

# The Eastender

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February 27, 2009

Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 8, Issue 9



Members of the Colonel By Cougars senior girls volleyball team celebrate after winning the NCSSAA Tier 1 high school championship on Thursday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## Orléans 150th birthday slated for next year

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Preparations are already under way for the 150th anniversary of Orléans. On Wednesday, Ottawa city council proclaimed 2010 as the year marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the St-Joseph d'Orléans parish.

In the beginning, what would become known as the police parish of Orléans was a loose conglomeration of mostly rural, francophone families. In fact, when the parish was founded there were no more than 90 families living in the area.

In 1860 the local priest invited Bishop Joseph-Bruno Guigues to consecrate the land on which they were going to build a new church. Because there was no main road from Ottawa to Orléans at the time, the Bishop had to travel by boat for the ceremony.

The original église St-Joseph d'Orléans was completed in 1870. Unfortunately, the church would end up having to be demolished 50 years later due to its narrowness and structural problems.

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

## Hydro One offers explanation for recent power outages

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Hydro One has come forward and apologized for the recent spat of power outages that have been plaguing the far east end of the city and they've also provided an explanation.

Officials with the provincial hydro utility say the outages can be blamed on a number of causes, both technical and accidental.

The biggest culprit is the work being done on the high tension transmission lines running along the hydro corridor. The lines and new towers are being installed to provide additional capacity from Quebec to the main transmission station on Hawthorne Road.

In order to ensure the safety of hydro workers during the project, the utility has had to

plan for a series of limited power outages usually during the early morning hours on a Sunday when demand is at its lowest.

During a normal operation, the power is brought back on without any major problems. But on Dec. 7 that wasn't the case and what was supposed to be a four-hour limited power outage turned into an eight hour blackout.

According to Jeff Weeks, when the power was brought back on-line, a conductor on one of the high tension lines blew plunging thousands of homes into darkness. Hydro One and the manufacturer of the conductor are still investigating whether the source of the problem was human error or equipment failure.

Weeks says two more scheduled power outages are planned for March and early April, which will be the last one.

While the power outages have been a nuisance, they are necessary in order to get the job done as safely as possible.

Weeks also says that at least two more recent localized outages have been the result of accidents. In both cases, snow crews accidentally ran into transformer boxes that were hidden under the snow. In normal circumstances, the power outages would only be temporary thanks to redundancies built into the system which divert power from a back-up supply whenever a failure occurs.

Because of the boom in development in Orléans over the past 10 years, particularly in

the south and the east, Hydro One has had to play catch-up in building redundancies into the system.

According to Weeks those redundancies are being put in place, but it is being done over time. Eventually the system will be fully brought up to standard.

Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely says Hydro One officials have assurances him that the necessary investments will be made to achieve that goal.

"They've recognized the fact that the standards are not there yet, but they know the problem exists and they're committed to fixing it," says McNeely who is trying to organize a public meeting for the first or second week of April where residents will be able to get some answers from Hydro One officials.

## Community briefs

### School year to start one week early next fall

**ORLEANS** – Area students will be going back to school one week earlier than usually next fall in order to get the required number of instructional days in before the end of June. Both the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Catholic School Board have petitioned the Ontario Ministry of Education to begin the school year a week early to make up for the fact that Labour Day falls on Sept. 7 this year. The Ottawa Catholic School Board wants students to return to class on Monday, Aug. 31, while the OCDSB wants to begin its school year the following day on Sept. 1. In both cases the boards would be able to fit in the required number of instructional days by June 28.

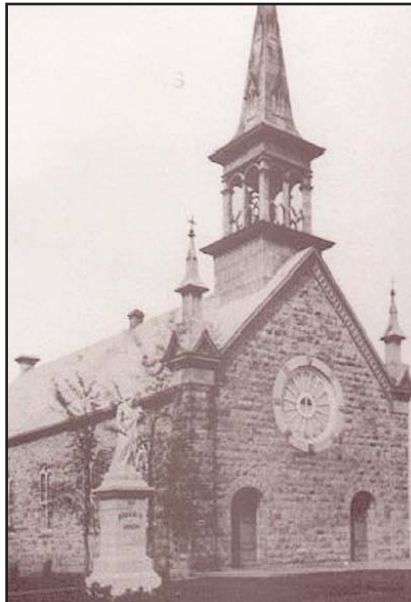
### OC Transpo restores five more east end routes

**OTTAWA** – OC Transpo restored three more east end routes this week. They are regular routes 125 and 131 and green express route 38. In addition, two more green express routes, the 33 and 35, will be restored three weeks ahead of schedule this Monday. The schedule for all five routes can be found at [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com). According OC Transpo, all routes will be up and running by March 16, although some of the routes will continue to operate on a limited basis until April 1.

### Beacon Hill CA sounds warning bells over possible Colonel By closure

**OTTAWA** – The Beacon North Community Association has launched an on-line survey to raise awareness about the possible closure of Colonel By Secondary School. The survey is in response to a recent list of options released by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board which tries to address accommodation issues at Colonel By Secondary School, Gloucester High School and Rideau High School. Three of the five options list closing Colonel By as a possible course of action. The on-line survey lists seven questions including whether the respondent would consider the closure of Colonel By as a loss to the community which might precipitate their moving out of the area? The Beacon Hill North Community Association plans to hold a public meeting regarding the school board’s recommendation on April 1 at 7 p.m. at Colonel By Secondary School.

## 150th celebration to last throughout the year



At left is the photo of the original St-Joseph d’Orléans church as it looked in 1900 and at right is the present day church which was built in 1924. Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the parish of Orléans which was created in 1860. File photos

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Work on a new church began right away and in 1922 the church that exists on St. Joseph Blvd. today was consecrated.

For the next 50 years, the largely francophone community grew at a snail’s pace. Then in the 1970s the population exploded. The first wave of new residents coincided with an increase in the size of the federal civil service, while the second wave saw a number of displaced Quebecers move to the area.

When the 1971 census was taken about 6,000 people lived in what was generally regarded as the village of Orléans. Within five years the population doubled and by 1981, it had quadrupled. Today the population of Orléans is over 95,000.

The 150th anniversary celebrations are being spearheaded by a group of parishioners from St-Joseph d’Orléans led by Msgr. Peter Schoenbach. The group has been planning some of the events for several months now.

The central event will be a re-enactment of the founding of the St-Joseph d’Orléans parish by Bishop Guigues which will take place next May.

Archbishop Terrence Pendergast will travel by boat from the Rockcliffe marina to Petrie Island where he will be met by a group of parishioners and taken by horse drawn carriage to the church where he will conduct a special commemorative mass.

Other events that will take place throughout the year include a formal ball at the St. Joseph Church Hall; a historical play co-produced by Théâtre du Village and MIFO which will be presented at the new Shenkman Arts Centre; an exhibition of artwork created by local artists and a talent show that is being organized by students from Béatrice-Desloges high school. Whenever possible the program will be presented in both French and English.

The theme for the celebration is “Let us be proud of the past, celebrate the present and prepare for the future”.

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# First ever Hockey Day in Orléans a huge success

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

More than 400 people gathered at the Valin-East Village outdoor rink last Saturday to celebrate Canada's favourite past-time with an old-fashioned game of shinny between the host Cardinal Creek Community Association and a group of challengers from Chapel Hill South led by Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess.

The Cardinal Creek team included a number of members from the Cardinal Creek Community Association and a bevy of local politicians including Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Jean-Marc Lalonde, Orléans Ward Coun. Bob Monette, Cumberland Ward Coun. Rob Jellett and Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MP Pierre Lemieux.

Ottawa-Orléans MP Royal Galipeau and MPP Phil McNeely were also on hand to lend their moral support and Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien dropped the opening puck.

Everyone taking part in the game was well fed as were the enthusiastic fans who lined up for free burgers, hot dogs, pizza, chicken wings, coffee, cheese curds and Booster Juice. Among the participating vendors were The Works, Gabriel Pizza, Enbridge Gas, Cheddar Etc., Tim Horton's, The Roost and Jonny Canuck's.

The game itself was a spirited affair with both teams exchanging goals through the first three periods. In the end it came down to a shootout as Chapel Hill South would eventually emerge victorious and skate off the ice with the Challenge Cup, giving Bloess bragging rights over his two colleagues for the next 12 months.

Not bad considering the Innes Ward councillor never played organized hockey. After immigrating to Canada from his native Germany, Bloess remembers playing

pick-up hockey on the local outdoor rink with his friends. Later on when he became an adult and started a family he coached house league hockey for several years and played in a men's league.

"The last time I was on the ice, I was coaching Atom, but that was about 10 or 15 years ago," said Bloess. "Let's just say my skate blades aren't the only thing that's rusty."

Bob Monette also has fond memories of learning the game on an outdoor rink.

"I played a bit of house league and I coached bantam and juvenile at the 'B' and 'C' level. I can still remember scoring my first goal on my school team at École St. Paul. We used to build our own rink there. That would be one of my fondest memories," said Monette.

Royal Galipeau never played hockey, but he does remember watering the outdoor rink across from his house as a youngster.

"When I was a young boy everyone thought I was a bookworm, but the truth is we couldn't afford skates. My father had a pair of skates from when he was a boy and I remembered trying them on one day and walking over to the rink when no one was there, but they were too big for me so it didn't work out at all," said Galipeau, who would eventually learn to skate when he got older and spend hours gliding up and down the canal as a young man in his 20s.

As the event organizer, Cardinal Creek Community Association director and past president Sean Crossan was thrilled, not only with the turnout, but at the level of participation by the many sponsors.

"I'm thrilled. I'm absolutely ecstatic. It couldn't have gone any better," said Crossan. "The weather has co-operated. The support has been tremendous. Hopefully, this will be a model for other communities to replicate."



Innes Ward Coun. Rainer Bloess and Orléans Ward Coun. Bob Monette were all smiles before taking to the ice for the first annual Hockey Day in Canada challenge between the Cardinal Creek Community Association and the Chapel Hill South Community Association. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Besides celebrating the roots of Canada's grande game, the event doubled as a family fun day while providing the community with a stage to say thank you to all the local volunteers and businesses who helped make the rink a reality.

The humble skating surface was made possible thanks to the generosity of several local businesses including Ashcroft Homes, the Richcraft Group of Companies, Orléans Boat World and Marine and BMR Builders Warehouse.

## Mega-fitness centre coming to Orléans this spring

Commentary  
By Fred Sherwin

An Ontario fitness centre chain has unveiled plans to build a new super-size aquatics centre and fitness facility near the old Regional water tower on Innes Road.

The Athletic Club Group based in London, Ontario says it plans to begin construction on the \$10 million, 70,000 sq. ft. facility that will boast a number of amenities including two swimming pools, a multi-purpose gymnasium and a yoga and pilates studio, this spring.

According to the company's website, the Athletic Club that will also include a women's-only fitness centre; child-care facilities; massage therapy; personal training and nutrition and weight management programs, and four studios for group exercises such as hot yoga, boxercise, dance, spinning and pilates.

A similar club in Guelph has signed up 9,000 members within its first two years of operation.

The Orléans centre is being built on land owned by Trinity Development that was previously earmarked for a Costco store. When Costco decided not to move forward with its plans, The Athletic Club Group stepped in. The site is located on the south side of Innes Road, just west of the Walmart store. A 10-screen state-of-the-art theatre complex is also planned for the area.

The Athletic Club Group currently operates six gyms in Amherstburg, Guelph, Brantford, Kingsville, Thunder Bay and London. Besides the club in Orléans, they also plan to begin work on similar facilities in Kanata and at the Ottawa Train Yards.

Each club will require about 100 full- and part-time employees. Construction on



Construction will begin on a \$10 million 70,000 sq. ft. mega-fitness centre on Innes Rd. this spring. The Athletic Club will feature two swimming pools and a multi-purpose gym. File photo

the Orléans club is scheduled to begin by the end of April or early May and be completed by the end of 2009.

# The Eastender

Fred Sherwin  
Editor & Publisher

Letters should be limited to 250 words.

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

*The Eastender* reserves the right to edit correspondence for length with a commitment to maintaining the integrity and spirit of the content.

## Hydro

Hydro One vs Hydro Ottawa. In the great debate over which utility should be responsible for delivering hydro to the far east end, it should be noted that the recent spat of power outages that have plagued the area have had nothing to do with who you're paying to deliver your electricity. Rather they're either directly attributable to the installation of the new high tension transmission lines, or they were caused by faulty equipment or a lack of redundancy built into the system.

The transmission lines had to be installed and therefore the scheduled outages would have been necessary no matter which utility was responsible for supplying our hydro.

Transferring all the customers in the far east end to Hydro Ottawa would not have prevented the faulty conductor that caused the blackout on Dec. 7, or stopped snow clearing crews from slamming into transformer boxes that caused two recent power outages.

As for the infrastructure needed to provide the proper redundancies in the system which would limit the duration of future outages, there's no guarantee that Hydro Ottawa would pay for the upgrades or bring them on line any faster than Hydro One.

All of which begs the question, would we really be any better off under Hydro Ottawa than Hydro One? Possibly, maybe, but not necessarily.

If Hydro One is true to their word and they follow through with the upgrades they've promised then the service will be much more reliable in the future.

Finally, Hydro One is not going to simply hand over their customers to Hydro Ottawa out of the goodness of their hearts. They are going to want compensation, especially after they've sunk a bunch of money into improving the local infrastructure. And who do you think is going to end up footing the bill? That's right, you, me and all the other long-suffering Hydro One customers living in the City of Ottawa.

Until I find out exactly how much it's going to cost me in the short-term versus how much it's supposedly going to save me in the long run I reserve the right to say thanks, but no thanks.

— Fred Sherwin, editor

## Outdoor stadium not an either/or proposition

It never ceases to amaze me how the media can get some stories so darn screwed up. Take the issue over the availability of federal funding for an outdoor sports stadium, for example.

On Tuesday, city manager Kent Kirkpatrick told the planning committee that during informal discussions with federal officials it was indicated to him that the city needed to get its priorities straight before applying for federal funding.

This was immediately interpreted by several members of the committee including chair Peter Hume as an ultimatum that the city would have to choose between an outdoor stadium or public transit.

The truth of the matter is that the two are not connected, at least not directly. When the folks in the media finally got around to asking John Baird and Jim Watson about a possible connection between the two projects, both men send there wasn't any, at least not directly. As long as there is a finite amount of money, there will always be a debate over what it should be spent on.

Prior to the unveiling of the federal infrastructure stimulus program, the city was already involved in trying to get the feds and the province to commit to funding one third of Phase I of the Future Transportation Plan.

When the infrastructure stimulus program was announced, there was a fear that it would cause a delay in trying to get an agreement on the Phase I transportation funding which would delay the downtown tunnel and the light rail project indefinitely.

As it turned out, the city received assurances from the feds that the two were in no way connected and that they were still committed to funding the pro-

ject, and, in fact, they are currently trying to negotiate a deal.

The infrastructure stimulus program is designed to fund "shovel ready" projects over the next two years. Correct me if I'm wrong, but neither Eugene Melnyk's soccer stadium or the Lansdowne proposal headed up by Jeff Hunt are "shovel ready".

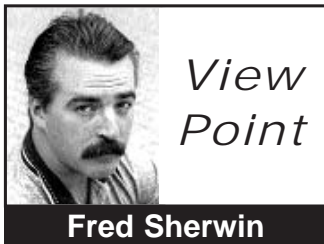
From what I understand, the feds are trying to tell the city that they need to make up their minds over which project to support.

The city will then have to develop a business plan with the proponent and then submit a request for funding to the appropriate federal agency which will consider it based on its own merits and decide one way or the other whether or not they want to help fund it.

This is simply another case of the city putting the cart before the horse by claiming there's no money available before they've even asked for it. In the end, the decision to help fund an outdoor stadium will likely be made by the politicians rather than the bureaucrats.

Rather than give up before they've even started, the city needs to continue the process of vetting the two proposals, each based on its merits as well as input from the public, and decide between one or the other. Once they've made a decision they can then go to the feds and the province and ask for financial assistance, or they could decide to pay for the stadium themselves by taking out a 30-year debenture for the \$100 million and pay it back through a surcharge on ticket sales, parking and special events.

Solutions like that, however, would require city council to think outside the box, something they so far seem incapable of doing.



Fred Sherwin



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# Local company gets grant for entrepreneurship program

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

An Orléans company that specializes in providing consulting services to small- and medium-sized businesses has been awarded a federal grant to provide 10 unemployed francophone youth an opportunity to become successful entrepreneurs.

Bermo Management Services will be receiving \$213,637 in federal funding through the Government of Canada's Skills Link program to establish the Jeunes Entrepreneurs Bermo project.

Skills Link is part of the Government of

Canada's strategy to create a well-educated, highly skilled and flexible work force. The aim of the program is to help young Canadians facing employment barriers obtain career information, develop skills, gain work experience, find good jobs and stay employed.

Anyone between the ages of 15 and 30, who are not currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits, are eligible to take part in the program. In particular the program is geared towards aboriginal youth, young persons with disabilities, recent immigrants, youth living in rural and

remote areas and high school drop-outs.

During the announcement of the Jeunes Entrepreneurs Bermo project, Ottawa-Orléans MP Royal Galipeau noted the importance of providing young people with the necessary tools to be successful in the current economic environment.

"This project will enable 10 individuals to participate and succeed in the job market by providing them with the opportunity to gain the skills, knowledge and work experience needed to become entrepreneurs," said Galipeau.

# City contemplates eliminating development charge exemptions

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The City of Ottawa is contemplating the elimination of development charge exemptions for a number of property categories including churches, schools and hospitals.

According to the city's acting director of community sustainability services Rob MacKay, nearly \$21 million has gone uncollected in the past five years due to the exemptions which also cover residential and commercial development in a large section of centretown border by Hwy. 417 in the south, Holland Road in the west, Somerset and Laurier Avenue in the north

and Elgin Street in the east.

"In the last five years we have deferred \$21 million in development related infrastructure such as roads and sewers have been deferred as a result of the exemptions," MacKay told members of the city's planning and development committee on Tuesday.

Churches, schools and hospitals have been exempted from paying development charges for years, but under the proposed changes the exemptions would be dropped two years after a new development charge bylaw is adopted by city council. Staff are also proposing to apply development

charges for new services based on the geographic area they would serve.

The changes are part of a broader review of the development charge bylaw which is scheduled to be completed by mid-June.

As part of the review, residents will be invited to make submissions to the city's corporate services and economic development committee in late May. Staff will then make their final recommendations to members of the planning committee in June who will be able to make further changes to the proposed bylaw before it is presented to city council for further review and final passage.

## Local business

# Locally-owned seniors residence opens to great fanfare

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The decision to move to a retirement residence represents a major lifestyle change and adjustment which requires careful thought and consideration.

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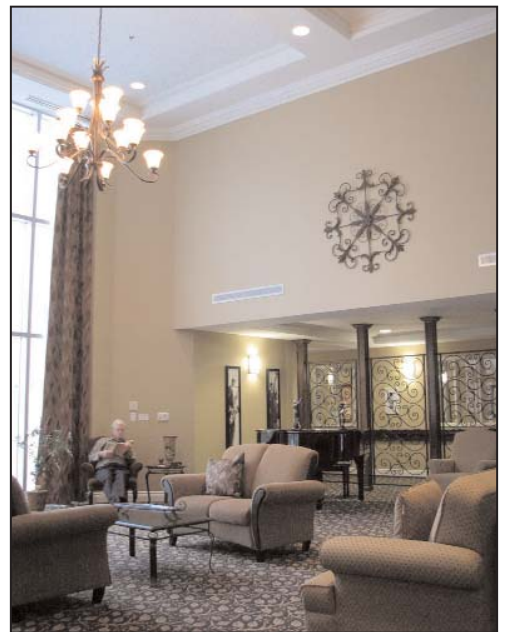
Among the many amenities available at Portobello Manor are a wonderful Bistro/café, a billiard room, chapel, computer station with access to webcam conversation, craft room, Doctor's office, exercise room, exterior courtyard, games & cards room, hair salon, movie theatre, library and recreation hall.

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The foyer of Portobello Manor, with its vaulted ceiling, is a wonderful place for residents to meet. File photo

bring many years of experience to Retirement Living. Their mission is to give the highest level of care and services to their residents with a warm and personal touch.

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## Local sports

# Outstanding effort earns St. Matt's Tigers Tier 1 city basketball championship

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The St. Matthew Tigers senior boys basketball team are the undisputed National Capital Secondary School Athletic Association Tier 1 city champions after downing the Sir Robert Borden Bengals 70-54 at the Raven's Nest on Tuesday night.

Less than a week after they squeaked past the Glebe Gryphons in the semi-finals, the Tigers played a near flawless game against the Bengals who were undefeated during the regular season, although they did lose to St. Matt's by nearly 20 points in a pre-season game.

Following their less than stellar shooting performance against the Gryphons, the Tigers worked on their shot-making skills religiously in practice and it paid off in spades. Led by Tyson Hinz and Garnet Blais who 6-for-9 combined in the first half, the Tigers shot 66 per cent from the field in the opening 16 minutes and 91 per cent from the free throw line.

But equally impressive as their shooting in the first half was their play on defense. The Bengals had very few open looks in the first half and even fewer second chances. Of the 11 rebounds that came off missed Bengal shots in the first half, Sir Robert Borden hauled down just two of them while the Tigers had nine defensive rebounds.

Hinz scored the Tigers first 11 points including a coast to coast lay up to give St. Matt's an early five point lead. He also hauled in two rebounds and blocked a shot. Point guard Scott Ring also did a stellar job running the Tigers' offense and establishing the pace of the game by being patient with the ball.

As dominant as Hinz was in the first quarter, Blais was equally impressive in the second stanza going 3-for-4 from the field, including a three pointer, and hauling down three boards.

By the end of the first half, the Tigers had built up a comfortable 14-point lead which

they managed to maintain through the third quarter as Hinz and Blais continued to rack up the points along with Jeremy Leonard-Smith who added a pair of baskets including a trey.

Rather than ease up on the throttle, the Tigers extended their lead to 23 points in the fourth quarter before cruising home to a 70-54 win.

All five senior starters factored into the scoring along with first year senior Gavin Resch who contributed five points coming off the bench.

Blais led all scorers with 25 points on 10 of 12 shooting and four free throws. Hinz was six for nine from the field and a perfect four for four from the free throw line for 17 points. Scott Ring and Leonard-Smith added nine points each and Kyle Ring had five points.

As a team, the Tigers shot 61 per cent from the field and were an impressive 11-for-14 from the free throw line. By comparison, the Bengals shot just 43 per cent from the field and were 11-for-18 from the foul line.

The win was especially sweet for the graduating seniors who were playing in their first city championship after knocking on the door for the past four years at both the senior and junior level. Blais admitted to having some pre-game jitters, but they quickly calmed down once the game started.

"Definitely not," Blais answered when asked if he ever dreamed about having the type of game he ended up having. "I was very nervous, especially with it being my first city championship in five years."

The game was well attended by fans from both schools including two competing sections of students who were decked out in their respective school colours. The boisterous crowd helped pump up the Tiger players.

"When we came out for the warm-up I couldn't believe it, they were so loud. I never played in a game with that many fans. It was pretty exciting," said Hinz who fed off the



Members of the St. Matthew Tigers pose for a team picture after winning the NCSSAA senior boys Tier 1 basketball championship on Tuesday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

energy in the gym.

The Tigers will only have a couple of days to savour their victory before they start preparing for the OFSSA provincial championships which get underway March 9 in Ottawa.

Winning the city championship should give St. Matt's a huge boost heading into OFSSA, according to Tigers head coach Jason Wren.

"Our goal back in October was to just make it to this game, but once we were here we wanted to take care of business. There's no way we wanted to go into OFSSA on a losing note," said Wren.

With the city championship tucked under their belts, the Tigers are now 40-1 in league and tournament action so far this season. Their only loss came in the second game of the All-Catholic High School Provincial Championships earlier this month.



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## Local sports

# Colonel By wins first senior girls V-Ball crown in six years

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Colonel By Cougars left no doubt who the best senior girls volleyball team is in the city after downing the Béatrice-Desloges Bulldogs in straight sets to win the Tier 1 NCSSAA championship on Thursday.

Coming off an emotionally-charged five set semi-final win over the five-time defending champion Glebe Gryphons on Tuesday, the Cougars had already wrapped up a trip to the OFSAA provincial championships, the only thing that still had to be determined was whether they would be heading to the Quad-A provincial championships in Mississauga or the AAA championships in Thunder Bay.

The Cougars trailed the Bulldogs for most of the opening set until a power spike by Jovana Novakovic tied the score at 23-23. A pair of unforced errors on the part of the Bulldogs would give the Cougars the early 1-0 lead.

Colonel By only trailed once in the second set down 14-13, then at 19-17 they reeled off three straight points to take a five point lead. Béatrice-Desloges managed to get back to within two at 24-22 before the Cougars finally closed out the game to take a two set lead.

The third set was a see-saw battle until Novakovic made a block at the net for one point and tipped the ball for another score to give Colonel By a commanding four point lead up 22-18. The Bulldogs then managed to get a side out and score a point on the serve to narrow the deficit to 22-20, before the Cougars served out the match for

the win.

The final match point came on a spectacular spike from the back row by Alana MacLean. Alyssa Ashton also had a big game with several key blocks and Samantha Nishikawa scored several key points as well. But the tone of the match was set by Cougars centre Marijka Miedema.

"I thought she did a good job controlling the match," Cougars head coach Greg Bell said after the game. "As long as we got the ball up to her, she controlled the pace of the game. After the first set, we really started to block well and our hitting was pretty spot on."

Unfortunately the Bulldogs didn't have much of an answer for the Cougars' tremendous net play. Every time Béatrice-Desloges managed to get the score close, the Cougars were able to get a couple of big points and stay out of trouble.

Bulldogs coach Joel Lavoie says his team's inability to establish an effective block was the difference in the game.

"We really didn't block well and that hurt us. But, you know, we're a very young team, we only have two Grade 12s and eight Grade 10s, so we should be able to come back and hopefully win the gold."

The win marks the first time Colonel By has captured the Tier 1 senior girls championship since 2003. For the last several years their arch-nemesis has been the Glebe Gryphons.

The Cougars only loss during the regular season was a five-setter against Glebe back in December.

For the seniors on the team who will be graduating this year, dowing the Gryphons



Colonel By captain Marijka Miedema hoists the NCSSAA Tier 1 trophy over her head after the Cougars defeated the Béatrice-Desloges Bulldogs to win the senior girls volleyball championship on Thursday. Fred Sherwin/Photo

in the semi-finals was the biggest match of their high school careers.

"That was a huge win. It was a much more emotional game, especially from the aspect that it was against Glebe who's had our number the past couple of years and the fact that it guaranteed us a trip to OFSAA," said Miedema. "For this to happen in my final year is amazing."

## Grads magic number down to one after win over Jr. Sens

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Grads are one Brockville Braves loss away from clinching third place in the overall standings after extending their advantage over the Braves to eight points with a shootout win over the Ottawa Jr. Senators on Wednesday.

The win, along with a Braves loss to the Cornwall Colts on Thursday, means the Grads magic number to clinch third place is now one. They could accomplish the task on their own when they play the last place Hawkesbury Hawks on the final day of the regular season next Friday, but they may not have to depending on how Brockville does in their next three games.

The Braves have to win their remaining four games and hope for a Hawks upset in the Grads' final game of the season just to force a tie. The odds are not in the Braves

favour, especially given the fact that they are currently on a bit of a skid, having lost their last three games.

They play Kemptville tonight in a game they should win and then the Smiths Falls Bears on Sunday in a match-up that may very well decide fourth and fifth place in the over standings. Even if they win both of those games, they would still have to beat the red hot Nepean Raiders next Wednesday to keep their third place hopes alive.

The Grads meanwhile are riding high having won their last nine games in a row and 12 of their last 13.

In Wednesday's game against the Jr. Sens, the Grads fell behind early after giving up a power play goal in the first period.

Marc-Andre Labelle's team-leading 39th goal of the season briefly tied the game at the 13:14 mark of the second period, but the Jr. Sens immediately bounced back with a

goal from Nicholas Belleville 25 seconds later to regain the lead.

Michael Sorrenti's fourth goal of the season a minute later would tie the contest yet again at 2-2, which is where the score remained through the third period and five minutes of overtime.

Adam Laderoute then stopped all three shots in the shootout while Labelle scored the lone shootout goal for the Grads to give Cumberland the win.

As things stand now the Grads and the Jr. Sens will face each other in the first round of the playoffs, although the Kanata Stallions and the Cornwall Colts still have an outside shot at catching Ottawa.

The Grads were 4-2 against the Jr. Sens during the regular season, including a 2-1 win in the season opener. More recently the Jr. Sens took them to overtime and Wednesday's game had to be settled in a shootout.

## Local sports

# Wolverines win pair of medals at Mike O'Connor tourney

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Gloucester-Cumberland Basketball Association held the 14th annual Mike O'Connor Memorial Tournament last weekend with 47 teams seeing action in eight different divisions ranging from Major Atom to Junior.

The lone Gloucester Wolverine team to make it to the finals was the Major Atom A squad which survived the loss of four players to down the Kanata Cavaliers in the semi-finals. All four players fouled out down the stretch as the Wolverines held on for dear life. Unfortunately, in the gold medal game against the Belleville Spirits, it was the Wolverines inability to capitalize on their opponents' fouls that ended up costing them the game.

The Wolverines went to the free throw line 37 times, but only managed to sink eight foul shots in losing the game 29-21. By comparison, the Spirits went 1-for-9 in the free throw department.

The Spirits led from start to finish, jumping out to a 6-3 lead in the first four minutes. They extended their lead to seven points in the second quarter before the Wolverines managed to get to back to within a basket on a long range buzzer beater by Michelle Rhodes (9) to end the second half.

The third quarter was all Belleville as Anna Brennan (11) and Nicole Loveys (33) began to dominate under the boards hauling in seven rebounds between them. As the fourth quarter got under way, the Spirits had a comfortable seven point lead up 23-16.

The Wolverines had a chance to get back into the game in the final four minutes but eight straight misses from the free throw line finally did them in. After the game, Wolverines head coach Perry Thompson chose to focus on his team's excellent defensive play rather than dwell on the dismal free throw shooting.

"We left a lot of points at the free throw line, but defensively I thought we played great, especially considering their size," said Thompson.

The Wolverines top scorer was Elizabeth Peters (3) who bucked the trend in going 4-for-9 from the free throw line on her way to scoring 10 points.

The team of 10- and 11-year-olds has come a long way since a pre-season seeding tournament in Kanata where they lost every game by 20 to 30 points and were well-deserving of the silver medal.

The Wolverines other medal-winning performance was turned in by the U13 Major Bantam AA squad which defeated the Brookwood Bullets 39-25 to claim the bronze.

After falling behind 6-3 in the first four minutes the Wolverines went on a 19-4 run to take a 22-10 lead at the end of half thanks to the play of Teeghan Rambo and Caitlin Salvino who was the game's top scorer with 11 points.

Teammate Taylor Wells drained her first three shots in the second half to extend the Wolverines lead to 28-13. They would go up by as much as 18 points in the third quarter before cruising to a 39-25 win.



Members of the Gloucester Wolverines Major Atom AA team pose for a group picture after winning the silver medal at the Mike O'Connor Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sunday. Sherwin/Photo

After the game head coach Geoff Wells was quick to give a great deal of the credit for the win on his roll players many of whom had their best game of the year.

"They really stepped it up," said Wells. "This was our best effort of the year by far. We're really coming together at the right time. We beat the number three and number five teams in the province and Brookwood is the number two team in Quebec who beat the Shooting Stars in the round robin."

# Former Lancer plying his trade on the other side of the pond

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Basketball has been very, very good to Simon Mitchell. After graduating from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School in 2002, the former Orléans resident went to Queen's University where he won the team MVP during his last three years with the Golden Gaels.

During his fourth year at Queen's, he heard through the grapevine that a club in England was looking for Canadian players. Mitchell responded to the request after graduating in the spring of 2007, only to find out that he needed four years of basketball to qualify for a work visa in England. So he re-enrolled at Queen's and played one more year of ball.

During the spring he sent some game tapes and his CV to Kent Crusaders chairman and director of basketball Jesse Sazant. A short while later he was offered a contract as well as a coaching position with the Crusaders high school basketball academy.

After moving to England in September, Matthew also took on a position coaching five- and six-year-old children at the Sturry

Primary School.

"Coaching the little ones has been one of the toughest things I've ever done. Some days they are literally out of control. I spend the majority of the session just trying to get them organized and not injure themselves. Other days they are well-behaved. In the end it's been one of the most challenging things I've ever done," says Mitchell.

The entire experience has been unreal, especially considering the fact that he very nearly gave up on his hoops dream altogether.

"To be perfectly honest, I kind of lost motivation to play overseas near the end of my fifth year at Queen's. I didn't do anything in terms of finding a team in Europe. But around mid-May I decided I'd at least contact Jesse and send him game tapes, says Mitchell. "(Thus far) it's been a great experience and I'm glad I made the decision to come."



Simon Mitchell

The Kent Crusaders are a semi-pro team currently playing in Division 2 of the English Basketball League. According to Mitchell, the level of play is mid-Canadian collegiate level and in past years a number of players have signed with professional clubs in Europe.

For Mitchell, the experience has been tremendous, especially the opportunity to pass along his love of basketball to his much young students.

"Coaching the high school kids has been very rewarding. I've really seen an improvement in their ability since September. It's enjoyable coaching kids that are so enthusiastic about basketball and about improving their game. They soak up everything you say," says Mitchell. "It's cool being able to spread the sport of basketball in another country."

The objective of any Division 2 team, however, is to finish at the top of the standings and earn a promotion to Division 1.

"Hopefully, we'll finish in the top two in our division and get promoted," says Mitchell. "In all, the experience has been really good. I'm enjoying the basketball and I've met some great people."

# Artscetera

## First Class recital brings together exceptional students

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Some of the top music students in the city demonstrated their magnificent talents on Sunday during the Gloucester Music Teachers Association's First Class Honours recital and awards ceremony at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Orléans.

The annual recital brings together those students who scored 80 per cent or better in either their Royal Conservatory of Music exam or the Kiwanis Music Festival adjudication. As well, each student who received the top mark at their grade level received a Performance Trophy. Theory Award certificates and trophies were also handed out as well as a Special Teachers Award which this year went to Mimi Lam.

The recital itself was kicked off by guest pianist Kevin Zhao whose wonderful performance of Beethoven's "Sonata in F Major, Opus 78" set the mood for what was to come.

The rest of the program featured a number of outstanding performances all played without the benefit of a song sheet. Thirteen-year-old Catherine Gallagher stood out among the earlier performers with her rendition of James Hook's "Sonatina in D Major, Opus 12, No. 1 (1st mvt.)" which required a delicate touch and intricate finger work which she managed to pull off flawlessly.

Another early highlight was provided by Felix Lu, 13, who played Chopin's "Waltz Opus 69, No. 1". Nathalie Du's performance of Thompson's "Three Blind Mice" was also a treat, as was nine-year-old Amy Li's performance of Christopher Norton's "Scamp" which drew one of the loudest ovations of the evening.

Danielle Lemieux from Sarsfield also drew a loud round of applause for her vocal performance of the American folk song "Homeward Bound" which has become the focal point of a musical tribute to American soldiers serving in Iraq that's been circulating on YouTube.

Lemieux plans to perform the song in competition at this year's Kiwanis Music Festival and judging by her performance on Sunday she should do extremely well.

While many of the young musicians played their pieces with a great deal of skill, Vanessa Cojbasic, Rebecca Kalinger and Edmund Chung took the experience to the next level by actually "performing" their pieces.

Cojbasic, 17, showed why she received the top GMTA mark on the Grade 10 RCM exam with her moody, melodic performance of Chopin's "Nocturne, Opus 72, No. 1".

The Gloucester High School student has applied to go to Queen's University next year where she plans to major in music. She hopes to one day become a music teacher and give back to her students what her teachers provided her.

At 18, Edmond Chung recently completed his RCM journey by receiving an 88 per cent on his ARCT exam. During his exquisite performance of Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in D Major", the music seemed to just flow through him which was remarkable considering he hadn't performed in nearly a year.

Having nearly completed the International Baccalaureate program at Colonel By Secondary School, Chung plans to go to McGill University next year to study biochemistry. Unfortunately, his playing will have to take a backseat to his studies



This year's recipients of the Gloucester Music Teachers Association First Class Honours Awards pose for a group photo. Fred Sherwin/photo

although he plans to play the odd concert when invited.

The honour of closing out the program was given to 15-year-old Rebecca Kalinger who was her impeccable self in performing "Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tune" by Alberto Ginastera, despite the fact that she had a fever of close to 101-degrees. The Convent Glen North resident scored 90 per cent on her Grade 9 exam.

Among the other Performance Trophy recipients were all three members of the Deluca family, Andriano (Grade 1), Selina (Grade 7) and Dorian (Grade 8), as well as Eric Kingsbury (Grade 1) and Charles Li (Grade 3). Wendy Wu earned a certificate for Preliminary Rudiments, as did Gail Auger for Grade 1 Rudiments and Maria Chung for Grade 2 Rudiments. Finally, Marie-Luc Seguin Lemay received the trophy for Grade 5 Theory and Thomas Henbst received the Grade 3 trophy.

# Community calendar

**SATURDAY, FEB. 28**

**COUNTRY STYLE BUFFET BREAKFAST** served from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. This is a fundraising event for the Legion. For more information visit [www.rcl632.com](http://www.rcl632.com). Cost \$6 per person.

**OTTAWA RIVER SLEIGH RIDES** leaving the Oziles Marina and Tackle Shop on Petrie Island from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Cost \$4.50 per person.

**OPEN MUSICAL JAM SESSION** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the

Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Rd. All entertainers welcome to participate. Fast foods available.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH** at the Bearbrook Resort. Menu includes game meat as well as regular breakfast items, special salads and deserts. Bring the family and enjoy your Sunday at the farm. 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.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

**CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** beginning at 10 a.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

**TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING** beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING** beginning at 4 p.m. in Andrew Haydon Hall, 111 Lisgar St.

**THE ST. PETER PLAYERS** present the Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast" in the auditorium at St. Peter High School on Charlemagne Blvd. Tickets are \$10 per person. Curtain time is 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the

Champlain Room at Ottawa City Hall.

**THE ST. PETER PLAYERS** present the Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast" in the auditorium at St. Peter High School on Charlemagne Blvd. Tickets are \$10 per person. Curtain time is 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

**THE ST. PETER PLAYERS** present the Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast" in the auditorium at St. Peter High School on Charlemagne Blvd. Tickets are \$10 per person. Curtain time is 7 p.m.