

10 août 2010 | Le Droit | FRANÇOISFRANÇOIS PIERREPIERRE DUFAULT
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Retour à une vocation communautaire

La concrétisation du projet de Centre multiservices francophone de l'ouest d'Ottawa (CMFO), d'ici trois ans, ramènerait l'ancienne école Grant à sa vocation première de lieu de rassemblement communautaire.

Construite en 1922 par le défunt canton de Nepean, l'école Grant servait également de salle communautaire pour les résidants de cette ancienne banlieue rurale d'Ottawa. Elle avait été construite pour remplacer plusieurs petites écoles de campagne.

L'édifice porte le nom de R.-H. Grant, le ministre de l'Éducation qui avait donné le feu vert à sa construction. Elle a ouvert ses portes à l'époque où les agriculteurs détenaient le pouvoir à Queen's Park et comptait parmi les infrastructures que le gouvernement de l'United Farmers of Ontario (UFO) souhaitait mettre à la disposition des résidants des régions rurales.

L'UFO n'a gardé le pouvoir que pendant un seul mandat de 1919 à 1923 et formait un gouvernement de coalition avec le Parti ouvrier indépendant. Les deux formations politiques ont plus tard été absorbées par le Parti libéral de l'Ontario.

L'école Grant a fermé ses portes en juin 2007 et a été vendue à la Ville d'Ottawa en mars 2008. Quatre mois plus tard, la partie avant du site du chemin Richmond, à l'angle de l'avenue Carling, a reçu une désignation en vertu de la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario.

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Un pas de plus vers l'achat de l'école Grant

Création d'un centre francophone dans l'ouest d'Ottawa

Le Centre multiservices francophone de l'ouest d'Ottawa (CMFO) n'est plus qu'à deux doigts d'acquérir l'ancienne école Grant.



SIMON SÉGUIN-BERTRAND, LeDroit

La Ville d'Ottawa recommandera, mardi prochain, la vente de l'édifice patrimonial où doit s'établir, d'ici trois ans, la future plaque tournante des quelque 23 000 familles francophones qui vivent au-delà de l'avenue Bronson.

Une décision favorable du comité municipal des services organisationnels et du développement économique viendrait consolider un protocole d'achat signé en juillet par le CMFO.

La transaction de 2 millions \$ serait finalisée en juillet 2013 et d'ici là, le site du 2720, chemin Richmond serait exempt d'impôts fonciers. Le Centre n'aurait qu'à s'acquitter des frais d'entretien de 105 000 \$ par année. La vente serait accompagnée d'une subvention de 1,9 million \$.

Des francophones dispersés

Pour le comité qui souhaite mettre sur pied un centre de services francophone dans l'ouest d'Ottawa, ce sera l'aboutissement de près de cinq ans de démarches. L'idée de regrouper les services en français avait commencé à germer bien avant que l'école Grant ne ferme ses portes et que la Ville d'Ottawa la rachète de l'Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, en mars 2008, pour la somme de 3,94

millions \$.

« Le nombre de francophones a vraiment explosé ces dernières années dans l'ouest de la ville. Mais contrairement aux francophones de l'est, ils ne forment pas de communautés concentrées comme à Vanier ou à Orléans. Ils sont répartis un peu partout sur un territoire Ottawa recommandera, mardi prochain, la vente de l'ancienne école Grant où doit s'établir, d'ici trois ans, la future plaque tournante des quelque 23 000 familles francophones qui vivent au-delà de l'avenue Bronson. très vaste, là où le travail les a amenés », affirme Roger Farley, le président du conseil d'administration du CMFO.

M. Farley dit qu'une telle dispersion a eu pour effet d'isoler les francophones. Ceux-ci n'ont souvent que l'école de leur secteur comme lieu de rassemblement et doivent parcourir de grandes distances pour obtenir des services dans leur langue.

Partenariats

Avec l'ancienne école Grant dans la mire du CMFO, le projet a considérablement évolué depuis deux ans.

En plus d'un centre communautaire, il est maintenant question d'une coopérative d'habitation d'une centaine d'unités pour personnes âgées à faible et moyen revenus et d'un centre de soins de longue durée de 117 lits en partenariat avec l'hôpital Montfort.

Le CFMO s'est également montré intéressé à démarrer une des 30 nouvelles équipes de santé familiale (ESF) qui ont été annoncées par le gouvernement de l'Ontario, en mai dernier. Avec l'aval de Queen's Park, cette clinique de santé francophone pourrait ouvrir ses portes dès l'an prochain. Elle serait d'abord située dans un local à proximité de l'école Grant et y déménagerait une fois les travaux d'aménagement du site complétés.

Le CMFO jouit aussi d'un appui de La Cité collégiale, qui envisage d'offrir certaines formations et un service de garde dans l'ancienne école Grant.

Dans le plan du CMFO, l'aile centrale du bâtiment érigé en 1922 serait conservée et rénovée. Une partie du site est protégée depuis deux ans en vertu de la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario.

Pour le conseiller Alex Cullen, qui représente le quartier Baie où est située l'école Grant, le projet du CMFO est une « bonne utilisation d'une infrastructure publique et d'un site patrimonial ».

À ses yeux, le Centre viendra « combler un besoin grandissant » pour la communauté francophone dans l'ouest de la ville.

L'élu s'attend à ce que la vente de l'ancienne école Grant soit approuvée sans problème par le comité des services organisationnels et du développement économique, le 17 août, et par le conseil municipal, le 25 août.

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Article rank | 10 Aug 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | BY GLEN MCGREGOR

Family 'incensed' over comments by Ashbury official

Board chairman accused of marketing private school on heels of court case

The family of a student assaulted during an Ashbury College field trip to Boston are "incensed" by comments made by a school official after one of the assailants pleaded guilty last week.

The family says Ashbury board of governors chairman Chris Teron used news of the guilty plea to "market" the elite Rockcliffe private school.

Teron is quoted in a news report about the conviction saying enrolment had never been better, despite negative publicity from the case.

A 19-year-old former Ashbury student pleaded guilty in Massachusetts on Wednesday to common assault stemming from the incident during a Grade 11 history class trip to Boston in November 2007. Criminal charges against another student are pending, as is a lawsuit filed by the family in Ottawa.

According to the family's statement of claim, the assailant fondled and digitally penetrated the victim while another student held him down and another videotaped the incident. The lawsuit names as defendants the school, three students, four teachers and headmaster Tam Matthews. They are all actively defending the claim. None of the allegations has been proven in court.

In a statement released through a lawyer Monday, the family says Teron used "the opportunity to once again diminish the role played by Ashbury following the sexual assault and to continue to market the Ashbury brand."

Teron says his comments, rather than dismissing the issue, reconfirmed that the school considered it very serious and not a prank, as one student claimed in court documents.

"This was not just a casual prank that goes between kids," Teron said.

He also denied trying to promote the school. He says he was asked a direct question about enrolment figures and answered it.

The family was also upset by Teron's remark about the victim getting closure from the guilty plea, they said.

They contend in the lawsuit that their son and his siblings were expelled from Ashbury after the incident, an allegation the school denies.

"How can the victim and his family have closure when they continue to be branded part of the problem by a school that decided the only solution it was prepared to accept was to bar the victim of the assault and his two younger siblings from continuing their education at the school," the mother said in the statement released by the family's lawyer, Alan O'Brien.

Teron said the anger of the family was understandable, given what their son went through, and he said the school "worked very hard with them to understand their concerns.

"As a father with two daughters who went to Ashbury, my heart really goes out to them and the difficult time they've had," he said.

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Article rank | 10 Aug 2010 | Ottawa Citizen

Camp: 'Car surfing' alleged

Judith Gadbois-St-Cyr, a spokeswoman for the Centres jeunesse, said the Quebec provincial police spent a year investigating the camp that Frère Marc Frappier operated for the organization because it took time to determine which allegations were correct.

When the Citizen tried to contact Frappier at Le Patro de Fort-Coulonge/ Mansfield on Monday, a woman who answered the telephone said he was on vacation and could not comment.

"We took the kids away from the camp in mid-August and the police began their inquiry," Gadbois-St-Cyr said.

"Two employees worked for the rest of the summer meeting the young children, the parents and sometimes the foster families.

"We tried to figure out what was real and what was not because sometimes teenagers can amplify their stories."

Gadbois-St-Cyr said some complaints involved "car surfing," in which children competed to see how long they could remain on top of a moving car. She said fewer than 80 children attended the camp during 2009.

Assistant Crown attorney Stéphane Roland said former camp counsellor Sophie Brunet, 23, pleaded not guilty to five counts of assault and one count of forcible confinement in Quebec Superior Court in Campbell's Bay. A 17-year-old male who was a counsellor at the camp was charged with assault, forcible confinement and dangerous driving.

Both accused are to appear in court in Campbell's Bay on Sept. 14.

Gadbois-St-Cyr said the Centres jeunesse de l'Outaouais sent teenagers to another le Patro camp in the Pontiac this summer because Camp Galarneau is closed.

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Article rank | 10 Aug 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | BY MATTHEW PEARSON

Few candidates signed up for public school board election

The enthusiasm to hold public office — which has prompted a record number of new candidates to register for the Oct. 25 municipal election — doesn't appear to be drawing people to enter the race for public school-board trustee.

The national capital region's largest school board is responsible for the primary, intermediate and secondary education of more than 70,000 students at 150 schools.

It employs several thousand people and has an annual budget of more than \$730 million, equal to about onequarter of the city government's.

So far, though, only 21 people have filed papers to run for seats on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Of those 21 contestants, 11 are incumbents.

"It's a real problem getting people engaged for all the different levels of municipal service," said Sandra Blaikie, a member of Fair Chance 2010.

The group is made up of community leaders and is intended to find and encourage dynamic new candidates to put their names on the ballot.

Blaikie, a former television news anchor, said Fair Chance 2010 had focused on city ward races only.

"We're hopeful that, maybe because we've shone a spotlight on the ward level, maybe then people will get thinking of other areas as well," she said.

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Autos Careers Classifieds Homes



Ontario changes elementary curriculum

By AEDAN HELMER, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: August 9, 2010 9:15pm



Students in Grade 8 will now start learning how to use defibrillators, one of many sweeping changes being introduced to the province's elementary curriculum in its first major overhaul in 12 years. Ottawa Sun file photo

Ontario's elementary classrooms will be embracing some sweeping changes to their daily curriculum this school year, and while most are being met with praise, the province's foremost parent-led education watchdog says one key component is conspicuously absent.

Students in Grades 1 through 8 will be learning about active living and healthy eating choices, bullying, cyberstalking, substance abuse, body image and mental and emotional health under a provincial mandate seeing its first major overhaul since 1998.

But the one area that remains unchanged in the curriculum is sex education, which the government quickly backed away from when a public outcry erupted over controversial proposed teachings on the subject of sex.

The curriculum represents "an important shift in our way of thinking, but it's sad that it's missing one key component," according to Annie Kidder, executive director of People For Education.

"The sexual health component was originally envisioned as part of that cohesive view of what health is and what health means. To hive off one piece, I think it does the overall curriculum a disservice," Kidder said.

"It was important that we talk about how to think for yourself, whether about sex or about bullying, or about whether to eat apples or french fries. All of those things go together and they need to be a bit demystified, which is what the curriculum was attempting to do."

Frank Clarke, spokesman for education minister Leona Dombrowsky, said the government will revisit sex education reforms with greater input from parents.

"The 1998 sex education curriculum will remain until we are able to have broader consultation with parents," said Clarke.

In the meantime, said Clarke, the revised curriculum "has been re-organized and updated to meet the needs of students in the 21st century."

Kidder agreed, saying educators and parents alike are competing for their kids attention against, among other things, a powerful force in the Internet.

"(The curriculum) does recognize that kids live there, they spend a lot of time there, they interact with their friends and they interact with strangers," she said.

"We want kids to be able to think about it and understand how to keep themselves safe, but also understand the meaning of it all, and that's why it's important that we don't just put our heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist."

According to the ministry, new reporting will require a separate mark for health education and physical education, with an increased focus on living skills, a changed approach to healthy living, and updated topics including personal safety, bullying, addictions, mental health and emotional wellbeing.

According to Clarke, all topics are designed to “match the stages of a students’ physical, mental and emotional development.”

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Pastor arrested protesting school's evil mascot

By QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: August 10, 2010 9:34am

A minister who was arrested outside a Georgia high school for disorderly conduct says he was speaking out against the school's evil mascot.

Pastor Donald Crosby told CBS affiliate WMAZ he was "standing up for Jesus" when he was arrested Monday outside the Warner Robins school, and he'd do it again.

"I don't scare easily. Lock me up as many times as you have to lock me up. Even kill me if you have to. I'm standing up for Jesus," he said.

A Warner Robins police press release says Crosby, 26, was arrested at 7:07 a.m. outside the local high school after officers responded to a call of several people picketing there.

"Officers found the group did not possess a picketing permit," the release says.

"On several occasions, officers asked Crosby to leave the premises. He refused to comply with officers and was arrested. The remaining people dispersed in an orderly fashion," police said.

Crosby has been charged with disorderly conduct.

WMAZ reported Crosby and the group of protesters were out front of the school on the first day of classes. The school's sports teams are called the Demons.

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Teen arrested after sister stabbed to death

By QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: August 10, 2010 7:56am

MONTREAL - A mother returned to her Montreal home Monday night to find her 14-year-old daughter dead and lying in a pool of blood.

Just a few hours later, police arrested her 18-year-old son, calling him a "material witness" in his sister's death.

The mother returned home at 6:40 p.m. to find her 14-year-old daughter with several stab wounds.

Montreal police spokeswoman Anie Lemieux said it appeared to be a "violent death."

Neighbours who surrounded the home were shocked.

"I am completely shocked. I cannot believe that something like this could happen so close to home," a neighbour named Sheryl said.

Police are continuing to investigate.

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Article rank | 10 Aug 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | BY KAT ANGUS | POSTMEDIA NEWS

Teenage motherhood is hard

When MTV's Teen Mom series debuted in late 2009, the show was lauded for its brutally honest depiction of adolescent motherhood — and deservedly so. Each of the featured girls showed viewers that parenthood isn't something to idealize, and that having a child so young introduces many obstacles, from Amber putting off her GED (the equivalent of a high-school diploma) to take care of her daughter, to Catelynn recovering from giving up her child for adoption. Even Maci, the most mature and well-adjusted of the teen moms, had to drop out of college and deal with her son's deadbeat father.

Now into its second season, Teen Mom is continuing its PSA theme; these young women may have had a chance to adjust, but the problems keep coming. Maci must sue for child support; Amber worries about a second pregnancy while her boyfriend considers breaking up with her; Farrah is in the middle of an assault case against her mother; and Catelynn is forced to move back in with her own unstable mother.

Yes, Teen Mom has a penchant for the depressing, but that's exactly the point: younger viewers need to see that life after a child isn't all birthday parties and peek-aboo. (9 p.m., MTV Canada)

If you're tired of watching Shaquille O'Neal take on various sports stars on Shaq Vs., tonight's a bit of a departure from the usual format: the basketball great tries his hand at stage magic in order to find out if he can beat Penn & Teller at their own game. (8 p.m., CTV; 9 p.m., ABC)

Despite the fact that some nefarious character is clearly stalking them at all hours of the day, the Pretty Little Liars think it's a good idea to go camping — by themselves. Yeah, this should turn out well. (8 p.m., MuchMusic)

The auditions just keep going on America's Got Talent. Tonight, various YouTube acts compete for spots. (9 p.m., NBC, Citytv)

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