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Inside

COMMUNITY



Young musicians will be making sweet music at Earl of March High School this weekend.

— Pages KA7

SPORTS



Hockey action heats up as teams battle for playoff positions across the entire region.

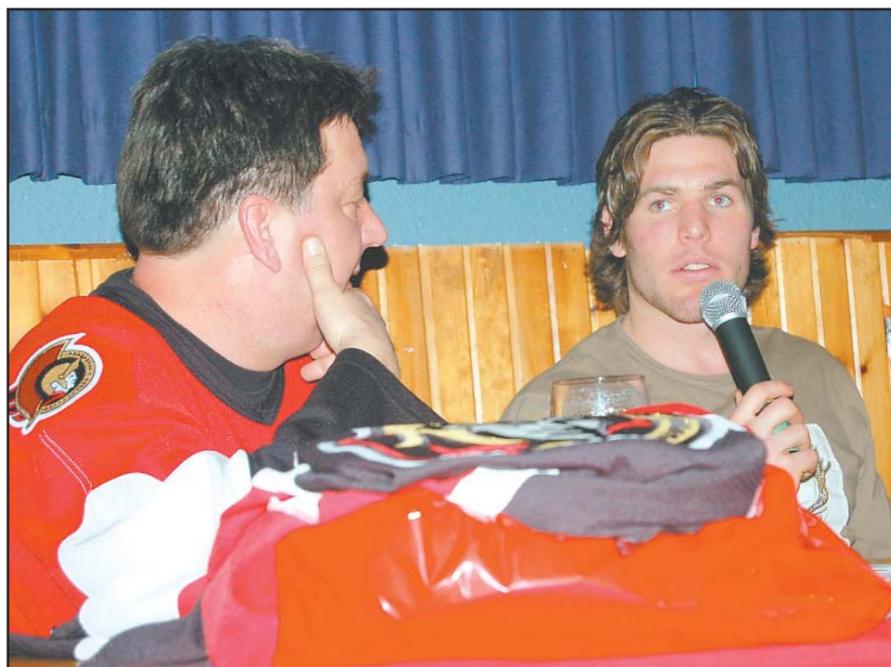
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FEATURE



Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor receives signed flag to take to soldiers in Afghanistan.

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Mark Papousek (left) host of the Kanata Sports Club's Hot Seat, listens to Ottawa Senators centre and sniper Mike Fisher as he answers a question on Friday, Feb. 23 during the Hot Seat. Fellow teammate and centremen Antoine Vermette was the other guest of honour at the event. The Hotseat takes place every Friday and involves sports figures answering questions from those in attendance.

EMC photo by SABINE GIBBINS

Light rail reaches end of the line

By THERESA FRITZ

North-south light rail transit has reached the end of the line in Ottawa.

While city councillors killed the \$950 million plan in December, some members of council wanted to see the proposed 30-kilometre service from Barrhaven to the University of Ottawa reinstated.

The rationale of those who wanted to resurrect the plan was that it would cost too much to cancel the contract, which was defeated by a slim 13-11 margin.

The project, which came to fruition during the term of the previous city council, has not enjoyed an easy ride since the city council election last November.

On Dec. 6, 2006 council voted, by a slim one-vote margin, to build the north-south section from Barrhaven north to the largely undeveloped LeBreton Flats area, just west of downtown.

The very next day (Dec. 7) a motion to reconsider the entire project, put forward by Ward 9

Knoxvale-Merivale councillor Gord Hunter, failed to gain traction. Only half a dozen councillors supported the idea of re-thinking the north-south connection.

However, eight days later another vote derailed the project. In between, the scaled down approach of building a line from Barrhaven to LeBreton Flats drew fire from virtually every direction.

During last Friday's meeting, councillors who wanted to revive the light rail proposal barely got out of the gate with their motion.

O'Brien said that in-camera discussions with the city's lawyers gave him the confidence to rule the motion to resurrect was out of order.

Despite letters threatening to sue the city sent by Siemens-PCL Dufferin, the consortium selected to build the north-south line, O'Brien feels estimates of hundreds of millions of dollars in damages are overstated.

All four west Ottawa councillors were against reviving light rail.

For her part, Feltmate says she is looking to hear

what the mayor's task force on transportation has to report back to council.

"We do need to come up with a transportation plan," she tells the EMC. "People want something that is fast and reliable."

She adds she is looking forward to working with all of council to come up with a new plan that will benefit Kanata residents.

Echoing her sentiment was Ward 5 West Carleton-March councillor Eli El-Chantiry.

"Council and the city are having the mayor's task force do the review and come up with a new vision," he says. "All options are still open. For any options we put on the table, we have to re-apply for funding (provincial/federal)."

El-Chantiry admits he is somewhat torn by the issue of light rail.

"In my heart, I believe the city needs a better transit system than we have," he says, adding that his constituents made it pretty clear during the election campaign they did not support light rail.

(With files from Jeff Maguire)

Work on old schoolhouse recognized

By SABINE GIBBINS

Staff Writer

A little bit of Kanata's past was recognized by the City of Ottawa last month.

The Kanata Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery on March Road has been recognized by the city with an Ottawa Architectural Conservation Award for 2006/2007.

The former one-room schoolhouse-turned-plastic-surgery-clinic was the recipient of the Award of Excellence in the Adaptive Use Category of the Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards.

Dr. James Lacey of the Kanata Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery was the driving force behind the effort to turn the schoolhouse into medical offices while maintaining the historic integrity of the building.

On Dec. 14, 2006, city council approved 895 March Road, "March School House #2" as the recipient of the award. This project involved the conversion of a former schoolhouse into medical offices.

The city of Ottawa's website states the reason behind the medical clinic receiving the award.

"A sympathetically designed board and batten addition at the rear of the building provides a new main entrance and reception area. The interior offices feature the exposed masonry walls of the former classroom and other original building elements such as wainscoting and a blackboard. The increased structural requirements of the second floor operating room and offices were cleverly incorporated into the building design without compromising its heritage character."

Receiving certificates are:



The Kanata Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery on March Road was honoured recently.

- Dr. James Lacey
- Ralph Vandenberg, Architect Inc.
- Malcolm Wildeboer, Architect Inc.
- Roy Nandram, RND Construction Ltd.

The annual Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards recognize excellence in the preservation of the city's architectural heritage.

Submissions were received in the following categories: Restoration (returning a heritage resource to its original form, material and integrity); Adaptive Use (modification of a heritage resource to contemporary functional standards while retaining its heritage character); and Infill (an addition to a historic building, or all-new construction within a historic context).

Bronze plaques are mounted on Award of Excellence award-winning projects, and major contributors to each project receive framed certificates. Certificates of Merit are also presented to projects and contributors deserving recognition in the three categories.

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