



# THE Orléans Star

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EST. 1996

May 14, 2026 • Volume 40, No. 1

Next edition May 28



Students at St. Peter High School delivered three bus loads of food items and over \$10,000 in cash donations to the Orléans Cumberland Food Bank. FILE PHOTO

## St. Peter HS students answer the call yet again

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Over the years, generations of high school students in Orléans have answered the call time and again to raise money for a variety of projects. None more so than the students at St. Peter High School in Fallingbrook who have raised tens of thousands of dollars and collected thousands of food items for the Orléans-Cumberland Food Bank as part of the school's annual Canley Cup food drive.

Held every spring in late April and early May, the food drive has been an integral part of the St. Peter High School community for more than 25 years. It's a time when the entire student body joins forces to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the food bank.

This year, the students managed to collect

over 20,000 food items and more than \$10,000. It's the most items and dollars raised since the start of the COVID pandemic.

Orléans Cumberland Community Resource Centre project manager Julie Perkins says the donations will help the OCCRC provide emergency food supplies to residents who need them over the summer and into the fall.

"It's the second biggest food drive of the year after the Ottawa Firefighters' annual Christmas food drive," says Perkins. "It allows us to feed families for at least the next three to four months," says Perkins. "We're fortunate to have such a generous community and students who know the value of taking care of each other and helping each other out."

So far this year, the food bank has provided emergency food assistance to an average of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



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# St. Peter food drive a godsend for local food bank

Continued from page 1

1,500 individuals a month, the majority of whom are children.

It's a common misconception that people can drop by the food bank as many times as the want. The reality is that individuals and families are only entitled to three days of emergency food supplies a month. The amount they can receive is based on the size of the family.

Most people use the food bank as a last resort when they have no money left to put food on the table after paying their bills.

According to Perkins, demand has continued to rise month after month.

"Each month is a new record," says Perkins, who believes the increase in demand is a reflection of the current state of the economy and the rising cost of groceries.

The state of the economy and the rising cost of groceries is also why individual donations are down, which is why the Canley Cup food drive is so vitally important to the food bank, but no one suspected that this year's effort would be so successful, including St. Peter teachers Shena Hyde who has been co-ordinating the food drive for the past four years.

"I'm totally blown away by the generosity of our community the efforts of our students," says Hyde. "I did not expect those final numbers, especially in the climate we're in. I'm shocked. I'm floored."

The Canley Cup food drive has developed into a friendly competition between classes to see which class can collect the most food items and raise the most money.

This year's winning class was Rachel Reigber's Grade 10 class, which collected over \$5,000 in cash and food.

They were followed closely by four other classes including Stephane Gagne's Grade 8 class which collected over \$3,500 in cash and food, and Leigh Anne Napiorkowski's special education class which raised over \$2,300 mostly through the sale of pre-made cookies.

Last but by no means least, Abe Boyo's Grade 8 class collected over \$2,500 in cash and food and Eric Boisvert's Grade 9 class collected over \$2,000 in cash and food.

Three busloads of food items were delivered to the food bank by schoolbus on May 7. In the days and weeks ahead the food will be sorted and stored by nearly 100 food bank volunteers.



Students in Leigh Anne Napiorkowski's special education class proudly hold up the amount they collected in cash and food during the recent Canley Cup food drive. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Meanwhile, the students at St. Peter's were rewarded for their efforts with a carnival and BBQ on May 7.

If you or someone you know is struggling financially and having a difficult time making it through the month, you can call the food bank at 613-830-5152.

The food bank is open by appointment only on Mondays from 1:15 p.m. to 4:30

p.m., Tuesdays from 1:15 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 9:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. The food bank is closed on Wednesdays.

Monetary donations are always welcome and can be made anytime by visiting the Orléans Cumberland Resource Centre web-site at [croc.ca](http://croc.ca) and clicking on the donate button at the top of the page.



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# Remembering Convent Glen's air disaster 70 years later

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

On a spring evening in 1956, as 11 Sisters of the Villa St. Louis rest and convalescent home in Convent Glen were getting ready for bed, a munitions-laden CF-100 Mark V interceptor jet crashed into the building and exploded in a ball of fire.

All 11 nuns were killed instantly as was the aircraft's two crew members, Flying Officer William Schmidt (age 25) and navigator FO Kenneth Thomas (age 20), Chaplain Richard Ward, and a lay-woman cook. Twenty-five other people, mostly nuns, managed to escape the convent with a variety of non-life threatening injuries.

It was the night of May 15, 1956, and the Villa St. Louis sat on the same location at the end of Hiawatha Street as the present-day Résidence St-Louis.

The home was run by the Sœurs Grises de la Croix, an organization founded by Élisabeth Bruyère in 1845.

That evening, radar operators at CFB Uplands picked up an unidentified transport plane on their screens. When the aircraft didn't respond to their attempts to communicate, two CF-100 jets were dispatched to identify and intercept the mystery aircraft.

After the aircraft was identified as a RCAF North Star cargo airplane, travelling from

Resolute Bay in the Arctic to St. Hubert, near Montréal, one of the jets returned safely to the base. The other jet indicated that it would continue flying to burn off some fuel. That was the last communication ever sent from the aircraft.

The pilot and the navigator of the second plane gave no indication they were in trouble before the crash and there was no attempt to eject from the plane. Why they crashed remains a mystery to this day.

The plane fell out of the sky at 10:56 p.m. and plunged into the Chapel at a speed approximating 700 mph.

In an instant, the three-storey, brick building was shattered by a thunderous explosion that sent debris and flames hundreds of feet into the air. Eyewitnesses said the jet had plummeted to the ground in an almost vertical dive, the airplane spinning in tight circles, its wing lights flashing in the dark.

The fact that more people didn't die that night was a result of pure happenstance. There should have been more people staying at the 70-room rest and convalescent home built just two years earlier for \$1 million.

A group of sixteen student nurses who were about to start a two-week vacation at Villa St-Louis had delayed their arrival to see a play in downtown Ottawa that same day.

The blast could be heard fifteen miles



Above, a CF-100 jet fighter similar to the one that crashed into the Villa St. Joseph in 1956. Left, a memorial commemorating the 15 people who died in the crash sits on the site today. FILE PHOTOS

away. A red glow in the sky was seen in distant Richmond and Manotick.

The Villa's neighbours in the nearby residential area known as Hiawatha Park were thrown from their beds by the force of the blast that also shattered 24 windows in St-Joseph's School a mile and a half away.

Within five minutes, the roof of the building collapsed. Two hours later, there was virtually nothing left save for a 40-foot chimney and steel girders twisted in the white heat of the blaze.

A new building was built up on the site by the Grey Nuns in 1965 and was turned into a



hospice the following year.

In 2016, a memorial was dedicated on the site during a ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the crash. There is no official ceremony planned to mark the 70th anniversary.

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# Alto

Alto – it’s the name given to the planned high speed rail line between Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. Ironically, alto means “stop” in Spanish, which is what they should do to this obscenely expensive and unnecessary project.

I’m still not sure why they are doing it, other than the fact that high-speed rail between Montreal and Toronto has been a pipe dream of public transportation enthusiasts for decades.

The projected price tag for the project is somewhere between \$30 billion and \$90 billion, although the latter figure is more likely than the former, and that’s without any cost overruns which there most likely will be. It’s also just the capital cost. It will cost tens of millions of dollars more a year to run the high speed rail service and maintain it.

And who will pay for it, you ask? Every tax-paying citizen in this country from Come-by-Chance, Newfoundland to Tofino, British Columbia, and every city, village and town in between.

Canadians will be subsidizing Quebec and Ontario’s high-speed rail line until the day they die. In fact, they already are. They’re paying for the very consultants who are conducting the public consultation process and the field studies that will help establish a potential corridor. Unfortunately, scant few of them will ever get to use it.

In fact, scant few people in Ontario and Quebec will ever use it, including most of the people reading this editorial. That’s because they either won’t have an occasion to ride it or won’t be able to afford it even if they wanted to.

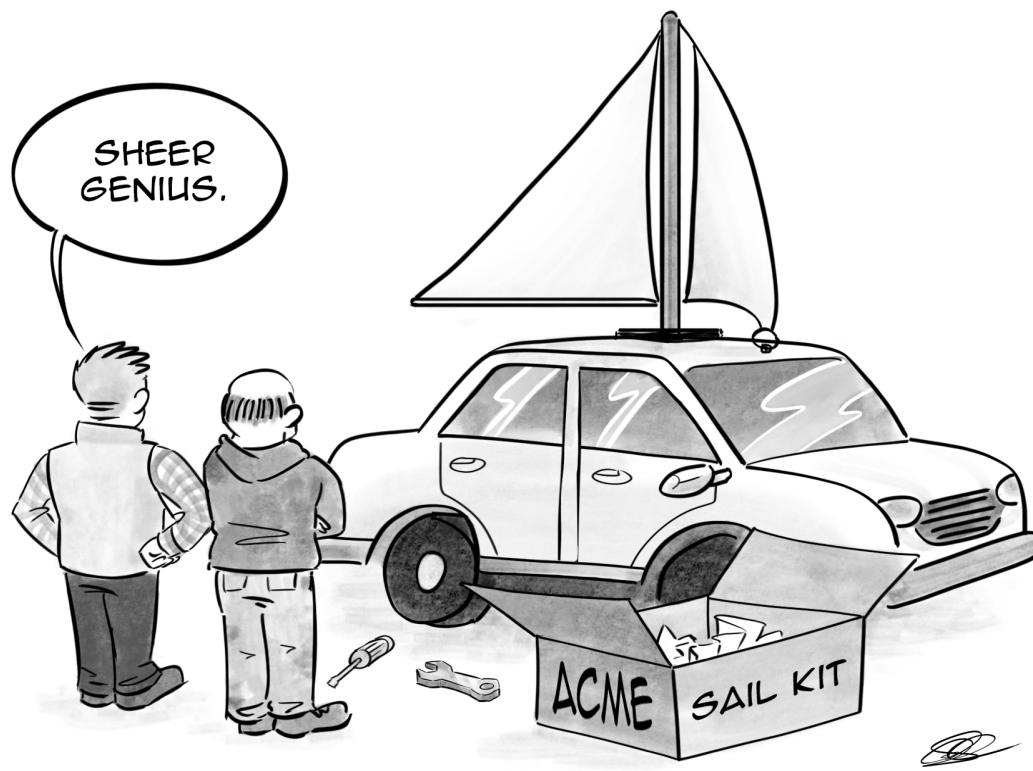
It’s a whole lot of money being spent to benefit a very few. The Alto website claims it will shift “millions of trips off roads and out of airports”. Poppycock! According to VIA’s own numbers, 4.4 million people rode the train in 2024 across the entire system. The same number of people rode the train in 2025, which means there was zero growth in ridership. And now we’re supposed to think that by cutting travel time in half to Montréal and Toronto, millions of more people will jump on a high-speed train. It seems to me that people need a reason to go to Montréal and Toronto in the first place before that happens.

The other reason why Canadians should be against the high speed rail is more practical. It’s estimated that when it’s built, it will remove more than 10,000 hectares of arable farmland currently being used to produce the food we eat. And that doesn’t take into account the social and economic impact the high-speed rail corridor will have on hundreds of family farms whose land will have to be expropriated in order to make way for a 300-km/h train.

Instead of wasting our time and money on what amounts to the biggest white elephant this country might ever produce, how about staying the course on the VIA Action 2030 Strategic Plan, and in the medium to long term continue to replace diesel locomotives with diesel/electric hybrids. Now that would be money well spent.

– Fred Sherwin

## DRASTIC TIMES DESERVE DRASTIC MEASURES



## Federal government announces several new economic initiatives

This spring has brought a steady stream of announcements offering Canadians a mix of renewal, economic caution and practical support as communities prepare for the busy summer season ahead.

The federal government tabled the Spring Economic Update on April 28, a clear update on the strength of Canada’s economy, giving Canadians confidence in our plan. It delivers targeted relief to make life more affordable, support workers and accelerate the construction of homes and major infrastructure. It also strengthens Canada’s competitiveness and economic growth while investing in strong, safe communities across the country. I encourage you to learn more at [budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026](https://budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026).

Economic concerns do remain at the forefront. In response to continuing U.S. tariffs affecting Canadian industries, the federal government recently announced a \$1.5 billion support package aimed at protecting jobs and strengthening economic resilience. I was pleased to attend the announcement alongside ministerial colleagues as details were unveiled for a new \$1 billion Business Development Bank of Canada program to assist manufacturers and exporters using steel, aluminum and copper in their production.

An additional \$500 million will also be delivered through the Regional Tariff Response Initiative to help small and medium-sized businesses diversify markets

and improve competitiveness during uncertain global conditions. These measures will help local companies adapt, grow and continue to thrive despite ongoing international trade pressures.

Moreover, Canadians received news of additional financial relief through the new Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit. Eligible recipients will receive a one-time GST/HST credit top-up on June 5, ahead of the official July launch of the enhanced Canada Groceries and Essentials

Benefit, which is expected to support more than 23,000 individuals in Orléans through quarterly payments increasing by 25% over the next five years. Together, these announcements reflect a country balancing economic uncertainty with optimism, and continued investment in the everyday lives of Canadians.

I welcomed the nomination of Ms. Louise Arbour as Canada’s 31st Governor General since Confederation. As a world-renowned legal scholar, judge and advocate for human rights, Ms. Arbour has spent more than five decades serving Canadians and the international community.

To all the mothers and mother figures in Orléans, I hope you enjoyed a beautiful Mother’s Day, filled with love and cherished moments with your families and friends

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



### Commons Corner

Marie-France Lalonde

**THE Orléans Star**

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L’Orléanais

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](mailto:info@orleansstar.ca).

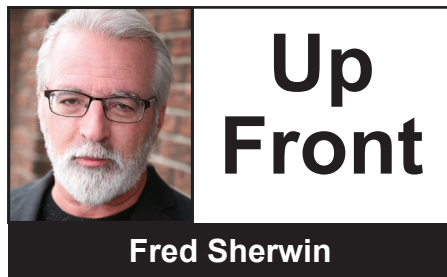
# Celebrating 40 years of service to the community

As you may have noticed on this week's masthead, this is the first edition of the 40th volume of *The Orléans Star*. That's right, it's our 40th birthday. And when I say "our", I mean our as in all of us, including all of our advertisers and all of you – our loyal readers because without you, this paper wouldn't exist.

It all started 40 years ago in April 1986, when the paper's founder, Larry Soulliere, decided that launching an English-language newspaper in rapidly growing English language market represented an excellent business opportunity.

The population of Orléans was rapidly expanding in the mid-80s, and with it came new home builders who wanted to advertise their latest model homes in Chapel Hill, Blackburn Hamlet and Fallingbrook. And so, on April 14, 1986, *The Star* was born.

I didn't come into the picture until October 1989, when a chance meeting with an old friend at a downtown bar turned into an opportunity to write a guest column for the paper. That first column was a tongue-in-cheek treatise on why Hallowe'en should be banned. It generated eight letters to the editor which was more letters to the editor than the paper had received since its inception.



Gord Brewerton, who was the publisher at the time, was so impressed, he told my friend James MacArthur, who was the editor, to offer me a regular spot. That was 36 and a half years ago.

Over the years, I have been a columnist and senior writer from 1989 to 1997, editor from 1997 to 1999, managing editor from 1999 to 2001, and eventually the owner.

During that time, I have had the privilege and the honour to write about the people and events that make Orléans such a wonderful community.

In those early years the paper was simply called *The Star*. It had a circulation of more than 30,000 homes and had a distribution area that covered Beacon Hill, Pineview, Blackburn Hamlet and Orléans, minus Chapel Hill South, Avalon and most of Fallingbrook, which didn't exist back then.

As homes started sprouting up in South Fallingbrook and Avalon, the paper started shifting its distribution from Beacon Hill eastward and new home builders continued to provide pages upon pages of advertising.

News coverage mostly centered around municipal politics and school board issues and the odd crime report. There was lots of minor sports coverage and feature stories about interesting people in the community.

The paper managed to survive the dawn of the World Wide Web and the Internet in the late 90s and early 2000s, the tech bust and ensuing recession in 2008, failing advertising revenue in 2016 which very nearly resulted in its demise until it was purchased by myself and turned into a biweekly, and even the COVID pandemic.

Shortly after acquiring the paper in 2016, we launched the *L'Orléanais* in January 2017, the *Orléans Star's* French-language sister paper which has allowed us to provide coverage of the community in both official languages.

Through it all, the paper has stayed true to its purpose – to provide unbiased news coverage of the community it serves; to inform, educate and, at times, entertain its readers; and to bind the community and its

residents together by telling the stories of ordinary people with incredible stories.

But that doesn't mean we don't make mistakes. Typos and misspellings are still an all too common occurrence despite our best efforts to proofread the paper before it goes to print. And we publish stories about flood waters receding way too prematurely, although those stories happen far less often than the typos. Thank goodness.

But we do try. And for the most part the *Orléans Star* remains as relevant today as it did 40 years ago. Sure it has its challenges, especially when it comes to advertising revenue, but there's enough businesses who believe in the *Orléans Star* as an advertising vehicle to keep the paper financial viable.

In that same vein, we will soon be launching an initiative that will allow readers to support the paper financially in return for a number of benefits called "Friends of the Orléans Star".

In the coming weeks we will also be publishing a 40th anniversary book that will contain the local, national and international milestones for each of the past 40 years.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to continuing to serve our readers for years to come.

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## Accelerating housing should mean delivering infrastructure faster too

As Orléans South continues to grow at a rapid pace, residents are feeling the pressure every day through congestion, longer commute times, transit challenges, missing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and a transportation network that struggles to keep up with demand.

I have worked aggressively to highlight the funding imbalance that saw the east end receive significantly less investment in new road infrastructure compared to other parts of the city. I fought hard during the Transportation Master Plan update to move critical projects in our community higher on the priority list. Those efforts helped secure major wins for Orléans South–Navan, but approving projects is only part of the challenge.

While important progress has been made, I believe we need to fundamentally change how we deliver roads, intersections, and services that support new housing. The City has been moving quickly to accelerate housing approvals and reduce barriers

to building. That work is important; but housing growth is advancing faster than the infrastructure needed to support it. That gap has real consequences.

We must fast-track how transportation projects move from planning to actual construction.

Recently, I brought forward a motion aimed at doing exactly that.



**Catherine Kitts**

Orléans South–Navan

Staff will now be reviewing how infrastructure projects move from planning to construction and identify ways to speed up delivery. This includes reducing duplication/red tape, improving procurement practices, running processes concurrently where possible, and prioritizing infrastructure that directly supports housing growth.

Ultimately, this is about building complete communities, not simply approving growth on paper. As Orléans South–Navan continues to develop, I will continue pushing for practical solutions that ensure infrastructure keeps pace with the people who call our community home.

## Community food service a true godsend for area families in need

One of the greatest barriers to addressing food insecurity is not always the lack of available help. Sometimes, the barrier is shame.

Many people in our community are struggling quietly: seniors on fixed incomes, families facing rising grocery bills, newcomers getting settled, students, workers, or neighbours who have fallen on difficult times. Food insecurity does not always look the way people expect it to look, and even when services are available, asking for help can be incredibly difficult.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Ali from Foodeliver, a local not-for-profit initiative working to support people experiencing food insecurity. I left feeling genuinely inspired.

Foodeliver is built around a simple but powerful idea: rescuing surplus food from restaurants, grocers, farmers, cafés, and other local partners, and helping get that food to people who need it in a discreet and dignified way. That approach matters.

Perfectly good food is too often thrown

away while families in our own community struggle to put meals on the table. Connecting surplus food with those who need it is practical, compassionate, and necessary.

What stood out most was not just the logistics of moving food from one place to another. It was the focus on dignity.

I talk a lot about the inherent human dignity in every person. No one should have to sacrifice

their privacy or sense of self-worth to access food. No one should be made to feel small because they are going through a difficult time.

Ali and his team understand that. They are working to remove barriers, not create new ones.

If you are a restaurant, grocer, farmer, café, or local business with food items to contribute, I encourage you to reach out to Foodeliver. Residents can also visit their website to learn more or make a monetary contribution.

Food is more than nutrition. It is security. It is comfort. It is dignity. Through this beautiful initiative, Foodeliver is helping deliver all of it.



**Matt Luloff**

Orléans East–Cumberland

# Orléans Star founder recalls newspaper's beginnings

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

(Editor's note: The following story was published in the January 19, 2017 edition of the Orléans Star as part of a three-part series on the history of the paper.)

An accomplished entrepreneur like Larry Soulliere was never one to overlook an interesting business opportunity when he saw one and he always had a keen eye when it came to making a couple of bucks.

As the owner of Orléans Furniture in the 70s, 80s and 90s, Soulliere was a prominent businessman in the area when it came to retail, investments and real estate. He was always on the go, taking care of his many business ventures.

Besides reaping the benefits of his furniture business, and also through his property dealings, Soulliere discovered another opportunity, quite by chance, during a conversation with one of his former tenants back in 1985.

"One of my ex-tenants in the old Carrefour Orléans asked me why there was only one newspaper (the Orléans Express) covering the east end," Soulliere remembers. "I couldn't give him an answer and started thinking there may be a business opportunity for me to explore."

In 1986, the Orléans housing market was rapidly expanding along with a solid base of commercial businesses looking to spend some of their annual budgets on advertising and marketing.

The anglophone population was also on the rise in the east end, which suited Soulliere just fine. It was under this perfect business environment of new and existing companies

looking to reach out to a rapidly expanding population that he decided to an English language community newspaper in Orléans, and so, on April 16, 1986, *The Star* was born.

The first publisher was Gerry Greco and James MacLaren was the first editor. The sales team included Colleen Fitzpatrick, Barbara Demers and Gerard Lacroix.

"My goal with the paper was to reach out to the local community by covering events within the community," Soulliere said. "I wanted lots of local faces, news, events and tons of sports coverage. We wanted to be 'The Voice' of Orléans, Beacon Hill, Blackburn Hamlet and Cumberland and I truly believe we did a great job with it."

With a distribution of close to 30,000 households the original *Orléans Star* did extremely well with the support of the local business community.

Success always creates curiosity in the business world and that's exactly what happened to the newspaper.

"After a couple of issues, corporate interest in the paper was sky high. We were hitting decent numbers when it came to generating advertising revenue," Soulliere remembered.

It wasn't long before the Quebec-based company, Dumont Publications, came calling on Soulliere and made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

"At the time, Dumont was scooping up all these smaller papers in an attempt to corner the print market," recalled Soulliere.

"Their offer made sense, the dollar value was on target and they offered to cover the rent of our office space for the final three years of the lease. It made perfect sense so I sold them the paper."



Orléans Star founder Larry Soulliere holds up a special framed front page commemorating the first anniversary of the newspaper. Below, the front page of the first edition published on April 16, 1986. FILE PHOTOS

Dumont ran *The Star* until 1996 when Transcontinental GTC acquired the company along with its stable of 32 weekly papers in Quebec and Ontario.

"I enjoyed my time with the paper and I had the opportunity to meet a countless number of people in the Orléans community," said Soulliere who remained an avid reader of the newspaper as well as books about leadership and successful business practices.

All of which he experienced at some point during his professional career.

"I look forward to reading the local papers because it helps me to keep in touch with what's going on in my backyard," said Soulliere. "I think it's extremely important to have a local, printed voice in the community."



## Congrats to the Orléans Star on 40 years!

Our community newspaper plays a vital role in keeping residents informed, connected and engaged with what's happening close to home.

The *Star* acts as the record-keeper and storyteller of the east end and we look forward to the next 40 years!



**MATTHEW LULOFF**  
Orléans East-Cumberland  
[www.matthewluloff.ca](http://www.matthewluloff.ca)



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# The history of the Orléans Star pt 2: the Brewerton years

Continued from page 9

and publisher of the *Ottawa Business Journal*) both got their start under MacArthur's tutelage. He also passed on his passion for reporting and the news business to a pair of co-op students who would go on to have successful careers of their own.

Bobbi-Jean MacKinnon was at the paper in 1990. After graduating from Carleton University's journalism program in 1993, she worked at the St. John Telegraph-Journal where she was a National Newspaper Award finalist for Beat Reporting in 2004. In 2010, she moved on to CBC New Brunswick and would write a book about the Dennis Oland murder trial entitled "Shadow of a Doubt: The Trial of Dennis Oland".

Stephanie Nolen is easily the *Orléans Star's* most successful alum. After doing her co-op placement at *The Star* in 1989, she earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree at the University of King's College. She would go on to work as a freelance foreign correspondent with *The Independent* of London and an investigative reporter for Maclean's magazine before the *Globe and Mail* hired her as an international correspondent in 2003.

Since then, she has served as the *Globe and Mail's* Africa bureau chief from 2003 to 2008; South Asia bureau chief from 2008 to 2013; and Latin American bureau chief from 2013 to 2019.

After a two year stint working as a freelance journalist, Nolen served as an Atkinson

Fellow in Public Policy for a year before joining the New York Times as their Global Health reporter. Along the way she's won seven National Newspaper Awards and two National Magazine Awards.

"I was always looking to hire passionate, hard-working newspaper people," MacArthur says. "Fred and Mike were excellent writers who had tons of potential."

MacArthur left the paper in 1991 to start a career in the cement industry with Lafarge Concrete. He was replaced by Paul Zaleski who served as editor for March 1993 when Michael Curran took over.

Curran would eventually leave the *Orléans Star* in 1995 to start the *Orléans Weekly Journal*.

He was replaced by a series of editors that included Regina Behnk, Heather Jamieson and Michael Aiken, before Fred Sherwin took over the role in October 1997.

By then, Brewerton had moved on to become regional general manager of Transcontinental's weekly publications. He was replaced as publisher of the *Orléans Star* in 1996 by sales manager Valerie Xavier.

Curran would return to for a second stint at the helm of the *Orléans Star* when Transcontinental bought the *Weekly Journal* in 1998. Sherwin would continue on as the *de facto* editor of the *Star* while Curran continued to focus on the *Weekly Journal*. The two papers would co-exist until 2011 when they were merged under the *Orléans Star* banner.




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SPRING 2026

# HOMESTYLE



## When it comes to fireplaces and BBQs, Romantic has you covered

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orleans Star

It may sound counter intuitive, but as the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to start thinking about installing a fireplace which you can look forward to using next winter when the weather isn't so warm.

Romantic Kitchens and BBQs carries a wide range of quality natural gas, propane, wood pellet, wood and electric fireplaces.

With more than 60 years of combined experience in selling and installing fireplaces, the father and son team of Mike and Jason Pilon have a well-established reputation for meeting and often exceeding their clients' expectations. It's one of the reasons why they have a 4.9 star rating on Google with 255 reviews. It's also the reason why so many of their new clients are referred to them by existing customers.

"It's probably the most rewarding part of the job," says Mike Pilon, who sold fireplaces in Cornwall for 31 years before moving to Orleans in 2009. "When someone says, 'Oh, so-and-so told me I should come here,' you know you're doing things right, especially when you think a fireplace should last a lifetime. We don't get a lot of repeat customers, unless they move to an-

other house and want another fireplace."

The biggest advantage to buying your next fireplace at Romantic is the fact that they do their own installation, including mantles and hearths. There are no sub-contractors involved.

Their after-sale service is also second to none. In fact, Mike and Jason make it a point to check in with their customers from time to time to make sure everything is working to their standards and the customer's satisfaction.

The first step to buying a new fireplace at Romantic is to visit their showroom located in the Canotek Business Park. You can drop by anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Since the owners are the salespeople, you will be greeted by either Mike or Jason, who will be happy to explain the pros and cons of the different types of fireplaces in meeting your needs and your budget. In most cases, they will give you three options – good, better and best. The decision is then up to you.

Romantic carries all the leading brands of fireplaces including Canadian manufacturers such as Enviro.



When it comes to custom fireplaces, Mike and Jason Pilon are your local sales and installation experts. FILE PHOTO

After the initial consultation, either Mike or Jason will visit your home to see where the fireplace is being installed and to further ensure that you are making the right purchase and to give you an accurate final quote. Once the fireplace is installed, you can enjoy it for as long as you remain in your home.

If it's a BBQ you're after, Romantic sells

gas BBQs from American Muscle, Fire Magic and Somerset.

The Romantic Fireplace showroom is located at 5380 Canotek Rd., Unit 7. To get to the Canotek Business Park, exit Hwy. 174 at Montreal Road. You can also visit their website at [romanticfireplaces.com](http://romanticfireplaces.com), or Google "Romantic Fireplaces and BBQs" to see hundreds of pictures of their work.

## Who thinks about new fireplaces in May? WE DO!

Now's the perfect time to upgrade your fireplace and get ahead of next season.

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7-5380 Canotek Rd. • 613.748.1777 • [romanticfireplaces.com](http://romanticfireplaces.com) • OPEN EVERY DAY 9am to 4pm (EXCEPT SUNDAY)

## M Greer Glass can take care of everything from mirrors to shower stalls

STAR STAFF – Thinking of renovating your bathroom and want to put in a new glass shower stall? Then you should call Marty Greer at M Greer Glass Solutions, who has over 40 years experience in the industry.

Marty will work with you on the design and then work with your contractor on the installation to make sure your vision becomes a reality.

But M Greer Glass Solutions does a lot more than just shower stalls. They can replace virtually any type of glass in your home from windows to glass table tops and everything in between. When possible, the products are locally sourced and manufactured.

Marty worked for a number of companies before finally starting his own mobile business in 2010. In his words, “to provide an honest service at a fair price”.

It wasn’t until 2021 that he decided to incorporate and M Greer Glass Solutions was born. It was also in the middle of the pandemic, which presented its own set of unique challenges.

Fortunately, glass installers were deemed an essential service during the pandemic, so

he was able to accept jobs while following the proper COVID protocols like wearing a face mask at all times and social distancing.

Marty also secured a major contract with three of the four area school boards to replace broken windows and glass doors which has kept him very busy.

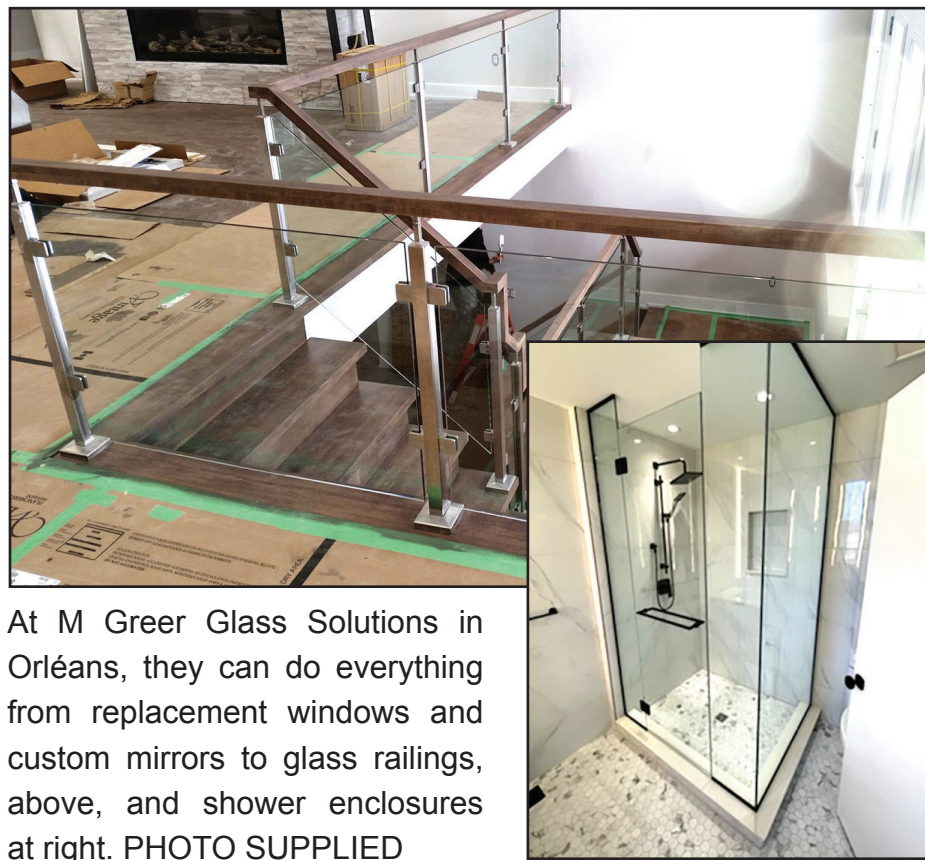
But his most fulfilling job is working with residential clients to meet their needs.

Marty can replace fogged up and broken thermal glass in your existing windows and doors as well as mirrors in bathrooms and gym mirror walls. He can also design and install glass railings, floor to ceiling wine chillers and replacement glass for wood stoves and fireplace doors.

He can also cut mirrors to whatever size and shape you want and he can repair and replace window screens and screen doors.

To find out more about the various products and services M Greer Glass Solutions can provide, please visit their website at [www.mggs.ca](http://www.mggs.ca).

And, if you already have an idea about what you want, you should contact Marty for a free consultation by either calling 613-715-3856 or email [Marty@mggs.ca](mailto:Marty@mggs.ca).



At M Greer Glass Solutions in Orléans, they can do everything from replacement windows and custom mirrors to glass railings, above, and shower enclosures at right. PHOTO SUPPLIED

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# Let the Attic Pros help upgrade your comfort and lower your costs

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

When it comes to home upgrades, insulation is often overlooked – yet it plays a vital role in improving comfort, reducing energy bills, and even boosting your home’s market value.

Fortunately, Orléans homeowners have access to Attic Pros, a trusted local company with over a decade of experience in delivering top-tier insulation services. Led by the father-son team of Jeff and Justice Koradi, Attic Pros specializes in green insulation solutions that combine innovation with proven techniques.

While Jeff leads the company, Justice oversees the day-to-day operations, ensuring every project meets their high standards. Together, they’ve helped thousands of residents and business owners enjoy more comfortable indoor spaces while saving significantly on energy costs.

Attic Pros offers a full range of services, including:

- Attic and wall insulation

- Spray foam insulation
- Insulation removal (especially when old materials are outdated or potentially hazardous)

All installations are done to code, qualifying homeowners for government grants or rebates of up to \$1,250 (12 months 0% interest OAC) while keeping your home. And all of their insulation materials are highly fire resistant and mold resistant which might also save you money on your home insurance.

What sets Attic Pros apart is their hands-on approach. Jeff and Justice personally oversee every installation, ensuring quality workmanship and customer satisfaction.

“We’ve earned the reputation of being one of Ottawa’s top insulation companies, and we work hard to maintain that with every single job,” says Jeff Koradi.

Whether you’re upgrading your current home or starting a new build, Attic Pros will guide you through every step from inspection and budget-friendly options to grant applications and seamless installation.



Jeff and Justice Koradi are the father and son duo behind the Orléans-based Attic Pros home insulation company. FRED SHERWIN PHOTO

In the end, you’ll enjoy not just a well-insulated home, but the peace of mind that comes from working with professionals who

truly care.

To learn more, visit [atticinsulationpros.ca](http://atticinsulationpros.ca) or call 613-702-8374.



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Michael and Lauren Teggart are the father and daughter team behind Futuric Kitchens. STAFF PHOTO

## Upgrading your kitchen can be as easy as refacing your cabinets

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

Is your kitchen looking old and tired and in need of a facelift? Why not consider changing your cabinet doors and drawer facings and replacing your countertops?

Futuric Kitchens, located at 830 Industrial Avenue, Unit 4, is celebrating 50 years of helping their clients **upgrade** their kitchens.

Owned and operated by the father and daughter team of Michael and Lauren Teggart, Futuric Kitchens specialize in kitchen renovations from a full makeover to simply refacing your cabinets with the latest materials and styling.

Cabinet refacing is by far the most affordable way to upgrade your kitchen and you can save thousands of dollars in potential renovation costs in the process.

At Futuric, they have hundreds of different colours and finishes of cabinet doors and drawer fronts to choose from including acrylic, 3D laminates and melamine.

Cabinet refacing can bring a whole new look to your kitchen in very short order. When you reface your cabinets, you keep the existing structure while upgrading and replacing the cabinet doors, drawer fronts, and hardware. The front edges, ends and kick-plate are all covered in the same material to match your new doors.

With cabinet refacing, it is easy to coordinate a new floor or wall paint with the result being a beautiful new room for a much lower cost than a full remodel.

The first step is to visit the Futuric design center on Industrial Avenue and talk to one of their design specialists who can walk you through the pros and cons of different

finishes and hardware, such as drawer slides, hinges and handles.

The next step – which can often be the most difficult – is choosing a colour. Once you select the finish and colour, the rest is up to the Futuric team of installers.

Refacing your cabinets and drawers can often be done in three or four days. In rare circumstances, if you are also installing a new countertop and new construction, they may need an extra day or two.

If you do decide to reface your cabinets, you can opt for a variety of add-ons such as a center island, new drawer boxes, crown molding or a light valance at the same time. Microwave shelves, wine racks and corner shelves can also be installed and made to match your new cabinet doors.

Should you want to take the next step from resurfacing to remodeling, Futuric has the expertise and know-how – from design to installation – to help make your dream a reality.

Futuric has earned the Platinum Award in the Cabinet & Cabinet Makers category by Community Votes Ottawa for the past five years in a row, reflecting their continued commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

To find out more about how Futuric can provide you with a kitchen cabinet make-over, or a complete renovation, visit [www.futurickitchens.com](http://www.futurickitchens.com) or drop by their showroom at 830 Industrial Avenue. Michael, or Lauren, will be happy to guide you through the various options of upgrading your kitchen. In fact, Michael is often in the office, especially on Saturdays, where he is more than happy to provide you with his expert advice.

# Heating and cooling expert gearing up for a long, hot summer

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

It may be hard to believe given the rather cool spring we've experienced so far, but Ottawa and Orléans are in store for another scorcher of a summer similar to what we had last year which is why it's more important than ever to make sure your central air conditioning unit is in perfect working order.

By his own admission, Jerry Lemay has been around a lvery long time. The man behind J.G. Lemay Heating and Air Conditioning first started repairing furnaces in 1976. He soon began repairing air conditioners and other ventilation systems and later branched out into sales. More than 40 years later, Lemay is still going strong, repairing and installing furnaces and air conditioners 24/7.

Last year was one of his busiest summers ever, as aging air conditioners struggled to keep their owner's cool and comfortable in the middle of the heat wave.

With his years of experience, Lemay is a wealth of information when it comes to air conditioners and air conditioning systems.

The most important function of an air conditioner is removing humidity from the inside of the house. It's second function is to cool the air.

To efficiently keep a home cool during those hot summer days, it's important to determine the size of the room or home the unit is intended for and match it to make sure the unit has the capacity to do the job.

If an air conditioner is too small, the unit will never stop working on hot days and, consequently never effectively lower the home's interior temperature. Similarly, if the unit is bigger than what is needed, it won't run long enough to dehumidify the home, creating excess dampness.

Once an air conditioner has been installed, it is important to maintain it every spring so that it stays in proper working order. Lemay stresses that after a central air conditioner is four years old it should be checked by a certified technician every year or two.

"A lot of people think that if the unit is working it must be fine, but relatively inexpensive repairs when problems arise will avoid a total breakdown and potentially an even bigger bill," says Lemay. "Proper maintenance will also lower your hydro bills and make your unit more efficient."

Lemay also sells and installs central air conditioning units for homes that have no duct work. The units are effective in keeping your home cool and comfortable during the summer months.



Jerry Lemay has been in the home heating and air conditioning business for more than 40 years. FILE PHOTO

In the end, Lemay believes that air conditioners are investments that yield a return to the owner. Homes with central air systems often sell faster and for more money than homes without them.

Central air conditioning systems can also be beneficial for people with allergies

especially when combined with a proper air filter or air filtration system.

Jerry Lemay would be more than happy to answer any air conditioning units questions you may have and recommend a solution that both meets your needs and your budget. Give him a call at 613-835-2658 today.

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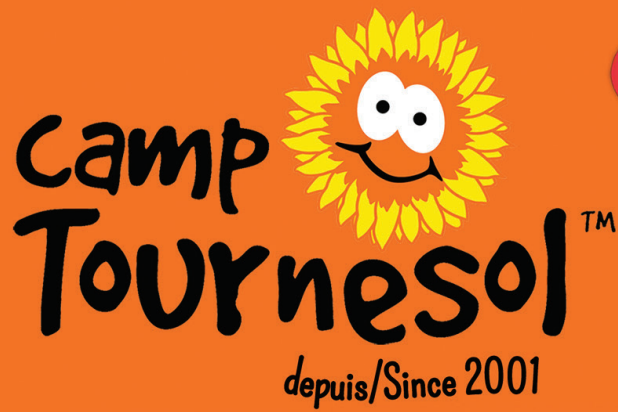
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# Orléans Blooms event to take place on May 23

(NC) For many in Orléans, the start of gardening season has come to be marked by a growing tradition – Orléans Blooms.

Now in its third year, the spring garden event and plant sale, presented by the Kin Club of Orléans, returns on Saturday, May 23 at St. Helen's Church at 1234 Prestone Drive. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, and admission is free.

While visitors can expect a wide selection of Canadian-grown plants, along with local vendors, gardening advice, and activities for families, organizers say the heart of the event goes beyond what's for sale.

According to the Kin Club president, Kathy Trim, "The Orléans community has shown fantastic support for this fundraising effort. And we've been able to expand the local impact we can make. It's a win-win."

Proceeds from the event support a range of community needs, including high school student bursaries, food banks or refugee programs.

Over the past two years, the event has grown steadily, becoming not just a place to shop for plants, but a welcoming space to

connect with neighbours, discover local businesses, and enjoy a day outdoors with family.

This year's event will feature both indoor and outdoor vendors, a larger kids' area with hands-on activities, and opportunities to learn from local experts, including sessions on native plants and community gardening.

The Kin Club of Orléans would like to thank its sponsors, including lead sponsor CAA Insurance, whose support helps make this free community event possible.

This year the event also takes on a Spring Cleaning theme. The Club is partnering with Halo Car Washes so that from now to the end of June, half of the purchase price goes to support the community. As well, our event sponsor, Cleanit.ca, can help you freshen up around your home too.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or simply looking for a way to enjoy a spring day, Orléans Blooms offers something for everyone – with the added benefit of giving back.

For more information, or to buy your car wash and support the community, visit [kinclubforleans.ca](http://kinclubforleans.ca).

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# Unlocking Your Child's Unique Potential - Right at Home

By Fred Sherwin  
The Orléans Star

As an educator, Vanessa De Hoog has helped numerous students improve their literacy skills in a classroom environment.

The Gloucester High School alum and Queen's University top scholar now wants to share her abilities with as many students as possible by offering a personalized bilingual tutoring service for children from kindergarten to Grade 5.

Her new endeavour, called "The Right Key", is aimed at helping students reach their full potential by providing in-home personalized literacy tutoring.

As a certified teacher with over 13 years of experience in the local school system, De Hoog has help children build strong reading skills, confidence, and a genuine love of learning. Her stated mission is to ensure that every student feels capable, supported, and proud of their progress.

"I truly believe that every child possesses an inherent capacity for growth," says the Orléans native. "By shifting from a 'fixing' mindset to a 'finding the right key' approach, I can empower each student to thrive in their

educational journey."

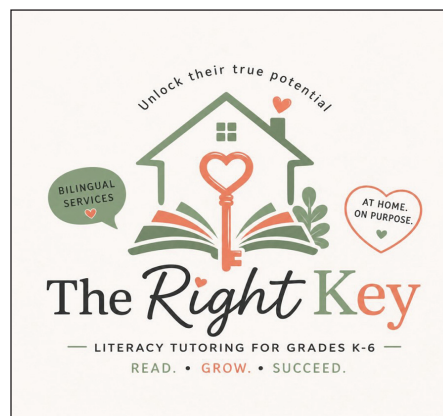
To that end, De Hoog provides evidence-based literacy instruction tailored to each child's unique learning profile, including students with ADHD, autism, or dyslexia.

Whether your child needs extra support or greater academic challenge, sessions are designed to meet them where they are and help them grow.

Services are available in both English and French to support bilingual learners and families. Using a warm, upbeat, and encouraging approach, De Hoog helps students strengthen essential literacy skills while developing confidence that extends beyond the classroom.

Each session is carefully tailored to your child's unique learning profile. Customized activities are designed to strengthen foundational literacy skills such as decoding, spelling, phonemic awareness, and reading fluency. Through engaging, supportive, and evidence-based instruction, De Hoog helps her students build confidence, develop strong reading skills, and experience success as capable, empowered learners.

For children with ADHD, De Hoog



adapts each lesson to their unique cognitive patterns, focusing on executive functioning coaching that empowers students to manage their time, focus, and emotional regulation with confidence.

She also specializes in supporting students with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences using the Orton-Gillingham approach – a structured, multisensory method rooted in the science of reading.

To get your child started on the path to better learning, visit "The Right Key" website at [therightkey.ca](http://therightkey.ca)



**Vanessa De Hoog, OCT**

De Hoog offers a free consultation to help families and students decide which type of programming is best for them. After that pricing is based on the length and frequency of each session.



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Position of Director to OCCRC - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (volunteer position)

The **Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre (OCCRC)** is a bilingual, multiservice organization working with residents to build a strong, inclusive, and connected community. We are currently seeking new volunteer Board members who bring experience in accounting or finance and/or a strong connection to rural communities. Candidates must be bilingual (French & English) and passionate about community well-being and good governance. OCCRC is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion and welcomes applications reflecting the communities we serve. **Apply by: May 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

Please submit your application by email to [apelley@crcoc.ca](mailto:apelley@crcoc.ca) or by mail to the following address:

**105-240 Centrum Blvd.  
Orléans ON K1E 3J4**

For further information, please contact us at [apelley@crcoc.ca](mailto:apelley@crcoc.ca).

Scan the following QR code for the application form and job requirements:



**CRROC.CA**



## APPEL DE CANDIDATURES

### Poste d'administrateur.trice au CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DU CRCOC (poste bénévole)

Le **Centre de ressources communautaires Orléans-Cumberland (CRCOC)** est un organisme communautaire bilingue offrant de multiples services et travaillant avec la population pour bâtir une communauté inclusive et connectée. Nous recherchons des membres bénévoles du conseil d'administration ayant une expérience en comptabilité ou en finances et/ou un lien avec les communautés rurales. Les personnes candidates doivent être bilingues (français et anglais) et passionnées par le bien-être communautaire et la saine gouvernance. Le CRCOC s'engage envers l'équité, la diversité et l'inclusion et encourage les candidatures reflétant les communautés desservies. **Date limite : 22 mai 2026 à 16 h.**

Veillez soumettre votre candidature par courriel à [apelley@crcoc.ca](mailto:apelley@crcoc.ca) ou par la poste à l'adresse suivante :

**105—240 boul. Centrum  
Orléans (Ontario) K1E 3J4**

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer [apelley@crcoc.ca](mailto:apelley@crcoc.ca).

Scannez le code QR suivant pour le formulaire de demande et les exigences du poste :



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# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

**FRIDAY, MAY 15**

**BACK TO THE 80s DANCE PARTY** from 7 p.m. in the Lower Lounge at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. \$5 cover at the door. (Cash only) Big hair! Bigger hits! Dress 80s if you dare!.

**SDBC TAPROOM SERIES** presents Rory Taillon live and in concert at the Stray Dog Brewing Company, 105 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park. Tickets \$10 in advance at straydogbrewing.ca.

**MONDAY, MAY 18**

**TRIVIA NIGHT** from 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Royal Oak Pub Orléans. Free to play. Prizes for the winning team! The Royal Oak Pub is located at 1981 St. Joseph Blvd. near Jeanne d'Arc. Visit facebook.com/RoyalOakPubsOrleans.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20**

**TRIVIA NIGHT** from 6:30 p.m. at the Stray Dog Brewing Company. Exercise your grey matter before it turns to mush over the holidays. Reservations are a must to secure your spot. Send your team name and number of people to info@straydogbrewing.ca. The Stray Dog Brewing Company is located at 501 Lacolle Way.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22**

**KARAOKE NIGHT** starting at 7 p.m. at the Orléans Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Dr. Come sing your favourite songs.

**SDBC TAPROOM SERIES** presents Redial & Friends live and in concert at the Stray Dog Brewing Company, 105 Lacolle Way in the Taylor Creek Business Park. No cover. For more information visit straydogbrewing.ca.

**FRIDAY, MAY 23**

**YARD SALE** along Stojko Street and Senateurs Way in Fallingbrook from 9 am to 2 pm. Something for everyone. Toys, clothing, sports equipment, housewares and more.

**ORLEANS BLOOMS SPRING GARDEN EVENT AND SALE** hosted by the Kin Club of Orléans from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Helen's Church, 1234 Prestone Dr. Rain or shine. Shop a great collection of plants from local suppliers.

**SATURDAY, MAY 24**

**ROYAL OAK DAY** at the Royal Oak Pub Orléans, 1981 St-Joseph Blvd. Show your support by buying a burger or hot dog! Bid on our silent auction or buy a 50/50 ticket! Live music provided by Seven Dollar Sundress All proceeds to benefit the Ottawa First Responders Foundation.

# IN MEMORIAM



**Henri Gravelle, 80**  
Passed away on April 29, 2026

**Luigi Aiello, 71**  
Passed away on April 29, 2026

**Denise Lafleur, 71**  
Passed away on April 27, 2026



[www.heritagefh.ca/obituaries](http://www.heritagefh.ca/obituaries)

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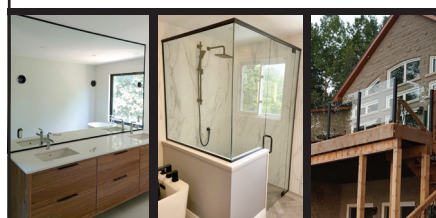
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## CHURCH LISTING

Church of God International Canada

*Please come and join us in worship and fellowship*

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## CHURCH LISTING



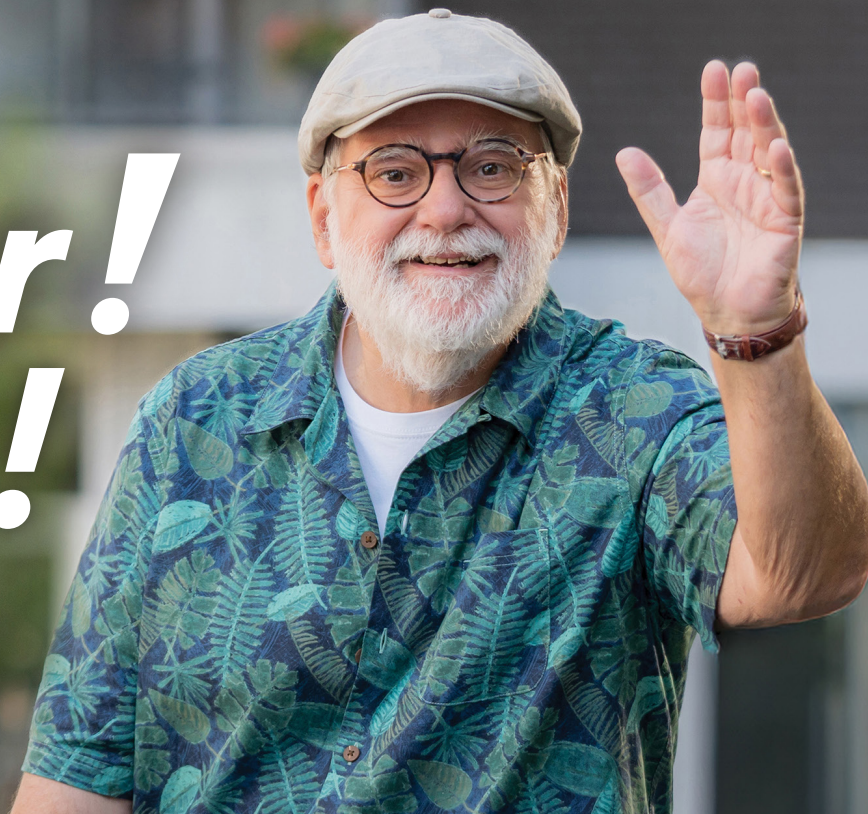
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*Please join us on Sabbaths for worship and fellowship*

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