

# Blondin fait sa place sur l'équipe nationale sur courte piste

Après une excellente saison post-olympique sur courte piste, Patinage de vitesse Canada a nommé ses équipes nationale et de développement pour la saison 2007-2008. Presque tous les patineurs sont de retour, et plusieurs nouveaux visages feront leurs débuts sur la scène internationale.

Presse Canadienne

La procédure de sélection est plutôt simple: les 10 patineurs ayant pris part aux championnats du monde 2007 ont d'abord été choisis et on a ajouté les trois patineurs les mieux classés qui n'étaient pas déjà sélectionnés du côté masculin et féminin, de même que six vétérans patineurs «invités» de retour à la compétition.

L'équipe de développement a ensuite été formée des patineurs classés de 9<sup>e</sup> à 14<sup>e</sup> au cours de la saison 2006-2007.

Les médaillés d'or des championnats du monde par équipe Charles Hamelin, Olivier Jean, François-Louis Tremblay et les frères Jean-François et Marc-André Monette, de même que les médaillées de bronze Kalyna Roberge, Amanda Overland, Anne Maltais, Annik Plamondon et Nita Avrith seront donc de retour.

## BLONDIN A SA PLACE

Ivanie Blondin, Jessica Gregg et Valérie Maltais, Steve Robillard, Rémi Beaulieu et François Hamelin seront ajoutés.

Les vétérans Jonathan Guilmette, Alanna Kraus et Tania Vicent, qui étaient tous à l'écart de la compétition la saison dernière à cause de blessures, de même que Mathieu Giroux, qui a lui aussi été blessé, se joindront à eux, ainsi qu'Anouk Leblanc-Boucher, qui devrait revenir à la compétition à l'automne après la naissance de son premier enfant prévue en juin, et Mathieu Turcotte, qui revient d'une année sabbatique.

Les athlètes qui prendront part aux diverses Coupes du monde et championnats du monde seront choisis lors des deux pre-



Ivanie Blondin

mières sélections nationales.

Bien que plusieurs athlètes aient participé à leur première compétition internationale en 2006-2007, les patineurs courte piste canadiens ont tout de même réussi à s'emparer de 32 médailles en Coupes du monde

et de 10 médailles aux divers championnats du monde.

Avec le retour de plusieurs vétérans cette fois, PVC a beaucoup d'espoirs pour la saison 2007-2008.

L'équipe de développement féminine sera formée de plu-

sieurs nouveaux visages, puisque seules Valérie Lambert et Jessica Hewitt reviennent. Du côté masculin, Joël Mineau, Nicolas Bean et Michael Gilday seront tous de retour, et plusieurs nouveaux coéquipiers se joindront à eux.

LE DROIT, archives

Citizen & Mail  
**Four Ottawa  
schools win  
'healthy'  
recognition**

Initiatives included  
encouraging good food,  
fighting bullying

BY TONY LOFARO

Students at Parkwood Hills Public School are bringing exotic fruits such as mangoes and avocados to school thanks to a new provincial initiative to cut out junk food and eat healthier snacks.

So far, the push to bring in healthy food by students at the west-side elementary school seems to be working, say school officials.

"It's not easy changing children's habits because junk food is convenient and it's easy to throw in a processed snack, but it's also easy to throw in an apple, too," said Carrie Bastas, the school's vice-principal designate.

The school's Fruits en Folie! (Crazy for Fruit) program and its TV Turnoff Challenge — which encouraged students to abstain from watching television during Education Week — are initiatives that last week earned the school an award in the provincial government's Healthy Schools Challenge. Other Ottawa schools that received recognition and pennants were Woodroffe Avenue Public School, Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School and St. Paul Catholic High School.

The schools were cited for such diverse undertakings as encouraging students to participate in extracurricular physical activities, starting an anti-bullying program and setting aside a play area during lunch breaks.

More than 1,200 schools across the province took up the challenge to become healthier and in Ottawa, 57 schools participated.

"Through the Ontario government Healthy Schools Recognition Program, schools in Ottawa have once again demonstrated their commitment to creating a healthy environment for their students," said Jim Watson, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean and minister of health promotion, in a news release.

Kim Nelson, vice-principal at Woodroffe Avenue Public School, said students are actively participating in a variety of extracurricular activities, including track and field, cross-country running, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

"We have a junior Olympic Day coming up where junior students will participate in preparation for board-wide track and field events," she said.

"And it doesn't matter if you can't run or walk, the fact that you're out there and trying is amazing."

She said Grade 6 students are also getting involved in a program called Peacemaker, in which they are trained by teachers to help mediate minor schoolyard disputes between the younger students.

"It's a chance for them to solve small problems before they become big problems," said Ms. Nelson, adding the program has been successful since it began last fall.

St. Paul organizes spring and fall clean-up days during which students pick-up neighbourhood trash, said Alex Belloni, the school's vice-principal.

The school recently participated in a fundraising initiative that aimed to send money to students in Kandahar to help them with their education.

WITH FILES FROM CHONGLU HUANG



May 8, 2007

## Carleton expands Rwandan media program

By LAURA CZEKAJ

Carleton University has expanded its program for journalists wanting to go to Rwanda to aid in building up the country's media capacity.

The new media internship program offered by the university will allow journalism students to work in the African country this spring and summer as interns at newspapers, radio stations, a video-documentary unit and the national TV network.

A total of 20 students will travel to Rwanda for the eight-week placements. The initiative was established in 2006.



May 8, 2007

## Schools make voices heard

By LAURA CZEKAJ, SUN MEDIA

I've got a feeling I call my music.

I've always wanted to share with you.

It's in my heart and I'll never lose it.

It's something that I was born to do.

-- Our Song

The cherub faces are strained as the sea of students lift their voices above the clanging and clashing of the horn section of the Pinecrest Public School band on the school's front lawn.

As they sing, they do so knowing that thousands of kids are singing the same song, simultaneously across the nation, every one of them doing their part to let those listening know that music is a vital part of their education.

### 'A GREAT FEELING'

Organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, Music Monday was a wide-scale demonstration by students on how school music programs positively impact their lives.

"It's just a great feeling to know that music is so important to us and that it's getting across everyone's minds," said Uzma Chowdhury, 13.

"Getting us all together at the same time and place, singing a song, I don't think words can really describe how it feels."

Jane Cutler, a member of the Toronto-based coalition, says that when budgets get tight, boards often see music as expendable.

Across Canada, 1,538 schools signed up for Music Monday and more than 500,000 children participated.

Music is alive at Pinecrest, but it's being kept on life-support through outside funding sources secured by principal Charles Austin.

"I got here the same year Charles did and my instruments were held together with duct tape, seriously," said music teacher Karen McDougall.

Keeping a music program operational requires regular upkeep of instruments and updated music, both of which require money.

### SCHEDULE CUTS

But McDougall counts herself lucky. With her principal's support, she has not had her music classes cut back -- or worse yet, her position cut.

"Other teachers have had theirs cut down to one class per six-day cycle, which is almost impossible to carry on a relevant music program for kids," she said.

As the students file back into the school, their moment of voice-raising unity having ended, Austin explains how he will continue to find money anywhere he can to keep the music program alive.

"There are so many different ways to learn and the kinesetic approach is as valid as any other approach," he said.

"We have to be able to appeal to the students according to the way they learn."