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# THE Orléans Star

March 16 • Volume 37, No. 21

Next edition March 30

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Sisters Valérie (middle) and Sophie LeVasseur receive their Leading Women, Leading Girls Award from Orléans MP Marie-France Lalonde. (See story page 3) FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

## Suspect charged with arson in Avalon blast

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

A 35-year-old man faces multiple charges in connection with a gas explosion that damaged more than two dozen houses and injured 12 people in Avalon last month.

Kody Troy Crosby was arraigned on Mar. 2 and charged with a dozen different offences, including four counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm, arson causing bodily harm and arson with disregard for life.

The explosion happened at 6:47 a.m. on Feb. 13, razing four homes that were under construction and damaging many more in the area. Two workers who were rescued from the rubble received serious injuries and 10 other people, including two children, were treated

for minor injuries.

Many of those injured were treated for minor cuts caused from flying glass when their windows were blown out or from falling debris in their own homes.

According to multiple reports, a man with Crosby's name and age was previously charged with breaking on entering construction sites on two other occasions.

The records show that a Kody Crosby was charged in 2029 with 19 different offences relating to more than a dozen break-ins over a two-and-a-half-month period. Among the charges were multiple counts of break and enter, possession of burglary tools, breaching his recognizance and breaching probation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Maplefest Pancake Breakfast returns to Cumberland April 1 & 2

CUMBERLAND VILLAGE – The hugely popular Cumberland Lions Maplefest Pancake Breakfast returns to the Lions Maple Hall in Cumberland Village on April 1 and April 2 after a three-year absence due to the COVID pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the Maplefest Pancake Breakfast marked the unofficial return of spring in the east end. Doors open at 8 a.m. both days. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 10. CASH ONLY. You get two pancakes smothered in real maple syrup along with sausage and either coffee or orange juice. Bring your friends and family and keep this delicious tradition going. All proceeds to benefit the Cumberland Lions Club and their various local charities and initiatives.

### Local councillors working to resolve Hwy 174 lane reduction impact

ORLÉANS – Orléans East-Cumberland city councillor Matt Luloff and Orléans South-Navan councillor Catherine Kitts are working together to try and get the Stage 2 LRT construction group to come up with a better plan to limit the impact the work is having on rush hour traffic along the 174 through the construction zone. Starting March 6, the westbound 174 was reduced to one lane from Champlain Road at Place d'Orléans for a distance of one kilometre while they build a sound barrier at the future Place d'Orléans LRT station. Both city councillors have received dozens of complaints from angry constituents who aren't happy with the impact the lane closure is having on their lives, especially during the morning rush hour where it has more than tripled the normal time to commute. Kitts shared her own experience on Facebook, noting that it took her nearly an hour to get from Trim Road to Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. a distance that would normally take 10-15 minutes in regular morning traffic. The delays have also put an additional strain on alternative north-south routes like St. Joseph Blvd. and Innes Road. Both Kitts and Luloff are asking residents to email their complaints to stage2@ottawa.ca, to try and make them realize the full impact of the lane closure. Luloff is hoping some sort of compromise can be reached allowing for both lanes to be open from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## Avalon explosion suspect may be linked to previous offences

Continued from page 1

In 2014, a man with the same name was charged with 14 offences for a series of break-ins and car thefts.

The offences occurred in South Ottawa over a month-long period involving 18 businesses or homes that were mostly under construction and nine stolen vehicles which he took from nearby car dealerships to drive to the construction sites.

It is not known whether the suspect charged in those earlier cases eventually stood trial or not.

In 2007, a Kody Crosby, then age 20, pleaded guilty for his role as a getaway driver in a violent home invasion in Kemptville. Five masked men broke into a home looking for marijuana and a large sum of money. They tied up and threatened the homeowner and his girlfriend, but the gang had the wrong house, so they stole what they could and left.

According to testimony, Crosby never entered the home, but he did drive the getaway car and he went on a spending spree with the victim's credit card. He pled guilty and was sentenced to four years in prison.

The president of Minto, the builder of the subdivision where the explosion happened, released a statement shortly after Crosby's arrest was made public.

"We are relieved that the Ottawa Police Arson Unit has made an arrest and laid charges in connection with the explosion at our Avalon Vista community," Brent Strachan said in the statement. "We are grateful to the authorities for their steadfast support throughout this investigation and our thoughts continue to be with those who were injured."

"Our focus remains on the construction of our community so residents can move into their new homes as soon as possible."

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# Orléans MP recognizes Leading Women, Leading Girls

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

Orléans is blessed with a large number of women and girls who each and every day strive to make a difference in their community. On March 10, Orléans MP Marie-France Lalonde held a breakfast and award ceremony to honour 49 of those women as part of this year's Leading Women, Leading Girls Awards in recognition of International Women's Day.

Among this year's recipients were Miki Whyte, who owns the DanceR Studio in the Centrum Plaza; Desjardins Insurance agent Lisa Cruickshank, who is the past president of the Arts Ottawa East Arts Council; Rotary Club of Orléans president Julia Ginley; long-time Orléans Legion executive members Jeanine Mader, Marty Keates, Joyce Bisson, and Lucie Godere; Orléans Minor Football Association director of communications Isabelle Bastien; and SFOPHO board members Nicole Martin, Monique Brûlé and Suzanne Cadieux.

Among the leading girls who received an award were Max Turmel, who recently received the Prix Bernard Grandmaître for Young Person of the Year, Evangeline Tabiou, Alexandria Rizzo, Justine Perrault,

Estelle Armengau, Lyla Kwan, Victoria Robertson, Anne-Marie Dugal, Sweny Siaja; Fadila Hijazi; and sisters Valérie and Sophie LeVasseur who have written several books including a history of the Ottawa Senators and are regular contributors to the *L'Orléanais étudiant*.

Other recipients include Michele Ruel, Peggy Armstrong, Caroline Viau, Carmen Janega, Anoushka Enders-Zigoumis, Maria Obot, Marilee Murgatroyd, Meghan Fish-Bellefleur, Dr. Divya Kanwar Bhati, Kim Levesque, Georgette Giroux, Joanne Vézina, Pascale Bazinet, Salima Jivraj, Amna and Nadia Hasan, Héroïse Lecompte and Jeanne d'Arc Legault.

Two other women, Eileen MacCaughy and Lise Séguin, received their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pin.

A number of the recipients are new Canadians who were honoured for their work in supporting their respective cultural communities and for giving back to their adopted country Canada.

Lalonde used the award ceremony to talk about the importance of International Women's Day in recognizing the achievements of women around the world and in our own backyard.



Some of this year's recipients of the Leading Women, Leading Girls awards gather for a group photo with Orléans MP Marie-France Lalonde (far right). FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

"Today is a day to recognize women's outstanding achievements and contributions, both big and small, that have helped to create a better world for all Canadians," said Lalonde.

"Whether you are a mother, a young entre-

preneur, a businesswoman, a caregiver, a health care worker, a teacher and a young women full of dreams and ideas, you have lead your peers and been a role model for all generations. And today we are celebrating each and everyone of you."



*Reconnaissance des femmes  
et filles leaders d'Orléans*  
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Roberta Leblanc  
Salima Jivraj  
Sophie LeVasseur  
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Valérie LeVasseur  
Victoria Robertson

# Deviant

There is nothing more abhorrent in our society than willful ignorance, which I would define as the state of being ignorant of other lifestyles, cultures and religions despite that fact that we all have the ways and means of educating ourselves and making ourselves more enlightened at the click of a mouse.

A lot of what can be defined as “bias” and “prejudice” can be boiled down to a fear of the unknown and the quickest and easiest way to get past that fear is to make the unknown “known”. Unfortunately, there are far too many people who remain biased and prejudiced even after they are presented with reliable information, or reject it all together, and therefore remain willfully ignorant.

There is another type of ignorance, however, which I would define as blind ignorance. A perfect example of blind ignorance is racism. Two other types of blind ignorance are homophobia and transphobia which those who suffer from blind ignorance often define as deviant behaviour.

Many homophobes and transphobes often base their “objections” to gays and transsexuals on their religious beliefs, or to be more accurate, on their interpretation of the Bible. Rather than go down that rabbit hole, I will stick to the issues of gay and trans rights in a secular society.

I will start by stating unequivocally that I believe we are all born with our own sexuality. Some of us are born heterosexuals, some of us are born homosexual and some of us are born bisexual. No one suddenly decides to be gay. Sexual attraction is inherent in us all. It is also not a “learned” behaviour. You can not teach a heterosexual to be a homosexual, no more than you can teach a homosexual to be heterosexual. The human condition doesn’t work that way, and if you think it does, then you are the deviant.

The reason I bring all this up is the attempts being made by some people to ban transgender individuals from school washrooms, or any washroom for that matter. The common argument you hear in this debate is that it could be used as an excuse for sexual predators to seek out and entrap potential victims.

It is the same argument that was made to try and ban gays and lesbians from public washrooms. Fortunately, in the case of the latter, it is basically impossible to tell the difference between who is gay and who is straight.

You’re also assuming that everyone who is gay is constantly on the lookout for someone to have sex with, which is beyond ridiculous. Homophobes who are worried every gay person they come into contact with automatically wants to make out with them really needs to get over themselves. Gays are no more attracted to them than heterosexuals are.

Transgender individuals identify themselves as being of the opposite sex than they were born with. They want to use the same gender-specific bathroom they identify with, as well they should.

And if your son or daughter feels uncomfortable because a trans individual is using the same washroom as they are, then the blame is on you the parent for not teaching your child to be more understanding of differing lifestyles. In other words, for allowing them to be as willfully ignorant as you are.

— Fred Sherwin, editor

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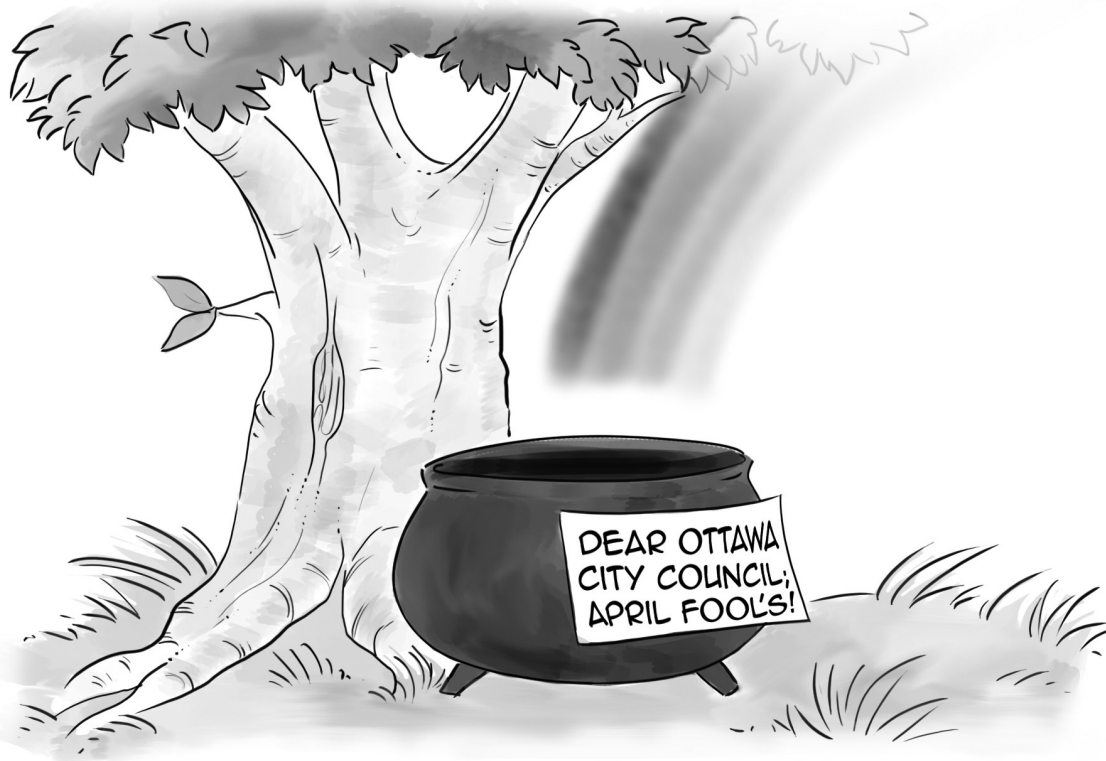


**Fred Sherwin**  
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**Jody Maffett**  
Editor

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## ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEETS APRIL FOOL'S DAY



## PROVINCIAL PANDEMIC TRANSIT SUBSIDY

## This month marks Women's History Month and Francophonie Month

In March we celebrate two very important days. International Women's Day and Journée internationale de la francophonie.

International Women's Day is celebrated globally, where we recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

As a father to a young teenage son, I strive to educate him on his responsibility towards achieving gender parity and that it's not just up to women. It is up to us as parents, educators, coaches, friends, to teach our youth that the rise of women is not about the fall of men. Rather, men should be advocates, champions, and allies of change.

I am glad that we are moving to a time where we now expect diversity, equity, and inclusion. The world actively celebrates its presence and notices its absence. Let's continue to drive this change.

March also marks Francophonie Month, a time where we celebrate French language and culture. The culmination of Francophonie Month is celebrated internationally on March 20th for International Day of the Francophonie!

I'm always so proud to live and represent the riding of Orléans, where we embrace our linguistic diversity with open arms. We are lucky to have organizations like le Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans (MIFO), and Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orléans (SFOPHO) and others for everything they do to protect and promote our francophone heritage. These groups are not only promoting Francophone culture, they are also

actively contributing to its development through education and the arts.

For those who may not know, MIFO is the largest Francophone cultural and community centre in Ontario. The residents of Orléans are lucky to have MIFO as part of our family.

As a result of a motion by my colleague, Lucille Collard, the franco-ontarian flag now flies in the Legislature.

While we've made strides in pushing the Ford Government into recognizing the importance of the franco-ontarian community, there is still much to do. Better access to services in the language of your choice, especially primary healthcare, is essential!



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# World travelers an inspiration for us mere tourists

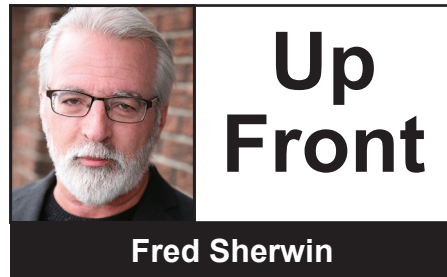
The other day I read a story about a United Airline employee who recently completed his goal of visiting every country in the world, and he isn't a flight attendant, he's a ground crew member.

He started his quest to visit every country in the world seven years ago after he had already visited 100 countries by the age of 41. That said, he still managed to visit the remaining 95 countries in the past seven years. That's more than 13 countries a year during a period when the pandemic made travel nearly impossible for two of those seven years. Oh, and he also recently visited Antarctica which means he's also visited every continent in the world.

Depending on which source you believe anywhere between 250 and 300 people have been to all 193 UN recognized countries in the world along with the two observer states – Vatican City and Palestine.

The youngest person in the world to travel to all 195 countries is American Lexi Alford, who accomplished the feat before her 22 birthday.

James Asquith, 24 from Britain is credited for being the youngest person to explore every country in the world, meaning he spent more than 48 hours in each country.



Fred Sherwin

He completed the journey over a period of five years and spent a whopping \$200,000 to achieve his dream.

Now, I love to travel, especially since I got my Aeroplan card, but to visit all 195 countries in the world would take a minimum of 25-30 years, assuming you could visit an average of six to eight countries a year.

I will turn 62 this year and I've only been to 10 countries so far – the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Bosnia, the U.S., Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala and, of course, Canada, which means I still have 185 countries to go in order to join the "Every Country in the World Club".

Even if I managed to visit 10 countries a year, it would still take me 18 years to complete the list, not to mention a few million Aeroplan points.

The idea of visiting every country in the world is mindboggling. For many countries, you really need to make an effort like Andorra, which is a tiny country in the middle of the Pyrenees, and Lichtenstein, which is in the middle of nowhere.

Then again, you can probably visit every country in Europe in a camper van in a couple of months. Africa is a little more problematic, especially with countries like Eritrea, where you apparently need to be invited by a local resident, and Libya, which is in a never-ending state of chaos.

A number of other African countries are in a state of conflict with extremists fighting within their borders.

Central and South America wouldn't be too difficult, nor would the Caribbean if you took a few cruises around the island.

The Middle East is a different story. I'm not sure there are too many travel agencies with itineraries that include Yemen, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Finally, you would need to win the lottery to visit tiny island countries in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific like the Seychelles, the Maldives, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu and

Tahiti. You have to really make an effort to visit Nauru, which is located halfway between the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands. It's also the third smallest country in the world at just 8.1 square miles. Only Vatican City and Monaco are smaller.

And I haven't even mentioned tiny landlocked countries like Bhutan, or severely isolated countries like Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea and French Guinea.

For now I will stick to my own little bucket list which continues to grow with each country I visit.

I absolutely have to visit Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. I've been invited to visit friends in Argentina and Chile. I also want to see at least five of the seven Wonders of the World which will require trips to India, Egypt, Jordan and Peru.

I would love to rent a camper van and drive around Europe for a summer or two. I want to circumnavigate the Mediterranean from Spain all the way around and back to Portugal and visit New Zealand and Australia, where a friend says she will rent me her camper van there. That's a quite a bucket list. I may not get to all of them before my age catches up to me, but I plan to get to as many as I possible can.

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# The freedom to read should never be taken for granted

In a time where misinformation and disinformation are so prevalent, and it sometimes feels as though we are on the cusp of an era vaguely reminiscent of the dystopian stories so popular on modern streaming services, it is more important than ever to defend the freedom to read, and all the conditions that allow for it – namely freedom of thought, belief, and expression as well as the private property rights which underpin them.

I recently marked Freedom to Read Week at the Ottawa Public Library by reading two incredible books: *The Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, and on the advice of my friend, colleague, and fellow Ottawa Public Library trustee Catherine Kitts, *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe.

The first outlines the horrifying experiences of political prisoners of the Soviet Union from 1918-1956. This incredible and difficult book warns of the dangers of collectivist ideology and the draconian measures used to perpetuate the totalitarian state.

The human suffering and death that came from the loss of individuality has been unmatched in human history – almost 62 million were killed between the Marxist takeover of Russia to the years following the death of Joseph Stalin.

The second is an account of *The Troubles* in Northern Ireland, where battle lines were drawn based on religious affiliation. It was a compelling account centering on the abduction and murder of Jean McConville at the hands of the IRA in December of 1972. The book explores the extremes of cultural and religious divides and the repression and often concealment of belief.

The events described in these two books are not from some time in antiquity, they are real accounts tied to the ideas of freedom of thought, belief, and expression. They serve as a warning. The preservation of these hard-fought freedoms are essential to a functioning democracy, and I'd encourage you, dear reader, to pick them up in celebration of the Freedom to Read!



**Matt Luloff**

Orléans East-Cumberland



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# Spring activities Activités du printemps

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# Spic & Span owner struggles to rebound from pandemic

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Parwin Parie has been altering people's clothes in Orléans for over 30 years. The first business she had was in the Turkish Village strip mall on St. Joseph Blvd.

The native of Afghanistan learned how to sew when she was just six years old and crochet by the time she was eight.

When she immigrated to Canada in the 80s, she wanted to help out her family financially and started a dry cleaning and alterations business in 1996. In 2004, she moved her business to the Chapel Hill mall at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc and Forest Valley Drive and renamed it Hill Cleaners.

A number of her clients moved with her and she started building on the solid foundation she had created at the St. Joseph location.

In 2016, she moved her business again when she took over the Spic & Span location in the Orléans Garden Shopping Centre.

It was a risky move, but Parie was confident that her existing clientele and her well-earned reputation as a seamstress would make the transition as seamless as the move from St. Joseph to Chapel Hill 10 years earlier.

And for the first three years, it was relatively clear sailing until the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Before the pandemic, more than half of Parie's business was dry cleaning due to the fact that many of her clients were professionals who need their suits dry-cleaned on a regular business.

But when the pandemic hit everyone had to start working from home. Face-to-face business meetings were replaced by doing facetime on Zoom and formal business wear was no longer needed. Suits were replaced by casual wear. And when formal business wear was no longer needed, neither was dry cleaning.

The dry cleaning side of Parie's business dried up almost overnight. But ironically, dry cleaning services were declared an essential service by most governments, including the Ontario provincial government as they provided frontline workers with a means to properly clean and disinfect their clothing.

In order to keep trying to pay the bills, Parie remained open and she used her sewing skills to make literally hundreds of face masks. But even that dried up when most of the pandemic restrictions were lifted last spring.



Parwin Parie is a master seamstress who has been operating a business in Orléans for nearly 30 years. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

Now she is struggling to make ends meet and keep up with her commercial rental payments.

She began doing upholstery jobs last summer, and specializes in making outdoor seat cushions using whatever material the client provides her.

She can also make tailored clothing for

men, women or children, either from a pattern or without one. And she can alter and repair almost any type of clothing, including replacing damaged zippers.

You can find Parwin Parie and Spic & Span Dry Cleaners in the Orléans Garden Shopping Centre at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. North and Orléans Blvd.



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# CATHERINE KITTS' Community Update

***As this is my first Orléans Star community update of this new term of council, I want to share that I'm very proud to continue to represent the newly configured Orléans South-Navan. We have no shortage of work to do together, and I look forward to your continued partnership and collaboration. I am pleased to join our new mayor and the many fresh faces around the council table in a renewed commitment to work together to build stronger local communities and a better Ottawa.***

It is with that spirit of cooperation that we were able to pass the City's 2023 Budget, capping property tax increases at 2.5% despite mounting inflation, while making important investments in infrastructure, affordable housing, public transit, safety, recreation, the environment and more. I am pleased to see that my continued advocacy for Orléans South-Navan has led to targeted investments in Ward 19.



Budget 2023 includes over \$5M to renew our roads, including portions of Colonial Rd. (with new paved shoulders), Canaan Rd., Mer-Bleue Rd., Dunning Rd., O'Toole Rd., paving Wall Rd. from Tenth Line Rd. to Trim Rd. and over half a million to renew sidewalks in Sarsfield. The problematic Brian Coburn/Tenth Line intersection is also being reviewed for engineered modifications. Investment in our badly



Accessible and efficient transit is a top priority of mine as we continue to see development outpace infrastructure throughout our community. Working directly with OC Transpo staff, we will be modifying route 228 to service the Chapel Hill Park and Ride to provide a direct route from the Park and Ride to the Blair LRT station in the am and pm peak periods, starting April 23. While this is a small step in the right direction to increase efficiency in our ward, OC Transpo will be conducting a Strategic Route Review this year and has committed to starting with our ward.

neglected infrastructure is always a top priority of mine, and I'm glad that these projects will continue to build on recent investments in Frank Kenny Rd., Milton Rd., Navan Rd., Old Montreal Rd. and others.

Speeding and dangerous driving continues to be one of the issues brought to my attention most frequently. I'm pleased to announce that a new Automated Speed Enforcement Camera is coming to Portobello Blvd. from Capreol Street/Martello Dr. to Aquaview Dr. (near Avalon Public School). This camera is just another tool that will help make our roads safer for everyone, especially children, pedestrians, and cyclists.

After a record 300 cm of snow (and counting), I promise warmer weather is around the corner, with new opportunities to enjoy our local outdoor amenities! Budget 2023 includes several investments in our local parks, including \$1.3M to expand the accessible playground at Notre-Dame-des-Champs Park, home to the Miracle League of Ottawa. This incredible program provides children and young adults with special needs an incredible opportunity to play ball!

Speaking of sports, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all our rink and Ski Heritage East volunteers. This winter's weather made for very challenging conditions, and we are all so grateful for your hard work, dedication and commitment to our community. For all the hockey lovers, please join us in Navan for the Bradley Cup Charity Hockey Tournament on March 24-25. With family-

friendly activities, live music and great hockey, it's always a great time for a good cause.



This term of council I am sitting on the Transportation, Planning and Housing, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Audit and Finance and Corporate Services committees, as well as remaining on the Board of the Ottawa Public Library and the South Nation Conservation Authority.

I'm also proud to have taken on the role as Chair of Ottawa Public Health (OPH). OPH has been an incredible force leading us through COVID-19, but the pandemic response has impacted core programs and services across the healthcare system, including in the public health domain. Dr. Vera Etches, the OPH team and I have been working hard to signal these urgent priorities to our provincial government in the hopes of securing additional human and financial resources to address the growing needs for care in our community.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible compassion you have all shown in the aftermath of the explosion that occurred on February 13 on Blossom Pass Terrace. I'd like to thank all our emergency service partners once again for being there for our community when we needed you most. I'm proud to be part of this resilient community – one that never fails to come together in difficult times.

***While it's been a busy time at City Hall and in the Ward, I have been continuing to meet with residents in person and virtually, going to community meetings, holding office hours and attending community events. I am committed to continuing to engage with you on matters of importance and celebrating the great work in our community. I am forever grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together to make our already amazing community an even better place.***





# Spring has sprung early at the Shenkman Arts Centre

By Jody Maffett  
The Orléans Star

Now that the days are getting warmer and longer, it's time to put the snowblowers and shovels away and enjoy all that spring has to offer including the entertainment lineup at the Shenkman Arts Centre.

The Irish Rovers St. Patrick's Day concert maybe sold out, but you can still get tickets for the Carole King tribute show this Saturday when Suzanne O. Davis performs the songs from King's mega-selling album Tapestry.



*Tapestry - The Carole King Songbook* will also include songs from the Carole King Broadway musical *Beautiful*. Tickets are \$62.50 per person.

On March 28, *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World* director Tim Johnson brings his multi-media production *TREATY: A Reconciliation Revelry* production to the Shenkman Arts Centre stage.

The production combines live performances from a number of talented indigenous musicians with brief film segments featuring indigenous and Canadian leaders in civil society, education, culture, and the arts speaking to the themes identified by a list of definitions of select words, thereby building a story that seeks to pave the way forward for Truth and Reconciliation. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students.

Eagles fans in Orléans will be excited to learn that the tribute band, Hotel California, will be returning to the Shenkman Arts Centre on March 31 to play the songs of one of the most iconic bands in rock history.

Hotel California has performed around the world several times over since they first hit the road in 1986, earning kudos from a number of professional artists including the Doobie Brothers who called them "the best Eagles show ever", except for the real thing, of course.

The excitement will continue in April, with tributes to such legendary artists as



Buddy Holly, Patsy Cline and Johnny Cash.

It all starts off on April 13 with a tribute to Buddy Holly by award-winning tribute artist Zachary Stevenson. Less than two weeks later, Patsy Cline tribute artist Amberley Beatty will take to the stage to perform Cline classics like *I Fall To Pieces*, *She's Got You*, *Crazy* and *Walking After Midnight*.

Last, but by no means least, We Walk the Line will perform a tribute to the man in black on April 29.

This concert covers Johnny Cash's entire career including his biggest hits *Ring of Fire*, *Boy Named Sue*, *I Walk the Line*, *Folsom Prison Blues*, *Hurt* and the duet *Jackson* sung with June Carter Cash.

On April 18, the Shenkman Arts Centre will host an international blues and roots kitchen party featuring multi-award winning Canadian artists Suzie Vinnick and Charlie A'Court, along with Australian Lloyd Spiegel. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students.



On April 20, Canadian folk/roots singer-songwriter Stephen Fearing will perform on the Harold Shenkman Theatre stage. The two-time Juno award-winning Fearing has a massive repertoire with over 13 solo albums under his belt.

You can check out the full schedule and purchase tickets for all of the performances by visiting [shenkmanarts.ca](http://shenkmanarts.ca).

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# Bradley Cup charity tournament set for next weekend

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

The Bradley Cup Charity Hockey Tournament will be returning to the Navan Memorial Arena on Saturday, March 25 with five men's teams vying for the 97-year-old pewter trophy while raising thousands of dollars for the Navan Lions Club, the Navan Women's Institute and Team Mugglemorr which raises money for breast cancer research and treatment.

Team Navan will be returning to defend the championship they won last year over Team Vars which will try an avenge the 5-0 defeat they suffered in last year's final. Other teams entered in the tournament will represent Cumberland, Sarsfield and Orléans.

Each team will play four 30-minute running time round robin games with the top two teams advancing to the semi-finals. The fourth and fifth place teams will compete in "play in" game for the fourth semi-final berth. The championship game is scheduled to take place at 5:15 p.m.

Admission is free, but there will be a cash bar, as a well as a 50-50 draw and a silent auction with a number of great items up for bid. Children will be able to get their faces painted along with a free balloon and candy.

After the action on the ice, "Eastbound of Bytown" will perform in the second floor Community Hall on the second floor of the arena.

Most of the charitable funds raised are derived through team entrance fees and corporate sponsors

### HISTORY OF THE BRADLEY CUP

The history of the Bradley Cup goes back to 1926 when John Thomas Bradley had the trophy made to offer as a challenge cup between the local hockey team from Navan and a rival team from Vars.

That first game in the home-and-home series ended in a 0-0 tie. When neither team was able to score in regulation during the second game in Vars, the contest went into overtime with Nelson Kennedy eventually scoring the game winner for the lads from Navan in the second extra session. Beside the Cup, the winning team won \$100, which was split seven ways.

In those days, both teams played the entire game with seven aside, including a rover, and there were no substitutions for injuries, you simply played a man down.

The Bradley Cup was contested twice more before the start of WWII. It was won by a team from Cumberland Village in 1929



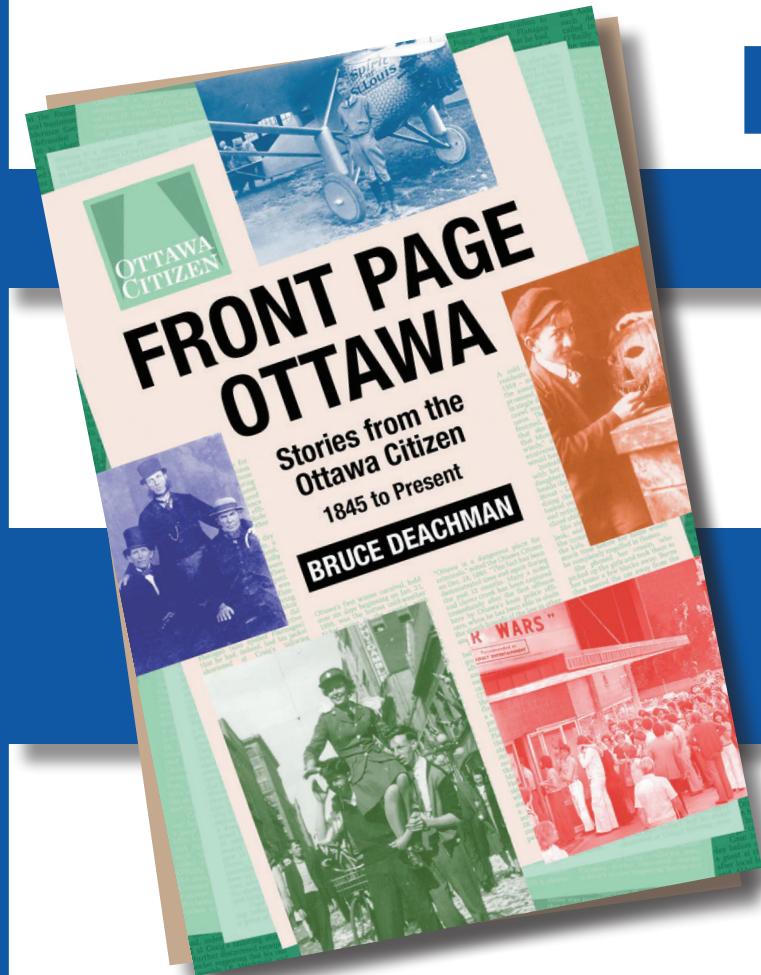
(Left) Former Bradley Cup participants Bob Burns, left, and Basil McFadden with the trophy prior to the 2019 tournament. (Right) John Thomas Bradley holds up the Cup, circa 1926. FILE PHOTOS

and it was recaptured by Navan four years later, after which it sat in J.T. Bradley and Sons general store until 1948 when it was dusted off for a rematch between Navan and Cumberland.

The top line on the Navan team that year was made up of Eric Smith, Harold

Poaps and Shawn Nelson. The second line featured brothers Basil, Bill and Ken McFadden. The third line included Lorne Bradley and Syd Smith, while Mervin Dagg and Lloyd Morrison played on defence. The coach was Eldon Kinsella. Bob Burns had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ►



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# Historic Bradley Cup tournament dates back to 1926

Continued from page 11  
to play in net for Navan while their regular goaltender Garret Rivington recovered from Rheumatic fever.

Eric Smith ended up on the team entirely by accident. After returning home from the Second World War during which he won the Distinguished Flying Cross as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, he enrolled at Queen's University in September 1946.

He was barely at Queen's a month when he decided to "pack it in" and return to Navan to work on the family farm.

When he arrived back in Navan, Smith was immediately recruited to play on the hockey team.

The first game in the home-and-home series between Navan and Cumberland Village was played on the old outdoor rink on Trim Road which would end up getting replaced by the town's first indoor arena a year later.

According to Smith, who passed away in 2020, a couple of hundred people came out to watch the game which Navan ended up winning 8-0 thanks to a five-goal effort by Smith himself.

The second game wasn't played until mid-March in the old Cumberland Arena. To give

you an idea of the ice conditions, Smith was given a penalty for splashing an opposing player.

"It was terrible, there was water all over the place. One of their players was trying to get the puck and I thought, 'If you're going to get the puck, then you're going to get wet,'" said Smith.

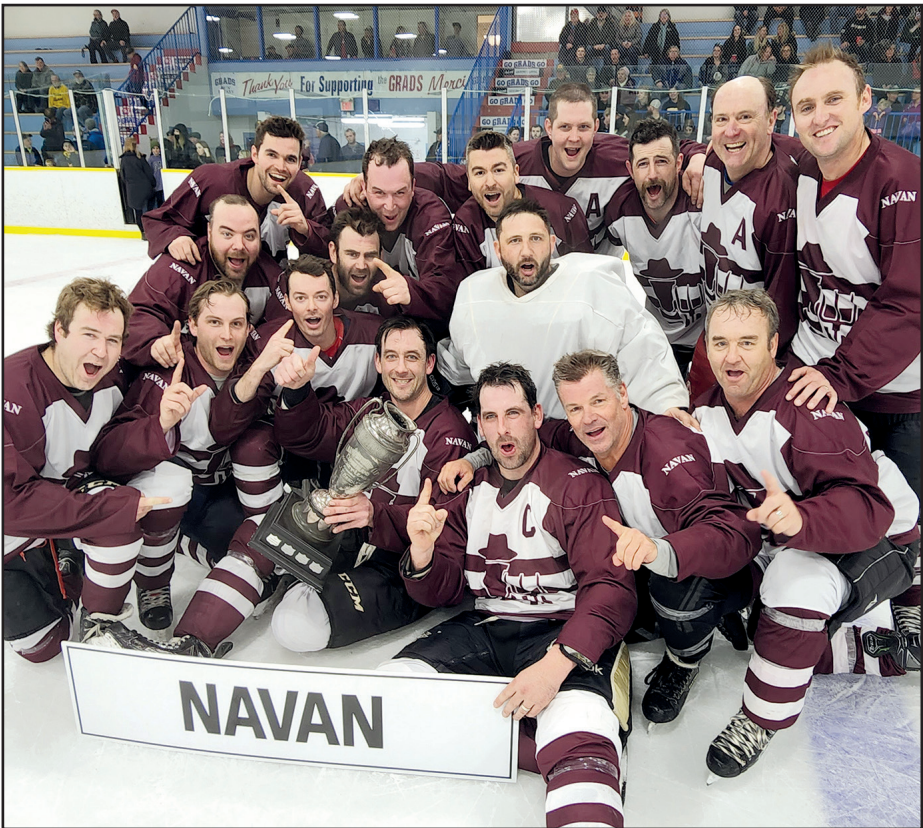
Cumberland ended up winning the game 1-0, but Navan won the Cup based on the aggregate score of 8-1.

Navan would win the Cup again in 1952 with Bob Burns once again playing in net.

After the French Hill Hockey Club won the Cup in 1959, it was retired indefinitely and sat on a shelf in J.T. Bradley's County Convenience Store until store owner John Bradley dusted it off in 2016 for the inaugural Bradley Cup Charity Hockey Tournament to mark the trophy's 90th anniversary and raise money for the Navan Lions Club.

In the five years the tournament has been held, the organizers have raised more than \$60,000.

The opening face-off will take place at 7 p.m. on March 24 for the first of four games. The remaining games will take place on March 25 along with the silent auction, children's activities and concert.



Team Navan pose with the Bradley Cup after winning last year's tournament. FILE PHOTO

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# Blondin, Weidemann wrap up season with world title

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

East end natives and Gloucester Con-cordes alumni Ivanie Blondin and Isabelle Weidemann wrapped up the 2022-2023 speed skating season with a gold medal in the Team Pursuit event at the World Long Track Speed Skating Championships in Heerenveen, Netherlands

The win was a somewhat controversial one as the Canadian threesome of Blondin, Weidemann and Valerie Maltais actually crossed the finish line in second place. They were elevated to the gold medal position after the Dutch team of Joy Beune, Irene Schouten and Marijke Groenewoud were disqualified for having bare skin showing during their race which is not allowed as it poses a safety risk for the skaters should they fall.

It was the first time a Canadian three-some had won the Team Pursuit event at the World Championship since 2011.

Blondin, Weidemann and Maltais had already won a silver and bronze medal at two previous World Championships in 2021 and 2020. They are also the reigning Olympic champions, having won the gold medal in

Beijing last year. Blondin echoed the sentiments of her teammates when discussing their latest success with the media in the Netherlands. “Today’s race was definitely not a bad race for us, but it was a little bit of a bitter-sweet win since the Dutch team was DQ’d,” said Blondin, who at 32, is the elder states-woman of Canada’s speed skating team. “I think it’ll be back to the drawing board for our team next season, that’s for sure.”

After being awarded the gold medal in Team Pursuit, Blondin won her sixth indi-vidual World Championship medal in the Mass Start event with a second place finish in Heerenveen.

In six World Championships dating back to 2015, Blondin has won two gold medals (2016 and 2020); and four silver medals (2015, 2019, 2021 and 2023). She is also the reigning Olympic silver medalist in the event and the newly-crowned World Cup champion.

“I made a mistake by thinking no one was going to attack right away and it was kind of game over from that point forward. It’s too bad because I think I could have won the title if I didn’t let that happen,” Blondin said



(L to r) Valérie Maltais, Isabelle Weidemann and Ivanie Blondin receive their gold medals for placing in first in the Team Pursuit event at the World Speed Skating Championships. SSC PHOTO after the race.

Blondin started out the World Champion-ship meet by teaming up with Carolina Hiller and Brooklyn McDougall to win gold in the Team Sprint event. Something that has only been done once before in 2019.

The win was also the perfect ending to a

season in which the three skaters had fin-ished in second place at all three World Cup events this season.

Weidemann just missed out on making the podium in her specialty, the 5000-me-tres. She ended up fourth to go with her sixth place finish in the 3,000.



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# Presenting the 2022 Outstanding Youth Award recipients

# Eric Mercer, 16

Over the years, Eric Mercer has impressed the teachers and staff at École secondaire Garneau with his ability to effectively balance all his interests and activities. He has revealed himself to be a well-rounded young man who strives for excellence, as demonstrated by the 93 per cent average he achieved in Grade 10 last year. Eric consistently displays strong leadership skills in a number of the school's clubs and groups. Besides being a member of the student council, he is also the high school's representative for internal/external affairs. In addition, he was elected president of Garneau's environmental club thanks to his passion for nature and the great outdoors. His desire to push his boundaries has led Eric to participate in physical activities as varied as Ultimate frisbee, backcountry camping and speed skating. Over and above his interest in sports, Eric has also demonstrated a proficiency in computer modelling and 3-D printing. For being a positive role model to his peers and for effectively balancing academics with other interests at such a high level, Eric Mercer has been selected as a recipient of this year's Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards.



## Sophia Cooney, 16

Sophia Cooney is a Grade 11 student at Cairine Wilson Secondary School. New to the school last year, Sophia did not hesitate to dive in and join the Key Club, IDEA Club, the cross country team and the junior girls soccer team as well as initiatives outside of the school. Despite her busy schedule, she still managed to finish the year with an overall average of 93.4 per cent. As a member of the Key Club, Sophia collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Orléans-Cumberland food bank, fundraised by selling coffee in support of indigenous initiatives, fundraised through a bottle drive in support of Ukraine and volunteered with the school's developmentally delayed program where she worked alongside the students to make and package dog and cat treats. At the end of last year, Sophia stepped up to run for the position of president of the Key Club. She is now the club president and is responsible for running the meetings and organizing the initiatives such as the club's annual food drive. For her academic excellence, her strong community engagement and her athletic involvement, Sophia Cooney has been selected as a recipient of this year's Orléans Outstanding Youth Awards.



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**TAPROOM260** presents the Where's Waldo Trio live and in concert starting at 8 p.m. Taproom260 is located in the Centrum Plaza across from the Shenkman Arts Centre.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

**THE ORLEANS BREWING CO.** presents MAMMA MIA! the ultimate music trivia night. Up to six persons on a team are allowed. Call 613-830-8428 to register.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

**TRIVIA NIGHT** at the Royal Oak Orléans, 1981 St. Joseph Blvd., corner of Jeanne d'Arc. from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Call 613-834-9005 to reserve your spot.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

**THE STRAY DOG BREWING COMPANY** presents Crooked Creek live in the Stray Dog tap room from 8-10 p.m. No cover. Location: 501 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 25

**STRAY DOG BREWING COMPANY DOG AND DATE NIGHT** from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. This event is for singles 40+ and their dogs. Tickets \$30 per person includes one drink. Proceeds to benefit the Siberian Malamute Alaskan Rescue Team. To register

e-mail Danny at frontpawevents@gmail.com.

**TAPROOM260** presents the band Mystara live and in concert starting at 8 p.m. Taproom260 is located in the Centrum Plaza across from the Shenkman Arts Centre.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 31

**THE STRAY DOG BREWING COMPANY** presents Ethan Mitchell & Maddy O'Regan ft. Jack Graham live in the Stray Dog tap room from 8-10 p.m. No cover. Location: 501 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 1

**KARAOKE NIGHT** at the Orléans Brewing Co., 4380 Innes Rd. (behind the McDonalds) from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Kanak Varma, 93**

**Passed away on March 8, 2023**

**Peter Gilarowski, 86**

**Passed away on March 6, 2023**

**Stanton (Stan) William Smith, 71**

**Passed away on March 5, 2023**



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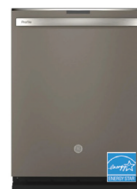
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