

Article rank | 27 Feb 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | BY MATTHEW PEARSON

Two new schools planned to meet French demands

Catholic board to get \$22M from province for elementary schools in Kanata, Orléans areas

The Ottawa region's French Catholic school board has announced plans to build two new schools to meet the growing demand for an all-French education.

The school board will get about \$22 million from the ministry of education to buy land and build two elementary schools — one in Kanata north for up to 388 students and one in the Chapel Hill South area of Orléans for up to 342 students.

The schools are to open in the fall of 2011.

Lise Bourgeois, the board's director of education, said Thursday she's thrilled. "My legacy here will have been to grow the French space and have more schools where we need them," she said.

Bourgeois is leaving the board at the end of March to become president of La Cité collégiale.

"I'll be leaving (the board) knowing that it's doing what it's supposed to — have good results and good schools," she said.

While school boards across the province struggle with shrinking enrollment, the region's French Catholic board continues to grow.

It had about 16,000 students when it was created in 1998 and now has more than 18,600 students at 48 schools from Pembroke to Cumberland and as far to the southwest as Trenton. That's an increase of roughly 15 per cent.

The French Catholic board — the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est — has opened seven new schools since 2005, including two elementary schools slated to open this September.

The board estimates another 8,000 to 10,000 students who would be eligible to attend its French schools are registered elsewhere.

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Go ahead, kid, play with fire

Bubble-wrapped children are missing out on a real childhood, a new book claims. SHANNON PROUDFOOT reports on the backlash against hyper-parenting.

'We create a false impression in our minds that children are in peril all the time ... when in fact, according to the most recent studies, this is the safest time in history for children.' GEVER TULLER, author, *50 Dangerous Things*

Here are a few suggestions for the kids of those anxious parents hovering on the edge of the playground with a first aid kit: Lick a 9-volt battery, just to see what happens. Super Glue your fingers together or look at the sun. And by all means, play with fire.



TINKERING SCHOOL

Tinkering School is a week-long summer camp that teaches kids to use tools while building their confidence and major projects, such as this zip line.

These are among the activities in a new book entitled *50 Dangerous Things* (you should let your children do), the latest in a growing backlash against hyper-parents who try to insulate their offspring against every minor scrape, perceived threat and potential disappointment.

Underlying this burgeoning less-is-more parenting philosophy is a belief that today's bubble-wrapped kids are missing out on the way childhood used to be.

The *Dangerous Book for Boys* became an international sensation by teaching the video-game generation such long-lost and potentially perilous skills as building a snow fort or bow and arrow. In 2008, Canadian journalist Carl Honoré published a book entitled *Under Pressure: Rescuing Our Children from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting*, encouraging people to stop "parenting too hard."

At the same time, the recession forced many to scale back their over-scheduled children's activities for financial reasons.

"It really started as a snowball of observations that my friends' children were not having the kind of childhood that I did or even they did," says Gever Tulle, the California-based author of *50 Dangerous Things*. "It got me thinking about how we become competent and where in the last 30 years we

changed our definition of what kids are capable of.”

The book’s title is “deliberately provocative,” Tulley says, and it’s meant as both a guidebook for fretful parents who want to loosen up and a “call to action for over-protected children,” with instructions on safe ways to experiment with dangerous things.

“We create a false impression in our minds that children are in peril all the time and everywhere, when in fact, according to the most recent studies, this is the safest time in history for children,” he says.

“There couldn’t be a better time to be running around outside playing.”

Writer Lenore Skenazy agrees, arguing there’s a “gathering storm” among parents rejecting the notion that it was ever a good idea to coddle kids.

She accidentally became the standard-bearer for this backlash nearly two years ago, when she wrote a column for The New York

Sun entitled “Why I Let My 9-Year-Old Take The Subway Alone,” deriding hyper-vigilant parenting and igniting a ferocious debate in the process.

Some people suggested her children should be seized by child protection services, she says, but others were grateful she’d said what they were thinking.

In response, Skenazy founded the Free-Range Kids movement, which has since grown into a book, a blog and a rallying cry for “a common-sense approach to parenting in these overprotective times.”

The inspiration hit Tulley — a software engineer who doesn’t have kids — at a dinner party in 2005, when he argued that overprotected children are “less competent” and mused about a summer program that would encourage them to build things and boost their independence.

“A good friend of mine reached across the table and grabbed my arm and said, ‘I’m sending my children to your school this summer. You have to start it!’” he recalls.

Now in its sixth year, Tinkering School is a one-week sleepaway camp for tweens and teens based near Tulley’s home just south of San Francisco.

Julianna Hrynkiw, 11, travelled from her home in Calgary to attend Tinkering School last year, learning to handle saws and drills while helping build a tent, a monument and, her favourite, go-karts.

“I’m kind of a maker and I like making stuff,” she says.

She came home with a new sense of confidence and her own tool kit, her father Dave says.

“We wanted to throw her into the deep end and see how many limbs she could lose,” her father jokes.

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Teen brandished gun at Richmond high school to 'impress his peers'

Judge orders 15-month probation for 'foolish' act

By Andrew Seymour, The Ottawa Citizen March 2, 2010 6:30 AM

OTTAWA — A 15-year-old boy who brandished an unloaded .357 Magnum handgun at his Richmond high school in an apparent attempt to impress his peers has been sentenced to 15 months of probation.

The teen, who turned 16 last week, admitted to pulling the trigger of the high-powered handgun in front of a 14-year-old student in a washroom at South Carleton High School on March 25. He also waved and pointed the unloaded gun at another boy and pulled the trigger after bringing it to a friend's house a week earlier.

The teen pleaded guilty to charges of careless handling and pointing a firearm as well as two counts of possessing a firearm without a licence.

"It was somewhat foolish of you to do what you did," said Ontario Court Justice Lise Maisonneuve before sentencing the youth, who can't be identified under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. He was also ordered not to possess any weapons for the next five years.

Assistant Crown attorney Lisa Miles had been seeking a two-year term of probation -- the maximum allowed in law -- after highlighting what she described as several "difficulties" the teen has encountered since the gun charges were laid.

That included a shoplifting incident and being caught at school with a "flint bomb," which consists of parts of a lighter and a flammable material used to make a flame.

However, Miles said there was no evidence the teen intended to harm anyone and probation was appropriate.

"It seems it was to gain acceptance and impress his peers," said Miles, noting the teen suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. "It was an extremely dangerous and foolhardy thing to do, but there wasn't any intention to hurt anyone in any way."

According to the synopsis of the case, the teen asked a student in the washroom if he wanted to "see something cool" before pulling out the gun. He also showed the gun to other students on the school bus.

Court heard the teen came into possession of the gun after it was left in a bag at his grandfather's house by one of his grandfather's friends.

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ARTS & LIFE



THE CAPPIES THE BEST OF HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

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Love, work and more, please

Elmwood School splendid in play about early Canadian women



BY SIBOHAN FLURY
Critic, All Saints Catholic High School

Protected only by the cover of night, she trudges across the desolate countryside — so vulnerable, so alone. Beads of sweat forming along the base of her neck, she wills her aching muscles to persevere, each step more excruciating than its predecessor. She is fighting for freedom, for happiness — but more than anything, she is fighting to survive. Glimpse the lives of some of the admirable, courageous women who have influenced modern-day Canadian living in Elmwood School's rendition of *Love and Work Enough... & More*. Set in the rugged North American colonies of the 19th century, the production offers a heartfelt adaptation of Canadian playwright Peggy Sample's *Love and Work Enough*. This 1986 drama recounts the stories of newly Canadian authors Anna Jameson, Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill as they become accustomed to their refurbished lives as pioneers of the backwoods. As a compelling addition to the script, the inspirational tales of Harriet Tubman and Mary Ann Shadd capture the arduous struggle of African Americans to achieve equal treatment in a world of white su-



Allie Hodgson, centre, plays Susanna Moodie during Elmwood School's production of *Love and Work Enough... & More*.

premac. Meanwhile, for Irish settler Bridget O'Sullivan, life in Canada offers the sunny opportunity of falling in love. From recollections of the women's humorous encounters with wildlife to more austere occurrences such as slavery and infant mortality, the play encompasses the nature of early Canadian life in a sincere expression of patriotism. Anchored by the actresses' utter devotion to their characters, the cast and crew of Elmwood were arful in the delivery of a poignant and virtuous performance. Fluidly executed scene changes and an animated cast were among the triumphs contributing to the production's success. First in her role as the dauntless Harriet Tubman and later as the equally intrepid Mary Ann Shadd, Makanaka Ngwenya commanded attention from the moment she took to the stage. Her confidence outstanding,

About the Cappies

The Citizen and 35 high schools are participating in the Cappies, a Washington, D.C.-based program that uses high school critics to review high school theatre. The program is a unique partnership between the Citizen, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa-Catholic School Board. The four winners of the lead acting categories will be eligible to receive a bursary provided by the national law firm Gowling Lafleur Henderson to attend the Stratford Shakespeare School this summer.

she delivered each line with earnest passion. Allie Hodgson was enthusiastic and consistent in her portrayal of Susanna Moodie, providing the audience a realistic impression of the author and not

once slipping from character. As the distinguished Catharine Parr Traill, Marie-France Lavoie delivered an honest performance, and Sarah Pullen was lively in her role as Anna Jameson. A delightful contrast to the lead's more sombre subplots, Erin Chapman as the young and energetic Bridget O'Sullivan provided endless comic relief. In addition to her youthful portrayal of the giddy Irish maid, Chapman demonstrated versatility through equally uplifting performances in smaller roles. Each playing a number of characters, Lucy Zheng and Emmah Page are to be commended for their expression, and Brianna Taylor never ceased to entertain. The entire cast is to be praised for their proficiency in reciting dialogue in unison, a daring and challenging endeavour that they handled with considerable skill.

Breathtaking musical performances by Rebecca Boucher, Nimrat Obhi and Brianna Taylor emphasized the more sentimental moments of the play and, alongside the impressive work of choreographers Erin Chapman and Grace Croila, brightened the happier ones. Scene changes were in large part performed by members of the cast. Thanks to the intuitive planning of stage manager Nadege Ross, these were carried out smoothly and discreetly, rarely distracting from the flow of the plot. Though some effects could have been performed more subtly, the use of a translucent screen creatively enhanced the visual aspect of the play. As a whole, Elmwood's production of *Love and Work Enough... & More* showcased the professionalism and artistry of the finely tuned cast and crew. Though it's

Show # 11:
Love and Work Enough ... & More

Where: Elmwood School

MINI-REVIEWS

■ **Cassie Smith**, lead critic, Almonte and District High School: Sarah Pullen, Allie Hodgson and Marie-France Lavoie synchronized well. Their appalled expressions and distaste for their living quarters gave the production a breath of comedy.

■ **Erin AuCoin**, critic, Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School: Erin Chapman and Grace Croila ably performed the job of creating period-appropriate choreography suitable for untrained dancers. Rebecca Boucher and Brianna Taylor also helped to establish the setting with skillfully executed set pieces.

■ **Philippa Wolff**, critic, Lisgar Collegiate Institute: Erin Chapman's convincing accent never marred her clear speech and her presence lit up the stage. Brianna Taylor portrayed several cameo characters with an awareness of comic timing.

■ **Nicholas Harrison**, lead critic, Bell High School: Ruth Lark as Harriet Tubman's staunch and stern owner, and Gloria Nabukawa, Ashley O'Hara and Lenishka Stubbs as fellow slaves and free blacks, were wonderful.

About the reviews:

The production at Elmwood School was reviewed by 29 critics representing 14 schools. The critic discussions were mentored by teacher Laura-Anne Croila of All Saints Catholic High School and student reviews were edited and selected for publication by Sarah Neal of Almonte and District High School, who could see only the reviews, not the names or publication of the reviewers.

Next review: Rent at Mother Teresa Catholic High School.

usually a good idea to listen to your parents, remember, girls. "Well behaved women rarely make history!"

VANCOUVER 2010



SAIED HANA, AP/GETTY IMAGES

ABOVE: It's time to pack away the fake tattoos and the Elmer Fudd topplers with ear flaps until the next bout of unbridled patriotism.

RIGHT: Not everyone can carry off the scarlet red Bozo the Clown wig, but this Vancouver hockey fan tries his best as he celebrates Team Canada's overtime win.



CHRIS LEATH, GETTY IMAGES

Get back in the closet!

Wearing your pride on your sleeve can easily lead to fashion shame

BY SHELLEY FRALIC

OK, it's a work day. You go to your closet to get ready for work, or shopping, or a bike ride and, what's this, a Viking hat with horns? A red felt glove shaped like a maple leaf? A black and red plaid Elmer Fudd toppler with ear flaps? Sunglasses with the venetian blind slats over one eye and a Canadian flag over the other? A knit toque with moose antlers? Welcome to our Olympic fashion hangover, the 2010 closet of shame, in which red is the new black, in which millions of us, fuelled by pregame fever and with no apparent regard for taste or bank balance, now find ourselves in possession of some of the ugliest patriotic wearable thingamajigs

scarves encrusted with pins, think scarlet red Bozo the Clown wigs, and Canada Kick ICE! tees, Mega pins and Sumi slippers. And yes, think about those Team Canada hockey jerseys. The Crimson Tide of fashion crime that paints the town red every time our teams score a goal, so ubiquitous that to walk through Metro Vancouver on game night is to have blood-red nightmares for days after. Sorry, but no matter how much you love your hockey, those Olympic jerseys you've been sporting with such reverence are some ugly. It's amusing, isn't it, what we'll wear when we're bursting with pride, when we know that, no matter how ridiculous we look, there will be someone in the crowd who looks



MIAMI RALTON, AP/GETTY IMAGES

Now that the Olympics are over, will we wear our red woolly Olympics mittens ever again, or tuck them away for good?

For these past two weeks, on the world stage, that's all been well and good, fun, and even inspiring. Like, we love those red woolly Olympics mittens, too,

to see so many grown men, big strong men and frail old men wearing the fuzzy little things all over town. Like they'd do that at their favourite haunt while trying

now ask ourselves, the question we might have considered at the cash register rather than in hindsight, is this: where are we going to wear this stuff now? People, we know you got caught up in the whole mad-cap thing, shirts, scarves and the streets of your city in outfits and gear and face paint and all manner of curious accoutrements that you otherwise would only be caught wearing to your in-laws' place. Reality bites, folks, and the cap has come to pack away your shame, all those Canadian flag felt top hats, the fake tattoos, the underwear as outerwear, the Canada flag capes. Seriously, OK, we'll give you the hoodies, the jackets and parkas, and even some of the zoe's T-shirts, scarves and tuques, the ones fit for human consumption. But the other stuff, the stuff the kids will wear next Halloween? It will need a special shelf in the

CD inspired by Burton's Alice

BY JASON LIPSHUTZ

Three days before Tim Burton's 3-D reimagining of *Alice in Wonderland* with Johnny Depp and Anne Hathaway hits theatres, Buena Vista Records is releasing an "inspired by" album that offers its own share of star power. *Almost Alice*, set for release today, features original songs from pop and rock acts, including 3OH!3, the All-American Rejects and Franz Ferdinand and a marketing campaign that highlights their broad appeal.

Avril Lavigne's new track *Alice* has sold 45,000 copies in four weeks, according to Nielsen SoundScan, and will play over the film's end credits. Lavigne signed on to the project because of the film's unique charm. "I've always liked the story," she said, "and it was exciting to see Tim Burton put his cool twist on it."

When Buena Vista reached out to other artists to contribute tracks for the album late last year, the label encountered similarly enthusiastic responses from self-professed fans of Burton's work. The project came together as a radio-friendly addendum to Danny Elfman's original score to the film, which is also being released today.

The 10 tracks on *Almost Alice* include cuts by Metro Station, Kerli, Shinedown, Motion City Soundtrack and the Cure's Robert Smith, who offers a lively take on *Very Good Advice*, the only song from Disney's 1951 animated version to be featured on the soundtrack. Blink-182's Mark Hoppus, who collaborated with Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz on *In Tranzit*, said the strong lineup will encourage listeners to explore the full record.

"There will be people who will pick and choose certain songs to download," Hoppus said, "but this album will be

Nouvelle augmentation des tarifs aux usagers de 7,5% depuis hier

Les années se suivent et se ressemblent chez OC Transpo



DOMINIQUE LA HAYE
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Pour une troisième année d'affilée, OC Transpo a haussé ses tarifs, hier, qui ont grimpé en tout de 22,5% depuis 2008.

Depuis hier, les usagers d'OC Transpo doivent payer 7,5% de plus en moyenne pour se déplacer en autobus ou en train.

Le conseil municipal a approuvé cette hausse durant l'adoption du budget 2010 en janvier dernier.

Le prix d'un voyage en autobus payé en argent comptant est ainsi passé de 3\$ à 3,25\$, alors que le prix des billets d'autobus a grimpé de 2,30\$ à 2,50\$.

Les résidents qui empruntent le O-Train doivent maintenant payer 2,75\$ le billet, plutôt que de 2,50\$ comme c'était le cas avant la hausse tarifaire.

Il s'agit d'une nouvelle hausse après celles de juillet dernier et de juillet 2008 qui étaient aussi de 7,5% chacune.

Ces augmentations visent à faire

en sorte que le service de transport en commun soit financé à parts égales ou selon la formule du 50/50 entre les usagers et les contribuables d'Ottawa. Cette mesure, approuvée par le conseil municipal, ne fait cependant pas l'unanimité au sein des élus.

«Qu'on soit usager du transport en commun ou non, c'est un bien public pour tout le monde et tout le monde en bénéficie. C'est beaucoup moins coûteux d'offrir un système de transport en commun efficace que ce ne l'est d'offrir un réseau routier», estime le conseiller municipal Jacques Legendre. Ce dernier fait valoir que les subventions offertes aux automobilistes sont elles aussi bien généreuses.

Le conseiller Eli El-Chantiry reconnaît que la hausse cumulative des tarifs de plus de 22% est significative. Il fait cependant valoir que les coûts liés au transport en commun ont beaucoup augmenté au cours des dernières années.

«Les coûts du transport en commun engendrent cette hausse des tarifs, dit-il. En trois ans, le prix du carburant a augmenté, passant de 65¢ le litre à 1\$. C'est sans compter les autres dépenses. Je ne pense pas que les contribuables

peuvent financer le service à plus de 50%.»

Réduction du service au sud

Par ailleurs, les élus de la Ville d'Ottawa ont affirmé hier leur position en faveur d'une réduction du service de transport en commun au sud de la municipalité.

Malgré une pétition de 170 résidents, le comité de transport en commun de la Ville a refusé de reconsidérer la décision du conseil municipal d'éliminer à compter du mois d'avril une portion du circuit d'autobus 245 au sud de la communauté de Manotick.

Le conseil avait approuvé cette mesure durant l'adoption du budget 2010 en janvier dernier, afin d'économiser 25700\$. L'idée avait même été mise de l'avant par le conseiller du secteur, Glenn Brooks, qui s'appuyait sur le fait que le circuit était peu fréquenté par les usagers. Lors de l'adoption du budget, seulement quatre personnes voyageaient à bord de l'autobus. Ce nombre est maintenant passé à 11. Le circuit a déjà été emprunté par près d'une vingtaine de résidents.

Le conseiller et président du comité de transport en commun, Alex Cullen, aurait souhaité que



ARCHIVES, LeDroit

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les élus acceptent de se pencher à nouveau sur le débat. Selon lui, les résidents auraient dû être consultés avant que le conseil n'élimine le service. L'élu ajoute qu'un certain service de transport en commun pourrait être rétabli

lors d'une mise à jour annuelle au printemps.

«Quand nous recevons une pétition de 170 résidents qui vivent dans ce secteur et qui dépendent de ce service, nous devrions au moins les écouter», estime M. Cullen.



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PUBLI-REPORTAGE

C'est pour une deuxième année consécutive que l'Université du Québec en Outaouais participera, du 3 au 7 mars prochain, aux Jeux franco-canadiens de la communication. Les 32 participants se joindront à leurs trois chefs de délégation, Joëlle Drouin, Sophie Gaudreault et Simon Moreau, dans un périple vers l'université hôte de la 14e édition des Jeux : Moncton. La motivation et le talent de cette seconde mouture donnent espoir de remporter quelques prix et mentions

spéciales. La délégation de l'UQO désire remercier ses nombreux partenaires qui lui permettent de se rendre dans l'est du pays, dans le but de représenter fièrement son université ainsi que la région de l'Outaouais.

Merci au nom des étudiants au baccalauréat en communication de l'UQO, car l'UQO, ça grandit!



Photo : Mallen photography

MERCI À NOS PARTENAIRES)))

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