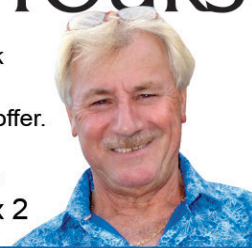




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# THE Orléans Star

February 1, 2024 • Volume 39, No. 15

Next edition Feb. 15

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



Orléans youngster Theo Montgomery is the top ranked nine-year-old tennis player in Ottawa and among the top 40 in the province. See story page 11. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

## Suspect charged for rash of St. Joseph Blvd. break-ins

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

An Ottawa man faces 41 different charges in connection with a rash of break-ins that have occurred in Orléans over the past three months.

Gerald Lusignan, 54, was arrested on Jan. 19 and charged with 14 counts of break and enter, 14 counts of mischief under \$5,000 and 14 counts of wearing a disguise with intent.

Most of the break-ins occurred in the early morning hours on St. Joseph Blvd. Among the places the accused targeted are the Garlic King, Rangoli and Bad Alibi. The Barber Stop at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc Blvd, and Voyageur Drive in Convent Glen was also hit.

In almost every case, the accused used a brick or other large object to break the window glass in the front door.

In a surveillance video seen by the Orléans Star, the accused is dressed completely in black

and is wearing a face mask. After breaking into the restaurant, he can be seen making his getaway on a bicycle.

In some cases, he took a small some of cash and alcohol, while in other cases, there was no money on the premises to steal. If anything, the break-ins were more of a nuisance than anything, albeit an extremely expensive nuisance.

Because of a city by-law regulating the width of outdoor entrances to commercial establishments, the actual doors have to be custom-made with tempered glass, which makes them extremely expensive.

When the accused broke into Rangoli he took \$200 in cash and a couple of bottles of booze, but in the process of breaking into the restaurant he destroyed the front door, which will cost the owner \$3,000 to replace.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



## Valentine's Day all-you-can-eat buffet

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Fête Frissons coming to the Shenkman Arts Centre on Feb. 10

ORLÉANS – The Shenkman Arts Centre will once again be hosting its annual Fête Frissons celebration on Saturday, Feb. 10 as part of Ottawa's Winterlude festival. This free event is open to all with performances, art-making, workshops and storytelling. The event gets underway at 10 a.m and runs until 2 p.m. featuring performances by Brazilian children's entertainer Luciano Porto and L'habitant Voyageur Louis Mercier who is an ambassador of traditional French-Canadian folk music from Maniwaki, Quebec. Other highlights include storytelling by members of the Ottawa School of Theatre, demonstrations by the Gloucester Pottery School and activities organized by the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum and the Ottawa Public Library. There will also be several food vendors on site. The event is being sponsored by the Heart of Orléans BIA.

### New online tool helps Ottawa residents look up property values, taxes

OTTAWA – Ottawa residents can now look up the property assessment values and taxes paid on any property in the city using a new online tool at <https://propertytaxes-taxesfoncieres.ottawa.ca/en>. The application displays the taxes that are levied for the current and previous year. The tool does not provide account balances, supplemental taxes or any other information such as the Vacant Unit Tax and Assessment-related decisions, nor does it provide the owner's name, mailing address, or any occupant or tenant information. The tool is especially helpful for homebuyers who want to know the assessed value of a home they are interested in and the taxes that are being paid by the current property owner. Before now residents had to appear in person at Ottawa City Hall to access property tax and assessment information. It is still possible to find out the history of owners of a particular property as well as what they paid for it in the Land Registry Office at City Hall.

## Arrest a huge relief for St. Joseph businesses

Continued from page 1

It's the same case for the Garlic King, which was also broken into.

For all of the businesses on St. Joseph Blvd. the fact that someone has been arrested and charged comes as huge relief.

The Ottawa Police Service dedicated a number of resources to identify, locate and arrest the suspect including frontline patrol, the canine unit, the Neighbourhood Resource Team and the OPP.

In the end, the suspect was arrested by patrol officers on Jan. 19 and remains in custody while the investigation is still ongoing.

The investigation and arrest are being lauded by Orléans city councillor Matt Luloff.

"The Ottawa Police took these break-ins very seriously and I commend them for their hard work" says Luloff. "While obviously the matter still has to come before the courts, knowing that the Ottawa Police made every effort to find the person responsible for these crimes gives me confidence that our local businesses won't be viewed as easy targets in the future."

"Our local businesses have gone through so much over the last three years and having to make repairs to windows, buy new stock and replace equipment adds insult to injury after this very difficult time. When crimes like these are committed, it hurts everyone. We all feel a little bit safer knowing that those who break our trust will be held accountable for these invasive and destructive crimes."



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# Warm weather, freezing rain play havoc on outdoor activities

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

It has not been a great year for winter activity enthusiasts in Orléans. After a somewhat mild beginning to the New Year, colder temperatures during the third week of January had many hoping that better days were just around the corner, then last week's thaw happened along with the freezing rain, closing the area's outdoor rinks and covering the local cross-country trails with ice.

Most of the outdoor rinks in the area were open for less than a week before they were put out of action, except for the outdoor rink next to the R.J. Kennedy Arena in Cumberland Village which was open for two weeks.

The inclement weather also forced the Queenswood Heights Community Association to postpone their winter festival two weeks until Feb. 9.

Last January, was one of the warmest Januarys on record with an average daily high of -2.3 degrees and average overnight low of 9.3 degrees.

This past month, the average daily high and overnight low have been nearly the

same. As of last Saturday, the average daily high stood at -3.1 degrees and the average overnight low was -10 degrees.

The only real difference has been in the amount of snow. Last January, Ottawa had a total accumulation of 96.5 cm. During the first three weeks of January this year, Ottawa received 54.4 cm.

Last week's freezing rain also forced the NCC to close the Rideau Canal to skaters after being open for just a few days.

How long it will remain closed is anybody's guess. If the overnight low continues to hover in the negative teens, it should take only a few days for the NCC to open up portions of the skateway.

Last week's freezing rain is actual helpful in getting Orléan's outdoor rinks back in shape.

It levels out the base and makes it easier to flood the surface once the temperatures drop.

With any luck, the outdoor rinks should reopen within a week or two, as long as Mother Nature cooperates.

The temperatures can't drop fast enough for organizers of this year's Winterlude festival which gets underway this weekend



The outdoor rink beside Fallingbrook Community Elementary School was in rough shape following last week's mix of freezing rain and warm temperatures. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

and runs until Feb. 19.

The canal is set to host the capital's first Capital Pride Ice Parade on Feb. 11 and the Ice Dragon Boat Festival on Feb. 9.

The Ice Dragon Boat Festival was cancelled last year when the Skateway didn't open for the first time in its history. This is the first year for the Pride Ice Parade.

If the weather prevents organizers from reopening the Skateway, both the Ice Dragon Boat Race and the Pride Ice Parade will be moved to another location.

For more information about this year's Winterlude festival, visit [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/winterlude.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/winterlude.html).

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# A very local epidemic

Last week, the local and national media somehow discovered that car theft in many parts of this country – including Ottawa – has become an epidemic. The fact of the matter is that car theft has been on the rise for the past two years, ever since the COVID pandemic restrictions were lifted, and Orléans is not immune from this growing crisis.

You would be hard pressed to find anyone in Orléans who doesn't know someone who has had their car stolen. The Facebook group Crime Spotting Orleans/Community Awareness has a number of posts relating to car theft in almost every neighbourhood in the community.

A total of 1,854 vehicles were stolen in Ottawa last year, which is just over five cars a day every single day for 365 straight days. It's also a 50 per cent increase from 2022 when 1,289 vehicles were reported stolen.

Most of the cars stolen end up in Montréal, where they are placed in shipping containers and transported overseas to countries in the Middle East and Africa. We know this because there are pictures circulating online of cars being driven around that still have Ontario plates on them.

Orléans is an ideal hunting ground for car thieves, especially those operating for criminal organizations in Montréal. Thanks to modern technology and keyless entry systems, a thief can break into your car and start the engine in less than a minute using high-tech devices that merely require the VIN number of your vehicle. A couple of minutes later, they can be on the 417 heading to Montreal and two hours after that, your car is being loaded onto a shipping container heading to parts unknown.

The problem has gotten so out of hand that the federal government is organizing a national summit on auto theft here in Ottawa on Feb. 8, bringing together law enforcement and industry officials.

The first logical step to combating auto theft in this city would be to reinstate the dedicated auto-theft unit which was disbanded in 2017 for reasons that are not entirely clear. One thing that is clear is that if there was ever a reason to put together a dedicated auto-theft unit, it's the fact that car thefts have increased by 50 per cent in just a year.

The industry could help reduce auto-theft by installing anti-theft devices in every car they build. The devices could be activated by an app that would immediately disable the engine.

Individual car owners could protect themselves by purchasing an Apple AirTag or other similar tracking device, and planting one in their vehicle.

The AirTag was developed to help travelers find their lost baggage, but they can just as easily be used to track your stolen car. The problem is that by the time you discover your car has been stolen, it's already in a shipping container in Montréal, especially if it was stolen in the middle of the night.

The only way to truly combat auto theft is for everyone to do their part including law enforcement, the auto industry and individual car owners. Only then will we begin to get this epidemic under some sort of control.

– Fred Sherwin, editor

## ANTI-THEFT DEVICE



## Canadian Dental Care Plan now available for eligible residents

I want to start by recognizing that February is Black History Month, a month when we honour the legacy of black Canadians and their immense contributions and strength. I want to thank you for your community engagement and for your valuable contributions to our culture and to the entire community of Orléans.

January 24th marked the 14th Bell Let's Talk Day, a reminder that we must continue to break the silence and remove the stigma surrounding mental health to truly have an open dialogue, allowing us to take care of ourselves and others. You are not alone. If you need help, please call or text the suicide crisis helpline at 9-8-8, where an experienced network of trained responders is ready to answer your calls and texts.

As we celebrated International Day of Education last week on Jan. 24, I want to recognize the hard work and engagement of all the teachers, school personnel, and employees in our local schools in Orléans. Thank you for your dedication to helping our students grow and succeed as leaders!

On Jan. 15, individuals in our community and in applicable provinces across Canada received their Climate Action Incentive Rebate. These are the proceeds of the price on pollution, helping families while fighting climate change.

As you know, the Canadian Dental Care Plan

(CDCP) for eligible individuals has been launched using a phased approach to ensure a successful and smooth rollout. Applications first opened for seniors aged 87 and above in December 2023, expanding in phases by age group.

Eligible people in age groups 77 to 86 received a letter inviting them to apply in January; those in age groups 72 to 76 will receive theirs in February; and those in age groups 70 to 71 will be invited to apply starting in March

2024. If you have any questions, please dial 1-833-537-4342.

On Feb. 10, let's join Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and many other Asian communities in celebrating the Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. May this year, the Year of the Dragon, bring you good fortune and leadership for all.

This is the last reminder to request your form if you want to nominate outstanding women or young girls from Orléans who demonstrated exceptional leadership through their volunteerism.

Thank you to those who have already submitted a nomination form. The deadline to receive submissions has been extended to Monday, Feb. 16. You can request your nomination form by emailing my office at Marie-France.Lalonde@parl.gc.ca.

**\*\*La version française est maintenant disponible sur mon site internet at MFLalondeMP.ca\*\***



### Commons Corner

Marie-France Lalonde

**THE Orléans Star**

**Jody Maffett**  
Editor  
The Orléans Star

**Fred Sherwin**  
Owner and publisher  
fsherwin@orleansstar.ca



**Jean-Marc Pacelli**  
Editor  
L'Orléanais

The Orléans Star is a bi-weekly publication distributed to over 40,000 residences in Blackburn Hamlet, Orléans and Navan. The newspaper is locally owned and operated by Sherwin Publishing Inc., 745 Farmbrook Cres., Orléans, ON. Inquiries and delivery issues should be sent to info@orleansstar.ca.



# The joy of doing something for someone else without asking

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the act of helping someone else is defined as “making it easier for (someone) to do something by offering one’s services or resources.”

But what if you don’t offer? What if you perform an act for someone else without offering or being asked?

What if you do it solely because it’s the right thing to do? And what if you do it without any expectation of being thanked or even acknowledged for your act of selflessness? Would you still do it?

Imagine if everyone performed a single act of selflessness every day. What a wonderful world it would be.

It could be as simple as holding a door open for someone or picking up an object they had just dropped on the ground.

Or you could shovel your elderly neighbour’s driveway after a snowstorm.

And not only will it make you feel good, it won’t cost a dime.

The easiest way to offer your services without being asked is to volunteer to help out at your child’s school or a local organization such as the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre.

There are tons of organizations out there



that would love the benefit of your services. Just pick one and sign up.

An altruistic act is defined as a selfless act that is uninfluenced by any consideration of personal advantage – or being thanked. (I added that last part.) Hubris is defined as excessive pride or self-confidence. What this world needs is a little more altruism and a little less hubris.

Back when I used to organize the annual Canada Day Celebration on Petrie Island, one of my key volunteers informed me that he could no longer do it. “To be honest, there’s not much thanks in it,” he told me. To which I replied, “If you’re looking for people to pat you on the back, you’re in the wrong business.”

In the 12 years I organized the event from 2005 to 2017, I was thanked twice – once in

an email and once by a young girl who was encouraged to do so by her mother. In both instances, I appreciated the sentiment, but I didn’t do it for any sort of accolades. I did it for the self-satisfaction I felt in being able to pull off something that few other people would be willing to do.

I remember when I was in my 20s I had a friend who volunteered for some sort of public event. I don’t recall exactly which, but I do recall my reaction was one of utter disbelief. I couldn’t comprehend doing something for someone else without getting paid. I was incredulous.

It wasn’t until several years later, when I started OrleansOnline.ca and began helping anyone who needed my services that I began to experience first-hand the feeling of pride and self-satisfaction that comes with doing something for someone else without asking.

I’m not saying this to toot my own horn. I’m just saying it to hopefully encourage others to commit a selfless act and experience what I have experienced. Who knows, you just may motivate someone else to follow suite. And so on and so on. And before you know it the world will be a better place.

\* \* \*  
I’m always amazed at how often people

judge others without even taking the time to get to know the other person.

What’s the Biblical saying? “Judge not, lest ye be judged.”

We all have baggage – some of us may only have a personal item, or a carry-on, but there are others who carry around a massive suitcase. We must never forget this.

If you take the time to get to know really know a person, you may find out why they are the way they are. It just takes a little empathy, or the ability to put yourself in another person’s shoes.

This happened to me on a recent trip to Cuba where I met three young guys from the Hamilton area.

When I first met them, they were a little inebriated, to say the least, and one of them was particularly obnoxious. But over the next few days, we had a few drinks together and I was able to find out more about the guy and his life, and low and behold, he turned out to be a pretty good dude. In fact, I’m now Instagram friends with all three of them – Nick, Kyle and Justin – and I plan to visit them during my next trip to southern Ontario.

It just further proves that we should never be too quick to judge others without at least trying to get to know them first.

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# It's up to everyone to ensure safe driving conditions this winter

Happy New Year Orleans! Time to fill in some dates in that new 2024 agenda.

Sharpen those skates and join us for a complimentary skating session at the Richcraft Sensplex (813 Sheppard Rd.) on Family Day Feb. 19, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Come for the skate and stay for the hot chocolate and baked goods. It's a great way to spend the Family Day afternoon.

We've also organized two Community Pancake Breakfasts on Feb. 24 at Colonel By High School and Mar. 2 at St. John Paul II School. Both events will take place from 9:30 am to 11 pm. These breakfast events will not offer only pancakes and sausages, but also a golden opportunity to connect with other community members.

Now, on a more serious note. I thought I'd share the latest message from Safer Roads Ottawa.

Distracted driving is an inexcusable high-risk driving behaviour that can come with a very high cost – including your life or that of others. From 2017-2021, there were 79

fatal and major injury collisions attributed to distracted driving on our city roads. Always clear all snow and ice from your vehicle

and, if possible, warm your car before you start driving.

Snow-covered mirrors or foggy windows are unneeded distractions, especially when the weather has already created less

than ideal road conditions. Winter driving requires lower speeds and keeping a safe distance away from other vehicles, two things that are challenges for distracted drivers.

The Ontario government website has excellent general winter driving tips. The Road Safety Action Plan is based on three pillars: engineering/infrastructure improvements, enforcement and education. The 'Time is precious' ad campaign is part of the education element to effect behavioural change. The goal of behavioural change is to de-normalize unsafe road behaviour and create a culture of road safety.

Let's all have a fun and safe 2024! Till next time.



**Tim Tierney**

Beacon Hill-Cyrville Ward 11

# Developer's 'donation' sparks call for greater transparency

Over the past years, we have seen an erosion of trust in government, and faith in our political institutions. As elected officials, now more than ever, our actions and deeds must remain above reproach.

At council's first meeting of 2024, things turned acrimonious when the debate arose over a "voluntary donation" of \$300,000 by a developer to the local councillor's ward after their development was approved.

This money was earmarked for local, affordable housing and traffic calming measures. While this arrangement may have been negotiated with the best of intentions, a deal struck behind closed doors does not pass the smell test for me.

I am deeply concerned about the City accepting this money. While processing development applications is regulated by the province, there are files which require council's vote. In those cases, residents must trust that council is voting on developments solely on the application's merits; any exchange of money muddies those waters.

In the past, when dealing with developments, I was always advised by planning staff that it was inappropriate for a councillor to make any demands above and beyond what was defined by law.

Nowhere in Ontario's Planning Act does it outline a process for striking side deals with developers. In this case, the developer said the "donation" was because the City showed support by meeting with them, and that the file was a difficult one. Well, that is literally our job.

Further, they stated that they didn't want to set a precedent for donations to be expected in the future. Then why is it acceptable now?

Ottawa's Integrity Commissioner determined that she has no policy direction to provide advice on the matter. An absence of policy cannot be a "carte-blanc" for councillors to go to a developer, palms out. At a time when trust in politicians is at an all-time low, however noble the intention, rebuilding trust and integrity at City Hall must come first.



**Laura Dudas**

Innes Ward 2



# Symphony Senior Living

## ORLÉANS

PRESENTS

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# Resident in financial crisis in search of a helping hand

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

Diana Demitro is a professional psychic who has helped dozens of clients contact dearly departed loved ones and provided insight into their future. Unfortunately, despite her psychic abilities, she had no idea about what her own future would have in store and the difficult position she now finds herself in.

Things began to go sour a year and a half ago when she decided to rent a house on Innes Road across from Dynamo Storage to live in and offer her psychic and Tarot card reading services to local residents.

The plan was to sell the home she shared with her late husband in Alta Vista, pay off the mortgage and use what was left over as a nest egg.

In real estate, timing is everything and unfortunately Demitro put the house up for sale after the pandemic housing bubble had already burst.

During the pandemic, houses were selling within days of being listed for tens of thousands of dollars over the asking price, and in many instances

they were sold even before they were publicly listed.

But that was then. Today, houses are sitting on the market for weeks or even months before they even get a nibble.

Demitro put her Alta Vista home up for sale in 2022. She's had some interest, but no offers. In the meantime, she has struggled to pay both a mortgage and her rent along with all her other living expenses. She has completely drained whatever money she had saved up and is barely making ends meet.

Frankly put, things are becoming more and more desperate with each passing day.

A brother was gracious enough to give her \$5,000, but that barely covered a single mortgage payment and a month's rent.

Demitro is hoping someone will come forward to help her set up a GoFundMe campaign, or even a guardian angel who will provide her with enough money to cover her mortgage payments and rent until her house is sold. Once the house is sold, she will be able to pay the guardian angel back.

For the moment, she's at her wits' end. The anxiety from having to worry about her financial situation is beginning to have an impact on both her mental and physical well being.

She's lucky to get more than three hours of sleep at a time and her appetite is almost non-existent.

"I can't eat. I can't sleep. I'm worried all the time that I'll lose my house before it gets sold and then I won't be able to pay my rent. I've never been in this position before in my life," says Demitro.

Part of the problem is that her business has yet to bring in any significant income. She has a handful of clients, but the income from her psychic and Tarot card readings barely pay for the utilities.

"I need help," says Demitro. "I'm desperate and I don't know where to turn. Hopefully someone out there will find it within their heart to give me a hand and help me get through this. I don't know what else to do."

If you're in a position to help her out, you can contact Diana directly by calling 613-822-7222.



Diana Demitro is hoping a Good Samaritan will help her get through her current financial predicament. PHOTO SUPPLIED

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# Travel consultant specializes in Disney vacations and cruises

STAR STAFF – Mercedes Puder has been going to Disney World ever since she was four years old. In her 24 years, she has been to the Disney theme park over 30 times.

She's visited the park as a small girl, a pre-teen, a teenager and a young adult, which gives her a special perspective on how to make the most of your trip no matter how many kids you have, or their ages.

Puder is a certified Disney travel agent who also specializes in cruises of all kinds through her company Pixie Passport Travel.

Her goal is to make your vacation experience, from planning to the actual adventure as stress free as possible – and she's willing to go the extra mile to do so – all at no cost to you. You read right. Puder does not charges for her services – rather she earns a commission from the provider on the back end.

Whether it's your first trip to Disney World, or you want to make the most out of a return visit, Puder knows the ins and outs of every kind of Disney vacation, giving her the ability to put together the most memorable trip for any family. Every trip is custom planned to your liking.

Puder will help you plan every aspect of your trip from choosing the right accommodation that suits your childrens' interests and fits your budget, to figuring out how to make the most out of your Genie+, Lightning Lane and virtual queue services. In fact, she will wake up at the crack of dawn and pre-book all your Genie+ and Lightning Pass reservations, saving you hours of frustration and headaches trying to do it yourself.

Besides all things Disney, Puder is also a certified cruise ship specialist for Carnival, Disney, Norwegian and Princess cruise lines. She has been on 13 cruises in total and is



Travel consultant Mercedes Puder with Disney character Daisy Duck during a recent trip to the Magic Kingdom. PHOTO SUPPLIED

about to go on her 14th.

Puder believes that the only way to help her clients book their next cruise is to have experienced each cruise line herself, especially if they are trying to decide on a cruise for the first time.

"There's so many options when you're trying to pick a cruise, it can be overwhelming," says Puder. "There's family-oriented cruise, single cruises, adults only cruises, theme cruises...you name it."

Puder has the expertise to customize and budget out cruises and pick the perfect cruise that suits your lifestyle and needs. She can also plan and book other types of vacations – you name it and she can do it, including the Universal Studios Theme Park, all-inclusive resort packages, hotel stays, travel insurance, rental cars, and the list goes on.

And we did her mention her services come free of charge?

To find out more, email you can contact Mercedes directly at [pixiepassporttravel@gmail.com](mailto:pixiepassporttravel@gmail.com) or visit [pixiepassporttravel.com](http://pixiepassporttravel.com).



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# Beat the mid-winter blues at the Shenkman Arts Centre

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

Is Ottawa's long winter starting to get you down? Are you tired of binge-watching shows on Netflix and getting lost in the bottomless rabbit hole of watching old music videos on YouTube? Then why not consider a night out at the Shenkman Arts Centre, which is hosting a series of live performances over the next few weeks, starting with the Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute band, Green River Rival with shows on Feb. 3 and 4?

Tickets are \$50 each and are available at the virtual box office at [shenkmanarts.ca](http://shenkmanarts.ca)



On Feb. 7, Canada's "Queen of Rock" Sass Jordan is in town. The Juno Award win-

ning artist has sold over a million records worldwide and has worked with such legends as the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith and AC/DC.

On Friday, Feb. 16, CBC Radio's Laugh Out Loud with Ali Hassan will be recorded live for a future date with guest comedians Joey Elias, Leonard Chan, Hisham Kelati, Cassie Cao, Martha Chaves and Carly Baker. A limited number of single seats are left at \$42.50 per person.

Abbamania returns to the Shenkman Arts Centre for two shows on Feb. 17 and 18 with fellow tribute artists paying homage to the Bee Gees, Tina Turner, Freddie Mercury and Adele. A limited number of tickets are still available for the Sunday matinée show.

On Feb. 23 and 24, celebrated French comedienne Katherine Levac will bring her one woman show "L'homme de ma vie" to the Harold Shenkman stage. True to herself, Levac will present a lively, sarcastic and sharp witted performance that will take an offbeat look at our reality. Her tongue-in-cheek and intelligent humour guarantees an excellent evening.

Internationally renowned mentalist Spidey will bring his mesmerizing show to the Shenkman Arts Centre on Thursday, Feb. 29.



In the past, he has performed on America's Got Talent and was a finalist on FOX's Showtime at the Apollo with Steve Harvey and in 2017 he was named U.S. Mentalist of the Year.

There are still plenty of tickets left at \$40 per person.

Other shows on this month at the Shenkman Arts Centre include the Nibi Indigenous Arts Festival which will take place this Saturday, Feb. 3; the full-length family concert "Bavela and her seven adventurous lives" under the artistic direction of Stick&Bow also on this Saturday; and the Fête Frissons festival which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10.



This is a free event which includes live performances, art-making, workshops, storytelling, dancing and, of course, outdoor fun in the snow. There will be facepainting, pottery demonstrations by the Gloucester Pottery School, storytelling by the Ottawa School of Theatre, activities organized by the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum and the Ottawa Public Library, and performances by Brazilian children's entertainer Luciano Porto and L'habitant Voyageur Louis Mercier who is an ambassador of traditional French Canadian folk music from Maniwaki, Québec.

For more information, visit [shenkmanarts.ca/en/fete-frissons-2023](http://shenkmanarts.ca/en/fete-frissons-2023).



## Winter family events



**February 10**  
Fête Frissons (free event)



**February 3**  
Bavela and her seven adventurous lives



**February 29**  
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# Presenting the 2023 Outstanding Youth Award recipients

## Raina Smith, 17

Raina Smith is an example of how much the human spirit can overcome. Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was 5½, Raina also suffers from Psoriasis and Chronic Recurrent Multi-focal Osteomyelitis (CRMO) which causes pain and damage in bones due to inflammation. She takes one immunosuppressant injection every week for the Psoriasis and a second injection every two weeks for the CRMO. The injections cause her to be very fatigued and nauseous for 24 to 36 hours after each treatment. Despite her the medical conditions and the side effects of the treatments, Raina refuses to let them slow her down. She is an avid athlete and has played on the top-tier soccer team for her age group with the Gloucester Hornets for the past two years. While a student at Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic School last year, she was selected to play on both the girls volleyball and basketball teams. A straight-A student, she received the Director of Education award last year. Away from school, Raina is vocal advocate for children suffering from Juvenile Diabetes. Last year she took part in an event called “Kids for a Cure” where 30 kids are selected from across all of Canada to come to Parliament Hill to help politicians understand the daily challenges of living with Type 1 Diabetes and the importance of accelerating progress towards a cure. For her resiliency in dealing with multiple medical conditions and her empathy and advocacy for others suffering from similar conditions, Raina Smith has been selected as a recipient of this year’s Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards.



## Zachary Jeggo, 17

Zachary Jeggo is a Grade 11 student at École secondaire publique Louis-Riel where he is enrolled in the Sport-Études program. In 2022, he placed sixth in the novice boys 400 metres at the OFSAA provincial track and field championships and was well back of the pack in the 800. Skip ahead a year and his results were much different. After deciding to drop the 800 and compete in the 300-metre hurdles instead, Zachary won the junior boys 400 and the 300-metre hurdles at both the city championships and the OFSAA East Regionals. His results placed him among the favourites in both events heading into the provincial championships. He lived up to his advance billing by winning both events at OFSAA and returned home with two gold medals. To put his accomplishment in perspective, it is the first time an east end athlete has won two individual gold medals at the provincial level since Olympian Segun Makinde accomplished the feat in 2009 competing for Colonel By Secondary School. He followed up his historic performance at the provincial high school championships by winning a pair of silver medals in the U18 400-metres and 400-metre hurdles at the Canadian Youth Championships in August competing as a 16-year-old. For his history making accomplishments on the track, Zachary Jeggo has been selected as a recipient of this year’s Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards.





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## IN MEMORIAM



**Marielle Lalonde, 86**  
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**Louise Lancione, 57**  
Passed away on January 17, 2024

**Melanie Gleason-Lemay, 45**  
Passed away on January 16, 2024



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## Orléans youngster a budding tennis prodigy

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Theo Montgomery loves playing tennis. So much so in fact that he practices for 12-14 hours a week during the spring and summer. And when he's not practicing he's playing in tournaments and winning them.

In fact, he won seven of the nine tournaments he entered last year – four at the U9 level and three at U10 – made the final of in another tournament and the semi-final of yet another. In doing so he accumulated enough points to become the top-ranked U9 player in Ottawa and the 5th ranked U10 player in the city.

But it has not been an easy road for the fourth grader. In his own words, he “sucked” when he first started playing competitive tennis at the ripe old age of six-and-a-half.

“I lost every match the first three years I played competitive,” says Theo, who first picked up a tennis racket when he was just three years old.

After three years of suffering losses and getting schooled by older kids he finally won his first tournament in 2022.

That experience helped motivate him to continue training at both the Compound Performance Academy at the Carleton Tennis Centre and the Rideau Sports Centre tennis academy.

The highlight of the past season was a trip to Florida to play in the Little Mo International Tournament for kids age 8-16.

Theo lost his first match 6-0, 6-0 to a player from the Czech Republic, but he bounced back to win his second match 6-2, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the consolation draw only to run up against a youngster who was from Russia, but is training in Florida, and lost 6-1, 6-1 in a match that was a lot closer than the score would suggest with Théo managing to win his share of points in a contest that took more than 90 minutes to complete.

The other big tournament Theo played in was the Eastern Canadian Team Championships. His father Cameron Montgomery put together the best four under U9 and U10 players in Ottawa to go up against 21 other teams which were all from the GTA.

Not only did Theo and his teammates hold their own, they managed to make it all the way to the semi-finals before losing in a hotly contested set of matches. They also lost the 3 vs 4 consolation final, but they still managed to place fourth after heading into the tournament as the number six seed playing against 21 other teams.

For now Theo enjoys the sport especially when he's winning and he plans to play competitive tennis as long as he can and



Theo Montgomery shows off some of the hardware he has won over the past year. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

perhaps one day become a professional like his idol Hubert Hurkacz.

“Sometimes when I’m in a tough duel I feel like quieting and get grumpy, but my parents help get me out of my funk and I usually start playing better,” says Theo. “It’s definitely more fun when I’m winning.”

Theo’s dad says he plans to enter Théo in a lot more tournaments in Toronto and Montréal this year so he can be exposed to

tougher competition which will elevate his game even higher.

By the end of the 2023 season he was ranked 39th in the province among U9 players. The goal this year is for Theo to be ranked in the top 20 among U10 players.

Judging by his positive attitude, his competitive spirit and his willingness to put in the hours needed to continue to get better, Theo should make the top 20 sooner rather later

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