

The Eastender

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Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

Volume 8, Issue 11



Carolynne Vinette, one of 14 students from Garneau High School who took part in Jeun'Espoir Jamaïque, visits with a child in one of two orphanages the group visited during their recent trip to Kingston, Jamaica. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Orléans teacher facing child porn charges

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

A popular elementary school teacher was arrested and led away by police in front of a number of students at Jeanne-Sauvé elementary school in Fallingbrook after being charged with one count of possessing child pornography as part of one of the largest child pornography investigations in Canada.

Paul André Dumais, 33, was teaching at École publique Jeanne-Sauvé on Gardenway Road in Fallingbrook on Monday when he was called down to the office and arrested by waiting police officers. He

was then hand-cuffed and led out of the school past a number of students to a waiting police cruiser.

The police took him down to Ottawa Police Service headquarters on Elgin Street where he was processed before being taken to the Provincial Courthouse for arraignment and later released on bail.

The teacher was among 50 suspects who were arrested in Ottawa as part of Project Salvo, which was a multi-jurisdictional investigation into the distribution of child pornography over the Internet.

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Ottawa crime rate shows modest decrease in 2008

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Violent crime in Ottawa was down 7.5 per cent in 2008, most notably in the area of property offences which saw a drop of 8.1 per cent from the year before.

Crimes against the person including assaults, sexual offences, murders and individual robberies were down 7.4 per cent, while all other Criminal Code offences were down 3.2 per cent.

The 7.5 per cent drop in crime follows a six per cent drop in the crime rate in 2007. The statistics are included in the 2008 Ottawa Police Service Criminal Activity Report which was released at the Ottawa

Police Service Board meeting on Monday night.

A more detailed list of statistics will be released later this spring. Besides giving a big picture perspective on criminal activity in the city the report also broke down the number and type of calls the police service received in 2008.

According to the report, the highest priority calls of crimes in progress was up 1.5 per cent, but all other calls of a Priority 2, 3 or 4 nature were down 3.5 per cent for an overall decrease of 2.3 per cent.

The Police Services Board also released the results of a survey conducted in 2008 which shows a high level of satisfaction among residents toward the

Ottawa Police Service.

Eighty-six per cent of the respondents to the survey said they were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the performance of the Ottawa Police Service, while only four per cent were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied".

The OPS received the highest performance scores for being approachable and easy to talk to (67%), enforcing the law (59%), police presence in vehicles (57%), and doing everything they can to help people (57%).

They did not receive very high scores for their performance in helping victims of crime which came in at 26 per cent, or providing services in other lan-

guages which received a 12 per cent approval rating.

Sixty-four per cent of respondents said they feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the daytime, while that number dropped significantly to 23 per cent when asked if they feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. The results regarding personal security were homogeneous across most of the neighbourhoods in the city except the rural wards where residents were more likely to feel safer at night.

The 2008 Criminal Activity Report and the 2008 Public Survey on Police Services can be downloaded by visiting www.ottawapolice.ca.

Community briefs

Beacon Hill CA hosting rally to save Colonel By SS

ORLEANS – The Beacon Hill North Community Association is holding an information meeting and rally to save Colonel By Secondary School from possible closure. The Ottawa District School Board is nearing the end of an accommodation review of Gloucester High School, Colonel By Secondary School and Rideau High School with the aim of closing one of the schools and consolidating school space. The meeting is being held on April 1 at Colonel By Secondary School at 7 p.m. All concerned residents are invited to attend.

Navan Animal Rescue fundraiser this weekend

NAVAN – Supporters of the Navan Animal Rescue Centre are a Wine and Cheese event this Saturday to raise money in the ongoing effort to rebuild and relaunch the Navan Animal Rescue Centre (NARC). The event will also include a silent auction and will run from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre on Navan Rd. near Mer Bleue. Tickets are \$20 and include a light buffet, glass of wine, silent & live auctions with DJ Services for the evening. Auction items are listed at www.narc-charity.ca. To pre-purchase your ticket call 613-834-7005 or e-mail Michelle Mayer at events@narc-charity.ca.

Green Wellness Expo returns to Orléans in April

ORLEANS – Preparations are already underway for the 3rd annual Green Wellness Expo which will be held on Sunday, April 19 at the MIFO Cultural Centre on Carriere Street. The Green Wellness Expo brings together dozens of exhibitors, sponsors and presentations that are pre-screened by an advisory board to ensure the highest quality event. Everyone who attends the Expo has the opportunity to sample the most innovative health, lifestyle and green enhancing products within their community. The Expo also features a number of demonstrations to educate and entertain the public on different health topics and disciplines. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at the Beauchamp Chiropractic, 1224 Place d'Orléans Dr. across from Place d'Orléans. Kids get in for free. Each attendee will receive a bonus bag with complimentary take-home products and information to use and share with family and friends as well as the opportunity to win a variety of door prizes.

Popular teacher arrested in front of young students

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Some 23 high tech investigators were involved in the operation which resulted in a total of 71 arrest warrants being issued and more than 100 charges being laid. Authorities say more charges may result as the investigation continues.

The operation involved the RCMP and 35 different police agencies from coast to coast. The focus of the investigation was on the distribution of child pornography material between individuals over the Internet. Police seized more than 130 computers, “dozens and dozens” of hard drives and “thousands and thousands” of disks and other portable storage devices.

While the charge is before him, Dumais has been suspended from teaching at the school indefinitely. He has been at the school for the past three years teaching English, drama and physical education. Before that he taught at Le Prélude in Chapel

Hill South.

Parents who attended a special meeting at Jeanne-Sauvé last night expressed disappointment that Dumais had been arrested, concern over the charge he’s facing and dismay that he was arrested at the school in front of the students, some of whom are as young as six-years-old.

Several of the parents who asked not to be identified said Dumais was extremely well-liked and respected by his students, which made his arrest especially upsetting to them.

One parent wondered aloud why the police had to arrest Dumais at the school rather than at his home away from the students.

It is not known whether or not Dumais is married or has any children of his own. Nor has any information been released about the subject matter pertaining to the charge, except that it has no connection with any of the students at the school.

Details released on OC Transpo operator scheduling agreement

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

OC Transpo operators will be able to drive up to 17 hours a day with six hours off between shifts while the federal government works to remove an exemption that allows municipal transit services from having to follow federal work-rest rules.

The City of Ottawa was hoping to enforce the work-rest regulations on the operators during the current block booking process, but the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents the drivers, filed a grievance with the federal labour council claiming that the practice was in violation of the agreement to send all outstanding issues, including

scheduling, to binding arbitration.

In order to settle the matter, the federal labour minister appointed a mediator to try and come up with an arrangement that was mutually agreeable to both sides.

What was settled upon was a 17-hour work day with a minimum of six hours off between shifts and one day off every two weeks. Under the federal work-rest regulations, operators of transportation vehicles are prevented from working more than 14 hours in a row and they have to take a minimum of eight hours off between shifts. Municipal transit services, however, can opt out of having to follow the regulations under a special exemption.

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Bradley Evans



Philippe Grandmaitre

“Providing quality legal service to Orléans and area for the past 30 years.”

Jeun'Espoire Jamaïque spreads hope and faith in island country

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Caroline Thériault has just returned from a trip to Jamaica where she and 14 other students helped build a house, renovate a community centre and visited an orphanage and a home for the elderly.

Not exactly your typical March Break vacation, but it was rewarding and gratifying in ways frolicking on a beach in the Dominican Republic, or bar-hopping in Cancun, are not.

Jeun'Espoir Jamaïque has been visiting the slums of Kingston, Jamaica every March for the past 15 years, first under the guidance of Garneau High School teachers Collette Papineau and Denis Leduc, and more recently under the leadership of fellow teacher André Clermont.

Every year the group of high school students and their adult chaperones build a small home for a local family and undertake various humanitarian and renovation projects at local orphanages, homes for the aged and medical clinics.

This year the group took on five different projects in two different locations. They spent the first five days building a small 12' x 12' house in the shanty community of Ferry, which is situated on the outskirts of Kingston. They also installed a tile floor, built a deck and poured a cement floor at a complex that included a medical clinic, a school and a community centre.

While they were in Kingston they stayed at a hostel in a Franciscan Ministries Convent.

Each day started at 7 a.m. with a modest breakfast. They were usually on the job site by 8 a.m. and worked until 5 p.m.

The group of mostly girls surprised themselves at how quickly they learned to swing a hammer and saw in a straight line.

"To be honest I don't know how I managed. None of us had any construction experience. At first I couldn't even hammer a nail straight, but we figured it out and it turned out pretty good," says Thériault.

As satisfying as building a home and doing all the renovation projects were, it was being able to interact with the local Jamaicans that provided the participants with the type of experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

During the first phase of their visit, the group visited the Glen Hope Home For Children which houses orphaned children from newborns to girls 17 and 18 years old.

"It was very upsetting because a lot of the girls were the same age as me but they were in completely different circumstances. There were older girls on one side of the orphanage and in another part of the compound there were infants and toddlers. They were constantly around even when we were working on the clinic and the community centre, we were constantly interacting with them," says Thériault.

The group also dropped by the Eira Schrader Home for the Aged in Trenchtown, which they first adopted in 2001. While they were there, Thériault



Member of Jeun'Espoir Jamaïque gather in front of a house they built in Kingston, Jamaica during the March Break.

Photo supplied

noticed a man who was sitting all by himself.

"He seemed very sad and lonely, so I sat down and started talking to him. His name was Mr. Allan and his own kids didn't even know he's there. At one point we were singing a song and he started crying. It was very hard, but in the end he just needed some company," says Thériault, who has a whole new appreciation for her own family after her experience in Jamaica. "I think the experience has definitely helped me appreciate what I have a lot more. We're very lucky to have everything that we have."

As the end of their visit grew near, the group spent a day at Ocho Rios which is a popular day trip destination for tourists staying at the nearby resorts. After spending the better part of a week working in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Kingston, suddenly finding

themselves rubbing elbows with Canadian and American tourists was a bit of a culture shock to say the least.

"I found it really weird. We were so used to working and seeing poverty and all of a sudden we were in a place that was so commercialized. I wasn't sure whether we were the ones who were out of place or they were out of place," says Thériault.

Despite the long hours and hard work, Thériault says she would do it all over again and advises other students to follow in her footsteps.

"I would definitely encourage other kids my age to do it," says Thériault. "It's hard in a lot of ways, but it's very satisfying too. I think we make a difference. Every time we go down there we brighten their lives a little bit."

To find out more about Jeun'Espoir Jamaïque visit www.jeunespoir.org.

Provincial budget contains good news for future health hub

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Proponents of a future health hub in Orléans received some good news in the provincial budget on Thursday in the form of additional money being earmarked for capital health care initiatives. And while there was no specific mention of the health hub, the mere fact that there is additional money available for health care facilities is a positive development, according to Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely.

"There's nothing definite and we weren't expecting anything specific, but it does mean that there's money available. It's

now a matter of trying to access the funding for the project," said McNeely.

The concept of a health hub, which would provide a variety of health care services while acting as a conduit for health care providers in Orléans and patients was first unveiled in the spring of 2008.

Shortly afterwards, the Montfort Hospital was given a \$100,000 grant to develop the health hub concept and come up with a detailed business plan.

That work has been done and submitted to the Ministry of Health. The next step would be to identify a possible location for the hub, acquire the land and

design the facility. The estimated cost of the land and the design work that needs to be done is about \$7-\$8 million.

McNeely is hoping the necessary funds will be made available during the current fiscal year. If so, the project could move forward toward a possible completion date in 2011.

The purpose behind the Orléans Family Health Centre is to improve access to family health care in the far east end while easing the burden on existing hospitals.

The OFHC would provide residents with access to family doctors, diagnostic services

such as MRIs, and visiting specialists.

It would also become the operational base of the Orleans Family Health Team and it would become the new home of the Orleans Urgent Health Care Clinic. It would also provide a number of services that are currently available at the Montfort satellite clinic on Portobello Blvd. and Innes Rd. as well as certain day surgeries, mental health services and access to senior home care and other community services.

McNeely says he's hoping to be able to make an announcement on the formation of a family health team in the near future.

Residents find little solace at Hydro One public meeting

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

About 24 people came out to a Hydro One meeting at the Orleans Client Service Centre on March 17 to find out why they've experienced so many power outages in recent months and what's being done to rectify the problem.

Although what they heard was mostly positive, it was cold comfort for those among them who are out of pocket hundreds of dollars for repairs to furnaces that were damaged during a power surge on Dec. 23.

Some 32 customers filed claims with the Hydro One insurer Qualmec immediately following the incident, although the total number of homes that were affected by the power surge is estimated to be in the hundreds.

For many, the normal course of action would have been to file claims through their own home policies. The down side to such a course of action is that the homeowners would still be on the hook for sizeable deductibles, which is why they would have decided to try and seek restitution from Hydro One.

And while Hydro One officials are willing to admit the power surge was caused by a mechanical malfunction at one of their distribution stations, the insurance company that assesses claims against the provincial utility ruled that the company was not negligent in the measures taken to ensure proper maintenance of the equipment in question and therefore was not financially liable.

Their only other course of action now is to submit a complaint to the Ontario Ombudsman.

As for the potential for future power outages, Hydro One says they will be fin-

ished the lion's share of the work that's been at the source of the recent spat of power outages by June, namely the upgrades to the high tension lines that run along the hydro corridor through Orléans. They're also committed to making additional investments that will address the community's energy distribution needs for the next five years and beyond.

According to statistics offered up by Hydro One's director of customer operations, Leonard MacMillan, The Orléans service area, which includes over 45,000 customers, experienced an average of seven power outages in 2008 with an average duration of 11 hours. In 2007, there were an average six power outages with an average duration of 13 hours.

With the work that's being done, Macmillan predicts the service standards will return to pre-2007 levels which was an average of three to four power disruptions lasting an average of four to five hours.

"We've been working on improving the transmission system to have a back-up in case of outages, but in doing so we've had a number of disruptions. Our hope is that we will be back into a normal state in 2009 and going into 2010," said MacMillan

The meeting was organized by Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely who once again addressed the possibility of transferring the Hydro One customers living within the city boundaries to Hydro Ottawa. On again, off again discussions aimed at transferring the Hydro One customers to Hydro Ottawa have broken down in the past over the asking price.

McNeely wants to form a committee of local residents and community leaders to try and once again kick start the negotiations. He also said he's considering asking the provincial Energy Minister to appoint



An upset Orléans resident and Hydro One customer addresses officials from the provincial utility during a public meeting on March 17. File photo

an independent third party arbitrator to hear arguments from the two utility providers and come up with a fair price.

"I've never liked the idea that Hydro One customers in the former municipality of Cumberland pay more for their hydro than Hydro Ottawa customers. I've always thought this is unjust. A committee could monitor the service level and make sure we're getting the service we're paying for. And maybe we can see what an arbitrator can do," said McNeely.

For the time being Hydro One customers in Orléans can expect another planned power outage in the early morning hours of April 5. The four hour outage should be the last planned disruption connected with the transmission line work.

St. Joseph Blvd. facelift among stimulus funding wishlist

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

St. Joseph Blvd. may soon be getting a long overdue, and much needed facelift. The unofficial "Main Street" of Orléans has been included among a list of projects the City of Ottawa will be submitting to the federal and provincial levels of government for consideration as part of the joint federal/provincial economic stimulus program.

The \$2.5 million in streetscaping improvements to St. Joseph Blvd. is just one of 31 projects totalling \$497 million that the city is hoping to receive money for through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.

It is listed as a second priority item after \$194 million in transit and transportation projects that includes, among other things, \$51 million for the Hunt Club Road extension and interchange at Hwy. 417.

The project, which would allow motorists to bypass Walkley Road and Hawthorne in trying to get to the south end, is still in

the design phase, but if the money was made available by the provincial and federal governments, it could proceed to a build stage by 2010.

Besides the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund projects, the city has also put forward a number of projects that could qualify for money under three other stimulus funding programs Social Housing Infrastructure Initiatives; the Recreational Infrastructure Fund; and Cultural Initiatives.

The Recreational Infrastructure Fund list contains 24 possible projects totalling \$58.5 million. Of the 24 projects, four are specific to the east end: an extension on the lap pool at the Gloucester Splash facility (\$3 million); the expansion of the Carlsbad Springs Community Centre (\$3.2 million); the expansion of the Eric Danis Fieldhouse at the Hornet's Nest soccer facility (\$55,000) and three additional mini-soccer fields at the Potvin Arena (\$30,000).

There are eight Cultural Initiatives

totalling \$29.25 million, including renovations to the Cumberland Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, and \$47.7 million in Social Housing improvements.

All told, the city's corporate services and economic development committee approved more than \$637 million worth of projects under the four available stimulus funding programs. If the list is endorsed by city council, staff will begin working with the federal and provincial governments to identify which projects may go forward, what timelines will be involved, and what funding formulas will be required.

Once the specific details of the federal funding eligibility and application process become available, staff will develop and submit applications, in order of priority, for the projects that are eligible.

According to the staff report, the city would pay its share of the costs through a combination of debt, development charge revenue and rate supported reserve funds.

The Eastender

Fred Sherwin
Editor & Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor to
The Eastender e-mail the-eastender@orleansonline.ca.

Letters should be limited to 250 words.

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

Stimulating

The City of Ottawa tabled a list of projects it hopes to get approved under the federal/ provincial economic stimulus program.

Among the long list of projects totalling nearly \$500 million are two initiatives that will benefit the east end greatly. The first is \$2.5 million for improved streetscaping along St. Joseph Blvd. The initiative was first approved by city council five years ago, but eventually succumbed to budget pressures. Under the economic stimulus program the city would pay for one-third of the streetscaping costs if the project is approved by the two upper-tier levels of government.

The other project which has been added to the list of initiatives is the Hunt Club Road extension and the Hunt Club/Hwy. 417 interchange.

Several weeks ago it looked as if the project wasn't "shovel ready" because the city had not yet received word from the province that it was willing to pay its share of the design and engineering costs. As it turns out there was a minor lapse in communication over the matter and now it appears as if the province is willing to accelerate the project on a design/build basis as long as the city is willing to go along with the program.

Both the St. Joseph streetscaping and the Hunt Club interchange would not be on the current list of stimulus projects without the input of our east end councillors.

Unfortunately, beside the aforementioned initiatives, there is scant little else that's on the list for the east end. Particularly conspicuous by their absence is any mention of the Blackburn Bypass Extension or the South Innes Transitway.

The Blackburn Bypass Extension is designed to run through the South Innes community from Trim Road in the east to Navan Road in the west. It is currently in Phase 1 of the roads portion of the city's Future Transportation Plan to be completed by 2015, but it would have been nice to have gotten it bumped up a few years to take the strain off Innes Road.

As for the South Innes Transitway, I'm afraid its not even on the city's radar anymore. The plan now is to turn the shoulders of the Blackburn Bypass Extension into bus lanes and then eventually build a transitway along the hydro corridor after 2019.

While the transitway would be of great benefit to the thousands of residents living in South Innes, the plan to use the Blackburn Bypass Extension as a temporary thoroughfare for buses in the short term only serves to strengthen the argument to use the economic stimulus funds to complete the extension sooner rather than later.

But alas, it is not to be. Instead we'll just have to settle for a few streetscape improvements to St. Joseph Blvd. and the Hunt Club interchange, assuming, of course, they're both approved.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

Arbitrator needed to settle hydro debate once and for all

It's nice to see there may finally be a light at the end of the local hydro tunnel. Last week, about 20 or so area residents gathered at the Orléans Client Service Centre to get an update on the work being done by Hydro One to improve local service and end the litany of power outages that have been plaguing the area for the past two years.

What they heard sounded promising, but it's what they didn't hear that left them shaking their heads. Many of them had to spend hundreds of dollars in repairs after a power surge caused by a faulty piece of equipment at a local distribution station fried their furnace blowers on Dec. 23.

The average cost of the repairs was between \$750 and \$1100 – if you were lucky. If you happened to be away for the holidays, you more than likely returned home to frozen pipes, or worse still, burst pipes which left parts of your home flooded.

The normal course of action when such occurrences take place is to file a claim with Hydro One's insurer Qualmec, which assesses each claim and decides whether or not the damages should be covered.

Most filed claims thinking that it would be an open and shut case, after all the utility admitted that it was a faulty piece of equipment that caused the surge in voltage. But here's the kicker. According to Qualmec's guidelines, which have the blessing of the Ontario Energy Board, the provincial utility is only liable for damages if they are found to be "negligent" in any way.

In conducting their investigation, Qualmec learned that Hydro One had inspected the equipment two months before the failure and it was found to be in perfect working order. Therefore, there was no "negligence" on the utility's part even though they owned the piece of equipment, they operated the piece of equipment, and therefore they were technically responsible for the piece of equipment.

I know it sounds like nitpicking, but that's what it is. And before you start cursing Hydro One, you should also

know that every other hydro utility in the province decides on claims using the same test of negligence.

The reason for that, I presume, is that if the utilities were held responsible every time a faulty piece of equipment caused a power surge or a blackout that resulted in damages to private property, it would end up costing them millions of dollars which would be passed on to the customers.

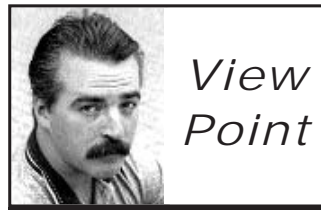
That, of course, is cold comfort for those residents who had to pay the full cost of the repairs to their furnaces or a \$500 deductible on an insurance claim, but it is what it is.

Now, as for the price Hydro One customers are paying for their electricity, it's a well known fact that we pay on average about \$230 more than Hydro Ottawa customers pay. (Yes, I'm a Hydro One customer.) It's been a bone of contention for close to six years now. The city and the provincial utility have held discussions in the past to try and find a way to transfer the Hydro One customers in Ottawa to Hydro Ottawa, but the asking price has always been too prohibitive.

Proponents of the transfer, have argued that the provincial Energy Minister should simply step in and order Hydro One to lower their asking price, and while in a perfect world that would be nice, it ain't going to happen.

Ottawa-Orleans MPP Phil McNeely is toying with the idea of asking the Energy Minister to invite the city to join the province in appointing an independent arbitrator to study the matter and arrive at a fair price. It would then be up to the city to figure out how to pay for the transfer. For now McNeely plans to organize a committee whose job will be to make sure Hydro One is following through on their investment plan to improve local service. That's nice, but it's not enough.

The only way to settle the issue once and for all and to do so in as fair and equitable a manner as possible is to bring in a third party that is mutually agreeable to both sides and let them do their job – and the sooner the better.



Fred Sherwin

Music makes up for awkward subject matter in *Spring Awakening*

Okay, so last week my father took me to see the Broadway musical *Spring Awakening* in Toronto for my birthday, so I thought I'd tell you all about it.

The play was actually very good and it's won a ton of Tony Awards and has earned it's own Internet fan club called "The Guilty Ones", but it was kind of awkward in parts watching it with my Dad.

Spring Awakening is about a bunch of kids in their early teens growing up in in the late 1800s in Germany, who feel confused about their sexuality. There is the young Moritz who is the most confused because he thinks that he is being haunted by these dreams of a pair of legs wearing PANTYHOSE!!!! So he turns to his best friend Melchior who writes him an essay called "The Art of Sleeping With" with pictures and everything.

There is also the young



Wendla who has no idea where babies come from and whose mother is too afraid to tell her. So, she starts hanging out with Melchior, who she's known since they were kids, but this time it's different because they're in their teens now. Soooooo, Wendla and Melchior go and "get busy" in the woods while Moritz is going crazy because he has been kicked out of school for failing.

It was awkward at points because there were a few graphic parts, like when Wendla and Melchior have "sex" on this moving platform on the stage, or like when one of the other

boys starts masturbating under his night shirt while reading an excerpt from Othello about Desdemona and other people sing and dance around him. Yeah, creepy.

But I think that the message that the play conveys is worth the awkwardness because it informs young people that their actions have consequences. Also I think that this play would be a good ice-breaker for parents and their children who don't feel comfortable talking about these things.

I would also recommend that girls and boys my age or even younger see the play because it covers a lot of problems that come with being a teenager, like being gay, or feeling like the whole world is coming down on you.

So, all in all, *Spring Awakening* is a very good play filled with lots of spunk and teen angst and some pretty good music.

The main actors are all incredible, especially Steffi D. who rocks the stage as Ilse even though she only has one solo and a duet with Blake Bashoff, who plays Moritz.

My other favourite performer was Matt Doyle, who plays Melchior. He brought a great deal of intensity to the stage when I saw the play, especially during the song "Mirror Blue Night" which was one of my favourites.

So, now I am almost 14-years-old and I have seen three Broadway musicals and countless plays. I'm on a roll. But even though *Spring Awakening* was really good, I still liked *Wicked* and *Rent* a lot more. Especially *Rent*, it's my all time favourite.

(Margaret Sherwin is 14-years-old and is in Grade 8 at St. Peter High School. To contact the Magster e-mail maggie@orleansonline.ca.)

Local business

Bloom MicroTech offers complete array of computer services

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Bloom MicroTech is a full support computer sales and service provider located in the Canotek Business Park just off Montreal Road near Hwy. 174.

At Bloom MicroTech they understand the challenges of today's highly competitive business environment. To gain and retain your business, they are constantly analyzing, redefining and redesigning the way they can best serve their clients.

The company was founded in 1990 by Harley Bloom who recognized the need for a computer service company that could provide personal, yet pragmatic technical advice and first-rate computer service that the average home or small business could afford.

From its modest beginnings in a 900 sq. ft. office, Bloom MicroTech has grown to become a 2,500 sq. ft. retail outlet with a product showroom displaying new, used and refurbished computer systems and components; a system fit-up area and a fully equipped service department.

Bloom MicroTech differs from the big, box store computer retailers in that they don't have a kitchen appliance department

and they actually provide prompt, courteous and professional after sale service.

Their unique "walk-in" service department allows clients to actually join the technician as they upgrade, repair or configure their computer system.

One of their areas of expertise is in debugging your computer of insidious spyware and adware programs that infect your operating system and gobble up your computer's memory and CPU resources.

You may not even notice one or two of these infections but when you get 10 or 20 all clamouring for your processor at the same time things get crazy. Your browser starts to time out and your system slows down to the point where you watch your keystrokes appear one by one as if in slow motion. And like any problem, the longer you ignore it the worse it can get.

Unfortunately, most anti-spyware and adware software will only exacerbate the problem. Every detection/prevention package seems to find something else and removing one or several in combination can have an impact on your computer's operating system. The only safe and effective way to rid your computer of spyware,



Harley Bloom (middle) and the folks at Bloom MicroTech can handle all you computer needs. File photo

and even worms and Trojan Horses is to have a professional manually go in, search out the bugs and remove them. There is no magic bullet.

At Bloom MicroTech they can usually do the job in 24 to 48 hours, although it can take longer depending on the extent of the problem.

Besides fixing software problems and debugging hard drives, Bloom MicroTech also specializes in upgrades and installing peripherals such as CD burners, DVD players and networking

systems.

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Local sports

Jr. Grads advance to Major Midget RepB finals

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

The Cumberland Jr. Grads have made it through to the ODMHL Major Midget RepB finals after dispatching the Orleans Blues in decisive fashion Monday night, winning the fourth and deciding game 7-1 to take the first to four point series five points to three.

The series actually started way back on March 1. After tying the first two games, the two teams tried to settle things on March 9, but the game once again ended in a tie when the Blues managed to erase a 5-2 deficit in the third period.

Although Monday's game was scheduled to go three periods, extra ice time was booked just in case the game went into overtime. As things turned out, the extra time wasn't needed except to sort through a rash of penalties following a melee that brought the game to an early conclusion.

The Jr. Grads wasted little time getting on the scoreboard thanks to a goal by Mathieu Gignac who scored 47 seconds into the game on a play that Blues goalie

Alex Haddad would have loved to had back.

Brian Upton would give the Jr. Grads a 2-0 lead just over four minutes later on a play that was set up by David Labelle.

Ben Harris' first goal of the evening would put Cumberland up 3-0 at the 10:04 mark of the second period. Harris took a pass in front of the net and then waited for Haddad to drop to his knees before firing a shot top shelf over the goalie's right shoulder.

The Jr. Grads extended their lead to 4-0 at the 7:48 mark of the second period when Labelle's point shot somehow got behind Haddad. As the puck sat in the crease, Keith Burns pounced on it and knocked it into the net.

The Blues finally got on the scoreboard early in the third period on a point shot that found the top of the net as Jr. Grads goalie Jeremy Chubbs was trying to see through the screen.

The goal only served to reignite the Jr. Grads who got three more goals from Harris, Burns and big Kyle Aaron to go up

7-1 before all hell broke loose. An altercation in the Cumberland crease between Chubbs and an overzealous Orleans player quickly degenerated into a near brawl. After sorting through the penalties, the referee decided to call the game with a little over a minute left on the clock, rather than risk the situation deteriorating any further.

Asked if he was surprised the Orleans Blues didn't offer up more of a challenge in the decisive game, Jr. Grads head coach Mike Highley said the result was indicative of the talent in the two dressing rooms.

"No not at all. We have a better team. We should have won in three straight, but we let them back in a couple of times," said Highley.

The only team remaining between the Jr. Grads and a championship banner is Ottawa West which knocked off the second seed Ottawa Sting and the top seed Stittsville Rams enroute to the finals.

In their three regular season match-ups, the Jr. Grads won two games by a single goal. Ottawa West won the third game 6-1.

Cumberland Grads shown early exit from playoffs

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

For the second year in a row, the Cumberland Grads have failed to make it past the quarterfinals, despite finishing first in their division.

Last year, the Grads were handed an early exit by the Hawkesbury Hawks with the coup de grâce coming in Game 6 which they lost 4-3 in overtime. This year they suffered a similar fate losing in six games to the Ottawa Jr. Senators, including a 6-5 defeat in double overtime last Wednesday night.

The Grads were actually 1:06 away from forcing Game 7, when Jeff Carroll tied the game on a pass from David Walters.

Cumberland outshot the Jr. Sens 9-5 in the first overtime session, but couldn't get the puck past Niels-Erik Ravn. Ottawa was able to turn the tables on the Grads as the second extra session began to unfold and eventually their hard work paid off when Alex Poitras scored only his second goal of the series at the 11:47 mark of the period.

The Grads actually got on the board first when David Pacan scored a minute and 46 seconds into the game. The two teams then exchanged goals the rest of the way.

The Grads took a 3-2 into the second intermission after Michael Borkowski scored 16 seconds before the break. The lead was short-lived, however, thanks to Ryan Delorme who tied the game for the Jr. Sens at the 3:23 mark of the third.

Mathieu Ouellette's second goal of the game and team-leading fourth of the series put the Grads back in front a little over three minutes later, and it looked as though it might hold up for good until Carroll's goal late in the contest sent the game into overtime.

This year's playoff disaster was more shocking than last year in that the Grads were thought to be a bona fide contender. They had amassed the third best record in the league and they had won 12 of 14 games heading into the post season, with the two losses coming against the Pembroke Lumber Kings.

Although the Grads finished 15 points ahead of the Jr. Sens in the standings, they were only 4-2 against them during the regular season and three of their four wins were by a single goal.

A big part of the Grads' woes throughout the series was a lack of goal production from their top marksmen. Marc-Andre Labelle, Brock Plouffe and Jeffrey Clarke only had four goals between them in the six

game series and Plouffe and Clarke's goals all came on the power play. Labelle was the only one of the three who scored an even strength goal. All three players were among the top seven goal scorers in the league this season.

The team should be in relatively good shape for next year although they'll have to replace Clarke, Chris Murphy and captain Andrew Klassen who will all be overage. At 19 going on 20, Daniel Sauvé will be ready to take his rightful spot as the top defenceman in the league and Adam Laderoute, who will also be 20 next year, will provide the club with a steady and dependable presence between the pipes.

The biggest question mark is David Pacan who will likely be a third or early fourth round pick in this year's NHL entry draft. Pacan, who is ranked 60th among North American draft eligible players, has already signed a letter of intent to play Division I hockey at the University of Vermont.

However, it is not known whether he will join the Catamounts this September or will have to wait until the fall of 2010 in which case he would likely play another year with the Grads. It all comes down to whether or not a roster spot opens up in Vermont.

Pilypaitis rises to the challenge in March Madness debut

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Playing on the biggest stage of her young basketball career, under the brightest spotlight in her career and in front of the largest crowd in her career, former St. Peter High School standout Courtney Pilypaitis was able to rise to the occasion on Sunday playing against the unbeaten University of Connecticut Huskies in the opening round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

And while the University of Vermont Catamounts were blowout 104-65 by the pre-tournament favourite Huskies, it wasn't for a lack of effort on the part of the underdogs and Pilypaitis, in particular, who scored more than 20 points for the third straight game.

Pilypaitis, who is in her third year at Vermont, was 9-for-15 from the field, including four threes, and 2-for-2 from the free throw line for a total of 24 points, but unfortunately the 16th seeded Catamounts were totally overmatched by the number one ranked team in the country. The game was played in front of more than 10,000 mostly Husky fans.

Despite the lopsided defeat, the Catamounts could take some comfort in the fact that they are one of only six teams which have managed to score 65 or more points against the Huskies, and they scored more

points in the second half than any other team this season.

Pilypaitis said winning the America East championship and making the NCAA tournament was a huge accomplishment for the Catamount program which hadn't been to the NCAA tournament in nine years.

"Well, they're a very good team and it will help our program," said Pilypaitis who took a philosophical approach to what transpired on the floor. "You never think a 40 point blowout could be fun, but it was a lot of fun to get to play in that type of atmosphere. We didn't go in there with any type of pressure on us, so we just wanted to enjoy the moment and soak it all in. Hopefully, UConn will win it all so we can say that we got beat by the champions."

With one more year left at Vermont, Pilypaitis would love to earn a return trip to the NCAA tournament next year and hopefully draw a slightly higher seed. One thing that hurt the Catamounts this season was a five game losing streak in December which hurt their ranking considerably. An extra win here or there and the Catamounts would have been seeded a lot higher and been able to avoid a first round Goliath such as UConn.

"I think the big thing we learned is that every game counts no matter what point in the season it is. Every win helps you get that



Former St. Peter Knight Courtney Pilypaitis was named Player of the Game for the Vermont Catamounts in a 104-65 loss to the University of Connecticut Huskies in the opening round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament on Sunday. J. Meric/Photo higher seed which can make a big difference in the tournament," said Pilypaitis.

With the basketball season finally over, Pilypaitis and her teammates must now focus on their studies and finishing out the school year. The former national U19 team member plans to attend the national selection camp this June for the World University Games team and the national women's team. With any luck she'll make both squads.

Former Gloucester Ranger named CIS Player of the Year

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

Former Gloucester Ranger Marc Rancourt has been named the top collegiate player in the country after helping lead the St. Mary's Huskies to the Atlantic Conference Championship.

Rancourt led the CIS with 57 points in 28 games to become only the second Husky in the school's history to win the Senator Joseph A. Sullivan Trophy. He also led the country in assists and was tied for first in game-winning goals with five, recording at least one point in 26 of his 28 conference games.

The fourth year commerce student also had a 19-game point streak and was named a First Team CIS All-Star. And if all that wasn't enough, he also was able to maintain a 3.91 GPA while averaging two points per game and was a finalist for the Dr. Randy

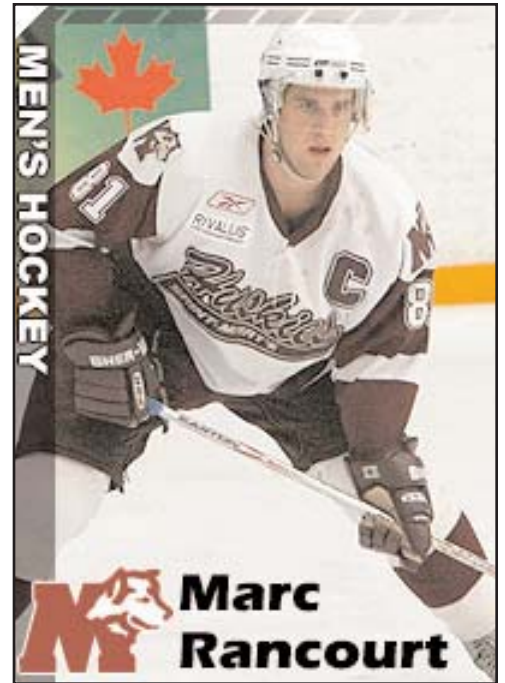
Gregg Award for Outstanding Student Athlete.

The Huskies are ranked fourth in the latest CIS national poll heading into the University Cup tournament which gets underway this week in Thunder Bay.

This past weekend they defeated the number one ranked University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds in the third and deciding game of the AUS Championship. Rancourt led all scorers during the conference playoffs with five goals and five assists in seven games.

Rancourt came up through the Gloucester Rangers Minor Hockey Association before being selected by the Belleville Bulls in the 2001 Priority Selection Draft.

During his four year stint with the Bulls he scored 57 goals and 119 assists in 253 games. In his final year, he scored 26 goals and 52 assists in 68 games as a 20-year-old.



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Artscetera

Orléans star shines in touring production of Broadway hit *Spring Awakening*

By Fred Sherwin
The Eastender

When German playwright Franz Wedekind first wrote his controversial play *Spring Awakening* in 1891, it was either severely censored or banned altogether.

Much of the controversy had to do with its exploration of a long list of taboo topics including teenage pregnancy, masturbation, sex abuse, abortion and homosexuality in a sexually repressed society.

I'm sure he would be rolling over in his grave if he knew that society has evolved very little over the past 118 years when it comes to our inability to discuss sex and various sexually related topics with our young people. Parents dread the idea of "the talk" just as much today as our parents did and their parents did before them.

In fact, if anything, we are even more repressed today than Wedekind's time. Case in point, a movie rating system which puts more of an emphasis on a sex scene than it does torture and dismemberment.

Thankfully, *Spring Awakening* is relatively violence free, save for a scene when the heroine Wendla prods Melchior into beating her bare legs with a stick so she can find out what it feels like.

The play, which recently opened for a five week stint at the Canon Theatre in Toronto, does cover a laundry list of the topics listed above. Too many for my liking, not because I'm a prude, not by any means, but because it's not necessary and it merely waters down the message which is ignorance can sometimes be lethal and often leads to long term damage.

The show itself was both hot and cold. The opening number was vibrant and filled with intensity and passion, but then the passion was lost in mixture of comedy and plot development.

I can only assume that Wedekind intended it this way to make the second half of the play that much more shocking to his 19th century Prussian audience.

As lukewarm as the first half of the play was, the second half was nothing short of spectacular from beginning to end. It was like someone passed a case of Red Bull around backstage during the intermission and presto.

It should be noted that the Wednesday evening performance was only the second time the cast had performed on the stage since the production arrived in Toronto on Monday, and perhaps they were still trying to acclimatize themselves to their surroundings. I'm not sure how much it had to do with that, or the fact that Toronto is their 15th stop in a whirlwind North American tour that kicked off in San Diego in August.

For many of the cast members, including Orléans' own Steffi DiDomenicantonio, the opening dates in Toronto were their 244th and 245th performances respectively. The schedule calls on them to do eight performances a week, including matinees on Wednesday's and Saturday's, so it can only be expected that they might be a little off the odd time.

One performer who wasn't off by any mean was Matt Doyle, who has replaced Kyle Riabko as Melchior, a highly-intelligent and wiser-than-his-years nonconformist. Coincidentally, Doyle replaced Riabko in the same role on Broadway, after Riabko left to do the national tour.

It's by no means a coincidence that Doyle's riveting performance had something to do with the fact that he hadn't played the role since the Broadway production closed on Jan. 18. Whatever the reason he was spectacular, as was Steffi D.

Hometown bias aside, Steffi was on point from the opening number, when I thought she might dislocate her right knee, to her spellbinding solo performance of "Blue Wind" and her manic dance moves in "Totally F---ed".

Some of you may recall that when Steffi was voted off Season 4 of Canadian Idol one of the judges predicted she would end



Orléans own Steffi DiDomenicantonio, better known to thousands of Canadians as Steffi D., stars in the national Broadway touring production of *Spring Awakening* which is currently playing at the Canon Theatre in Toronto until April 19. Photo supplied

up making more money than any of the previous seasons' winners.

That may or may not end up being the case, but one thing is for sure, Steffi D. is going to top many a marquee on Broadway before her career is over and don't be surprised if she ends up winning a Tony Award or two. It will just be a matter of finding the right role. The girl is a bone fide star.

As for the remainder of the cast. I loved Blake Bashoff, who despite having an up and down evening, showed glimpses of brilliance as Moritz the sexually confused teenager who ends up committing suicide after he flunks out of school and is verbally dressed down by his father.

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Artscetera

Controversial production encourages dialogue

> CONT'D FROM PAGE 8

Christy Altomare, who plays Melchior's love interest Wendla, did not have her best night, although I'm sure it was an isolated occurrence for the young actress who has garnered rave reviews during the play's previous engagements.

Despite reaching the level of intensity the play demands from all the actors, Altomare still came across as engaging and an absolute sweetheart.

The major draw of the play besides the earnest way it tackles the controversial subject matter, is the indie rock musical score which was written by Duncan Sheik and Steven Slater and helped propel the production to eight Tony Awards in 2007. The band is incredibly tight, especially during the trademark numbers like "The Bitch of Living", "The Guilty Ones" and "The Song of Purple Summer" which brings the production to a close.

But the highlight by far was the ensemble performance of "Totally F---ed", which pretty well sums up every time anyone has ever been caught doing something they shouldn't have been doing and knew the gig was up.

In this case the headmaster and headmistress at the school have found an "essay" written by Melchior which describes in detail and with accompanying illustrations the act of sexual bonding.

My one major complaint about the production is the lack of any sound effect when Moritz decides to stick a gun in his mouth and kills himself. The silence seemed totally out of place. The use of a gun was obviously written into the script for a reason. Why tone it down? Suicide is often violent and it should never be sugar coated.

In the final analyze, *Spring Awakening* is not a huge Broadway production on par with the likes of *The Wiz*, *The Lion King* or *Les Mis*. However, it is the most important play you will ever take your teenage son or daughter to.

It will serve as a wake up call to all those parents, who are still stuck trying to explain the birds and the bees to adolescents who already know more than we could ever glean from National Geographic spreads, or our parents' copy of Penthouse which they conveniently hid between their mattresses or at the bottom of their sock draw.

In the opening scene, Wendla asks her mother to explain where babies come from. "Babies are made when you really, really, REALLY love someone and you're married. The end", is her mother's abridged response.

When Wendla finds out she's pregnant after only one moment of passion with Melchior, she's horrified and yells at her mother, "But how can I be pregnant, I'm not even married yet."

Now, I know there are many people out there who believe the only sex education we should be teaching our young people is abstinence and that the very idea of letting their son or daughter see *Spring Awakening* is somehow mortifying, but they would be missing the point. Teaching abstinence without arming our young people with the proper knowledge of the consequences of their actions is a recipe for disaster. In fact, it's just the opposite. Teaching our young people about the facts of life and the ins and outs of sexuality will, in most cases, only serve to strengthen their desire to remain abstinent.

Personally, I'd love it if they could somehow come up with a vaccine that could keep your average 14- and 15-year-



Christy Altomare as Wendla and Matt Doyle as Melchior play the lead roles in the Broadway touring production of *Spring Awakening* at the Canon Theatre in Toronto. Photo supplied

old boy's hormones in check until they at least turn 24 or 25.

As much as *Spring Awakening* is important viewing for your average teenage girl, it should be mandatory for every post-pubescent young male and their parents. Best of all, when you're driving back to Ottawa, there's no place they can go when the conversation turns to, "So what did you think about the play last night son".

Spring Awakening continues at the Canon Theatre until April 19 with shows every night from Tuesday to Sunday. Matinee performances will also be held every Wednesday and Saturday.

The Canon Theatre is located on Young Street across from the Eaton Centre. For schedule and ticket information visit www.mirvish.com.

Community calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

GLOUCESTER LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Gloucester Branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Ogilvie Rd. (beside Gloucester High School.) Sign up for mixed T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minor, Major, Junior and Senior Little League. For more info visit www.gloucester-baseball.ca.

CUMBERLAND PANTHER FOOTBALL REGISTRATION for spring flag football for

kids 6- to 12-years-old, girl's touch football from 12-19 years, and for the fall tackle program of Tyke, Mosquito, Peewee and Bantam football for kids aged 7-16. Registration will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School on Tenth Line Rd. For more information visit www.cumberlandpanthers.com.

WINE AND CHEESE SILENT AUCTION

to support the ongoing effort to rebuild and relaunch the Navan Animal Rescue Centre (NARC) from 8 p.m. to

1 a.m. at the Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre on Navan Rd. near Mer Bleue. Tickets \$20 each includes light buffet, glass of wine, silent & live auctions with DJ Services for the evening. Auction items are listed at www.narc-charity.ca To pre-purchase your ticket call 13-834-7005 or e-mail Michelle Mayer at events@narc-charity.ca.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

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. By reservations only. Call 613-835-2227.

GLOUCESTER LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Blackburn Hamlet Branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Eastpark Dr. Sign up for mixed T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minor, Major, Junior and Senior Little

League. For more info visit www.gloucester-baseball.ca.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

BEACON HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY MEETING

to rally support to save Colonel By Secondary School. The Ottawa District School Board is currently embarked on a process to close one of either Rideau High School, Gloucester High School or Colonel By is nearly made. The meeting is being held at Colonel By Secondary School at 7 p.m.

