

Le Droit

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Tout un appui pour les aînés

La Fondation des aînés de l'Outaouais (FAO) a reçu un appui de taille cette semaine alors que la Fondation familiale Sam Choweyri a remis un chèque de 16 000\$ à la Fondation.

Ce don remis par Naji Kamar, directeur général de la Résidence de l'Île et du Château de l'Île, représente le don le plus important à la FAO depuis sa création.

Pour M. Kamar, il ne fait aucun doute que les deux fondations poursuivent le même but, soit le respect du droit des aînés et leur développement au sein de notre communauté.

Ce don fait partie l'engagement de la Fondation Choweyri à offrir 100 000\$ sur une période de cinq ans. Le prochain versement complètera la promesse de cette fondation à l'égard des aînés.

Le président de la FAO, Jim Bisson, était évidemment très heureux de cet engagement financier et souhaite que cet exemple soit suivi par d'autres entreprises de la région puisque les besoins aux organismes d'entraide aux aînés sont considérables.

Afin de souligner la générosité de la Fondation Choweyri, une aile de la Cabane en bois rond porte le nom des deux résidences pour personnes âgées associées à ce don.

Pour Leucan

À chaque année depuis 2003, le groupe appelé Les Amis d'Alain organise un tournoi de golf afin d'aider financièrement **Alain Lavigne**, un gars de chez nous atteint de la maladie de Lou Gehrig.

À la demande d'Alain, une partie des recettes de ces tournois est remise à un organisme ou une association de la région.

Cette année, Leucan Outaouais était l'organisation choisie par Alain et récemment, lui et sa conjointe **Sylvie Boudreault** ont remis un chèque de 3988\$ à Leucan.

Alain est aujourd'hui âgé de 36 ans. Il est le père de deux enfants de 5 et 8 ans et son tournoi permet d'adapter sa résidence à ses besoins sans cesse croissants.

Sa maladie s'attaque à son système nerveux qui affaiblit, de jour en jour, les muscles de son corps pour finalement conduire à une paralysie totale. Et malgré son état, Alain tient à ce que la générosité de ses amis à son égard puisse aider d'autres personnes qui vivent des situations

problématiques.

Si j'avais voulu trouver une façon de vous décrire le vrai sens du partage, je n'aurais pas trouvé de meilleur exemple. Au nom de dizaines d'enfants malades de l'Outaouais, je te remercie Alain pour ta bonté, ton courage et ta générosité.

Carambolage et culture

À première vue, ces deux mots semblent incompatibles mais, pas pour **Jason Moore**.

Ces amateurs de bagnoles ont organisé, cet automne, la deuxième édition de la course de carambolage de Rockland. Après avoir comptabilisé toutes les recettes de cet événement, 14 000\$ ont été remis à la municipalité de Rockland pour aider au financement du futur complexe récréatif et culturel qui sera construit en 2007.

Jason Moore, organisateur principal de la course et propriétaire de Rockland Ford, a remis cette semaine ce chèque au maire de Clarence-Rockland, **Richard Lalonde**.

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Une petite visite des policiers

Les policiers de Gatineau ont rendu visite aux enfants malades de l'hôpital de Gatineau. À chaque année, les agents de la paix apportent avec eux des cadeaux pour nos petits anges qui se battent contre la maladie. Sur la photo, on aperçoit les policiers **Jean Francoeur** et **Bruno Joseph**, ainsi que Mario Deschamps et **Judith Bourgon**, les parents de **Thimothée**, âgé de 24 jours. Sans évidemment oublier le **père Noël**...



Une ambulance pour les étudiants

Les Comtés unis de Prescott et Russell ont fait le don d'une ambulance désuète aux étudiants du programme Soins ambulanciers paramédicaux de La Cité collégiale. Lundi matin, le nouveau président des Comtés unis, **Jean-Yves Lalonde**, a remis les clés du véhicule à Alain Lalonde, directeur exécutif de la Fondation La Cité collégiale en compagnie des autres maires de l'Est ontarien. Il s'agit d'un deuxième don de la sorte des Comtés unis à l'institution d'enseignement. Le coût d'une nouvelle ambulance équipée peut atteindre 150 000 \$.

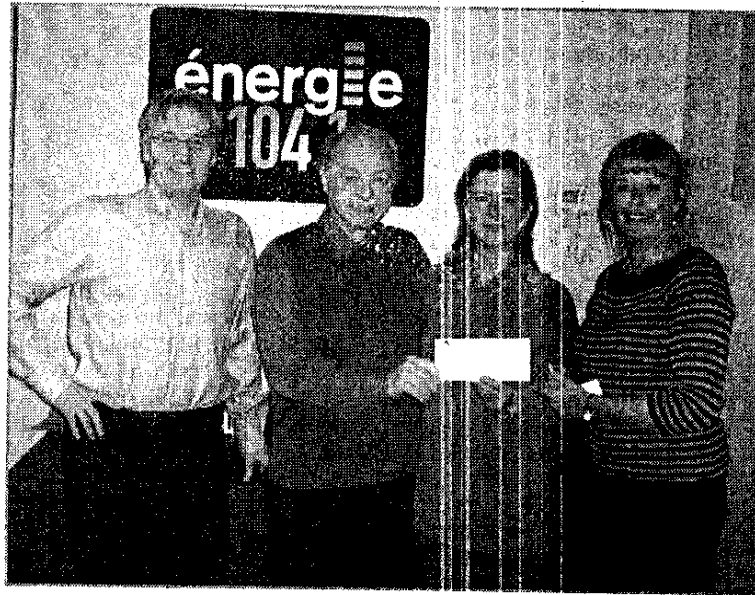
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Un beau geste

L'équipe des ventes d'Énergie 104,1 a remis 5606 \$ à la Soupe Populaire de Hull pour lui venir en aide durant la période des Fêtes. Sur la photo, on reconnaît **Denis Bouchard**, **Paul Surprenant**, **Lise Paradis** et **Lise V. Lefebvre** Un beau geste de la part de l'équipe d'Énergie.



Sur des airs de Dassin

Ce sont avec des airs de Joe Dassin que les bénévoles de la paroisse Jean XXIII de Gatineau ont pu rassembler 250 personnes pour leur spectacle bénéfique récemment. Tous les profits amassés lors de cet événement ont été remis à la paroisse. Sur la photo, on retrouve **Normand Latour**, animateur de la soirée; **Jacques Sabourin**, président de la fabrique; **Hélène Robitaille**, coordonnatrice de la pastorale; le chanteur **Raphaël Torr** et **Jacques Cantin**, modérateur de la paroisse. À l'arrière, les trois musiciens qui ont accompagné M. Torr.

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10 millions \$ pour des manuels scolaires

L'Ontario investit 10 millions de dollars partout en province afin de permettre aux conseils scolaires d'acheter des manuels scolaires aux élèves de 4^e et 6^e années.

À Ottawa, la somme dépensée est de 802000\$. Ce financement aidera les conseils scolaires à acheter des manuels et d'autres ressources d'apprentissage, comme des revues, des logiciels et des documents multimédias, dont des CD-ROM et des DVD.

L'investissement a comme but d'aider les conseils scolaires à améliorer les résultats des jeunes dans les langues et en mathématiques et aussi d'offrir aux élèves de la 4^e à la 6^e années les ressources d'apprentissage dont ils ont besoin pour réussir.

En 2005-2006, 64 % des élèves de 4^e et de 6^e années de l'Ontario ont atteint ou dépassé la norme provinciale en lecture, écriture et mathématiques, ce qui représente une hausse de 10 points par rapport au taux de 2002-2003.

Le but de la province est de voir 75 % des élèves atteindre la norme provinciale en lecture, écriture et mathématiques d'ici 2008.

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Barrhaven school gets go-ahead

Motion to reduce cost defeated by board

BY ROBERT WALKER

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has defeated a motion calling for delays and downsizing of a proposed \$45-million Barrhaven school.

The proposal brought forward last Friday by board vice-chairwoman Lynn Scott suggested chopping the cost of the new Longfields-Davidson Heights school to \$37.5 million by getting rid of "unnecessary" expenses, such as an auditorium and technology facilities.

She argued the current price tag was too high for the cash-strapped board, which faces significant budget short-

falls this year.

The move angered parents and politicians in the fast-growing area, who argued the current facilities are already bursting at the seams. Some parents had threatened to move their children to Catholic board schools if the project wasn't completed as planned.

The school is now expected to go ahead after the board rejected the motion by a vote of 9-3 just after 11 p.m. last night.

The meeting stretched late into the night as supporters and opponents of the motion were given five minutes each to plead their cases before the board.

Nepean-Carleton MPP Lisa MacLeod said the rapidly growing population in the area made the motion a bad idea.

"We do need another secondary public school in South Nepean," she told trustees. "There's a very big need in the fastest-growing community in the city."

Another opponent of the motion, Sylvia Zanetti Kamal, warned any delays would increase costs.

"You're aware that this school needs to be built," she said. "You can either build it now for \$45 million, or later, when it will cost even more."

Trustee Margaret Lange voted against the motion, saying it would be "crazy" not to go ahead with the full plan at this point.

Trustee Pam FitzGerald, one of three who voted in favour of Ms. Scott's motion, argued the board already has schools in dire need of repair. She suggested it focus more effort on fixing them first.

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Tables are a daily danger

Re: Folding tables a hazard, coroner warns, Dec. 21.

As chief custodian at an Ottawa public school, I have had close calls with these folding tables. They are a danger to those of us who have to handle them daily.

The suggestion for children to eat lunch in classrooms sometimes goes unheeded. It is a no-brainer: Have the children eat in the classrooms and there may be a few spills of milk, a few crumbs, a little extra cleaning at night, but no more needless accidents or worse, death.

It is a matter of time before such an accident will happen again due to downsizing of school cleaning staff and increase of extracurricular activities in lunch-room areas, usually a gym.

RONALD HUGHES,
Ottawa

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An appetite for horror

Mother Teresa stage chemistry
and creative effects
animate *Little Shop of Horrors*

MBULA ENOBONG

Down on Skid Row, where depression is just status quo, a peculiar solar eclipse takes place, the story of a geeky botanist unravels, a singing-talking-blood-thirsty plant and a whole lot more is just the gist of what happened on stage during Mother Teresa's high school production of the *Little Shop of Horrors*.

In a florist shop set in the slums of Skid Row, New York, a new attraction brings customers to the display window; the mysterious Audrey II. Having been discovered by Seymour (Taylor McSheffrey) after a bizarre solar eclipse, the strange plant becomes an attraction, which in turn brings much-needed customers to the store. The Audrey II is of course named after Seymour's long time secret crush, Audrey (Alexa Zulak). Although things began well with the new plant, it faints and Seymour is given a week to revive it. After accidentally pricking his finger, he discovers that the plant has an appetite for blood. Written by Howard Ashman and composed by Alan Menken, this play is packed with upbeat songs, silly jokes and just a little reminder to the audience that they definitely should not feed the plants!

Bringing Audrey II to life was a task that was tackled brilliantly in this production by using creative effects, such as Seymour's fake hand while he was holding the pot, having a hole cut out on the ledge of the shop window to make the puppet move, and Audrey II's last stage with two cast members

inside the plant (Andrew Kramer and Rohan Bansie), making it move, and the sassy voice of Audrey II by Mitchell Kearney.

Taylor McSheffrey adopted the role of Seymour the geeky botanist very well, especially with the added effect of the glasses and the sleeveless cardigan. Alongside McSheffrey was Alexa Zulak who played Audrey. During their duet, *Suddenly Seymour*, their chemistry and understanding of their

characters allowed them to portray the scene of newfound lovers.

The cast and crew's commitment and energy was evident in the final outcome of the production. During big numbers like *Skid Row*, the energy that was displayed complemented the song well. While a few notes were off-key, the singers recovered quickly and continued successfully.

The florist shop was on a platform so it added to the effect of being on a street. The inside of the shop was simply decorated with flowers in vases here and there to capture the atmosphere of a poorly funded shop. The Audrey II prop effectively brought to life the character with its huge lips and menacing teeth. Although there were a few microphone problems, the vocalists adjusted quickly.

A little advice from the characters; for heaven's sake, don't feed the plants! Not blood, not meat and especially not humans. *Little Shop of Horrors* was a difficult production for a high school to tackle, but Mother Teresa faced the challenge with confidence.



MBULA ENOBONG
CRITIC
NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

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**KELSEA KNOWLES
CRITIC
NEPEAN HIGH SCHOOL**

There were minimal set changes and the set was well built and esthetically pleasing. One aspect that cannot go unmentioned is Audrey II — the exotic plant that thrives on the blood of humans. Audrey II grew throughout the play, going from hand to hand to eventually containing two people operating its man-eating jaws. The vocals for Audrey II were done by Mitchell Kearney, who gave a hilariously chilling voice-over with the well timed jaw movements by Andrew Kramer and Rohan Bansie from inside the enormous creature. The lively cast was a joy to watch as each character shone in his or her own way and indulged the audience with quirks and originalities.



**IAN DONALD
CRITIC
NEPEAN HIGH SCHOOL**

As a young, misguided Audrey, Alexa Zulak inflicted plenty of painful emotion on the audience. She successfully vocalized the wreckage of her life through a well-developed, squeamish accent, and multiple solos in songs such as Somewhere That's Green, and Suddenly Seymour, displaying a beautiful tone and confidence in her voice. Alexa was also able to keep in character during her songs in the spotlight; a difficult skill to master during a soloist's performance. Taylor McSheffrey equalled Zulak in his performance as Seymour. McSheffrey demonstrated consistent focus whenever he set foot on stage.

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HANNAH LOGAN
CRITIC
JOHN MCCRAE SECONDARY
SCHOOL

Throughout the show, the audience was also greatly entertained by the lively Ronnettes played by Jasmine Midgley, Emilia Therens, Rachel Heffernan and Stephanie Jensen. Jasmine Midgley's talent shone through. William Beaton as Orin, the abusive dentist, astonished the audience. With his commanding stage presence and wild laughter, he had the crowd hooked. And though only on stage for a minute, Emma Bromley's character was unforgettable. With her big fur coat, shoulder rolls and flirtatious purrs, Bromley left the audience roaring with laughter.



CAROLINE SMITH
CRITIC
MERIVALE HIGH SCHOOL

The principals were supported by a trellis of energetic secondary characters. A memorable performance was delivered by Vanessa Allen, who played the ill-fated shop owner, Mushnik. Allen dealt with the challenges of portraying a man and entertained the crowd with a string of hilarious dance moves. Behind the scenes, the efforts of stage managers Kayla McCaffrey and Vlada Mitskaniouk ensured all set changes were done quickly and quietly. Nicole Nolan's dazzling costumes greatly reflected the period, while the spirited Audrey II, managed by Mitchell Kearney, Andrew Kramer and Rohan Bansie, proved to have an increasingly engaging effect on the audience.

THE CAPPIES: SHOW NO. 9

Editor's note: The Citizen and 24 schools in the city are the first in Canada to participate in the Cappies, a Washington, D.C.-based program that uses high-school critics to review high-school theatre.

The schools are from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board and the Western Quebec School Board. One private school, Ashbury College, is also participating.

The ninth play of the season was Little Shop of Horrors at Mother Teresa Catholic High School. It was reviewed by 26 Cappies critics from nine different schools on Dec. 14.

The critic discussions were mentored by teacher Andrea Garnett of John McCrae Secondary School. The following reviews (one full, four excerpted) were edited and selected for publication by teacher Frank Farinaccio of St.

Matthew Catholic High School, who could see only the reviews, not the names or schools of the reviewers. Other critics who reviewed the performance include: Evan Faux, Anastasiya Boika, Courteney Crump, Natasha Krzyzewski, Vanessa Turpin, Blair Brimmell, Reem Buhaisi, Allie Blahout, Daria Mikloukhina, Ellis Rockburn, Michela Fisher, Anthony D'Angelo, Brittany Howell, Katrina Dionello, Romeo Maione, Shane Saunders, Morgan Braglewicz, Natalia Liberty, Zoe Ikeda, Cristina Scaini, Logan Ouellette.

Awards for actors, those behind the scenes and critics will be presented at a gala celebration at the National Arts Centre on June 10. Watch for more information about the Gala in upcoming Cappies review pages. For more information about the Cappies and galleries of photos from the shows, go to

www.ottawacitizen.com/features/cappies