

The Eastender

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March 14, 2007

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

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Biola and Bashir Agoro hold a portrait of their son Dapo, who was stabbed to death in a Byward Market dance club in June 2002. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Stabbing victim's parents angered over retrial ruling

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

It's been almost five years since Dapo Agoro was stabbed to death in a Byward Market dance club, robbing Bashir and Biola Agoro of their only son.

They thought their ordeal was over when the man who killed their son, Carl Michel Belance, was found guilty of second degree murder in September 2003 and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole until 2013.

Now they face the mindnumb-

ing and emotionally draining prospect of having to relive the ordeal all over again after the Ontario Court of Appeal recently granted Belance a retrial on the grounds that the trial judge failed to properly instruct the jury on the legal definition of provocation.

"My heart almost burst out of my chest," says Biola in describing the moment last week when she was informed about the decision by a member of the Ottawa Police Service.

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Aquatic groups excited over plans for new east end pool

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Local aquatic groups say they're excited about the city's plans to build a new pool in the east end and they're looking forward to working with the city to ensure the facility meets the ever increasing demand for aquatics programs in the area.

The Ottawa Swim Club has grown from 25 members to over 90 in less than two years. Head coach Blair Tucker says they've reached the point where they can no longer expand unless a new pool is built.

The club has been running its development program out of the Ray Friel wave pool which they convert to four lanes. It's less than an ideal arrangement, but it's the only space available dur-

ing the crucial prime time hours of 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Gloucester Synchrono Club and the Ottawa Titans Water Polo Club both use a variety of pools in the south and east end including the Splash Wave Pool on Ogilvie Road and the Orleans Recreation Complex. The Gloucester Synchrono Club in particular has also reached a point of critical mass where they can no longer expand unless a new pool is built.

The city's parks and recreation manager for the east end, Dan Brisebois, says they've found a site for the new pool south of Innes Road between Tenth Line and Trim, they're just waiting for the initial soil testing and engineering work to be done before confirming the location.

The type of facility the city currently has in mind would be similar to the Plant Bath on Preston Street which has a six lane 25 metre pool, a whirlpool and a toddler pool. Unfortunately, such a configuration would not meet any of the aquatic clubs' needs.

Although Tucker says an eight lane 50 metre pool would be perfect, an eight lane 25 metre tank would be the next best thing.

Both the Gloucester Synchrono Club and the Ottawa Titans Water Polo Club would prefer a deep water tank or an eight lane 25 metre pool with a uniform depth of at least six feet.

All three clubs would also love to have grandstand seating and a large deck so they can

host competitive meets. For that to happen they will have to join forces and try to leverage additional funds from the provincial government through a possible Trillium Foundation grant.

Tucker and Gloucester Synchrono head coach Lianna Stotille say they plan to get together with Titans head coach David Hart in the near future to form a common front in dealing with the province and the parks and recreation department.

That's comes as good news to Brisebois who says the time for the aquatics clubs to get involved is now during the initial planning stage.

If all goes well construction could begin as early as next fall, although a spring 2008 date is more likely.

Community briefs



Orleans Legion president Blaine Kiley stands with the winners of the Legion's annual poster, poem and essay contest that ran in conjunction with last year's Poppy Campaign. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Fourth candidate joins local Liberal nomination race

ORLEANS – The field for the Liberal nomination race in Ottawa-Orléans is starting to get a little crowded after 30-year-old software engineer and long-time Liberal supporter Rachel Decoste recently joined the field that already includes Beacon Hill- Cyrville Ward Coun. Michel Bellemare, former riding association president Marc Thibault and former Ottawa-Orléans MP Marc Godbout who has yet to officially file his nomination papers, but has been actively campaigning for weeks now.

Place d'Orleans offering March Break distractions

ORLEANS – The Place d'Orléans shopping centre is offering several special attractions for patrons during the March Break. Little Ray's Reptiles will be on hand all week long from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Laura Court with their menagerie of snakes and other creepy crawly reptiles. Kids will also be able to try their hand at a variety of crafts in the same location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Accident causes eastbound tie-up on Hwy. 174

ORLEANS – Rush hour commuters heading eastbound on Hwy. 174 late Monday afternoon faced a longer delay than usually after a car hit a guardrail about 600 metres east of the Montreal Road exit. Police and paramedics were called to the scene at about 4:30 p.m. The driver of the car in question was treated for none life threatening injuries and later released.

Thought of reliving original trial a disturbing prospect

Cont'd from page 1

"I couldn't believe it. Just to relive the whole process again and bring back all that pain and sorrow and anger inside me. It is just like putting a knife in my heart."

Bashir Agoro slowly shakes his head as he listens to his wife.

"I don't understand how they can say there is grounds for a retrial. He went there with a knife and he stabbed our son. If you don't have intent go in there with your fists, not with a knife. Or at least threaten the person, but you don't stab him four times. What do they think? It was an accident? It was not an accident," says Bashir.

Since his death not a day has gone by that the Agoros have not thought about their son. An end table in the living room is filled with photos of Dapo who was two weeks short of graduating from high school when he was killed.

His room is still as it was when he died with soccer medals and photos sitting on his book shelf and hanging on his wall. He was killed on June 7, 2002, two weeks shy of his grad dance and a week before he was to travel with the Lester B. Pearson senior boys soccer team to play in the provincial 'AA' soccer championship.

Dapo's old soccer teammates and high school buddies from Lester B. Pearson still come over to the house on special occasions or to just talk with his parents.

When he was alive, Dapo was a very outgoing young man who was regarded among his peers as a peacekeeper. After he was killed his parents established the Dapo Peace Award which is presented to a deserving Lester B. student every year. The Agoros are also in the process of setting up the Dapo Agoro Foundation and his friends still organize a Dapo Fun Day at the Blackburn Arena every August.

One of the most poignant memorials to Dapo sits on the wall as you enter the family's modest Blackburn

Hamlet townhome. It's a picture of Martin Luther King with the words "True peace is not merely the absence of tensions, it is the presence of justice" written on it.

"Dapo bought that the year before he died. I didn't know what it meant to him at the time, but he really wanted to put it here," says Biola, fully cognizant of the irony the message contains in light of the Ontario Court of Appeal decision

Since the ruling, the Agoros have been contacted by Crown Attorney Mark Holmes who told them that it could take several weeks before a retrial date is set.

"They told us that they are doing the trial all over again with a new jury. Hopefully, they will see the same thing the other jury saw and will give him the same sentence," says Biola.

The Agoros were also told that Belance was transferred from a maximum security prison to a minimum security detention centre after his appeal was granted. The family's biggest fear is that Belance will be found guilty of the lesser charge of manslaughter in a retrial, in which case he could be granted a conditional release for time served.

Such a move would be totally unacceptable to the Agoros who say Belance has yet to utter a single word of remorse for what happened to their son, nor have they received any correspondence from his family that would indicate any remorse on their part.

"They say time heals all wounds, but it is not true. It is like a life sentence. When you lose a child to an illness sometimes they say it is God's will. This is not the same. It is not God's will that Dapo died. He died at the hand of this man," says Bashir. "You raise your child for 19 years and you get to know him and then all of sudden he is taken from you. He went out with his friends and he never came back."

Besides his parents, Dapo was survived by his two sisters Shola, 30, and Moji, 17.

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Place d'Orléans contest draws over 260 model hopefuls

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

They started lining up shortly after 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. Young, old, mothers, daughters, children, adults... all in the hope of being the next "Right Face in the Right Place".

Building on the success of the inaugural photo shoot contest held in December, the Place d'Orléans shopping centre decided to hold another photo call to find a model for their spring advertising campaign.

Besides having their face appear on billboards, in newspaper ads and on the side of OC Transpo buses, the lucky winner will also win a \$25,000 shopping spree, a professional makeover and a professional photo shoot.

While more than 260 people waited up to five hours to have their picture taken, only 50 of them had their pictures posted on the Place d'Orléans web site on Monday where visitors had 24 hours to vote for their favourite face.

The average age of the would-be models was about 13 to 15, although some were as young as four or five. Many of them brought their parents in tow to stand in line with them and some of the parents even ended up in the photos.

Seven-year-old Madelynne Gratton from Rockland heard about the contest on the Hot 89.9 which co-hosted the event. She and her 10-year-old sister Makayla joined the line-up with their father Martin at 9:30 a.m. After waiting three hours to register, they wandered around the mall for a couple of hours before joining a second line at 2:30 p.m. where they waited another two hours with their mother Monique before having their picture taken.

"We tagged-teamed it," said Monique

Gratton after the two girls finally had their make-up done and their picture taken. "When we first came here we thought it would just take a couple of hours and maybe we'd be done by lunch, but it was worth it. I just wanted them to experience it. They were curious so we said why not? We didn't have any other plans today."

If they made the final 50, the two girls said they planned to ask all their friends and family members to vote for them.

"I think they'll be spending a lot of time on the computer tomorrow," said their mother.

The Daly family came to Place d'Orléans on Saturday to pick up a few things when eight-year-old Calissa Daly and her nine-year-old sister Camille saw a sign for the photo contest and told their parents they wanted to enter. After waiting in line for several hours they decided to pose together as a family.

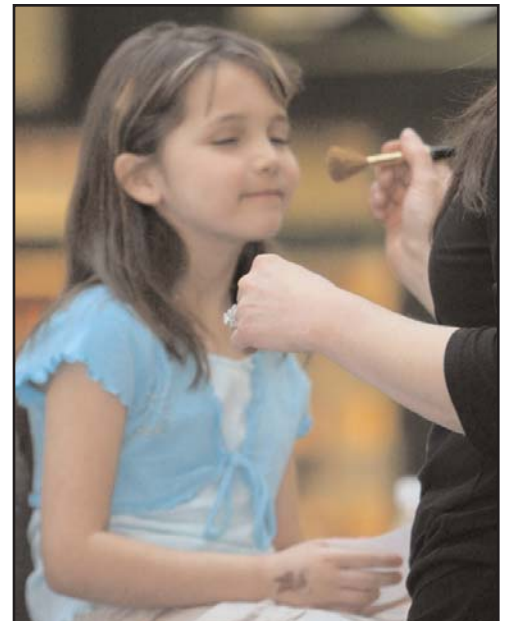
"It was our youngest that said we had to come and do this and then we all got roped in," joked the girls father Kevin Daly.

Asked what the best part about the whole process was, both girls answered simultaneously – "Getting our make-up done".

Every contestant had their make-up done by a bank of four make-up artists from the Barrett Palmer modeling agency. The photographer was Colin Rowe who was assisted by art director John Charette.

The job selecting the 50 finalists was left up to Charette and Rowe along with Place d'Orléans marketing manager Caroline Joannis.

"It's not going to be easy, it never is," said Charette about two-thirds of the way through the photo shoot. "(In December, we posted all the pictures on the website



Madelynne Gratton closes her eyes while getting her make-up done prior to having her picture taken during the 'Right Face for the Right place' photo contest at Place d'Orléans on Saturday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

at the same time and it ended up being problematic. This time will probably take a cross section of everyone."

The other difference between the contest held in December and this time around is that the winner will have to come back and have a professional photo shoot done. In December, they used the actual picture that was taken during the photo call.

Each of the 260 contestants will also be able to visit the Place d'Orléans website and have an electronic version of their photo e-mailed to them.

Local 1-800-GOT-JUNK? service gets odd request

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

As the operations manager for the Ottawa franchise of 1-800-GOT-JUNK?, John Vorobej has seen a lot of strange things, but nothing stranger than what was awaiting a company crew on a recent call to an east end residence where the owner wanted to get rid of a coffin.

Yes you read right – a coffin.

"When we first got the call I was expecting some guy had played amateur carpenter and made a coffin out of some plywood or something, but when the guys got there they found a real genuine satin lined coffin with silver plated handles," says Vorobej.

As it turns out the owner had bought the coffin some years ago as a prop for a party and wanted to finally get rid of it.

1-800-GOT-JUNK? obliged for the going rate and took it off his hands.

As pick-ups go, the coffin is one of the strangest items the local franchise has had to deal with so far, but Vorobej has heard of

other bizarre calls.

For instance, the Vancouver franchise once got a call to pick up 18,000 cans of expired sardines and there was another call to pick up a chest freezer that was filled with bags of dog doo doo. Apparently every time the owner took his dog out for a walk, he disposed of the droppings in his basement freezer rather than the garbage.

Neither one of the items would come under the heading, "One man's trash is another man's treasure", and neither one of the items fall under 1-800-GOT-JUNK?'s policy to recycle 75 per cent of the items they collect. Appliances and furniture are given to local community resources centres and other items are handed over to Habitat for Humanity's Re-use It Store on Walkley Road.

"We sometimes get the most amazing things, especially from people who are downsizing and are moving into assisted living. If we think it can be reused or recycled we have a network of resource centres



1-800-GOT-JUNK? workers unload a coffin from their truck after a recent pick-up. Photo supplied

we can take it to," says Vorobej.

1-800-GOT-JUNK?'s pricing schedule is based on volume and weight. Items that are heavier, including gyproc and concrete, have additional weight charges.

For more information about the services 1-800-GOT-JUNK? provides visit www.1800gotjunk.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.

Retrial ruling in Dapo Agoro case a travesty of justice

This week I had the heart-breaking task of interviewing Bashir and Biola Agoro after they learned that the Ontario Court of Appeal had ordered a retrial for Carl Michel Belance, the young man who was found guilty of stabbing their son Dapo to death in a Byward Market dance club in June 2002.

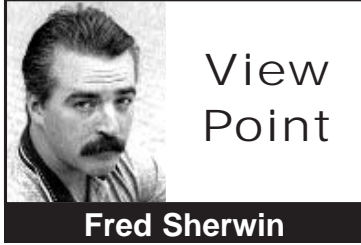
I should first say that I knew Dapo, or to be more accurate, I knew of him having covered the Lester B. Pearson senior boys soccer team of which he was an integral member.

After he was killed I visited the school where his fellow students turned his locker into a temporary shrine where they tried to find solace in his tragic death. I also attended his funeral and 14 months later I sat through the trial.

From the outset of the proceedings there was no question as to whether or not Belance had stabbed Agoro. By his own admission he stabbed Dapo four times in the abdomen when he thought his younger and smaller cousin was being threatened by Agoro and three of his friends. The only question that was left up to the jury was whether or not Belance was guilty of second degree murder or the lesser charge of manslaughter.

To find Belance guilty of manslaughter the jury had to determine whether or not a wrongful act was being committed on his cousin that would lead an ordinary person to be deprived of self control.

Belance testified that he thought Dapo and his friends were about to “stomp” on his cousin and that he reacted “automatically” by stabbing Agoro four times after Dapo



pushed him back when he tried to intercede in the altercation.

During the trial proceedings, Belance’s cousin Zacharie and Belance himself were the only two witnesses who testified that Agoro punched Zacharie in the head during the altercation. All the other witnesses testified that Dapo was simply trying to play the peacemaker and that he pushed Belance away because he thought he was a third party trying to get involved.

In the end the jury found that no wrongful act was being committed on Zacharie that would have warranted an ordinary person to lose self control to the point of stabbing someone four times. The jury took just four hours and 45 minutes to reach a guilty verdict on second degree murder.

Now three and a half years later the Ontario Court of Appeal has determined that the trial judge erred in instructing the jury on the legal definition of provocation and whether or not they needed to be unanimous in their understanding of the three key elements of the provocation defence.

Put another way the Court of Appeal is saying that the jury wasn’t intelligent enough to understand the issue of provocation as it related to the case and therefore their decision was tainted or misguided in some way.

When deciding on an appeal the Court relies solely on court

transcripts. At no time in the process are they compelled to interview the original jury to ask them how they came about their decision or to what extent their decision was influenced by the judge’s instructions.

To me this is flawed jurisprudence. I can only imagine how the original jury members must feel when they find out that their decision has been thrown out because the Court of Appeal thinks they weren’t intelligent enough to understand the legal definition of provocation.

I know how I would feel if I spent a week of my life sitting through five days of testimony and then coming up with a verdict based on the evidence presented in the case and the arguments put forward by both the prosecution and the defence, only to have a panel of judges tell me I didn’t understand what I was doing. I would be ticked off to say the least.

After sitting through the trial and hearing all the evidence, I thought the decision was pretty clear cut. For one thing, the original incident that led to the stabbing can best be described as a confrontation with the smaller Zacharie Belance on one side and Dapo and three much larger kids on the other.

There was no evidence at all that they were in the middle of a fight, therefore no wrongful act was being committed on Zacharie that would warrant an ordinary person to lose self control. And while Zacharie and Carl Michel Belance both testified that Dapo had punched Zacharie once in the head, at least five other people testified otherwise including the club manager.

Belance even admitted that

stabbing Dapo four times was an inappropriate amount of force given the circumstances.

You think! That to me is why the second degree murder conviction was warranted.

Belance could have threatened Agoro to back off by merely brandishing the knife, but instead he automatically stabbed him four times in the abdomen – not once but four times. Any reasonable or ordinary person understands that if you stab someone four times in the stomach there’s a high likelihood the victim is going to die from his wounds.

The original jury did their job and they ruled appropriately. I’m sure if they were to do it all over again they would still stand by their decision.

But that’s not the way the justice system works. Belance will get a new trial with a new jury and a new defence lawyer who will be armed with the Court of Appeal ruling. That’s assuming the Crown Attorney’s office decides to retry the case. There is an outside chance that they might accept a guilty plea on the manslaughter charge and avoid a second trial.

If that were to happen, Belance could be released for time served assuming he’s been a model inmate these last five years.

But that would be a travesty of justice. In my opinion manslaughter convictions are mainly awarded in cases where death is accidental. Dapo’s death was no accident.

The Crown Attorney’s office must retry the case in the name of justice, in the name of the jurors who did the right thing the first time around and in the name of Dapo Agoro.



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Young scribe prepares for series of birthday parties

Hi there. It's been a long time since the last time I wrote and I've done a lot of stuff since and my birthday is coming up soon.



The other day I went to Place d'Orléans to try out for a photo contest with my friend Esme and I didn't make the top 50 but I got a makeover that looked really good on me. So even though I didn't make it, I got to look really nice for the rest of the day.

So the day was awesome except for the fact that I had to wait in a line for one and a half hours just to get put in another line for two hours and then another line for an hour.

It took a long time, but all of my friends were there so we went shopping and put on tester makeup and I got a necklace which was on sale for a fraction of what the original price was. My Aunt Pat spent the morning with us and then my mom came around noon to give me moral support.

On Sunday, we took Billy to his first obedience class at the Best Friends Dog Training School on Trim Road. It was really fun but there are a lot of puppies in the class so it was really hectic. It was really hard to get the dogs' attention, but in the end I think that they were all being pretty good.

March Break is happening now and I am going to have lots of fun. I am going to watch a movie, go golfing, go to the wave pool and go play lazer tag. So my week is pretty booked, but I'm spending one of the days with my friend Natasha. We're going to go to the Body Shop to try on make-up and moisturizer and per-

fume.

The movie I'm going to see is *Bridge to Terabithia*. I have been dying to see that movie since it came out. Supposedly, all of the animated characters are based on the actors that play the voices.

As I said at the beginning my birthday is coming up on March 25 and I am getting a video camera from my Aunt Julie. I'm also hoping to get another \$20 I-Tunes gift card and a couple of DVDs.

In total I am having five birthday parties! One with my Mom and Dad and my brothers, one with my Dad's family, one with my friends and one with my Mom's family. Oh yeah, and I think I'm going to the Christina Aguilera/Pussy Cat Dolls concert with my friend Chevy. My Mom is trying to get us tickets through her work and Dad volunteered to take us.

For my birthday birthday my Mom's renting a pool for an

hour and I'm inviting all my friends for a swimming party. We'll have the pool all to ourselves and then afterwards we'll go back home and have cake and stuff. I can hardly wait, it's going to be so much fun.

The other good thing is that I'm turning 12 and I'll be able to start babysitting for other people. I've already taken a babysitting course and a St. John Ambulance course so I can start babysitting right away. Dad says I should find some other kids who want to baby-sit and start a babysitting service, but I think I'm going to start small first.

Anyway, my friend should be here soon so I'm going to stop writing now. Hope everyone has a wonderful March Break and enjoys their time off. I know I will.

tfn
(Maggie Sherwin is 11 years old and goes to Hopewell Public School in Ottawa where she is currently in Grade 6.)

Place d'Orléans plays host to Spring Boat Show

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Spring is in the air and it's time once again when men's fancy turns to the water. It's also the perfect time to pop into Place d'Orléans to check out the Orléans Boat World and Sports Spring Boat Show.

The boat show is the first for partners Marc Savage and Daniel Proulx who took over ownership of G&G Lalonde Marine and Sports from brothers Germain and Gilles Lalonde last month.

Savage, 40, and Proulx, 41, have known each other from their days at Garneau High School. Until recently Savage was the comptroller at Jacques Bédard excavation in Navan, while Proulx was an IT specialist at Nexient Learning in Ottawa.

In taking over G&G Lalonde, the two friends have inherited an established business with a well-earned reputation for customer service and quality.

They also inherited a newly built, state-of-the-art facility on Taylor Creek Road which boasts a large, bright 7,500 sq.

ft. showroom, a service department with three service bays and a fenced in, secure winter storage area.

The Place d'Orléans Boat Show will be the first opportunity for local residents to meet the new owners who see a great deal of potential in the area.

"It has to be one of the best markets around. Orléans has a lot of young families and they have excellent access to the Ottawa River at Petrie Island," says Proulx.

The boat show is a great place for would-be boat owners and tire kickers alike to check out the latest models from dealers like Larson, Lowe, Stratos, and Legend.

There's also a lot of great deals to be had like the Senza 186 by Larson which can be purchased for \$2,000 off the suggested retail price of \$30,499.

The layout allows first time buyers to compare models and talk to the Orleans Boat World and Sports staff who are there to lend their advice and walk you through the process of buying the boat of your dreams.



Area boat enthusiasts can check out the latest boats at the Orleans Boat World and Sports' Spring Boat Show on at Place d'Orléans until March 25. File Photo

Besides fishing and utility boats by Legend and Lowe, there are also several top of the line bass boats on display by Stratos as well as several pontoon boats by Lowe and Legend and Senza line of Larson pleasure Boats.

The 22-foot SunCruiser "Trinidad 220" model by Lowe is just \$22,499. That's \$3,500 off the suggested retail price of

\$25,999. The Orléans Boat World and Sports Spring Boat Show is on until March 25. The lower level sales office is open Monday to Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Appointments can also be scheduled by calling 613-223-9555.

Local sports

Gloucester Devils forced to settle for lone bronze medal at provincial ringette championships

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the first time in more than 15 years, the Gloucester Devils won't be sending a team to the Canadian ringette championships.

Despite having two teams qualify for the playoff round at the provincial 'AA' championships in Nepean this weekend, the Devils failed to place a team in a single gold medal game. In the end, they had to settle for a lone bronze medal in the Open 'AA' division for their worst showing ever at the provincial championships.

In years past, the GCRA has won as many as four medals at the provincial championships, pulling off the feat as recently as 2004. Last year they won the gold medal in the Belle division and the silver medal in the Open division. In fact, heading into this year's provincial championships the Open 'AA' team had played in the last six finals at the provincial championships, winning four of them.

The Devils streak was finally broken on Sunday when Richmond Hill upset them 5-4 in the bronze medal game.

The provincial championship playoffs work on the Page system with the first and second place teams playing each other in the semi-final with the winner earning a bye into the gold medal game. The losing team must face the winner of the other semifinal game between the third place team and the fourth place team.

The winner of the bronze medal game advances to the gold medal game against the winner of the 1-2 semifinal, while the loser has to settle for the bronze medal.

The Devils were heavily favoured heading into their game against Richmond Hill having gone 4-0 in the round robin. By comparison the Lightning had only won one game in the preliminary round. Momentum wise, however, Richmond Hill had the upper hand having beaten Ottawa 4-3 in their semifinal game. The Devils, on the other hand, were coming off an 8-3 loss to the defending champion Cambridge Turbos.

Playing on just two hours rest and with an undermanned roster, the Devils didn't do themselves any favours when they fell behind early against the Lightning on a goal by Beth Hurren.

Devils' goalie Julie-Anne Rheaume did her best to keep her team in the game with a pair of spectacular saves in the early going, but the Lightning would eventually extend their lead to 2-0 when Stefanie McArdle scored on rebound at the 5:28 mark of the first period.

The Devils finally got on the scoreboard less than two minutes later when Sabrina Guay used a teammate as a decoy and slid a harmless looking shot through the legs of Richmond Hill goalie Lindsay McGill.

Gloucester then tied the score with 1:46 left in the opening period on a goal from Emily Carriere who fired a wrist shot high over McGill's right shoulder.

Twenty-six seconds later Amanda Curry would give the Lightning the lead once again on a perfectly placed shot that caught the far side of the net. The lead was short-lived, however, thanks to the Devils' Jen Carter who scored in traffic just 18 seconds later to tie the game at 3-3 heading into the break.

After both teams managed to catch their breath, the Lightning gained the advantage with their fourth goal of the game, just 39 seconds into the second period.

Playing with a two man advantage after a pair of Devils players had been sent off, the Lightning buzzed around the offensive zone. The goal was set up when Hurren's shot from about 14 feet out hit the left post. The ring ended up on the goal line to the right of Rheaume when Karen Duguay managed to push it in.

Gloucester would tie the game on a powerplay goal of their own at the 15:11 mark of the third period when Melissa Lauder scored on a shot that barely trickled though McGill's legs.

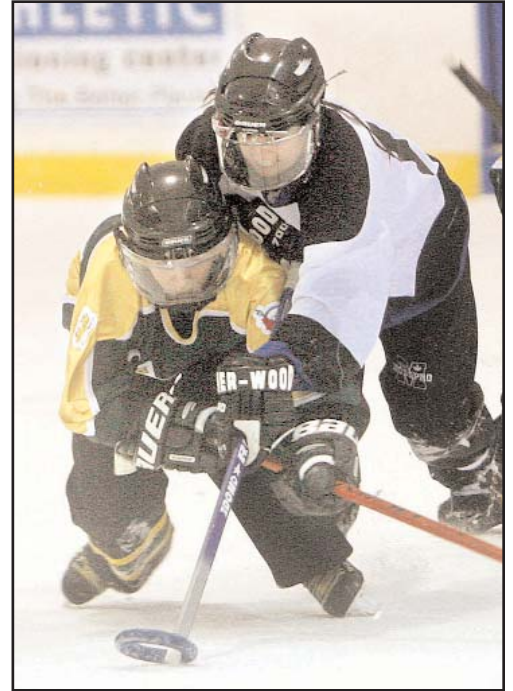
The next 12 minutes of the game were marked with several spectacular saves by both goalies and several near misses. Lauder, in particular, came close to scoring not one but three times. The first time she hit the right post with 11:30 left on the clock. Then with four minutes left, McGill made a great glove save to rob Lauder yet again.

The Lightning eventually took the lead for good at the 2:46 mark of the second period when Hurren threw a nice pass across the front of the crease to Karen McWilliams who was trailing on the play and beat Rheaume just as she tried to dive back across the net to make the save.

Down by a goal the Devils would get two more chances to tie and send the game into overtime, but McGill was equal to the task stopping Lauder with her left arm on one play and then stoning Erin Lepage on a clear cut breakaway with just a minute left to go in the game.

After the game Devils coach Lary Allen chalked the loss up to fatigue and a very good Richmond Hill team.

"We just ran out of legs. During the round robin we won on emotion and heart.



Colleen Hagan from the Gloucester Devils and Sarah Merla from the Richmond Hill Lightning fight for the ring during second period action in the Open 'AA' bronze medal game on Sunday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

You can't play six or seven games without a bench," said Allen. "We just ran out of steam and the goal we needed to score they scored first."

Allen expects the team will be back contending for the gold medal next year thanks to a couple of talented players who should be moving up from the Devils' Belle squad and several other players who have already informed him they plan to move into the area next year.

"This year was a bit of a transition year for us. We lost seven players from last year's team, but next year we should be fine," said Allen.

The only other Devils team that made it to the playoff round was the Tween squad which finished in third place due to goal differential. They ended up losing 5-2 to Whitby #2 in the 3 vs 4 semifinal.

Offensively, the team was led by Sara Lawlor who scored six goals and nine assists in six games and Valerie Thibaudeau who scored seven goals and added three assists during the tournament.

Elsewhere, the Petite 'AA' team finished in 7th place with a record of 2-4, the Junior team finished 8th with a record of 1-5 and the Belle team placed 6th with a record of two wins and four losses.

Local sports

East end volleyballers get front royal treatment during recent trip to CIS championships

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Five lucky volleyball players from the east end got a taste of the big time earlier this month during a trip to the CIS Men's Volleyball Championships in Hamilton.

The five players in question – Daniel Campeau from Louis Riel, Phillippe Yeldon from Franco-Cité, Hugo Curley from Gisele Lalonde, Josh Dalphy from De La Salle and André Begin from Béatrice-Desloges – are all members of the Ottawa Mavericks U16 High Performance team.

Besides taking in the tournament, the team also got to attend a skills clinic given by national men's team head coach Glenn Hoag and sponsored by Mizuno Canada.

Just getting to Hamilton was an adventure for the boys. When they hit Toronto they ran smack dab into the final blizzard of the year and one of the worst traffic jams imaginable. It took them four hours to get from Metro Toronto to Hamilton moving at a dead crawl.

But there was an upside to their adventure. Because of the storm they had the entire sports complex at McMaster University to themselves for an intense evening of volleyball.

The team got the royal treatment as they were greeted by Hoag and representatives from Mizuno Canada who gave each of them a special Mizuno duffle

bag filled with Mizuno products.

After the reception, the boys spent over an hour in a tête-à-tête meeting with Hoag who shared some of the highlights from his career including his time on the national team and his 23 years as both a professional player and a head coach. The discussion provided invaluable insights into all facets of volleyball as a sport, a discipline and ultimately, as a way of life.

After the discussion the boys were put through an intense series of drills by Hoag and assistant national team coach Dustin Reid.

At the close of the practice session, the boys were treated to a pizza party during which they watched the Brazil-Poland gold medal match from the recent World Championships in Tokyo with commentary and insights provided by Hoag, who besides being a former national team member and current head coach, is also a former Olympian.

Besides attending the clinic and meeting with Hoag, the boys were also able to attend the CIS Volleyball Championship including the gold medal game between the University of Winnipeg and the University of Alberta which the Wesmen won in five sets.

For Hugo Curley it was the trip of a lifetime.

"Being able to meet Glenn



National men's team head coach Glenn Hoag meets with members of the Ottawa Mavericks U16 High Performance team from the Orleans area. Photo supplied

Hoag and being able to talk to him was amazing. It doesn't get any better than that," says Curley, who still has two more years to go before moving on to university. "Pretty well everything he told us will help our game, especially what he said about not being afraid to try new stuff and play a quicker game."

The U16 High Performance team have had a tremendously successful season so far. After winning the Zone B Tier 2 Provincial Cup in December they moved up to Tier 1.

In January they played in the highly competitive Rochester Can-Am Tournament and placed ninth out of 16 teams. The tournament served as a warm-up to

the U16 Tier 1 Challenge Cup held at De La Salle High School in Ottawa in mid-February in which they made it all the way to the final before losing to the Ottawa Kangaroos in an exciting three set match 25-21, 28-30, 15-13.

The Mavericks U18 boys team is also having their share of success this year having recently won the gold medal in the Tier 1 Ontario Volleyball Bugarski Cup. They also finished tied for third at a tournament at Penn State University, earning themselves an invitation to the Junior Olympics.

Last but not least, the U14 Ottawa Maverick Gold Diggers girls team recently won the Bugarski Cup in Zone D.

Orleans Blues even quarterfinal series with Nepean

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Orleans Blues and the Nepean Raiders are deadlocked in their quarterfinal series after the two teams split their opening two games.

The Blues didn't get off to the start they were hoping for against the Raiders, losing 5-3 in the series opener on Sunday.

Despite the loss, the Blues were able to point to their three goal performance in the third period as a positive heading into Game 2 at the Earl Tuesday night.

The Blues were able to get a jump on their opponents thanks to a powerplay goal by Scott Pitt at the 9:16 mark of the first period.

They then increased their lead to 3-0 early in the second period on a pair of goals by Patrick Millette and Pierre-Luc Patenaude.

The Raiders would get one back late in the period but it wouldn't be near enough as the Blues shut them out the rest of the way.

Pitt was named the game's first star while Blues goalie

Adam Courchaine picked up third star honours for stopping 38 of 39 shots directed his way.

Game 3 in the series will be played Thursday night at the Nepean Sportsplex. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

In other playoff action, the eight seed Kanata Stallions are giving the defending champion Pembroke Lumber Kings a run for their money, losing the first two games of their series by just a goal. No one, however, believes they be able to come back from being down two games to nothing.

The other two quarterfinal series between the Smiths Falls Bears and the Brockville Braves and the Ottawa Jr. Senators and the Hawkesbury Hawks are both tied at a game apiece.

In the Smiths Falls-Brockville series, the Braves won the first game 5-4. The Bears then rebounded to take the second game 6-5.

In the Hawkesbury-Ottawa series it was the Jr. Sens who drew first blood winning the opening game 4-2. The Hawks then battled back to win Game 2 in double overtime.

Artscetera

East end galleries welcome three new exhibits

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

East end art lovers looking to get an early start on spring can visit one of three new exhibits which opened this week at the area's three main galleries.

The Visual Arts Centre Orleans is hosting an exhibit by Chelsea multi-media artist Pam Connolly entitled "So Far".

The show includes several abstract tapestry-like collages using assorted materials on rice paper; photo transfers and modular acrylic pieces.

The exhibit runs until March 30. The VACO gallery is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The Gloucester and Cumberland Galleries located in the Orléans Client Service Centre on Centrum Blvd. will be also welcoming two new exhibits this weekend.

The second floor Cumberland Gallery will play host to an

exhibit by France Tremblay entitled "Reflections" consisting of a number of works revolving around the central theme of how light is reflected on water and through glass.

Some of the paintings celebrate the effect of the morning and evening light on the landscape, while others are classic still lifes.

Downstairs on the main level of the Client Service Centre, the Gloucester Gallery will feature a collection of works produced by members of Arteast based on the show's common theme "Guilty pleasures".

The paintings are a light-hearted study of life's less harmful indulgences that are often hard to avoid.

The Gloucester and Cumberland Galleries are open Monday to Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and



'Outrageously Out' by Pam Connolly

Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Elsewhere in the east end, the Orléans branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Orléans Blvd. in Chapel Hill and the North Gloucester branch located beside Gloucester High School, regularly displays work by members of Arteast, while

the Blackburn Hamlet branch also hosts monthly exhibits.

Further afield, the Rothwell Gallery at 1718 Montreal Road is hosting an exhibit of Ottawa valley artist Charlie Spratt, entitled "An Affair with Light". The exhibit will run until March 31.

Community calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

BLACKBURN HAMLET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Blackburn Hamlet Library. For more information visit www.blackburnhamlet.ca.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

LIVE MUSIC at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Buffet dinner served from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost \$12 per person.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

BUFFET STYLE BREAKFAST served from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd.

This is a fundraising event for the Orleans Legion.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. Irish music and traditional Irish Stew served in the afternoon. Lauren Hall will be performing from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT all day at the Ottawa-Gloucester Sports Club, 1439 Youville Dr. There will be entertainment during the evening. Please plan to join us. For more information call 613-837-6366.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY at Jacques' Trap Roadhouse in Carlsbad Springs featuring the Dukes of Haggis. For more information visit www.jacquestrapp.ca.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

WOMEN MOVING FORWARD

INTERNET RADIO SHOW with host Pierrette Raymond at www.womenmoving-forward.com. Live web-cast at 10 a.m. featuring special guest Barbara Best from Virtual Works Administrative Solutions.

NAVAN MINOR BASEBALL REGISTRATION at the Navan Memorial Arena from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mixed ages 5-18 years. Call 613-835-2925 or 613-837-3995 for more information.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING beginning at 6 p.m. in the Richmond Room at Ottawa City Hall.

ROADS AND CYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING beginning at 6 p.m. in the Richmond Room at Ottawa City Hall.

FALLINGBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Ray Friel Centre. For more info visit www.fallingbrook.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING at 9:30 a.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING at 1:30 p.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING at 4 p.m.

in the Colonel By Room Ottawa City Hall.

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING at 4 p.m. in Andrew S. Hayden Hall in Ottawa City Hall.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

ARTS, HERITAGE AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING beginning at 4 p.m. in Andrew S. Hayden Hall at Ottawa City Hall.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

OLD TIME FIDDLING SESSION at the Roy Hobbs Community Centre on Champlain Street. All area fiddlers welcome. For more information call Denise at 613-830-3856.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

GLOUCESTER EMERGENCY FOOD CUPBOARD BOOK SALE from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2040 Arrowsmith Dr.