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@stephenblais 😝 🕸 🕲







# **Driéans Star**

March 6, 2025 • Volume 39, No. 21

Next edition March 20



# stephenblais.con

Stephen Blais addresses his supporters on election night after being re-elected with 52 per cent of the vote in Orléans. SHERWIN PHOTO

# Blais re-relected on bittersweet night for Liberals

By Fred Sherwin The Orléans Star

The recent provincial election turned out to be bittersweet for Orléans MPP-elect Stephen Blais and local Liberal supporters. Although Blais managed to easily retain his seat by more than 10,000 votes and the Liberal Party regained official status for the first time since the 2018 election, both victories were overshadowed by the fact that Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie failed to win in Mississauga, once again throwing the party's leadership into question despite her election night vow to stay on.

As for Blais, he has never been in a stronger position. The 30,482 votes he received is the most votes ever received by a candidate of any party in the riding previoulsy, and his margin of victory of 10,614 votes, is second only to his predecessor Marie-France Lalonde who won by

11,836 votes in the 2014 General Election.

Progressive Conservative hopeful Stéphan Plourde finished a distant second to Blais with 19.868 votes, NDP candidate Matthew Sévigny received 3,371 votes. The Green Party's Michelle Petersen got 1,398 votes, while the rest were split between New Blue candidate Patricia Hooper (641 votes), Libertarian Ken Lewis (233 votes) and independent candidates Arabella Vida (138 votes) and Burthomley Douzable (130 votes).

A total of 56,123 people cast a ballot in this year's provincial election, or 47.7 per cent of the total eligible voters in Orléans, which was slightly higher than the 46.9 per cent who voted in the 2022 election.

Now that he's been re-elected with a solid majority, Blais says he plans to continue to fight

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





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# Blais wins re-relection by more than 10K votes

Continued from page 1

to have the province upload responsibility for Hwy. 174 without any strings attached.

During his victory speech, Blais took a direct shot at his Conservative opponent for falsely claiming he wanted to turn Hwy. 174 into a toll road.

"They ran a campaign of lies. A campaign of misdirection and of falsity," said Blais. "Orléans residents chose honesty. They chose integrity and they showed that Trump style politics does not belong in Ontario. It certainly doesn't belong in Orléans and the voters said so with a clear voice tonight."

The three-term MPP went on to address his priorities in the weeks and months ahead.

"We need doctors here in Orleans and we're going to fight tooth and nail to make sure that happens," said Blais. "We're going to make sure we get the new schools built for our growing community. We're going to make sure those schools have the best teachers and educational assistants and the resources necessary for our kids. And we're

going to try to make sure that he spends our tax dollars responsibly."

Blais was among four Liberal MPPs who were re-elected in the National Capital region. The others were John Fraser in Ottawa South, Lucie Collard in Vanier and Karen McCrimmon in Kanata South.

Elsewhere, Tyler Watt managed to switch Nepean from Conservative blue to Liberal red for the first time since 1998. The riding was previously held by John Baird and Lisa McLeod who decided not to run after representing the riding for six consecutive terms.

Ottawa Centre remained NDP with the election of former city councillor Catherine McKenney, who will replaces the outgoing Joel Harden in the provincial legislature, and NDP MPP Chandra Pasma was reelected in Ottawa West - Nepean.

Although the Liberals managed to pick up five seats in the legislature, they still fell well short of the NDP in the battle to become the Official Opposition, a position they haven't held since 2018. The NDP captured 27 seats, 13 more than the Liberals.



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by Cogir

# East end well represented at Global Alliance Awards

By Fred Sherwin The Orléans Star

The Global Community Alliance held it's 13th annual youth achievement award gala on Saturday, Feb. 3 in recognition of Black History Month.

A grand total of 14 awards were handed out at this year's gala to a group of deserving young people for making a difference in their diverse communities and for being outstanding role models to their peers.

Eight of the recipients were from the east end – Victoria Nnadiekwe from St. Peter High School, Dylan Webster from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School, Serena "Sage" Satchiassa and Sabine Mustafa from St. Matthew High School, Esma Muhammed from Colonel By Secondary School, Sarah Linn and Bellange "Bella" Romain Medina from Lester B. Pearson High School and Mehreen Hossain from Cairine Wilson Secondary School.

Victoria Nnadiekwe is a Grade 12 student who is committed to fostering well-being and community service within her school's community. As co-president of St. Peter High School's Black Students Association, Victoria facilitated both the Grade 11 and Grade 12 Black Student Forum in 2024. She is also a member of the St. Peter Patriots, a peer leadership group.

Dylan Webster is a Grade 12 student at Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School where he has lead several initiatives for the 2SLBTGQIA+ community and advocated for safer, cleaner and more inclusive gender neutral washrooms. Outside of school, he's helped raise funds for the Ottawa Rainbow Refugee organization.

Serena "Sage" Satchiassa is a Grade 12 student at St. Matthew High School, where she has been involved with a number of student organizations including the Black Students Association and student council. She has also emceed a number of events including the Remembrance Day assembly and the Christmas Variety Show.

Mahreen Hossain is a Grade 12 student at St. Matthew High School where she is president of the RISE Club and has spearheaded initiatives such Hallowe'en for Hunger and the school's Diversity Fair.

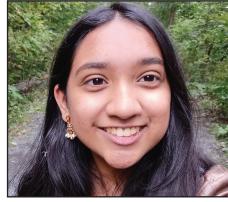
As a student leader with the Link Club, Mahreen organized and led a workshop for Grade 8 students on teamwork and conflict resolution.



Victoria Nnadiekwe

Esma Mohammed is a student at Colonel By Secondary School and a proud member of the Uyghur community. She has organized protests, events and educational campaigns to help raise awareness of the plight the Uyghur community in China.

The Global Community Alliance youth achievement awards are organized by former St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School teacher Moses Pratt and his wife Kelly.



**Mahreen Hossain** 



Serena Satchiassa







# The Trump effect

It's been exactly two months since Justin Trudeau announced his intention to step down as Liberal leader and turn over the job of Prime Minister once the party had chosen a successor. At the time, support for the Trudeau-led Liberals had sunk to just 20.1 per cent, according to Ipsos Canada polling, which was the lowest it had been since the last election in September 2021.

At the same time, support for the federal Conservative Party had soared to 44.2 per cent and there was a 98 per cent probability that they would not only win a general election, but form a majority government as well. The same poll predicted the Liberals could be reduced to as few as 29 seats and end up in third place behind the NDP.

But that was before Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States of America. It was also a month before Trump reiterated his intention to impose sweeping tariffs against Canada and Mexico.

Trudeau's announcement also triggered a shift in Canadian voter sentiment in favour of the Liberals that has yet to slow down.

Prior to Trudeau's decision, he was a giant millstone around the neck of the Liberal Party and the best weapon the Conservatives had in the run up to a potential election. But while his leaving meant that the Liberals might avoid the same fate the Conservatives suffered in the 1993 federal election when they were reduced to just two seats, it didn't have people running to place a bet that they might somehow stay in power.

It wasn't until Donald Trump's continued barbs at making the Canada the 51st state, that the Liberals' fortunes started to make an about face to the point where they now only trail the Conservatives in the polls by nine percentage points. In six weeks, Conservative support has dropped from 44.5 per cent to 40.2 per cent after being on a steady increase since mid-November. In the meantime, public support for the Liberal Party has grown from 20.1 per cent to 30.8 per cent.

And the Conservatives haven't made it any easier on themselves by reluctantly distancing themselves from Trump and his administration. That reluctance has been seen by many Canadians as weakness.

As far as the average man or woman on the street is concerned, Donald Trump is a republican and republicans are conservatives.

It took until Canada Flag Day that Pierre Poilievre finally stood up in front of the national media and said that Canada would never become the 51st state. Whether or not his words will resonate with voters has yet to be seen. One thing is for sure, Donald Trump isn't making things any easier for the Conservatives.

It's gotten to the point that whenever the election is finally called Pierre Poilievre will be running against five opponents – the next Liberal leader (whoever that is), NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, Green Party leader Elizabeth May and Donald J. Trump.

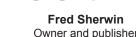
– Fred Sherwin

## Orléans Star

**Jody Maffett** 

Editor

The Orléans Star



Jean-Marc Pacelli Editor

The Orléans Star is a bi-weekly publication distributed to over 40,000 residences in Blackburn Hamlet, Orléans and Navan. The newspaper is locally owned and operated by Sherwin Publishing Inc., 745 Farmbrook Cres., Orléans, ON. Inquiries and delivery issues should be sent to info@orleansstar.ca.



DIANE, I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU

# Local events a window to our amazingly diverse community

Commons

Corner

**Marie-France Lalonde** 

I had the opportunity to meet with several of our Black community leaders at activities and events held across our city throughout the month of February.

I want to acknowledge local residents Yomi Pratt and Najat Ghannou for their leadership in organizing

respectively the Global Community Alliance Gala held on Feb. 22, and the closing reception of Black History Month on Feb. 28, where we recognized the contributions of many individuals in our community and country.

What a privilege it was to join the 632 Phoenix Air cadet Squadron Commanding Officer's parade at École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges on Feb 12. I want to thank Captain Tanya Brooks and Julie Brennan for welcoming me and all the cadets for your community engagement.

I would also like to highlight the important upcoming holidays and celebrations that are slated to take place in our community. As of Feb. 28 at sundown, Muslims have entered Ramadan, a period of fasting, contemplation, and reflection. I wish our Muslim community Ramadan Mubarak!

In the month of March, we are also celebrating the 4th Irish Heritage Month in Canada. Let's recognize the achievements and contributions of Canadians of Irish descent who have contributed to building the prosperous country we know today.

I want to wish every woman a happy International Women's Day, which we celebrate every year on March 8. Thank you for thriving and being leaders and models for our younger generation. Moreover, it is an honour to be able to recognize this year, 41

> amazing women and girls in our community, thanks to all of you who help us nominate them.

> In conclusion, I would like to share some thoughts about the upcoming tariff threats by the United States of America, especially as we celebrated our Canadian Flag

on Feb. 15. Since it was first raised in 1965, the Canadian flag has become an enduring symbol of our nation's unity and pride.

Now more than ever, the Canadian flag serves as a symbol of the solidarity that binds us together, no matter the external pressures we may face. Though challenges like a trade war may test us, the core values that make Canada exceptional - peace, order, and good government - will continue to guide us.

As a nation, we have long prided ourselves on values like fairness, respect, and cooperation, and I know our government will never back down as we are in this together and I am committed to, just like all of you to stand up for Canada.

\*\*La version française est maintenant disponible sur ma page Facebook\*\*



Owner and publisher fsherwin@orleansstar.ca

#### It's time to form a new world order that doesn't include the U.S.

For the past four months, I've purposely tried to avoid the news or any mention at all about the outcome of the U.S. election, or that orange-haired lunatic who was elected president for a second time.

And I'm not so much depressed over the fact that he was elected as I am over the fact that so many Americans voted for him. Never in my life did I think that so many people could be so utterly stupid, or masochistic, or both. But they are and now they are reaping the whirlwind that is the second Trump presidency.

Most of us anti-Trumpers had a pretty good idea of what a second presidency would look like. That nightmare has become a reality, and with each passing day it just keeps getting worse and worse. And the American public continues to sit on their hands and do nothing. Where are the massive protest against sweeping cuts to government departments and government services? Where are the howls of opposition to Elon Musk using his newfound position as Trump's right-hand man to make himself even richer?

Up until now, I have managed to avoid the topic. Of course, it didn't hurt that I spent most of January in Thailand where I never heard the name Trump mentioned once.

I could even avoid Trump's musings about



Canada becoming the 51st state, because the thought of it ever happening is totally ludicrous. But I draw the line at Trump's treatment of Ukraine and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

A few things should now be crystal clear to anyone with half a brain. First and foremost, Trump sees himself as a king more so than president and he's ruling as such with little to no opposition from the Senate, Congress or the American public.

Second, he's a fan of Vladimir Putin. And if not a fan of the man himself, he is jealous of Putin's ability to rule with absolute impunity.

He definitely supports Russia in their war against Ukraine to the point that he blames the conflict on Ukraine and not Russia, saying that the Ukrainians started the war, which is a total and complete fabrication.

And to back up his position, he ordered his U.N. ambassador to vote against a resolution

condemning the Russian invasion. It was the first time since the Second World War that the United States has officially supported Russian aggression in the U.N.

Trump has also pulled the U.S. out of the World Health Organization and the Paris Agreement on climate control and he's threatening to pull the United States out of NATO, or at least cut their financial support of the organization.

And that's aside from his threatened trade tariffs, which might already been in place by the time this column appears in print.

So far, Canadians have responded with righteous indignation and a call to boycott American products and a refusal to travel to the United States so long as Trump is president.

That's a good start, but instead of buying rye rather than bourbon, or a bottle of Canadian wine instead of Californian, do something that will really impact their economy, divest yourself of your American stock, or ask your union to sell off their American holdings in favour of Canadian businesses or financial institutions. If you have RRSPs, chances are a significant portion of them are American.

As we head into tax season and Canadians are thinking of increasing their RRSPs, they should stick to domestic products.

And as far as the bigger global picture is concerned, maybe the time has come for the rest of the world to isolate the United States instead of the United States isolating everyone else.

Canada should be looking at forming closer economic ties with Europe, Asia and South America and weening itself off of the American teat.

On a more personal note, this would be the perfect time for governments at all levels to stop spending money on American social media platforms like X, Instagram and Facebook and go back to spending their advertising dollars on local media.

This week's *L'Orléanais* contains the first Government of Canada ad either paper has received since the pandemic when we received a total of just three ads over the course of two years. Thankfully, the province has started advertising in local media again, but the feds have not, choosing instead to send Canadian tax dollars south of the border.

Spending advertising dollars in Canada increases employment, grows the economy and ensures local media outlets will not only survive but thrive.

We need to take this time in our history to not only come up with a plan B, but institute one before it's too late.





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# **Councillor calls on City to** end its use of Elon Musk's X

Laura

**Dudas** 

Orléans West-Innes Ward 2

This week, I am bringing a motion to Finance and Corporate Services Committee asking that the City of Ottawa, and its

associated departments, create a plan to suspend all its X-Holdings and migrate to alternative social media platforms.

This motion is coming as we see increasingly alarming rhetoric coming

from the United States and X-Holdings owner Elon Musk in particular.

As we face the threat of Trump tariffs, and a souring of our relationship with the US, it is time for our city to reconsider its use of X. This discussion has been a long time coming, as questions about the validity of information found on X, how users' data is collected and disseminated, and the overall negativity of the platform, has been percolating since X-Holdings Corp. assumed ownership of Twitter in 2023.

As a city, we hold ourselves to standards of transparency, impartiality, respect and accountability. We must do the same for the platforms through which we engage with residents, and it has become clear that X and X-Corp do not share the same values.

Now is the time to decide whether the City should support X by maintaining an

> active account or cut ties to a platform that has been mired in controversy and misinformation.

> One question that has been raised is "if not X, whatalternativeplatformis there?" A few options have

been discussed so far, examples being Bluesky and Mastodon. However, the city does maintain a presence on Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and has a large subscription base through its e-newsletters.

I view this motion as an opportunity to challenge city staff to seek out a closer-tohome solution. Would it not be wonderful for our local technology sector, or one of our highly skilled residents, to come up with a "Made in Ottawa" solution? While it may sound far fetched now, this situation may prompt innovation that addresses the need.

At the very least, my hope is that this motion will see the City of Ottawa suspend its X accounts and choose platforms that reflect our city's values.

# Staying active and well rested is important during winter

Tim

As winter stretches on in Ottawa, it can be easy to fall into the temptation of staying indoors. The cold weather, shorter days, and

the comfort of our homes make it a season when hibernation seems like the best option.

stay on track and finish this season strong.

winter weather, even for a short time, gives me the energy I need to get through the day.

Sleep is just as important for maintaining

our health, and winter can sometimes make it difficult to stick to a consistent sleep routine. But getting at least seven hours of sleep a night can

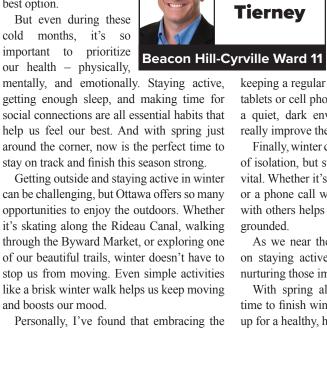
improve focus and energy levels. I've found that keeping a regular bedtime, avoiding the us of tablets or cell phones before bed and creating a quiet, dark environment to sleep in, can

Finally, winter can sometimes bring feelings of isolation, but staying socially connected is vital. Whether it's a quick coffee with a friend or a phone call with family, staying in touch with others helps lift our spirits and keeps us

really improve the quality of rest.

As we near the end of winter, let's focus on staying active, getting enough rest, and nurturing those important relationships.

With spring almost here, it's the perfect time to finish winter strong and set ourselves up for a healthy, happy new season.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS MARCH 8

# We all can play a role to help #AccelerateAction

By Jody Maffett The Orléans Star

The theme of International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 is based on the knowledge that it will take until 2158 to reach full gender parity unless more is done to ensure women are treated equally as their male counterparts and done sooner.

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year, this day serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made towards gender equality and highlights the work that still needs to be done.

The campaign theme "Accelerate Action" emphasizes the importance achieving gender parity sooner rather than later.

Despite decades of effort, gender inequality remains deeply entrenched in many societies. In areas like economic participation, political representation, and combating gender-based violence, progress has been slow.

In recent years, events like the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected wom-

en, particularly in terms of job losses, increased unpaid caregiving burdens, and heightened domestic violence.

"Accelerate Action" pushes for the dismantling of systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality, such as unequal pay, limited access to education, and under-representation in leadership. It encourages reforms in institutions and policies, creating a sense of urgency around addressing deep-rooted biases and outdated systems.

"Accelerate Action" signals that urgent and coordinated measures are necessary to recover lost ground. The theme calls for moving from awareness to action, focusing on the need to take swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

In essence, "Accelerate Action" is a call for urgency, inclusion, and transformative change.

Significant barriers to gender equality

remain, yet with the right action and support, positive progress can be made for women everywhere.

As individuals, we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women's advancement.

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across the world deliver an array of effective strategies, resources, and activities that help #AccelerateAction in many areas.

To find out more about how you can help #AccelerateAction, visit the International Women's Day website at www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme.



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**International Women's Day belongs to** all who care about women's equality.

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# **Key ways to ACCELERATE ACTION** for gender equality

By Jody Maffett

The Orléans Star

To Accelerate Action for women's equality requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses systemic barriers, social norms, and power dynamics. Here are several key areas that can help advance gender equality quickly.

#### **Enforce legal and policy reforms**

- Enforce and strengthen laws that promote gender equality, such as equal pay, reproductive rights, and protection against gender-based violence.
- Inclusive policies are also key. Gender-responsive policies in key sectors like education, healthcare, and the workforce are critical.

#### Promote economic empowerment

- Equal pay for equal work is critical.
- Close the gender pay gap by enforcing pay equity and transparency.
- Provide access to financial resources. For example, improve women's access to financial services including loans, investments, and business development support, particularly for women entrepreneurs.

#### Increase women's leadership and representation

- Increase women's participation in politics and leadership roles by implementing quotas, mentoring programs, and support for women candidates.
- Promote gender diversity in corporate leadership by setting gender targets and creating pathways for women in executive positions.
- Support women's leadership at the community level and within grassroots organizations, amplifying their voices in local decision-making.

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Today is about celebrating the trailblazing women who have paved the way toward greater equality, and supporting those who have yet to carve their own inspiring path.

égalité et à soutenir celles qui n'ont pas encore tracé leur propre chemin. Bonne journée de la femme!

La journée d'aujourd'hui sert à

célébrer les pionnières qui ont ouvert la voie à une plus grande

Happy Women's Day!



**Orléans West-Innes** Orléans-Quest-Innes 613-580-2472 laura.dudas@ottawa.ca www.LauraDudas.ca



## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

# A tribute to all women

Since 1977, the United Nations has called on countries around the world to highlight the importance of gender equality and to fight for women's advancement.

International Women's Day is a day to honour all women who have fought for recognition of their rights to education, participation in political life, access to the workforce, pay equity and work-family balance. It is a day to celebrate the extra-ordinary achievements of all the women who have helped in the fight for gender equality and contributed to writing the history of women's rights.

This special day is also an opportunity for men and women to look to the future. It is a time to stop and think about ways to improve the status of women in developed and developing countries. It is an invitation to think about how to end the discrimination, inequality, abuse and violence of which they are still victims in many places around the world, including here at home.

March 8 is the perfect time to celebrate women, irrespective of their nationality, religion, language, economic status or political convictions.





**GRANDMAITRE VIRGO EVANS** 

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as we celebrate women's achievements.

March 8 is International Women's Day.

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#### International Women's Day is March 8

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# Perfect game earns Homan 5th Scotties title

By Fred Sherwin The Orléans Star

Orléans native Rachel Homan played perhaps the best game of her life in Thunder Bay Sunday night to win her fifth Canadian Woman's Curling Championship, putting her one win behind curling legends Colleen Jones and Jennifer Jones for the most Scotties titles all-time.

According to the stats kept by Curling Canada, Homan recorded the first perfect game ever played by a skip in the championship final, beating the previous mark of 99 per cent set by Colleen Jones in 2002.

In winning this year's event, Homan managed to avenge back-to-back losses to her opposing skip, Kerri Einarson from Manitoba, who won both of their previous championship match-ups in 2020 and 2021.

Homan went into Sunday's final as the prohibitive favourite along with third Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew and lead Sarah Wilkes. Together, they won all eight of their round robin games and both of their playoff games including an 8-5 win over the Einarson foursome in the 1 vs 2 Page playoff game.

The team also boasted a 46-3 record so far this season with three Grand Slam of

Curling titles heading into the Scotties. But of their three losses, two were against Team Einarson, setting up the highly anticipated showdown in Sunday's final.

Most prognosticators predicted that the eventual winner would be the skip who managed to make the fewest mistakes.

The game started off with Homan blanking the first end with last rock. She then was forced to settle for a single point in the second end.

In the third, it was Einarson's turn to blank the end with her last shot, but then just as she had done to Homan, Einarson was forced to settle for a single point in the fourth when Homan threw back-to back doubles takeouts. Homan was then forced to settle for a single point in the fifth end, but after Einarson blanked the sixth, Homan managed to steal a point in the seventh when Einarson's attempted draw to the four foot was a touch heavy.

The key turning point of the game came in the ninth end, when Einarson made her second misthrow of the contest, coming up light on her last shot against two Homan counters to give the defending champions a seemingly insurmountable 5-1 lead.

A third misthrow in the ninth would



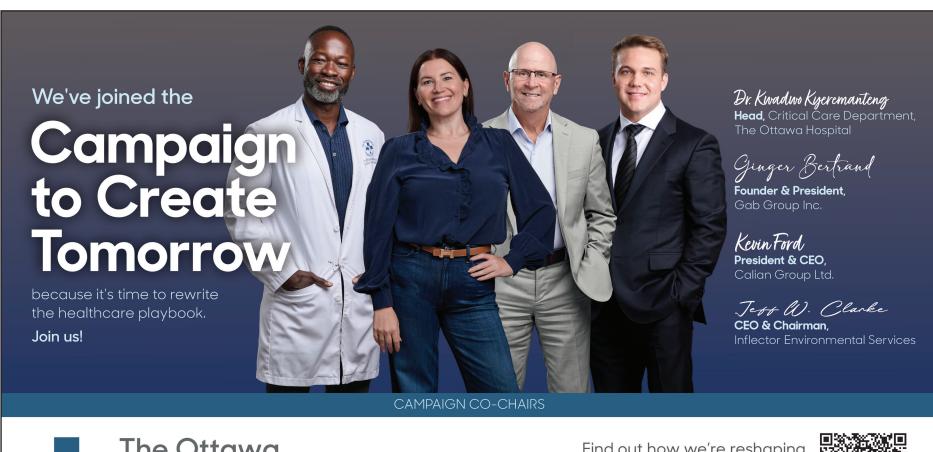
Left to right, skip Rachel Homan, third Tracy Fleury, alternate Rachelle Brown, third Emma Miskew, lead Sarah Wilkes and coach Jennifer Jones. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

provide Homan with yet another stolen point and that was all she wrote as Einarson conceded defeat without playing the final end.

The win extended Team Homan's winning streak at the Scotties to a record-tying 22-0 over the past two years.

The team will now represent Canada at the World Championships in Korea from March 15-23 where they will attempt to defend their crown.

"I can't wait to represent Canada, this is an unbelievable feeling," Homan said after curling an unbelievable game.





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## **COMMUNITY BILLBOARD**

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

OYSTER NIGHT at the Orléans Brewing Co., 4380 Innes Rd. from 6 to 10 p.m. Indulge in the finest oysters and unwind with a drink in hand. We also offer wine and ciders for the non beer lovers!

#### THE STRAY DOG BREWING

COMPANY – Wednesdays are Trivia Night at the Stray Dog Brewing Company from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are a must to secure your spot. Send your team name and number of people participating to info@ straydogbrewing.ca.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 13 ORLÉANS BREWING CO.

– Every Thursday evening is DJ Night at the Orléans Brewing Co. featuring local DJs from 7-10 p.m. The Orléans Brewing Co. is located at 4380 Innes Rd.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 15 ST. PRACTICE DAY PARTY

featuring the Wooden Nickels starting at 8 p.m. at the Stray Dog Brewing Company, 501 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park. For more information, visit straydogbrewing.ca.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

THE STRAY DOG BREWING COMPANY presents an afternoon with legendary and internationally known broadcaster, interviewer, writer, consultant, blogger and speaker Alan Cross, better know as the host of the Ongoing History of New Music, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets \$35 available at straydogbrewing.ca.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

at the Royal Oak Orléans, 1981 St. Joseph Blvd. corner of Jeanne d'Arc Blvd. LIVE music starting from 11 a.m. For more info, visit facebook.com/ RoyalOakPubsOrleans.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 18

JIMMY RANKIN will be performing at the Shenkman Arts Centre in the spirit of a Cape Breton kitchen party with special guests J.P. Cormier and Catherine MacLellan. Tickets \$50 available by visiting shenkmanarts.ca/en/jimmy-rankin.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

ARTISANS present their Spring in Bloom Craft Show featuring craftsmen and artisans from across Eastern Ontario at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School, 1515 Tenth Line Rd. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**



Jean Pierre (JP) Giroux, 76
Passed away on February 27, 2025

Robert Roy Larsen, 87
Passed away on February 19, 2025

Mario Imbeault, 56
Passed away on February 15, 2025



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