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October 25, 2008

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 7, Issue 34



Six years after their 17-year-old son Dapo Agoro was stabbed to death in a Rideau Street dance club, Abiola and Bashir Agoro finally saw justice served on Friday when a jury upheld the 2003 second degree murder conviction of his killer. See story page 3. Fred Sherwin/Photo

'Incompetence' blamed for 2006 sewage spill

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The worst sewage spill in the city's history was the result of gross negligence and outright incompetence on the part of a handful of senior managers in the city's water and wastewater services department, says the city's auditor general Alain Lalonde in a report tabled on Wednesday.

According to Lalonde, the August 2006 sewage spill that dumped nearly one billion litres of untreated wastewater into

the Ottawa River over a 10 day period was the result "of an almost complete lack of proper preventative maintenance and proactive management of this equipment".

"Once the event had occurred and been corrected, a culture of not understanding the significance of sewage spills took over and the 2006 event was never viewed as noteworthy. It is our opinion that this represents incompetence on the part of the managers involved."

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Latest assessment has minimal impact on local property taxes

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The latest round of property value assessments will have a minimal impact on local property taxes, with most are homeowners likely to see a slight decrease.

City-wide, property values increased by an average of 13.8 per cent since the last reassessment was carried out in 2005.

Under provincial legislation the assessments are supposed to be revenue neutral in any given municipality, which means that 13.8 per cent becomes the baseline.

If the assessment of an individual property increases by less than 13.8 per cent, then the property owner can expect his

or her taxes to go down by a proportional amount.

For instance, if the assessed value of your home went up by 10 per cent and the municipal average is 13.8 per cent, you will see a 3.8 per cent reductions on your property tax bill next year before factoring in a possible municipal tax increase.

Should the city feel compelled to raise taxes 4.8 per cent, your tax bill would increase by one per cent.

In the east end, the property value assessments increased by an average of 12.8 per cent in Innes Ward, 13.4 per cent in Orleans Ward and 12.8 per cent in Beacon Hill-Cyrville Ward, which means that most people living in the east end won't see their taxes increase as a result

of their assessed property values having increased. However, there may be some pockets within each ward where the property assessments outpaced the city average.

The only east end ward where the property values increased by more than 13.8 per cent was in Cumberland Ward where the average increase was 15.16 per cent, but that number can be misleading because of the ward's distinctive rural/urban split.

The assessed value of properties in the urban part of the ward will see increases more in line with the rest of Orleans, under 13.8 per cent. Unfortunately, homeowners in the rural part of the ward will likely see their assessment increase in the neighbourhood of 18 to 20 per

cent which would equate to a four to six per cent tax increase.

The one saving grace for many homeowners facing a potential tax increase is that it will be phased in over a four year period. That's small comfort for rural homeowners who are already upset over having to pay higher taxes since amalgamation without receiving any discernable increase in services.

And Cumberland's rural residents are not alone. Homeowners in all four of the city's rural wards are facing the spectre of a higher tax bill as a result of assessment increases in excess of the city average.

Some rural councillors are already warning the situation will fuel the fire for deamalgamation.

Community briefs

OCRI Entrepreneurship Centre opens in Orléans

ORLEANS — The Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation and the Ontario Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Affairs together with the City of Ottawa officially opened the first satellite office of OCRI's Entrepreneurship Centre in Orléans this week. The satellite office is located on the first floor of the Orléans Client Service Centre on Centrum Blvd. It will be open two days a week and will provide budding entrepreneurs with expertise on creating a business plan, access to information on government regulations, programs and funding sources, and legal, accounting and banking consultations. For office hours call 613-560-6081.

Haunted Barn and Wagon Ride open all week

CUMBERLAND — Area ghost and goblins looking to get into the Hallowe'en spirit need look no further than the Kiwanis Skreamers Haunted Barn and Wagon Ride at the Proulx Farm in Cumberland. The Skreamers Haunted Barn and Wagon Ride will be open for the remainder of the week from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. until Hallowe'en night. Admission is \$10 per person and includes a trip on the wagon ride. Proceeds go to support the Kiwanis Adventure Playground. To get to the Proulx Farm from Orléans, take Innes Road east about 2.5 kilometres past Trim Road and then turn left on O'Toole Road. The farm will be on your right.

Free flut shot clinic open this Monday

ORLEANS — The Ottawa Health Department will be holding a free flu shot clinic at Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School on Tenth Line Road this Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meningococcal C vaccine for youth 12 to 21 years of age will also be available. Please note children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Authorities ask for help in tracking down car flippers

ORLEANS — The Ottawa Police Service is seeking assistance from anyone who might have information regarding a series of cars that have been flipped over by a group or groups of youth in recent weeks. The latest incident occurred on Ridgebrook Crescent in Fallingbrook on Friday Oct. 17 at around 11:30 p.m. Previous incidents occurred in Avalon and at Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School. If you have any information call 1-800-222-8477.

Lack of proper maintenance led to massive sewage spill

> **CONT'D FROM PAGE 1**

The report outlines how senior managers failed in carrying out their duties during the period leading up to the spill and neglected to properly inform their directors about it or the Ministry of Environment.

The cause of the spill can be traced back to amalgamation when there was a change among senior staff in the water and wastewater department. Soon afterwards the frequency of inspections of the city's sewer system was reduced from every week and after significant rainfalls, to once a month and not after rain events.

At the same time, an alarm system that was put in place prior to amalgamation to alert senior staff to a possible malfunction was discontinued because it often resulted in false alarms and was deemed a nuisance.

Because of the change in the frequency of inspections, the sewage spill wasn't detected for 10 days. Lalonde notes that under the old system the spill would have been discovered within 24 hours of the rainfall and therefore the impact would have been greatly reduced.

When asked by Lalonde why the weekly inspections were reduced to once a month, the managers responsible, who have since been fired, cited a lack of resources. But upon further investigation, the Auditor General found that the unit responsible for inspecting the sewer system had a \$1.88 million surplus in 2006 and the water and wastewater division had a \$4 million surplus the same year.

The exact cause of the spill was a malfunctioning regulator in one of the city's five combined stormwater and sanitary sewer lines. Ordinarily the lines flow to the city's water treatment facility at Green's Creek, but during periods of heavy rainfall regulators within the sewers are designed to divert the wastewater to an overflow pipe which discharges into the Ottawa River. Once the critical period

passes, the gates reopen and the wastewater goes on its normal course.

During a period of heavy rainfall from July 31 to Aug. 4 2006, the regulator operated properly and a volume of wastewater was diverted into the Ottawa River, but when the critical period passed, the gate remained in the closed position resulting in the spill.

After the sewage spill occurred, senior management continued to ignore the severity of the incident. They failed to take corrective measures and they neglected to report the incident to the Ministry of Environment which is required under the Ontario Clean Water Act. Their failure to implement corrective measures led to a second major malfunction in May 2007.

When the original spill finally came to light during a tour of the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre last spring by Orléans Coun. Bob Monette and members of the community and local media, council members were told that corrective measures had been taken following the incident when no such measures were taken.

During the tabling of his report on Wednesday, Lalonde went out of his way to tell councillors and members of the media that he believed senior staff had learned their lesson and that the proper measures have been taken to ensure the future integrity of the wastewater system.

That seemed to satisfy the majority of council members including Monette who first alerted his colleagues to the problem.

"I'm pleased that the report went as in depth as it did. Of course there are some things in there that I didn't like, especially the part dealing with the role staff played in the incident. But at the same time I think the message has been heard loud and clear that this can't happen again and that when we ask questions we'll get the right answers," said Monette.

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Second jury finds man guilty in 2002 stabbing of Dapo Agoro

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

A second jury has found Carl Michel Belance guilty of second degree murder in the stabbing death of Blackburn Hamlet teen Oladapo Agoro in a Rideau Street dance club in June 2002.

Belance was originally found guilty of second degree murder in 2003 and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 12 years, but the Ontario Court of Appeal ordered a retrial in 2007 claiming the original trial judge improperly instructed the jury on the issue of provocation and how it might factor into the difference between second degree murder and the lesser charge of manslaughter.

A retrial was originally scheduled for last January, but it was stopped during the first day of testimony when the judge ruled a mistrial after a witness misspoke on the stand.

When the second attempt at a retrial was convened last week, the issue quickly came down to whether or not the jury believed Belance did not intend to kill Agoro and that he stabbed him out of fear for his safety and that of his 16-year-old cousin who had gotten into a confrontation with several of Agoro's friends on the dance floor.

According to the testimony heard by the jurors, Agoro, who was two weeks shy of graduating from high school, was trying to calm the situation down when he was approached by Belance. Not knowing who Belance was, or his relationship to his cousin, Agoro tried to tell him to bud out. As he raised his hands, Belance stabbed him four times in the chest and abdomen and then fled the scene.

Agoro slumped to the floor after lifting his sweater to reveal his wounds. He died an hour later after being rushed to the hospital.

After leaving the club, Belance gave the knife to a friend and told him to get rid of it. He then hung out near the Rideau Centre with a group of friends drinking into the early hours of the morning. He was arrest-

ed the next day and has been in jail ever since.

When the verdict was read out on Friday, Dapo's parents, Bashir and Abiola Agoro, were hit with a tidal wave of emotions. Outside the courtroom, Abiola called their oldest daughter Shola to tell her the news. Their other daughter, Moji, accompanied them to the courthouse.

"I can't tell you how great this feels. It's like a thousand ton weight has been taken off my shoulders," said Abiola.

It's been a long and very difficult two years for the Agoro family which has been in a state of limbo since the new trial was ordered. At first they didn't understand why the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled as it did. Then they had to live with the possibility that Belance might be found guilty on the lesser charge of manslaughter and allowed to leave the courthouse a free man for time served.

Despite assurances from supporters and lawyers prosecuting the case that second degree sentence would stick, the Agoros still had a lingering sense of doubt.

Making the situation even worse, was the prospect of having to sit through a second trial and reliving the final moments of their son's life and the events leading to his death all over again.

"It's like being in a bad dream again," said Bashir Agoro as the verdict began to sink in. "To lose a son is a very difficult thing, especially in such a senseless act, but he died trying to make peace. In the Bible it says, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God'. My son was a peacemaker."

Abiola hasn't been able to sleep properly since the trial began and has been suffering from severe headaches. The worst part about the trial didn't even occur in the courtroom. It came in the form of a headline in one of the local daily newspapers which called into question Dapo's role of peacemaker.

"Why did they do this? Because of the testimony of one witness that said he saw



Six years after their 17-year-old son Dapo Agoro was stabbed to death in a Rideau Street dance club, Abiola and Bashir Agoro finally saw justice served on Friday when a jury upheld the 2003 second degree murder conviction of Carl Michel Belance. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Dapo try to punch Belance? Even Belance testified that Dapo was just putting his arms up to defend himself. It's terrible what they did. Dapo was trying to make peace and he was killed for it," said Abiola.

During both trials, Belance never made eye contact with the Agoros. Even during his testimony on Wednesday, he made sure not to look in their direction.

"He never once looked at us. Even when he was on the stand he showed no remorse. There was nothing," said Abiola. "Thank God, justice prevailed."

In honour of Dapo's memory, his family and several friends recently launched the Dapo Agoro Foundation for Peace which will promote non-violence among youth and conflict resolution. They also created a scholarship in his memory at Lester B. Pearson High School.

10-screen theatre complex planned for Innes and Belcourt

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Moviegoers in Orléans may soon have a state-of-the-art, 10-screen complex to call their own after Empire Theatres recently unveiled plans to build a theatre complex near Innes Road and Belcourt Boulevard.

The 41,000 sq. ft. complex will feature high-back seats in stadium-style seating, digital projection and wall-to-wall curved screens. It will also include an interactive

games zone and party rooms.

Construction could begin as early as this spring with a possible opening date set for next fall, pending approval of the project by city council.

Empire Theatres already owns the Orléans Town Centre Theatre which will be closed once the new complex opens. They also own the World Exchange Plaza Theatre and the Rideau Centre Theatre.

Dean Leland, vice-president of Media

and Studio Relations for Empire Theatres, says the Orléans Town Centre Theatre is out-dated and lacks many of the amenities theatre-goers have come to expect such as high-back seats with extra leg room, state-of-the-art sound and larger screens.

"The new location is in a hot retail corridor," says Leland, noting that the population of Orléans has grown to the point where it can easily support a 10-screen theatre complex.

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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.

Bad news, good news

It's hard to imagine a stronger condemnation of the corporate culture that has existed at City Hall since amalgamation than the words contained in the sewer spill report tabled by city auditor Alain Lalonde this week.

While the report lays the responsibility for the spill squarely at the feet of three senior managers within the Wastewater and Drainage Services Division, there's an undertone that the corporate structure – forged during amalgamation – allowed it to happen.

Despite the magnitude of the spill and the immense damage that has been done to the public trust, there is a silver lining to what happened, especially if you're a supporter of Mayor Larry O'Brien and his efforts to reform the corporate culture at City Hall.

Despite being elected on the promise to change the way the city does business, there was a tremendous push back on the part of many bureaucrats and a number of councillors who were satisfied with the status quo.

Up until now he has been able to make some inroads in trying to reform the city's administration, but the process has proved slow and frustrating for the high tech maverick turned mayor and allies have been hard to come by.

Lalonde's report with its condemnation of the multi-level management structure and the crisis that has resulted from it, should give O'Brien all the ammo he needs to steam ahead with reform and, in fact, it's already taking place with a review of the number of upper and mid-level managers in various departments.

His detractors on council have less and less ground on which to stand on, although Capital Ward Coun. Clive Doucet has already tried to blame the sewage spill on there not being enough employees keeping watch. Fortunately, he is very much in the minority.

The majority of councillors now support Larry O'Brien and staff have heard the message loud and clear. The times they are a changing.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

City auditor's report fails to answer key questions

After reading Alain Lalonde's report on the 2006 sewage spill, otherwise known as "Sewergate", I'm not sure whether I should laugh or cry, or scream my head off.

The degree of incompetence is absolutely mindboggling beginning with the decision to get rid of an alarm system that would have alerted city officials to the spill because it caused too many false alarms and was a nuisance.

That on its own wouldn't have been so bad if not for the fact that they also cut down on the frequency of sewer inspections from once a week and after every rainfall to once a month regardless of whether it rained.

You would think that if you're going to reduce inspections from once a week to once a month you would leave in the part about checking them out after every rainfall. Lalonde notes in his report that if they had kept the policy in place to inspect the sewer system after every rainfall they would have found the problem that caused the sewage spill on the first day.

Further adding to the degree of incompetence is the fact that the regulator gate that malfunctioned was in a serious state of disrepair and the people in charge would likely have known about it which makes the decision to reduce the frequency of inspections even more mindboggling.

When asked by Lalonde why they reduce the number of inspections, the managers, who have since been fired, said it was due to a lack of resources. Lalonde counters that argument by pointing out in his report that the department had a \$1.5 million surplus in 2005 and a \$4 million surplus in 2006.

However, in a statement of claim filed against the city for wrongful dismissal, former program manager for wastewater collection Barrie King claims he made repeated written requests to city officials for additional employees and funding to "properly maintain, repair and inspect the city's sewer system", but they went largely ignored.

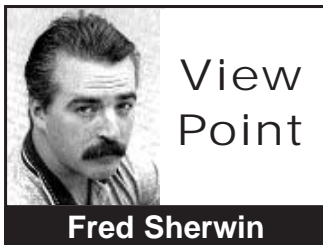
Obviously, the report has fallen short in telling the whole story. The most obvious question that comes to my mind is why on earth would a program manager unilaterally cut inspections to save money when the department was supposedly flush with cash? It doesn't make sense unless the guy was bucking for Employee of the Month.

The other nagging question the report fails to answer is why the former Regional Municipality failed to follow up a 1994 assessment of the regulator gates that indicated a number of structural and mechanical problems with the equipment in question and the gate that ultimately malfunctioned in particular.

Perhaps the answer to these and other questions will be answered during King's wrongful dismissal hearing, if the city doesn't settle out of court first.

The only person who is probably smiling about all this, is Jamie Sabourin. Remember him? He's the Orléans man who got a severe infection in his foot after cleaning out a cut at Petrie Island at the height of the sewage spill. He's currently suing the city for \$1 million.

The city's defence is that, spill or no spill, the beach was closed and anyone going into the water assumed their own risk. In light of Lalonde's damning report they may want to rethink their position and pay the man his money.



View Point

Fred Sherwin



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Orléans wellness practitioner wins excellence award

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Orléans chiropractor and wellness practitioner Dr. Nathalie Beauchamp has been recognized for her efforts in promoting wellness in the community by the Creating Wellness Alliance of which she has been a member for the past two years.

Dr. Beauchamp received the Community Wellness Excellence Award during the Creating Wellness Alliance conference in Chicago last month.

The award is given out annually to the Creating Wellness Alliance member who best demonstrates leadership in communicating the wellness message in their community.

Since launching Orléans only Creating Wellness Centre, Dr. Beauchamp has made a concerted effort to spread the word about the benefits of fitness, nutrition and mental wellness beyond the walls of her practice by organizing Ottawa's first Wellness Expo, the Wellness Walk and Run, corporate wellness programs and a school-aged program for local schools.

She is currently putting the finishing touches on her new book "Wellness on the Go", which she co-authored with Certified

Life Coach, Andréé Benson. Their goal is to share the health and wellness knowledge they've acquired over the years.

Dr. Beauchamp's expertise in fitness, nutrition, lifestyle and wellness includes a degree from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto as a Doctor of Chiropractic, a Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics from the University of Ottawa and certification as a personal trainer.

"I have been living the wellness lifestyle since I was 16 when I began bodybuilding," states Dr. Beauchamp. "I saw the positive role that health and fitness could play in my life. And since then, it has been at the core of every personal and professional milestone I've achieved."

Dr. Beauchamp is tireless in her efforts to help her clients live healthier, longer lives. Many of her clients have achieved incredible success in reaching optimal weight and fitness levels, eating more nutritionally, increasing their energy level and contributing to a healthier community.

Last year she received the 2007 People's Choice Award for "Business of the Year" and "Professional Advisor of the Year" and this year she was named among



Dr. Nathalie Beauchamp recently received the Community Wellness Excellence Award at the Creating Wellness Alliance conference in Chicago. Fred Sherwin/Photo

the Ottawa Business Journal's "Top 40 under 40".

Local business

Wine so good you won't believe you made it yourself

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

If you enjoy drinking fine wine, then you'll love making great wine at Wine Kitz in the Orléans Town Centre where quality and consistency is reflected in every wine they sell.

The friendly and knowledgeable staff at Wine Kitz have been helping area wine lovers make great wines for the past 12 years.

A great amateur wine starts with a great wine product and Wine Kitz has over 60 varieties of wine making kits to choose from. The Sommelier Reserve series includes full-bodied wines such as the Migliore which is a super Tuscan blend of Merlot and Sangiovese wines; their Walnut Grove Symphony and Alsacien Muscat white wines and an Amarone that's become one of the company's most popular wines.

But the best thing about Wine Kitz by far is the ease with which you can make great wine. Simply select the type of wine you want to make, pour the ingredients into a container, stir them together and let the staff and Father Time do the rest.

Most wines take between four and six weeks before they are ready to be bottled, although Wine Kitz sells an accelerator at

an additional cost which condenses the process into one week.

Once the wine is ready, it usually takes between 20 minutes and a half hour to bottle it. The cost of the final product can range between \$3 and \$5 per bottle depending on the type of wine you decide to make.

For those customers who prefer to make their wine at home, Wine Kitz has a complete selection of home wine-making equipment to help get you started.

Wine Kitz uses only the finest ingredients from world-renowned wine growing regions which guarantees an excellent finished product as evident by the 16 Eastern Ontario Amateur Winemaker's Association awards the store has earned over the years.

The company is so confident in their product that they have a 100% satisfaction guaranteed policy. If you are not 100% satisfied with your wine, they will replace it with a wine of equal or lesser value or refund your money altogether.

The store is owned and operated by Leslie Larkin who was a regular Wine Kitz customer before starting the business.

"It's a great business to be involved with because it is one of the few businesses where the customers are almost always in a good mood. For some reason making wine always puts a smile on people's faces,"



Leslie Larkin is the owner/operator of Wine Kitz located in the Orléans Town Centre. Fred Sherwin/Photo says Larkin.

The Orléans Town Centre is located across from the Orléans Client Service Centre at the corner of St. Joseph Blvd. and Prestone Drive.

For more information call 613-841-8397.

Local sports

Local athletes shine at high school X-country championships

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Colonel By Cougars came up 15 points shy in their bid to defend the girls aggregate title at the National Capital cross-country championships on Thursday, but still managed to qualify 13 athletes for next week's provincial championships in Sarnia.

The Cougars finished first in the midget boys and junior girls standings and second in the senior girls rankings.

All told the school will send 13 runners through to the OFSAA meet in Sarnia next week including Sebastien Saville, who finished second in the midget boys race, and Kathryn Tuck and Rachelle Beanlands, who placed first and third respectively in the junior girls event.

Tuck covered the five kilometre junior girls course in 15 minutes and 17 seconds, 19 seconds ahead of Isabelle Kanz from Beatrice Desloges. She made her move on the most imposing feature of the Hornet's Nest layout -- the dreaded Green's Creek toboggan hill.

"I don't like the hill. The hill kills me," said an exhausted Tuck who won the midget girls race last year.

"The hill" didn't slow down Mohamed Souleiman from Louis Riel who won the junior boys race by almost a full minute over Ian Holstead from Colonel By. Not bad considering that he just started running cross country three weeks ago.

"This is my third race on this course and I'm getting very used to it," said Souleiman who is a middle distance track specialist and a member of Louis Riel's junior boys basketball team. Last year he placed fourth in the midget boys 800 metres competing at his first OFSAA meet. His biggest fear on Thursday was the weather.

"When I woke up this morning I thought I was going to freeze to death, but it wasn't

too bad. I had a very good warm up and it was okay during the race," said Souleiman who is looking forward to his first trip to the provincial championships.

The east end's other medalist was Tim Huebsch from Gloucester High School who improved on his fifth place performance in the seniors boys event last year with a silver medal on Thursday.

Both the Colonel By midget boys team of Sebastien Saville (2nd), Angus McLean (9th), Nick Kazaka (15th) and Artem Shlyakhtov (29th), along with the Beatrice Desloges midget boys squad of Yannick Plante (4th), Dylan Smith (16th), Alexandre Chevrette (19th) and Marc-Andre Ferris (30th) qualified for OFSAA, as did the Colonel By junior girls team made up of Tuck, Beanlands, Rachel McPhedran (13th) and Yolande Winegarden (23rd).

Last but not least, Nicole Francki from Sir Wilfrid Laurier qualified for OFSAA in her last attempt after placing fourth in the senior girls race. Ordinarily she would have missed the trip by one placing, but because the second place finisher qualified with her team, Francki got the invite.

Perhaps the most disappointed competitor on Thursday was Colonel By's Lindsay Anderson. The defending senior girls gold medalist placed a distant fifth and would have missed her first OFSAA meet in her final year of high school if not for the ability of herself and teammates Heather Thompson (13th), Anneke Winegarden (21st) and Melissa Love (36th) to place second in the senior girls standings.

The triathlon specialist attributed her poor result to a lack of preparation. Up until school started she focused primarily on improving her swim times. She also stopped training with the Ottawa Lions which doesn't have a triathlon program. To top it all off, she developed tendonitis in her Achilles tendon three weeks ago



Rachelle Beanlands (right), Kathryn Tuck (centre) and Isabelle Kanz swept the first three positions in the junior girls race at the NCSSAA cross-country championships on Thursday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

which severely limited her ability to train.

"It's been a very difficult year. I'm just really frustrated," said Anderson who placed sixth at the national junior triathlon championships in August. "My conditioning is not where it should be and I don't have the mental edge that I've had in the past. I probably should just concentrate on triathlon, but this is my last year and I really want to do cross-country and track."

While Anderson will be going to the OFSAA cross country championships, it's doubtful she'll be able to compete in track. The two biggest triathlon races that will serve as qualifiers for the Canada Summer Games are being held in June, which coincides with the high school track season.

Former St. Matt's standout sets all-time CIS reception record

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Former St. Matthew Tiger Erik Galas is the most prolific receiver in the history of Canadian university football after catching a career best 13 passes for the McGill Redmen last Saturday.

Heading into their meeting with the Montreal Carabines, Galas was 12 catches behind current Saskatchewan Roughrider star Andy Fantuz with two games left to go in the season. Fantuz set the mark as a member of the University of Western Ontario Mustangs in 2005.

Galas tied the mark in the fourth quarter and then broke the record with an 18-yard

reception with a minute left to go in the game. Despite Galas' record-breaking performance, the Redmen lost the game 45-23 and remain winless with an 0-7 record.

"The record is good but it's still a team game and our football program has struggled over the last two years with a lot of injuries," Galas told reporters after the game.

Earlier this season he set all-time school marks for most touchdowns, receptions and yardage by a receiver. He'll be looking to add to all three records this Saturday when he wraps up his CIS career against the number one ranked Laval Rouge et d'Or.

During his time at St. Matthew High School, Galas was a standout on both the football and basketball teams. In fact,



Erik Galas

he was the co-captain of the senior boys basketball team that won the 'AAA' city championship in 2004.

After attending the CFL evaluation camp this year, Galas is hoping to get selected in next year's CFL Draft. At 6-foot-2 and 210 lbs., he's a sizeable target who's difficult to bring down.

Local sports

St. Matt's Tigers roar at Fall Classic Tournament

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the past number of years, the St. Matthew Tigers girls basketball program has been the picture of consistency with both the junior and senior teams finishing at or near the top of the city high school standings.

The junior team has won the last three city championships and five of the last six, while the senior team lost the 'AAA' city championship in overtime last year. Both teams have only lost one game so far this season, so it wasn't surprising that they made it to the finals of the St. Matthew Fall Classic on the weekend.

What was surprising is that Ottawa Xelles, made up almost entirely of Grade 7 and 8 players from St. Matt's, made it to the finals of the Junior Tier 3 division playing against teams made up largely of high school players and very nearly won it all.

The Xelles never trailed Opeongo by more than four points in the final. They were tied 13-13 at the half and only trailed by three at the end of the third quarter. They would get to within two down the stretch, but the tying basket would prove elusive and they ended up losing 28-26. Hannah Underhill led the way with 11 points, while Anna Pakenham contributed 10.

The senior final was a much different story. The Tigers were up against their arch-nemesis Sacred Heart, who they've beaten in the last two junior city championships.

The Huskies got out to an early 14-11 lead thanks to four three-point shots, but

then they went ice cold while the Tigers went on as 10-0 run to take a 21-14 lead at the half.

Sacred Hearts' shooting woes continued in the third quarter. They finally scored midway through the third stanza to narrow the deficit to 10 points at 26-16, but by then it was too little, too late. St. Matt's matched them basket for basket the rest of the way and ended up winning 41-33.

Head coach Rick Despatie was happy with the way the team played, especially on defence.

"We got burned by a couple of three point shots, but then we stepped up and took away the outside shot. I think we're a better team than they are, but they have some very good athletes and if we don't play our best game they can beat us," said Despatie before getting ready to coach the junior team.

After the heroics of the Junior Tier 3 and Senior Premier finals, the Junior Premier final between St. Matt's and Holy Cross Secondary School from Kingston was relatively anti-climatic.

The Tigers trailed Holy Cross by 11 at the half, but were able to narrow the deficit to just six points heading into the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, a combination of bad decisions and a lapse in concentration kept them from closing the gap any further and they ended up losing 46-35.

Despite the frustrating loss in the junior final, Despatie was pleased with the overall play of the three St. Matt's teams.

"We did well, especially our little guys. That was only our fourth game this year



The St. Matthew Tigers senior girls basketball team won the gold medal in the Senior Premier division at the St. Matthew Fall Classic Basketball Tournament last weekend. Fred Sherwin/Photo

and they almost beat a very good high school team," said Despatie. "I thought our senior girls played solid, but the juniors were flat. I knew we were in trouble in the warm up. They didn't warm up well and they weren't ready to play. Playing against a team like Holy Cross you have to bring your A-game and we didn't."

While the junior and senior girls teams get ready to resume their season, the Tigers senior and junior boys teams are practicing for the start of their respective seasons and the upcoming Bill Wren Classic.

Beacon Hill native Corey Cowick makes splash with 67s

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The past four weeks have been an incredible ride for Beacon Hill native Corey Cowick.

Heading into this weekend's action he's scored 10 goals and added two assists for the Ottawa 67s playing on the team's top line with Logan Couture.

The 19-year-old Gloucester Minor Hockey product credits a stint at the Pittsburgh Penguins training camp with giving him the confidence and motivation to play at the top of his game.

"It was like a big tease. That's the best analogy I can use," says Cowick who is still draft eligible after being passed over the last two years. "Knowing that I'm that close just makes me want to work even harder."

Cowick was traded to the 67s in July after spending the last two seasons with the Oshawa Generals. After a somewhat shaky rookie season in which he only scored four goals and four assists in 76 games including the playoffs, he scored 11 goals and 14 assists in 63 regular season games last year.

His production impressed the Pittsburgh Penguins enough to earn him an invitation to their rookie camp where he got a small taste of the show. He ended up playing in two prospect games against Florida and Ottawa in Kitchener before returning to the 67s.

Cowick says the biggest difference between an OHL training camp and an NHL camp is the attention paid to learning a teams systems.

"In the 'O' they work on developing skills more than anything. In Pittsburgh it was all about systems. They already assume you can skate and shoot the puck," says Cowick.

The highlight of the whole experience was putting on the Penguins Reebok game jersey before the prospect game against the Panthers.

"It was the white road jersey. It was very very nice. It was the best looking jersey I've ever worn," says Cowick.

Now back in Ottawa and with 13 games already under his belt, Cowick is looking forward to a productive season. The 67s are

7-6 and currently sit in second place in the East Division.

Making the whole experience even more special is the fact that it's Brian Kilrea's final year behind the bench.

"Being from Ottawa and having grown up following the 67s, it's huge. To be part of his last year is a big deal. I'm sure it's special to the other guys too, but it's extra special to me," says Cowick.

As for the season ahead, Cowick says the team's goal is to go all the way. As for his own ambition, he believes that if he works hard and continues to be productive, the scouts will take notice. And who knows, maybe the third draft will be the charm.

"I just want to make my agent's job as easy as possible," says Cowick. "Hopefully I'll have a good year and we'll see that happens from there."



Corey Cowick

Local sports

Grads centre selected to play in World Hockey Challenge

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Cumberland Grads centre David Pacan has never played in an international tournament in his life, but that is about to change in a big way after the 17-year-old centre was selected to play for Team Canada East in the upcoming World Junior "A" Hockey Challenge in Camrose, Alberta.

The annual tournament, which was started in 2006, brings together the best Tier II junior hockey players from Russia, Slovakia, Germany, the U.S. and Canada which ices two teams – one from Eastern Canada and one from Western Canada.

The two Canadian teams have faced each other in the first gold medal games with Team Canada West winning both times. Cumberland Grads' GM and head coach Mark Grady was an assistant coach on Team Canada East last year. This year he's been promoted to the head job.

The team itself draws upon players from the Maritimes, Quebec, Eastern Ontario and Southern Ontario. The first two teams had a disproportionate number of players from the Ontario Junior A Hockey League, which is based in Southern Ontario. In fact, last year's team only had one player from the CJHL on it.

With Grady taking over behind the bench this year, players from the CJHL had a better chance of making the team mainly

because he's more familiar with them than players from the other leagues.

As a result, six CJHL players made the team besides Pacan starting with the league's leading scorer Jacob Laliberte from the Hawkesbury Hawks. The others are Zachary Hervato and Dustin Darou from the Smiths Falls Bears; and Ben Sexton, Jeremy Price and Scott Dawson from the Nepean Raiders.

As for why he chose Pacan, Grady said he selected him purely based on his ability.

"Why did I select him? Because he's rated 72nd in North America by NHL Central Scouting and he's had six NHL scouts come to take a look at him so far this season. He's 17-years-old and he's my second leading scorer on my top line," said Grady.

Pacan can hardly wait to prove that his head coach made the right decision. With less than two weeks to go before the start of the tournament, he's understandably excited about what lies in store for both himself and Team Canada East.

"I'm very excited. I can hardly wait to get out there," Pacan said after the Grads recent win over the Kemptville 73s. "I thought I had a very strong camp. Coach Grady just told to do the same things that I'm doing here over there. "I can play well at both ends of the ice and I can be counted on in key situations."



Cumberland Grads' centre David Pacan has been selected to play on Team Canada East at the upcoming World Junior 'A' Hockey Challenge. Fred Sherwin/Photo

So far this season, Pacan has scored seven goals and added 10 assists in 15 games. He's scored three power play goals, one short-handed goal and one game winning goal.

Grads pad lead with overtime win over Brockville

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Cumberland Grads have solidified their position atop the Robinson Division standings thanks to a hard fought 3-2 overtime win over the Brockville Braves on Tuesday.

The Grads held a tenuous one point lead over the Cornwall Colts and the Ottawa Jr. Senators heading into the contest which marked the second time the two teams faced each other this season. The Grads won the first meeting 4-2 in Brockville.

Marc-Andre Labelle led the way offensively for the Grads with a pair of goals including the game winner in overtime, but it was goaltender Adam Laderoute who earned the first star honours. The veteran netminder was especially sharp in the early going while his teammates were still trying to find their legs.

Both Laderoute and Braves' starting netminder Clarke Saunders saw plenty of rubber in the first period with the two teams combining for 32 shots. The only shot that got through came off Labelle's stick during the second of two power play opportunities the Grads were awarded in the opening stanza.

The Grads continued to assert themselves in the second period. David Pacan and Jeffrey Clarke both had a chance to score on a 2-on-1 break at the three minute

mark. The sustained pressure eventually resulted in a goal by Brent Bisdee who was set up perfectly on the play by linemate Tim Hennessey.

The Braves responded with an excellent scoring chance of their own a couple of seconds later, but Laderoute came up with another superb save on a backdoor pass from Alex Boak to Shayne Stockton.

Pacan and Clarke came within an eyelash of scoring on a 2-on-0 break at the 6:17 mark of the second period, but Saunders managed to get his skate on the shot. Unfortunately, he appeared to injure his knee in the process and had to be replaced by 16-year-old backup Matt Jenkins.

The Braves finally got on the board midway through the second stanza when Mike Byrd spun and fired a shot at the net from the right faceoff circle that Mark Williamson redirected past Laderoute.

A roughing penalty against the Braves 24 seconds later would give the Grads the perfect opportunity to re-establish a two goal lead. Instead, a turnover in the neutral zone led to shorthanded opportunity for Brockville. Although the Braves didn't score on the play, they did draw a pair of penalties that resulted in their getting a two man advantage for 40 seconds.

With 15 seconds left in the 5-on-3, Kyle Cromie fired a shot from the high slot that

Laderoute managed to stop, but the rebound came right to Stockton who roofed it into the top of the net.

With a little over three minutes left in the period, Chris Murphy intercepted a pass in the neutral zone and immediately turned on the jets. As he bore down on Jenkins, the young goalie kicked out his left leg and knocked the post off its mooring just as Murphy flipped the puck over his pad.

After a short conference with the goal judge, the referee signaled the goal was good which launched Braves coach Todd Gill into a tirade. Despite his heated objections, the goal stood and play continued.

Down by a goal, the Braves come out flying in the third period. The Grads did their best to keep Brockville at bay until the final minute of the game when they pulled Jenkins for an extra attacker and scored with just 17 seconds left on the clock.

Both teams tightened things up in overtime, with the Braves managing to get just one shot on goal. The Grads only generated one shot on net as well, but it was the only one they needed.

After a lacklustre effort against Kemptville on Sunday, Grads' head coach Mark Grady was happy to see his team play a much more up tempo game.

The Grads will look to further pad their lead when they host the Gloucester Rangers on Sunday. Game time is 3 p.m.

Local sports

Mosquito Bengals given rough ride by revved up Raiders

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

In what was supposed to be highly competitive game between two closely matched teams last weekend, the Mews Orleans Bengals got trounced 66-38 by an explosive Gloucester South Raiders squad.

Things started out promisingly enough for the Bengals who scored on the second play of the game when Keenan Pierre sprinted 50 yards down the left sideline to give his team an early 6-0 lead. Unfortunately, Nick De Lallo's two point convert attempt hit the crossbar. It would end up being a foreshadowing of things to come.

Unfazed by how quickly the Bengals scored, the Raiders came right back with a 35-yard touchdown run of their own three plays later, but their two point convert attempt was blocked by Martin Prouse which left the score tied at 6-6.

After the Bengals failed to pick up a first down on their next series, the Raiders struck again, capping a 47 yard drive with a 20-yard run by Lascelles Lawrence. This time the two-point convert was good and the Bengals took a 14-6 lead.

Five plays later, the Bengals answered back with a 29-yard touchdown run from Pierre, but as fate would have it De Lallo's two point convert attempt once again hit the crossbar to leave them trailing 14-12 at the end of one quarter of football.

As the second quarter began, the Bengals defence forced a turnover near midfield. After Graham McArthur carried the ball down to the one yard line, Michael

O'Connor took it in on a quarterback keeper to give the Bengals a four point at 18-14.

The ensuing kick-off went right into the hands of Raiders' kick returner Drew Smyth who rumbled 35 yards down field to give Gloucester South a first down on the Bengals' 33 yard line. Three plays later Justin Poitras found Paul Tamer in the end zone on a play action pass to regain the lead for the Raiders.

Things went steadily downhill for the Bengals from there. After they failed to pick up a first down on their next series, Lawrence scored his third touchdown of the game on the Raiders' first play from scrimmage to put Gloucester South up 28-18.

They would score again on a 49-yard run by Dimitri Vaillancourt-Veilleux in the waning moments of the second quarter to take a 36-18 halftime lead.

The second half went pretty much like the first with the Raiders seemingly able to score at will, while the Bengals did their best to play catch up. The final score was 66-38.

Bengals' head coach Dennis Prouse knows his team is going to play a lot better defensively if they want to advance past this weekend's quarterfinals.

"We probably gave them too much to think about defensively, so we're just going to simplify things for our kids and make their lives a lot easier," said Prouse, who also wants to work on the club's special teams play during the next couple of practices. "We gave up too many long returns. You can't do that, especially against a team



Orleans Bengals running back Keenan Pierre outruns a would-be Gloucester South tackler on his way to scoring the Bengals first touchdown on Sunday. Rachele Ferron/Photo

like the Raiders."

The Bengals will start their playoff run against the Bell Warriors at Bell High School on Sunday. A win would put them in the A-Cup semi-finals, while a loss would drop them down to the B-Cup playoffs.

The Bengals bantam team will host the Myers Riders in this weekend's quarterfinals, while the peewee team will travel to the west end to face the Riders. Last, but not least, the tyke team will travel to Brockville to take on the Buccaneers.

Undefeated Knights set sights on gridiron championship

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The St. Peter Knights senior boys football team put the finishing touches on a perfect regular season on Thursday, downing the Glebe Gryphons 36-14 to improve their record to 6-0.

The Knights didn't waste anytime getting on the scoreboard. On their very first play from scrimmage, Parker Morrison burst through the line and sprinted 68 yards down field for St. Pete's first major score.

The Gryphons responded with a touchdown pass from Seamus McGill to Nick Pawlak and then successfully completed the two point conversion to take an 8-6 lead into the second quarter.

A 37-yard pass from Alex Skinner to Nick Wakim would put the Knights back in front 14-8. They then increased their lead to 21-8 on a 12-yard pass from Skinner to Matt Magee.

Magee struck again early in the third quarter, returning a punt back 40 yards to put the Knights in front 27-8.

Desperate to get back into the game, the Gryphons went to the air and moved the ball down to the one yard line on a pair of

long pass completions. On first and goal from the one, the Gryphons went play action and McGill was able to toss the ball to a wide open Pawlak in the end zone.

After missing the extra point they still trailed the Knights 27-14 with one quarter of football left to play.

On the ensuing kickoff, one of Glebe's coverage men broke his left tibia and had to be taken to the hospital. After a 45-minute delay, play resumed with the Knights taking over possession on the Gryphons' 40 yard line. On first down, Skinner handed the ball off to Wakim on a routine run up the middle that he broke for a 40-yard gain for his second touchdown of the game.

Subbing for injured place kicker Ryan Begin, Wakim nailed a 15-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter to make the final score 38-14.

By finishing in first place, the Knights get a bye through to the semi-finals where they will face the winner of the quarterfinal match-up between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Lancers and the St. Joseph Jaguars. The other quarterfinal will feature the losing team in Friday night's second place showdown between St. Mark and South Carleton



St. Peter Knights wide receiver Matt Magee fights off a defender during third quarter action in their 38-14 win over the Glebe Gryphons on Thursday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

and Glebe. If the quarterfinal goes according to form, the Lions and the Storm will face each other again in the semifinals.

Artscetera

Bus packages now available to Ottawa Little Theatre

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Ottawa Little Theatre is making it easier for people in the far east end to enjoy their productions.

Starting Nov. 7, residents in Navan will be able to pay \$25 for a ticket to the OLT's latest production as well as transportation to and from the theatre.

The bus packages are being organized by Navan resident John Muggleton and J.T. Bradley's Country Convenience Store owner John Bradley.

The idea is similar to the bus packages being offered to Ottawa Senator games by places like Local Heroes.

Muggleton says the packages are perfect for people who want to go to see live theatre, but don't want to be bothered with having to drive downtown and pay a surcharge for parking – assuming they can find a spot.

"It makes the whole thing very convenient," says Muggleton. "We did our first package a couple of weeks ago and everybody loved it. We even stopped at Tim Horton's on the way back."

While there are no current are no plans to pick up people in Orléans, Muggleton says a

stop can easily be added at Sobey's on Trim Road, or the Cumberland Market shopping centre at Tenth Line and Innes, if there is a demand.

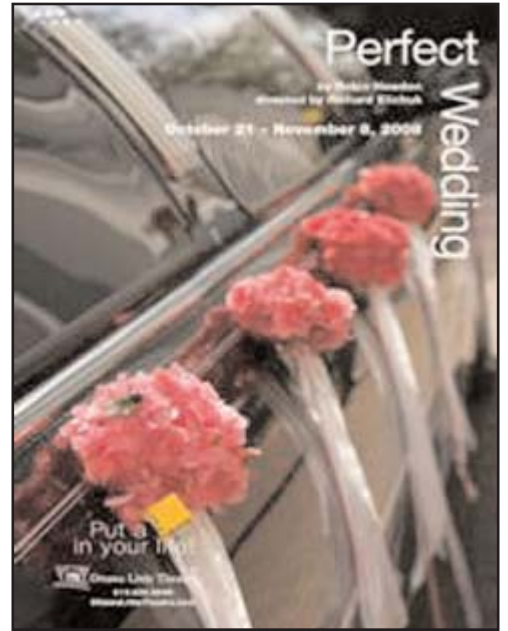
"Absolutely, if there's enough interest we can definitely work in an extra stop," says Muggleton who can be reached at 613-233-8948 ext. 258.

The Ottawa Little Theatre has a number of comedic plays among their upcoming productions starting with *Perfect Wedding*, a romantic farse by Robin Hawdon, which runs until Nov. 8.

On the morning of his nuptials, a groom wakes up in the bridal suite to find a strange girl beside him. But before he can react, his bride-to-be arrives to dress for the big day and mayhem ensues.

The bus package for *Perfect Wedding* is on Friday, Nov. 7. The bus departs from J.T. Bradley's at 7 p.m.

Other packages include *The Constant Wife*, billed as a comedy of by W. Somerset Mougham, on Dec. 12; *Over My Dead Body* on Feb. 6; *Wrong Turn At Lung Fish* on March 13; *London Suite* on April 17; *Snake In The Grass* on May 22 and *The Affections of May* on June 26.



Residents living in the far east end can now purchase bus packages to upcoming Ottawa Little Theatre productions. Photo supplied

To reserve tickets call 613-835-3781. Reservations must be made at least one day in advance.

Community calendar

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

WINEFEST 2008 – Enjoy a pleasant evening listening to ensemble music and viewing art displays while you sip on a glass of wine. This year's tasting is sponsored by the Anglican Parish of St Mary the Virgin and will be held at the Louis Riel High School. For \$25 you will enjoy a guided tasting of six different Rosehall Run wines. Event runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. To order your tickets in advance call 590-0677.

GUIDED HALLOWE'EN TOUR at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum in Cumberland Village from Oct. 25 to Oct. 31. Where your scarriest custome as you're taken on a guided tour of the museum's 28 heritage buildings and learn all about their resident ghosts. Regular admission applies. Call 613-833-3059 to reserve your tour.

SKREAMERS HAUNTED BARN AND WAGON RIDE at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Rd. Open from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission \$10 including the wagon ride. To get to the Proulx Farm take Innes Road east past Trim Road. O'Toole Road will be on your left about 700 metres past Frank Kenny. For more information visit www.skreamers.ca.

SUNDAY BRUNCH at the Bearbrook Resort. Menu includes game meat as well as regular breakfast items, special salads and deserts. Seatings at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Cost is \$18.69 plus taxes for adults and \$9.35 plus taxes for children 4 to 14. Children under four eat for free. By reservations only. Call 613-835-2227.

CUMBERLAND GRADS VS GLOUCESTER RANGERS – Game

time 3 p.m. at the Navan Memorial Arena. Admission: adults \$10, students and seniors \$7, children 11 and under \$2.

SKREAMERS HAUNTED BARN AND WAGON RIDE at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Rd. Open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission \$10 including the wagon ride. To get to the Proulx Farm take Innes Road east past Trim Road. O'Toole Road will be on your left about 700 metres past Frank Kenny. For more information visit www.skreamers.ca.

FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School on Tenth Line Road from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meningococcal C vaccine for youth 12 to 21 years of age will be also be available. Please note children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

SKREAMERS HAUNTED BARN AND WAGON RIDE at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Rd. Open from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission \$10 including the wagon ride. To get to the Proulx Farm take Innes Road east past Trim Road. O'Toole Road will be on your left about 700 metres past Frank Kenny. For more information visit www.skreamers.ca.

ORLEANS YOUNG PLAYERS AGM at 7:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Orleans Young Players Theatre School, 261 Tompkins Ave.

THE GLOUCESTER EMERGENCY FOOD CUPOBOARD is currently holding their largest fundraising campaign of the year. They need people who are willing to donate a couple of hours and drop letters into mailboxes in Orléans North, Convent

Glen and Chapel Hill areas. All you need to do is simply come to the food cupboard on Arrowsmith Drive, pick up a route and deliver the letters whenever you can; evenings, week-ends, days, whenever, preferably before the end of October. If you can lend a hand call 613-749-4728.

THE BYTOWN BEAT SWEET ADELINE CHORUS invites you to come and join them Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. For more information call 613-837-9812.

THE ORLEANS-CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE has organized a Clothing and Furniture Distribution Centre for financially challenged families in Orléans and Cumberland. To donate items or have access to the centre call Tracy at 613-830-4357.

GENERAL NOTICES