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# THE Orléans Star

*L'Orléanais*  
L'édition de  
cette semaine  
à l'intérieur...

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Next edition December 19



Saltwater Santas Tony Sullivan and Bob Presland raised over \$28K last year from visitors to their Christmas light display on Sugar Creek Way. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

## Saltwater Santas at it again this holiday season

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Retired postal workers Tony Sullivan and Bob Presland have been known each other for more than 35 years. They first met at a Canada Post hockey tournament in Sullivan's native Newfoundland over 30 years ago. Presland was the league organizer of the tournament, which was held in a different city every year and involved over 100 teams from across the country.

The pair's friendship flourished after Sullivan played in the tournament in Ottawa in 1988 and was so impressed with the city that he decided to move here.

Sullivan and his wife Jocelyne originally bought a house on Avignon Court in Convent Glen North which they would decorate every Christmas. In 2002, they moved to Sugar Creek Way which is right around the corner from Taffy Lane, known far and wide for the

number and scope of the Christmas light displays on the street.

The Sullivans got caught up in the spirit and added to their own outdoor decorations every year. By 2020, they had the type of Christmas display that rivaled those on Taffy Lane.

That same year their five-year-old granddaughter Olivia wanted to get in on the action by handing out small candy canes to anyone who stopped, some of whom wanted to give her money in return.

Those exchanges gave Sullivan an idea. He reached out to Presland, who had experience in a fundraising capacity, and the pair formed the Saltwater Santas, in honour of their shared Newfoundland heritage.

Together they managed to collect over \$18,000 in donations during the 10-day period leading up to Christmas 2022. The money was divided between the Orleans-Cumberland

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Taproom260 to host Christmas Angels fundraiser on Dec. 14

ORLÉANS – Every December for 10 of the past 11 years, a group of regulars at Taproom260 have organized a night of live music to raise money for families with children undergoing treatment for cancer and other severe illnesses with a full evening of live entertainment, a silent auction and a raffle. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at [taproom260.com/christmas](http://taproom260.com/christmas) or in person at the restaurant, which is located in the Orléans Town Centre on Centrum Blvd. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20. The draw for the 30+ prizes will be held on the night of the event. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to purchase gift cards for the families who will be chosen in collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

### Still time to donate to Orléans-Cumberland Christmas program

ORLÉANS – The Orléans-Cumberland Community Centre is still taking donations for its Christmas program in support of local families struggling to make ends meet. Individuals, businesses and community organizations can sponsor a family or donate by visiting [croc.ca](http://croc.ca) and clicking on the 2023 Christmas Program banner or scanning the QR code. The link will take you to a page where you can download a fillable registration form or make a direct donation. More than 950 individuals benefited from the program last year, which included 267 families and 470 children. Registration has been even higher this year which is reflective of the increased cost of food and utilities over the past year. Funds are also being collected by the food bank to help stock the shelves for the busy holiday season.

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## CORRECTION

In the Nov. 21 edition of the *Orléans Star*, it was incorrectly reported that recipients of the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre would receive gifts along with seasonal food items. In fact, each family will receive a gift card in lieu of any gifts, which they can use at their own discretion. The value of each gift card will depend on the size of the family. The *Orléans Star* wishes to apologize for any confusion this error may have caused.

## Saltwater Santas at it again this holiday season

Continued from page 1

food bank, the Ottawa Mission, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, CHEO and the Gatineau food bank where Jocelyne's mother is from.

In 2023, they collected over \$18,000 despite poor weather. Then last year, thanks mainly to the a fairly warm and snow free December, they raised over \$28,000 with donations running from a loonie to a couple of \$100 bills.

"I just can't get over how generous people are. It's overwhelming," says Sullivan when asked about the generosity of area residents. "And that's not counting what was donated to the food bank with the QR code we have posted next to the driveway."

Sullivan and Presland plan to start

collecting donations this Saturday, and they'll be on hand right up to Christmas Eve, with Presland directing traffic and Sullivan collecting the cash only donations. Everyone who drops will get a small chocolate and every child will get a candy cane.

Sullivan is especially excited about the latest addition to his display – a large Christmas house he's made out of recycled wood with a miniature village inside and a model train set running through it.

There is also a decorated archway where visitors can have their picture taken.

Sullivan and Presland are hoping to get closer to the \$100,000 mark.

"You never know. If we have another good year, we might get close," says Sullivan

You can visit the Saltwater Santas display at 6430 Sugar Creek Way.

**Editor's note: The recipe below was misprinted in this edition of the *Christmas Recipe and Songbook*. The line for the semi-sweet chocolate chips was repeated twice and the 1½ cups of sweetened flake coconut was omitted. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and to Coun. Kitts personally. Enjoy the recipe and Happy Holidays.**

## HOLIDAY SQUARES

Courtesy of Coun. Catherine Kitts

### Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) graham wafer crumbs
- ¾ cup (175 ml) butter, melted
- 1 can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1½ cups (325 ml) sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 (250 ml) chopped pecans (or walnuts)

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Coat 13x9 inch baking pan with no-stick cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
3. Combine graham crumbs with butter and press evenly into prepared pan.
4. Pour Eagle Brand evenly over crumb mixture.
5. Sprinkle with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down firmly.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned.
7. Cool completely and cut into bars.
8. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

# Health Hub to become home for doctor-less residents

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Orléans residents who are having trouble finding a family doctor will soon have place where they can go for health care services.

Last week, the Montfort Hospital announced that it plans to create a clinic at the Aline-Chrétien Health Hub on Mer Bleue Road specifically for patients who do not have a family doctor.

This is good news for new residents in Orléans who are having trouble finding a family doctor, as well as existing residents whose family doctor has recently retired or is about to retire and are in need of a new doctor.

Currently, in order to find a family doctor residents must register with the Ontario's Health Care Connect service, and then wait for a space to open up which can sometime take six to 12 months or even longer, much in the same way that seniors looking for a assisted living must wait for a space in long term care facility.

The Montfort plans to open the new clinic by 2028. In the meantime, residents without a family doctor must wait until a doctor becomes available.

The announcement was immediately

applauded by local politicians including Orléans MPP Stephen Blais who has been pushing for better health care service in the area for years.

"This is welcome news and will make a tremendous difference in our community," says Blais while promising to put the pressure on the current Ford government to fund the proposed new clinic.

According to most recent figures, more than 14,000 Orléans residents are without a family doctor. This includes 2,758 children. Remarkably, that number compares very well to most other parts of the province.

The Montfort Hospital's Strategic Plan also calls for a drastic improvement in health care services for seniors by taking a proactive, multidisciplinary approach with its health care partners with the goal of serving 80,000 more patients in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario aged 65 and over by 2028.

## CHEO comes to the Health Hub

Last but by no means least, the Montfort Hospital has joined forces with the CHEO to provide easier access to many of CHEO's services at the Aline-Chrétien Health Hub, including development and rehabilitation, mental health services and home and



The Aline-Chrétien Health Hub located near the corner of Mer Bleue Road and Brian Coburn Blvd., will soon have a clinic dedicated to residents who don't have a family doctor. FILE PHOTO

community care.

The Health Hub currently provides medical imaging services, specialized clinics, rehabilitation services, health care for seniors and mental health services to

residents who are referred by their general practitioner or family doctor.

For a complete list of the services the Health Hub provide, please visit [carrefoursantealinechretien.com](http://carrefoursantealinechretien.com).

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# HST Holiday

News that the federal government plans to eliminate the GST on everything from toys to Big Macs may come as blessing to consumers, but it is a double-edged sword for merchants who must apply the changes.

The tax holiday is especially good news for those on a fixed income, seniors, and anyone else who is otherwise financially stressed at this time, but take a moment to consider the impact on merchants and especially small business owners.

First of all, the tax break only applies to the GST portion of HST in Ontario. The GST portion is five per cent, while the Ontario provincial sales tax makes up the other eight per cent. Fortunately, for consumers in the province the Ford government has decided to match the tax break on the same items that are not already PST-exempt.

The two-month tax break, which will take effect on Dec. 14 and run until Feb. 15, 2025, covers dozens of items, including children's clothes and toys, video games and consoles, Christmas trees, restaurant and catered meals, wine, beer, candy and snacks.

This is not only great news for consumers, it will also help the economy in general because most people will end up spending the money they save on other items, meaning the money will continue to circulate.

That may sound like good news for those businesses who deal in the items which will no longer be taxed, but there is a downside as well.

Businesses who charge HST must remit that money on a quarterly basis to Revenue Canada, but they are allowed to deduct the HST they spend on items used to carry out their day to day operations. It's called an input tax credit or ITC. Examples of an ITC includes the HST on their utility bills, gas, and inventory.

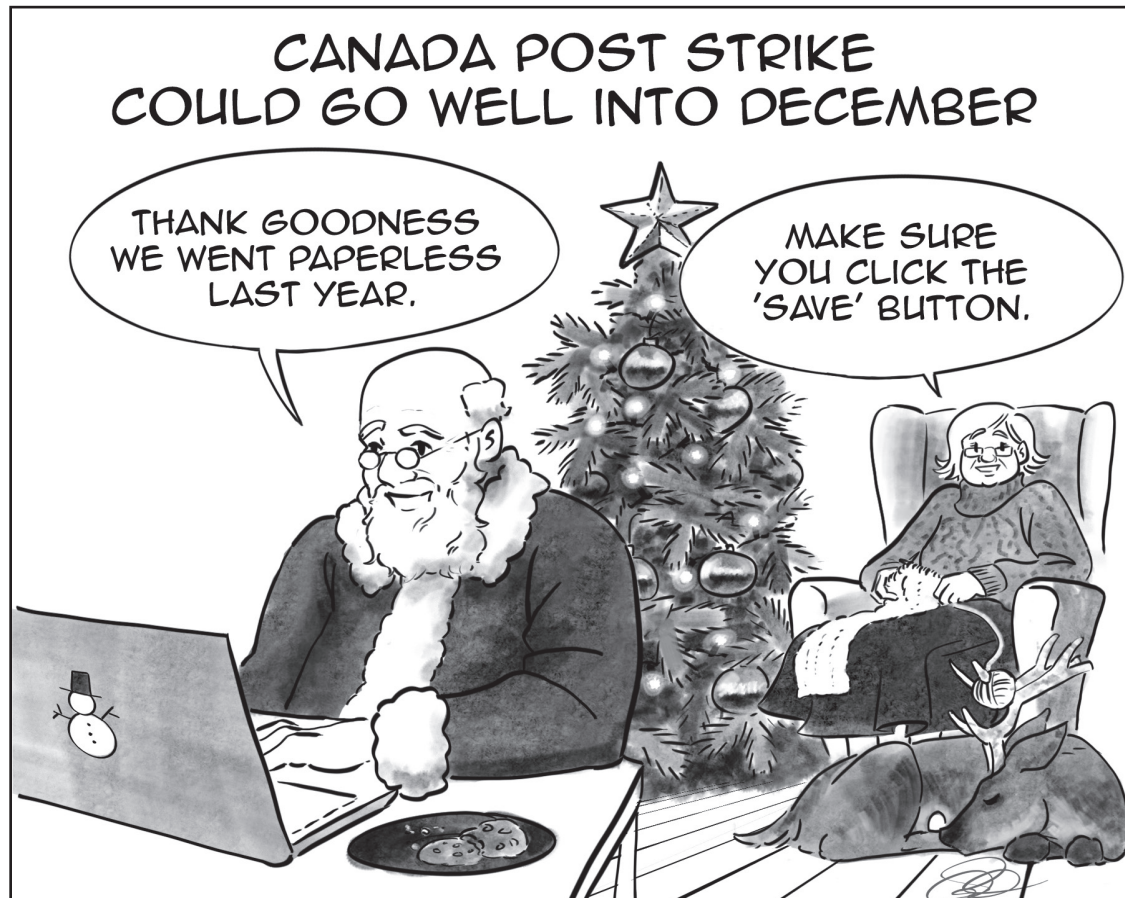
With no HST on sales, there is nothing to apply their ITCs to, which means they have to eat that cost.

In some cases, we're talking hundreds of dollars in a lost tax credit at a time when many small businesses are struggling to make it through the current recession.

The hope is that the increased sales the HST holiday may create will somehow make up for the inability for businesses to lessen their own HST bill with the ITCs. Whether or not that will be the case remains to be seen.

In the meantime, here's hoping that the tax holiday will encourage people to open their wallets and pocketbooks and spend more money. A lot of businesses in Orléans and especially restaurants have not had a particularly great year. Any additional sales the HST holiday may bring will be a blessing on its own.

— Fred Sherwin  
Publisher



## The holiday season is a time to spend with friends and family

I want to thank all of you who generously supported our local Royal Canadian Legion during their Poppy campaign through your donations or your time as a volunteer at their many sale points. Because of your effort, the Legion surpassed their fundraising goal by \$8,800 with an impressive total of \$153,838. Congratulations to Poppy Campaign chair Richard Guitar, and assistant chair Susan Sloan for their leadership.



**Commons  
Corner**

**Marie-France Lalonde**

The past few years have been challenging. And while inflation is cooling and interest rates are dropping, we know that you are not feeling that in your household budgets yet. Moreover, our local small businesses, the heart of our economy, are still one of the most affected sectors.

This is why the federal government announced a tax break for all Canadians starting Dec. 14, 2024, until Feb. 15, 2025.

As we are getting closer to the holiday season, it was great to attend the lighting of the beautiful tree on Centrum Plaza on Nov. 28. Thanks to the hard work of The Heart of Orléans BIA, the community truly came through to enjoy hot chocolate, music, and Santa.

We also celebrated the 27th anniversary of Santa's Parade of Lights on Nov. 30. It's always a special moment to walk along St-Joseph Blvd. to give out candy canes to the young ones and see such a big crowd gathering on a beautiful evening. This event would not be possible without the devotion and hard work of the Ottawa Professional Firefighters Association. I want to especially thank the parade chairman, Bob Rainboth, as well as his entire team, for their leadership and for keeping our community safe. I will never thank you enough, Orléans, for your continued generosity in donations and new toys.

This tax break, HST in Ontario, will be applicable for restaurant meals, whether dine-in, takeout, or delivery, prepared meals, groceries, and other essentials goods. Learn more at *More money in your pocket: A tax break for all Canadians* at [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca)

To our small business owners and non-profit organizations, the call for applications for Orléans employers interested in offering a job opportunity for individuals aged 15 to 30 to gain valuable work experience via the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program was launched on Nov. 19 and closes on Dec. 19, 2024. I encourage everyone interested to apply and to let my office know you did.

Lastly, as it is my last column before the holiday break, I extend my warm wishes to all of you! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Orléans!

**\*\* La version française est disponible sur mon site internet à [MFLalondeMP.ca](mailto:MFLalondeMP.ca) \*\***

**THE Orléans Star**



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# List of personal pet peeves has several new additions

It's that time of year again when I get to do a little venting by listing my personal pet peeves which this year has a couple of new additions – paper straws and Orléans drivers. I like to call it self therapy.

In that same vein, I like to occasionally reel off some of my leading pet peeves in the hope that some people might change their behaviour.

The latest addition to my list of pet peeves are people who don't seem to know how to drive in parking lots. The lanes are not one way. They are designed for traffic to go in both directions, but I am forever trying to turn into a lane that is blocked by someone coming in the other direction and blocking the entire lane.

People who feel it necessary to take up two spaces is also a big pet peeve of mine. In fact, Orléans drivers in general and their refusal to signal when they are changing lanes, or even checking their mirrors, are a pet peeve.

Another new addition to my list of pet peeves are paper straws.

Why? Are plastic straws taking up so much space in our landfill sites that we have to switch to paper straws? And don't paper straws take up just as much space? And before you tell me that I should be recycling my paper straw, please, don't even go there.



Oh, and while were on the topic of utensils, those half spoon, half fork thingies are another new pet peeve of mine mostly because they never work.

You may be happy to learn that checkout clerks who ask if you would like any bags when you have a shopping cart filled with items, or your arms are overflowing with them, is still on my list. Of course I want bags. If I didn't need any bags I would tell you. In fact, there is one store in Orléans in particular in which all the checkout clerks have been put on notice – if I have more than two large items in my hands, I want a bag. Two items, two hands. Three items or more, a would like a bag, please.

Speaking of bags, the switch from paper bags top those composable fabric bags is another new pet peeve of mine, but that's only because I can never remember to bring

it back to the store when I go shopping and I inevitably have to buy a new bag. Thus, I had to throw out 15 compostable fabric bags the other day because they were taking up too much space under my sink.

Another favourite pet peeve of mine (oxymoron intended) is the announcement you get when you pull up to the drive-thru menu board at Tim Hortons to please have your method of payment ready to prevent delays in the drive-thru, or something to that effect. How about they please have my order ready when I get to the drive-thru window to prevent any delays?

Two other pet peeves when I'm out shopping are lottery people and dividing bars.

It happens without fail. Whenever I'm in a hurry and I want to pay for my items, there is always someone with a fistful of lottery tickets holding up the line as the checkout clerk dutifully checks every ticket to see if the person has won anything. They could save a lot of time by just giving me their money and skipping the part of actually buying the tickets in the first place.

Which reminds me of another pet peeve: check-out people who feel it necessary to tell the customer in front of you their whole life story, or think it's okay to put you on hold while they answer the phone. Hey buttercup,

put the caller on hold, I was here first.

The dividing bars stores use to separate orders at the checkout counter have always been a pet peeve of mine because they are an excuse for people for not having to converse with other shoppers. Before the advent of dividing bars, you used to have to talk to the checkout person to make sure they knew when the order in front of you ended and yours began.

Fortunately, with the introduction of self-checkout machines I can avoid having to use dividing bars, so they are quickly dropping off my list.

Another pet peeve are people who insist on cycling on the sidewalk. If you are over the age of 12, you should not be cycling on the sidewalk, period, end of sentence.

Last but by no means least, are gas pumps that are out of paper when you need a receipt forcing you to go inside to get said receipt. How hard is it to keep paper in the printer?

Well, that just about does it. In fact, I feel so much better now that I've gotten that off my chest, at least until I have to get gas from a pump that has run out of paper and then stop by a store where I have to wait five minutes for lottery person to check all their tickets only to be asked if I need any bags once I do get to the counter.

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# Montfort’s strategic plan is a game-changer for east end residents

Attending the launch of Hôpital Montfort’s 2024-2028 Strategic Plan was an incredibly moving experience for me. It’s not every day you witness the beginning of something that has the potential to change the healthcare landscape in such a meaningful way, and that’s exactly what this plan is set to do.

As someone who deeply cares about the well-being of our community, I couldn’t be more excited about the direction Montfort is taking.

One of the most exciting aspects of the plan is the new clinic at Carrefour santé Aline-Chrétien. This will be a game-changer for residents who are struggling to find a family doctor. I’ve seen the frustration in people’s faces when they can’t get timely appointments or find the right care. This clinic will make sure that no one falls through the cracks, providing much-needed primary care for those who need it most.

What resonates most with me, though, is Montfort’s commitment to personalized care. Too often, healthcare can feel impersonal or

rushed. But Montfort’s plan is about building meaningful relationships between patients and healthcare providers. It’s about understanding

the individual – what they need, what they’re going through – and treating them with the care and respect they deserve. I’ve always believed that when people feel truly heard, they not only feel

better but often experience better outcomes. This approach will transform the way people experience care at Montfort.

Another part of the plan I find exciting is the hospital expansion. With our community growing, Montfort is stepping up to meet the increasing demand for services. The new spaces, technology, and expanded care will ensure the hospital is prepared for the future.

The Strategic Plan lan reflects a deep understanding of our community’s needs – whether it’s providing specialized services for seniors or ensuring culturally competent care for newcomers. This vision is one of hope, progress, and a stronger, healthier future for all of us.



**Tim Tierney**

Beacon Hill-Cyrville Ward 11

# City needs to to do a better job allocating funds to residential roads

As many followers of these articles know, I recently took our Mayor on a tour of the ward. I wanted to show him the condition of Orléans’ local roads, to understand why myself, and the other east end councillors are always advocating for road re-surfacing during budget discussions.

Much of Orléans was built at the same time, and it is showing its age. Unlike new developments, where everything is fresh and new, our aging neighbourhoods need to see greater and consistent investment to ensure our infrastructure is maintained and improved.

When first elected, I read an infrastructure report that came as no surprise. It found that the overall condition of Ottawa’s 1,500 km of arterial roads was in “Fair” condition and the 1,500 km collector roads were generally in “Poor” condition. In 2012, the city council of the day directed staff to prioritize repairs on these arterial and collector roads, but looking at our local residential streets today, the impact of that decision is glaring.

In 2022’s update, those arterial and collector class roads are largely in “Fair-Good” condition, but of the 2,500 km of residential roads, over 300 km are in “Poor” or “Very Poor” condition.

Beyond simply fighting for more investment, there needs to be a rebalancing in approach. Last year, I moved a motion for staff to determine how to reallocate funds, and I am pleased to see we are starting to see that reflected in the 2025 budget. The budget sees greater renewal projects, with multiple local roads now making it on the list. This is good, but it is only a start.

I have been working with my Council colleagues to adjust the process, with a greater emphasis on reallocating the road renewal budget across all road classes, particularly neighbourhood roads. I see this as the next step in ensuring our community sees tangible improvements in our aging infrastructure – proactive investments that will only save money in the long run.



**Laura Dudas**

Orléans West-Innes Ward 2



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# Vintage Village of Lights quickly becoming a holiday tradition

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

When listening to Cumberland Heritage Village Museum manager Tabitha Renaud passionately describe this year's Vintage Village of Lights it's hard not to get excited about the nearly four-week long event which runs every weekend between Friday, Nov. 29 and Sunday, Dec 22.

Museum staff have spent the better part of the last three weeks installing hundreds of strands of lights on every tree, bush and building in the outdoor museum which is located in Cumberland Village just east of Orléans.

Besides the sheer beauty of all the lights, the museum's animators have been busy planning activities in several of the buildings. Kids can pay a visit with Santa in the museum church, or decorate cookies in the lodge. There are a number of photo opportunity spots along the way where visitors can capture that perfect Instagram moment.

You can sit down at the fully dressed supper table in the Faubert House, or have your picture taken beside the red pickup truck outside Watson's Service Station.

Another place of interest is the school

house where three different craftsmen can be seen demonstrating their skills. There's a leathersmith, a carpenter and a printmaker working together to create picture frames for the museum's gift shop.

Elsewhere on the museum grounds you can visit with a model train operator, take a picture of the *Scrooge*-themed scene in the print house, or play ball hockey in the covered picnic shelter.

You can also buy your favourite baked treat at the museum canteen along with a hot cider, coffee, tea or hot chocolate and enjoy them by the fire which is kept lit by the sawmill crew.

Unlike past years, the museum staff have installed lights in the back part of the museum where visitors can take a stroll while enjoying the night air.

A visit to the Vintage Village of Lights is a wonderful way to ease yourself into the season while getting a feel for what Christmas was like in the 30s and 40s.

The Village of Lights is open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 22.

Admission is \$26.14 per group, taxes included (up to six people per group;



Photo opportunities abound at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum during the Vintage Village of Lights installation until Sunday, Dec. 22. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

children under two are not counted toward the maximum group size).

Advance registration is required. You can register by visiting [www.ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-events](http://www.ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-events) and clicking on the "Museums and historical sites" tab which will take you to the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum page.



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## Royal Canadian Legion Branch 632 2024 Poppy Campaign Report

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 632 Poppy Committee would like to thank the community of Orléans for its generous support during this year's campaign. At last count, more than \$154,000 has been raised, surpassing our initial goal of \$145,000. We did this with the help of over 370 volunteers. The committee would like to especially thank the Army and Air Cadets who volunteered hundreds of hours and raised \$11,000 between them. The money raised will be used to support various charities in support of veterans, their dependents and Cadets. Among the groups which have received funding in the past year include:

- Veterans and Aging, Comforts
- Student Bursaries Branch 632
- Military Families Resource Center
- Operation Leave the Streets Behind
- Perley Health Care for Seniors and Veterans
- Camp Maple Leaf
- Healing Heroes on the Fly
- Operation Service Dogs

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# OST all ages play a wonderful mix of old and new

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

The Ottawa School of Theatre staged their annual winter all-ages production last week and the result was a delightful tale of good versus evil with the good guys coming out on top in more ways than one.

“The Island of Lost Memories: A Christmas Heist” was written by Ottawa School of Theatre and Orléans Young Players veteran Bruce Deachman, who also has a lead role in the play, along with fellow OST and OYP veteran Samantha Leclair.

Deachman plays an aging private detective who opens a new office along with his young protégé, Strauss the Mouse, played by Dani Morris.

The office is open less than an hour before they get their first client, Laura Robin, who is, you guessed it, a robin played wonderfully by Leclair.

Laura comes to Strauss and Starnes with an accusation that her memories have somehow been stolen. It is then that Strauss the Mouse tells the audience that she has no memories of her childhood either.

After a little detective work and the help of a few friends, the pair discover that mad

scientist Dr. Scanlon, a white rat played by Violet Frederick, has been systematically kidnapping the animals, taking them to his secluded island and stealing their memories and using them to achieve world domination with the help her assistant Cataclysm the Cat, played by Rilla Edwards and a small army of animal robots who have a habit of breaking into choreographed song and dance routines every once and while.

Strauss the Mouse comes up with a plan to infiltrate the island, subdue the robots and Dr. Scanlon, and download everyone’s stolen memories to a hard drive so they can get them back. Oh, and they also plan to blow up Dr. Scanlon’s lab and the entire island to thwart her evil attempt at world domination.

Unfortunately, Dr. Scanlon is one step ahead of Strauss and her friends and she captures them and begins to steal their memories as well.

But Scanlon is unaware of the fact that Laura the Robin was able to get away undetected and flew back to the office to alert Starnes, who had stayed behind.

Together the pair return to the island to free their friends who then proceed to blow everything up, including the memory



Ottawa School of Theatre all ages production of ‘The Island of Lost Memories: A Christmas Heist’ featured a number of family faces including Bruce Deachman (far right) who wrote and starred in the play.

machine which went into lockdown mode when Strauss the Mouse tried to get everyone’s memories back, including her own.

Once back at the office, Starnes reveals to the gang that he figured out a way for

everyone to recall their lost memories and one by one they get their memories back. Laura the Robin finds out that she was once a government secret agent and Strauss the

Continued on page 10

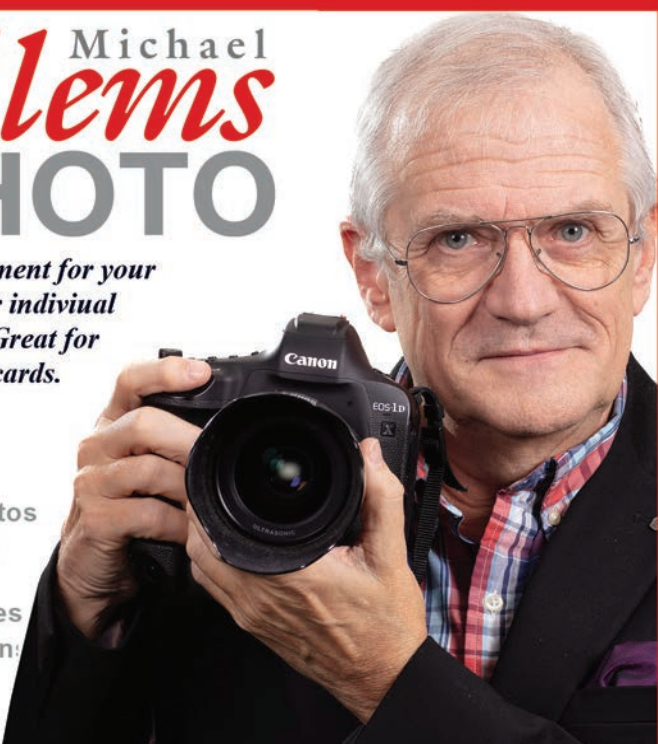
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Please contact Fernando at [fernando@accuratepoint.ca](mailto:fernando@accuratepoint.ca) for more info.



# OST all ages fall/winter production a real ‘hoot’

Continued from page 9

Mouse is reunited with her family.

There’s a lot more to the play than I have space to write about. For one thing there are 56 people in the cast, although many of them, including the youngest ones, don’t have any speaking roles.

There were also a number of siblings in the cast as well as three generations of women from the same family including Sam Leclair, her teenage daughter Liv, who played Candy the Wallaby with a very convincing Australian accent, and Sam’s mother Marni Hunt Stephens who is a long-time actor, writer and director with the Orléans Young Players and the Ottawa School of Theatre.

I personally loved the play and there were too many really great performances to list them all here. Of particular note, I loved

Jennifer Rowberry’s over-the-top performance as Amelia the Peregrine Falcon.

But what I especially loved was the script. It was very intelligently written, which made the play appealing to older audience members, with all sorts of one-liners throw in to keep the laughs coming.

I loved the use of the cue cards during one flashback scene when everyone was speaking German. I also appreciated the idea that old jazz music followed the aging Starnes wherever he went like a background track to his golden years.

All in all, “The Island of Lost Memories: A Christmas Heist” was as much fun to watch as it must have been to rehearse and perform.

For more information about the Ottawa School of Theatre and the classes they offer, please visit [ost-eto.ca](http://ost-eto.ca).

[www.oreansstar.ca](http://www.oreansstar.ca)

## Firefighters’ Food Drive Collecte de nourriture des pompiers

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# Cumberland Village gallery has a plethora of unique gift ideas

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

The Da Artisti Gallery and Studio in Cumberland Village is the only place east of the Hwy 417/174 split that sells unique one-of-a-kind items made by local artists that make the perfect gift for that unique one-of-a-kind person on your shopping list.

Located in the old general store building on Old Montreal Road, Da Artisti has everything from handmade jewelry and printed handbags and scarves to fused-glass ornaments and inlaid wood charcuterie boards.

And this is the perfect weekend to visit Cumberland Village, located just 10 minutes east of Orléans as the small town is holding its annual Christmas Market on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at four different locations including Da Artisti.

In opening the studio and gallery, owner Wendy Canci has created a space where local artists and artisans can display and sell their work in a one stop location.

The shelves are overflowing with unique artwork: jewelry, ceramics, woodwork, soaps, candles, scarves, and so much more. The walls of the gallery are adorned with exquisite paintings and woodwork.

When it comes to unique gift items, you won't find anything more unique than the



**Book art by Lise Forgues**

book art pieces created by Lise Forgues. Each piece takes over 100 hours to make.

The studio specializes in fused glasswork made by Wendy Canci and Martine Marceau. From gorgeous wall hangings and sculptures to decorative bowls and vases and even ornaments, no two pieces are alike. The same can be said for the stained-glass creations made by the talented Diana Atkinson, whose pieces hang in the gallery's windows.

Among the local artists featured at Da Artisti is Deborah Lyall who is famous for her fibre and textile art which includes handbags pocketbooks, clothing and small original wall-hanging pieces called "Bees". They also have hand-woven scarves made by Vankleek Hill weaver and harpist Ian Hepburn.

The gallery sells exceptional woodwork creations made by Ron Lacroix and Serge and Sheila Parisien and ceramics created by Katherine Arnold.

When it comes to jewelry, the gallery sells handmade pieces designed and made by Nathalie Brunelle as well as hand-blown glass creations by Barbara Ham and Janet Evans.

As for wall art, Da Artisti has a number of linocut creations by artist Diana Westwood on display that are for sale, as well as graphite works by Wendy Canci.

So as you can see, there is something for everyone at the Da Artisti Studio and Gallery in Cumberland Village. You can get there by driving east along St. Joseph Blvd. which turns into Old Montreal Road past Trim Road, or you can take Hwy. 174 east and turn left at the light at Cameron Street.

Da Artisti is located at 2565 Old Montreal Rd. near the corner of Old Montreal and Dunning Roads. Gallery hours are 11-5 p.m. Wed. to Fri. and 9-4 p.m. Sat. and Sun.



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# From foreign university student to Sobeys franchise owner



Kory Wang is the new owner/operator of the Sobeys store on Tenth Line Road in Avalon. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

In the last edition of the *Orléans Star* I wrote about Dereck Sawh, the new owner of the Sobeys store on Trim Road. This week I'm writing about Kory Wang who took over the Sobeys store at Tenth Line Road and Brian Coburn Blvd. in June.

The two men are actually good friends who went through the Sobeys management training program together eight years ago.

Like Dereck, Kory started out as part-time cashier and worked his way up until eventually owning and running his own store.

It's a remarkable achievement considering the fact that he started out as an international student from northern China and very nearly went back if not for a random twist of fate early on in his Sobeys journey.

After graduating from the international business administration program at the University of Toronto in 2009, Kory got a job as a part-time cashier in a Toronto-area store through a friend.

"My English was so bad at the time I couldn't even pronounce Sobeys properly. I pronounced it Sobuy," laughs Kory as he retells his story.

After a year working as a cashier, he got his first full-time job working as a receiver and used it to apply for a skilled worker designation on his immigration application. Unfortunately, his application was denied because it wasn't skilled enough. Then a month later, with only a month left on his three-year work permit, a front-end management position opened up and Kory used it to amend his immigration application which was ultimately accepted meaning he could stay in Canada. He hasn't looked back since.

Thanks to some excellent mentors who helped him along the way, Kory moved up through the ranks going from receiver to grocery manager, to a lead position at the Sobeys store in Aurora in 2015.

In 2016, Kory entered the management training program which grooms up and coming department managers to become assistant store managers known as ASMs. He, along with Dereck and another friend Dennis, were the only people of colour in the program at the time and the three have remained close friends ever since.

After graduating from the management training program, Kory was given his own store to manage in Mount Pleasant.

After increasing the profitability of that store he was given a bigger store where he remained for a couple of years until the opportunity came up to buy his first franchise at Hazeldean and Terry Fox in Kanata in 2019.

"I didn't even know where Kanata was," says Kory, "but it was a great opportunity for me to own my own store."

Two months after he took over the store in Kanata, the COVID pandemic started.

After successfully navigating the store through the pandemic, Kory started looking for a new challenge. With his five-year franchise agreement about to expire, he was presented with the opportunity to take over the Tenth Line Road store in June when the former store owner, Eric Foget, was moved up to a regional management position.

"I was becoming too comfortable in Kanata. There was no challenge anymore and taking over a new store comes with a

An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway stretching into the distance. The road is flanked by green fields and some trees. Several cars are visible on the road. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ►

# Heart of Orléans BIA marks another year of success

Special to The Orléans Star  
Tannis Vine, Executive Director  
The Heart of Orléans BIA

Each year, at this time, the Heart of Orléans Business Improvements Area (BIA), takes the opportunity to reflect on and applaud the achievements of the past year, while also embracing the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The year 2024 has been remarkable in many ways. It marked the first year of our expansion, growing our membership from 360 to 780 members. It also brought a shift in focus and approach as we adopted a strategic board and operations model.

Our success is a direct result of the dedication of our Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board and Operations Team. We've made remarkable strides this year, and we want to extend our heartfelt

thanks to each Board and Operations team member for their energy, commitment, and unwavering efforts in advancing our BIA.

Some highlights of our accomplishments this year include:

- Redefined operational structure
- Fully staffed operations team
- Implementation of MainStreet-RM
- Instalment of over 300 banners
- Instalment of five large gateway signs (December)
- Networking events with keynote speakers
- Behind the Business Campaign that tell the stories behind the business
- Soundbite advertising on podcasts and YouTube
- Influencer campaigns to showcase BIA businesses
- Various community contests such as the GIANT Chair Challenge



PHOTO SUPPLIED

- Over 1000 personal member visits

As we enter the final month of the year, we've taken time to reflect on the first year of our expansion and to consider the next phase

of our strategy.

We're excited for the opportunities that lie ahead and confident in our ability to meet any challenges. On behalf of the Board and Operations Team, we extend our heart-

felt thanks to all our members, partners, and the Orléans Community for your continued trust, confidence, and support.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season!

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Little Turkish Village

Table d'Hôte Option 1

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Dinner for two with assortment of six charcoal grilled skewers including Shish Tavuk, Beef Kabob, Shish Kebab. Shish Kofta, and two Shish Seafood served with rice and wedge potatoes

Table d'Hôte Option 2

Choice of chicken or beef balls or Chef Salad per couple  
Glazed Lamb Shank served with butternut squash puree  
roasted baby potatoes, grilled asparagus and gravy.

Both dinner options include choice of Homemade Fruit Custard, or Chocolate Mousse Cake and fresh brewed coffee or tea.

Purchase your ticket(s) before Dec. 24 for preferred seating and the chance to win a Dinner for Two.

Call 613-824-5557 or email [welcome@turkishvillage.ca](mailto:welcome@turkishvillage.ca)  
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# Orléans Outstanding Youth Award recipients announced

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

The *Orléans Star* is proud to announce the recipients of this year's Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards.

The Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards were launched in 2005 as a way to recognize the many accomplishments of young people living in Orléans and the surrounding community.

The awards are unique in that there are no specific categories – instead individuals can be nominated for their achievements in a given area or in a combination of areas including academics, athletics and community service.

The *Orléans Star* received 21 nominations in total this year and each one was deemed as being deserving of receiving an Outstanding Youth Award.

The list includes several Governor-General's Medallion recipients in 2023-2024, the student with the highest overall average among the nine high schools in Orléans last year, one of the top young tennis players in the province, a double gold medalist at the OFSAA provincial track and

field championships in June, two members of the Cairine Wilson Secondary School Improv team that placed third at the city championship last year and ninth at the Canadian championships, and a set of twins who finished less than half a percentage point apart in the race to see who would finish the school year as the top student at École secondaire catholique Garneau.

Each recipient will receive their personalized trophy during a ceremony at École secondaire Béatrice-Desloges on Sunday, Dec. 8 which will feature performances by several talented young musicians and dancers.

The Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards would not be possible without the generous support of presenting sponsors Collège La Cité, Université St.-Paul and Collège Boréal; platinum level sponsor Richcraft Homes; gold level sponsor M.L. Bradley Ltd. and more than a dozen individual award sponsors.

Profiles of all 21 recipients will be published in the *Orléans Star* for several weeks following the award ceremony.

## 2024 OYA RECIPIENTS

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • John Iziomon, 13           | • Cedric Prud'homme, 18    |
| • Anna Feltmate, 17          | • Lara Prud'homme, 18      |
| • Sophia Mrak, 17            | • May Element, 16          |
| • Zachary Jeggo, 17          | • Laetitia Abou-Assali, 16 |
| • Asif Rahman, 18            | • Aanreen Reza, 17         |
| • Joel Iziomon, 17           | • Zoé Cliche, 17           |
| • Anthony Nguyen, 17         | • Sami Mufti, 14           |
| • Théo Montgomery, 10        | • Kaï Haché, 20            |
| • Stephen Blais Jr., 15      | • Lona Kandil, 17          |
| • Daniella Iheozor, 17       |                            |
| • Corina Carballo Maduro, 17 |                            |
| • Mekhi Simpson Falcao, 17   |                            |

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## Sobeys success story cont'd

Continued from page 12

whole new set of challenges," says Kory.

Since taking over the Tenth Line store, Kory has been working closely with his old friend Dereck who bought the Trim Road store last February. The two share the same commitment to given back to the community and supporting local organizations like the Orléans-Cumberland food bank.

Kory was also able to lure his former assistant manager in Kanata, to join him her in Orléans.

"Kim who worked with me for five years in Kanata," says Kory. "We make such a great team. My weaknesses are her strengths and vice versa."

Kory also has a very supportive spouse at home who looks after their eight-year-old son Kayden, who plays competitive hockey, and their 11-year-old daughter Kaylee, who is a talented figure skater.

Suffice it to say that Kory is living the Canadian dream – from foreign university student to Sobeys store owner, thanks to a combination of hard work and a desire to constantly raise the bar both in terms of his own abilities and his expectations.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

**FRIDAY, DEC. 6**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7**

**CORO VIVO OTTAWA PRESENTS** "...a child is born" at Orléans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. (just north of Hwy. 174) The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at eventbrite.ca. Children under 14 admitted at no charge..

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7**

**ORLÉANS HOLIDAY ARTS MARKET** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shenkman Arts Centre featuring unique gift ideas along with children's activities and entertainment.

**OTTAWA FIREFIGHTERS FOOD DRIVE** in support of the Orléans Cumberland food bank from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the

Sobeys stores at Trim & Innes Road and Tenth Line and Brian Coburn Blvd., area Metro stores and the FreshCo store at Trim and Watters Road.

**THE CUMBERLAND CHRISTMAS MARKET** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with over 100 vendors at four locations in Cumberland Village including the Da Artisti Studio and Gallery at 2565 Old Montreal Rd.

**TAPROOM 260** presents The Underground live from 8 p.m. No cover charge. Located in the Orléans Town Centre on Centrum Blvd.

**THE STRAY DOG BREWING COMPANY** presents Ethan Mitchell with special guest Dalton Crew from 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For

tickets visit straydogbrewing.ca. The Stray Dog Brewing Company is located at 501 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park/

**TUESDAY, DEC. 10**

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** with the Musica Viva Singers, Atlantic Voices and the Cumberland Community Singers from 7.30 p.m. at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orléans Blvd. Tickets available at eventbrite.ca.

**SATURDAY, DEC 14**

**THE 31ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGELS FUNDRAISER** to raise money for deserving local families at Christmastime. Event gets underway at 7 p.m. at Taproom260 in the Orléans Town Centre on Centrum Blvd. Live music, silent auction and raffle prizes.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Rhea Nephew, 88**

**Passed away on November 26, 2024**

**Albert "Joe" Gallant, 86**

**Passed away on November 25, 2024**

**Patricia Macdonald, 81**

**Passed away on November 23, 2024**



[www.heritagefh.ca/obituaries](http://www.heritagefh.ca/obituaries)

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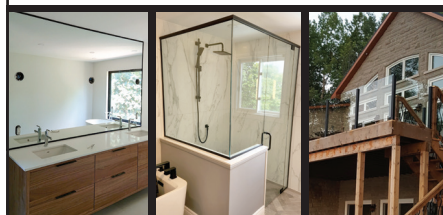
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