to recovery. Then just after Thanksgiving, Hannah's doctors discovered that the cancer had returned, only this time nothing could be done to treat it. She was given less than two months to live.

After the diagnosis, Hannah went to Florida with her family to fulfill her dream of swimming with the dolphins. When they returned they did the best they could to make Hannah's last days as fulfilling and filled with love as possible with the help of a tremendously supportive network of friends and neighbours.

But it wasn't easy. Just before Christmas, Brian Billings came down with pneumonia and at one time Hannah's mother Alison

and her two older sisters Meghan and Olivia all had viruses.

When things took a turn for the worse, Hannah was in and out of Roger's House which is a hospice for paediatric palliative care located next to CHEO.

Hannah insisted on was celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25, which she ended up doing at home in the company of her family. Brian remembers it being a pretty good day with Hannah able to sit up and open her presents.

"We had a great day. Hannah was the first one up and she was excited about giving everyone their presents," recalls Billings.

Hannah took a turn for the worse just before New Year's Day and had to be taken back to CHEO. Once her condition was stabilized she was released into the care of her parents to spend her final days at home.

"We always played this cat and mouse game where I would tell her that I loved her to the

moon and back and then she would say that she loved me to the sun and back and it would go back and forth until she would say, 'I love you to infinity and beyond,'" says Brian. "During one of our last conversations she couldn't do it."

The day before she passed away, Hannah asked her father several times what day it was.

"I told her it was the 16th and the next day she died. I think she always had a number in mind. Both of her sisters were born on the 17th. She must have thought that was the time to go," says Brian.



**Hannah Billings**  
April 1996  
- January 2007

## School board rejects student redistribution plan

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's committee of the whole has rejected a proposal to redistribute students at Dunning Foubert Elementary School and Queenswood Public School next year and have decided instead to embark on a process aimed at closing one of the schools by September 2008.

Board staff had recommended turning Queenswood Public School into a dual track JK to Grade 3 facility and Dunning Foubert into a dual track Grade 4 to Grade 8 facility, but the plan was rejected by the committee of the whole by a margin of 8-1.

The proposal was aimed at eliminating the need for a triple split Grade 1/2/3 English Core French class at Dunning Foubert next year. By failing to approve the staff recommendation, or a second option

that would have turned Dunning Foubert into a French Immersion centre and Queenswood P.S. into an English only program, there will now be a triple split English Core French junior class at both schools.

There was a suggestion to bus the Grade 1, 2 and 3 students at Dunning Foubert to Queenswood PS to eliminate the need for the triple split classes but it didn't even make it to a motion.

Instead, the committee passed a motion introduced by Orleans Cumberland trustee John Shea to undertake a school consolidation/closure study to be completed in time for a September 2008 implementation.

In explaining his motion, Shea said the study was what the parents at both schools want.

"The parents recognize that declining enrollment is an ongoing problem in the area and they realize that a school closure is

imminent. Starting a school closure study (now) is the best solution for the area," said Shea.

As for his reasons in rejecting the staff recommendation to reallocate the students at the two schools in questions, Shea said that he couldn't support a proposal that would impact all 468 students at both schools for the sake of eliminating a problem that will only effect 31 students.

"We're talking about two major disruptions at two schools for a very short period of time," Shea said before voting against the staff recommendation.

The committee of the whole decision must be finalized at the regular board meeting next week which will set in motion the school consolidation/ closure study. In order to close one of the schools by September 2008, staff must have a final recommendation in place by next December.

# Navan Fair Board adopts new theme for 2007

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The theme for the 2007 edition of the Navan Fair will be "Forging the future". The phrase takes into account Navan's agricultural roots and the community's ability to adapt and change with the times.

The theme was adopted by the Navan Fair Board during their annual general meeting last Saturday.

Several local dignitaries were on hand for the meeting including Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien and Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Jean Marc Lalonde who were called upon to hand out several awards.

Mr. Lalonde was given the distinction of presenting the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society's Agriculture Service Diploma to John and Eileen Corry from Navan.

The husband and wife team have been involved in the Navan Fair for many years. John was one of the first musicians who

performed under the domes after they were moved to the Navan fairgrounds in the mid-80s and Eileen has been a fixture in the baking and floriculture competitions and has previously held the titles of Baking Queen and Baking Princess.

Other award recipients during the annual general meeting included Metcalfe resident Al Whitson who received this year's Navan Fair Volunteer Award for co-ordinating the gate security at the fair which involves recruiting over 100 people to man the gates and Karen Edwards who received the youth award.

The annual general meeting also marked the passing of the torch from outgoing Navan Fair Board president Ray Lanthier to his successor Hank Bakker who served as the organization's first vice-president last year.

"I'm pretty fortunate because we have a great group of people working behind the scenes that's going to make my job a



Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Jean Marc Lalonde presents the CTAS Agriculture Service Diploma to John and Eileen Corry as outgoing Navan Fair Board president Ray Lanthier looks on. Photo Supplied

lot easier," said Bakker. "The board we have right now is doing a great job and we have a great office."

The fair is in excellent shape financially as well. Last year, the

fair brought in over \$463,000 in revenue against \$428,500 in expenses for an operating surplus of \$34,572. That's up more than \$21,000 from the year before.

## Coalition looks to market Orléans Industrial Park

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

About 70 community leaders, developers and local politicians gathered at the Pine View Golf Club last Thursday for one common purpose – to try and find ways to attract employers to the Orléans Industrial Park.

The business park encompasses 781 acres between Innes Road and hydro transmission corridor to the south. It is also bordered by Tenth Line Road to the east and Pagé Road to the west.

The land is designated in the Official Plan as an "Employment Area" and can be used for a variety of purposes included institutional, office space, warehousing, manufacturing, communications, research and development, etc.

The Innes Re-Zoning and Development Group has taken the lead on trying to find businesses and companies interested in locating in the industrial park after their recent success in getting the Ontario Municipal Board to block a proposed snow dump in the area.

The group's goal is to facilitate the process in finding a large employer that could act as an anchor in attracting other smaller businesses to the area..

"We need a firm commitment from a very large employer," says IRZDG co-chair Pierrette Woods, "and all of us are working together to try and make that happen. Team Ottawa-Orléans is now very involved. The Orléans Chamber of Commerce has been on board for awhile now. The city planning department has to do their part. This is a very significant step in the right direction. We've attracted a lot of attention."

About 10 or 12 years ago, the former municipalities of Gloucester and Cumberland tried in vain to get a large microchip manufacturer to set up shop in the business park, but the company ended up locating elsewhere.

Two strikes against the site were roads and access to the airport. At the time, Innes Road was still a two lane arterial. Now that it has been expanded to four lanes access to and from Hwy. 417 via the Innes Road interchange is much less problematic. Two other initiatives that are currently on the books would make the industrial park even more attractive to potential businesses.

The first is an interchange at Hunt Club Road and Highway

417 with access from Innes Road. The city and the province are currently conducting environmental assessments that must preclude actual construction. Once they're completed, the Innes Road extension and the Hunt Club interchange will greatly improve access to the airport and the south end of the city.

The second project that will help move things along is the construction of the South Innes Transitway which would run straight through the industrial park. The transitway is in the city's Transportation Master Plan. It was part of a package that also included the North South Light Rail line and a downtown tunnel, all of which died when council scrapped the light rail project in December.

Gloucester Chamber of Commerce president Tom MacMillan says both initiatives would do wonders to improve the desirability of the Orléans Industrial Park as a potential location for large scale employers.

"I think it's critically important. When you start talking about bringing in these types of businesses, one of the first things they look at is access to the airport. With that kind of

improved access to the airport and to the south end of the city a link to Hunt Club would bring, it would make it," says Macmillan

According to Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess, he and his fellow east end councillors are trying to secure funding in this year's budget to at least do the engineering and design work on the transitway extension.

"We're doing what we can to try and push it ahead and put some of the other pieces in place to make it worth while for businesses to locate here. I think with the Innes Road widening now complete and the retail development along the front, it's already a lot more attractive," says Bloess.

Cumberland Ward Coun. Rob Jellett believes it's only a matter of time before a major employer is found and the ball starts rolling.

"When you have someone like Diane Holmes, who's a downtown councillor, bring a motion forward stating that we need to get serious about bringing jobs to Orléans, that says a lot all on its own," says Jellett. "Everyone's on side and everyone's starting to pull in the right direction."



Fred Sherwin  
 Editor & Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor to *The Eastender* e-mail [the-eastender@orleansonline.ca](mailto: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.

# Royal

The ink wasn't even dry on last Friday's edition of the *Le Droit* when I received the first e-mail alerting me to an article in which Ottawa-Orleans MP Royal Galipeau is quoted as saying that if residents in the riding want federal jobs moved to the east end they should vote Liberal.

My first thought was that Royal was trying to be sarcastic. What he actually meant to say was that if people want federal jobs moved to the east end they should vote Liberal again. After all look at all the federal government jobs they got moved out here during successive Liberal governments. The answer is zero. See the sarcasm?

The problem with quoting people in print is that you can't quote the tone in which the words were spoken.

There's no question that what Royal said was a bad choice of words – no matter what the tone was in which they were spoken. They were ill-advised at best and have the potential to be politically disastrous.

In his defence, Royal has only been an MP for one year. To expect him to wave a magic wand and accomplish what successive Liberal MPs have been unable to do for the last 30 years is ridiculous. So enough of all the righteous indignation about what he said.

The fact of the matter is that it will be a lot easier to get the Ministry of Public Works and the Treasury Board to turn their gaze to the east end when considering where to go for new office space if the local Member of Parliament is sitting on the government side of the House of Commons rather than the Opposition side.

No matter who the residents of Ottawa-Orleans vote for in the next election, if they're not a member of the party that forms the next federal government the odds of a government department or federal agency locating in the east end are nil and none.

That said, I believe we're a lot closer to the day when federal offices start springing up in the east end like dandelions than we were say five or six years ago.

It makes sense on too many levels, especially from an environmentally sensible level, for it not to happen sooner rather than later.

Is Royal Galipeau the one who will make it happen? Who knows. I do know that a Liberal MP sitting on an Opposition back bench wouldn't be able to do much better.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

## Public board still has chance to fix triple split problem

The "do nothing" board has once again chosen to do nothing to help fix triple split classes at Dunning Foubert Elementary School and Queenswood Public School.

I should first say that I think triple split classes are a scourge and the worst possible learning environment in which to place a child. To put kids in a Grades 1, 2 and 3 triple split class is unconscionable.

A Grade 1, 2 and 3 triple split class already exists in the English Core French program at Dunning Foubert and the numbers are shaping up to warrant a triple split class at Queenswood next year, which is why the board undertook a Program Relocation Study this past fall.

The study produced two possible solutions. The first option was to split the schools along program lines by turning Dunning Foubert into a French Immersion Centre and turning Queenswood into an English Core French program.

The second option was to keep both the schools dual track and divide the students by Grade levels. Students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 would go to Queenswood and students in Grade 4 to Grade 8 would go to Dunning Foubert.

Either option would have eliminated the need for triple split classes next year. So what did the board decide to do? They decided to reject both options and do nothing, which means that if your son or daughter is currently enrolled in JK, Grade 1 or Grade 2 in the English core program at either school they'll end up in a triple split class next year.

Their main reason for doing nothing was because they didn't want to disrupt the dynamic at the two schools

for the sake of the 31 students who will end up in the two triple split classes.

How noble of them.

The fact of the matter is that if they were to split up the schools along Grade levels, only 138 students would have had to change schools or less than 28 per cent. And all of those students would have remained with grouped with their old classmates.

At the very least they should ask the parents whose kids will end up in the triple split classes whether or not they would mind sending their kids to one or the other of the two schools to eliminate the need for the triple split.

If I was one of the parents, it wouldn't matter to me which of the schools my child went to just as long as they didn't end up in a triple split class. The trustees still have a chance to rectify the situation at next week's board meeting, all it would take is for Orleans-Cumberland trustee John Shea to put the motion on the table.

He had the opportunity to do so at this week's committee of the whole meeting and didn't. Fellow trustee Riley Brockington brought the possibility up but no one bit. Instead, they agreed to undertake a school consolidation/closure study which will determine which of the two schools should be closed as early as Sept. 2008.

How they'll go about doing it is anybody's guess. Dunning Foubert is currently operating at 75 per cent of its capacity while Queenswood is operating at about 56 per cent. Board projections have both schools at 50 per cent by 2010.

So while there will be a need to consolidate the two schools at some point in the future, it's not exactly a priority yet. Solving the triple split problem however is – or at least it should be.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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# City measures up to provincial benchmark initiative

City Council has completed a three-day meeting on the 2007 Budget Directions report and Part Two of the Long-Range Financial Plan III (LRFP III). Over 100 public delegations came to speak us on budget directions. Some of the highlights of Council's final 2007 Budget Directions are as follows:

- The 2007 Draft Budget will incorporate options for both a zero percent and an inflationary tax increase based on principles of sustainability identified in the City's Long Range Financial Plan

- The City will address funding gaps by using a combination of the following strategies: pursue new revenue from the Province to fully fund their share of mandatory and cost-shared programs; defer spending on some service improvements and the provision of new services; identify any additional one-time sources of funding; increase user fees and charges, and identify program reductions and new ways of delivering services.



The final approved Budget Directions also recommend a nine per cent increase in the water and sewer rate, but staff were also asked to include an analysis of the changes that would be required in the operating and capital budgets if there were no increase in the water and sewer rate for 2007.

In addition to Budget Directions, there is another major initiative that I would like you to know about.

The city's first report on external, corporate-wide performance benchmarking has been presented to the corporate services and economic development committee.

Entitled "Where We Stand", the report provides an in-depth analysis of the city's Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initia-

tive (OMBI) performance results and complements a broader report on all 15 municipalities released by the OMBI on Jan. 8, 2007.

This is the city's first major release as part of its Performance Measurement Framework. Even though we will learn more as we measure our progress year over year, and against our own plans as well as against other municipalities with different service levels, these results are for the most part favourable.

Overall, 46 per cent of Ottawa's measures are better or significantly better than the median result while 25 per cent are at median and 29 per cent are below the median.

All of these results are interesting, and I encourage you to go online and read both our report and the OMBI report at [http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/mpmp/ombi/ombi\\_home\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_hall/mpmp/ombi/ombi_home_en.html).

The City can take pride in the significant numbers of areas where Ottawa is a leader among Ontario municipalities – but more importantly we can learn a lot when we look at where we

are below the median. We can use the OMBI and "Where We Stand" reports to identify service areas where other municipalities may have new or different approaches to delivering service. This will allow us to work with our municipal partners to see where we can incorporate best practices into service delivery and create additional value in the services we provide to the citizens of Ottawa.

Each set of measures will be going to the relevant standing committee so that councillors and interested members of the public will be able to work with city staff to understand the city's measures and to talk about what they mean for service delivery.

The draft 2007 Budget will be tabled at the Feb. 7, 2007 council meeting. There will be a public consultation session on the draft budget on Tuesday Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Orleans Client Service Centre.

The City manager, the four east-end councilors and other city staff will be in attendance to answer your questions and hear your comments.

## Local Business

### Small country shop a haven for the underdog since 1966

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

It's hard to tell which is the greater of two local legends: Ace Body Shop, known throughout the Ottawa Valley for top quality work and honest service; or its owner, Lionel Laurin, widely known as a straight-talker who champions with zeal and compassion the rights of his clients, friends and fellow citizens.

Posted on the walls of Ace Body Shop's entranceway are dozens of written testimonials thanking Laurin for his help in dealing with insurance companies and accident claims and attesting to the quality work done by the craftsmen who work at the body shop.

What makes the sheer number of letters even more amazing is the fact that 95 per cent of the shop's clientele are either repeat customers or referrals.

"We're just a small country shop here, but we manage to do okay," says Laurin.

A visit to Ace Body Shop on virtually any day of the week is an experience in itself — a buzz of purposeful activity, a constant stream of walk-in clients and phone calls, petitioners seeking help and advice on insurance-related and other issues, good friends and neighbours dropping in with humorous tidbits and goodies.

At the centre of all this activity is Laurin

and his partner, Theresa. The pair have been working together for some 35 years.

Hanging above the office window as you walk through the front door are the shop's three rules: Rule #1: "In this shop the customer is right when he's right. He is wrong when he is wrong."

Rule #2: "In this shop BRIBES, KICKBACKS and EXTORTION are not appreciated and will not be tolerated."

Rule #3 "In this shop we afford everyone the same courtesy that we receive. Please afford us the time and the understanding to give you the service and quality work you deserve."

"The rules are there for a reason," says Laurin. "We know our business and we take all necessary steps to protect the customer confidence we've built up over the years."

If you're lucky enough to get a tour of the shop, it will become clear that Ace Body Shop is a place where workmanship is a matter of intense pride.

Any number of vehicles can be found in various stages of preparation and completion as they are moved from one of the shop's 25 bays to another.

"Taking care of people is also part and

parcel of what we do," says Laurin. "Having an accident can be a traumatic experience. For many, their car represents a substantial investment and people can be very attached to their vehicle. Also, in many cases you have insurance companies taking advantage of people's vulnerability. You simply wouldn't believe what we see coming through here."

It's obvious that the state of the automobile insurance industry is an issue about which Laurin is very passionate.

"We're in the business; we see what happens to good, law-abiding folks. In this shop, we've made it our business to help our customers fight for their rights. We have literally hundreds of files that confirm the horrible story — consumer beware when dealing with insurance companies."

It's little wonder that Laurin's biggest hero is Terry Fox.

"Terry Fox succeeded against all odds through perseverance, hard work and tremendous single-mindedness to help his fellow citizens," says Laurin.

Laurin's description of his hero could be equally applied to the man himself; a symbol of perseverance and a champion for the underdog.

Ace Body Shop is located on Old Montreal Road just east of Trim Road. For more information on this and other local businesses visit [www.orelsonline.ca](http://www.orelsonline.ca).



Lionel Laurin

## Local sports

# Orléans speed skater earns ticket to Worlds

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The last two weeks have probably been the longest in Ivania Blondin's young life. The talented short track speed skater had a disappointing World Junior Championships and then had to fly from the Czech Republic to Sudbury for the Canadian Open Championships last week.

The trip took 38 hours including a 18-hour stopover in Toronto where she had to change planes twice due to maintenance problems before finally making it to her destination.

"It was awful. We were halfway to Sudbury the first time when something was wrong with the plane and we had to turn around and go back to Toronto. We slept for about two hours and then got back on the plane again. We got in the air and sat on the ground for another two hours. When we finally got in the air there was something wrong with the plan again and we had to land and wait for a new plane. It was crazy," says Blondin.

Needless to say when she finally arrived in Sudbury she was exhausted and jet-lagged and not in the best shape either men-

tally or physically to compete in a national championship.

To make matters worse she was disqualified in the first event, the 1500 metres. A fellow skater fell while attempting to pass her on the inside. The DQ dropped her from third place heading into the championships, which doubled as a national team selection trial for the upcoming World Championships, to sixth place.

Unfortunately, only the top five skaters would be named to the national team along with Team Canada veteran Amanda Overland who is recovering from an injury and couldn't compete.

Having been disqualified in the opening event, making the team would be a difficult task for Blondin made even more difficult by the fact that she placed third in her quarterfinal in the 500 metre event. It was only after she placed second in the 500 metre C-final that she found out that the bolt that holds the back of her left blade in place had come loose.

After rectifying the problem she went on to finish third in the 1000 metre A-final which moved her into fifth place from sixth and solidified her position on the national

team that will be competing at two upcoming World Cups in Europe and the World Championships in Milan, Italy in March. If not for the disqualification in the 1500 metres she would have finished in fourth place.



**Ivania Blondin**

"I'm just really happy it's all over. I slept all day when I got back. Now that I've made the team I can concentrate on my training and getting ready for the first World Cup in Holland," says Blondin who at 17, is the youngest member of the Canadian senior team by a couple of years.

Besides competing overseas, Blondin also plans to take part in the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse at the end of February where she will lead Team Ontario on the short track speed skating oval.

# Cumberland Grads losing streak hits five games

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Grads are now winless in their last five games after going down to defeat 9-2 at the hands of the Brockville Braves on Sunday.

The Braves wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, scoring off the opening faceoff to take an early 1-0 lead. Cody Ayers would make the score 2-0 in favour of the Braves with a goal at the 11:09 mark of the first period on a pass from Anthony Scarpino.

The shots on goal were 20-10 in favour of the visitors in the first period with the first and last shots both finding the back of the net. Shawn Cox scored on the first shot and Kyle Atkins scored on the last one when he beat Grads goaltender Jeffrey Huot with 44 seconds left in the period.

Both teams settled down somewhat in the first half of the second period as the Grads managed to regain their composure and find their skating legs. But it would be the Braves who scored the first goal of the period when Ian Boots managed to sneak behind Cumberland's defence and slip a shot past Huot to give the Braves a 4-0 lead.

The Grads finally got on the board a little over a minute later on a nice back door

okay from Daniel Sauve to Tyler Wilson who slammed the puck home.

The goal seemed to temporarily light a fire under the Grads who turned up the heat and forced the play deep in the Braves' end. The eventual result was a nifty goal by Wilson who ricocheted the puck off of a Braves' defenceman from behind the goal line that somehow snuck past Brockville goalie Tyler Kimmel and into the back of the net to narrow the deficit to 2-1.

Any hope of a Grads' comeback were prematurely dashed by Braves forward Mike Shultz who scored with 1:40 left in the second period when his shot hit the wrist guard on Huot's trapper and careened into the net.

The icing on the cake came in the form of a pair of third period goals by Zach Wilson who scored in the first 30 seconds and Atkins whose second of the game led to a change in the Cumberland net with Matt Fiander coming in to replace the shell shocked Huot who stopped a pair of break-away attempts in the game. The Braves would add two more goals before the final whistle blew giving them the lopsided win.

The Grads' next home game is Sunday, Jan. 28 against the Cornwall Colts. The puck drops at 3 p.m.



Cumberland Grads' forward Simon Corbo eludes Brockville Braves defenceman Brent Sullivan as he maneuvers inside the Brave's offensive zone during second period action on Sunday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

# St. Matt's beat themselves in loss to Fighting Irish

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

It's often been said that 90 per cent of the game of basketball is mental. The St. Matt's Tigers senior boys team proved that theory in a 62-50 loss to the St. Patrick Fighting Irish at the Scotiabank Place on Tuesday.

The Tigers are a young team with only one starter remaining from last year's 'AAA' championship squad. Many of this year's roster additions have never beaten the Fighting Irish. Heading into Tuesday's match-up the Tigers were 0-3 against the Irish so far this season including a pair of overtime losses in tournament action and a 20 point drubbing on Dec. 14.

But they were also coming off back-to-back double digit wins over the Gloucester Gators and the Brookfield Blues and they were playing at Scotiabank Place as a warm-up for the Capital Hoops Classic between the Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

The Tigers looked as though they might finally get the monkey off their backs during the first three minutes on Tuesday, but the Fighting Irish managed to fight back and whittle the Tigers' lead to a single point at 12-11 by the end of the first quarter.

The Fighting Irish continued to press the advantage in the second quarter as the Tigers began misfiring. St. Pat's eventually built up a 28-20 lead before St. Matt's made a late shot to narrow the deficit to 28-22.

The Tigers had a chance to make it a four point game late in the first half, but a steal and a quick basket by the Fighting Irish would give St. Pat's an eight point halftime lead at 30-22.

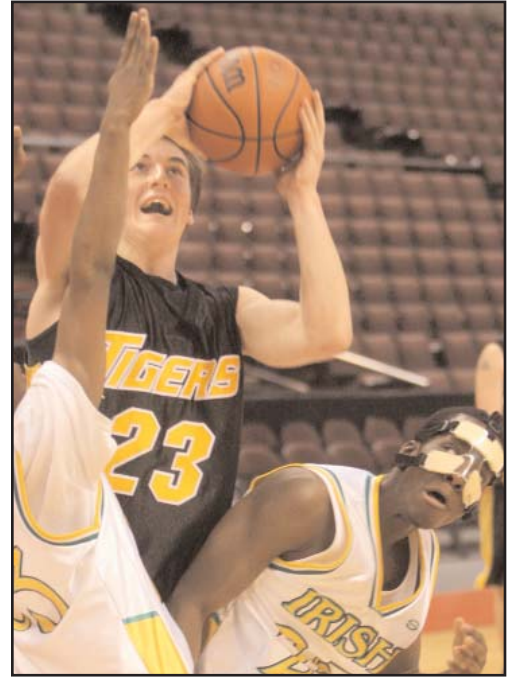
As hard as the Tigers tried to get back into the game in the second half, it just wasn't their day as the basket seemed to have an invisible force field around it. At one time the Tigers missed an easy layup and then three straight put back attempts. It was almost too frustrating to watch.

By the end of the third quarter, the Fighting Irish stretched their advantage to 49-37 in cruising to a 62-50 win.

Garnet Blais led the way for the Tigers with 14 points. He also hauled down a half dozen rebounds and had at least four high-light reel blocks. Bryce Lemoine contributed 12 points and Mike Densmore added 10.

After the game, Tigers' head coach Jason Wren admitted that his players seem to have a mental block when it comes to playing the Fighting Irish.

"We were psyched (out). Some of our guys haven't beaten St. Pat's in four years coming up through juniors. We took them to overtime twice this year, but we couldn't close the deal," said Wren. "The St. Pat's crew have been together a long time. They know exactly where each other is going to be on the floor and what they're going to do. We're still not there yet. Hopefully, come



St. Matt's Tigers forward Garnet Blais goes up for a shot against the St. Patrick Fighting Irish on Tuesday. Blais scored a team high 14 points in a losing cause for the Tigers. Fred Sherwin/Photo

playoff time we'll get it together."

The season breaks for exams before resuming the week of Feb. 5. The Tigers have three games left against Hillcrest (0-5), Sir Wilfrid Laurier (3-3) and Colonel By (2-5).

## Area gymnasts win bevy of medals at provincial qualifying meet

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Area athletes from the east end's three gymnastic clubs spent last weekend trying to earn a ticket to this spring's provincial championships during a qualifying meet at the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre.

In order to qualify for the provincial championships, gymnasts must achieve a set standard which is the combination of their best two overall scores at any two provincial qualifying meets.

There are 15 qualifying meets in all, but a gymnast can only compete in any three of them. The first two qualifying meets were held last weekend in Niagara Falls and Brampton.

For many of the gymnasts in action on the weekend, the Ottawa meet was their first chance to post a good score. Unfortunately, good scores were hard to come by for many of the east end gymnasts.

One athlete who rose to the occasion was Gloucester Community Gymnastics Challengers member Genevieve Cyr who won the all-around gold medal in the Level 5, 14 and over category.

Cyr finished first on bars and floor, tied for second on beam and tied for third on vault for an overall score of 47.233. She was joined on the podium by Les Sittelles teammates Carina Tremblay, Lindsay Yuen and Carlyne Savage who finished second, third and fourth respectively.

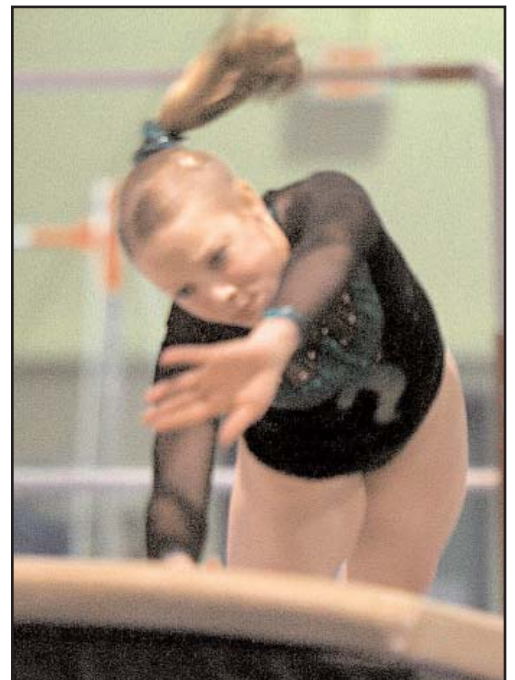
Besides her all-around silver medal, Tremblay finished first on beam and tied for second on bars and vault. Yuen won the gold medal on vault and tied for second on floor, while Savage tied for second beam and third on vault.

Three other members of the GCGC finished in the top 10 in the all-around standings in the Level 5, 14 and over category – Olivia MacPherson placed 6th, Rebecca Baker placed 7th and Gaby Armstrong finished 9th.

Only two other east end gymnasts managed to medal in the all-around competition. Les Sittelles' Amelye Paquette won the silver medal in the Level 6, 10-year-old category and Danielle Juneau placed third in the Level 7, 12- and 13-year-old category.

There are five levels in competitive gymnastics with Level 3 being the lowest and Level 8 the highest. The difference between levels is the degree of difficulty of the elements performed in each routine.

Other performances of note over the weekend were turned in by Les Sittelles member Fredericke Beaulne-Seguin who placed first on vault in the Level 5, 11-year-old category; Emilie Dubuc placed second on vault and third on beam in the Level 6, 10-year-old category; Sheila Vandenwaeterre also from Les Sittelles placed third on vault in the Level 5, nine-year-old category; Melissa Mojsej from the Gloucester



Laura Delcellier from the Gloucester Tumblers competes on vault at the provincial qualifying meet held at the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre this past weekend. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Tumblers finished second on vault in the Level 7, 12- and 13-year-old category; and fellow Tumblers member Kaitlyn John also placed second on vault in the Level 6, 11-year-old category.

## Artscetera

# Children's production coming to Orléans on Feb. 4

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

East end residents are in for a treat on Sunday, Feb. 5 when the Little Red Theatre Company comes to town as part of this year's Dreamweaver Children's Series.

The Little Red Theatre Company uses puppetry, music and dance to tell wonderfully fun and original stories like *Anansi the Spider* about a famous trickster spider who wiles away his time thinking of ways to trick others.

Anansi is so famous that he has his very own body of traditional tales called Anansisem. Among many contradictory qualities, Anansi is a gluttonous schemer who enjoys making fools of others but frequently suffers the taste of his own medicine!

Anansi stories are adapted from the West African Ashanti legend about a spider-god who sometimes walked as a man. He was known for his cunning and tricks and always getting into trouble and finding clever ways to get out of work.

The trickster spider uses a moss covered rock to take food away from a lion, zebra and elephant. He even steals tiger's soup right from under his nose.

The production is recommended for audiences 4-11 years of age. Curtain time at the is 3:30 p.m. Tickets \$8 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$7.50 at the Place d'Orléans Customer Service Counter or by calling 837-9673 or 833-2638. The Orléans Theatre is located in the Orléans Client Service Centre on Centrum Blvd.



The Dreamweaver Children's Series resumes on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3:30 p.m. with the Little Red Theatre production of *Anansi the Spider*. File photo

## Community calendar

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

**BREAKFAST** served from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. Homestyle cooking served by friendly volunteers. This is a fund-raising event for the Legion.

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

**ANNUAL BEAN SUPPER AND DANCE** hosted by St. Mark's Anglican Church in the Lions Maple Hall on Old Montreal Rd. in Cumberland Village from 6:30 p.m. Entertainment provided by Tom Murray and the Fiddlers. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$5 for children available at the door.

**JOHNNY VEGAS AND HIS ALL-STAR BAND** appearing at Jacques Trap Roadhouse in Carlsbad Springs from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Cover \$10.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28

**SUNDAY BRUNCH** at the Bearbrook Resort on Russell Road. Menu includes game meat as

well as regular breakfast items. Bring the family and enjoy your Sunday at the farm. Seatings at 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m. Cost is \$18.69 plus taxes for adults and \$9.35 plus taxes for kids age 4-14. Children under 4 eat for free. By reservations only. Call 613-835-2227.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

**DEADLINE** for advance tickets to the St. Peter High School casino and bingo night on Feb. 23. Admission includes "play money" to be used during the event. (See Feb. 23.) Please contact Catrina Curran at 613-830-9005 to order your tickets. Please visit our website for an up-to-date list of prizes at [www.stpeter-high.ca](http://www.stpeter-high.ca) If you are interested in sponsoring the event and/or donating a prize please e-mail [catrinacurran@rogers.com](mailto:catrinacurran@rogers.com) or phone 613-830-9005.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

**CUMBERLAND WINTERFEST** Euchre Tournament and Silent Auction at the Lions Maple Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. Game starts at 7:30 p.m. Cost \$10 per person. To pre-register call Wally MacNeill at 613-833-0069.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

**BREAKFAST** served from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. Homestyle cooking served by friendly volunteers. This is a fund-raising event for the Legion.

### CUMBERLAND WINTERFEST

Outdoor activities starting at 9:45 a.m. in Wilfrid Murray Park beside the Cumberland Arena. Ice skating, races, snow painting, tobogganing, hot chocolate, horse drawn wagon rides (1-3 p.m.) and more. Chili contest and dinner 6 p.m. at the RJ Kennedy Community Centre. Dance and silent auction to follow at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Advance tickets \$10 for adults at Haddad's S/S Foodliner in Cumberland Village or contact Anne Hawley at 613-833-0174.

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 4

**DREAMWEAVER CHILDREN'S SERIES**

presents "Anansi the Spider", a Little Red Theatre production at 3:30 p.m. at the Orleans Theatre. Puppetry, lighting, music and dance tell the wonderfully fun, original story of Anansi's adventures. Ideal for children 4 to 10 years old. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance at the Place d'Orleans Guest Services counter (exact change please), or \$8 at the door. Call 837-9673 or 833-2638 or e-mail [Hgalla1637@rogers.com](mailto:Hgalla1637@rogers.com).

MONDAY, FEB. 5

**TOMPKINS AVENUE RE-ZONING PUBLIC MEETING** starting at 7 p.m. in the theatre at the Orleans Client Service Centre on Centrum Blvd. The city is in the process of rezoning the old fire hall site on Tompkins Avenue to make way for 22 affordable housing units.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

**CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** at 9:30 a.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

**CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING** at 10 a.m. in the Andrew S. Haydon Hall at Ottawa City Hall.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8

**GRADE 8 INFORMATION MEETING** at the Cairine Wilson Secondary School at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

**ALPHA OPEN HOUSE DINNER** at 839 Shefford Road (near Montreal Road exit of Highway 174). Find some of the answers to life through Alpha, a "Basics of Christianity" course being used by all main Christian denominations. This is a 'no-charge' event. Reservations required. Call 613-824-4125.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

**FOLKLORIC EVENING** at the Sarsfield Co-operative Multiservices Centre starring Ronald Beauchamp at 8 p.m. Songs, dancing and square dancing and more. Tickets \$10 each. To reserve call Laurent at 613-835-3136 or Nicholas at 613-835-7590.