

The Eastender

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Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 7, Issue 8



Members of the Cumberland Barons Midget RepB team pose with the ODMHA championship trophy after downing the Russell River Rats last Wednesday to win their final round series. See story page Fred Sherwin/Photo

Pair of east end schools given perfect grade

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the second year in a row an east end school has been given a perfect mark by the Fraser Institute in its annual *Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools*.

École élémentaire catholique L'Étoile de l'Est in Chapel Hill North and École élémentaire publique Le Prélude in Chapel Hill South were both recipients of a perfect 10, joining 23 other schools from across Ontario which received a perfect score.

The Fraser Institute is an independent research and educational organization with offices across Canada. Each year they issue report cards on the province's elementary schools based on the schools' EQAO test results in reading, writing and math for Grades 3 and 6; the gap between the male and female results (the wider the gap the lower the score); and the percentage of students who failed to meet the minimum provincial standard.

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

Council settles on 4.9 per cent tax hike for 2008

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Ottawa homeowners will see their property taxes increase by 4.9 per cent this year, far less than what they could have gone up by had council not used a grant for infrastructure renewal to free up money to cover the cost of snow removal.

Heading into last week's budget deliberations, council was looking at a potential 7.7 per cent tax increase after being told that the cost of cleaning up this year's near record snow fall would leave the city \$23 million in the hole.

After getting waylaid for suggesting residents pay a \$50 surcharge to pay for the clean-up, Mayor Larry O'Brien tried to convince his fellow council-

lors to reopen the budget to find additional savings. The idea fell on deaf ears as council soundly defeated the motion by a vote of nine to 13.

Plan B came in the form of expected proceeds from the sale of Ottawa Telecom and the provincial budget.

Staff told council that they could expect \$12 million from the sale of Ottawa Telecom and a \$10 million grant from the province to help pay for infrastructure renewal. Grant money which could be used to free up money generated by a two per cent levy put in the budget for the same purpose.

When the province officially announced that Ottawa would in fact be getting \$14.6 million for infrastructure renewal, coun-

cil decided to use it to free up an equal amount of their own money slated for infrastructure renewal and use it to pay for the snow removal bill instead, as well as a \$2 million hike in gas and diesel fuel.

But not all councillors were in favour of the move. Bay Ward Coun. Alex Cullen and Capital Ward Coun. Clive Doucet said the it was tantamount to fraud, noting that the mayor and council passed the two per cent infrastructure levy in the hope that the province and the federal government would kick in an equal amount.

For the province to do just that and council turnaround and use the money to help pay for snow removal is a "cheat" said Cullen.

But the majority of council wasn't interested in hearing any moral arguments. They're only focus was in maintaining the 4.9 per cent tax increase they agreed to in December when they broke off budget deliberations to allow for a series of departmental reviews which failed to yield any significant savings.

Besides using the \$14.5 million infrastructure grant money, the budget also relies on an additional \$11 million from the province to help pay for cost-shared programs even though the province has made no indication that the money would be available. When council included \$12.5 million in hoped for money in the 2007 budget they only received \$1.5 million.

Community briefs

Vintage Stock to host to Victorian fashion show

ORLEANS – The Vintage Stock Theatre Company is hosting a fashion show with a twist this Wednesday. In an effort to raise money to properly store their vintage costumes, the group has decided to stage a fashion featuring Victorian era clothing, including some 19th century lingerie. More contemporary designs will also be featured from leading retailers and local designers. The event gets started at 7 p.m. in the Orléans Theatre at 255 Centrum Blvd. Some of the special guest models will include CBC anchor Rita Celli, the A-Channel’s Karen Solomon, Orléans Chamber of Commerce president Judith Cane and Cumberland Ward Coun. Rob Jellet. Tickets are \$35 at the door. Elegant refreshments, door prizes and a silent auction included.

Visual Arts Centre Orleans to undergo revamping

ORLEANS — The Visual Arts Centre Orleans, located on the main floor of the Bob MacQuarrie Recreation Complex, is being closed until next September to allow for a thorough reassessment of the centre’s services and how to move forward as it prepares to move into the Shenkman Arts Centre a year from now. VACO has seen course enrollment decline over the past year as it struggles to meet the needs of amateur and budding artists in the east end. A new board of directors was recently appointed to seek out input from both past and present members, as well as potential new members, and coming up with a game plan for the future.

Committee upholds decision to rename ORC

ORLEANS — The City of Ottawa’s community and protective services committee voted last month to keep former Gloucester reeve Bob MacQuarrie’s name on the Orléans Recreation Complex, but only after an emotionally charged, tension filled meeting that often degenerated into a shouting match. The decision was revisited by the committee after Bay Ward Coun. Alex Cullen was presented with a petition containing 2,500 names of people upset over the loss of the name “Orléans”. During the meeting, however, more than a dozen presenters, including former Gloucester mayor Harry Allen defended the new name, saying that MacQuarrie was a community icon who is more than deserving of the honour. In the end a majority of the councillors agreed and the name will remain.

Francophone schools score a perfect 10

> CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

La Prélude managed to improve it’s score from the 7.5 it received last year, due mainly to the fact that only 10.6 per cent of the students who took the EQAO test scored at or below the provincial average for their grade level.

At L’Étoile de l’Est elementary school only 8.9 per cent of the students who took the test scored at or below the provincial average.

School principal Marie-Josée Leclerc credits the students’ success to the school’s holistic approach to education.

“It’s a collaborative effort between our wonderful teachers, great parents who are willing to get involved in the education of their kids and our board who supply us with the resources we need to do our job – oh yes, and of course, our students,” says Leclerc.

And if you think the school’s 10 might have been a fluke, think again. The school has received a 9.5, 9.3, 9.1 and 9.5 in each of the four previous years.

After sitting down with several members of the school’s staff, it doesn’t take long to realize the secret to the school’s success – dedicated, caring teachers who are genuinely excited about coming to work each day.

“You have to have a positive environment not just for the teachers, but for the students,” says vice-principal Nicole Senechal. “They need to feel loved and they need to feel important. We empower them and make them responsible for their own learning.”

The staff at the school meet every Tuesday to bounce ideas off of each other and share their thoughts on what works and what doesn’t.

“You never hear anyone say ‘mine’ here,” explains Lise Perrier, who teaches Grade 1. “It’s not ‘my’ classroom. It’s ‘our’ classroom, or ‘our’ Grade 1 students.”



Lise Perrier (left), Marie-Josée Leclerc (centre), and Natalie Senechal (right) are three of the reasons why École élémentaire catholique L’Étoile de L’Est has consistently scored high on the Fraser Institute’s Report Card on Ontario’s Elementary Schools. Fred Sherwin/Photo

The staff’s positive attitude and team approach also extends to the school’s parent council which is extremely active.

“The parent council is supportive of our school’s principles and they play a meaningful and supportive role in our student’s achievements,” says Leclerc who replaced former principal Dany Boisvert at the beginning of the year.

The importance placed on positive motivation extends to the school’s many extra-curricular activities.

“Everyone does something. We have a school choir, a newspaper, a chess club, a dance club and of course all the sports. The kids want to come to school. They’re excited about coming to school here, which is the most important test of all,” says Leclerc.

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East end schools moving in the right direction, according to latest Fraser Institute report card

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The east end's elementary schools have taken a collective step forward in teaching their students the three Rs, according to the most recent province-wide report card issued by the Fraser Institute.

The recently released Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools lists standardized-test results in reading, writing and math for Grades 3 and 6 from 2003 to 2007 and then uses the data to rate and rank the 2,806 elementary schools included in the study.

Of the 34 east end schools listed on the report card, nearly two-thirds or 20 out of the 34 improved their score in 2007, two managed to maintain the

same score they received in 2006 and 12 saw their rating drop. By comparison only 11 schools improved their scores in 2006.

The scores are based on a combination of factors including the results of last year's Education Quality and Accountability Office scores in reading, writing and math for Grades 3 and 6; the gap between the male and female results (the wider the gap the lower the score); and the percentage of students who failed to meet the minimum provincial standard.

Eleven of the top 13 scores were turned in by French language schools including École élémentaire catholique L'Étolie de l'Est and École élémentaire publique Le Prélude which

were both awarded a perfect 10 by the Fraser Institute. The two Chapel Hill schools were among 25 schools province wide which received a perfect mark.

The top four schools in the east end were rounded out by École élémentaire publique Séraphin-Marion which went from an 8.6 to an 8.7 and École élémentaire catholique La Vérendrye which improved its score from 6.9 to 8.4. Both schools are located in Beacon Hill.

The fifth and sixth schools in the ranking were Chapel Hill Catholic which improved its score from 6.8 to 8.1 and Convent Glen Catholic which went from 7.8 to 8.1.

The highest ranking English public board school was Orleans Wood Elementary at 14 which saw its score go down slightly from 7.3 to 7.2.

The top seven spots are all occupied by French language schools and all but one of them is a French Catholic board school including this year's top ranked school École élémentaire catholique La Source in Chateaufort which received a perfect rating of 10 out of 10, knocking L'Étolie de l'Est to second place.

The most improved score was turned in by Queenswood Public School which went from a 2.9 in 2006 to 5.6 in 2007. Queenswood also received a value added rating of A in reading and a C in math.

The rating is an attempt by the Fraser Institute to quantify a school's contribution to the education of its students beyond socio-economic factors and the student's own abilities.

Overall, 26 of the 35 east end schools scored above the provincial average which was 6.0. Of that number all but one of the 15 French language schools scored above the provincial average, while only five of the nine English public board schools included in the study achieved the same distinction.

As for the English Catholic board, all but four of the 11

schools in the report had an above average score.

As a group the 10 English Catholic board schools averaged out at 6.1, while the nine English public board schools included in the study scored an average 5.3, down half a point from their average score of 5.8 in 2006. By comparison the 11 French Catholic board schools had an average score of 7.8 and the five French public board schools had an average score of 8.2, up from an average mark of 7.6 in 2006.

The release of the report card has once again ignited the debate over standardized testing and whether or not they can be used as an accurate measuring stick of a school's success. Critics have long argued that the tests are nothing more than a distraction, taking up an inordinate amount of time and energy, not to mention resources.

Peter Cowley is the Fraser Institute's director of School Performance Studies. He vehemently defends the report card, saying that it is only meant to be used as a tool to help parents and administrators get a handle on where their school sits in comparison to other schools which may or may not be as successful.

"The report card can be used as a source of information when parents are choosing a school or it can be used to gauge how well a school is doing in relation to certain indicators," says Cowley. "For instance, when you're looking at the various indicators such as the percentage of students who scored below the provincial standard, one question which should be asked is, 'Are we doing as well as we would like to and if the answer is 'no' what should we do about it?'"

Cowley points out that there are many schools in so called "disadvantaged" areas that have somehow managed to overcome those disadvantages to improve their results.

Each of the school's scores are listed in the chart to the left. The full report card can be viewed at www.fraserinstitute.ca.

School	2007 Rating	2006 Rating	EQAO tests below standard	Value added reading	Value added math
Ottawa ranking (Out of 169)					
L'Etoile de l'Est	10.0	9.3	8.9	B	A
Le Prélude	10.0	7.5	10.6	A	A
Séraphin-Marion	8.7	8.6	18.1	A	A
La Vérendrye	8.4	6.9	17.2	A	A
Chapel Hill Catholic	8.1	6.8	17.3	A	B
Convent Glen Catholic	8.1	7.8	18.0	C	A
St-Joseph d'Orléans	8.0	8.3	19.2	B	A
L'Odyssée	7.9	6.7	23.8	A	A
Des Voyageur	7.9	8.4	17.8	C	A
Des Pionniers	7.8	7.4	19.9	B	A
Arc-en-Ciel	7.9	6.4	19.0	A	A
Jeanne-Sauvé	7.8	8.0	20.1	A	A
Des Pins	7.7	9.1	24.7	B	A
Orleans Wood E.S.	7.3	7.4	26.4	A	C
St. Theresa	7.3	5.4	25.6	A	B
St. Francis Assisi	7.2	6.4	22.2	B	A
Sainte-Marie	7.1	5.3	28.1	A	A
de la Découverte	6.8	7.4	28.1	A	A
Good Shepherd	6.8	6.3	27.9	D	B
Reine-des-Bois	6.7	7.2	28.8	B	A
Trillium E.S.	6.5	6.2	31.3	B	A
Des Sentiers	6.4	7.6	29.5	A	A
Henry Larsen	6.3	6.3	30.6	B	B
Terry Fox E.S.	6.2	5.2	30.8	C	D
Fallingbrook E.S.	6.2	7.0	31.7	C	D
St. Clare	6.1	7.8	30.3	C	B
Maple Ridge E.S.	5.8	5.8	38.3	C	C
Blessed Kateri	5.7	7.8	36.9	C	D
Our Lady of Wisdom	5.7	7.4	36.3	D	D
Queenswood P.S.	5.6	2.9	38.4	A	C
Dunning Foubert	5.2	5.8	40.9	B	D
Heritage E.S.	5.1	4.4	38.9	B	C
Thomas D'Arcy McGee	3.8	5.4	46.7	D	D
Brother André	2.7	2.4	56.9	D	D
No data available: Forest Valley, Convent Glen Public, Robert Hopkins, Le Phare and Carson Grove.					

Changes likely in wake of Petrie Island water study

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

A study aimed at trying to identify the source of higher than usual e-coli counts at the Petrie Island beach in the summer of 2006, will likely result in the automatic closure of the beach following a rainfall.

The study conducted by Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute last summer, found that e-coli levels were consistently higher following a moderate rainfall than they were normally.

All fresh water contains e-coli, either from animal sources or humans. The federal Ministry of Environment and most provinces including Quebec use a standard of 200 parts per million per 100 ml of water in determining what is safe and what isn't. Ontario's standard and the standard used by the City of Ottawa's recreation department is 100 parts per million.

In 2006, the beach at Petrie Island was closed 45 days due to e-coli counts in excess of 100 parts per million. Although a large number of the closures followed excessive rainfalls, a high number did not, which prompted the city to call in the Ministry of Environment.

In 2007, the beach was only closed six days following moderate to heavy rainfalls. The Ministry of Environment study found that the water quality at Petrie Island was well within provincial and federal standards for most of the summer. The only exceptions were following moderate rainfalls on June 28, July 9 and Aug. 7. In those instances, 50 per cent of the water samples taken contained bacteroid markers consistent with human fecal matter.

By comparison, on the 13 so-called "dry sampling days", only two of the 51 water samples taken contained the same bacteroid DNA marker. Unfortunately, the study failed to quantify the number or level of the bacteroid DNA marker present in the samples.

In general, the bacteroid DNA marker consistent with human fecal matter was present in 11 per cent of the water samples taken during the swimming season from June 1 to Aug. 31, from a high of 22 per cent in ankle deep water in June, to as low as zero per cent in chest deep water in August.

During that same period of time the average level of e-coli in chest deep water was well below both federal and provincial standards at all four testing points on Petrie Island, and slightly above provincial levels but still below federal levels in ankle deep water in July and August.

In general, the study confirmed much of what the city's parks and recreation department already knew, says parks and recreation manager Dan Brisebois.

"We were confident that the water is generally safe to swim in except after a heavy rainfall which is usually accompanied by a spike in e-coli. One of the recommendations coming out of this is that the beach should automatically be closed following a rainfall in excess of five millimetres which is already the case at Westboro Beach. But to say that the beach should be closed permanently or that it should never have been created in the first place is a stretch. The beach at Petrie Island is no worse or no better than any other beach in the city," says Brisebois.

Several of the more alarming findings made by the study can easily be explained by the annual spring flooding which leaves debris such as condoms, tampon applicators and syringes along the beach.

During a walk along the beach following the spring flooding last April, researchers found 37 tampon applicators, five condoms, and two syringes. The study suggests the debris was the result of untreated municipal waste water, but fails to identify



A new Environment Canada study has confirmed that e-coli counts increase significantly at Petrie Island following a heavy rainfall. File photo

where the untreated municipal waste water may have originated from.

The study also uncovered evidence that sea gulls are contributing to the level of e-coli in ankle deep water at the beach and in the damp sand near the water's edge which contains virtually no bacteroid DNA markers for human fecal matter. The findings are consistent with nearly every other beach where similar studies have been done.

Brisebois says the city will likely cut down on the amount of grooming along the water's edge so as not to stir up the wet sand.

The final recommendation coming out of the study is that it be expanded to determine the source of the e-coli, whether it is human or not, and the level of and type of waterborne pathogens commonly associated with certain strains of the e-coli bacteria.

Commentary: Shallow water study has no depth

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

I just finished reading the Petrie Island Beach study top to bottom and back again twice and I can honestly say that I have not read a more disappointing document in quite sometime.

To call it a scientific study is a stretch. To call it alarmist isn't. At the very least it has set off a cacophony of alarm bells among this city's mainstream media who wouldn't know e-coli from a hole in the ground.

The study is lacking in a number of areas, most notably in its failure to quantify the number and level of pathogens, which are the little microbes that make us sick, in the water at Petrie Island, or even identify them.

Most of what it does tell us we already know: that e-coli is present in fresh water all the time; that the level of e-coli goes up after it rains; and that a certain, as yet to be

determined, level of e-coli is attributable to human waste.

These are all well known facts. E-coli exists in virtually every body of fresh water in the world. Which is why it is no wiser to drink a big gulp of water in the Big Rideau or Lake Opeongo in Algonquin Park than off the shore at Petrie Island.

The study does reaffirm two things – that the level of e-coli increases as the water level decreases, meaning that it is more prevalent in shallow water than it is in chest high water or deeper, and that it is never a good thing to go swimming after a heavy rainfall.

The only real surprising finding made by the study, is the extremely high level of e-coli found in the damp sand near the water's edge.

My first reaction was that I will never let my kids play in the damp sand again. But again the study is lacking. It fails to iden-

tify the strain of e-coli found in the damp sand, the source – whether it's animal or human – or the presence and level of any harmful pathogens.

All of which beg for further study. Until a follow up is done and the proper research is carried out, I would be reticent to let my kids dig away.

On the other hand, there haven't been too many reports of kids coming down with gastro-intestinal disorders having played in the sand at Petrie Island. In fact, there haven't been any that I know of so perhaps I'm just getting myself worked up for nothing.

As for the report itself and the beach in general, the study fails to make a case to close it down. In fact, just the opposite. It reaffirms the site as a recreation destination while suggesting several minor measures to minimize any health risk no matter how slight they may be.

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.

Snow job

It seems appropriate that as I am writing this editorial the last snow flakes of the winter are falling (or at least I hope). Because “snow job” is the only way to describe the mess Mayor Larry O’Brien and the rest of city council have gotten themselves into over the handling of the this year’s record snow fall and what to do with all the white stuff.

The whole mess has its genesis in the 2007 budget process when council, in an effort to fulfill Larry’s “zero means zero” election promise, decided to include \$12.5 million in phantom money, which they had hoped to get from the province, in the province. The only problem is that they forgot to pass it by the province first. The move was the epitome of wishful thinking and as things turned out they only got \$1.5 million which resulted in a huge deficit heading into the 2008 budget process this past fall.

In a classic example of how to make a bad situation even worse, council, under the guidance of our millionaire mayor, raided the city’s reserves to the tune of \$17 million despite the dire warnings of city treasurer Marian Simulik who said the move would leave the reserve funds “dangerously” low.

She also explained that the reserve funds were there to protect against unforeseen occurrences such as – now let me think – oh, I don’t know, maybe a record snowfall!

In the end we got our record snowfall and the city doesn’t have enough money to clean it up because city council, led and counselled by Larry O’Brien, decided to drain the reserves to cover a deficit they themselves created to make sure old Larry Boy could make good on his campaign promise.

But the kicker is... and there is a kicker, when council discussed adding a two per cent levy to the tax bill in order to help pay for infrastructure renewal O’Brien made a point that the province and the feds should each kick in and equal amount.

So what happens when the province recently announced that Ottawa would be getting \$14.5 million for infrastructure renewal? Council goes and takes back \$14.5 million to help pay for snow removal. In one fell swoop the mayor and the rest of city council lost what little credibility they had left.

An embarrassment? You better believe it. The unfortunate part is that the next municipal election is still two years and seven months away.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

Pleasing all the people all the time proves difficult

Whoever invented the phrase, “you can’t please all the people all the time,” must have either owned a restaurant or managed one, because when it comes to running a restaurant truer words have not been spoken.

Not being able to please all the people, all the time is perhaps the hardest thing I’ve had to deal with since taking over the helm at O’Meara’s in Navan.

I pride myself on usually being able to get the job done no matter what the odds are – if there’s a will there’s a way and all that – but when it comes to running a restaurant, there are some things you simply can’t control, including people’s expectations and feelings.

While one person may absolutely love a particular dish, the person sitting right beside them may hate it. Same dish, two different opinions.

The most difficult issue so far is trying to anticipate when things are going to get busy. So far there has been no rhyme or reason to the restaurant’s traffic patterns. One Friday every table might be full and the next Friday they’re all empty but the Saturday right is busy. Trying to figure it out can drive you mad.

All you can do is the best you can. You try and schedule people properly. Give the kitchen the tools they need to make great food consistently and hope that everything runs smoothly.

The restaurant business is one of the few businesses I know where you have to try and make everyone happy from the 19-year-old server to the 87-year-old diner.

It’s not an easy job, let me tell you. And then there are the million and one things that can pop up in the middle of a dinner rush like running out of CO₂, not having enough wet naps or the

men’s toilet backing up.

The other difficult thing has been trying to juggle my management duties at O’Meara’s with *Orleans Online* and *The Eastender*. Up until now I haven’t been doing a very good job at all, but now that I seem to have a handle on things at the restaurant I’ve finally caught up and hopefully things can get back to a sense of normalcy.

But as I say that I’m glancing at my calendar and noticing that the days are quickly counting down to Canada Day which I’ve decided to organize once again at Petrie Island – if only I wasn’t a month behind.

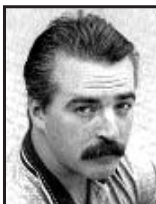
Oh well, I’ve always said I love a challenge.

Speaking of challenges this winter has been a challenge and a half, but when the Mayor mused to the media that he wanted to impose a \$50 surcharge per household to help cover the snow removal bill, I almost blew a gasket.

I live on Farmbrook Crescent in Fallingbrook and you can barely drive down the street. Getting in and out of your driveway requires the patience of Jobe and the driving skills of a professional stuntman.

My car is a mess. Both front and rear bumpers are broken and hanging off at the corners from the multiple impacts with the frozen snowbanks O’Brien wants me to pay \$50 to have removed.

Hey Larry, how about you pay me \$50 to help repair my bumper., or better yet why don’t I and the 10,000 or so other people out there with cracked bumpers sue the city council for dereliction of duty. That outta fix your wagon.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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Paintball vandals target community playground

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

A group of anonymous vandals recently turned the Kiwanis Community Playground across from Millennium Park into a paintball gallery, leaving hundreds of splattered paintballs on the outside of the playground's two large playstructures and a nearby slide.

Kiwanis Club of Orléans member Harley Bloom couldn't hide his disappointment after being informed of the situation.

"It's really a shame that someone would do such a thing to a community project. A lot of work went into building the playground," said Bloom who was one of the driving forces behind getting the 2.5 acre playground built in 2006.

The project itself took four years to come to fruition. The playstructures were designed with the help of local school children and a large part of the proceeds were raised through community initiatives.

Although the paintball residue is water soluble, it is gummy and takes a fair amount of elbow grease to remove.

Bloom says the Kiwanis Club was already planning to organize a community clean-up day in May. The paintball mess means even more work will have to be done.

Henderson Recreation Equipment, the company that built the playstructures has already indicated they are willing to help with the clean-up in anyway they can.

Bloom first came up with the idea of building a large community playground when he saw a similar facility during a visit to Boca Raton, Florida in 1998. After convincing his fellow Kiwanians to take on the project they began the task of raising the necessary funds.

The majority of the \$350,000 cost came from the former municipality of Cumberland which were kept in a Legacy Fund following amalgamation. The Kiwanis raised \$50,000 through a number of projects including the Kiwanis Haunted Barn which attracts hundreds of people during the lead up to Hallowe'en.

It took several days to erect the playstructures and dozens of volunteers working long hours to do the landscaping.

Jim Wilson was one of the volunteers who helped move over 1,000 lbs of cedar chips from the parking lot to the base of the playstructures using only wheelbarrows.

Although he's willing to help clean the site up, he thinks the kids who did it should roll up their sleeves as well.

"It would be nice if they just came for-



The main playstructure at the Kiwanis Community Playground on Trim Road is dotted with paintball splatters after vandals recently turned the site into a paintball range. Fred Sherwin/Photo

ward, apologized for what they did and offered to clean it up, but I guess the chances of that are slim and none," said Wilson.

High school police calls drop slightly in 2007

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The level of criminal activity within the east end's 11 high schools dropped slightly in 2007, with police responding to 366 calls during the year ranging from assault and theft to mischief and suspicious incidents.

According to statistics recently obtained by the *Ottawa Sun*, the number of incidents relating to assault, drugs, theft and weapons have all gone down dramatically in 2007.

In 2006, the Ottawa Police Service responded to 44 alleged thefts, 50 drug related incidents, 33 assaults and 10 weapons calls in nine east end high schools including St. Peter High School, Gloucester High School, École secondaire Louis Riel, Colonel By Secondary School, École secondaire Gisele Lalonde, Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School, St. Matthew High School, Lester B. Pearson High School and Cairine Wilson Secondary School. Two are

high schools were not included among the 2006 statistics. They were École secondaire Garneau and École secondaire Béatrice-Desloges.

In 2007, the Ottawa Police Service responded to only 39 alleged thefts, 32 drug related incidents, 28 assaults and five weapons calls in the nine schools. When you include Garneau and Beatrice-Desloges, there were 51 alleged thefts, 39 drug related incidents, 30 assaults and six weapons calls.

For the second year in a row Colonel By Secondary School had the lowest number of incidents at 16, while St. Peter High School, with a population of more than 1,900 students, had the highest number of incidents with 57, down 10 from the year before.

It is often said that high schools are a reflection of society at large and the statistics would appear to bear that out. For

instance, according to the Ottawa Police Services' most recent Activity Report, there were three assaults for every 1,000 residents in Orléans Ward in 2006. When the student population for all 11 area high schools included in the Ottawa Sun report are taken into account, the rate of assaults was 2.5 per 1,000 students.

With just over 12,000 students enrolled in the east end's 11 high schools, the rate of police calls per thousand students is 30.5. By far the highest number of police calls were for "suspicious" incidents, including more than a dozen hoax 9-1-1 calls in October, at 82. The next highest were for thefts at 51. The Ottawa Police Service also responded to seven sexual assault complaints and six thefts from lockers.

Every high school in the east end has a safe school policy that includes zero tolerance for carrying weapons and fighting on school property.



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Busy last few weeks for young scribe

OMG, I am sooo sorry that I haven't written my column in like two months, but my Daddy hasn't made me do it like he usually does so I forgot.

Well now my Dad is making me do it so I have to do it now.

In this past month a lot has happened like my Dad's new restaurant, March break, and my birthday.

Starting with my papa's restaurant. My Dad recently started managing a restaurant that used to be named the Old Navan Feedmill but now it's called O'Meara's in Navan. Now I don't think I'm the only one who thinks that the "in Navan" part is totally unnecessary and it makes the name too long. I think that "in Navan" should be like a caption and the name should be O'Meara's. It's simple and easy to say.

Anyway in the first couple of weeks my Dad had to work really late while they were still renovating so my brothers and I had a sleepover upstairs which was fun because there was a big screen TV in the room and we brought some video games. The only bad part were the giant model airplanes hanging from the ceiling. I was afraid they were going to fall on top of us.

Now that the restaurant is open, the room s going to be



used for team parties and birthday parties. It has a fooseball game, bubble hockey game and a 50-inch plasma screen with an X-Box 360. So far the only games they have are Guitar Hero and NHL Hockey '08

Curling has been going really well and I'm really disappointed that it's ending this Sunday. At least I think t is. Anyway I have finally perfected my delivery, but after I let go of the rock I totally lose my balance and fall over. I'm also getting better at aiming my shot, but I'm still really bad. Or at least I think I am. Anyway, I went to my first bonspiel in February in a place called Richmond. For those who don't know what a bonspiel is like a curling tournament. I sucked at the game and missed practically every shot except one which I made. I was so proud of myself because it was a hard shot to make.

I only could play in one game because I had to go to a friend's B-day party in the

afternoon. The neat part is the following Sunday when we had our regular curling in Navan, one of the organizers gave me \$20. Supposedly it was a cashspiel which means you can win money. My Dad wanted half because he drove me, but I didn't give him any.

March Break was pretty boring except for like three days. Monday and Tuesday, I stayed at home and chilled. On Wednesday I hung out with my friend Nick at Booster Juice on Bank Street and then we went to Miss. Tiggywinkles to play with these super cool, toy car-ish things that when you move the handle back and forth it goes foreword. We went everywhere in the store then we played with the train tracks. Then we invited my friends Esme and Siobhan to meet us at my Mom's house where we did shots of Tropical Splash orange juice with my brother's chess game where the pieces are shot glasses. My nine-year-old brother got the game for Christmas because he has decided to start collecting shot glasses.

On Wednesday I went over to my friend Kaleigh's house and we went on Facebook and I slept over. The next day Esme woke us up because she was hanging out with us that day. so

we woke up, ate Kettleman's bagels and played on her Wii for like two hours then her dad drove us to see "Horton Hears a Who!" at the Rideau Centre.

The movie is awesome. My favorite character is Hannah who is an orange porcupiney thing who is adorable. She has huge eyes and every time she takes a big breath she floats up.

My birthday was awesome. Esme and I went to the spa and we got facials and mani-pedi's and now my nails are like neon pink. The facial was sooo relaxing. My favorite part was when the woman wrapped a warm towel around my face. It felt so good. It was like a warm hug on my face, if that makes sense.

After the spa we went to the Dollarama and I bought Esme her loot-bag.

Anyway I promise that my next column will be on time. Even if my dad doesn't make me do it. Also there is one more thing and that is that there are like 10 people that I know who have birthdays this week and I think that that is pretty cool. Just thought you would like that piece of information. tftn

(Maggie Sherwin is 13 years old and is currently attending Grade 7 at St. Peter High School. Her e-mail address is maggie@orleansonline.ca.)

Local Business

Navan eatery the place to be for great food and a good time

By Mark Leahy
Special to The Eastender

O'Meara's in Navan is open for business and general manager Fred Sherwin is hustling hard to make it a place for everyone to enjoy.

Located in the heart of lovely Navan only 10 kilometres south of Orléans on Trim Road, O'Meara's exudes the farm charm which characterizes the area.

With its decidedly eclectic approach, O'Meara's accommodates sports-lovers, families, micro-brewery aficionados, you name it. Indeed, the place really has 'good bones' – from the exposed wooden beams of the old feed mill in which it is situated, to the signature smoked ribs on the restaurant's menu.

This reviewer has popped by on three occasions thus far and

O'Meara's is gradually finding its way. First, at the well-attended Grand Opening on Feb. 1; soon thereafter at a down-home Super Bowl party for a heaping plate of apple and hickory smoked ribs; and, this past Sunday, O'Meara's filled the bill yet again! The flavourful farmer's sausage was just the thing to spice up another long winter's day.

As you may know, O'Meara's general manager is none other than our own beloved roving reporter and editor of *Orleans-Online.ca* and *The Eastender*, Fred Sherwin (not to worry, he is barred from editing this review!)

Fred is a dedicated local character. The unsung hero and organizer of the past three annual Greater Orléans Canada Day Celebrations on Petrie Island, Fred knows the area like the

back of his hand. And if he says Navan is the place to be, it's the place to be!

Pop by for some local chatter, a fine pint of Draft Horse Brewery ale brewed on site, and any number of selections from the broad menu.

They have four 50-inch HD plasma televisions and a 1080p HD projector with a 106-inch screen for which is perfect for watching hometown hero Erik Bédard pitch for the Seattle Mariners, which they plan to do every game, or take in the next pay-per-view UFC match.

They also have a 30 seat room with a 52 inch plasma screen and surround sound for private parties, as well as an X-Box 360 with a selection of games for kids birthday parties or team bonding events.

O'Meara's in Navan is open from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., Monday



to Thursday; 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays.

To make a reservation or to book a party or special occasion call 613-835-9883. To find out more visit their website at www.omearasinnavan.ca.

Local sports

Cumberland Barons claim Midget RepB crowns

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Cumberland Barons Minor Midget and Midget RepB teams took two different routes to the ODMHA finals, but the end results were the same as both squads won their respective championships.

The Major Midget RepB Barons entered the playoffs as the top seed after finishing the regular season in first place. They then rode the momentum train all the way to the finals, winning both their quarterfinal and semi-final first to four points series in the minimum number of games.

In the finals they went up against the third place Russell River Rats. In the series opener they jumped all over the River Rats from the opening face-off and never let up. The end result was a convincing 5-1 win for Cumberland.

Faced with a must win situation at the Earl Armstrong Arena last Wednesday, the River Rats seemed better prepared and hung with the Barons for the better part of the first period. After the first 15 minutes the score was tied 1-1, with Kevin Joyce scoring the lone goal for the Barons.

John Chaisson would put the Barons up 2-1 early in the second period on a shot from the point that beat Russell goalie Kent Thompson high to the glove side.

The game was still very much up for grabs when Victor Monahan decided to slash Barons assistant captain Martin Landriault on the back of the legs behind the play.

Very few people in the building saw the infraction including the referee who was following the play.

It was only after the trailing linesman informer the referee what had happened that Monahan was given a five minute major for slashing and an automatic game misconduct.

During the ensuing power play, the Barons scored a pair of goals in one minute and 12 seconds to take a commanding three goal lead. Russell would get one more back in the third, but by then it was too little, too late.

Colin Goff's second goal of the game with 1:40 left in regulation, would seal the deal for the Barons and seal the fate of the Russell River Rats.

The Barons must now prepare for the Tournament of Champions which will take place next week in Carleton Place. The tournament pits the various champions from leagues throughout the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario against each other in a tournament format.

The Barons record in tournament play this year is fairly impressive. Of the three tournaments they played in they made it to the finals all three times, including a tournament in Gananoque which they won.

Their most heart-breaking loss came in the final of the regional Silver Stick tournament which they lost in overtime.

Several of the young men on the team have been playing together since novice,

while others haven't played together since novice because of the age difference.

While the Major Midget team were the odds on favourites to win their title, the Minor Midget team was a prohibitive underdog after finishing the regular season in fifth place.

Because of their fifth place ranking they were the lower seed in each round they played in.

In the first round they defeated the Kanata Blazers in three games, including the third and deciding game which they won 2-1.

In the semi-finals they went up against the number one seed Mississippi Thunder Kings. After tying the Thunder Kings in the opener 6-6, they stunned their opponents in game two, beating them by a score of 5-1.

You could cut the tension with a knife in game three, but the Barons were able to stay focused and determined in eeking out another exciting 2-1 win to take the series and advance to the finals against Embrun-Casselman.

Having gotten past two higher seeds in the quarterfinals and semi-finals, the Barons were bound and determined not to let their Eastern Ontario opponents ruin their fairy tale ending.

To that end they beat Embrun-Casselman 4-3 in Casselman to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the first-to-four points final.

Unfortunately, a nervous Barons team could not close the deal in game two last Monday and ended losing by an identical 4-3 score.

The rubber match was held last Wednesday back in Casselman.

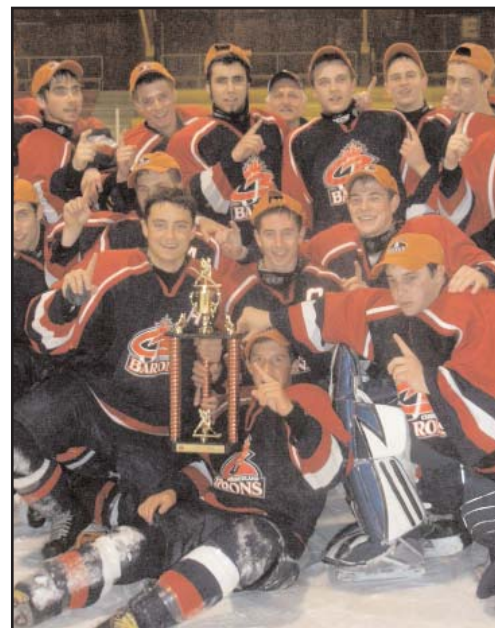
Playing with renewed confidence, the Barons jumped out to a 1-0 first period lead before Embrun-Casselman tied the score in the second period.

The championship would come down to the third period. About a minute into the period, an Embrun-Casselman player was sent off for four minutes for an infraction. The timekeeper instead of putting the four minutes on the penalty clock, added four minutes to the game clock. When the problem was rectified the game clock was still off by several seconds which would come into play later on in the period.

Embrun-Casselman was able to kill off the four minute penalty with relative ease.

At the six minute mark Jordan Highley managed to block a shot at his own blue line, pick up the loose puck and start skating the other way. Just as when it looked as though he would get a clear break on the goalie he was hauled down from behind and awarded a penalty shot. Unfortunately, Highley's shot was blocked and the score remained deadlocked at a goal apiece.

As the final seconds started to tick away everyone in the building including both coaches and the players thought the game would end in a tie, requiring a fourth game



Members of the Cumberland Barons Midget RepB team pose with the ODMHA championship trophy after downing the Russell River Rats last Wednesday to win their final round series. Fred Sherwin/Photo

to be played back in Navan, but the improbable happens. During a scramble around Cumberland's net, the puck flips up along the goalie's arm and falls into the net for the winning goal, or at least everyone thought it was a goal.

After the referee conferred with his two linesman and the timeskeeper, he ruled that the buzzer signifying the end of the game had gone off before the puck entered the net.

As if that didn't supply enough drama the referee had to call the Cumberland players back to the ice while they were filing to their dressing room thinking the game had ended in a tie. What they did not realize is that under ODMHA rules any RepB series that is within a point of the necessary four points needed to decide a series winner must go to overtime if should the game end in a tie, so the Barons had to return to the ice to play overtime.

Faced with the possibility of losing the series and the championship, the Barons blitzed the Embrun-Casselman net firing shot after shot in the goalie's direction, but to no avail. The tremendous offensive pressure eventually resulted in Embrun-Casselman taking an ill-timed penalty which the Barons capitalized immediately capitalized on when Mike Murray scored off a scramble in front of the net to hand Cumberland the championship and send the players and their fans into a frenzy.

For captain Keith Burns, who had never won a single playoff game before, winning the championship was the highlight of his minor hockey career. Also of special note – the last time coach Mike Highley won a championship at the peewee level, Mike Murray scored the winning goal.

Local sports

Bédard fails to get decision in Seattle Mariner debut

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

When Navan hurler Erik Bédard was with the Baltimore Orioles he was often the victim of a lack of run support thanks to the O's anemic offence.

After he was traded to the Seattle Mariners in the off season it was hoped that run support would no longer be a problem. Alas, in his Mariners debut against the Texas Rangers last Tuesday night, Seattle failed to get a runner across the plate until after Bédard had left the game prior to the start of the sixth inning with the Rangers up 1-0.

Texas lone run came off the bat of Michael Young who tagged a hanging fastball over the right field fence in the first inning after Bédard had struck out the lead-off hitter on three pitches.

Bédard threw 28 pitches in the first inning before settling

down through the second and third innings. In fact, he got stronger as the game went on. Because it's early in the season, however, he was on a century pitch count and by the end of the fifth inning he had reached his limit at 106.

Bédard was the victim of a miniscule strike zone established by home plate umpire Jim Joyce, who ruled in favour of the batters on nearly every close call. As a result, Bédard ended up with more walks than strike outs 5-to-4, but fortunately none of the walks were followed by a hit and they never managed to make it around to score. He gave up three hits and one earned run in five innings.

After the game battery mate Kenji Johjima gave Bédard credit for not letting the calls faze him.

"He got some tough calls today," Johjima said. "Rather than fighting it, he kept what he



Navan native Erik Bedard picked up a no decision in his regular season debut with the Seattle Mariners last night. Scott Eklund/Seattle Post-Intelligencer

was feeling inside of him. That kept me strong and feeling good. He gave us a chance to win by doing that."

Never one to make excuses, Bédard treated the outing as just another day at the office.

"It's just a matter of trying to battle through it," he told reporters.

Bedard's next start will be against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Tuesday. Game time is 7:10 p.m.

Gloucester Blackhawks capture Major Atom RepB title

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Gloucester Blackhawks Major Atom RepB team completed a perfect season last week adding the ODMHL championship to the regular season crown they clinched back in February.

During the course of the 30 game season the Blackhawks allowed just 37 goals, which was the fewest number of goals of given up by any team in the Ottawa District Minor Hockey Association at any level.

The biggest reason for the team's miniscule goals against average was team defence which is reflected in the fact that they gave up fewer than 10 shots

per game. In fact, there were some games when the goaltending tandem of Colin Murray and Zach Lindgren only faced two or three shots.

The Blackhawks used team defence and solid goaltending to post a pair of goose eggs against the Orleans Blues in the first round.

They had a more difficult time against the Mississippi Thunder Kings in the semi-finals. After winning the first game 3-2, the Blackhawks could only manage a tie in the second game which seemed to embolden the Thunder Kings who played near perfect hockey in shutting Gloucester out in game three to tie the first to

four points series at three points apiece.

The fourth and deciding game went into double overtime before Jacob Rector scored for the Blackhawks, who advanced to the finals to face the second place Ottawa Sting.

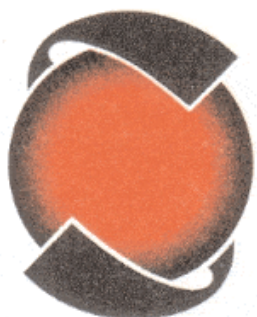
After eeking out a 4-3 win in the first game, the Blackhawks shut the Sting down completely in game two to skate away with a 4-0 victory and the championship.

Afterwards, head coach Mike Poitras applauded his players' effort throughout the playoffs and especially in the semi-finals where they had to dig deep to earn each win and advance to the finals.

"The kids worked really hard all year and it paid off," said Poitras. "We're a RepB team, but we pushed them like a 'AA' team right from the start."

The team played in four tournaments, winning once in Skaneateles, New York just before Christmas. They lost in the quarterfinals at the Bell Capital Cup and fell short of making it to the finals of the Silver Stick tournament by a goal.

By finishing first in the regular season and winning the league championship, the Blackhawks have earned an invitation to the Tournament of Champions which will take place in early April.



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Artscetera

St. Peter Players deliver entertaining production

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

It's hard to believe that it's been 30 years since *Grease!* first hit the movie theatres and produced a wildly successful soundtrack album that has sold over 100 million copies.

Songs like "You're the One That I Want" and "Summer Nights" have been etched – some might say regrettably – into the public's psyche.

While most people are familiar with the movie *Grease!* starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, the first musical production of *Grease!* appeared on Broadway in 1971. But it was the movie that spawned hundreds if not thousands of high school productions over the past 30 years.

The St. Peter Players recently produced their own version of the popular play over a four night run. The result was a tremendously entertaining production that thrilled young and old alike.

Besides all the songs, the play was chock full of choreography which the cast spent several months perfecting. Sean Peyton-Stewart was solid as Danny Zucko as were the rest of Zucko's greaser friends.

On the other side of the gender divide, Siobhan Kelly was in fine voice as Sandy Dumbrowski, as was Camille Eanga-Selenge who provided one of the highlights of the night with her rendition of "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee".

But it was fellow Pink Ladies, Amber Forgie as Frenchy and Julia Jeffrey-Garza

as Marty, who almost stole the show, especially Forgie as Frenchy who drew laughter almost every time she opened her mouth.

Other performances that stood out include Charles Douglas as Doody, Sarah MacDonald as Jan, Kyle Kerr as Sonny Latierra and Veronique Fredette as the Teen Angel and Johnny Casino.

Besides the actors already mentioned, the remainder of the principal cast included Kristopher Dupuis as Roger, Ben Robinson as Kenicke, David Coleman as Vince Fontaine and Stephanie Hagarty as Miss Lynch.

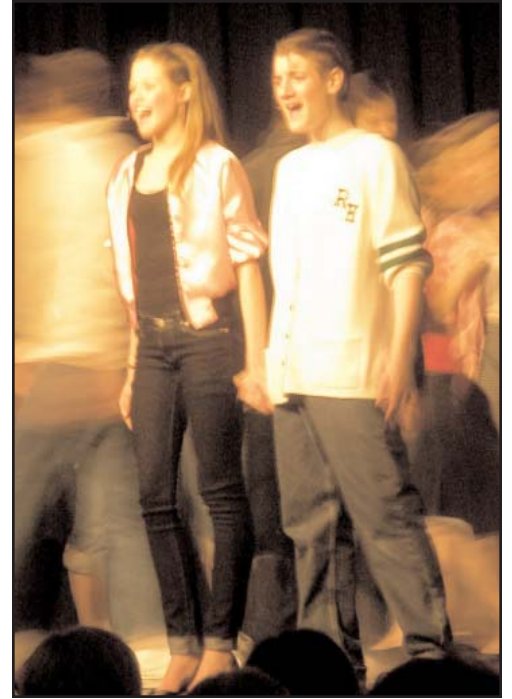
The chorus was made up of Alanna Bale, Rhebecca Baptiste, Melissa Basher, Emily Britton, Erin Ciona, Jillian Conway, Josh Deboer, Sabrina Douglas, Bryan Ladds, Jessyca Lalumiere, Laura Marchant Vicki Landreville, Denise St. Pierre and Athena Tzivanopoulos.

Providing them all direction was the director Bernard Leger, who is the inspiration behind the St. Peter Players, and assistant choreographer Melody Lavictoire.

The one thing that sets St. Peter High School productions apart from other high school productions is the attention paid to the sound and music.

All the principal actors are miked so that there is never an issue with missing any of the dialogue. The band is also an integral part of the production, providing a consistent backing soundtrack.

The person responsible for the sound once again this year was Tony Mungham



Siobhan Kelly and Sean Payton-Stewart played Sandra Dumbrowski and Danny Zucko in the St. Peter Players production of *Grease!* Fred Sherwin/Photo

while the band was made up of Mike Braia on lead guitar, Chris Britton and Alex Melo on saxophone, Ben Evans on drums, Chris Evans on guitar and Dan Lalonde on bass.

Specially mention should also go to Tom Packenham and Mike Prusakowski who were responsible for the amazing set.

Community calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

SPECIAL EVENT --

Come see Navan native Erik Bedard pitch against his former team as the Seattle Mariners take on the Baltimore Orioles live on the big screen at O'Meara's in Navan, 3495 Trim Rd. Game time is 7:10 p.m.

Funk from Red Head Pantry Fine Food Products. Music by Lynne Harper-Ciarroni. Guest speaker Lynne Dixon. Tickets \$5 includes refreshments and free babysitting. RSVP to Shirley at 613-841-5143 or Pat at 613-834-1541.

CITY COUNCIL

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

CHAMPAGNE AND LACE FASHION SHOW

presented by Vintage Stock Theatre beginning at 7 p.m. in the Orléans Theatre, 255 Centrum Blvd. Featuring vintage Victorian apparel from the Vintage Stock costume collections and

contemporary fashions from leading retailers and local designers. Elegant refreshments, door prizes, silent auction and more. Tickets: \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Tickets are available at Frameworks, 2316 St. Joseph Blvd. or J.T. Bradley's Country Convenience in Navan.

SENS GAME NIGHT

Come see the Ottawa Senators open the play-off against the Pittsburgh Penguins on the big screen at O'Meara's in Navan, 3495 Trim Rd. \$4 Labatt Blue tallboys and 60 cent jumbo wings..

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING at 6:30 p.m. in the Honeywell Room at Ottawa City Hall.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

FUNDRAISING AUCTION hosted by Orléans Preschool at Johnny V's Place, 1439 Youville Dr. Auction preview at 6 p.m. Live auction will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. For more information call the school at 613-837-2979.

PETER C. will be performing at the Orléans Legion, 800

Taylor Creek Rd. from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Dining room open from 5 p.m. for your convenience. Visit <http://www.rcl632.com> for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

BUFFET BREAKFAST served from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. This is a fundraising event for the Legion.

DUNNING FOUBERT SCHOOL SPRING SALE

from 9 a.m. to noon at Dunning Foubert Elementary School, 1610 Prestwick Dr. near the corner of Des Epinettes. Used bicycles, toys, games and summer sports equipment.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

ORLEANS-GLOUCESTER CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB

meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Orléans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. Special presentation by Shaun