

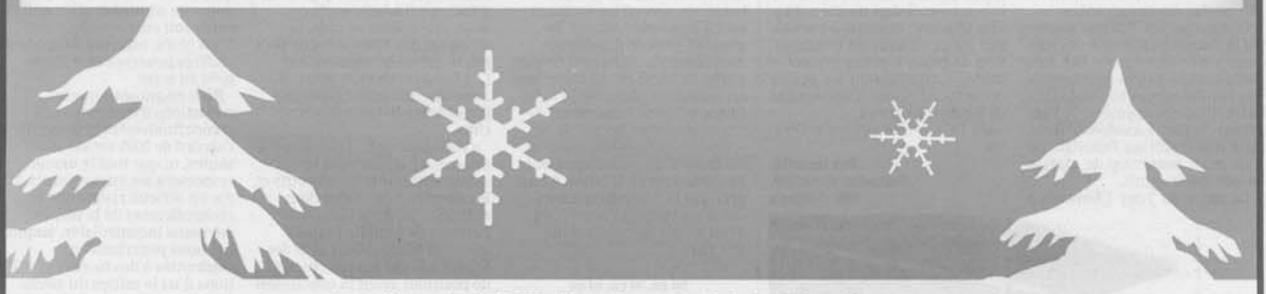


De gauche à droite en commençant par le haut :

Daniel Boudria, Denis Poirier, Monique Briand, Marie Biron, Madeleine Chevalier, Diane Doré, André E. Ouellette, Robert Tremblay, Valérie Sabourin, Andrée Newell, Lise Bourgeois, Véronique Maggiore, Brigitte Pilon et Norma Valiquette.

En cette période de réjouissance, les conseillères et conseillers scolaires ainsi que la directrice de l'éducation et secrétaire-trésorière vous souhaitent paix, santé et bonheur.

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Commission scolaire au Coeur-des-Vallées

Des caméras dans certains autobus



DOMINIQUE LAHAYE

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La Commission scolaire au Coeur-des-Vallées (CSCV) aura dorénavant à l'œil ses élèves indisciplinés du secondaire. Des caméras de surveillance seront installées dans des autobus de transport écolier à problèmes.

Des bancs d'autobus en feu, des injures lancées aux chauffeurs et des actes d'intimidation et de vandalisme : ce sont les raisons qui ont poussé la commission scolaire à agir.

Les élèves des écoles secondaires Hormisdas-Gamelin, dans le secteur Buckingham, et Louis-Joseph-Papineau, dans la Petite-Nation, ne pourront plus faire la pluie et le beau temps durant leur trajet entre l'école et la maison.

Le président de la CSCV, Alexandre Itacá, explique cette décision par l'augmentation du nombre d'incidents dans les autobus jaunes depuis le début de l'année scolaire.

« Nous avons constaté une augmentation du taux de suspension des élèves dans les autobus à la suite d'incidents malheureux, dit-il. Il s'agit d'une mesure préventive et très ciblée et

temporaire. »

Le 5 décembre dernier, les parents des élèves de ces deux établissements ont reçu une lettre les avisant que leurs enfants seraient maintenant filmés lors du trajet en autobus. La lettre rappelait aussi les règles de bonne conduite à respecter lors du transport scolaire.

En janvier prochain, le comité de transport de la commission scolaire fera un premier compte rendu de cette initiative.

Des caméras de surveillance ont déjà été installées dans certains autobus de la commission scolaire Western-Québec en Outaouais, mais ce n'est plus le cas depuis environ trois ans, le matériel étant rendu désuet. Dans le cadre du renouvellement de ses installations, la commission songe cependant à remettre en place l'initiative.

Pour sa part, le président de la Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais (CSPO), Jocelyn Blondin, ne se dit pas complètement fermé à l'idée d'installer des caméras si le besoin se présentait. À la Commission scolaire des Draveurs, l'idée n'est pas envisagée.

Vie privée

Le directeur général de l'Association du transport écolier du



ARCHIVES, LeDevoir

Les élèves des écoles secondaires Hormisdas-Gamelin, dans le secteur Buckingham, et Louis-Joseph-Papineau, dans la Petite-Nation, ne pourront plus faire la pluie et le beau temps durant leur trajet entre l'école et la maison.

Québec, Luc Lafrance, ne croit pas que la pose des caméras soit un recours à envisager dans tous les autobus.

« C'est délicat comme pratique, car il est question de filmer des jeunes mineurs à leur insu. Que fait-on ensuite de l'utilisation des cassettes? Mais les caméras sont une bonne solution pour régler des problèmes de discipline selon le cas par cas. »

L'association privilégie d'autres mesures pour vaincre l'indiscipline des jeunes.

Elle a mis sur pied un cours, il y a un an et demi, pour former ses chauffeurs aux différents problèmes qu'ils peuvent rencontrer durant leur travail.

Politique nationale

Cette mesure de la CSCV survient deux semaines après que

les chauffeurs syndiqués à la CSN aient lancé un cri d'alarme, demandant à la ministre de l'Éducation, Michelle Courchesne, d'adopter une politique nationale de discipline dans les autobus scolaires.

La ministre aurait d'ailleurs l'intention de former, au printemps prochain, un comité chargé de dicter les règles à respecter à bord des autobus scolaires.

Souriez, chers élèves!

Les auteurs de troubles qui sévissent dans les autobus des écoles secondaires Hormisdas-Gamelin et Louis-Joseph-Papineau sont maintenant filmés par des caméras récemment installées à l'intérieur des véhicules.

Cinq des soixante autobus scolaires de la Commission scolaire au Coeur-des-Vallées ont été équipés de caméras de surveillances parce que certains de leurs passagers y faisaient du

vandalisme ou posaient des actes de violence à l'égard des autres étudiants, voire le chauffeur lui-même. Les deux écoles secondaires sont situées dans le secteur Buckingham et à Papineauville. « C'est une mesure temporaire et nous évaluerons en janvier la pertinence de maintenir ces caméras en marche, a dit le président de la commission scolaire, Alexandre Itacá. Il y a eu des gestes anormalement élevés de manque de

discipline et nous prenons les mesures nécessaires pour régler le problème. »

Selon M. Itacá, des étudiants se sont sentis menacés par une minorité d'élèves turbulents. M. Itacá dit même qu'il n'est pas impossible que certains élèves aient consommé de la drogue à bord. Le président souligne que la majorité des étudiants a un « comportement exemplaire ».

(L-D-E)

24 heures p. 4
19 déc

CHRONIQUE

MARIO BOULIANNE

mboulianne@ledroit.com



À SURVEILLER: Le Gîte-Ami tiendra sa fête de reconnaissance demain, dès 17 h, au 85, rue Morin dans le secteur Hull. Cette soirée permettra de remercier tous les donateurs du refuge. Pour en savoir plus, on communique avec Suzanne Williams au 819-776-5953.

Des sourires dans la tempête

La région a reçu toute une bordée de neige dimanche. La plus grosse accumulation de neige depuis 1974, selon Environnement Canada.

Evidemment, une tempête comme celle-là faisait encore jaser hier et a causé plusieurs inconvénients. Mais, personnellement, je ne vois pas pourquoi on en fait tout un plat.

Dans ma petite rue du secteur Hull, on a pris ça du bon côté. Quelques voisins ont bien tenté de sortir leur voiture au cœur de la tempête, mais ils ont vite réalisé que l'exercice était inutile.

Donc, comme plusieurs, j'ai vécu cette tempête bien au chaud dans mon salon.

Ma copine, elle, en a profité pour cuisiner. Elle aussi, la neige l'a forcée à rester chez-elle. Bonne idée, surtout à quelques jours de Noël. Et mes enfants gardaient l'espoir de voir leur école fermée.

Le lendemain, le ciel s'était dégagé, le soleil brillait... et mes voisins étaient dans la rue armés de leurs pelles. Dès le lever du soleil, j'étais moi aussi dehors, pelle en main, pour dégager ma voiture. Car il fallait bien sortir puisque les écoles étaient ouvertes en Outaouais.

Après une heure de travail, j'étais prêt. Les trottoirs ayant disparu sous la neige, je voulais que mes enfants se rendent à l'école en toute sécurité.

Dans ma rue, comme je vous le disais, les voisins étaient à l'œuvre. Je les regardais, de la fenêtre de mon salon.

À ma grande surprise, tous ces gens semblaient s'amuser car, à l'évidence, plusieurs avaient décidé de rester à la maison.

J'ai été témoin alors d'une belle solidarité. Quelques-uns ont uni leurs efforts pour dégager les stationnements des autres. Et ils avaient tous le sourire. Entre quelques coups de pelle, ils s'arrêtaient pour discuter, lancer quelques blagues. Ce petit manège a duré plusieurs heures. En après-midi, les stationnements étaient dégagés et la vie reprenait son cours normal.

Des sourires dans la tempête, voilà ce que je retiens de cette chute de neige inhabituelle en ce milieu du mois de décembre.



Solidarité étudiante

La semaine dernière, les élèves de l'école Fern Hill d'Ottawa et ceux de l'école Montessori de l'Outaouais ont joint leurs efforts afin d'aider des familles immigrantes de la région en récoltant des denrées non périssables. Ces jeunes anglophones et francophones ont également partagé leur culture puisque les élèves de l'école Fern Hill se sont adressés en français à leur camarade de l'Outaouais, qui ont fait de même en anglais pour discuter avec les jeunes Ontariens. Les denrées amassées ont donc été remises à l'organisme Accueil Parrainage Outaouais, qui aide les nouveaux arrivants de la région. Enfin, cette belle initiative a été mise en branle par Audrey O'Leary, professeur d'anglais à l'école Montessori, et Lynn Boucher, professeure de français à l'école Fern Hill.

Un show pour les jeunes

Deux groupes de jeunes musiciens seront en spectacle, ce soir, à l'école La Rose des Vents de Cantley.

Les groupes ÉKO et Projet Désaccordé monteront sur scène dès 20 h lors de ce spectacle organisé par la Table Jeunesse et le CLD de la MRC des Collines.

Ces deux groupes font de plus en plus leur marque sur la scène de la musique émergente de l'Outaouais. Eko, un groupe de musique folk-rock, a remporté le concours de la relève culturelle de Gatineau. Pour ce qui est de Projet Désaccordé, le groupe rock gatinois fera partie des finalistes régionaux de Cégep en Spectacle en février prochain.

Le spectacle de ce soir a été concocté pour les jeunes de 12 à

20 ans et le coût d'entrée est de 5\$. Pour en savoir plus, communiquer avec Normand Veillette au 819-456-2121.

Reporters sans frontières

Depuis plus de 20 ans, Reporters sans frontières défend la liberté de presse dans le monde.

En 2007, 73 journalistes et collaborateurs des médias ont été tués et 128 journalistes sont présentement emprisonnés simplement pour avoir fait leur travail.

Trois fois par année, l'association publie des magazines de photographies dont les profits servent à mener des actions concrètes en faveur de la liberté de presse.

À temps pour les Fêtes, Reporters sans frontières vient de



Le Coup de cœur de l'Outaouais

La Fondation des maladies du cœur du Québec a souligné l'engagement de 11 bénévoles du Québec en leur offrant le prix Coup de Cœur. En Outaouais, c'est la Gatinoise Sharon Morrisette, directrice générale de la fondation dans la région, qui a reçu cet honneur. Sur la photo, M^{me} Morrisette est entourée par Jean Noël, chef de la direction de la Fondation, et Richard Légaré, président de la Fondation.



Avec Nez Rouge

Jeudi dernier, plusieurs employés de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais ont quitté leurs bureaux pour participer à l'Opération Nez Rouge. Une soirée mémorable, selon plusieurs, puisque plusieurs anecdotes ont été amassées afin d'agrémenter les soirées du temps des Fêtes des participants. Sur la photo, on reconnaît Nathalie Brunette, Caroline Veilleux, Pauline Fortin, France Tremblay, Christian Gagné, Bernard Guindon, Guy Morissette, François Morel, Denis Chénier et Carole Ross.

publier l'album *100 photos de Sabine Weiss*. Cet album, vendu au coût de 14\$, compte 100 pages de photographies et de portraits de journalistes ou de blogueurs.

Un départ

La responsable de communications de Théâtre Action, Eve Cardinal, retourne à Montréal après avoir passé neuf ans en Outaouais.

Messes de Noël

Les paroisses du Diocèse de Gatineau offriront toutes des messes de Noël et du Nouvel An. L'horaire complet de ces célébrations religieuses est disponible sur le site Internet du Diocèse au www.diocese.gatineau.org.

Sending francophone immigrants out of Quebec a 'stupid' policy

U of O scholar says 'irresponsible' program actually results in anglicization

Kate Jaimet

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

The federal government is pursuing an "irresponsible" policy of recruiting francophone immigrants to minority French communities in English Canada when it should be sending them instead to the more robust francophone regions of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Eastern Ontario, a controversial University of Ottawa professor argues in a forthcoming journal.

In his article, "The contribution of immigration to franco-phone populations outside Quebec," to be published in the journal *Francophonies d'Amérique*, adjunct professor Charles Castonguay argues that a large proportion of francophone immigrants become anglicized when they move to small French communities in Canada, and end up bolstering the English-speaking population rather than the French-speaking minority.



CREDIT: John Kenney, The Montreal Gazette

If the federal government is serious about recruiting francophone immigrants, it should encourage them to settle in traditional French-speaking areas like the village shown above, says Charles Castonguay, not where francophones are in the minority

"It's a stupid program," Mr. Castonguay said in an interview. "We're wasting our bloody money here, because we're actually recruiting anglophones."

But Commissioner of Official Languages Graham Fraser defended the immigration policy.

"I think it's absolutely critical for the future of French-speaking minority communities across Canada that they have access to immigration, to a stream of newcomers," Mr. Fraser said.

Francophonies d'Amérique, a journal put out by the University of Ottawa's Research Centre on French-Canadian Civilization, will publish Mr. Castonguay's article in January -- the same month that former New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord gives his recommendations to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on minority language policy.

Immigration has been a component of language policy at least since 2001, when Parliament passed the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act identifying one of the objectives of immigration as: "to support and assist the development of

minority official languages communities in Canada."

In 2003, then-intergovernmental affairs minister Stéphane Dion launched the Liberal government's "Action Plan for Official Languages," which dedicated \$9 million over five years toward recruiting immigrants to minority-language communities.

And in September 2006, the Conservative government furthered the policy by launching its "Strategic Plan to Foster Immigration to Francophone Minority Communities." The plan aimed to increase the numbers of francophones settling outside Quebec, by actively recruiting immigrants, refugees, and international students and offering them more health, legal, and employment services in French. The target was to attract between 8,000 and 10,000 French-speaking immigrants a year to francophone communities outside of Quebec.

Perhaps as a measure of the success of these programs, the census results show that the number of francophone immigrants settling outside Quebec rose from 7,500 between 1996 and 2001, to 9,350 between 2001 and 2006.

But Mr. Castonguay says his analysis shows that within about 20 years of immigrating to Canada, a large proportion of francophones outside Quebec adopt English as their primary language.

"We're not really helping the French minorities by recruiting international immigrants to go to places where they're going to assimilate (to English) anyway," he said.

In his article, Mr. Castonguay used data from the 2001 census to look at the language most commonly used at home by francophone immigrants aged 45 to 54. Reasoning that most immigrants arrive at about age 30, this age bracket would identify their switch in language after 15 to 25 years in Canada, Mr. Castonguay said.

He found that in six provinces -- Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and B.C. -- more than 50 per cent of francophone immigrants in that age bracket spoke mainly English at home. The rate stood at 43 per cent in P.E.I., 46 per cent in Manitoba, and 20 per cent in New Brunswick.

The anglicization rate in the Ottawa metropolitan area was 32 per cent.

Equivalent data from the 2006 census are not yet available, but a report put out by Statistics Canada Dec. 11 found that the percentage of people outside of Quebec who use French as their main home language declined from 2.7 per cent in 2001 to 2.5 per cent in 2006, continuing a downward trend that has existed since 1971.

Based on his results, Mr. Castonguay argues that the federal government should redirect its immigration program to steer francophone immigrants toward Quebec, New Brunswick, and eastern Ontario, where anglicization rates are lower and they have a better chance of both retaining their own language, and augmenting the French-speaking community.

"To persist in using francophone immigration in order to maintain the illusion of viable francophone populations everywhere in Canada, would mean to continue wasting a precious resource," his article concludes.

But the Official Languages Commissioner said it's far too early to declare the immigration program a failure.

"Whether a community continues to keep its language is something that gets answered in generations, not in one-year slices or even five-year slices," Mr. Fraser said.

He said he's witnessed positive signs of francophone immigration in provinces such as Manitoba.

"I have walked through neighbourhoods in St. Boniface, where I have seen five- and six- and seven-year-old kids who were clearly not descendants of the voyageurs, just from the colour of their skin, speaking French," he said. "Increasingly French-language schools are enrolling, teaching, and graduating students who have African names, Arabic names, European names, Asian names."

Lise Routhier-Boudreau, president of the Société des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada, said that Mr. Castonguay's use of home language as a measure of anglicization doesn't paint an accurate portrait of life in francophone minority communities.

"One can very well speak another language at home with one's spouse and still work entirely in French and fully support the development and the growth of the French community," she said.

She added that there have been positive results in communities where government investments have allowed for more French-language services such as day cares, schools, health facilities, and immigrant integration services.

Quebec immigration minister Yolande James refused to wade into the debate over federal immigration policy.

But Parti Québécois immigration critic Martin Lemay said he was inclined to agree with Mr. Castonguay.

"The reason francophone immigrants immigrate to Quebec is that the French language is primordial here, whereas in other communities, unfortunately, the use of French is not very strong," he said.

He added that Quebec is already making efforts to attract more francophone immigrants.

"It's clear that if the federal government pursues this policy -- because the pool of francophones not very big -- it will harm the Quebec strategy."

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Residents wary of heavier traffic at former Laurentian High School site

Developer hears concerns about potential big-box project

Laura Drake

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

An increased traffic burden was the main concern expressed by the 60 or so people who attended a public meeting last night on the future of the former Laurentian High School property at Baseline Road and Clyde Avenue.

"There's a lot of cars right now, so if you add that extra load onto the streets, it becomes a safety concern," said Bruce Rae, an area resident.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board closed Laurentian High School in 2005 due to declining attendance. It sold the 15-acre property in July for \$21.26 million to SmartCentres, a Toronto-based real-estate developer that specializes in big-box developments anchored by Wal-Mart stores.

College Ward Councillor Rick Chiarelli said he would like to ask City Hall's planning department to make a secondary plan for the area encompassing the former high school in the next couple of months. He said that would address the traffic problems in the area irrespective of what happens with SmartCentres' land, but would also help shape the development.

The developer has not yet submitted a re-zoning application to the planning and environment committee, which would outline its exact plans for the property.

SmartCentres vice-president Dennis Eberhard attended the meeting last night, a move applauded by River Ward Councillor Maria McRae, who hosted the meeting.

"They're here to listen," Ms. McRae said of the developer. "It's unprecedented for a developer to come to a community before submitting an application for rezoning."

Ms. McRae said she has been working closely with the developers and has expressed her concern to them about the development being overly commercial, calling a 100-per-cent commercial development a "worst-case scenario."

"I highly doubt they have enough space to do 100-per-cent commercial and if they do, they'll have to get through me," she said. The property is located at one edge of River Ward, with College Ward and Knoxdale-Merivale Ward adjacent.

The possibility of large retailers taking over the area was also a concern to the community members who ventured out to the Alexander Community Centre in the snow last night.

"If there's big-box stores from Maitland all the way up Merivale Road, it becomes a big-box ghetto," said Kathy Yach, president of the Copeland Park Community Alliance.

There will be a second meeting in the spring for the developer to bring its plan to the community before an application is made to the planning and environment committee, Ms. McRae said.

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Popsicle melts the hearts of schoolchildren

Cat who was found frozen in snowbank pays visit to Morewood school

William Lin

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

MOREWOOD - When the Grade 1 and 2 pupils in this town's only school heard the story of a near-frozen cat dubbed Popsicle, who miraculously survived, they were moved.

Six-year-old Taylor James-Rousson was so touched she even had a dream about her.

"It was about what happened to Popsicle. I found her frozen in the snowbank. And she got better," she said.

The class decided to send a letter, including drawings of Popsicle and treats for the cat to the Ottawa Humane Society, where the cat was being cared for after being found in a snowbank.

Little did Taylor and her classmates know that the cat of their dreams would drop by to visit them yesterday afternoon.

Out of more than 100 letters and e-mails they have received about Popsicle, the children's package stood out, said Tara Jackson, the humane society's spokeswoman.

Inside Morewood Public School, Christine Wheeler, Popsicle's temporary foster parent and a humane society employee, gingerly pulled Popsicle out of her carrier.

The children gathered around on their knees, inching closer, their eyes widening. They lined up to pet the cat.

"Kitty, kitty," one pupil said.

"I know how to speak cat language!" boasted seven-year-old Austin Robinson.

"Why isn't he frozen?" another pupil innocently asked.



CREDIT: Wayne Cuddington, The Ottawa Citizen

Eight-year-old Rebecca Skuce pets Popsicle, the cat saved from certain death after she was found frozen in a snowbank, during a visit to Morewood Public School in Morewood by the Ottawa Humane Society yesterday. The children had sent a letter asking about the cat along with some kitty treats, prompting the visit.

Popsicle looked around, unsure of where she was -- still a bit shy, underweight and skittish.

Ms. Wheeler said she's "amazed" at her recovery.

"When I first got her home, she was extremely quiet ... but quite affectionate," she said.

She still needs to gain some weight -- although she was heavier than the estimated kilogram and a half that she weighed after being rescued.

"I like Popsicle because she's a cat and I love cats and she makes me happy. She makes me feel good inside," Taylor said.

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December 19, 2007

Teacher denies student sex Says accuser was never, to his knowledge, in his house, provides partial alibi

By JACK WALKER, SUN MEDIA

BROCKVILLE -- A Brockville high school teacher has flatly denied having sexual relations with a female student.

"No, I did not," Andrew Jackson kept repeating yesterday when asked if he had kissed the girl, taken her to his bedroom and had sexual intercourse with her.

Jackson, 35, a history and sociology teacher at Thousand Islands Secondary School, was suspended with pay after the allegations surfaced in November 2005. He's pleaded not guilty to a charge of sexual exploitation while in a position of trust or authority.

The woman, now 20, testified earlier that she had sex with the accused nine days before turning 18. She said she drove to Jackson's home June 6, 2005 after she called him on her cellphone.

They immediately began kissing and Jackson then led her to his bedroom where he undressed her and stripped himself, she said. After putting on a condom, the pair had intercourse.

The next day, the complainant said Jackson approached her in a hallway at the school and told her "what happened yesterday was wrong and that it shouldn't have happened."

TOOK HER TO BEDROOM

In her testimony, the former student said she'd been to the teacher's home on two previous occasions where he kissed her and took her to the bedroom. The second incident of sexual intercourse took place after she turned 18, she said.

The accused regularly played poker with the complainant's father and initially her parents decided not to report the incidents to school officials. They changed their mind when their daughter continued to suffer anxiety attacks after graduating from the school and left the area to attend college.

Jackson, who coached the boys' basketball and football teams, dismissed all the allegations as untrue. He provided alibi evidence for some of the incidents, saying he had a birthday dinner with his mother on one occasion and was out of town with friends on another.

He was unable to account for his whereabouts on the June 6 date but denied anything happened between them.

Jackson said he had never invited the student to his house and that to his knowledge, she was never inside the residence.

Under cross-examination, he conceded the complainant had drawn a fairly accurate description of the layout of his residence, including listing a number of items in his bedroom such as a reversible comforter on his bed and a picture of two dolphins on the wall.

Jackson also denied receiving any phone calls from the student during the time of the alleged affair despite phone records showing she called his home 23 times in a one-month period. One of the calls lasted 37 minutes.

Jackson also contradicted the testimony of another student who testified the teacher had similarly invited her into his home after she had accompanied him to an out-of-town basketball game.

The trial continues tomorrow when the prosecution and defence present final arguments.

canoe network ... **cnews**

December 19, 2007

Cops teach parents signs kids are in gang

By SUN MEDIA

A new education campaign by Ottawa police points out the signs of street gang activity.

The "gang card," which will soon be available at police stations, tells parents what to look for if they believe their children are mixed up in the criminal underworld.

"This is a simple and effective prevention tool that can help parents assess the risk with their own kids and react to potential gang involvement," Chief Vernon White said. "This is also a tool to raise awareness with all family members and the community about what to watch for in children."

Tips include: Watching to see if children conceal personal items, paying attention to kids having large sums of money from an unexplained source and seeing if children wear gang-specific colours.

More information is available at www.ottawapolice.ca/gangs.