

The Eastender

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May 9, 2007

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 23



Students from the Leeming Danceworks studio in Orleáns won four individual titles at the American Dance Awards competition in Ottawa. See story on page 9. Fred Sherwin Photo

Woman injured in drive-by paint ball shooting

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Twenty-one-year-old Ashley Roos was standing at a bus stop at the corner of Orleáns Boulevard and Lumberman Way at around 9:30 p.m. Monday night when she was suddenly struck in the eye by a paint ball pellet fired from a passing car.

She immediately dropped to the ground and began screaming in agony as her boyfriend hurriedly called 9-1-1 on his cell phone. Within minutes an ambulance arrived and the paramedics began to assess

Roos' gruesome injury. Her eye was swollen shut and spilling blood.

Without wasting any time the ambulance rushed her to the hospital where doctors stabilized her wound and tried to make her as comfortable as possible. Twenty-four hours later, doctors were still waiting for the swelling to go down before they could assess whether or not Roos has suffered any permanent damage.

Meanwhile, her attackers are still at large.

CLICK HERE TO CON'T p2>

Organizers gearing up for second Orleáns Soap Box Derby

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Organizers of this year's Orleáns Soap Box Derby are putting out an early call for entrants and volunteers.

This year's derby will be held on Sunday, June 9. Last year's inaugural event attracted over 50 entries, despite brutally cold weather, and raised more than \$6,000, \$3,000 of which was used to help restore the Orleáns Skateboard and BMX Park.

A sizeable portion of the proceeds was also handed over to the Orleáns Lions Club to help finance activities for youth in the community.

Just like last year, this year's derby will be held on Orleáns

Boulevard between Carriere Street and St. Joseph Boulevard.

In order to keep the soap box derby racers from flying on to St. Joseph, a series of hay bale barricades and snow fencing will be set up at the bottom of Orleáns Boulevard.

Besides hoping for warmer weather this year, organizers are also hoping to attract more community entries. To help do so they've come up with a plan to match sponsors with local Scout troops, schools and other youth organizations.

The derby is open to anyone between the age of seven and 17. The Orleáns Soap Box Derby website bills the event as "a significant community event

which promotes creativity, team spirit and "good old fashion" fun for the whole family!

Entrants can compete in six different categories including the Participation Class which is open to first-timers.

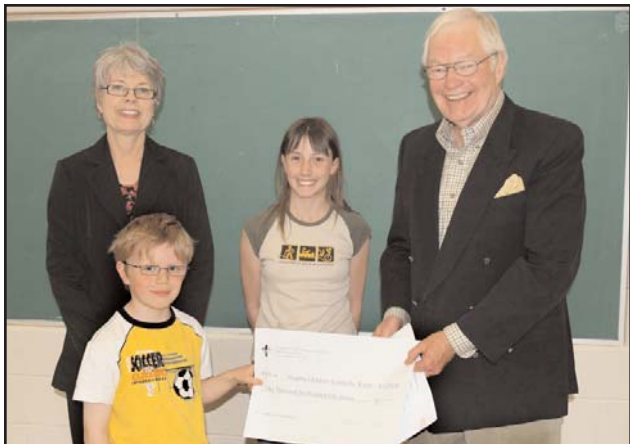
As an officially sanctioned Canadian Soap Box Racing Association event, the derby attracts racers from across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. The CSBRA sanctioned categories are open to official kit cars only, while entrants in the Hobby Street and Participation categories can build their own cars, just as long as they meet the CSBRA guidelines which can be found on the Orleáns Soap Box Derby website.

The Hobby Street Class is unique in that it gives parents a chance to work with their children in designing and building their cars.

The Soap Box Derby was started by Carlos Conde and Roger Roy whose seven-year-old son Alexandre provided the inspiration for the event after seeing a movie about a handicapped boy who dreamed about one day participating in a soap box derby.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about this year's event can call Carlos Conde at 613-834-4416 or Brett Whittaker at 613-837-9398. Additional details can also be found at www.orleanssoapbox.com.

Community briefs



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha students Patrick Savage and Alexandra Helmerson present a cheque for \$1,650 to Tom Belton from the group Sleeping Children Around the World as principal Marilyn Hanley looks on. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Orléans school raises money to provide beds for children

ORLEANS — The students at Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School in Orléans have banded together to raise money to purchase beds for less fortunate children halfway round the world. Each year the elementary schools in the Catholic system undertake a Lenten Project aimed at helping others. At Blessed Kateri the students did chores around the house to raise money for the organization Sleeping Children Around the World which provides bed kits to children in developing countries. The organization was launched in 1970 by Murray and Mary Dryden, who happen to be the parents of former NHL goaltenders Ken and Dave Dryden. The kids at Blessed Kateri raised \$1,650 with their efforts which will go to buy bed kits for children in Uganda. For more information about Sleeping Children Around the World visit www.scaw.org.

Local gymnastics club gets \$26,100 Trillium grant

ORLEANS — The Gloucester-Cumberland Tumblers Gymnastics Centre plans to expand their boys program after receiving a \$26,100 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The club plans to use the money to purchase equipment and hire more coaches. Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely presented the cheque to Tumblers president Roxanne Neifer during the opening day of the 2007 Tumblers Classic on Saturday. In the past few years the number of boys in the Tumblers competitive program has more than doubled which has helped make the Tumblers one of the five largest gymnastics programs in the province. For more information on the Gloucester Tumblers visit www.tumblers.on.ca.

Police seek information in paint ball shooting

Cont'd from page 1

According to witnesses, the paint ball pellet was fired from a white or silver Chevy Cavalier traveling south bound on Orléans Boulevard.

The shooter is thought to be a white male in his late teens or early 20s.

Anyone with any information about the vehicle or its occupants are being asked to contact Det. Vanessa McNeil at 236-1222, ext 3566 or call Crime Stoppers at 233-TIPS (233-8477).

While drive-by pellet gun shootings have often occurred in the past, paint ball shootings are a rela-

tively new phenomenon.

According to the police, there have been at least 10 incidents involving the discharge of paint ball guns so far this month. There were 24 reported incidents in April.

Paint ball guns can be purchased over the counter at several local retailers including WalMart and Canadian Tire for as little as \$80, although both stores limit sales to people 18 years of age or over. But there are no restrictions on the private sale of paint ball guns through traditional classified ads or on websites such as usedottawa.com just as there are no restrictions on the private sale of pellet guns.

Assistance team critical of public school board

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board needs to do a much better job getting its house in order before crying poor to the province, says a special assistance team appointed by the province to do a thorough analysis of the board's predicament.

The school board was hoping that the special assistance team would sympathize with their plight by drawing attention to their claim of chronic underfunding. Instead, the team says the board has no one to blame but themselves for their financial predicament.

Joan Green and Brian Cairn have been going over the boards books and meeting with board staff and trustees for the past two weeks.

During the process the pair says they were continually faced with recurring issues and themes. Primarily, it has habitually overstated the gap between what it pays staff

in terms of salaries and benefits and what it receives from the province.

The board says the difference is about \$36 million. The special assistance team found that it's closer to \$11.3 million. However, the board says the team's analysis fails to include special education staff, ESL instructors, the Learning Opportunity Grant and primary class sizes.

At the heart of the special assistance team's report is the fact that since the former Ottawa and Carleton Boards of Education were amalgamated in 1998, the OCDSB board has never balanced its books without drawing on reserves or one-time money.

Among the areas the team says need to be addressed are special education and the need for three entry levels for French Immersion.

The board is currently undergoing its annual budget process and needs to make \$18 million in cuts over the next two years to balance its books.

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Former Cumberland firefighter wins final battle

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the past year former Cumberland firefighter Ken Charlebois has been fighting a life and death battle on two fronts.

The first was against the cancer that had been diagnosed last April and was ravaging his body. The second was against a system that refused to recognize that certain cancers contracted by firefighters like himself may be related to exposure to toxic chemicals while on the job.

Last Thursday morning Charlebois lost one battle, but lived long enough to hear that the provincial legislature had passed a bill that will compensate firefighters who develop any one of eight cancers, including brain, esophageal, colon and kidney. The new legislation which passed first, second and third reading in near record time, will also compensate firefighters who have a heart attack within 24 hours of a fire.

The new rules mean that firefighters will no longer have to prove they got cancer from their jobs. Instead, it is "presumed" their jobs made them sick unless otherwise proven. The legislation is retroactive until 1960.

The bill came as a complete surprise to everyone. While Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely knew it was in the works, he didn't know when it was going to be introduced until Wednesday night and even then he had to keep quiet about it until it was introduced on the floor of the provincial legislature Thursday morning.

Knowing Charlebois' case and having worked with him over the past six weeks in trying to speed up the legislation, it was all McNeely could do to keep from breaking the embargo.

When the bill was finally introduced at 9:30 a.m. last Thursday morning, McNeely

placed a call to Charlebois' hospital room where his wife Ingrid answered the phone. When she relayed the news to Charlebois he raised his arms and gave the victory sign. A little over two hours later he passed away content in the knowledge that his long battle with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board was finally over.



Ken Charlebois

to get it changed," says his friend Ivan Tanner.

"He had not been well these last couple of days, but there was a strong rumour that something might happen. He refused to go until this morning when Phil called at 9:40 a.m. to tell him what was happening and at 11:56 a.m. he died."

Charlebois is among an estimated 700 firefighters in Ontario who have filed claims with the WSIB who will benefit from the legislation.

He joined the Cumberland Fire Department in the early 70s after a short stint with the Ottawa Police Department as a police officer.

"He was a good man. He'd drive you nuts sometimes, but he had a heart of gold. He had three loves – God, his family and his country. He was committed to serving people," says Tanner.

As a member of the Cumberland Fire Department, he was a strong union activist and eventually helped form the Cumber-

land Fire Fighters' Association, which was one of the first rural fire fighter unions in the province. Charlebois served as the association's third president.

When he finally retired in the later part of 2005, he was acting district Chief. Charlebois was about to enjoy retirement with his new wife to be, when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer last April.

"They caught it real, real early and they decided to do radical surgery and removed his esophagus," says Tanner. "They thought they got it, but then it showed up in his lymph nodes and everywhere else and there was nothing they could really do about it."

Despite the dire prognosis, Ken and Ingrid insisted on following through with their wedding plans and in July they were married.

"That's the type of man he was. He was very stubborn. Actually they're both pretty stubborn," says Tanner, fighting back tears. "He was frustrating as hell sometimes, but if you ever needed anything there was never any question Ken was there. He always jumped into everything he did with both feet."

Charlebois will receive a funeral with full honours at Holy Canadian Martyrs Church on Main Street on Wednesday, May 9 at 1 p.m. Tanner expects the funeral will be attended by hundreds of fellow fire fighters including a good many that served with him in Cumberland.

"We always talked about having a reunion because after amalgamation everyone started getting spread out all over the place. We had a small one last fall and about 70 guys showed up with less than a week's notice. I expect this is going to be a lot bigger. It's just a shame it's for Ken's funeral," says Tanner.

Blackburn woman receives Civic Appreciation Award

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

As a teacher Leonora Crowe knew firsthand that the most effective way to teach her students was to make the education process as entertaining as possible.

Besides using her own skills as a musician and singer, she would often bring in outside help to further enrich her students such as the "Kids on the Block" troupe which uses who use muppet-like puppets to teach tolerance and understanding of children with disabilities.

Crowe was so impressed with the troupe that she decided to join them when she retired from teaching five years ago. Along the way she also joined the National Gallery Volunteer Circle's "Looking At Pictures" program which uses art reproductions to help elementary school students look at pictures with greater understanding.

Add to that the fact that Crowe still sings with the Ottawa Carleton Choristers made up of current and former teachers, supply teaches and works front of house for the

Ottawa Little Theatre and you begin to realize that Crowe is far from retired.

On Monday, the Blackburn Hamlet resident received the Civic Appreciation Award for Arts and Culture during a ceremony at City Hall.

For the former Blackburn Public and Glen Ogilvie Elementary School teacher, her various activities are essentially a labour of love.

"To be a teacher you have to be an actress, an artist and a musician all rolled into one, especially in Grade 2," says Crowe. "Now I get to do what love to do. I don't have to worry about report cards or yard duty and I get to go home and have a nap."

Crowe is especially proud of the work she does for "Kids on the Block" which teaches children about disabilities through the magic of puppetry.

Each puppet in the show has a disability ranging from ADD/HD to Cerebral Palsy and deafness. At the end of each skit, the students get a chance to ask the puppets questions about whatever disability is por-



Leonora Crowe receives her Civic Appreciation Award from Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess and Mayor Larry O'Brien. Photo supplied

trayed in the show.

"The other day I had a child come up to me after a show to thank me for showing his disability because now the other kids know more about. It's pretty amazing," says Crowe who is a pretty amazing person herself.

Cardinal Creek volunteer award goes to pair of rink rats

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

When Jason Storm and Bhupendar Patel first volunteered to maintain Cardinal Creek's one and only outdoor rink last fall they had no idea what they were getting into. But what they lacked in experience, they more than made up for in community spirit.

Step 1 was to take an outdoor rink maintenance course given by the City of Ottawa. Step 2 was waiting for it to get cold enough to actually create the rink. In order to create the correct base for the ice surface you need at least three to four inches of snow on the ground. Then to build up the correct ice thickness, you need three consecutive days of minus 10 degree weather.

Finally, you need to wake up at 4:30 in the morning to flood the ice on those three consecutive days. After that you just have to flood it the odd time to keep it properly maintained and clear the surface whenever it snows.

For Storm and Patel it was a labour of love and a way to help out their community. They were paid back tenfold for their efforts by the smiles on the kids' faces who used the Cassia Park rink every day.

"Every day when I came home there were always people on the rink and on the weekends it was always full," says Patel,

who along with Storm, received the Cardinal Creek Community Association's Volunteer of the Year Award on Thursday.

Besides helping out the community, Storm had two other special reasons to keep the rink properly groomed – both his daughters are figure skaters.

The two men were fortunate in that there weren't too many heavy snowfalls while the rink was open so they didn't have to do a lot of shoveling. In fact, the only thing they will do differently next year is choose a different way to compact the snow before they flood the rink.

"We used a big piece of 4x8 plywood that Bhupendar kept in his basement and it got pretty heavy after awhile," says Storm who besides doing the rink maintenance also volunteered to help organize the Cardinal Creek garage sale last year and the Spring Clean-up.

Cardinal Creek Community Association president Sean Crossan was quick to applaud both Storm and Patel for their dedication and hard work.

"By volunteering to build the rink and get up at four and five o'clock in the morning, they allowed over 600 families in the community to enjoy the outdoors and go for a skate during the winter," says Crossan. "The award is just a way for the community to say thanks."



Bhupendar Patel and Jason Storm received the Cardinal Creek Volunteer of the Year Award for building and maintaining the Trim Road East community's outdoor rink this past winter. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Public board poised to make second round of cuts

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The axe is about to fall at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board once again as trustees continue to wrestle with a \$15.8 million budget shortfall.

Last Thursday night, board staff unveiled a list of proposed cuts that would save the board about \$7.1 million in 2007/08. The rest of the shortfall would have to be made up in 2008/09.

The news is actually better than what trustees had been bracing themselves for. When the budget process began in January, the board was looking at a projected shortfall in the vicinity of \$27.7 million. After agreeing to a series of staff reductions, the trustees managed to whittle the shortfall down to \$19 million.

Since January, the province has increased grants in a number of areas totaling \$3.2 million which reduced the projected shortfall even further.

Among the cuts staff are proposing to implement during the next school are \$2.4 million in instruction other than special education; \$1 million in special education; \$1.2 million in facilities; \$800,000 in central

administration; \$700,000 in transportation; \$300,000 through school closures and \$100,000 in continuing education.

A special assistance team appointed by the Ministry of Education in January is expected to release their own list of proposed cuts next Tuesday. Chief among them is likely to be a recommendation to eliminate one of the school board's French Immersion entry points.

The OCDSB's director of education Lorne Rachlis says the board is taking a two pronged approach to getting its financial house in order. The first is looking at new ways to do business. The second is trying to get the province to close the gap between what the board is paying its teachers and what the province is giving them in terms of a grant.

"We need to look at changing our delivery of programs and services to a more streamlined and efficient model while maintaining or even improving the quality of education and student achievement," says Rachlis. "(But) we must also urge the Ministry of Education to review its funding formula. We need a stable financial environment for public education."

In terms of the proposed cuts put before the trustees Thursday night, 18.2 full-time equivalent positions would be eliminated in special education. They include two educational assistants who help children with Aspergers syndrome, a form of autism; one position in speech and language pathology; two social workers; 10 educational assistants and 3.2 positions in occupational therapy and physiotherapy. As well, \$9,040 would be trimmed from audiologist contract services.

The lion's share of the cuts to the instructional budget would come by way of a \$1.2 million reduction in the school supplies budget. Six positions in central support services would also be eliminated.

Elsewhere, staff is once again proposing to put end to the board's policy to pay for busing for students enrolled in the IB program at Colonel By and the Canterbury Arts Program as well as the secondary gifted program.

Members of the general public will have an opportunity to make presentations to the board on May 10 and 14. The final budget is expected to be approved by June 12 to take effect next fall.

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.

Service erosion

So 36 per cent of Ottawans are dissatisfied with the way the city delivers municipal services – go figure. Personally, I would have thought the number would be a lot higher.

Meanwhile, the city’s politicians have been meeting every Monday in an effort to come up with a new service delivery model in a navel gazing exercise to end all navel gazing exercises.

The reason why 80 per cent more people are dissatisfied with the way the city delivers municipal services today than three years ago is simple – it’s called service erosion. It’s what happens when you continuously underfund services for years on end. And by underfund I don’t mean cutting.

By simply freezing spending, you create underfunding. For example, if you have 10 guys plowing the roads and you give each of them a five per cent raise, but fail to raise the additional revenue needed to cover the added cost, you can expect to see a five per cent drop in your ability to provide the service. It’s not exactly rocket science.

Of course, in a perfect world the 10 guys would increase their productivity five per cent to make up the difference, but even in a perfect world that won’t last forever and when you have consecutive freezes the problem is compounded exponentially, just ask the city’s municipally funded day cares.

As services erode, the people who use them begin to take notice. The more residents who use the services, such as transit and roads, the more people take notice. It’s simple math.

So we as a citizenry we have a choice to make. We either learn to live with the continued erosion of services in exchange for three more years of tax freezes, or we agree to pay an inflationary tax increase to maintain services at their current levels. A potential third option would be to throw the door open to more user fees for everything from garbage collection to parking. Although once you do that, I’m not sure what the difference is between higher user fees and higher taxes.

For now I believe the mayor is looking at trying to find ways to deliver the same municipal services more cheaply. To do that internally you have to increase productivity, and short of waving a magic wand it ain’t going to happen. The only other way is to outsource the work to private companies that don’t have to worry about things like unions. Unfortunately the latter option will likely trigger a period of labour unrest which will further erode the delivery of municipal services bringing us right back to square one.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

Very first Tequila Sunrise party started out as innocent affair

I had to chuckle the other day when I was reading an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* about the school boards and police wanting to “crack down” on year end school parties.

It’s become somewhat of a tradition among high school students to get together at an undisclosed location on the eve of the last day of school for an impromptu party.

According to the article, the gatherings are known as “Tequila Sunrise” parties and they’ve been happening for the past decade or so, mostly in the far west end of the city.

As it turns out they’ve been happening for a lot longer than the last decade. I should know, because I was at the very first Tequila Sunrise party in 1978 at Sir John A. MacDonald High School which is now St. Paul High School.

It was organized by a couple of girlfriends of mine as a lark. At the back of the school is a cinder track. Running alongside the track is a small forest that dipped in a bit at the far end.

The idea was for a few friends to get together in the crook of the forest the morning of the last day of school with some wine skins filled with whatever we could sneak out of our parents’ liquor cabinet.

That first year in Grade 11, there might have been eight or nine of us. The girls who organized the party were all A-students. I remember they wore shower caps in an effort to stick with the morning theme and we were supposed to bring our own lawn chairs.

By the time the bell rang we were all half-blasted, but strangely enough we all made it through the day without incident.

It wasn’t until the next year that the girls started calling the get together a Tequila Sunrise party after the song by *The Eagles*.

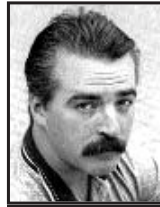
In that second year the gathering grew from eight or nine people to about 24, and while it was a sizeable amount, we were still able to conceal ourselves in the nook of the forest.

But in our final year, the party drew well over a 100 kids. It was ridiculous. Where before we were able to keep ourselves hidden by the forest, in Grade 13 the crowd spilled on to the football field. Half our graduating class was there.

Although my recollection of that day is still a little foggy some 26 years later, I can still remember the absolute pandemonium in Mr. Miller’s English class. Rather than try to deal with us, Mr. Miller simply ignored us and read from a book for the entire 40 minutes.

Who knew that what started out as an innocent pre-school cocktail party would eventually evolve into something that police needed to “crack down” on? Apparently today’s Tequila Sunrisers are getting a little out of hand, causing no end of public mischief. None of which should be condoned or left unchecked, but it does go to show that even the most innocent of ideas can get a little out of hand.

As for the three girls who organized the very first Tequila Sunrise party back in Grade 11 – one went on to earn her PhD in biochemistry and now runs her own research lab at a Canadian university; the other was one of the first women to graduate from Carleton’s engineering program and is doing quite well in her field and the third is working for the federal government. Go figure.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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Cairine Wilson staffer receives OCDSB Chair's Award

I would like to extend warm congratulations to Kathy Bennett of Cairine Wilson Secondary School on winning the prestigious OCDSB Chair's award.

Kathy has worked in the guidance department at Cairine Wilson for many years and during that time she has touched the lives of many students. Her hard work and dedication to students is like no other. Cairine Wilson and its surrounding communities are better places because of Kathy.

Recently attention has been drawn to a motion our board passed calling for one publicly funded school system in each official language. The OCDSB realizes that it does not have the authority to merge school boards



in Ontario – it is entirely up to the provincial government. We have simply reaffirmed a 2001 resolution to join with the majority of public boards in Ontario, calling for single schooling systems by language.

This has long been the position of our umbrella organization, the Ontario Public School Boards Association, which represents all public schools boards in Ontario.

Canada has now been censured twice by the UN Human Rights Committee (in 1999 and again in 2005) for violating the equality rights of its own citizens by virtue of the religious discrimination in the Ontario school system.

To offset the long nights at the board, attempting to balance our inherited deficit I have been visiting the public schools in Orléans.

Terry Fox, Orleans Wood, Convent Glen, Fallingbrook, Queenswood, Dunning-Foubert, Trillium, Maple Ridge and Heritage public schools continue to provide first class education to their students.

It is evident that good things are taking place at these schools

and that can be accredited to the dedicated staff that serve our students. Parents, I would encourage you to take a tour yourself – you may be pleasantly surprised!

As May approaches and the board finishes its budget debates, I would encourage anyone with concerns to contact me and I will explain where we are in the process.

As always, I remain committed to public education and its supporters in Orléans-Cumberland. If you have any questions or require my assistance you can reach me at john.shea@ocdsb.ca or call 613-875-7432.

(John Shea is the public school board trustee for Orléans-Cumberland.)

Local Business

Meeting the growing needs of a growing community

Special to The Eastender

J.A. Laporte's Flowers and Nursery has been an integral part of the east end community since 1974, but their roots run far deeper than that.

The Laporte family can trace their presence in Cumberland back four generations. Rogér Laporte, first began selling vegetables and produce on the Byward Market in 1960. Everything he sold was grown at the same location J.A. Laporte's Flowers and Nursery currently occupies on Old Montreal Road.

"Back then it was a little tiny house in the middle of nowhere," says daughter-in-law Estelle Laporte.

Jean Laporte took the business over from his father in 1980 and almost immediately began growing and selling flowers. While the merchandise was grown on Old Montreal Road, the Laportes operated a flower stall across from the Mr. Gas on St. Joseph Blvd. in Orléans.

Over the years, whenever she sold out of a certain variety of flower or someone was looking for something she didn't have, Estelle – who was in charge of

operating the flower stall – would send them to see husband Jean on Old Montreal Road.

Finally in 1987, Jean and Estelle Laporte decided to open a small stall at the store's current location.

"Back then we had four greenhouses and a tin shack on the side of the road," laughs Estelle.

Today, J.A. Laporte's is comprised of 16 greenhouses and a large retail store. In the early '90s they went from growing and selling annuals and perennials to growing mostly perennials and select varieties of hard to find annuals. They also grow their own shrubs and trees.

Through the years they've built up a loyal clientele, many of whom are on a first name basis with the staff.

"Our customers are loyal, loyal, loyal," Estelle says with pride. "Every spring is like a big reunion. Some of our customers are on their fifth or sixth house and are still coming back to us."

One of the big advantages to purchasing your flowers or shrubs at Laporte's, besides the amazing variety, is the fact that

everything is grown on site. When you're buying from Laporte's you know you're buying quality material.

"Since we grow everything ourselves we really know the product," says Estelle. "We also have to make sure we take care of the stock. If there's a frost we cover everything up or move it inside."

The staff at Laporte's are eager to help you out in any way they can. At the centre of the yard is a large information desk that is manned during regular business hours. Laporte's has a fully bilingual staff so whether you're a green thumb or just green around the collar your questions will be answered in short order in either French or English.

And in case you bring the kiddies along, there's a play structure right beside the information desk to keep the young ones occupied while you pick out your plants.

Besides things that grow, Laporte's also carries a full line of organic lawn care products, grass seed, planters, lawn and garden implements and landscaping material.



Jean and Estelle Laporte

Away from the store, the Laportes are deeply involved in the community. Every year they donate thousands of dollars in material to area school children either to beautify their school yards or to be used to help raise money for a variety of worthy causes.

J.A. Laporte's Flowers and Nursery is located at 1211 Old Montreal Rd. just east of Trim Road. Their business hours until the May long weekend are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Local sports

Tumblers play host to 'classic' gymnastics meet

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Gloucester Cumberland Tumblers Gymnastics Centre was a beehive of activity on the weekend as more than 300 athletes from 12 different clubs competed in the Tumblers Classic 2007 gymnastics meet.

The competitors, who ranged in age from seven to 15, came from as far away as Timmins and Burlington to take part in the meet from Level 2 to Level 6.

Each level takes into account the athlete's skill set with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 9 being the highest.

The Tumblers' Level 4, 12- and 13-year-olds led the way for the host club with Emily Macdougall, Jessica Vandommelen and Mélyssa Madore finishing first, second and fourth respectively in their flight.

Macdougall took first place with a combined score of 42.700. She came first in vault and second on bars. Vandommelen finished in second place with a combined score of 42.350 after placing first on beam and third on vault and floor and Madore finished fourth after placing second on both beam and floor and fourth on vault.

Fellow Tumbler Jamie McCormick finished ninth with her best result coming on beam where she placed fourth.

In the A-flight, Kael Samake finished in a tie for fifth place with teammate Michelle Momy. Samake's best event was on floor where she placed second, while Momy placed fifth on bars and fifth on beam. Jenny Cadrin also did well placing third on bars and fourth on floor, but a poor result on vault dropped her to eighth place just ahead of fellow Gloucester Tumbler Rebecca Roy

whose best result was on the floor where she placed fifth.

In Level 4 (14 and over), Dominique Daoust parlayed a second place performance on beam to finish in fifth place overall just ahead of teammate Chloe Magee who was the picture of consistency placing fourth on vault, fifth on bars, fifth on beam and sixth on floor.

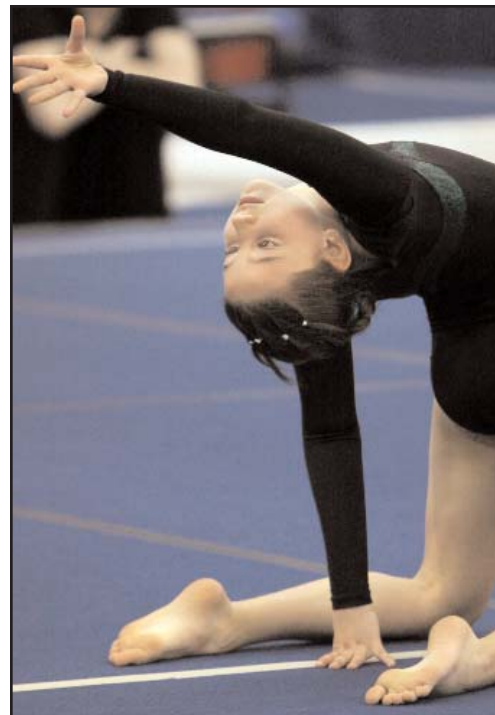
In Level 5 (14 and over) Natalie Evans finished in sixth place thanks in large part to a third place performance on beam. Fellow Tumbler Sabrina Taillon finished in eighth place overall.

Eight-year-old Hannah Andolfatto finished first on vault and second on floor in Level 4 (Age 8), but could do no better than fourth overall after placing eighth on beam and ninth on bars. In the same level and age category, Alexandra Darby-Winges finished tied for seventh overall, while Olivia Campbell came in eighth place.

In Level 4 (Age 9), Kaitlynn Neifer finished third overall after placing second on vault and floor and Kaitlynn Pilon finished sixth thanks to a third place performance on beam and fourth on bars.

In Level 4 (Age 10 and 11), Anne Gauthier finished sixth overall after placing second on floor and Sabrina Bernardo-Leesnrum came in eighth.

Elsewhere, Monica McMurrin finished third overall in Level 5 (9/10); Amélie Poirier finished seventh in Level 3 (Age 10); Melina Marchand finished second in Level 3 (13/14+); Makayla Parsons finished fourth in Level 3 (Age 11); Lindsay Gow-Kateb finished fourth in Level 3 (Age 9); Kayla Davis finished fifth in Level 3 (7/8); Elodie



Amélie Poirier, 10, strikes a pose before starting her floor routine in the Level 3 division at the Tumblers Classic 2007 gymnastics meet on the weekend. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Paquin and Breanna Denham finished fourth and fifth respectively in Level 5 (9/10); Sabrina Paul finished seventh in Level 3 (Age 11); Emilie Caron and Tatiana Hendricks finished seventh and eighth in Level 2 (Age 8); Kathleen White finished fifth in Level 3 (Age 9); and Emily Tippins and Alyssa Greenwell finished sixth and seventh in Level 3 (9/10).

OHL teams grab six local players in priority draft

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Six east end hockey players, four from the Gloucester Rangers and one each from the Cumberland Barons and the Cumberland Grads, will get a chance to play at the next level after being elected in the OHL draft on Saturday.

Scott Valentine was the first local player selected when he was picked by the London Knights at the end of the second round. The six foot one, 204 lb. defenceman played with the Gloucester Rangers Minor Midget AA team last year.

Teammate Francis Dupuis was selected in the fourth round by the Guelph Storm. The five-foot-11 goaltender helped back-

stop the Rangers to a third place finish in the ODMHL this season.

Valentine and Dupuis have both been invited to the under-17 Team Ontario tryouts next month along with Joey West from the Cumberland Barons who was selected in the third round of the OHL draft by the Kitchener Rangers.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the draft was Cumberland Grads rookie sensation Jason Akeson who wasn't selected until the sixth round by the Rangers. As a 16-year-old, Akeson led the Grads in scoring with 17 goals and 36 assists in 54 games.

Other players selected included the Gloucester Rangers Craig Moore in the eighth round by the Brampton Battalion;



Scott Valentine



Francis Dupuis

and Taylor York in the 11th round by Guelph, both of whom also received invitations to the U17 tryout camp which will take place June 4 in Toronto.

Colonel By Cougars try to rebuild on the fly

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Colonel By Cougars senior girls soccer team knows they have their work cut out for them if they hope to repeat as city champions.

Of the 11 girls who took the field in the Cougars final game at last year's Quad-A OFSAA provincial championships only one remains – Jenn Saville. Gone are the likes of Stephanie Valentine and Kaitland Smith. In their place are a group of mostly Grade 10s and 11s who are beginning to round into mid-season form despite a rash of early season injuries.

After starting the season 2-0 with wins over St. Matthew and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Cougars stumbled against Lisgar on Tuesday. Thanks to the injuries, Colonel By was forced to start the game down two players.

Despite having to play at an obvious disadvantage, Colonel By managed to keep Lisgar off the scoreboard and the game was tied 0-0 at the half.

The two teams then exchanged goals in the second half before Colonel By scored a go ahead goal to take a 2-1 lead which is how it appeared the game would end until Lisgar tied the score late in the game on a goal that appeared to be offside by several feet.

Everyone on the field stopped in their tracks expecting the referee to make the call, but he kept his whistle in his pocket and the play went on. Cougars keeper Louis Yuen made the initial save, but the ball bounced to a Lisgar player who booted the rebound into a wide open net.

The Cougars rebounded nicely against the Hillcrest Hawks on Thursday. The Hawks came into the game riding a three game winning streak after posting three shutouts in a row.

Using the same defensive play that had served them so well in their earlier wins, the Hawks kept the Cougars pretty much in check the entire game by making sure they had superior numbers at midfield and in their own end. As a result, Colonel By dominated possession in the first half but were unable to generate any quality scoring chances.

The trend repeated itself in the second half as Lisgar's did an admirable job in marking the Cougars every time they crossed midfield.

Colonel By finally broke through at the 18 minute mark of the second half when Brooke Hanson pushed a nice through ball to Diann Godoy, but she was chased down by a Lisgar defender before she could get a shot off.

Joanna Blodgett had the Cougars' best chance to score when she bulled her way through three Hillcrest defenders five minutes later but her shot was slightly off target as it grazed the right goal post.

The Hawks one and only scoring chance came with nine minutes to left go in the game when one of their players got free to unleash a shot that hit Yuen squarely in the chest.

After the game Cougars' head coach Pat Lacasse said the Cougars' inability to create scoring chances was more a result of Hillcrest's defensive style than it was a reflection of his own players offensive capabilities.



Ralitzia Koterlitzova is one of the few remaining players who helped the Cougars win last year's Quad-A city championship. Fred Sherwin/Photo

"It doesn't worry me at all. Hillcrest played extremely well defensively. It's obviously something they work on in practice and they executed it very well," says Lacasse.

At 1-0-2, the Cougars still have a very good chance at finishing in second place in the East Conference as long as they can remain undefeated. Their chances will increase exponentially when they get Rachel Dragan back into the lineup next week and all their players are healthy.

St. Pete's win touch football opener against St. Matt's

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

In a replay of last year's East Conference varsity girls touch football final, the St. Peter Knights downed the St. Matthew Tigers 7-0 on Friday in a windy affair that favoured the host team.

St. Matt's elected to start the game on offence which gave St. Peter the option to select which end of the field they wanted to start from. Not surprisingly they took the end of the field with the wind at their backs.

After neither team was able to score in the first half, the referees mistakenly gave the Knights the option of choosing between starting the second half on offence or field position. They wisely elected to keep the wind at their back even though it meant starting the second half on defence.

The mistake was that they never should have been given the option. In touch football the team's are supposed to automatically change ends at halftime.

The error would pay off in the Knights favour early in the second half when a booming kick by Jenn Chaisson pinned the Tigers deep in their own end thanks in large part to the strong tail win.

St. Matt's failed to pick up the first down

and had to kick into the wind from inside their own 15 yard line. A poor kick combined with a half decent run back on the part of the Knights would give St. Pete's excellent field position inside the Tigers' 20.

After a short pick up on first down, the Knights caught the Tigers by surprised when Chaisson, who also plays quarterback for St. Pete's, punted the ball into the end zone on second down to score a single point.

St. Matt's made a couple of good plays on offence, but playing with the wind in their faces prevented to them to gain any real momentum.

The Knights finally put the game away for good when Chaisson found Sarah Cooper 10 yard touchdown pass over the middle in the final minute of play. The series was set up by Cooper who intercepted Tigers' quarterback Samantha Prevost deep in St. Matt's territory.

On second and four, Tigers' rusher Jemma Lidstone was called for roughing the passer when she tapped Chaisson's arm just after she released the ball. The 15-yard penalty gave the Knights possession inside the 20 yard line with a new set of downs. Chaisson then hit Anna Sangster for a seven

yard gain, before connecting with Cooper for the touchdown.

After the game, Knights' head coach Peter Bean was relieved to get the team's first win under their belts.

"Offensively we were missing two of our most experienced players in Stephanie MacDonald and Shauna Kent who are playing in the provincial basketball championships, so I knew it would be tough. But otherwise, I was very impressed with how our defence played," said Bean.

On the other sideline, St. Matt's co-coach Ivan Bean, who happens to be Peter Bean's brother, tried to put a positive spin on the team's slow start.

"We have a very young team. Most of our girls are in Grade 10 and Grade 11," said Bean. "Our quarterback is only in Grade 9. Once she matures a bit and gets a little more experience, she'll be a good one."

One of the Tigers' brightest lights was Jemma Lidstone, who caused Chaisson fits all game.

After suffering a pair of shutout losses to start the season, the Tigers will be looking to finally get a win under their belts when they host St. Pius this week.

Artscetera

Orléans dancers shine at regional ADA competition

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The young dancers at Leeming Danceworks on Youville Drive are a happy lot this week and for good reason. The Orléans dance studio captured four titles at the American Dance Awards regional competition in Ottawa on the weekend and was awarded a bevy of top scores.

Leading the way once again was the studio's senior male dancer Kevin Howe, who is in his last year of competitive dance.

Howe was named Senior Male Dancer of the Year and earned the fourth highest solo score, male or female, in the teen and senior divisions for his routine "Swing".

He then teamed up with duet partner Isabelle Proulx, who was third runner up competing in the senior women's division for the first time, to earn the top two scores for duet or trio, 13 and over, for the second year in a row.

He also received the Young Choreographer Award and the Highest Adjudicated Award for "Beautiful", which received the highest score for small group age 13 and over. The same routine earned the Julian Massey Memorial Award as the top artistic performance at the recent Ottawa regional CanDance event.

Howe first began developing the routine in March after seeing a presentation at Canterbury High School about feeling self-conscious.

"I asked the girls what made them the most self-conscious and they all said it was their looks," says Howe, who married the concept to a song he had heard several years ago by MeShell NdegeOcello which had stuck with him. "I always thought it would be the perfect song for a competi-

tion. It was just a matter of matching it to the right concept."

Beside choreographing the piece, Howe also performed in it along with Proulx, Stephanie Harding, Rachel Cogan, Jessica Lee, Gabrielle Prud'homme and Stephanie Therrien.

The same core group also performed "True Colours" along with several other Leeming Danceworks members, earning the top overall score for large group 13 and over and the Group Costume Award.

Besides Howe, the studio's other titlests were Olivier Roy who was named Teen Male Dancer of the Year; Emma Bohn who won the Young Dancer of the Year title for the second straight year; and Jasmine Lee who won the Junior Dancer of the Year title after finishing in fourth place last year.

Lee also received the highest score among all solo routines among the competitors 12 and under.

Besides picking up the Junior Dancer of the Year title, Emma Bohn also received the highest score in the duet or trio category for "Dreamcatcher" which she performed with her sister Mary Katharyn, who at 10 is a year older than she is.

In total, Leeming Danceworks received 49 Ultimate Gold (280 to 300 points), 21 Gold (260 to 280 points) and two High Silver (240 to 260 points) awards. The studio also received the top score in the 12 and under production category for "L'Amour a Paris", which also earned Leeming-Mann a Diamond Choreography Award and the first place costume award, and the top score in the 13 and over production category for "Le Musée".

All the dancers will now spend the better part of the next two months perfecting



Leemings Danceworks ADA titlests Emma Bohn (Young Dancer of the Year), Olivier Roy (Teen Male Dancer of the Year), Kevin Howe (Senior Male Dancer of the Year) and Jasmine Lee (Junior Dancer of the year). Fred Sherwin/Photo

their routines for the National ADA Championships which will take place in Orlando, Florida during the first week in July.

The last time the studio went to the National ADAs *en masse* in 2005, they did extremely well, placing several routines in the Dance Off portion of the event and earning a number of Top 10 spots in the titles competition.

Coro Vivo Ottawa to celebrate European composers

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

This Friday night, Coro Vivo Ottawa (formerly the Blackburn Chorus) will be celebrating the work of some of Europe's most celebrated composers in concert at Dominion-Chalmers United Church on Cooper Street in Ottawa. A second encore performance will be held the following night. Curtain time both evenings is 8 p.m.

Among the works the choir will perform are Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"; Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from "Christ on the Mount of Olives" and Strauss' "An der schönen blauen Donau" perhaps better known as "Blue Danube"; Fauré's "Cantique de Jean Racine" and many more.

As in the past, the choir will be joined by two highly talented soloists – mezzo-soprano Claudine Ledoux from Montreal and tenor James O'Farrell from Ottawa.

Tickets \$20 for adults and \$10 for students with the proceeds going to benefit the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Coro Vivo Ottawa first formed as the Blackburn Chorus in 1984 as community based amateur choral group made up of members largely from Blackburn Hamlet and the former city of Gloucester.

Over the years the choir has expanded to include more than 75 members and in many ways it has become a regional choir, thus the name change.

From the beginning, the choir has embraced community outreach. Offering their services and varied repertoire to the entire community.

They have increasingly allied their twice yearly concerts to fundraising events. More recently they have developed what both sides hope will be a mutually rewarding relationship with CHEO. In addition they have have begun work on a program aimed



Coro Vivo Ottawa

at introducing choral music to elementary school children.

The name "Coro Vivo", or lively choir in Italian, reflects their ambition to bring "lively music" to the masses.

Dominion-Chalmers United Church is located in downtown Ottawa at the corner of Cooper and Metcalfe.

Artscetera

VACO exhibit features work of talented Orléans photog

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

It's been nine years since Orléans photographer Asif Rehman first traveled to the remote Ladakh region of northern India.

He learned of the region, which is often referred to as "little Tibet" because of its proximity to the autonomous region of China, while watching a documentary about the place with his wife.

"It seemed like a compelling place to visit, so we flew to India and hitchhiked and bused our way there and discovered it was an amazing spot," says Rehman who spent several weeks photographing the people and vistas of the high Himalayan plateau.

His work can be seen at the Orléans Visual Arts Centre all this month. The photographs are a mix of striking landscapes and beautiful candid portraits of the local inhabitants. My personal favourite is of shot of two young boys who are wearing helmets. Both of

the youngsters are laughing as they take part in a local festival.

Because of the harshness of the light during the month of November, Rehman had to do most of his shooting during the early morning, or late afternoon giving the pictures an incredible orange and reddish glow against the clear blue sky, or the white of the mountain snow.

While Rehman was shooting he was struck more by the similarity between his subjects and people in general than he was their differences.

"The people aren't materially wealthy, but spiritually they're incredibly rich," says Rehman who formed an immediate attachment with his hosts. "They're very warm and generous."

The trip to Ladakh gave Rehman his first taste of documentary photography. In December he traveled to Pakistan to try and document the people and culture in a different light than is being portrayed on the evening news.

"I wanted to portray what



Orléans photographer Asif Rehman stands beside one of the many portraits he took during a trip to the Ladakh region of northern India in 1998 that are on exhibit at the VACO gallery in the Orléans Recreation Complex. Fred Sherwin/Photo

real Muslims are like beyond the stereotype that we see in the media all the time," says Rehman.

When Rehman isn't traveling the world taking photographs, he works in marketing for a local high tech firm.

"Having a good day job

helps pay for all the travel," says Rehman.

"Moments of Time" continues at the VACO gallery on the main floor of the Orleans Recreation Complex until May 26. The gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Community calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 10

BLACKBURN HAMLET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING at 7 p.m. at the Coopérative multiservices centre 2835 Colonial Rd. in Sarsfield.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

FAMILY WAVE

POOL SWIM at the Ray Friel Complex on Tenth Line Road from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Adults \$5.50, students and seniors (+55) \$4.25. Family rate \$16.

YOUTH DANCE at the Navan Community

Centre from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. for kids age 10 to 14.

CORO VIVO OTTAWA CONCERT

(Formerly the Blackburn Chorus) at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. starting at 8 p.m. The concert will feature musical from some of Europe's finest composers including: Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"; Beethoven's "Hallelujah" and Strauss' "An der schönen blauen Donau" (Blue Danube). Solo performances by mezzo-soprano Claudine Ledoux from Montreal and tenor James O'Farrell from Ottawa. Tickets \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Proceeds to benefit the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

SHOTGUN KISS will be performing at

Jacques' Trap Roadhouse in Carlsbad Springs from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. High octane rock and roll for your listening and dancing pleasure. For more information visit www.jacquestrapp.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

GARAGE SALE at 1682 Aspen Village Circle in Orleans from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baby items, toys, household and more.

GARAGE SALE at 6332 Beausejour Dr. Don't miss this HUGE garage sale. Start time is 7 a.m.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE from 8 a.m. on Rolling Brook Drive (Chapel Hill South – off Orleans Blvd, off Silverbirch). Loads of kids toys, clothes, books & other household treasures.

GARAGE SALE on Chablis Park in Convent Glen North from 8 a.m. until noon. Wide variety of items available.

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

MONDAY, MAY 14

NAVAN LANDFILL SITE MEETING to discuss the recent agreement reached between the landfill site operators Waste Services Inc. and Friends of the Mer Bleue. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre on Navan Road.

BYTOWN BEAT CHORUS GUEST NIGHTS at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. from

7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come sing with us and discover the joy of singing Women's Barbershop Harmony. Make great music, good friends and receive four free singing lessons by joining the Bytown Beat Chorus for our special guest nights in May. For more information e-mail jfstronach@sympatico.ca.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

ORGANIC GARDENING WORKSHOP – Beginner organic vegetable gardening workshop brought to you by Just Food and Canadian Organic Growers-Ottawa from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 211-210 Centrum Blvd, Orléans. To register call Carolle Séguin at the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre 613-830-4357. Cost: \$5 or pay what you can.