

- local news •
- minor sports •
- community links •
- free classifieds •
- kids stuff •
- parenting •
- crime report •
- arts directory •

The Eastender

August 18 2008

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 7, Issue 10



Maureen Edwards (middle) helps push the Late Bloomers entry which finished in second place in the Navan fair bed race last Saturday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Navan Fair one of the best ever

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Despite a drop in attendance due to the weather, this year's Navan Fair is being hailed as one of the best ever thanks to an action packed schedule and new events such as the exciting bed race which took place on the final day of the fair.

Navan Fair president Hank Bakker says the unpredictable weather caused havoc with this year's attendance figures which

were way down from last year.

"It's not that it rained a lot, it's just that the rain came at a bad time. Like on Saturday, it was a beautiful day and then when the rain came later in the afternoon the people who were here left and the people who were coming out decided to turn around and go back home. But if you compare our numbers to a normal year we did pretty good," explains Bakker.

CLICK HERE TO CON'T p2>

Province sets out timeline to fix Hwy. 417/174 split

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

East end commuters frustrated with having to navigate the Hwy. 417/174 split every rush hour will soon get some relief after the Ontario Ministry of Transportation recently announced that work on fixing the bottleneck will begin later this year.

A potential roadblock was recently cleared when the Ontario Ministry of Environment rejected several appeals, known as "bump ups", to the Environmental Assessment process.

The move means the initial design and engineering work can begin on several traffic mitigation measures aimed at alleviating the bottle neck at the split. Phase I will

include a new Cyrville Road overpass and an extra lane from the Hwy. 417 off ramp to St. Laurent Blvd.

Phase 2 will included several safety measures including a dedicated off-ramp at St. Laurent Blvd., as well as an additional westbound lane from St. Laurent to Metcalfe Ave.

The announcement fulfills an election promise by Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely who was thrilled to finally deliver on his promise Thursday.

"This is good news for the east end. Those bump-ups could have delayed the project a couple of years, but now the work can begin right away. I'm extremely happy," said McNeely.

Phase 1 should be completed by 2010, while Phase 2 will take two to three years to finish.

The exact cost of the work won't be known until after the engineer and design work is completed.

The recommended measures stem out of the Queensway Corridor Study which looked at improving traffic flow along the Queensway and Hwy. 417 from Anderson Road to Hwy. 416.

The appeals to the Environmental Assessment process were brought forward by a handful of groups concerned that widening the Queensway might lead to an increase in traffic downtown. In rejecting the appeals the Ministry of Environment felt otherwise.

Community briefs

Police investigate daring attempted robbery

ORLEANS — The Ottawa Police Service is asking for the public's help in trying to find two men who tried to rob the McDonald's restaurant on Innes Road in Orléans early Friday morning. The two men entered the restaurant at around 2:38 a.m. wearing black masks and brandishing a hand gun and a can of pepper spray. The man with the hand gun ordered two employees into a walk-in cooler. At about the same time, a third employee walked out of the restroom, saw what was going on and ran across the street to a pay phone to call the police. After realizing they had been seen, the two men decided to flee the restaurant empty-handed, but not before pepper spraying the two employees they had ordered into the walk-in cooler. When Ottawa Paramedics arrived on the scene they attended to the two employees and transported to the hospital where they were decontaminated. They sustained no other injuries. Police are now looking for the two suspects. The first is described as a white male, about 6-foot-2 inches tall, 200 lbs., with a muscular build. He was wearing a black leather jacket, a black or grey mask, and gloves. The second suspect is also a white male about 6-feet tall, 200 lbs., with a muscular build. He was wearing a black jacket, dark pants, black mask, and gloves. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Robbery Section at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477.

Rotary Club to establish chapter in the east end

ORLEANS — The list of service clubs in Orléans will soon have a new member with the addition of a new Rotary Club chapter. The Rotary Club will join the Kiwanis Club of Orleans as well as Lions Clubs in Orléans, North Gloucester, Navan and Cumberland Village and the Knights of Columbus and various Optimist chapters in continuing to make the community a better place to live. The Orléans Rotary Club will hold their first meeting shortly after Labour Day weekend at the Ottawa West chapter where new members will learn the ropes. The chapter's first president will be Sobey's owner/operator Alan Foget who has been with the Rotary Club for the past five years and has served in a number of capacities including treasurer and committee chair. For more information about the new Rotary Club chapter call Russ Hicks at 613-224-3440 or e-mail russnel@rogers.com. You can also visit www.rotary.org to learn more about what the club is all about.

Weather fails to dampen spirits at Navan Fair

> CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Despite the reduced numbers, the fair is still in good shape thanks to the surplus generated by last year's event, which was blessed with perfect weather, and smart budgeting which will see this year's four-day event either break even or come close to it.

Those people who did come out to the fair definitely got their money's worth as the entertainment value was off the charts. Many fairgoers commented that this year's Fair Parade was one of the best they had ever seen. The demolition derby, with the added element of a muddy arena, was also a hit as was the Steel Warriors strongman show on Saturday.

But the highlight of the weekend was the return of the popular bed race after a 20-year hiatus. People were lined up five and six deep as six teams raced down Trim Road from the RBC branch before turning left onto Colonial Road where they made a mad dash for the finish line outside J.T. Bradley's Country Convenience Store.

The final pitted the all-male team from Simpson Electric against an all-female team called The Late Bloomers. In the name of fairness and fun Simpson Electric allowed The Late Bloomers to get a head start, but with 50 metres to go the two teams were neck in neck. That's when things got a little crazy.

A participant from Simpson Electric team jumped on The Late Bloomers bed and inadvertently tripped one of The Late Bloomer pushers, sending her reeling to the ground. For about two minutes everyone stopped. Even the crowd was silenced. Then the woman jumped up and yelled for her team to start pushing which caught the Simpson Electric team off guard.

Although The Late Bloomers crossed the finish line ahead of Simpson Electric, they were disqualified because one of their members tried to hold the Simpson Electric

bed back and therefore didn't cross the finish line with her other teammates which is required under the rules. Despite the "disappointing" loss, there were no hard feelings and everyone had a great time.

This year's Navan Fair Ambassador was Elizabeth Muggleton. The 18-year-old St. Peter High School grad earned the privilege of representing the Navan Fair at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies convention in February.

For her speech, Muggleton was asked to explain how this year's theme "A Family Affair" tied in with the fair itself.

"I just said that the fair doesn't just bring individual families together, but it brings the whole community of Navan together as one big family," said Muggleton.

Awards were also handed out in the culinary arts, floriculture and homecraft competitions. Last year's Baking Princess, Brenda Presley, earned enough red ribbons this year to be crowned Baking Queen. Rejeane Horler was this year's Baking Princess.

Dora Smits won the homecraft competition, while Guylaine Lemieux took the overall title in the floriculture division and Helen Burns received the red ribbon for Best Rose.

All through the fair a steady stream of visitors took in the purebred animal competitions and strolled through the homecraft exhibits as well as the Conservation Zone tent which was back for another year thanks to the support of sponsors like Laporte's Flowers and Nursery and Ace Body Shop owner Lionel Laurin who donated a bike as a prize.

Among this year's grandstand acts were Prism, The Headpins, Streetheart and country songstress Michelle Wright who had the audience up and dancing during her performance on Sunday.

The fair organizers will now take a few weeks off before they start planning for next year's event.

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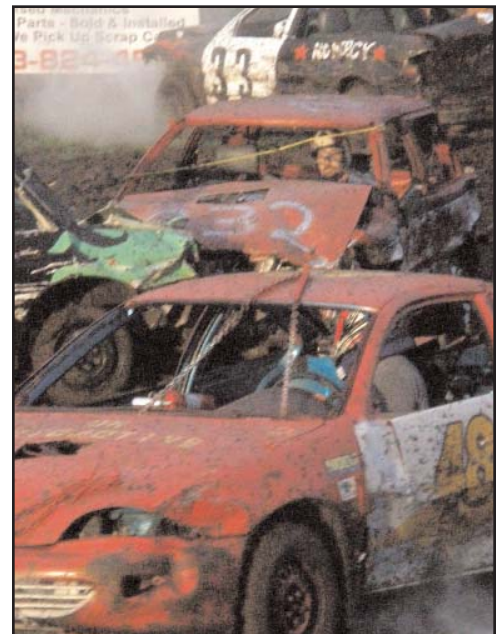
"Providing quality legal service to Orléans and area for the past 29 years."



Photos by Fred Sherwin and Chantal Desilets

Funtastic fair comes to a close

There was a lot to see and do at this year's Navan Fair. (Clockwise from top left) A group of youngsters enjoy a ride on the kiddie roller coaster; competitors fly around the corner at Colonial and Trim Roads in the bed race; a pair of rides light up the night sky above the Navan fairgrounds; drivers go head to head on the opening night of the demolition derby; Yves Drouin performs a feat of strength during the Steel Warriors strongman show; and Navan Fair Ambassador Elizabeth Muggleton waves to the crowd during Saturday's parade.



Female competitor wins Ottawa-Carleton Plowing Match

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

In the male dominated world of competitive plowing, Kemptville native Jolene Stinson stands out. One, in that she is a woman, and two in that she has consistently done well competing against men who are vastly more experienced than she is.

In the past, the only place you would see young women at a competitive plowing match was in the Queen of the Furrow competition. No more. Today there are a handful of young ladies who are proving that they can plow a straight furrow just as well as any man.

In fact, she is one of the reasons why the top prize no longer goes to the Best Overall Plowman, but the Best Overall Plow Person.

Stinson, 19, beat out 23 other participants at the Ottawa-Carleton Plowing Match on Saturday to claim the top spot and earn an invitation to the upcoming International Plowing Match in Bruce County next month.

"I thought I did well, but you never know how well you did until they

announce the winners," said Stinson after picking up the top prize at the dinner that traditionally wraps up the single day competition.

This year's plowing match was held at Navandale Farms in Navan owned by Wyatt and Cheryl McWilliams. The conditions were near perfect save for the old rock and a few tough alfalfa roots that made certain patches difficult to navigate.

Competitors were judged on consistency, straightness, firmness, closeness and shallowness. The youngest competitor was also a girl, 12-year-old Katie Dangerfield, while the oldest competitor was 78-year-old Gabriel Lecavalier from Gloucester who won the horse with walking plow classification.

Other winners were Ben Patterson, 14, Youngest Male Plow Person; Germain Shouldice, Sulky Plow; and Jean-Marc Dessaint, Antique Plow.

This was the second time in the last two years that the Ottawa-Carleton Plowing Match was held in the east end. The 2006 Plowing Match was held on the Armstrong Farm in Vars.



George Morris looks back on his handiwork as he competes in the antique class at the Ottawa-Carleton Plowing Match in Navan on Saturday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Report deems 2001 IPM an unmitigated success

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

It's been nearly seven years since Navan hosted the 2001 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

The event itself was well-organized and a tremendous success in terms of the overall experience. Unfortunately, history and Mother Nature conspired to prevent the plowing match from being a financial success – at least initially.

As fate would have it, the 2001 IPM opened on Sept. 18, 2001, exactly one week after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre.

Thousands of people who were expected to drive up from the American northeast, either decided not to come, or couldn't because of the heightened restrictions at the border.

As if the lack of American visitors wasn't enough, it rained for several days during the plowing match which kept local visitors away as well. In the end only a fraction of the people expected to attend the event showed up.

Almost immediately the media started referring to the plowing match as a "financial disaster".

Astronomical numbers started flying around as to the estimated loss. The one figure that is still bandied about is \$600,000, but as the co-chair of the 2001 International Plowing Match financial recovery committee Glyn Chancey explains, the \$600,000 only factored in the accounts payable.

"That was what we owed our suppliers, but what wasn't included in the figure was our accounts receivable and revenue sharing arrangements with the Ontario Plowmen's Association and the City of Ottawa which were waived," says Chancey. "The actual deficit was closer to \$200,000."

Through a variety of fundraising efforts as well as a sponsorship exchange program worked out with the creditors, the deficit was wiped out within a year with the creditors getting back over 90 per cent of their original claims.

On Saturday, the recovery committee presented their final report to the Ottawa-Carleton Plowmen's Association following the OCPA annual plowing match.

The report outlines in black and white that the 2001 IPM deficit was eliminated within a year after the event and that all the creditors were repaid.

It also states that subsequent IPMs have benefited by partnerships established by the recovery committee with the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association and Hydro One to the tune of more than a million dollars.

Last, but not least, the IPM has made good on its promise to raise money the Ottawa Hospital. Following the plowing match, several members of the organizing committee including Sharen Armstrong and Don Brennan, decided to put together an annual golf tournament called Plowing For A Cure, which has so far raised over \$300,000.

Recovery committee member Michael Hughes and several other members have decided to continue the annual golf tournament, pledging another \$100,000 to the Ottawa Hospital's 20/20 fundraising campaign. After taking into account the matching dollars that are available the total contribution stemming out of the 2001 IPM will surpass \$500,000.

"Who ever told you the 2001 plowing match was a failure doesn't know what they're talking about," Hughes told the dinner guests. "It was a complete and total success."



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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.

Cité collégiale

To see the press releases flying around you would think that the City of Ottawa played a lead role in Cité collégiale's decision to build a trades centre in the far east end, but in reality the genesis of the recent announcement can be traced back to the 2004 federal election campaign when Marc Godbout, himself a former director of education, made bringing a post-secondary campus to Orléans part of his campaign platform.

One of the first things he did after getting elected was to work with Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely to create Team Ottawa-Orléans and one of the first sub-committees that was formed was an education committee charged with the task of exploring ways and possible opportunities to bring a post-secondary campus to Orléans.

Despite losing his seat to Royal Galipeau in the 2006 General Election, Godbout continued to work on fulfilling his 2004 election promise.

In June 2007, Godbout helped McNeely organize an education summit in Orléans which brought together officials from Cité Collégiale, Algonquin College, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa along with representatives from a number of local high schools.

That summit sewed the seeds of this month's announcement. The water that nourished those seeds was supplied in the 2008 provincial budget in which the Liberals announced \$560 million to expand and improve training and apprenticeship programs in Ontario.

When the Liberal government announced in June that Algonquin College would get \$35 million of that money to help build a state-of-the-art Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences, it was only a matter of time before Cité Collégiale would get their share to build a francophone trades centre.

In anticipation of a pending announcement, Cité Collégiale began to look for a potential site which is where Bob Monette and the other east end city councillors came into the picture. They worked diligently along with the city's economic development department in helping to find a site for the trades centre.

Ordinarily the city, assuming they had already made a deal with the institution, would wait until the province was ready with the dollars and then a joint announcement would be made. In this case the city and Bob Monette in particular jumped the gun, basically stealing the thunder away from McNeely. One can only assume they did so out of fear that their contribution would be overshadowed by the provincial announcement which is expected in the coming weeks.

In reality, without the province and the groundwork done by both McNeely and Godbout, there would be no announcement.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

NCC to blame for holding up Hunt Club interchange

Last week, I wrote about a rumour that Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess had scuttled Phase II of the Hunt Club interchange/Innes Road extension project and that if it were, it was utterly ridiculous.

As it turns out the rumour wasn't true, in fact, Bloess stands fully behind the project including the proposed extension from Innes Road to the planned Hunt Club interchange which would provide east end residents with a direct route to the south end of the city, and more importantly, the airport.

The real culprits behind the delay in getting the extension approved is the NCC which has been unbelievably slow in moving the process forward, even by NCC standards.

For the extension to become a reality requires an amendment to the NCC's Master Transportation Plan and a federal Environmental Assessment, both of which should be mere formalities, but apparently haven't even been started yet.

There are three key elements that would drastically improve transit and transportation in the east end. The first – improving traffic flow through the split – was recently given the green light by the province.

The second would be construction of the South Innes rapid bus transitway from Trim Road to the Blair transit station which has been on and off and on and back off again and currently sits in limbo awaiting further discussion by city council.

The third is construction of the Hunt Club/Hwy. 417 interchange and Innes Road extension.

In a perfect world the South Innes transitway would be built first. It would drastically improve rush hour service for east end commuters living in the rapidly expanding South Innes community, which in turn would ease some of the pressure on the split.

Ditto for the Hunt Club interchange and Innes Road extension,

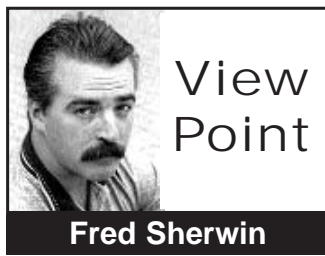
both of which would also benefit economic development in the far east end by improving access to the south end of the city and in particular the airport.

Unfortunately it's all being done ass backwards. The split is being done first and the Hunt Club interchange with the Innes Road extension and the South Innes transitway are nowhere in sight.

All that could change, however, if the east end councillors were to convince their colleagues to put pressure on the NCC to expedite the approval process for the Innes Road extension while also convincing council of the importance of building the South Innes transitway as soon as possible.

So far they have been conspicuous by their silence. They need to pull out their soap boxes and put pressure on the NCC and the province to get off the pot. Once the NCC approves the extension, assuming they will, the ball will be placed squarely in the province's court to share in the construction costs.

As for the transitway it's just a matter of getting their colleagues on council to give the east end it's fair share sooner rather than later.



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Local Business

Petrie Island's full service destination location

Special to The Eastender

The Oziles Café, Marina and Tackle Shop is a year round multi-service facility for boaters, fishing enthusiasts, outdoorsman or people who just want to enjoy the great outdoors.

The name "Oziles" is a family term used by owner Yves Grandmaitre and his siblings. Whenever they would go on a trip to Petrie Island they would refer to it as "aux iles", which means "at the islands". Thus when Grandmaitre was trying to come up with a name for the business he decided upon "Oziles" to connote a destination location in keeping with the island and its facilities.

With its combination of a beach, picnic area, ecological reserve, nature trails, and of course the water itself, Petrie Island has a plethora of activities to keep one busy and Oziles caters to many of them.

At the centre of the Oziles Café, Marina and Tackle Shop is the bait and tackle shop which sells fishing licenses, live bait, boat rentals, ice hut rentals, canoe and kayak rentals and much more. They also do minor outboard and inboard motor repairs and hull pressure washing along with winterizing services and a storage area.

The state-of-the-art boat ramp is the only one servicing the Ottawa River between the Rockcliffe Airport and Rockland. The cost is \$14 per boat and includes parking.

Ice fishing enthusiasts can enjoy some of the finest winter angling around just off the shores of Petrie Island which has been a popular destination going back three or four generations. Special package deals include everything from ice huts to bait and tackle.

The goal of the Oziles staff is to help the community utilize Petrie Island and its environs to its maximum while minimizing the long term impact and damage to natural habitat.

To do this they have adopted several strategies: all of their work and planning is done with conservation in mind; they strive to utilize the latest technologies in energy conservation; work on the property is done to minimize damage to the natural state and where required, they will restore as much as possible any damage done; and they encourage the community to take part, visit the trails, fish, boat, swim and otherwise enjoy the unique environment.



The Oziles house boat sits in front of the new boat ramp at the Petrie Island marina and tackle shop. File photo

One way they do this is to offer their services in the organization of fishing derbies which can be a fun and enjoyable way to raise funds for charity. For their location and hours of operation visit www.oziles.com.

Robertson Rent-All has it all and then some

Special to The Eastender

When Don and Netta Robertson first entered into the equipment rental business 15 years ago, they did so with the objective of catering to small and mid-sized contractors as well as homeowners with a commitment to service, selection and quality.

As a project manager in the commercial construction industry at the time, Don Robertson experienced poor service and a level of corporate arrogance that often exists in the vacuum of a monopoly when dealing with rental companies in the area. He was going to do business differently and so Robertson Rent-All was born.

The business was originally located on Innes Road at Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. and the moved to a larger location across from Builders Warehouse in 1995. Over time small contractors and area homeowners grew to appreciate Robertson's commitment to service to the point where visiting the store was like going to see an old neighbour or a long time friend.

Through the years, Robertson Rent-All has remained unabashedly committed to their customers who, in turn, remain loyal to them.

"We'll see some customers one year when they're doing a renovation and then not see them for three or four years until they start another project," says Netta Robertson. "I can't imagine doing business any place else.

Orléans has been very good to us."

It is with that attitude and a die hard commitment to its customers that Robertson Rent-All has been able to hold its own and even thrive against competition.

The biggest difference is service. Robertson Rent-All is unique in that they rent equipment by the hour. You can also reserve your equipment in advance and have it delivered to your home or site. And if you ever have a problem with a piece of equipment during a job, they will come out and replace it for you if they can't figure out what the problem is over the phone.

"We've had the odd customer check out the competition, but they normally come back and tell us that our customer service is number one and we keep striving to do even more," says Robertson. "You can't stay complacent. You have to keep trying to do things better."

In the effort to constantly keep improving the way they do business, the Robertsons moved to their new location at 4380 Innes Road beside the McDonald's in February 2006.

The store offers a complete line of hand and power tools including floor sanders, nailers, generators, compressors, ladders, lighting, welding equipment, scaffolding, landscaping equipment, moving supplies, small tractors and even party rentals. You name it and Robertson Rent-All likely has it.



They even rent out six person hot tubs which can be delivered and set up right in your backyard.

Robertson Rent-All also sells and rents exercise equipment.

"I thought it would be a good idea to give people a chance to rent equipment before they went out and bought it. Exercise equipment can represent a substantial investment so having the opportunity to try it out first makes a lot of sense," says Robertson.

Robertson Fitness Equipment carries a large variety of treadmills, gym systems, exercise bikes, step machines and ellipticals made by companies like Weider, Pro Form and Reebok. They also carry a complete line of boxing and martial arts equipment.

To find out how Robertson Rent-All can help make life easier, why not drop by their new showroom at 4380 Innes Road or give them a call at 613-834-1077. It could make the world of difference.

Local sports

Panthers earn berth in OVFL junior championship game

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Cumberland Panthers junior varsity football team needs one more check mark in the win column to complete what has so far been a perfect season.

The Panthers beat the Brampton Bulldogs 27-8 in the Wettges Conference final last Saturday to improve their record to a perfect 10-0 and earn a berth in the OVFL junior championship game against the Mississauga Warriors at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton this weekend.

The Panthers have been nothing short of brilliant all season long, especially on defence where they have allowed less than five points per game.

Last Saturday's game was no exception. If not for a botched defensive scheme on the Bulldogs' last play of the game that resulted in a 108-yard touchdown score, the Panthers would have pitched a shutout against a Brampton team that had already posted playoff upsets over the second and third seeded teams in the conference.

Head coach Wayne Blakely was ecstatic following the win saying the team is the best he's ever coached.

"A lot of these guys have won five or six city championships already," said Blakely who has coached a number of the 15- and 16-year-old players since tyke. "It would be great to add a junior varsity championship to the list."

Prior to this season, the Cumberland Panthers had failed to win a playoff game at either the varsity or junior varsity level. Even this year, after amassing an impressive 8-1 record, the varsity team lost their playoff opener to Brampton 35-14.

Any memories of past disappointments, however, will be erased permanently if the Panthers manage to beat London this Saturday and win the club's first ever junior varsity championship.

"It's pretty good for all of us to be the first team (to have playoff success)," said Skinner following Saturday's big win. "But we can't get too far ahead of ourselves. We've got to play our game, stay focused and stay healthy."

The Panthers opened the scoring early in the first quarter when Harry Short scampered 23 yards into the end zone to cap the team's first drive. Ryan Begin then added a 30-yard field goal on the Panthers' next possession to make the score 10-0.

Cumberland capped an impressive opening quarter with a 48-yard dump pass from quarterback Alex Skinner to Matt Russell on third and one to take a commanding 17-0 lead.

Ashton Dickson's two-yard touchdown plunge late in the third quarter and a 28-yard field goal by Begin in the fourth would make the score 27-0 in favour of the Panthers.

With time winding down, Brampton



Cumberland Panthers running back Art Nault carries the ball for another first down during first half action in their 27-8 win over the Brampton Bulldogs last Saturday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

finally got on the board on a halfback option play that covered 108-yards. A successful two-point conversion attempt made the final score 27-8 Panthers.

"That's 10 check marks, we only have one more to go," Blakely said after the game. The key (in Hamilton) is going to be to play the same game we have all year."

High school athletic body moves junior football to the spring

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The high school sports calendar will be undergoing a change after the National Capital Secondary School Athletic Association decided to move junior football from the fall to the spring.

The decision was actually made in June during a special meeting of high school athletic directors. A dwindling number of referees combined with a relatively short season, made it virtually impossible to conduct a junior and senior football program at the same time.

The biggest issue the athletic directors faced is creating a potential conflict between junior football and junior rugby, as a number of students play both sports.

One possible solution was to switch junior football with junior rugby, but that was voted down namely because a lot more schools play junior rugby. So with the conflict now a reality, many schools have been left having to make a tough decision. Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School has

already decided to drop it's junior football program rather than risk not having enough players to field a team in either sport.

"Twenty-three of the 28 kids who played rugby last spring were on the junior football team," says Eric Kukkonen who coaches both sports at Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "If we had folded the rugby program then rugby would have ceased to exist. You can't pick up rugby in two years and be competitive. You have to start teaching them the sport right from Grade 9 or Grade 10."

Rather than drop their junior football program Ashbury Collegiate is investigating joining the high school league in Gatineau or a private school league.

Kukkonen says the NCSSAA believes the number of schools which will decide to fold their junior football programs will be made up by schools that will field a team who previously didn't do so because they didn't have enough coaches or equipment to field both a junior team and a senior team in the fall.

St. Peter High School is one of the few schools that is going to try and field a junior team in both sports next spring as long as there's enough teams to form a league, which is open to debate.

"I'm not sure there's going to be enough teams," says St. Peter's junior football head coach Bruce Blomeley. "(According to the NCSSAA's guidelines) you need at least eight teams to form a league and I'm not sure we're going to have eight teams."

"We would have preferred to still try and make a go of it in the fall and perhaps play some of our games at night or on the weekend, but that's not what they decided."

The St. Peter Knights have a long and successful history in junior football having made the final in each of the past four years including last year when they won their first title since 2002.

The loss of junior football will benefit the high school junior soccer program which stands alone as the only interscholastic team sport for boys in Grades 9 and 10

Local sports

Penguins sign local prospect to amateur contract

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

It's been an eventful summer for Corey Cowick to say the least. It started out with the 19-year-old Beacon Hill resident getting traded from the Oshawa Generals to the Ottawa 67s. He then played in the provincial Big League baseball championships in Thunder Bay where his team came within a hair of winning it all.

But it was while he was in Thunder Bay that he got a phone call that could change his life for ever. During the competition his mother left him a message to call home.

"She said it was urgent, so I called her from the car and that's when she told me that Pittsburgh had called a bunch of times so I called my agent and he said that the Penguins wanted to offer me an amateur contract," says Cowick, who was passed over by the NHL during the 2006 Entry Draft.

Now 6-foot-2 and 205 lbs., Cowick has started to draw a lot of attention. Besides the Penguins, the Ottawa Senators and Toronto Maple Leafs have also shown an interest in his abilities. But it was the Penguins who called him first.

"I was shocked, then I felt proud and now I just feel a little anxious. I went from playing in a provincial baseball tournament to a

potentially life-changing opportunity," says Cowick.

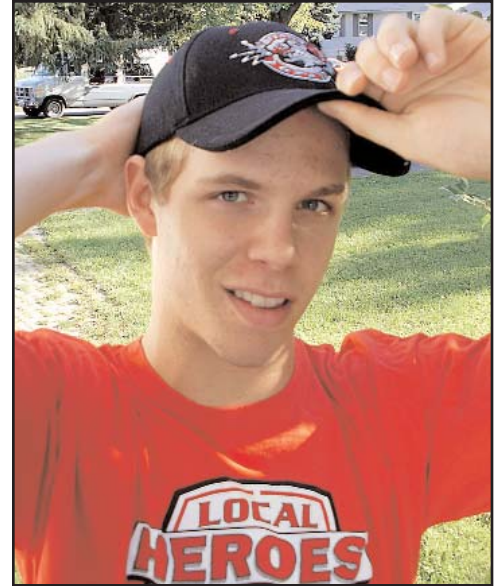
An amateur contract simply means that Pittsburgh now has first dibs on his future services should they choose to offer him a professional contract.

Cowick will leave for Pittsburgh on Sept. 9, where he will get tested and go through a battery of drills. He'll then leave for Kitchener with the rest of the Penguins prospects to attend training camp and participate in a tournament with prospects from the Senators, Leafs and Florida Panthers.

Cowick says he's ready, having worked out all summer in preparation for the 67s training camp which starts at the end of the month.

"I've been working with Peter Twist at the Twist Conditioning Centre. It's been pretty intense. I'm in better shape now than I was all season," says Cowick.

Besides working out, Cowick has been playing pick-up hockey every Sunday at the Ray Friel Complex along with several other local NHL prospects including Claude Giroux, who's expected to crack the Philadelphia Flyers line-up this year; Tim Billingsley, who was drafted by the Phoenix Coyotes and Shawn Lalonde, who was drafted by the Chicago Blackhawks.



Beacon Hill resident Corey Cowick, 19, recently signed an amateur contract with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Fred Sherwin/Photo

"It's funny. Before the draft everyone was wearing their OHL gear and then about two weeks after the draft they all started wearing their NHL gear," says Cowick, who has yet to get any Penguins gear. "Why buy it when I can get it for free? Hopefully, I'll still be wearing it next summer."

Community calendar

FRIDAY, AUG. 22

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER hosted by the Navan Lions Club at the Navan Curling Club at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$15. Proceeds to benefit the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre.

AL VISSER will be performing at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Dinner served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visit <http://www.rcl632.com> for more information.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

CUMBERLAND HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM Visit with tradespeople from the 1920s and 30s. From mill operators to lace makers, find out

how heritage trades played a role in the lives of your ancestors! From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., explore a blacksmith's forge, a working saw-mill, a carpentry shop and the rest of the museum's 28 heritage buildings. Admission adults \$6, student and seniors \$4, family of four \$15. The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum is located at 2940 Old Montreal Rd. in Cumberland Village. Visit www.ottawa.ca/museums for more details.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24

CUMBERLAND HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM Visit with tradespeople from the 1920s and 30s. From mill operators to

lace makers, find out how heritage trades played a role in the lives of your ancestors! From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., explore a blacksmith's forge, a working saw-mill, a carpentry shop and the rest of the museum's 28 heritage buildings. Regular admission applies. The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum is located at 2940 Old Montreal Rd. in Cumberland Village. Visit www.ottawa.ca/museums for more details.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

HOCKEY EQUIPMENT SALE or SWAP from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Navan Arena during the Cumberland Junior Grads try-outs. Over

300 people expected. Rent a table to sell new hockey equipment or related items such as skate sharpening cards, hockey tape, and hockey cards, or take this opportunity to swap or sell used equipment. Only 30 spaces are available. \$20 per table for the day. Contact catrinacurran@rogers.com by Thursday, August 21st to book your tables.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

CORO VIVO AUDITIONS – Sing, laugh and share the love of music with Ottawa's friendliest and most well-organized community choir. Coro Vivo Ottawa, an ambitious, eclectic 70-voice choir, whose repertoire ranges from Brahms to be-bop,

is accepting new members. The choir includes singers from across the region and performs in venues throughout Ottawa. Contact Elaine at 613-744-5629 for more information.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

CUMBERLAND HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM Horses and Friendly Farm Animals – Come see demonstrations by our resident ferrier as he prepares to trim the mare and her foal's hooves. Activities to raise awareness of the role farm animals played in the lives of rural families will be held. Workshops for children. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission applies.