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Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 7, Issue 31



Liberal candidate Marc Godbout and NDP hopeful Amy O'Dell keep a close eye on Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau as he answers a question during Monday night's debate in Ottawa-Orléans. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## All-candidates debate focuses on the issues

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Voters in Ottawa-Orléans got their one and only chance to see all four local candidates on the same stage together Monday night during an all-candidates debate at the Orléans Client Service Centre.

The meeting began with each candidate giving a short introduction speech. They then took questions from the floor which ranged from whether or not they support a bridge at Kettle Island to what they would do to improve health

care services in Orléans.

Before long the debate turned into a sniping match between former Liberal MP Marc Godbout and the man who beat him in the last election, Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau, with NDP candidate Amy O'Dell getting in the odd jab. The only candidate who didn't take an adversarial approach to the meeting was Green Party candidate Paul Maillet who did an excellent job in sticking to his party's platform.

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

## East end bridge debate starting to get nasty

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The battle over where to build an interprovincial crossing in the east end is beginning to reach the boiling point as residents in Manor Park mount an all out offensive against a consultants' recommendation to build it at Kettle Island.

Hundreds of Manor Park residents packed the Salons at the Ottawa Civic Centre on Sept. 24 to give lead consultant Steve Taylor a piece of their mind.

Sporting buttons that read "Kettle Island – NO bridge", the residents whistled and jeered as Taylor tried to explain the process which led consultants to recommend Kettle Island be the only location brought forward to the second phase of the study

which will include a complete Environmental Assessment.

Among the points Taylor listed was the fact that the Kettle Island corridor was the only location which wouldn't require the expropriation of existing homes. He also noted that the Aviation Parkway is substantially setback from the surrounding homes and that it has a number of existing access and exit points.

The Manor Park crowd, however, weren't hearing any of it. They argued the bridge would destroy the residential character of their neighbourhood by turning the Aviation Parkway into a four-lane turn highway with over 2,000 trucks driving along it every day. They also raised concerns about the impact the

traffic and noise would have on the Montfort Hospital.

The fight against Kettle Island is being led by Ottawa-Vanier MP Mauril Belanger, MPP Madeleine Meilleur and city councillor Jacques Legendre. At the very least they want Lower Duck Island, which was ranked second on the list of six east end sites, to be advanced to the second phase along with Kettle Island so the city and other levels of government can make an educated decision on where the future bridge should go.

The three politicians are facing an uphill battle, however, the City of Ottawa has already passed a motion calling on the bridge to be built at Kettle Island and both Ottawa-Orléans incumbent Royal Galipeau and Liberal

candidate Marc Godbout support the site as well.

The new bridge would allow the city to reroute truck traffic from King Edward Ave., which currently uses the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge, and get it out of the city core.

A second round of public meetings will be held on both sides of river likely in January. Out of those meeting, approval will be sought from both the Ontario and Quebec provincial governments and the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau to proceed with Phase 2.

Anyone of those agencies could ask that one or more alternative be included in Phase 2, however, such a move would come with an additional cost which would have to be shared.

## Community briefs

### People's Choice Business Awards now open

**ORLÉANS** — The Orleans Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominees for the 7th Annual People's Choice Business Awards which will be held on Nov. 19 at the Orléans Client Service Centre. Residents can nominate their favourite business or business person in 11 different categories including Family Business of the Year, Young Business Person of the Year and New Business of the Year. All they have to do is simply visit [www.orleanschamber.ca](http://www.orleanschamber.ca) and follow the instructions. Past Business Person of the Year recipients have included Judith Cane, Natalie Beauchamp, Fred Sherwin and Adel Azzi, better known as the Garlic King.

### Place d'Orléans job fair on this weekend

**ORLEANS** — The Place d'Orléans shopping centre is holding a job fair this weekend for prospective employees. Applications and resumes will be accepted in front of participating stores during regular mall hours. Place d'Orléans has over 40 different retail outlets many of which are looking to replace students who have returned to school. The mall is open Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Orléans sprinter named to Commonwealth Youth team

**ORLEANS** — Orléans sprinter Segun Makinde will have to miss school for two weeks in October, but he has a compelling reason, the 17-year-old Grade 12 student at Colonel By Secondary School will be competing for Canada at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India. Makinde was selected to the 59-member team today along with two other Ottawa-area athletes; Qiang Shen of Nepean in table tennis and Ilya Abelev of Ottawa in freestyle wrestling. Makinde is coming off an incredibly successful season in which he set a new Canadian youth record in the 200 metres of 20.43 seconds at the National Youth Championships in August. He also had the second fastest time at 100-metres and placed second in the 110-metre hurdles in the same meet. The Commonwealth Youth Games will be the second time Makinde will compete internationally. He made it to the semi-finals at the World Youth Championships in the Czech Republic last summer. Makinde is hoping the Commonwealth Youth Games are just another step in his development on the road to the 2010 World Junior Championships in Moncton and possibly the 2012 or 2016 Summer Olympics.

## Local candidates defend positions during debate

> **CONT'D FROM PAGE 1**

The tone of the meeting was set during the opening speeches when Godbout accused Galipeau of doing nothing while in office. In particular, he claimed Galipeau had failed in bringing jobs to Orléans bringing up the MP's remark to the Le Droit newspaper two years ago that if residents want federal jobs in Orléans they should vote Liberal.

"Mr. Galipeau, that's one thing we can agree on," Godbout said before bringing up the Conservative decision to move the RCMP headquarters to the old JDS Uni-phase campus in Barrhaven. "Where were you when they decided to move the RCMP headquarters to Barrhaven without even consulting anyone? You rolled over and agreed without a fight."

Godbout also went after Galipeau for not securing federal money for the Shenkman Arts Centre and refusing to work with Team Ottawa-Orléans, a local social and economic development organization which he helped establish while in office from 2004 to 2006.

For his part, Galipeau did his best to defend himself in front of a mainly hostile audience. On the issue of the Shenkman Arts Centre which will be completed next spring, he said that he has not been formally asked for a contribution.

"An amount has not been asked of me, but it will be considered within the existing programs of the Government of Canada. One thing is for certain, I'll be able to help a lot more sitting where I am as opposed to where he will be sitting," said Galipeau, touching upon a common theme of his campaign that the riding would be better off with an MP in the Government rather than in the Opposition.

Galipeau's strained relationship with Team Ottawa-Orléans was a touchy subject as well, with the incumbent MP accusing the organization's leadership of being partisan.

When Team Ottawa-Orléans president Doug Feltmate reminded him that the organization counted former Conservative candidate Walter Robinson as a director and two former NDP candidates and a former Green Party candidate as members, Galipeau softened his stance somewhat, saying that he would be willing to give the group a second chance.

"I tried to turn the page after the last election and I will try to turn the page again on Oct. 15, but I won't turn the page a third time," said Galipeau.

Both men did agree on a couple of issues. They agreed that the inter-provincial bridge should be built at Kettle Island and they agreed that light rail should be brought out to Trim Road sooner rather than later.

Amy O'Dell drew the loudest applause of the evening when the topic turned to Stephen Harper's recent comments that the arts was a "niche" issue.

"Frankly, I found Mr. Harper's comments bewildering. If he's convinced the arts is a niche issue then he should stop using music in his campaign," the NDP candidate said.

Galipeau then reminded the audience that the federal government already spends \$3.5 billion on arts and culture. "That's not fringe, that's serious money," he said.

Paul Maillet scored on several points including the importance of having more civil servants working from their homes to cut down on traffic and pollution.

He also joined O'Dell in voicing their respective parties' opposition to the mission in Afghanistan.

Stating that there was no clear opportunity for success, O'Dell said the troops should be withdrawn immediately and the money that would be saved should be used to support veterans and their families. Meanwhile, Maillet said Canada is little more than a third party in a two party conflict and that the situation is a humanitarian disaster.

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# Orléans Oktoberfest event victim of chilly weather

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

It's never easy organizing outdoor events in Orléans. At best it's a crap shoot. At worst you end up with weather like we had last weekend for the third annual Orléans Oktoberfest celebration – cold, wet and miserable.

While the conditions Friday night were pleasant enough for the opening ceremonies and traditional tapping of the keg, they deteriorated drastically on Saturday which is normally the busiest day of the three day event.

With the temperature barely in the teens and a steady drizzle falling for most of the evening, attendance was down as were the beer sales, but on a positive note the bratwurst and steaming sauerkraut sold like hot cakes.

Those people who did show up were entertained by the Der Shupplattlers Bavarian dance troupe and the Wanderers oompah band which did its best to get everyone out of their seats and on the dance floor.

Earlier in the afternoon, a number of kids took advantage of the Kinderfest play area which featured several attractions including mini-putt, face painting and crafts.

On Sunday, close to 100 people showed up for the free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Cumberland Arms.

Despite the less than ideal conditions and low turnout, organizer Robert Paiement focused on the positives including the many food items that were collected for the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre's Emergency Food Program in lieu of admission.

"I saw a number of tables mixing and that's what it's all about. It's all about getting to know your neighbours while raising tons of food for the food bank," said Paiement who promises the event will be back again next year.

The Orléans Oktoberfest celebration is organized by Team Ottawa-Orléans, a non-profit organization focused on promoting the social and economic development of the local community.



Members of the Der Shupplattlers dance troupe perform during the Orléans Oktoberfest celebration last weekend. Fred Sherwin/photo

# Hallowe'en attraction adds spooky wagon ride

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

With October now upon us and Hallowe'en lurking just around the corner, volunteers with the Kiwanis Club of Orléans have been busy putting the finishing touches on the Skreamers Haunted Barn at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Road.

Last year over 2,000 people braved the experience, which has a terrifying surprise lurking around every corner.

There's the Crazy Kitchen, the Autopsy Room, the Mortuary, the Meat Shop where the meat is sold "Dead or Alive", and the electric chair. All told there are 20 different stations in all, manned by a small army of student volunteers.

Many of the special effects like the electric chair and the guillotine are the brain-child of Kiwanis Club member Mitch Miller. His partner in terror in terror is his wife Kris Bangs who spends a good deal of her free time disfiguring mannequin heads and turning ordinary chunks of styrofoam into intestines, brain tissue and other unpleasant things.

Overseeing it all is fellow Kiwanian Harley Bloom who promises this year's haunted barn will be more terrifying than ever.

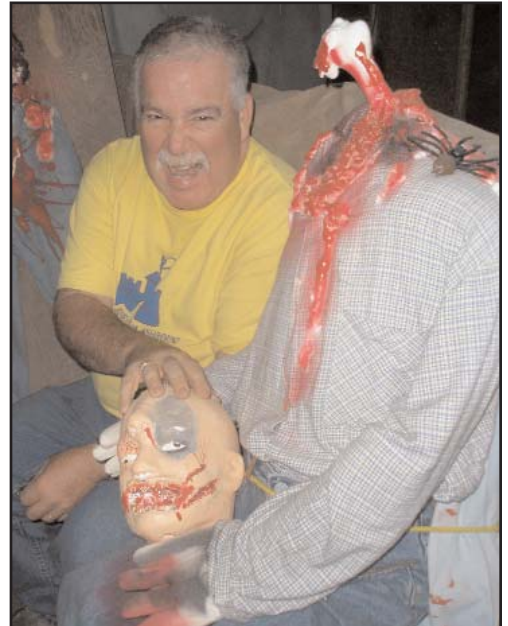
"We have a few extra things this year to keep the terror level up there," says Bloom who puts a lot of effort into changing things up every year to keep people on their toes and their hearts in their throats.

Perhaps the improvement this year is the addition of a haunted wagon ride through the nearby woods.

"It's something that we wanted to do last year, but we just didn't have time," says Bloom, who promises visitors will be taken on the ride of their lives – literally. And best of all, the wagon ride will be included in the same \$10 admission price as the haunted barn.

Early birds can check out the wagon ride and haunted house during a special preview night this Saturday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and take advantage of the special 2-for-1 admission price. All proceeds go towards the development and expansion of the Kiwanis Adventure Park.

After Oct. 4, the Skreamers Haunted Barn and Wagon Ride will be open during the weekends of Oct. 10-12 and Oct. 17-19 and from Oct. 24 through until Hallowe'en night. The hours of operation are 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8 pm. on Sundays and 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the other days of the week.



Harley Bloom is one of the architects of the Skreamers Haunted Barn and Wagon Ride at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Road. Fred Sherwin/Photo

To get to the Proulx Farm take Innes Rd. east past Trim Rd. O'Toole Rd. will be on your lefthand side about 700 metres past Frank Kenny Rd. For more information visit [www.skreamers.ca](http://www.skreamers.ca).



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# Liberal hopeful Godbout unveils campaign platform

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa-Orléans Liberal candidate Marc Godbout laid out his campaign platform last Friday and the common theme was rebuilding community partnerships.

The former MP was defeated by Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau in the last election after serving two years as a member of the Liberal minority government.

If he successfully regains the seat, Godbout says he will revitalize Team Ottawa-Orléans, a social development group he helped launch with Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely. He would also bring a Service Canada Centre to Orléans which he received a commitment for as MP, but was scrapped by the Conservatives after they won the last election.

"I will continue to fight against a bridge at Petrie Island," Galipeau said. "People ask me, 'Well, where would you build it?', and I tell them I don't mind where they build it as long as it's not at Petrie Island."

The would-be MP also clarified his position on light rail and the city's proposed new Transportation Master Plan, which he has come under fire for from local city councillors.

"I want to ensure that any transportation plan includes light rail to Trim Road. Building it to Blair Road is a start, but I

don't want to die and not have light rail coming to Trim Road until 2050," said Godbout. "We have the highest ridership in Ottawa, why should we have to wait for light rail?"

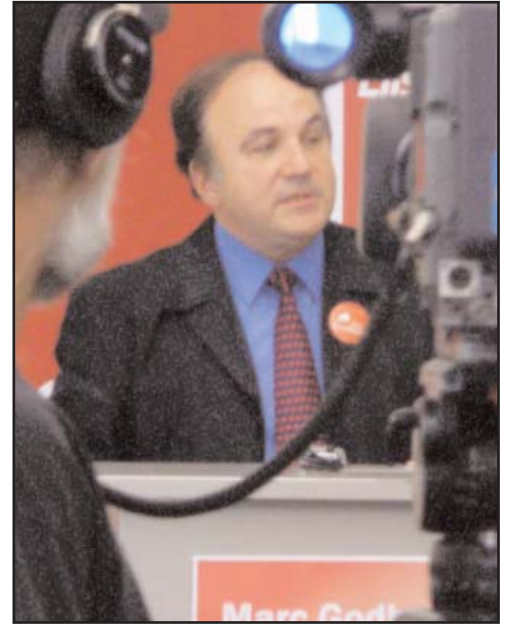
Touching on the Liberal's plan to reinstate the National Day Care program, Godbout said that he will fight to bring the 500 to 600 spaces the east end would have realized under the program before the Conservatives scrapped it. He also reassured voters that the Liberals would not cut the child care tax credit the Conservatives brought in.

But Godbout's highest priority, if elected, will be to try and bring federal jobs to Orléans.

"They give crumbs to Orléans while the big projects go to John Baird and Pierre Poilievre. My opponent has said that if the people want federal jobs in Orléans then they should vote Liberal, well I couldn't agree with him more," said Godbout.

He went on to make a number of commitments starting with a promise to contribute \$2.5 million to the Shenkman Arts Centre Endowment Fund. He would push to secure funding for a local women's shelter and a multicultural centre, and he would resurrect plans to build an academic athletic complex in the east end.

He would also support the development of an eco-park, either at Petrie Island or in



Local Liberal candidate Marc Godbout faces the cameras as he unveils his campaign platform last Friday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

the Mer Bleue Conservation Area, and he would work to establish a Cancer Prevention Centre in Orléans.

"That's my plan. That's what I'm running on," said Godbout. "Now, I am asking for my community's support. With their vote, we can forge ahead with a clear vision (for Ottawa-Orléans)."

# Galipeau takes time-out to mark Maple Leaf Day

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa-Orléans MP Royal Galipeau took time out from his busy election schedule last Friday to mark National Maple Leaf Day by dedicating a tree to former City of Ottawa forester Craig Huff who passed away earlier this year.

Galipeau was joined by three young members of the 4th Orléans Scout Troop, as well as officials from Tree Canada and the City of Ottawa forestry department in dedicating the tree in Scala Park.

Huff was instrumental in developing and implementing the city's Trees, Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement (TREE) Program which has led to hundreds of trees being planted in Ottawa.

The program was funded in large part by Tree Canada, a not-for-profit charitable organization that provides education, technical assistance, resources and financial support to encourage Canadians to plant and care for trees particularly in the country's urban centres.

Galipeau is one of the organization's biggest champions on Parliament Hill, often meeting with his colleagues to try and convince them to take on Tree Canada's many initiatives such as their

Go Carbon Neutral program in which MPs are encouraged to plant trees to offset their carbon consumption.

Trees take in carbon dioxide and converts it to oxygen. It takes eight trees, 20 years to consume one tonne of carbon dioxide. So for every tonne of carbon dioxide an MP produces they are encouraged to plant eight trees.

An average MP and his or her staff may produce 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. To offset that amount they would have to plant 166 trees. Galipeau figures he's helped plant 51,001 trees over the years, including the newly dedicated Craig Huff tree, but he plans to plant how many number of trees it will take to make up for his own consumption.

"We're just figuring it out now, but it's going to be quite a few," said Galipeau who took part in the dedication ceremony as a private citizen rather than an MP. "My connection to the City of Ottawa's forestry program is only that of a private citizen. Before I became an MP I was very involved with the planting of trees. And afterwards I wasn't going to lose connection with tree planting just because I was an MP."

The City of Ottawa is one of four muni-



Royal Galipeau piles dirt around a tree in Scala Park with Tree Canada communication and marketing director Melissa Nisbett and members of the 4th Orleans Scout troop. Fred Sherwin/Photo

icipalities in Canada which recognizes Maple Leaf Day. The others are Cold Lake, Alberta, Oshawa and Regina, Saskatchewan.

# The Eastender

Fred Sherwin  
Editor & Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor to *The Eastender* e-mail [the-eastender@orleansonline.ca](mailto: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.

## Assessment blues

Either this week or next, property owners in Orléans and the rest of Ottawa will start receiving their property assessment notices from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

The assessments are based on the assessed market value of your home as of Jan. 1 of this year. Early reports are indicating that the average assessed value of residential property in Ottawa has gone up 20 per cent since the last assessment was done in 2005. That is both good news and bad news. Good news in that your home equity has gone up by an average of six per cent a year in each of the last three years. Bad news in that it may mean your taxes are about to go up.

But before you panic it's important to know how the relationship between market value assessment and property taxes works. Any increase is supposed to be revenue neutral. What this means is that if the assessed value of your home goes up by the same amount as the average household, your taxes will remain the same. If it goes up by more than the average then your taxes will go up by the same amount – over time.

Unlike past assessments, which were imposed in one shot, the province intends to phase-in the new assessments over a four year period. For instance, if your home was assessed at \$300,000 in 2005 and it is now worth \$360,000 according to the new assessment, then for tax purposes the value of your home will go up by increments of \$15,000.

So sticking with our example, if the assessed value of your home goes up by 28 per cent and the average assessed value for Ottawa went up by 20 per cent then you can expect an eight per cent tax increase phased-in over the next four years at two per cent per annum.

It's rather complicated, but it's a far sight better than the previous system which saw some homeowners get whacked with double digit tax increases before the city even got around to the budget.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

## Poorly-formatted debate leaves bad impression

So did you watch the federal leadership debate on Thursday? I did and for the first half hour or so I had a curious sense of déjà vu, I just couldn't figure out when or where I had seen it all before. Then it dawned on me. The bickering back and forth. The talking over one another. The differing points of view. The finger waving. It was like watching a typical Sherwin family dinner with everyone trying to outshout each other in between helpings of roast beef, mashed potatoes and carrots.

The format was mind-numbing. If it wasn't for the fact that I planned to write this column, I would have changed the channel after the first question. It was so bad that I almost started to feel sorry for Harper who took more jabs than Oscar de la Hoya's sparring partner.

I assume that all five parties agreed to the format which was flawed beyond belief. One of the main objectives for any party leader heading into a debate is to try and woo undecided voters, but rather than create a favourable impression of themselves, all five leaders looked and sounded like a bunch of bickering siblings except, perhaps, for Stephen Harper who seemed to rise above the fray.

Compared to the vice-presidential debate between Joe Biden and Sarah Palin which CNN re-broadcast later on in the evening, the leadership debate was a joke.

The Biden and Palin debate was a model of decorum with both candidates managing to get their jabs in while articulating their positions intelligently and coherently.

Hopefully, the CTV and CBC will have learned their lesson and they won't

subject us to another hot stove type of debate in the future.

Go back to the podium set up and have each candidate answer questions directed to them by a moderator. If one candidate should take a shot at another candidate, that candidate should be allowed the opportunity for a rebuttal without the other candidates interrupting him.

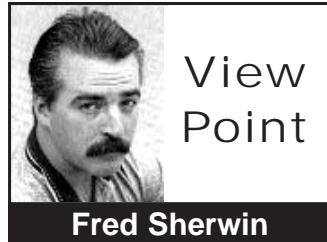
As bad as the leadership debate was, the local debate in Ottawa-Orléans earlier in the week was equally off-putting, especially if you happen to be undecided.

Marc Godbout and Royal Galipeau spent most of the evening sniping at one another, which made the NDP candidate Amy O'Dell and the Green Party hopeful Paul Maillet, look all the more attractive in comparison.

Any undecided voter would have walked away from the debate shaking their head and if they had tuned in to the Rogers debate the next evening featuring the same four candidates, they would have been even less impressed by the main two candidates. O'Dell, on the other hand, did a terrific job as did Maillet the night before. Unfortunately, it would take a miracle for either of them to win.

As things stand now, the local election is a complete toss up. Ordinarily, I would say that the riding is the Liberals to lose and they just might, not because of anything that Godbout may have said or done, but because of the party's dysfunctional national campaign and the public's poor opinion of Stephane Dion.

If Galipeau wins it's because the majority of voters in Ottawa-Orléans are satisfied with how the Conservatives have been running things the past two and a half years.





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# Being 40, a woman and satisfied is ultimately achievable

It's common for people in their late 30s and early 40s – especially women – to say is this all there is?

Most people look at 40 as a halfway point to their own mortality and it's scary as heck.

Most women in taking stock of their lives say, "Okay, I have the husband, the kids, the career, the house... now what?"

A lot of women I talk to in their 40s almost don't know who they are. They have been so busy raising their children, working and being a wife that they forgot who they were to begin with.

Fortunately there is life after 40, with a great deal more



**Doreen Micucci**

Guest  
column

experiences and challenges to come and there is a lot you can do to brighten your own outlook.

Seeking balance, healthy living and relaxation are some things that can help ease you into the next chapter of your life. It's not all downhill after 40. Life is what you make it. Happiness comes from within and that's true at any age.

To be truly satisfied you have to get out there and do things that make you happy. If you wait around for something to happen, you'll be waiting a long time.

Being satisfied can be as simple as taking a walk around the block. Doing your own thing can make you feel stronger and happier, and you don't need someone else to make you happy. You can be happy on your own.

I have realized that to be 40 and happy means being your own person. It's almost like a right of passage for women. You've done your job. You've raised your children the best you know how. Your marriage

is what you made of it. (Even at 40 you still have to work at it.) It's time to take care of yourself and focus on your own needs and wants.

The first step to self-satisfaction can be as big as taking that trip you always wanted to go on, or as small as taking an hour for yourself every week and having a bubble bath with candles and a good book.

Finally, be positive. Turning 40 is often a wake up call in a person's life. Whether you're single, married or between relationships, change is healthy at any age... really!

*(Doreen Micucci celebrated her 40th birthday earlier this year.)*

## Local business

# Navan company signs \$9.8M deal with First Student

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Child Check-Mate Systems, a Navan-based company that makes a student security system for school buses, has just signed a \$9.8 million deal to outfit First Student's North American fleet of 60,000 buses with the device.

The Child Check-Mate System provides an electronic reminder system that requires drivers to check the entire school bus for sleeping children at the end of each route.

The electronic device contains a micro-processor that is preprogrammed to arm itself during the pre-trip routine done before the bus leaves to pick up students. Once the driver returns to the depot they must go through the bus to check for sleeping or stray students. When they get to the back of the bus they have to press a switch that deactivates the system. If they step off the bus without first deactivating the system, both audible and visual alarms, including a synthesized voice message, are activated.

Once the Child Check-Mate component is deactivated and the driver has left the bus, the system automatically switches over to Theft-Mate which will activate the same audible and visual alarms if someone tries to gain unauthorized access to the bus.

The system was the brainchild of M.L. Bradley busline owner Gord Both who later involved master bus mechanic Allan Lowe for his engineering capabilities. The two men wanted to develop a mechanism to protect both the driver and the students from the possibility of a passenger, having fallen asleep, being inadvertently left on a bus.

"We had a driver in 1992 that we had to let go, so that prompted me to come up with something," says Both.

Working together with M.L. Bradley's drivers, the two men came up with the first generation of Child Check-Mate

The first 300 devices were built in Lowe's basement and put on all of M.L. Bradley's buses. The fledgling company also signed an agreement with the former Ottawa Board of Education for six of the devices and the French language school board for 17 of them.

Soon word of the system started to spread through the school transportation industry. Around the same time, Both and Lowe approached marketing expert Bob Moran to join the company and bring it to an entirely different level.

Moran's first target was Laidlaw Inc. which was the biggest school bus company in North America before they were recently purchased by First Student. Moran managed to arrange a meeting between the three men and Laidlaw executives in Toronto in 1998.

"We literally ordered our business cards while we were driving to Toronto and picked them up four hours later before we went to the meeting," recalls Both.

Despite the fact that Laidlaw had already agreed to a tentative deal with another company, they liked the Child Check-Mate System so much they ordered 40,000 units.

"One of the things that really impressed them was the fact that the system is so easy to install and that it's upgradable AI installed the system in 12 minutes," says Both.

While the men were thrilled they had closed the deal, they didn't have much time to celebrate. After all, they were still operating out of Lowe's basement.

"We had to do some pretty fast work. We found a manufacturer in Ottawa that had an Asian-based company that could do the work and we went from there," says Both.

All the money from that first deal went into improving the system and developing additional applications such as Theft-Mate and the inclusion of a GPS capability.



The men behind Child Check-Mate Systems Inc. are (l to r) Al Lowe, VP Engineering; Bob Moran, President; and Gord Both, VP Operations. Photo supplied

It is that ability to upgrade the system as new applications are being developed, without having to change the essentially hardware, that makes the system so attractive to student transportation companies like First Student which ordered over 60,000 units.

Future applications including a collision avoidance system and Ice-Check which will be able to measure winter road conditions and make adjustments to the buses suspension and braking system.

While the devices are being built in Asia, they are still shipped out of Lowe's basement and the company does its billing out of the M.L. Bradley office on Frank Kenny Road.

# Local swim club benefits from Olympic coverage

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

For the past three years the Ottawa Swim Club has struggled to find new members as it tried to increase registration in its pre-competitive development program.

Not so this year. Within a week after the Summer Olympics, head coach Blair Tucker's phone was ringing off the hook. It seemed anyone with a youngster between the ages of eight and 16 wanted to enroll their child in the program. Tucker calls it the Michael Phelps "bump".

"Most sports get a bump in registration after the Olympics," explains Tucker. "But with Phelps going for eight gold medals, it fascinated the world. For the entire first week of the Olympics, swimming dominated the coverage."

Tucker also believes Phelps' story about being a normal kid who began taking swimming lessons when he was just 10, resonated with other young boys and girls.

"He was a kid who struggled at school and tried different things before he ended up in swimming. It was almost like, 'If it happened to him it could happen to anybody'," says Tucker.

The Ottawa Swim Club's pre-competitive program is run out of the Ray Friel Centre. Sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon. The Monday and Friday sessions run from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. while the Wednesday sessions start an hour earlier.

The program focuses on the four basic strokes – breast, freestyle, butterfly and back – developing strength and stamina, and preparing the swimmers for competition. The only prerequisite is that new registrants can swim the length of the pool unaided.

The club takes part in about three to four pre-competitive meets a year to help gauge where the kids are in their development. For more information about the program visit [www.ottawaswimclub.ca](http://www.ottawaswimclub.ca).



Blair Tucker is the head coach of the Ottawa Swim Club which runs a pre-competitive program at the Ray Friel Centre. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## Local business

# Specializing in quality, taste and freshness

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

In the highly competitive world of take-out pizza, River Pizza, owned by Georges Abou-Assali, has managed to carve out a highly successful niche for itself in the far east end by sticking to two basic principles: never, ever sacrifice quality and treat every single customer as if they were family.

Sticking to those two basic cornerstones has enabled Abou-Assali to grow River Pizza from a small, one-room store in Cumberland Village with no delivery service, to one of the most popular pizza outlets in Orléans.

Georges can still remember taking over the business from his brother-in-law when his sister passed away in 1992.

"I had only been in Canada for a year when I bought the place. I knew nothing about running a business much less about making pizzas. I only knew that I wanted to keep the place going for my sister," he says.

One of the first things Abou-Assali did was to introduce free delivery. The next thing he did was to start selling himself. Whenever someone came into the pizzeria, he treated them like gold. On the phone he was funny and personable. Before long business started to pick up.

"After three months I had two cooks inside and three drivers outside. Business tripled," says Abou-Assali who only remembers taking two weeks off between 1992 and 2000 for his honeymoon.

River Pizza's primary territory for the first eight years was the former municipality of Cumberland and especially Cumberland Village. It wasn't until 2001, when Georges started getting calls from people in Orléans, that he thought about opening a second location.

"People would call and ask for the pizza to be delivered to Orléans, but I couldn't chance sending drivers out that far and risk losing customers in Cumberland. So when I was offered this location beside Mr. Gas I took the opportunity," says Abou-Assali who opened up his second pizzeria on Innes Road in November, 2001.

Along the way, Abou-Assali has supported a long list of individuals, community organizations, local businesses, schools and sports teams.

"I try to help whenever I can," he explains. "It's a blessing for me to be able to give back to the community where I live, work and am raising my family."

Among the clients Abou-Assali is most proud of are the kids from the nine local schools that River Pizza provides hot lunches to.

"Kids are #1 with us. We treat them the same way we treat everybody else. Some places cut back on the quality when serving schools because they think, 'Oh, they're just kids.' But you know what? Kids are smart and they know what they like," says Abou-Assali.

Not only do the kids that are served River Pizza get great taste, but they are also benefitting from getting the proper nutrition that every child deserves. At River Pizza, the dough and sauce is prepared fresh daily. They use only the freshest and finest ingredients available from local farmers and merchants. River Pizza is also a nut-free environment and measures well below fat and trans-fat standards.

But pizza isn't the only thing on the menu. At River Pizza they serve chicken wings subs, donairs, sandwiches, burgers, appetizers and assorted salads. George also



Georges Abou-Assali is the owner/operator of River Pizza which has locations in Orléans and Cumberland Village. Fred Sherwin/Photo

prepares a homemade marinara sauce for his pasta dishes which include lasagna, ravioli and spaghetti.

Delivery is free anywhere in Orléans and Cumberland on orders over \$8 between 12 noon and closing. The Orléans location, which can be reached by calling 613-841-4999, is open Mon.-Thurs. from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sun. from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Cumberland Village location, which can be reached by calling 613-833-3133, is open Mon.-Wed. from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sat. from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sun. from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## Local sports

# Grads in three-way tie atop Robinson Division

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Grads have moved into a tie for first place in the Robinson Division after winning back to back games earlier this week.

The Grads downed the Hawkesbury Hawks 6-1 on Sunday and then upended the Nepean Raiders on Tuesday to improve their record to 4-3-0. A 5-2 loss to the Cornwall Colts on Wednesday would drop the Grads into a three way tie for first place with the Colts and the Ottawa Jr. Senators at eight points apiece.

The Grads were paced by Chris Murphy's three goal performance against the Hawks with all three goals coming in the first period. He also picked up an assist on the Grad's opening goal of the game to give him four points on the night.

Mark Borkowski, David Pacan and Zach Laroche had a goal each to go along with Murphy's natural hat trick and Jeffrey Clarke had four assists.

The Cumberland Grads have moved into a tie for first place in the Robinson Division after winning their third game in five days on Tuesday.

Sunday's game also saw rookie goaltender Michael Dizgun pick up his first win of the season against two losses.

Adam Laderoute was between the pipes

for Tuesday's game against the Raiders. After a scoreless first period, Zach Laroche scored his second goal in as many games to give the Grad's a 1-0 lead at the 3:18 mark of the second period. Nepean then tied the game on a shorthanded effort by Chris Somerville early in the third.

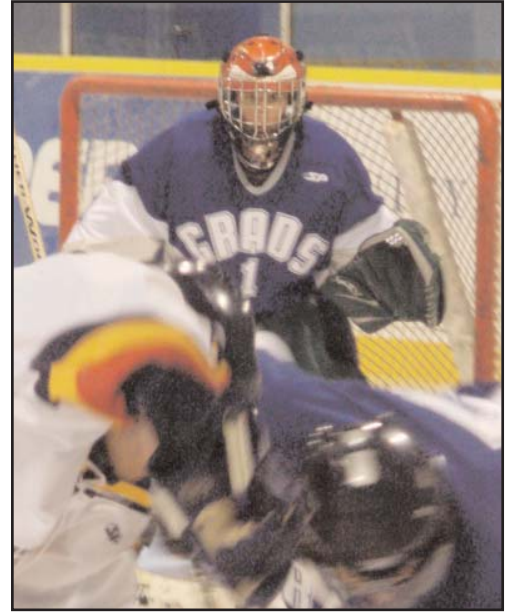
Just over a minute later Daniel Sauvé scored his first of the season to break the deadlock, and Laderoute was brilliant the rest of the way in protecting the 2-1 lead. For his efforts the second year goalie was named the game's first star.

The Grads were especially strong on the penalty kill which kept the Raiders power play off the scoresheet despite having the man advantage eight different times.

Cumberland now has the fifth best penalty killing percentage in the league at 81.5 per cent. Unfortunately, they have the third worst power play which is 3-for-19 in their last three games including Wednesday's loss to Cornwall in which they were 1-for-6 with the man advantage.

The Colts managed to chase Laderoute from the net at the 4:54 mark of the second period after scoring four times on nine shots. Dizgun was solid in relief, blanking the Colts on 10 shots to keep the Grads in the game, but offensively they just didn't have the firepower to knot the score.

The closest they got was 4-2, thanks to a



Grads rookie netminder Michael Dizgun picked up his first win of the season against the Hawkesbury Hawks last Sunday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

power play goal by Andrew Klaassen at the 24 second mark of the third period.

An empty goal by the Colts would make the final score 5-2.

The Grads next home game is this Sunday against the Ottawa Jr. Senators. The puck drops at 3 p.m.

# Panther tykes move one step closer to East Division title

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Panthers are a win away from clinching the NCAFA East Division tyke championship after downing the East Ottawa Generals 28-13 in a rare mid-week game Wednesday night.

The Panthers looked impressive in the earlier going, scoring on their first four possessions to take a 28-0 halftime lead. The second half, however, was all East Ottawa as the Generals tightened up on defence and running back Samson Dubé (25) made several big plays including a pair of third quarter touchdowns to make the score respectable.

Cumberland's offence was especially impressive in the first quarter, chewing up vast amounts of yardage and time. With the Panthers already up 6-0, quarterback Mathieu Franche handed the ball off to Connor Gunn who blew through a would-be tackler and scampered four yards for another major. An Aidan Aylward convert would make the score 14-0 in favour of the Panthers at the end of the first quarter.

After the Generals failed to pick up a first down on their next possession, the Panthers kept up their offensive onslaught marching 55 yards downfield for their third touchdown of the game on a 20-yard throw from Franche to Owain McLaughlin who made an outstanding catch on the play.

Another two point convert by Aylward put the Panthers up 22-0.

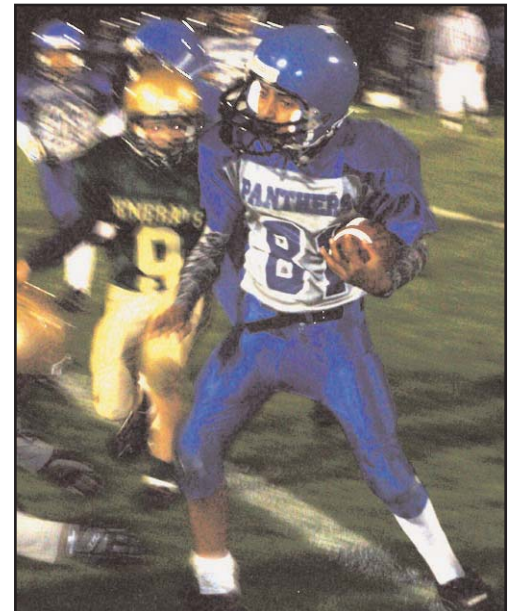
Cumberland would further pad their lead late in the second quarter. With time winding down, Aylward found some space on the outside and ran 18 yards down the sideline before being caught from behind on the one yard line by Generals' middle linebacker Bob Doherty. On the next play, Franche plunged through the middle of the line to extend the Panthers' lead to 28-0.

Doherty's play at middle linebacker was one of the few bright spots for the Generals in the first half. He was all over the field and made several key tackles including two occasions where he chased the ball carrier down from behind to prevent a touchdown.

His aggressive play on defence was a big reason why the Generals were able to prevent the Panthers from scoring in the second half. A pair of fumbles inside the five yard line didn't help the Panthers' cause either.

The Generals, on the other hand, took advantage of a lapse in concentration on the part of Panther's defensive unit as Dubé managed to find some gaps along the line of scrimmage and run through them.

The Generals' first touchdown came on a 25-yard run by Dubé who looked like a jitterbug as he bobbed and weaved through the Panthers' defense. Near the end of the third quarter he managed to rip off another



Wide receiver Shubham Nayyar picks up some valuable yardage for the Cumberland Panthers Wednesday night. Fred Sherwin/Photo

long run for 37 yards to set up the Generals' second score, but that would be as close as they would get.

The Panthers got the win they needed, but the Generals managed to walk away with their pride intact and their confidence at an all-time high as they continue to battle for a spot in the A-Cup playoffs.

## Local sports

# Mosquito Bengals remain undefeated; bantams improve to 4-1

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The good, the bad and the ugly, that about sums up the past week for the Mews Orleans Bengals.

The week started out with the Bengals' tyke team losing 59-6 to the Canterbury Mustangs last Wednesday night.

Things began to look up after the bantam squad improved their record to 4-1 with a hard fought 28-22 win over the previously undefeated Kanata Knights on Friday, but then the tykes lost their second game in four days thanks to an 84-33 shellacking at the hands of the Gatineau Vikings on Saturday.

Thankfully, the mosquito team was able to avenge the lopsided loss by winning their fourth game in a row, downing the Vikings 28-6 to remain undefeated.

The peewee Bengals did their best to feed off the mosquito team's success, but they were in tough against a highly-competitive and undefeated Vikings team and ended up losing 7-3 after keeping the Vikings off the scoreboard for most of the game.

Focusing on the successes, the bantam team knew they had to play at the top of their game if they wanted to beat the Knights who were coming off a 23-15 win over the Cornwall Wildcats last weekend.

The Bengals got on the board first on a 35-yard run up the middle by Ross Dilks. After the Knights came back to tie the score, the Bengals kept the ball on the ground and eventually scored on a 25-yard run by Isaiah Harris who would end up rushing for more than 235 yards on the day.

Down 14-7, the Knights stormed back to score eight unanswered points in the second quarter to take a 22-14 halftime lead.

After a pep talk from head coach Jason Purcell and the rest of the coaching staff, the Bengals' defence completely shut down the Knights' offence. Meanwhile, the Bengals' offence continued to move the ball. They drew to within a point on a 20-yard pass from quarterback Darcy Lavoie to Yannick Paquin and then Harris put them in the lead when he scored his second touchdown of the game in the fourth quarter.

Down but not out, the Knights tried to rally for one last drive in the final two minutes, but Nathan Lauzon managed to intercept a pass to seal the win for the Bengals.

"The game was a real testament to our players. They were focused and they played their hearts out, especially in the second half. Our defence was phenomenal," said Purcell.

On Saturday, the mosquito Bengals were equally as phenomenal in putting together a solid 28-6 win over the Gatineau Vikings.

The Bengals got a pair of touchdowns from running back Keenan Pierre, while Michael O'Connor and Nick Delallo also scored for Orleans and Delallo added a pair of two point converts.

Graham McArthur helped set the table for several of the scores with a couple of long runs and some timely catches.

Defensively, only a late kickoff return spoiled an otherwise perfect day. Safety Jacob Fox had several long punt returns to give the Bengals excellent field position all game, with linebackers Paul Hastings and



Mews Orleans Bengals linebacker Paul Hastings seems to have matters under control as he tackles a Gatineau Vikings player during their mosquito match-up last Saturday. Photo supplied

Andrew Larin, defensive end Chris Oliver and tackle Martin Prouse leading the Bengals in tackles. Prouse also blocked a kick in the fourth quarter.

The mosquito team will try and improve their record to 6-0 when they take on the Canterbury Mustangs and the North Gloucester Giants this week. They play the Mustangs under the lights Wednesday night and then have a short break before taking on the Giants on Sunday. The peewee team is in the same boat as they try to rebound from their heartbreaking loss to Gatineau.

## Tyke, peewee and bantam Panthers post weekend wins

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Panthers tyke and bantam teams moved one step closer to clinching the East Division championship on the weekend, while the mosquito team did its best to remain in contention for the A-Cup playoffs.

The mosquito Panthers were in tough against a very good Kanata Knights team. It also didn't help that their top offensive threat, running back Jackson Bennett was out with the flu. In his place, Riley Horricks and Brandon Smith both had excellent outings. In fact, Horricks scored the game's only touchdown on a 20-yard roll-out play in the first half.

As good as the Panthers' offence was, however, their defence was superb. They completely shutdown Kanata's offence and kept them off the scoreboard. The two points the Knights managed to get were a

gift from the Panthers offence which decided to concede a safety with 12 seconds left in the game rather than punt the ball from their end zone.

After giving up 166 points in their first three games, the Panthers have only given up 14 in their last two games playing against quality opponents.

Head coach Michel Charron, is confident his team is heading on the right track and at 3-2 they still have a shot at finishing in the top four and making it into the A-Cup playoffs.

The Panthers' tyke and bantam teams have already clinched a spot in the A-Cup finals and are now focusing on winning the East Division championship.

The tyke team will have a chance at achieve their goal when they play the Gloucester South Raiders on Thanksgiving weekend. Both teams have identical 5-0 records with three games remaining.

For the bantam team a win over Gloucester South this weekend will all but assure them of the crown and a legitimate shot at the top seed in the A-Cup playoffs should they win their final two games against the Cornwall Colts and the Canterbury Mustangs who only have one win between them.

For the Panthers' peewee team, however, the challenge is much steeper. After losing 22-12 to the Kanata Knights on Saturday they were sitting at 1-3. A convincing win over the East Ottawa Generals on Wednesday will hopefully give them the confidence boost they need heading into the final three games of the season.

A win over Gloucester South on Thanksgiving weekend will propel them into the fourth and final A-Cup playoff spot. If they lose, they'll be relegated to the B-Cup playoff bracket, assuming they win their final two regular season games.

# U.S. scholarships not always what they're cracked up to be

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

We've all heard stories about local student athletes landing scholarships south of the border and having successful collegiate careers, but not every story has a happy ending.

Every year or so, there are a handful of athletes who head off to the States with a scholarship in hand and end up returning home within the first few months because the experience didn't quite live up to their expectations.

Take Jillian Taylor, for example. The former St. Peter High School student was and still is one of the best softball pitchers in the province.

During her final year at St. Pete's, Jillian's father Jim approached College Prospects of America, an American outfit that markets high school student athletes to universities in the U.S. The company put together a recruiting package and distributed it to more than 150 Division I, II, III and NAIA schools.

Within weeks information packages started trickling in from a handful of schools. Soon the trickle became a deluge, making the decision of where to go an extremely difficult process.

After narrowing the list down to Webber International University in Florida; Alcorn State University in Mississippi; St. Francis University in Pennsylvania; and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, the Taylors decided on Webber International which is located near Winter Haven, Florida in the south central part of the state.

One of the main reasons they chose Webber State was because of the coaching staff. "The coaches made me feel very comfortable," says Taylor. "One coach even called me and started singing 'O Canada'."

The good feelings Taylor had about going to university in Florida to play collegiate softball, started to fade almost as soon as she arrived. For one, the school was a lot smaller than she had anticipated. For another, the coach that had recruited her had quit and was replaced by someone with less experience.

"When I went down there I kind of didn't know what to expect. I probably didn't research the school as much as I should

have," says Taylor looking back on the experience. "At the time I was caught up in the whole idea of leaving home and living in Florida and playing softball at the next level. I was really excited."

To say Babson Park is a small U.S. town and that Webber International is rather isolated is an understatement. The population of Babson Park, which is located smack dab in the middle of south central Florida, is less than 1,500 people, while the university is about a third of the size of St. Peter High School with just over 600 post-graduate students.

"It's kind of a small school in the middle of nowhere," says Taylor. "It was a real culture shock."

The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the new coach didn't know her. His inexperience showed during the practices which, according to Taylor, were "not as professional" as what she had been used to in Orléans. It also didn't help that the state was hit by three hurricanes in a row that season.

"It got really bad. I would call my parents every day and start crying. I just wanted to go home," says Taylor.

At first her father tried to calm her down by telling her that things would get better over time. She just had to give it a chance. But for Taylor things only got worse. The final straw came when her roommate from Alaska, who was also having problems trying to adjust to going to school thousands of miles away from home, decided to leave.

"Her parents would always talk to my parents and we both were really miserable, so finally my dad let me come home," says Taylor who returned to Orléans for the Christmas holidays and never went back.

After taking a semester off, she enrolled at the University of Ottawa and joined the Gee-Gees softball team which had a number of girls she played with on the Orleans Rebels Select team that won the Eastern Canadian Championships that same summer.

The rest, as they say, is history. Taylor is currently in her third and final year at Ottawa U., although she intends to apply for teacher's college at the university which will enable her to keep playing softball.

"I love it. It's been awesome. I love being home. I love the school. I love all my teammates. It's the best," says Taylor who is 5-1



Orléans native Jillian Taylor is in her last year at the University of Ottawa where she is the starting pitcher on the Gee-Gees women's softball team. Fred Sherwin/Phoro

for the Gee-Gees so far this season including three wins against Carleton, Brock and McMaster over the weekend.

As for any advice she would give other student athletes offered an athletic scholarship south of the border, Taylor urges them to try not to get caught up in all the excitement and do their homework.

"First, you definitely need to visit the school and consider where it's located. Personally, I would stick with a coach who is more experienced," says Taylor. "And you should consider what your schedule is going to be. It's a lot of work and it can be very strenuous."

For those people who do do their homework, it can be a very rewarding experience as evident by the fact that so many local student athletes have gone on to have successful collegiate careers in the U.S. including; Allison Paiano, who played hockey at Colgate University; Laura Kay Powell who attended Iowa State University on a gymnastics scholarship; and Courtney Pilypaitis who is in her third year on a basketball scholarship at the University of Vermont.

## Gee-Gees softball team has distinctive local flavour

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The University of Ottawa women's softball team has a distinctive east end flavour to it, starting with head coach Scott Searle who lives in Orléans and teaches at St. Peter High School.

He is also the head coach of the Orleans Rebels junior women's team which managed to qualify for the Junior Nationals in P.E.I. this past summer with no fewer than a half dozen Gee-Gees on the roster including Jillian Taylor, Amanda Toll and Diana Snow, who are all from Orléans.

The other Gee-Gees on the team were Elissa Sivel, Emily Ernst and Laura Skiperis.

Their success at the Junior Nationals has so far spilled over to the college season where the Gee-Gees have a 10-2-1 record, good enough for third place in the Ontario Intercollegiate Women's Fastpitch Association.

Last weekend, they won five of six playing against Carleton, Brock and McMaster.

Taylor won all three of her starts, beginning with a one-hit shutout against the

Ravens on Friday. In Saturday's start against Brock, she allowed just two hits with no walks in posting her second shutout in as many days.

While she was not quite as overpowering against McMaster, Taylor earned a complete game victory, scattering four hits over five innings.

The weekend action also saw Amanda Toll earn her first RBI in a Gee-Gee uniform in the second game against Brock.

The Gee-Gees will travel to Southern Ontario this weekend to play the Laurier Golden Hawks and the Waterloo Warriors.

## Artscetera

# Lamplight production a lesson in Canadian history

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

I've always thought of myself as being somewhat of a history buff, especially when it comes to Canadian history which was one of my best subjects in high school.

Perhaps it's the passage of time, or perhaps I missed school that day, but I don't recall learning anything about the Upper and Lower Canada Rebellions of 1837.

If only my history class was as entertaining as Vintage Stock Theatre's latest lamplight production "A Divided Loyalty: The Rebellions of 1837 in Cumberland", which continues on the grounds of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum this weekend.

The play is performed entirely by lamplight over the course of six vignettes or scenes. In the first scene the play's narrator, a young boy played by Tyler Smith, meets a stranger who has suffered an injury after getting in a tussle with a dog.

During the scene the stranger, played by Andre Dimitrijevic, tells the boy he's Polish. We also learn that he came to Canada after fighting a war in Poland in which their European allies failed to come to their aid.

The boy begins to tell Jozef, or Joe, about the Rebellions and how the local residents formed a militia under Archibald Petrie to fight against the rebels led by William Lyon Mackenzie and Louis-Joseph Papineau.

In the second scene, Archibald reads the order outside the village church. All able-bodied men are to muster in a field beside his house the next day to begin training. But not everyone is excited about the idea of being ordered to leave their farms to fight for the Crown, including James McCrae who lives on the far side of Cumberland Township by the Bear Brook. But when McCrae, played by Vintage Stock veteran John Cook, tries to object his loyalties are immediately called into question.

It's not until the third scene that the audience gets an idea of the intrigue that permeated the area during 1837 and 1838. Nanette Lacroix is sympathetic to the rebel cause. A resident of the Pontiac, she has come to see her father and brothers to try and talk them out of fighting for the loyalists, but first she tries to convince her step-

mother Angélique Lacroix, played by Ginette Davis.

In one of the best scenes of the play, the two women each plead their case. Angélique is terrified of the danger her stepdaughter will put the family in, but Nanette, played by Sylvie Lapointe, is non-plussed by her stepmother's plea, is ready to defend the rebel cause no matter what the consequences. When she leaves her father's house she runs into Marie Edmond, a servant girl, who is also a rebel sympathizer, played by Émélie Perron-Clow.

While working in the Petrie household she overhears the planned troop movement and writes it all down. Nanette tells her to take a boat across the river and deliver the information to the rebel leaders.

The remaining scenes include a conversation between Archibald Petrie's wife, played by Sarah Benfield and Margaret Lough, played by Lynn Lebel, in which the two women try to make sense of the conflict.

There's also a very funny scene showing the men fumbling through their drills complaining about not getting enough to eat, or proper boots. As it turns out their services won't be needed after all, the deciding battle of the Upper Canada rebellion was fought without them and they can go back to their farms.

It's impossible for me to describe the final scene without giving the ending away, but I can say that Smith's performance throughout the entire play was absolutely outstanding, especially considering his age. He is, indeed, one of the rising young stars in the east end theatre scene. Dimitrijevic's performance was superb as well and together they were mesmerizing.

In the long list of Vintage Stock Theatre lamplight productions, I've seen over the years, "Divided Loyalty" is by far the best. When I went to see the play last Friday, there was a light drizzle falling which only added to the mood.

Susan Flemming's script is superb and the acting is top notch. In fact, it is one of the best ensemble productions I have seen in some time. All of which to say, if you are free any night this weekend and what to be both entertained and educated, you see go out of your way to see "Divided Loyalty". You will not be disappointed.



André Dimitrijevic's character, Jozef Wysniski, comforts Robert Lough, played by Tyler Smith, in Vintage Stock Theatre's latest lamplight production, 'A Divided Loyalty: The Rebellions of 1837 in Cumberland', on this weekend at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Besides the people I've already mentioned, the rest of the cast includes Gord Smith as Lieutenant White, Ian McGregor as Archibald Petrie and Scott Kristjanson as William Lough. Hayden Smith and Michael Kavcic are sharing the role of Reverend Bell.

Special mention as well to Ron Yuill, who is responsible for all the props and making sure the lanterns are in working order, and Wendy Smith and the rest of the costume and makeup crew who appear to have worked overtime. Last but not least, kudos to all the lantern bearers who toil away each year in total anonymity.

"A Divided Loyalty: The Rebellions of 1837 in Cumberland," continues this Thursday, Friday and Saturday night at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Tickets are \$15 each and showtime is 8 p.m. Please note that the play is outdoors so you should dress appropriately.



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# Artscetera

## VACO reopens its doors after five-month hiatus

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Visual Arts Centre Orléans, better known as VACO by the local arts community, reopened its doors last Thursday after a five-month hiatus during which they went through a period of transition.

The arts centre, which is located on the main floor of the Bob MacQuarrie Recreation Complex on Youville Dr., closed its doors in early April mired in a dispute with the city over future rental fees in the new Shenkman Arts Centre and internal issues over staffing and programming.

After a period of reorganization, the non-profit gallery is back, although its future still remains uncertain.

VACO board chair Steve Noble says the centre is hoping to work out a deal with the city to move into the new arts centre.

At issue right now is the future rental arrangement. The city has told VACO they will pay the same rent during the first year as they're paying now, even though they will have three times as much space as they currently have. What the city hasn't told VACO is how much the rent will go up in the second and third year.

"We have worked really hard in getting rid of our debt, so we're being very careful in how we move forward," says Noble. "We don't know what the rent will be after the first year and we don't know what sort of caveats will come with the lease."

The visual arts centre has streamlined its art courses which will focus on beginner and intermediate classes in the areas of

drawing, watercolour and painting under the guidance of Louis Guillermo Trejo who was recently hired as the centre's new cultural program manager.

Trejo has a background in youth and children's art education, an area he plans to focus special attention on. For instance, he plans to organize workshops for youth rather than weekly courses. For one, the workshops are cheaper, and for another, they don't require the same sort of time commitment.

"It's hard to get some kids to come to a course every week. They're more interested in coming for one day and doing something," says Trejo who hopes to kick things off with a comic illustration workshop.

One of the changes most people will notice if they plan to visit the gallery is their hours of operation. The gallery used to only be open during the day. It's now open Thursday and Friday evenings and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Trejo says he wants to bring more contemporary exhibits to the gallery in the same vein as the SAW Gallery and Studio 101 downtown, beginning with his own one-man show which is a series of ink drawings using images and headlines from daily newspapers as inspiration.

"We don't have anything like that in the east end," says Trejo. "The Cumberland Gallery and the Gloucester Gallery focus on more traditional art shows. I want to offer people something a little different. Something they haven't seen before."

Art enthusiasts can support VACO by



VACO chair Steve Noble (left) and cultural program manager Louis Trejo have teamed up to transform the visual arts centre into a hipper, more contemporary gallery. Fred Sherwin/Photo

purchasing a subscription to the arts centre which entitles them to discounts on art courses and educational programs, borrowing privileges from VACO's library, voting privileges at the annual general meeting and a discount on room rental.

To find out more about the subscription program, the art courses being offered or other future plans visit VACO's new website at [www.vaco-online.ca](http://www.vaco-online.ca).

## Community calendar

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

**CUMBERLAND FARMERS MARKET** from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the R.J. Kennedy Centre on Dunning Road in the heart of Cumberland Village. Ample free parking. For more information visit [www.cumberland-farmersmarket.ca](http://www.cumberland-farmersmarket.ca).

**O'MEARA'S OPEN HOUSE AND NAVAN FUN DAY** all day from 11 a.m. at O'Meara's in Navan, 3495 Trim Rd. Street hockey, volleyball, live music, pig roast, paint ball challenge, BBQ/Corn Roast and much more. Community garage sale from 11 a.m.

**PLACE D'ORLEANS JOB FAIR** from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Job

Fair makes it easy for applicants to approach multiple potential employers in one go. Throughout the shopping centre, participating retailers will meet potential candidates, provide applications forms, and accept resumés.

**SKREAMERS HAUNTED BARN AND WAGON RIDE** at the Proulx Farm on O'Toole Rd. Special preview evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Two-for-one admission \$10, entitles visitors to a tour of the haunted barn and the wagon ride. To get to the Proulx Farm take Innes Rd. east past Trim Rd. O'Toole Rd. will be on your lefthand side about 700 metres

past Frank Kenny Rd. For more information visit [www.skreamers.ca](http://www.skreamers.ca).

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

**CIBC RUN (WALK) FOR THE CURE** in Blackburn Hamlet. The event starts and ends at the Blackburn Community Centre on Glen Park Dr. Participants are asked to bring a cash or cheque donation of any amount. This event is open to everyone. Strollers, baby joggers, bikes, dogs, inline skaters; all are welcome.

**PLACE D'ORLEANS JOB FAIR** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Job Fair makes it easy for applicants to approach multiple potential employers in one go. Throughout the

shopping centre, participating retailers will meet potential candidates, provide applications forms, and accept resumés.

**CUMBERLAND GRADS VS OTTAWA JR SENATORS** at 3 p.m. at the Navan Memorial Arena, 1329 Colonial Rd. Admission \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$2 for children 11 and under.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

**MEET AND GREET FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES** at the Fallingbrook South Community Centre located at 998 Valin St. (Maple Ridge School) from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

**GLEGARRY-PRESCOTT-RUSSELL ALL-CANDIDATES DEBATE** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Heritage Public School, 1375 Colonial Rd. in Navan. Sponsored by the Navan Community Association.

**ORLEANS-GLOUCESTER CHRISTIANS WOMEN'S CLUB** meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. featuring performances by the Village Squares square dance club and musician Jeannie Smith from Cumberland Village. Special guest speaker: Carol Rogers. Cost is \$5 includes refreshments.