



# The Eastender

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Your environmentally friendly community newspaper

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Melissa Donato checks out this year's Magical Village at Place d'Orléans with her son Frankie, 6. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## City council approves 2.12% tax increase

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa city council passed the 2016 budget on Thursday, which among other things, includes a 2.12 per cent tax increase for urban property owners. That equates to an extra \$72 for the average home worth \$375,300.

The figure includes an extra \$11 per household for police services and \$17 for transit services. It does not include a six per cent increase in the water and sewer rate which is billed separately, or a 2.5 per cent increase in OC Transpo fares.

Among the spending increases contained in the budget is a 1.5 per cent increase in funding for social service agencies; \$40,000 per ward for traffic calming measures; an additional \$50,000 for low-income families seeking access to recreation programs; and \$3.5 million to upgrade recreation centres, develop new splash pads and install new play structures.

In order to balance the budget while limiting the tax increase to two per cent, the city needs to implement \$37 million in savings.

**CLICK HERE TO CON'T p6>**

## 1.5% increase not enough say social service agencies

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Ottawa's social service agencies are having a difficult time keeping up with rising demands combined with changes in provincial funding and minimal financial support from the city.

In the past four years the city has increased funding levels for social service agencies by 1.5, 2.0, 2.0 and 1.5 per cent while demand has gone up by 30 per cent over the same period.

The Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre, which operates a food bank and provides counseling for families and individuals in personal and financial crisis, has seen an 11 per cent increase in demand since Jan. 1.

The 1.5 per cent funding increase contained in the 2016 budget passed earlier this week by city council is little more than a drop in the bucket and will barely cover a modest salary increase for the Centre's dedicated staff.

The continued failure of the city to maintain funding levels on par with demand means the city's community resource centres are increasingly dependent on the generosity of the communities they serve.

The frustrating part is that the city has benefitted from the uploading of tens of millions of dollars in social service costs by the provincial government over the past eight years and has failed to reinvest any of

those savings back into social services.

Thus far, provincial uploading is saving the city about \$65 million a year. By 2018, when the uploading measures are fully implemented, the city will be saving \$79 million a year. Only a small percentage of those savings have been reinvested in social services, mostly in social housing, while the balance has been folded into general revenue.

That in itself wouldn't be so bad if the province, having uploaded the costs, provided adequate funding increases on their end to keep up with the demand on the ground. But it, too, has failed in its capacity which brings the issue back

around to the city.

The funding issue is especially critical in light of the federal government's commitment to accept 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February.

With over 1,500 refugees expected to be resettled in Ottawa, the demand on social services, including child care services, will inevitably increase.

The city is hoping the federal government will provide special funding to the municipalities to help cover the additional costs, but if it doesn't, the burden will likely fall on the social service agencies themselves which will have to make do as best they can unless the city can free up some money from elsewhere in the budget.

# Community briefs

## Convent Glen E.S. collects 200 soles for 200 souls

ORLÉANS – A shoe drive started by a Grade 5 student at Convent Glen Elementary School has resulted in the donation of more than 200 pairs of new and gently-used shoes that will soon be heading to recipients in under-developed countries around the world. Skyler Begin, 10, thought of the campaign after hearing about the Soles4Souls initiative that distributes shoes to Third World countries, either to children who are prevented from attending school without shoes, or adults who are unable to work because they can't them.

## Latest OC Transpo changes to take effect on Dec. 20

ORLÉANS – OC Transpo users should prepare for the latest service changes to many commonly used routes that will come into effect on Dec. 20. Hurdman Station will no longer be served by Routes 95, 114, 192, 401, or 602, but new Route 104 will maintain connections from the east end. East end morning rush hour routes will be shortened to end downtown at Bay St. instead of LeBreton Station, except Route 27. Route 101 peak period service to and from Orléans will be replaced by new Route 103, which bypasses Hurdman Station in both directions and St. Laurent Station eastbound. New Route 104 offers a direct connection between Orléans, Hurdman, Billings Bridge and Carleton University, seven days a week, with 24-hour service between Hurdman and Blair stations. East end afternoon rush hour routes, except Routes 24 and 231, will bypass Blair Station for a faster trip.

## Tickets now on sale for annual pantomime show

ORLEANS — Tickets are now on sale for the East End Theatre company's annual Christmas pantomime production. This year the theatre company is presenting the panto "Rumpelstiltskin" on Dec. 17, 18 and 19 at the Shenkman Arts Centre. Tickets are \$17.50 for adults; \$12.50 for students and \$54 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 students). "Rumpelstiltskin" is the latest in a series of Christmas pantos put on by the East End Theatre company which stays true to the traditional English panto genre with villains, music and racy jokes laced with double entendre. In past years, the East End Theatre pantomime production has been extremely popular and in most cases has sold out. You can purchase your tickets in advance at the Shenkman Arts Centre box office or by visiting [www.shenkmanarts.ca](http://www.shenkmanarts.ca).

# Budget fails to receive unanimous consent

Continued from page 1

The savings were found by eliminating 50 full-time equivalent positions, reducing the advertising budget, and cutting back in winter operations, overtime and consulting services.

A number of recreation fees will also be going up in 2016. Public skating fees will go up between 5% and 13%, and swimming fees will see an increase of between 6% and 21%. Ice rental fees will also be going up. For instance, the hourly rate for minor hockey teams will increase 5.6% from \$144.04 to \$152.13.

Although the budget was passed, it did not receive unanimous consent. Five of the 24 councillors voted against it, mostly because of what wasn't in the budget.

Diane Deans felt the budget fails to provide adequate funding for the city's social service agencies. She introduced a motion to commit a further \$250,000 from the city's one-time and unforeseen reserve fund and then replenish the account by eliminating three additional staff positions, but the motion was defeated 15-8.

Rideau-Rockcliffe Coun. Tobi Nussbaum wanted to freeze OC Transpo fares and cover the cost by increasing the transit levy on the tax bill, but his motion also went down in flames, losing on a 17-6 vote.

Both motions were criticized by Mayor Jim Watson and several councillors including Cumberland Coun. Stephen Blais who took issue with the dissenting councillors for complaining about the prices without putting forward alternatives.

"The money just doesn't appear from the sky," Blais said. "Those who want the process to change need to change themselves."

Deans and Nussbaum were joined in voting against the budget by Rick Chiarelli, Jeff Leiper and Catherine McKenney. All four east end councillors voted with the majority.



Besides a 2.12% tax increase the 2016 budget also includes transit fare and other user fee increases. File photo

Watson said the city is being as generous as it can be in light of the current economic situation and financial pressures.

The capital budget includes funding for a number of east end projects...

- \$18.6 million to extend Brian Coburn Blvd. from Mer Bleue Road to Navan Road

- \$5.5 million to add a full-service community centre to the François Dupuis Recreation Centre in Avalon

- \$5.2 million for a new fire station south of Innes Road;

- \$750,000 for a district skatepark, also south of Innes Road;

- \$320,000 to complete the playground at the new Miracle League of Ottawa baseball diamond in Notre-Dame-des-Champ;

- \$280,000 has been set aside for the design work for the future expansion of the Blackburn Arena;

- and \$210,000 towards the construction of Park 18B in Cardinal Creek.



## Quality childcare at affordable prices

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# Vintage Village of Lights, a journey back to a bygone era

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

There was a time not so long ago, before LED lights, artificial trees and e-mail, when people used to hang garlands made out of popcorn and paper on trees cut down in the bush and transported home by horse-drawn sleigh. A time when Christmas was a lot simpler than it is today.

You can take a trip back in time and get a taste of that bygone era by visiting the Vintage Village of lights at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum in Cumberland Village.

Every building on the museum grounds is illuminated by thousands of strings of white lights, along with the trees, shrubs and fences, offering a magical feel to the night air. At the centre of it all is a giant sleigh being pulled by eight, 20-foot tall reindeer.

Several of the buildings are open with each one offering a look back in time at how Christmas was celebrated in the 20s and 30s. Step into the church and listen to traditional French Canadian folk music while watching a master of the wooden spoons and the jig doll.

Kids can also make traditional Christmas crafts in the old school house, or in the Mason Lodge where they can visit with Santa and learn the history of Christmas traditions like Christmas cards, tree decorations, and letters to Santa.

In the Faubert House you can see a kitchen as it looked in the 1930s with all the “modern” appliances and decorate a gingerbread man.

And when your feet get sore and you get tired of walking, you can enjoy a horse-



Visitors to the Vintage Village of Lights take a picture of the old fire hall at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Fred Sherwin/Photos

drawn wagon ride and then cap your visit off with a cup of hot chocolate.

More than 1,800 people visited the Vintage Village of Lights on the weekend, including more than 1,000 people on Sunday alone.

The Village will remain open for one more weekend before Santa has to head back to the North Pole to prepare for the big day. The museum hours this Friday, Saturday and Sunday is 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Regular museum admission applies: \$7

for adults, and \$5 for students and seniors. There is also a special family rate of \$18 that includes two adults and any children under 18.

The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum is located at 2940 Old Montreal Road just east of Cumberland Village.

From Orléans take Hwy. 174 east past Trim Road to Cameron Street. Turn right on Cameron Street and then left on Old Montreal Road. The museum is two kilometres down on the right.

## Local business

# Taking the first important step towards personal wellness

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

Since first launching her practice in 2001, Orléans chiropractor Dr. Nathalie Beauchamp has been a tireless champion of her profession and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle in achieving one's overall wellness.

A former competitive natural body builder, Dr. Beauchamp has long believed that regular exercise and proper nutrition can help prevent the severity of musculoskeletal problems and speed up recuperation.

As part of the process of constantly looking to improve her practice and in turn the health of her patients recently launched her latest venture – the Santé Chiropractic and Wellness Centre.

At the heart of “creating wellness” is being able to properly balance the three key dimensions of personal health – the physical (staying fit), the bio-chemical (your diet) and the psychological (having a proper attitude).

At certain times in an individual's life they will experience a range of different stresses in one, two or even all three dimensions. The

key to maintaining wellness is to be aware of how each dimension is being impacted and to make adjustments in the other areas to maintain a proper balance. In order to move toward total wellness, all three dimensions must be addressed at the same time.

But before you can proceed down the road to personal wellness and vitality, it is important to properly assess where you are at now.

All of Dr. Beauchamp's patients undergo a Creating Wellness Assessment which measures body composition, cardiovascular health, lung capacity, multi-modality stress response and strength and then compares the data to information provided by way of a questionnaire designed to assess the three dimensions of personal wellness.

The end result is a Wellness Quotient which becomes that person's wellness baseline. The next step is to develop a personal wellness program in consultation with Dr. Beauchamp that is customized to meet their specific needs.

In the journey to personal wellness, Dr. Beauchamp is not only a health care

provider but she is also a mentor. She believes deeply that creating wellness is the best and most effective way to preventing illness.

If you are sick and tired of feeling sick and tired, you should seriously consider calling the Santé Chiropractic and Wellness Centre for an assessment.

The sooner you start down the road to personal wellness and vitality the better – not only for yourself, but for those around you. And remember – every journey, from the simplest to the most difficult, begins with a small step.

You can set up an appointment by calling 613-837-2883, or you can also visit their website at [www.santechiropractic.com](http://www.santechiropractic.com).



**Dr. Beauchamp**



Fred Sherwin  
Editor & Publisher

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.

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

# Racism

The threat of terrorism has unleashed the worst in some people and exposed that racism is alive and well in America.

There is no emotion more repugnant, or more quickly sows the seeds of social discourse; than racism which thrives in the presence of ignorance and fear.

But fear is no excuse for racism. You can be fearful of terror attacks within your borders without singling out an entire religion, or race, as the cause of your fear.

And in the case of the rising tide of fear and racism towards Muslims, it is largely unfounded. First of all, ISIS has killed more Muslims than any other group. They are a Salafi jihadist militant movement whose members adhere to a wahhabi, or fundamentalist, doctrine of Sunni Islam.

Most of the Syrian refugees who are seeking asylum in the west are victims of ISIS and would rather flee their homeland and seek asylum and an uncertain future in a country they know nothing about than subject themselves and their children to the extremely fundamentalist doctrine of ISIS.

This point can't be stressed enough. They are not terrorists, they are the victims of terrorism. How hard is that to grasp? Lumping them in with the same people who have killed their loved ones, driven them from their homes and destroyed their lives is so wrong it is unconscionable.

Besides that, Americans are far more likely to be the victims of homegrown terrorists, or gun-toting wackos, than some lone wolf ISIS sympathizer. Of the top 10 mass killings in the United States this year, nine were committed by American citizens that happened to be white and middle class.

Of the 67 mass shootings that have so far occurred for which the perpetrators were identified, only two were committed by members of the Muslim faith, and only one, being the recent mass shooting in San Bernardino, was committed by ISIS sympathizers.

By painting all Muslims with the same terrorist brush, Donald Trump is stoking the latent racism in American society that has the potential to ignite into a firestorm. The only saving grace is that 60 per cent of Americans aren't buying what the self-professed master salesman is hawking.

But getting back to my original premise: you can be worried about the threat of ISIS sponsored terrorism; you can be horrified and angered by the atrocities they've committed; you can even be concerned about whether or not the Liberal government is adequately vetting the arrivals; but none of it justifies alienating or discriminating against an entire religion.

So far in Canada, we have embraced the better angels of our nature by embracing the Syrian refugees, and in doing so we are a shining example of acceptance and tolerance to the rest of the world, and our American neighbours to the south in particular.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

## City budget fails to address infrastructure, social services

Mayor Watson has once again kept his promise to limit the tax increase to two per cent and all is right with world, except that infrastructure maintenance and renewal is still underfunded, as are the city's social service agencies which take of the most vulnerable us.

I'll deal with the infrastructure issue first. The city currently has a \$300-\$400 million funding deficit when it comes to properly maintaining our roads, sidewalks, bridges etc.

In 2007, the council of the day passed a two per cent infrastructure surcharge as part of the 2008 budget. It was a forward-thinking initiative that would have generated \$20 million a year to be spent on maintaining the city's aging infrastructure much in the same vein as the pay-as-you-go policies adopted by the former municipalities of Nepean and Gloucester.

But then two things happened.

First, the federal government and the provinces created the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund in 2009 which provided the City of Ottawa with \$354 million for a variety of projects. The only problem is that only \$95 million was spent on infrastructure renewal, while the balance was spent on growth related projects.

Worse still, the city's share of the program was funded through a combination of drawing from its shrinking reserves and debt financing.

Then the same forward-thinking council that passed the infrastructure surcharge, made the most short-sighted decision they had made since amalgamation by getting rid of it.

They did so, under the impression that the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund would solve all their problems and close the infrastructure maintenance deficit. It might have also had something to do with the fact that they were heading into an election

year and wanted to limit the tax increase to 3.7 per cent.

Either way, the decision was a huge mistake.

The only way to properly tackle the infrastructure renewal deficit without borrowing ourselves into oblivion, is to reinstate the surcharge.

If they were pass a 1.5 per cent surcharge in each of the next three years, it would generate \$90 million a year by 2019, or about \$4 million a year for

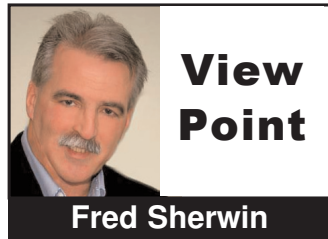
each of the city's 23 wards.

That kind of money would go a long way to fixing the city's crumbling roads and sidewalks. But unfortunately, it will never happen. And it won't happen because most of the councillors can't see past the next election and would rather deplete the reserves and borrow the money than try and defend a tax increase, no matter how badly it's needed.

As for this city's social service agencies, they've been grossly underfunded for the past 10 plus years. In the past four years they've received increases of 1.5, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.0 per cent, while demand for services has increased by 30 per cent. In the past year alone, the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre has seen demand increase by 11 per cent.

Despite the double digit increases in demand, city council has voted to cut the annual funding increase from 2.0 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

What makes the lack of support exponentially more infuriating is the fact that the city has benefitted from the provincial uploading of social service costs for the past seven years to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, but has yet to reinvest those savings back into social services in any substantial way. Instead, the savings have been used to augment other areas of the budget and artificially maintain a politically motivated tax target.



# Local sports

## St. Matt Tigers off to solid start to hoops season

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

After several disappointing seasons and early playoff exits, the St. Matthew Tigers senior boys basketball team maybe ready to compete for the city championship for the first time in four years.

The Tigers have gotten off to a 3-0 start with wins over Hillcrest, De La Salle and Merivale and sit atop the East Division standings in a three-way tie with the Immaculata Saints and the Ashbury Colts.

In their game against the Merivale Marauders on Wednesday, the Tigers combined an aggressive defence with crisp ball movement and superior outside shooting to pull off a convincing 77-65 win.

After a close first quarter, the Tigers managed to take a five point lead by half-time with six different players contributing on the scoresheet.led by Josh McGrath who had 15 points in the first half alone.

The Tigers took control of the game with a 10-1 run to start the third quarter.

The Marauders managed to narrow the Tigers' lead to six points with a 8-0 run of their own, before Shandon Ashitei dropped

a three point bomb to put the Tigers back up by 11 points – a lead they managed to maintain through the remainder of the game.

McGrath ended the game with a team high 21 points, while Shandon Ashitei contributed 16 points, including four three-point baskets, and his brother Quinton added 15 points. Caleb Dagenais also scored in the double digits with 11 points.

After the game first year head coach Mac Wakefield said the Tigers are beginning to gel together as a team.

“This game especially, we played as a team,” said Wakefield who was a member of the squad that won the 2012 championship. “Everybody is contributing. Everybody is playing team defence. This what we have to do if we want to compete for the championship.”

The Tigers will play in a tournament this weekend before taking an extended hiatus during the holidays. Their next regular season game isn't until Jan. 11 when they take on Immaculata in their first big test of the season. Whoever wins will become the early championship favourites.



St. Matthew's Shandon Ashitei cuts to the basket for two of his 16 points against the Merivale Marauders. Fred Sherwin/Photo

## Cumberland Jr. Grads minor atom RepB team on a roll

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

The Cumberland Jr. Grads Minor Atom 'B' team is amassing quite a collection of championship banners this season and it's not even Christmas yet.

The Jr. Grads recently added the Muskrat Major Atom A tournament championship to their list of accomplishments that also includes the Whitby Edge Again Cup championship, the Toronto Wolverines Minor Atom A championship, and a silver medal in the Capital Volunteer Cup tournament.

They are also leading their division in the Ottawa B Minor Hockey League at the midway point of the season.

Head coach Stephen George credits the team's success on the Cumberland Jr. Grad's renewed focus on skills development. The team is on the ice five days a week, with at least one session a week concentrated on specific skills. The Jr. Grads have also benefitted from the Cumberland Jr. Bandits AAA spring hockey program that starts at pre-novice and goes up to major bantam.

Several of the players on George's team have spent three years in the Bandits AAA program.

“It's a major commitment but it's paying off,” says George. “Everyone has really bought into the program and the kids have worked very hard.”

The team was a perfect 5-0 in the



The Cumberland Jr. Grads Minor Atom B team has won three of the four tournaments they've been in this year and sit alone in first place in the OBMHL.

Muskrat tournament despite playing up a level, outscoring their opponents 18-5, including a 2-0 win over the Renfrew Timberwolves in the final.

Their only tournament loss was in the final of the Capital Volunteer Cup, where they were bested 2-1 in double overtime by the Oakville Rangers.

Much of the team's success is due to players like Zachary Brunet who is tied for second in league for scoring with 13

goals and 12 assists in 14 games. Michael Xenos and Benjamin Cormier a gialsre also in the top six in scoring. In fact, the Jr. Grads lead the league in scoring with 70 goals in 15 games. They also have the second best goals against, allowing just 21 goals over the same period.

Goalies Cole King and Lucas Brenner have five regular season shutouts between them, and King leads the league in goals against average with a GAA of 0.71.

# Artscetera

## Coro Vivo gives triumphant performance of Handel's Messiah

By Fred Sherwin  
The Eastender

It's been nearly a decade since the Blackburn Chorus celebrated the 250th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with a superlative performance of the Austrian composer's Requiem in Dominion Chalmers Church.

At the time and in the years since, it's stood at the top of my list of all-time favourite choral performances. That space is now shared by Coro Vivo's powerfully moving performance of Handel's Messiah at the Shenkman Arts Centre on Saturday.

To perform the Messiah you need three key ingredients – a superb chorus, a talented orchestra and outstanding soloists. Saturday night's performance had all three, not to mention an exceptional venue.

I've been hoping and wishing that Coro Vivo would hold a concert in the Harold Shenkman Hall ever since the Shenkman Arts Centre opened in 2009. On Saturday, my wish was granted and the result was truly magical. Hallelujah!

Ottawa's Virtuosi Orchestra provided the musical accompaniment, while soprano Joan Fearnley, mezzo-soprano Arminé Kassabian, tenor Jeffery Boyd were the invited soloists.

For anyone who is unfamiliar with Handel's Messiah it is the composition with the "Hallelujah" chorus.

The English-language oratorio was composed by George Frideric Handel in 1741 using a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible.

The composition covers the story of Christ from Biblical prophecy to his ascension into Heaven in three parts. Part I begins with the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi on the coming of the Messiah and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds and Christ's healing and redemption.

In Part II, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the "Hallelujah" chorus, while Part III covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in Heaven.

Part I allows each of the soloists to truly shine, starting with the tenor, moving to the mezzo-soprano, and finishing with the soprano.

All three of the soloists featured in the Coro Vivo concert were amazing. I was especially impressed by soprano Joan Fearnley and her recital of the three movements making up "The annunciation to the shepherds", and the 52nd movement, "The final conquest of sin".

But the highlight of any performance of Handel's Messiah is the "Hallelujah" chorus and Coro Vivo didn't disappoint.

At close to 90 uninterrupted minutes in length, the Messiah is a rather ambitious project for any chorus to tackle and Coro



Coro Vivo performed Handel's Messiah at the Shenkman Arts Centre last Saturday under the direction of Antonio Llaca. Fred Sherwin/Photo

Vivo did a superb job from the opening line of the fourth movement to the final "Amen."

Needless to say, it was a real treat and somewhat of an honour to have been present for Coro Vivo's maiden performance at the Shenkman Arts Centre. Here's hoping they make a speedy return.

# Community calendar

**SATURDAY, DEC. 12**

**BREAKFAST AT THE ORLEANS LEGION** every Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 800 Taylor Creek Dr. Start your day with a hearty breakfast, served by friendly volunteers. This is a fund raising event for the Legion. Help your local Legion - help your community.

the Richcraft Theatre at the Shenkman Arts Centre. Curtain time all three nights is 7:30 p.m. A special matinee performance will be held on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$17.50 for adults; \$12.50 for students and \$54 for a family of four available at [www.shenkmanarts.ca](http://www.shenkmanarts.ca).

Virgin Anglican Church, 2750 Navan Rd. (two minutes south of the Blackburn Bypass) Time 3 p.m. Visit [www.stmarysblackburn.ca](http://www.stmarysblackburn.ca) for more information.

of a grandfather's unlikely trip to the Arctic with his opinionated dog, Roo. It features acting, puppets, live music and film footage of famous Canadian Arctic expeditions and adorable arctic animals. Tickets are \$10 each, or 4 for \$32.

(2 adults and any children under 18) \$18. Children 5 and under are free.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK** through downtown Ottawa followed by a meal or refreshments. Free registration at 4.45 p.m. at Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. Parking is available for just \$3. Your choice of 5K or 10K map walks starting between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Visit our website <http://ottawa-voyageurs.wikidot.com>.

**VINTAGE VILLAGE OF LIGHTS** at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum in Cumberland Village. Visitors to the museum can take a horse drawn wagon ride, decorate gingerbread men, make traditional Christmas decorations and visit with the big man himself. The Vintage Village of Lights is open on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. until Dec. 20. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Families

**MAGICAL VILLAGE** presented by the Gloucester North Lions Club on the second floor of Place d'Orléans shopping centre next to the food court. In lieu of admission, a donation will be gratefully accepted. Proceeds from the Magical Village will split between the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre, Camp Banting and the Gloucester North Lions Club Legacy Fund.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12**

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** at MPP Marie-France Lalonde's Constituency Office from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 250 Centrum Blvd Unit 206. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. RSVP: 613-834-8679.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 19**

**BREAKFAST AT THE ORLEANS LEGION** every Saturday 8:30 to 11 a.m., 800 Taylor Creek Dr. Start your day with a hearty breakfast, served by friendly volunteers. This is a fundraising event for the Legion.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 17**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 20**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 18**  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 19**  
**EAST END THEATRE** presents a traditional pantomime performance of "Rumpelstiltskin" in

**BLUE CHRISTMAS: A CONTEMPORARY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION** for those wishing to escape the busy-ness of the season at St. Mary the

**GENERAL NOTICES**

**THE RAG & BONES PUPPET THEATRE** presents its holiday production of "The Last Polar Bears" from Dec. 8 to Dec. 13 at the Shenkman Arts Centre. "The Last Polar Bears" is a funny, moving story

