

The Eastender

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Thursday, March 1

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

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Lester B. Pearson High School student Paula MacDonald presides over a mock session of the House of Commons on Sunday involving students from Orléans and Peterborough.

See story on page 4. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Council uses surplus to balance budget

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

After two months of budget deliberations and public consultations aimed at trying to mitigate a projected \$95 million budget shortfall, council ultimately decided to put off the budget crunch until next year by covering nearly a third of the budget shortfall using last year's surplus and raiding the city's tax stabilization reserve.

The move allowed council to limit the tax increase to just 0.3 per cent, or about \$9 for the average homeowner, all of which will go to the police service to hire 20 additional police officers. Ottawa homeowners can also expect a nine per cent increase in their water and sewer rates and marginal increases in user fees for everything from bus passes to birth and death certificates.

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

New pool, arts centre top list of 2007 capital projects

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

East end residents will see their fare share of capital dollars spent in the area over the next 12 months after council gave its stamp of approval to the 2007 capital budget on Monday which contains several major projects.

Topping the list is the long awaited Orleans Arts Centre which will be built beside the Orleans Client Service Centre on Centrum Boulevard.

The arts centre is being built by Orleans Town Centre Ltd., a consortium of companies that was awarded the P3 project last year. Construction is expected to begin this spring with a projected completion date in the fall of 2008.

The second major recreation project slated for 2007 is a new

25 metre indoor pool to be built in the Avalon community south of Innes Road.

The city's parks and recreation staff are hoping to have a site selected sometime this spring, after which they can begin the engineering and site plan process.

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

The majority of the \$10 million price tag will be paid for through the use of development charges, while \$1.4 million will have to be borrowed and repaid through tax supported means.

Transit users in Convent Glen will be happy to learn that the city plans to improve the transit transfer point at Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. and Hwy. 174 with

the possibility of building a transit station at the location.

Commuters who make the daily trip downtown, will finally get some relief when the city gets around to building a third eastbound lane on Hwy. 174 between the Hwy. 417 on ramp and the eastbound Blair Rd. off ramp.

The city also plans to spend \$1,595,000 on arena plant rehabilitation work at the Orleans Recreation Complex and repairs to the roof.

The aging J.B. Potvin Arena on Sheffield Rd. will get a new rink floor and boards and the Splash Wave Pool on Ogilvie Rd. will get a new filtration plant and dehumidification work.

The capital budget also includes funding for a number of new play structures to replace

aging facilities in Jeanne d'Arc Park, Fallingbrook Park, Grey Nun's Park, Marsha Park, Ken Steele Park in Beacon Hill and Alcide Trudeau park in Vars.

Some of the roads slated for resurfacing in 2007 include Major Road in Queenswood Heights, Notre Dame Street and Boyer Road in Orleans, Beddoe Lane in Blackburn Hamlet, Orleans Blvd. between Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. and Innes Road and Qigley Hill Road in Cumberland. Another \$2.74 million will be spent on refurbishing the Green's Creek Bridge.

Last but by no means least, the city plans to spend \$245,000 restoring several buildings at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum including Watson's Garage and the Knox Presbyterian Church.

Community briefs

City hires outsider to replace outgoing police chief

OTTAWA – According to published reports, the City of Ottawa has once again looked abroad to hire a new police chief rather than promote someone from within. The same reports say that the man the city has selected to replace Vince Bevan is current Durham Police Chief Vernon White. White is a former RCMP officer with more than 20 years of policing experience. White's level of French competency is not known at this time. Bevan was hired to head up the newly amalgamated Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service in 2000. At the time a number of local municipal chiefs were passed over for the job including former Gloucester police chief Ray Renaud who was kept on as one of three deputy chiefs. By looking outside the force to hire a new chief, the city has once again passed over candidates currently on the force most notably deputy chief Sue O'Sullivan.

International Food Fair and Jamboree raises over \$6,000

ORLEANS – The Orleans Legion staged their most successful International Food Fair and Jamboree on Sunday, raising more than \$6,000 for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation. Participants were able to enjoy a wide variety of delectable items from a dozen different countries including Greece, Scotland, Thailand, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago and the Philippines. Cheddar Ectera and M & M Meat Shop also chipped in items this year. A large crowd turned out to sample the food and enjoy entertainment provided by Al Visser and his band, the duet of Ginette Hamilton and JoAnn McCann, Caper Country, Shawn Barry, Terry McCann, Lauren Hall and Doug & Pam Champagne. Legion member and Country Caper guitarist Woody Boudreau did double duty as the master of ceremonies.

St. Patrick's Party to raise money for Food Aid

OTTAWA – Local residents will be able to get an early start on St. Patrick Day celebrations this year while helping to support a great cause. Organizers of the annual Food Aid event are busy putting the finish touches on plans for a St. Patrick's Day Party on March 10 at Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm near Edwards. Tickets to the event are \$25 each and include "food galore" as well as entertainment and dancing with music provided by Newfie Fog and Diamond Heart. The event is the brainchild of Navan resident and Food Aid founder Wyatt McWilliams. Advance tickets can be purchased at J.T. Bradley's Country Convenience Store in Navan.

Approved budget contains 9% increase in water bill

Cont'd from page 1

The final budget solutions made it impossible for Mayor Larry O'Brien to make good on his "zero means zero" election promise. A fact, journalists were quick to point out after the meeting.

"I would have preferred a zero increase, but when I made that commitment, I didn't have three months of experience on council," O'Brien told reporters.

The compromise budget includes money to fund the Arts Investment Strategy (\$1.5 million) and new francophone day-care spaces (\$765,000). Council also avoided having to defer the museum sustainability plan, reforestation efforts and discounted transit passes for people on disability.

Several of the councillors grudgingly voted for the budget knowing that it makes the task of balancing next year's budget even harder.

By using the \$23.5 million budget surplus and taking \$8.3 million out of the tax stabilization fund, council has essentially added an extra \$31.8 million to next year's budget pressures which staff had already pegged at \$82.3 million. In other words, in order to freeze taxes again next year council will have to find almost \$114 million in savings and increased revenue sources without the benefit of being able to raid the tax stabilization fund which

has less than \$400,000 remaining in it after today's move.

The \$114 million figure may even be higher if the city is unable to realize the \$13 million in additional revenue their hoping to get from the province for cost-shared programs such as child care services and welfare.

Then there's the issue of using gas tax money and taking on debt to free up monies that would have otherwise been spent on strategic capital initiatives. Combined the two provisions allowed the city to address nearly 20 per cent of the budget shortfall. Neither one of them, however, are advisable over the long term. The gas tax money is supposed to be used to help cover the cost of road maintenance and strategic capital initiatives are normally paid for through contributions to reserves.

Council will begin conducting a thorough review of city services this spring with an emphasis on determining at what levels they should be provided, it at all.

The decision to use one time funding sources to balance this year's budget and pass a tax freeze also buys the mayor time to begin reshaping the city's corporate culture and implementing better business practices aimed at making the city's massive bureaucracy more efficient.

SUV sinks off Petrie Island

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

An Orléans teen was left shaken after the SUV he was driving crashed through the ice on the Ottawa River near Petrie Island early last Saturday morning.

According to reports, the young man was out looking for friends who he believed were ice fishing, when the front end of the Toyota RAV4 he was driving broke through

the ice at around 1:15 a.m..

The quick thinking teen managed to escape through the driver's side window before the car sunk to the bottom of the river.

The SUV belonged to the young man's parents.

According to staff who work at the Oziles Bait and Tackle Shop on the island, emergency crews won't try and retrieve the car until the spring when the ice has melted.

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Retrial ordered for man convicted of killing popular Lester B. Pearson High School student in June 2002

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The man convicted of stabbing former Lester B. Pearson student Dapo Agoro to death in a nightclub scuffle in 2002 has been granted a retrial by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Carl Michel Belance was found guilty of first degree murder in September 2003 for the June 2002 stabbing death of 17-year-old Oladapo Agoro who was two weeks short of graduating from high school.

According to the testimony heard at the original trial, Agoro was trying to break up a fight between a friend and Belance's cousin on the dance floor at the now defunct Sub Zero Club in the Byward Market when Belance got involved.

In his account of what happened, Belance, who was 19 at the time of the incident, said he was only trying to defend his 17-year-old cousin when he pulled out a hunting knife he had snuck into the club for "protection" and stabbed Agoro four times.

"What happened, it just happened. It was automatic," Belance told the court during his trial.

According to a forensic report, Agoro received four knife wounds. Two were superficial in nature, while the other two were more serious. One punctured the

popular student's kidney and liver, while the fourth likely fatal wound delivered just above the navel severed his aorta.

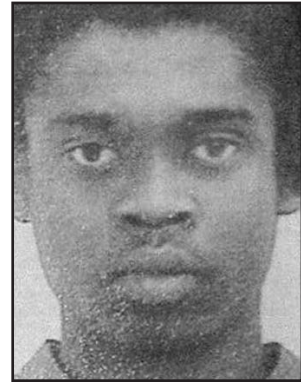
While Belance couldn't recall how many times he stabbed Agoro, he did admit on the witness stand that he knew stabbing a person several times in the stomach would likely result in death. He also admitted that his actions had been "inappropriate" although his intention was merely to "hurt" Agoro.

The question of guilt or innocent on the charge of first degree murder hinged on the jury's assessment of Belance's state of mind when he stabbed Agoro and whether or not his actions were provoked and spontaneous.



Dapo Agoro

the defence of provocation: "Please review the definition of provocation; Please define self-control; Please define ordinary person; Do we have



Carl Michel Belance

to be unanimous in deciding when the ordinary person loses self-control?" In rendering its decision for a retrial, the Court of Appeal ruled that the presiding judge, Albert Roy, improperly instructed the jury when explaining how they should proceed if they disagreed with respect to any one of the elements dealing with the legal definition of provocation.

"At worst, there is a substantial risk that they could have taken the trial judge to be saying that it would have to convict the appellant unless it was unanimous in his favour on all three elements of provocation," the Court of Appeal states in its written decision. "While the trial judge was undoubtedly trying to assist the jury in answering these questions, I can only conclude that his instruction was unclear and confusing and that it did not provide the jury with the assistance it required."

Council agrees to let sleeping north-south light rail dog lie

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

There will be no miraculous resurrection of the north south light rail project after all. In what can only be described as the ultimate conversion on the road to Damascus, the cabal of councillors intent on reviving the controversial plan fell back into line after a closed door meeting on last Friday in which it was agreed that only the mayor and city manager Kent Kirkpatrick would speak on the subject in the future.

It was a head shaking turn of events during a day that started out with many city hall observers predicting a battle royale between north south light rail supporters and detractors of the plan.

The day's events began with Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans reintroducing her motion to revive the north south light rail project in light of a pair of letters councillors recently received from Siemens-PCL Dufferin, the consortium that was originally awarded the contract to build the north-south light rail line, in which they presented the councillors with two possible options.

The first option called for an out of court settlement of \$175 million and the second option proposed to restart the project subject to a penalty of \$75 million to cover cost overruns that would be incurred as a result in

the delay between the original start date and a revised start date.

Before council could debate Deans' motion, which called on the councillors to revisit their previous decision to can the project, Mayor Larry O'Brien, as chair of the committee of the whole, needed to first rule whether or not the letters constituted "new information" which is the determining factor to whether or not a motion to revisit a previous decision is in order.

The mayor deferred to city solicitor Rick O'Connor, who offered his opinion that the information contained in the letters did not constitute "new information" and therefore could be ruled out of order. At that, Deans tried to withdraw her motion, but O'Brien wouldn't let her. Instead, he took O'Connor's advice and ruled the motion out of order.

Deans and the other light rail supporters were then expected to challenge the chair, which would have required a simple majority vote of 50 per cent plus one. But instead of challenging the chair, council agreed to go in-camera to discuss the content of the letters.

Two hours later, the councillors emerged from the closed door session all smiles.

In trying to explain what had just happened, Deans simply said that she had

accomplished what she had set out to do by forcing council to discuss the contents of the letters from Siemens-PCL Dufferin.

"The objective was to make sure council will consider all offers and the mayor assured us that we would," said Deans. "(Eventually) there will be an end to all this and at the end there will be critics and we'll have to prove that we've done our due diligence."

Capital Ward Coun. Clive Doucet is another passionate supporter of the north-south light rail project. After the meeting he chose his words carefully when asked if light rail was finally dead for good.

"I think light rail is going to come to Ottawa, it's just going to take longer and cost a lot more," said Doucet.

Flush from his first major victory since coming to power in November, a beaming Mayor O'Brien announced to the waiting media that everyone was finally on the same page when it came to finding a long range solution to the city's transit woes.

"I think some of the fears that might have been hanging around in the backs of the minds of many councillors have been allayed today, and now it's time to start really getting down to work," said O'Brien while also claiming that council was starting to "gel" as a team.

Orléans students get a taste of parliamentary system

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

About 30 east end high school students got a lesson in parliamentary procedure on Saturday as guests of Ottawa-Orléans MP Royal Galipeau.

As the deputy chair of the committee of the whole, Galipeau knows all about parliamentary procedure. He's also had to preside over the odd verbal sparring match which are common place in the House of Commons.

While there was the odd cheer and banging of desks as the students took part in a mock session of Parliament, the decorum was much more tame than is often the case in the House of Commons.

Before occupying their seats in the chamber, the students were given a brief tour of Centre Block by Galipeau and Peterborough MP Dean Del Mastro who was hosting about 40 students from his riding.

The students prepared for the mock session of parliament by studying four potentially controversial motions. The first motion was an act to ban commercials from children's television. The second was an act to ban the use of animals in the circus. Two other acts aimed to ban contact in sports for kids under the age of 18 and require voters to be Canadian citizens before casting their ballot.

As the debate went on, the students on the opposition side of the House of Commons took turns rising to ask questions of the government, or debate the

motion before them. Directing it all from the Speaker's chair with a little help from Galipeau, was Lester B. Pearson student Paula MacDonald.

A handful of students also read statements on a variety of topics including the Canada Winter Games and Black History Month.

The session ended with a vote of non-confidence in the government after a number of the students sitting on the government side of the House crossed the floor in opposition to the motion banning contact in sports for kids under the age of 18. The government was defeated by a vote of 37-27.

Most of the students who took part in the exercise are either studying Canada's parliamentary system as part of their Grade 10 civics course or have studied it in the past. But being able to experience it up close and in person proved to be too great an opportunity to pass up.

Cara Gooding was the lone representative from Gloucester High School. The Grade 12 student was the guest speaker at a luncheon marking Black History Month on Friday, when Galipeau asked her if she'd be interested in the hands on lesson in the parliamentary process.

"I thought it would be give me a little more of an in depth idea into what's going on in the real world," said Gooding who admits to being a former CPAC junkie. "I used to watch Question Period all the time and yes, I used to get made fun of, but I



Students from St. Peter, Lester B. Pearson and Gloucester High School pose for a picture in the House of Commons with Ottawa-Orleans MP Royal Galipeau. Fred Sherwin/Photo

found it interesting."

St. Peter High School student Charles Douglas was invited to take part in the initiative by his civics teacher. The Grade 10 student thought it would be neat to take a behind the scenes tour of Parliament Hill and learn firsthand about the inner workings of the parliamentary system of government.

"I'm hoping to get a better understanding of what goes on in the House of Commons and what the rules are," said Douglas who planned to take argue against the government motion to ban contact in sports for kids under the age of 18. "I'm against banning contact in sports. I think it should be up to the individual governing bodies."

Peter Scalia was one of 20 students from Lester B. Pearson

who took the tour. Like several of the other students who took part in the exercise, the Grade 10 student is also an occasional CPAC viewer.

"I like watching the debates. I think it's interesting to see how the Parliament works," said Scalia.

During the tour of the Centre Block, Galipeau made sure the group stopped at the Hall of Honour which has 24 alcoves.

"I pointed out to them that four of the alcoves have the history of Canada carved in them. The other 20 alcoves are empty. That's where the history they're going to create will be written. And if they're motivated enough perhaps they'll fix some of the mistakes we make," said Galipeau. "You never know, some of them may go on and become an MP."

Last two men accused in Cumberland killings freed after 17 years in jail

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Two men convicted of executing a small time drug dealer and his pregnant common-law wife in Cumberland in 1990 were freed on Tuesday after the Crown Attorney filed for a stay of the first degree murder charges against them in Superior court.

Richard Mallory and Robert Stewart entered the courtroom in shackles and left free men after the Crown asked that the charges against them be stayed citing "the passage of time" and a recent Superior Court ruling that led to the release of two co-accused in the case – Richard Trudel and James Sauvé – last month.

Stewart and Mallory were

awaiting a new trial ordered by the Ontario Court of Appeal in January on the basis that the original trial judge failed to adequately caution the jury about the Crown's chief witness who was a convicted drug dealer and was paid more than \$400,000 in exchange for his co-operation and testimony.

The controversy surrounding the witness Denis Gaudreault and the lengthy delays in the trial proceedings of Trudel and Sauvé ultimately compelled Superior Court Justice Colin McKinnon to order the charges against them be stayed. While Trudel was living in a halfway house out on bail at the time, Sauvé was released after spending 17 years in prison.

The speculation at the time was that the charges against Mallory and Stewart would be stayed as well.

The speculation became a reality on Tuesday as the two men walked out of the Elgin Street courthouse as free men for the first time in 17 years.

While Mallory, who is now 60, went to a nearby steakhouse to enjoy a meal with his girlfriend, Stewart, now 54, talked to reporters about the ordeal.

"We were told that if we admitted we did it we wouldn't go to jail. We had nothing to do with the pregnant woman that was murdered. It was a horrid crime," said Stewart referring to Manon Boudreau, the 24-year-old woman who was expecting

a child when she was shot in the back of the head with a shotgun while trying to hide between her bed and a nearby wall.

Boudreau's common-law husband Michel Giroux was the main target of the attack which was believed to be payback for a drug deal gone wrong.

Stewart says his main focus now is to clear his name and the names of the three co-accused.

"We may be free, but it's not over yet. We're going to work on clearing our names. We're innocent," said Stewart who believes the task will be a full time job. "I would like to see a public inquiry and I would want a standing on that to defend myself."



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.

Blame game

Nice to see the public school board is finally reaping the seeds of inaction and indecision they've been sowing for the past nine years.

The board's troubles go back to 1998 when the province forced the Ottawa Board of Education and the Carleton Board of Education to merge. Prior to the school board amalgamation, the assessment rich Ottawa board was infamous for offering a litany of programs the Carleton board could only dream about, thanks to their much large commercial and industrial tax base.

After the merger the OBE trustees managed to convince their CBE colleagues to not only keep the former OBE programs intact but expand throughout the entire board. At the same time, the province decided to take away the ability of school boards to raise their own taxes.

Under the new system the municipalities collect education taxes through the property tax base and remit them to the province which in turn doles out the money to the boards based primarily on the number of students they have. As a result, the newly amalgamated Ottawa-Carleton District School Board was suddenly getting a great deal less money. But rather than pare back programming, or reduce the number of empty pupil places they had, they raided their reserves and cut administration.

Now the cupboard is bare and they've reverted back to their same old tune that the province doesn't give them enough money, blah, blah, blah. Perhaps the board would have more money if they started consolidating more schools. In one catchment area in the west end they have five elementary schools, all of which are operating at less than 60 per cent capacity. The money that's being wasted on maintenance, heating and hydro is ridiculous.

I've long been a believer that the province needs to grant taxation powers back to the boards. If the OCDCB trustees had to choose between closing half-empty schools or raising taxes 15 per cent, what do you think they would do? With the system set up the way it is now, it's far too easy for the boards to simply blame the province for all their problems.

In 2003, the trustees of the day complained that the former Conservative government was the problem. Today, apparently it's the Liberal's fault. The board is running out of scapegoats. It's time for the trustees to do the job they were elected to do, mainly administer the board's affairs and leave the lobbying up to the voters.

— Fred Sherwin, editor

Tax freeze accomplished on a wing and a prayer

Before I start getting into this year's budget process and Larry O'Brien's seemingly miraculous ability to freeze taxes, let me first say that I supported the decision to use last year's surplus to balance the books for the simple reason that it buys the city councillors time to address the real financial problem facing the city and that's the crazy level of staff compensation.

That said, before O'Brien and his supporters start acting too smug and slapping each other on the back for a job well down, let me also say that even a monkey could have pulled off the trick and not even a trained one at that.

It doesn't take much business acumen to use \$31.7 million in "found" money – the \$23.5 million budget surplus and \$8.2 million from the tax stabilization fund – to help cover a budget deficit.

To even to call it a balanced budget is a stretch. Using one time funding to cover costs, relying on the province to pony up an additional \$13 million to pay for cost-shared programs and diverting \$16.5 million in gas tax money to help fund the operating budget, are all little more than stop gap measures.

In fact, the budget itself contains very little in the way of efficiencies. There's a provision to save \$2.6 million by delaying the filling of staff vacancies, called "gapping". Reducing surface operations by \$1 million is another efficiency target, as is locking in diesel prices to hopefully save another \$2 million, the grand total of which amounts to less than \$6 million. The rest of this year's \$75 million budget deficit is being addressed on a wing and a prayer.

If you factor in the unsustainable budget provisions, council is already looking at a possible shortfall next year of more than \$144 million – the largest such shortfall since amalgamation.

I guess it's only fitting then that council plans to review each and every service with the intention of figuring out at what level they should be delivered. In other words 2004 all over again, unless the mayor and the rest of council decide to take on the real bud-

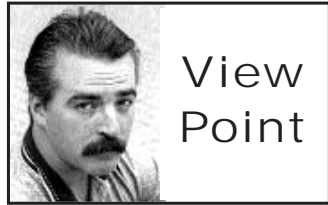
et culprit – that being the ongoing impact of rising salaries and benefits.

It's interesting to note that the city is currently negotiating a contract with its largest union, CUPE Local 503, which received increases of three per cent a year in each of the last three years, significantly higher than the rate of inflation.

Given that the current rate of inflation is under two per cent, I can only hope that whoever sitting at the negotiating table for the city has been instructed that two per cent is the ceiling. In truth, if council doesn't plan to raise taxes to cover a negotiated salary increase they shouldn't negotiate one in the first place, or if they do, they should inform the union that a matching number of FTEs must be cut to make the increase revenue neutral.

As for the job Larry O'Brien has done so far, I'm still reserving my final opinion until after I see how deals with staffing levels and compensation. So far, at least, he hasn't done anything especially earth shattering except in bringing everybody in line over the light rail issue (although I suspect that had more to do with the city's lawyers telling the light rail supporters on council to cease and desist than anything else.)

As for O'Brien's 'zero means zero' campaign pledge, he only kept half his promise. Yes, he managed to freeze taxes this year, but he failed to hold the line on user fees and water and sewer rates are going up nine per cent this year which equates to an extra \$63 per household.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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Bloom MicroTech offers complete array of computer services

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Bloom MicroTech is a full support computer sales and service provider located in the Canotek Business Park just off Montreal Road near Hwy. 174.

At Bloom MicroTech they understand the challenges of today's highly competitive business environment. To gain and retain your business, they are constantly analyzing, redefining and redesigning the way they can best serve their clients.

The company was founded in 1990 by Harley Bloom who recognized the need for a computer service company that could provide personal, yet pragmatic technical advice and first-rate computer service that the average home or small business could afford.

From its modest beginnings in a 900 sq. ft. office, Bloom MicroTech has grown to become a 2,500 sq. ft. retail outlet with a product showroom displaying new, used and refurbished computer systems and components; a system fit-up area and a fully equipped service department.

Bloom MicroTech differs from the big, box store computer retailers in that they don't have a kitchen appliance department and they actually provide prompt, courteous and professional after sale service.

Their unique "walk-in" service department, which forms part of the main floor, allows clients to actually join the technician as they upgrade, repair or configure their computer system.

One of their areas of expertise is in debugging your computer of insidious spyware and adware programs that infect your operating system and gobble up your computer's memory and CPU resources.

You may not even notice one or two of these infections but when you get 10 or 20 all clamoring for your processor and internet connection at the same time, that's when things get crazy. Your browser starts to time out and reports connection failure, or your system slows down to the point where you watch your keystrokes appear one by one as if in slow motion. And like any problem, the longer you ignore it the worse it can get.

Unfortunately, most anti-spyware and adware software will make only exacerbate the problem. Every detection/prevention package seems to find something else and removing one or several in combination can have an impact on your computer's operating system. The only safe and effective way to rid your computer of spyware, adware and even worms and Trojan Horses is to have a professional manually go in,



Harley Bloom (middle) and the folks at Bloom MicroTech can handle all you computer needs. File photo

search out the bugs and remove them. There is no magic bullet.

At Bloom MicroTech they can usually do the job in 24 to 48 hours, although it can take longer depending on the extent of the problem. One thing is for sure, the professionals at Bloom Microtech will take the time to explain the problem and the remedy so that you're not left in the dark.

Besides fixing software problems and debugging hard drives, Bloom MicroTech also specializes in upgrades and installing peripherals such as CD burners, DVD players and networking systems.

The seemingly boundless commercial opportunities provided by the world wide web has allowed Bloom MicroTech to provide simple and instantaneous access to their products and services over the Internet.

Their ever expanding website now features an on-line quotation system, an 80,000 item catalogue, instant access to spec sheets and the latest in-store specials.

From stand-alone systems to multi-server networks, Bloom MicroTech has the resources, the talent, the facilities and the desire to be the primary source for all your technology needs.

Local business

Personal professional service you can trust

Special to The Eastender

Moving, whatever the reason, means leaving people, places and more often than not, fond memories behind. Having moved more than 13 times in her life, Coldwell Banker realtor Barb Paquette knows a thing or two of about the process of buying and selling a home along with the emotional stress that goes along with it.

Barb's personal experiences give her a special empathy for families who find themselves in the same situation, good or bad, self determined or not, and a keen insight into the associated problems. It is these people skills and experience, and a sympathetic ear, which she brings to the real estate business.

Barb chose to join Coldwell Banker's Interactive Realty team in Orleans because

she found the very same commitment to providing exceptional client service that she herself has strived to achieve. In a recent survey, Coldwell banker received a customer satisfaction rating of 98 per cent!

By retaining Barb's services to help sell your home, buy your first home, or find that dream home, will afford you more than just a helping hand. She will act as your own personal and professional realtor, devoting her undivided attention and energy to help meet all of your real estate needs and fulfill your dreams.

If you or someone you know, is looking to buy a new home or contemplating a move in the near future, why not give Barb Paquette a call today at 830-9999 or visit her website at www.barbpaquette.com. It could be the start of a wonderful relationship.



Barb Paquette

Local sports

Knights, Gators knocked out of playoff contention

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the first time in at least five years a team from the far east end failed to make the 'AAA' senior boys basketball championship.

Both the second seed St. Peter Knights and the fourth seed Gloucester Gators were knocked out of the playoffs last Thursday, with the Knights suffering an especially heartbreaking defeat at the hands of the Nepean Knights.

St. Peter Knights were up by 11 points with four minutes left to go in the game when turnovers and bad decisions allowed Nepean to get back into the game.

Jimmy Seymour scored a pair of baskets for Nepean to cut the Knights' lead to seven. Then after the two teams exchanged free throws, Jordan Harcombe drained a clutch three point shot to further narrow the deficit to three points with just over a minute to go in the game. Nepean's full court press would produce yet another turnover which Adam Livingston converted to make the difference just one point with 32 seconds left on the clock.

Although their lead had been whittled down to a point, the Knights were still in control of the game and then the unthinkable happened – Geoff Coventry was called for a 10 second violation when he failed to cross the half court line. It was a close call which both he and Knights' head coach Ashley Coventry tried to argue, but to know avail.

With the change of possession, Nepean inbounded the ball with 12 seconds left to go. The Knights defended well but they left Andrew Riddick wide open outside the three point arc to the left of the basket. Despite having already missed the only other two shots he took in the entire game, Riddick

coolly drained the three pointer to give Nepean a two point lead with 3.8 seconds left on the clock.

On the change of possession, the Knights' Luc Minani pushed the ball up the floor and launched a shot from the top of the key which rang off the back of the rim. Jordan Kirchberger, who was trailing on the play, tried to sink the put backer, but it rang off the rim just as the final second slipped away.

After the game, Coventry tried to explain his team's fourth quarter collapse.

"Too many turnovers. We basically gave them the game. Yes, they turned up the pressure defensively but we should be able to handle that," said Coventry. "Part of the problem was fatigue. Two of our best bench players were down with injuries so we were basically playing with six guys."

The disappointing loss overshadowed a pair of amazing efforts turned in by Minani and teammate Brandon Anderson.

Anderson sparked the Knights in the first quarter, scoring 10 points to help give St. Pete's an early 20-13 lead. He would add eight more points in the second quarter to put the Knights up 32-27 at the half.

After Nepean managed to erase the deficit in the early part of the third quarter, St. Pete's second year senior Luc Minani deciding to take matters in his own hands. Back to back three pointers and a short jumper turned the four point deficit into a four point lead in less than a minute.

Between the midway point of the third quarter and the halfway through the fourth Minani would score 14 of his team's 18 points, but it would all go for not in the final four minutes of the game.

In the other 'AAA' semifinal game, the top seed St. Patrick Fighting Irish came back



The St. Peter Knights' Brandon Anderson puts up a shot during the senior boys 'AAA' semifinal last Thursday. Anderson scored 22 points in a losing cause against the Nepean Knights. Fred Sherwin/Photo

from an 11 point first half deficit against the fourth seed Gloucester Gators to win 59-51.

It's been years since a far east end team hasn't played in the senior boys city championship game. In fact, you have to go back to 2002 when the Samuel Genest Lazars downed the Woodroffe Tigers to find the last time it happened.

St. Matt's Tigers advance to junior B-Ball championship

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The St. Matt's Tigers are returning to the National Capital junior boys basketball championship for the first time in three years after defeating the Immaculata Saints 57-52 on Tuesday to capture their first East Conference final since 2003.

The Tigers will take on the winner of the West Conference final next Monday at St. Patrick High School.

Playing in their home gym, St. Matt's kept pace with Immaculata through the first eight minutes thanks mainly to Tyson Hinz who poured in 13 first quarter points.

Up 19-17, the Saints decided to pay particular attention to Hinz in the second quarter. They also began to assert themselves under the boards at both ends of the court, but especially on the offensive glass where they were able to get two and three chances.

By half-time, Immaculata had extended their lead to nine points up 34-25.

With their chances of earning a berth in the city championship hanging in the balance, the Tigers managed to reverse the tide in the third quarter thanks to an aggressive full court press that forced the Saints to turn the ball over a half dozen times. As a result the Tigers outscored Immaculata 18-5 in the third quarter to take a 43-39 lead heading into the final stanza.

The Tigers further imposed their will over Immaculata in the fourth quarter, eventually extending their lead to eight points before their opponents sunk a three point basket at the buzzer to make the final 57-52 in favour of St. Matt's.

Hinz ended the game with 29 points while Scott Ring added 15 more.

The leading scorer for the Saints was Joseph Manigat with 17 points, including five three pointers.

Tigers' co-coach Will Hinz gave the team full credit for responding the way they did in the third quarter.

"We've been down before against good teams, so they knew they had it in them. I told them they needed to leave everything on the floor and they responded and came back," said Hinz.

The Tigers must now await the outcome of the West Conference final between Sir Robert Borden and A.Y. Jackson to see who they will face in the city championship.

In other high school basketball action on Tuesday, the Lester B. Pearson Panthers came up a basket short in their quest for the Tier 2 junior boys basketball championship.

The Panthers lost 60-58 to the Notre Dame Silver Eagles. Both teams came into the championship game sporting identical 12-0 records.

Local sports

Local athletes in the medal hunt at Canada Winter Games

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

While the number of local athletes at the Canada Winter Games maybe small, they have already made an impact, winning a half dozen medals and putting themselves in position to win several more.

Orléans native Nicolas Bean has led the way with two gold medals and a bronze in short track speed skating despite suffering from laryngitis. With two events left to go, the 19-year-old national junior team member still has a shot at winning five medals.

Any hope Ivanie Blondin had of winning five medals were dashed when she finished third in the semi-finals of the 500 metre event by half a skate blade.

The 16-year-old Garneau High School student and national team member went into the 500 metre competition having already won the gold medal in the 1500 metres while setting a new Canada Games Record in the process.

She bounced back in the 1,000 metres on Wednesday, picking up the silver medal after Quebec skater Valerie Lambert was disqualified after contacting another Quebec skater during the race.

Blondin trailed Lambert for the first half of the nine lap race before taking the lead with four laps to go. She managed to keep the other girls at bay until the final turn



Nicholas Bean



Rachel Homan



Ashley Rheame



Natasha Côté

when Marianne St-Gelais made an aggressive pass on the outside to steal the win.

Fellow Gloucester Concordes member Joel Colin-Demers had his best showing of the Games in the 1,000 metres Wednesday night when he advanced to the B-final.

Despite being involved in a double disqualification in the final he still managed to place seventh in the distance to go along with a 12th place finish in the 1500 metres and 10th finish in the 500.

In women's curling, 18-year-old Orléans skip Rachel Homan has guiding her City View rink to wins over New Brunswick, P.E.I., Newfoundland and Labrador and the Northwest Territories to clinch a berth in the semi-finals.

The team has one game remaining against Manitoba to determine who will finish in first place in Pool B and who will place second.

Homan and the rest of her foursome

which includes Lynn Kreviazuk at third, Emma Miskew at second and Jamie Sinclair at lead, have completely dominated the competition so far in the tournament scoring in the double figures in all four of their games while blanking their last two opponents 10-0 and 14-0.

Finally, Gloucester Devil teammates Natasha Côté and Ashley Rheame and the rest of Team Ontario are one game away from having the gold medal hung around their necks in ringette after they beat Manitoba 5-4 in the semi-finals on Wednesday.

Côté scored two goals and added an assist in a winning cause while Rheame scored a goal and collected three assists for her most productive game of the tournament.

Ontario will play Alberta in Thursday's final in a rematch of the gold medal game in 2003 that was won by Ontario.

Orleans Blues extend unbeaten streak to six games

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Orleans Blues picked the perfect time to play their best hockey of the season. With less than two weeks to go before the start of the playoffs, the Blues are riding a six game unbeaten and are locked in a battle for fourth place and possible home ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Their current streak includes a pair of wins over the Pembroke Lumber Kings, making them only the second team in the league to accomplish the feat so far this season. The only other team to have beaten the defending champions twice are the Hawkesbury Hawks.

Even more impressive is the fact that the Blues have only given up one goal in their last three games. The lone goal came in the final minute of their first game against Pembroke last Thursday, while the Lumber Kings were enjoying a powerplay.

Heading into the final period, the Blues had built up a 3-0 lead on goals by Andrew Creppin, Chris Somerville and Scott Pitt. In the third, the Blues further increased their

lead thanks to a shorthanded effort by Pat Millette and powerplay goals by Chris Kushneriuk and Creppin.

The final 6-1 score is the the second worst defeat the Lumber Kings have suffered all season.

To prove the win wasn't a fluke, the Blues went out and downed the Hawkesbury Hawks 4-0 on Friday to improve their record to 23-20-5 with two overtime losses.

They then beat the Lumber Kings for the second time in four days on Sunday, skating to a 3-0 win in what was arguably their best game of the season.

The Blues' Pierre-Luc Patenaude opened the scoring with a shorthanded goal at the 16:07 mark of the first period.

Despite being outshot 16-4 in the opening period, the Blues managed to keep the Lumber Kings off the scoreboard thanks to the goaltending heroics of starting netminder Steven Cross.

After neither team managed to score in the second stanza, Micheal Rowbotham gave the Blues a 2-0 lead with a goal at the 2:23 mark of the third. Pat Millette then sealed the deal with the Blues' second

shorthanded effort of the game with a little over five minutes left on the clock.

To give an idea of the magnitude of the Blues' accomplishment, the Lumber Kings have only been held to one goal twice so far season and they had never been shutout before Cross accomplished the feat.

With four games left in their schedule, the Blues find themselves tied for fifth place with the Smiths Falls Bears with three games in hand.

They're two points up on the seventh place Hawkesbury Hawks and four points up on the Kanata Stallions who occupy the eighth and final playoff spot. Both teams have played the same number of games as the Blues.

While fifth place is a realistic enough goal, the Blues are hoping to overtake the Brockville Braves for fourth place and home ice advantage in the first round of the place. Like the Blues, the Braves have four games left to play in the regular season.

The Blues' remaining games are against Hawkesbury, Ottawa, Kanata and Cumberland. All four games are at home beginning this Thursday night against the Hawks.

Artscetera

Concert a fitting celebration of Black History Month

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

An audience of about 60 people gathered at the Orleans Theatre on Saturday night for an evening of music in celebration of Black History Month. The lucky few got to enjoy a truly spell-binding concert that included a breathtaking performance by award winning gospel songstress Kathy Grant Mahon.

The concert was organized by Harmonia Choir of Ottawa director Kurt Ala-Kantti and featured performances by the Harmonia Choir, the World Voices Choir from Brookfield High School and the Cross Town Youth Chorus.

The theme for the evening was "Hold Fast To Dreams" taken from the opening line of the poem *Dreams* written by Langston Hughes.

The Harmonia Choir and the World Voices Choir joined forces for the opening number, *Freedom is Coming*, which is a traditional South African freedom song. Harmonia then performed a set of spiritual songs including a lively spiritual number with a calypso feel written by Newfoundland songwriter Stephen Hadley.

The Harmonia Choir was followed on stage by the World Voices Drummers who used a variety of instruments to replicate the songs of the rain forest including a giant rain stick in a piece appropriately called *Rain*.

Next up was the east end's own Cross Town Youth Chorus which performed a medley of South African freedom songs accompanied by drummer Jeannine Hunter.

The first half of the concert was brought to a close by the combined voices of the Cross Town Youth Chorus and Harmonia performing *Hope for Resolution*.

After a brief intermission it was time for the World Voices Choir to take the stage. The high school chorus recently released a CD entitled "Ubuntu" which features a variety of South African freedom songs written in the years leading up to the end of apartheid.

For their opening number the choir performed a song from Ghana entitled *Wonfa Nyem* which is traditionally sung at festivals and funerals. The song featured a solo performance by World Voices member John Iyaniwura

For their next number the choir took on a traditional piece from northern Brazil entitled *Maracatu*. With its heavy samba beat created by a large percussion section, the song reminded me of Rio de Janeiro during Carnival.

After performing two traditional South African freedom songs including *Freedom is in Your Hand* which was easily one of the highlights of the evening, the World Vision Choir was joined on stage by the Harmonia Choir for a wonderful version of the pan-African anthem *N'kosi Sikelel'i Africa* made famous during the Graceland concert organized by Paul Simon in the late '80s.

The best however was saved for last as Grant Mahon came out of the wings to take her place at the front of the stage to sing *Sound Over All Waters* by Canadian composer Paul Halley which was absolutely mesmerizing.

The concert was then brought to a close with the combined choirs singing Halley's *Freedom Trilogy*, the third part of which featured Mahon singing the lines of *Amazing Grace*, backed by a chorus written in the style of a traditional South African freedom



Ottawa gospel singer Kathy Grant Mahon brings the 'Hold Fast to Dreams' concert to a close at the Orleans Theatre Sunday night. The concert was organized by the Harmonia Choir of Ottawa to celebrate Black History Month. Fred Sherwin/Photo song. It was the perfect ending to a truly remarkable evening of music.

The concert was the third in a series of four performances being put on this year by the Harmonia Choir in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The fourth and final concert in the series, entitled "A Common Wealth of Song", is planned for May 26.

Community calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

CONCERTS CUMBERLAND

presents The Toronto Consort, Canada's leading chamber music ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and early Baroque periods. The concert will take place at the Orleans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. (just north of Hwy. 174) at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students under the age of 25.

THE ST. PETER PLAYERS present the Shakespearean classic "Hamlet" at 7:30 p.m.

in the cafetorium at St. Peter High School. Tickets \$10.

GINETTE HAMILTON will be performing at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

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.

NAVAN MINOR BASEBALL REGISTRATION at the Navan Memorial

Arena from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mixed ages 5-18 years. Call Nancy Toonders for more information at 613-835-2925 or Louise Cleroux at 837-3995.

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

THE ST. PETER PLAYERS present the Shakespearean classic "Hamlet" at 7:30 p.m. in the cafetorium at St. Peter High School. Tickets \$10. A special matinee performance will also be held at 2 p.m.

JACQUES' TRAP ROADHOUSE in Carlsbad Springs presents "The Memphis Mafia - A '70s Musical Celebration". Three shows from 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 per person. For more info visit www.jacquestrapp.ca.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

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

RURAL ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING at 7 p.m. in

the Colonel By Room at Ottawa City Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING at 6:30 p.m. in the Colonel By Room at Ottawa City Hall.