

# Parade of Lights draws



Laura Cummings

Holiday cheer lit up the night sky in the east end this past weekend, as thousands of people lined the streets of Orleans to take in the festive sights of the annual Santa's Parade of Lights.

Armed with folding chairs, bundled under blankets and filled with excitement, about 120,000 local residents came out to see the holiday spectacle, which wound its way down St. Joseph Boulevard from

Youville Drive to Prestone Drive on Saturday, Nov. 24.

Even with chilly temperatures and the beginnings of flurries, 75 floats from groups including local schools, sports teams and area non-profit organizations participated in the east-end tradition, showcasing their unique brands of festive cheer with music, candy and even some dancing.

"I am biased, obviously, but I thought it was our best yet," says chairman Bob Rainboth of the parade's tenth year wowing area crowds. "It turns into a festival atmosphere, with people having fun, they're dancing on the side, they're getting right into it - it's exactly what I hoped for when we built this parade."

Beyond celebrating the season, this year's parade also

marked several milestones for the yearly event, including the launch of the first-ever High School Challenge.

A new category created to encourage east-end high schools to go head-to-head to produce the best float and rev up the most holiday spirit, it saw St. Peter Catholic High School beat out their challenger, St. Matthew Catholic High School, with a float that offered a little '50s flair.

Their *Grease*-themed creation - complete with hand-jiving St. Pete's students - emerged triumphant by a close margin, Rainboth says.

"It was one of our tightest races," he recounts. "We had a judging panel of five judges, and it was three to two, and because it was so tight I pulled another four individuals, and once again they were split down the middle. It ended up being five to four for St. Pete's, but absolutely everyone agreed that both schools did a phenomenal job. We do look forward to trying to rekindle it for next year, and maybe even trying to expand - this trial year was a great success."

St. Peter principal Sue Arbour agrees the race was a close one, with both schools demonstrating lots of spirit and enthusiasm.

"I thought it would be very hard to judge because they were so different," she adds, referencing St. Matt's more traditional band float. "It wasn't comparing apples to apples ... but I think (the judges) liked our creativity."

With the school's *Grease* cast already rehearsing and set building for their musical production well underway, the inspiration for St. Peter High School float came easily, Arbour explains.



"The kids had a great time up there dancing," she says. "I think (the High School Challenge) is going to grow

and really take off - it seemed to be well-received." Saturday's parade also saw the revitalization of the

parade's initiative, with all the Gl



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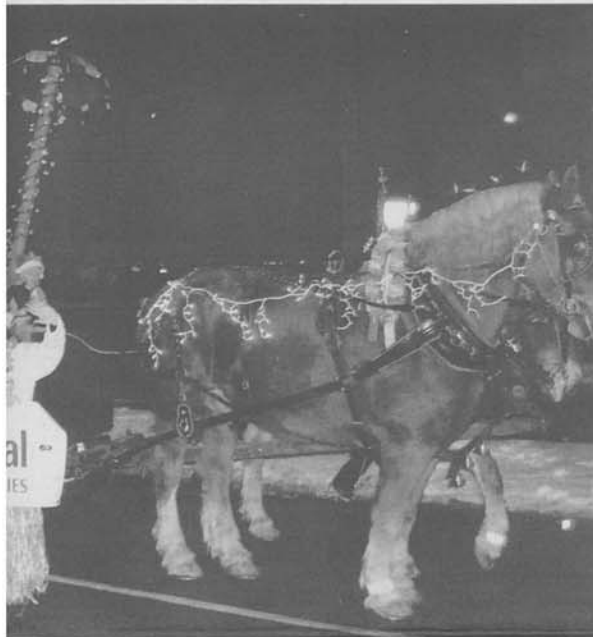
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ing to have our community help itself, and I think it's working well."

Dave Brault, executive director of the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, calls the event "an excellent way for the community to help us out," noting that the parade also offers a chance for the group to see all the schools, businesses and other organizations that support them.

Though the Food Cupboard hasn't been heavily involved in the parade in recent years, Brault says it's an important venue to get the word out about the group's services.

"We help 500 families a month in the community, and half of that number is 19 years old or younger," he explains. "The parade obviously is for the youth, for the children ... so it's an important venue."

Another new parade initiative this year was a letter drive for Canadian soldiers currently overseas. Rainboth continues, a campaign spearheaded by one of its entries, the Military Family Resource Centre.

"We had a lot of schools getting involved writing letters to our troops, and during the parade they actually collected them," he says, highlighting the large percentage of military families in Orleans. "We made arrangements for some of the groups who weren't able to get to the parade to get those letters to the Military Family Resource Centre, and through their agency they're going to get them to our troops overseas. Everyone likes a touch of home, so I'm sure these letters will bring a lot of joy to our troops."



## LIST OF WINNERS

- Best Band:** 632 Phoenix Air Cadets
- Best School Entry:** Ecole des Voyageurs
- Best Novelty Entry:** Orleans Soapbox Derby
- Best Clown:** Midway Max
- Best Christmas Spirit:** MIFO
- Best Commercial Entry:** Hair Tech Coiffure
- Media Award:** Transcontinental Media
- Michael McIntyre Memorial Award:** Military Family Resource Center
- High School Challenge 2007:** St. Peter Catholic High School
- Jim Anderson Memorial Award "Grand Champion":** Community Pentecostal Church

Winners will receive their awards Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. at the TD Canada Trust on St. Joseph Boulevard and Orleans Boulevard

collection initiative continues, with donations going to the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard. "We're rekindling the food drive factor we used to have," he says, adding that repre-

sentatives from Nerds on Site were parked at various stops along the parade route to collect donations. "We're try-



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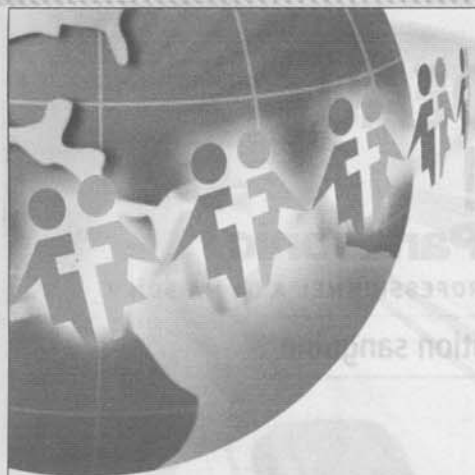


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Le Droit 29 Nov

(P16)



# Viens à la crèche !



Le Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien (CSDCEO) met à la disposition de ses communautés son recueil de cantiques de Noël, *Viens à la crèche*.

L'an dernier, l'équipe en aménagement linguistique du CSDCEO a créé un recueil de cantiques de Noël pour les écoles. Ce recueil est composé de chants religieux traditionnels qui reflètent bien les valeurs catholiques véhiculées dans les écoles catholiques de langue française de l'Est ontarien. Pour faire suite à ce succès et aux nombreuses demandes, le CSDCEO a décidé de mettre le recueil à la disposition de ses communautés.

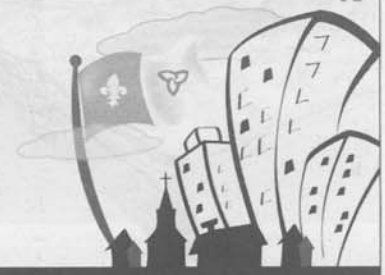
Vous pouvez vous procurer une copie de *Viens à la crèche* à une des écoles catholiques de langue française de l'Est ontarien, pour la modique somme de 5 \$.

Voici les titres que vous retrouverez dans ce recueil :

- Minuit Chrétiens
- Peuple fidèle
- Ça bergers, assemblons-nous
- Ah! Quel grand mystère !
- Les anges dans nos campagnes
- Alléluia ! Jésus est né !
- Dans un profond silence
- Sainte nuit
- Le sommeil de l'enfant Jésus
- Saint, saint, saint
- Agneau de Dieu
- Noël nouvelet
- Dans le silence de la nuit
- Dans cette étable
- Venez, divin Messie
- Nouvelle agréable
- Il est né le divin Enfant



C'est avec un plaisir évident que les élèves reprennent ces chants lorsqu'ils participent à différentes activités de Noël, comme la guignolée.



Cette page d'information vous est offerte grâce à un partenariat entre le Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien et le quotidien Le Droit.

## Ensemble, nous faisons toute une différence!

Avec près de 12 000 élèves, 800 enseignants et enseignantes dans 39 écoles, le Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien est le plus grand réseau d'écoles de langue française dans la région de Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott et Russell.



Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien

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Le jeudi 29 nov 2007

## Des enfants affamés dispensés d'examens

**Ariane Lacoursière**

La Presse

**«Dans les écoles de quartiers pauvres, on ne donne pas d'examens à la fin du mois parce que les enfants ont faim.» Quand Denyse Lacelle a prononcé cette phrase, mardi, devant la Commission sur les accommodements raisonnables, elle a causé une petite commotion dans la salle.**

«Les gens ont semblé surpris d'entendre ça... Cette situation n'est pourtant pas nouvelle!» dit Mme Lacelle, qui travaille au Conseil communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon. Mais le phénomène prend de l'ampleur. «Dans la dernière semaine du mois, on doit souvent laisser tomber des tâches parce que les enfants ont trop faim pour se concentrer. On fait ce genre de chose de plus en plus souvent», affirme Nathalie Morel, présidente de l'Alliance des professeures et professeurs de Montréal.

Selon Mme Morel, le nombre de popotes roulantes dans les écoles augmente sans cesse, mais ces organismes ne peuvent tout régler. Par exemple, le Chic Resto Pop offre tous les midis des repas chauds à 500 élèves montréalais pour la modique somme de 50 cents. «À la fin du mois, certains enfants n'ont pas d'argent pour payer. Ou seulement un des enfants d'une même famille a les 50 cents. Les autres doivent attendre que ce soit leur journée pour manger», illustre la directrice générale du Chic Resto Pop, Jacinthe Ouellette.

La directrice générale des Magasins partage, Sylvie Rochette, explique que plusieurs familles qui vivent de l'aide sociale manquent d'argent dès la deuxième semaine du mois. «Et quand ils manquent d'argent, la première chose qu'ils suppriment, c'est la nourriture, dit-elle. À la fin du mois, les enfants commencent à avoir faim.»

Le phénomène n'est pas exclusivement montréalais. Dans la région de Lanaudière, des berlingots de lait et des barres tendres sont distribués tous les jours dans les écoles primaires. «Mais le manque de concentration et de patience des élèves est quand même très élevé à la fin du mois. Tellement que des enseignants se font un petit garde-manger dans leur bureau pour aider les cas pressants», assure François Brault, président du syndicat de l'enseignement de Lanaudière.

Chantale Bergeron, qui enseigne dans une classe de quatrième année de Longueuil, note aussi que les enfants sont plus turbulents à la fin du mois. «Plusieurs arrivent sans collation. Il y a plus d'élèves qui ont mal à la tête. Il y a plus de conflits», dit-elle. Mais même si le contexte est plus difficile, Mme Bergeron affirme qu'elle donne quand même des examens à l'occasion. «On a un horaire tellement chargé. J'essaye de ne pas le faire, mais des fois, c'est inévitable», dit-elle.

Selon Mme Rochette, les enseignants devraient faire leur possible pour éviter de donner des examens à la fin du mois. «Parce que les plus démunis auront plus d'échecs. C'est dangereux qu'ils se découragent, qu'ils lâchent l'école et qu'ils se maintiennent dans un cercle de pauvreté, avertit-elle. Mais des fois, c'est sûr, les enseignants n'ont pas le choix.»



Le jeudi 29 nov 2007

## Pas de kirpan, pas de crucifix

[Laura-Julie Perreault](#)

La Presse

**L'Assemblée nationale doit soit se débarrasser de son crucifix, soit faire de la place dans son enceinte pour un croissant musulman, une étoile de David et aux symboles des principales minorités religieuses de la province.**

C'est du moins le point de vue qu'ont fait valoir hier des membres de la communauté sikhe montréalaise devant la commission Bouchard-Taylor, qui tenait sa troisième journée d'audiences publiques à Montréal.

«Si une institution publique fait de la place aux symboles religieux d'une partie de la population, elle doit aussi accommoder ceux des autres. Ou bien n'en permettre aucun», a dit hier Harjeet Singh au sociologue Gérard Bouchard et au philosophe Charles Taylor. Les deux intellectuels ont reçu du gouvernement du Québec le mandat d'étudier la question des accommodements raisonnables.

Répondant à une question de M. Bouchard, Manjit Singh, un professeur de l'Université McGill, a plaidé en faveur de la neutralité totale de l'État à l'endroit des religions. «Nous n'avons pas de problème si les membres de la communauté chrétienne veulent célébrer leurs fêtes religieuses, comme Noël. Mais dans les institutions publiques, si nous disons que le gouvernement est laïque, un bureau du gouvernement provincial, par exemple, ne peut pas montrer de favoritisme à l'égard d'un seul groupe», a-t-il dit.

M. Singh et un compatriote, M. Bhabr, ont donné l'exemple de l'Inde, pays dont ils sont tous deux originaires. Plus de 80% des citoyens indiens sont hindous, mais l'Inde a néanmoins demandé à toutes ses minorités religieuses de choisir leurs journées fériées, ont-ils expliqué.

### Exode de jeunes sikhs

Hier, lors de leur présentation, les deux porte-parole sikhs ont peint un tableau plutôt noir de la gestion de la diversité au Québec. Les jeunes sikhs, disent-ils, nés au Québec et instruits dans les écoles de la loi 101, ont de la difficulté à se trouver des emplois. «Près de 90% d'entre eux quittent le Québec parce qu'ils ne trouvent pas d'emploi. C'est gaspiller l'argent des contribuables qui ont financé leur éducation», a dénoncé M. Singh.

Pour combattre la discrimination, a-t-il avancé, le gouvernement du Québec doit modifier son programme d'éducation afin de faire de la place aux cultures des minorités culturelles et religieuses. Selon Manjit Singh, la question du port du kirpan à l'école, qui s'est rendue jusqu'en Cour suprême, n'aurait jamais fait autant de remous si les Québécois de souche connaissaient un peu mieux la religion sikhe et les valeurs qu'elle véhicule.

Le commissaire Gérard Bouchard a profité de la présence des deux hommes pour exprimer son malaise face à une demande d'accommodement formulée dans le port de Montréal. Les employés sikhs qui portent le turban demandent d'être exemptés de porter le casque de sécurité. «La sécurité est importante. Il me semble difficile de briser cette règle même pour des questions de liberté religieuse», a dit le commissaire.

## La campagne électorale d'Outremont à la Commission

Hier, MM. Bouchard et Taylor ont entendu une dizaine de mémoires et quelques témoignages. En matinée, un citoyen d'Outremont, Pierre Lacerte, est venu faire état des tensions qui existent dans son quartier avec la communauté juive hassidique. Selon lui, les autorités municipales ferment les yeux quand des membres de cette communauté violent des règlements municipaux, notamment en stationnant des autobus qui font la navette Montréal-New York, dans les rues résidentielles. «Cette question n'est pas de notre ressort», a répondu M. Bouchard.

Deux candidats de Vision Montréal, qui brigueront les suffrages à la mairie le 16 décembre dans Outremont, se sont néanmoins présentés hier à la Commission pour faire campagne sur cette question. «Il y a réellement de l'antagonisme à Outremont. L'autorité municipale doit être plus transparente et rendre publiques les demandes d'accommodement formulées et les décisions. Il y a beaucoup de fausses rumeurs», a dit à *La Presse*, Christine Hernandez.

## Teacher charged for naming bear Muhammad

### Briton could be given 40 lashes for 'insult to Islam'

**Opheera Mcdoom**

Reuters; with files from Agence France-Presse

*Thursday, November 29, 2007*

KHARTOUM, Sudan - A British teacher detained in Sudan after her class called a teddy bear Muhammad was charged yesterday with insulting Islam in a move that sparked a diplomatic dispute between London and Khartoum.

Gillian Gibbons, 54, was also charged with inciting hatred and showing contempt for religious beliefs, Sudanese official media said. If convicted, she could face 40 lashes, a fine, or one year in jail.



CREDIT: Handout, Reuters

Teacher Gillian Gibbons asked pupils to pick name for bear.

"Khartoum North prosecution unit has completed its investigation and has charged the Briton Gillian (Gibbons) under Article 125 of the criminal code," the Sudanese news agency SUNA said, quoting a senior justice ministry official.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed Ms. Gibbons had been charged and officials said Foreign Secretary David Miliband was calling in the Sudanese ambassador over the affair.

"We are surprised and disappointed by this development and the foreign secretary will summon as a matter of urgency the Sudanese ambassador to discuss this matter further," Prime Minister Gordon Brown's official spokesman said.

The matter will go before a court today and Ms. Gibbons, who is from Liverpool, is expected to appear.

A statement from the Sudanese Embassy in London said the case came in response to parents' complaints.

"It is now a police case and the temptation to treat it as a media sensation should be resisted. We certainly do not wish to resort to 'trial by media.'

"British teachers are doing a great job in Sudan. We hope that Ms. Gibbons' case will soon be resolved," it said.

Fellow teachers said they did not believe Ms. Gibbons had intended to insult Islam and had made an innocent mistake in choosing the name.

Muhammad Abdul Bari, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, said in a statement released in London: "This is a disgraceful decision and defies common

sense."

Earlier yesterday, three British Embassy officials and a teaching colleague from the Unity High School where Ms. Gibbons worked were allowed to visit her for more than 90 minutes.

"I can confirm that we have met Ms. Gibbons and she said she is being treated well," said British consul Russell Phillips. "We remain in close contact with the Sudanese authorities on this case."

Ms. Gibbons was arrested after some parents complained about the bear being named after the Prophet Muhammad.

Teachers at the school said Ms. Gibbons had asked her class of seven-year-olds to choose their favourite name for the bear, and 20 of the 23 had voted for Muhammad.

A seven-year-old student named Muhammad told Reuters this week he had suggested his own name be used for the bear.

In a writing exercise, pupils were allowed to take the bear home and asked to keep a diary of what they did with the toy. These accounts were put together in a book entitled My Name is Muhammad.

Leaflets were distributed in Khartoum calling for protests after Friday prayers, but many Sudanese said they were ready to forgive Ms. Gibbons if she apologized.

"When we heard, we wanted to demonstrate immediately, but some said we should wait and see what the concerned authorities find out," said Abdallah, a science student.

Shopkeeper Sabir Abdel Karim said that if Ms. Gibbons had not intended to insult Islam, an apology to Muslims would be enough to end the problem.

"Anyone can make a mistake and Muslims are forgivers. She will be forgiven and God will be the judge."

The Sudanese Embassy in London said the affair could still be resolved amicably -- but underlined the cultural differences behind the decision to charge the teacher.

"We still say that it can be resolved in an amicable way through a fair hearing and fair investigation and fair legal system," embassy spokesman Khalid al-Mubarak told the BBC.

"But a teddy bear in your culture is different from a teddy bear in our culture," he added.

"In our culture, a teddy bear is a wild and dangerous animal. It's not something to be cuddled by children before they sleep."

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Thursday » November  
29 » 2007

## Gatineau to learn tonight if it will host 2010 Summer Games

**Dave Rogers**

The Ottawa Citizen

*Thursday, November 29, 2007*

Gatineau residents will find out tonight if the provincial government has chosen their city as the site of the 2010 Quebec Summer Games.

Civic officials have scheduled a cheerleading demonstration at the city hall, Maison du Citoyen, on Laurier Street before Sports-Québec president Raymond Côté makes the announcement on closed-circuit television.

Former Gatineau mayor Robert Labine, who headed the committee bidding for the games, said the games will attract 16,000 to 20,000 people, including 4,000 athletes under 18, and increase the profile of amateur sport in the city.

The games feature 30 sports, including track and field, volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, tennis, water skiing, golf, mountain biking and triathlon.

Meanwhile, Councillor Alain Pilon said city staff are considering a bid for the 2013 Canada Summer Games. He said the city is to spend \$47 million on a new sports complex in the Gatineau sector and build a track and field centre and soccer field with artificial turf at Mont Bleu and Cité des Jeunes boulevards before the games. The games were last held in Aylmer, Gatineau and Hull in 1981.

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November 29, 2007

## Rock-solid display of faith Spiritual leaders unveil memorial centre

By AEDAN HELMER, SUN MEDIA

Religious and spiritual leaders from all faiths stood shoulder to shoulder to bless Beechwood Cemetery's National Memorial Centre yesterday.

Sacred smoke wafted through the 14,000-sq.-ft. dome as Algonquin elder Peter Decontie blessed the space in a traditional cleansing rite.

In a display as diverse as Canada's inter-faith community, the elder's tan buckskin jacket stood alongside the flowing black and white robes of Christian leaders, Jewish, Islamic and Hindu leaders in formal attire, brown Buddhist garb and the fiery red regimental uniform of the Canadian Forces' Chaplain General.

Sunlight beamed through a skylight in the vaulted ceiling, pouring down on the centrepiece of the Sacred Space, a 14-tonne rock.

"Here in the place where we will come to bury our dead, where we can recognize the shortness and the uncertainty of human life, this rock provides us with a testimony of the fact that some things last a lot longer than we mortal human beings do," said Padre Gerry Peddle, the former chaplain general of the Canadian Forces.

Beechwood Cemetery Foundation chair Grete Hale called Beechwood "a local and national treasure" and "one of the most beautiful and historic cemeteries in Canada."

### 'DIGNIFIED' SPACE

"For 134 years, Beechwood has provided a dignified and eternal resting place for more than 70,000 people from all walks of life, all faiths and cultures," she said.

The memorial centre, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, includes a Hall of Colours reserved for military ceremonies.

Brig.-Gen. Stanley Johnstone, current Chaplain General of the Canadian Forces, blessed a large stained-glass window in the hall paying tribute to military chaplains, past and present.

The centre will be officially opened in the spring of 2008.

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November 29, 2007

## Scoring cash for charity School, 67's aid Christmas fundraiser

By NELLY ELAYOUBI, SUN MEDIA

TO VIEW a Sun Media video of this story, [CLICK THIS LINK to visit our Video page and click on the "Ottawa 67's help raise money" link.](#)

Christmas came early for students at a Nepean private school yesterday, with a visit from the Ottawa 67's to help kick off the Christmas Exchange fundraiser, Pennies for Portions.

In a ball hockey shootout, Joan of Arc Academy students paid \$1 a shot on a 67's player as Christmas carols played and fruit juice was served.

"I feel great -- it's really hard to explain, but it feels really awesome to score against a professional," said nine-year-old Keelin Sekerka, after she put one in the net.

The Grade 4 student even bought a T-shirt just for the occasion for the players to sign. "I've never met hockey players before," she said.

The Pennies for Portions campaign kickoff raised more than \$630 for the Christmas Exchange.

"What it does is teach children social responsibility," said Marilyn Matheson, executive director for the Christmas Exchange. "With Pennies for Portions, if a child brings in 5cents, it means they are participating."

Joan of Arc more than doubled its total from last year.

"I think that's fantastic, especially since the school only has 144 students," Matheson said.

Money raised will go toward food vouchers and hampers for needy families. Last year, 8,383 families were helped.

Ottawa 67's captain Jamie McGinn, 19, said Christmas is a time for "happiness and to celebrate and be together with family ... Any way I can help out ... we'll do because we want to make sure everyone's happy."