



### OLYMPIC WRAP-UP

With Vancouver Olympics 2010 at a close, we take a look at golden moments and star athletes that made the games memorable.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

### CAUGHT RED HANDED

A Windsorite is pictured using his cell phone while driving. As of Feb. 1, those caught could face a \$500 charge.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



VOLUME V ISSUE V

WWW.STCLAIRCOLLEGE.CA/CONVERGENCE

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

# CONVERGED CITIZEN

## SHAW TO BUY CANWEST

### DEAL TO INCLUDE VOTING RIGHTS

IAN MAILLOUX  
NEWS REPORTER

Shaw Communications has announced it will buy a controlling interest in Canwest Global Communications, a major television and newspaper company.

The deal includes at least 20 per cent equity interest and 80 per cent voting rights, giving Shaw controlling interest in



Jim Shaw

the media company and an option to purchase a greater share in the company in the future. Canwest owes billions of dollars to creditors and has

been operating under court-supervised bankruptcy protection for the last year. According to Canwest, the proposed deal has the support of creditors and will see Shaw paying off Canwest's debt.

"We are very pleased with the firm investment commitment from Shaw," said Derek Burney, chairman of Canwest's board of directors. "While there is much work

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### TODAY'S CONVERGED CITIZEN

#### A time to learn

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#### Single, ladies?

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#### Spits harpoon Whalers

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#### Experience Banff on a budget

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#### Women's hockey may face snub

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#### Seen and heard in Vancouver

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## City daycares to close in September



Parents, early-childhood educators and labour leaders crowd into city council chambers Monday night to voice their concerns regarding the closure of municipally run daycares. Council voted 5 - 3 in favour of the closures effective September 2010.

Photo By Matt Weingarden

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

## Valentines on a budget

KRISTIE PEARCE  
NEWS REPORTER

Valentine's Day is around the corner and according to Statistics Canada the unemployment rate in Windsor is still one of the highest in Canada at 12.7 per cent, many may be wary about dropping money on extravagant gifts.

"Hopefully this year I'll get it right."

- Joseph Pender

Instead of breaking the bank to display your love for your significant other, a creative idea can save your wallet and perhaps go a longer way.

One idea is to make a balloon bouquet. Buy clear red balloons and before you blow them up, place wrapped candies, small gifts or love poems inside each one.

Bring back a time-honoured tradition and write a love letter. You can find cheap letter

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 8

## Police find driver of stolen vehicle, charges laid

KRISTIE PEARCE  
NEWS REPORTER

A 19-year-old driver of a stolen vehicle was nowhere to be found after a car chase with police ended abruptly.

According to police, there were two accomplices in the car that was caught within 10 minutes of the collision Feb. 8.

Police knew the driver's identity and a warrant for his

arrest was issued. Joshua Gillespie was later found on Wednesday and arrested at 3:15 p.m. He was charged with possession of stolen property under \$5,000 and dangerous driving.

Windsor police Sgt. Brett Corey said officers were curious when they saw the 1994 red Mercury Sable idling in a parking lot near Wyandotte Street and Sunset Avenue.

Corey said as the officers approached the vehicle Gillespie jumped the curb and headed in the opposite direction down Patricia Street, a one-way.

Gillespie then reportedly lost control of the Sable on a curve in the road and hit a wall in the parking lot of Canada Customs near the Ambassador Bridge. A customs employee of said they do

not know the estimate of the damage at this time. During impact the car caught fire and the three men fled the scene, Corey said.

"The car was taken without consent from a Superbowl party on Sunday. Apparently the owner had too much to drink and had a little snooze," said Corey. "Gillespie walked away with his keys and stole the car."

Gillespie and the owner of the stolen vehicle were not acquaintances said Corey. The identities of the two 18-year-old men with Gillespie will be protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

According to police reports auto thefts in Windsor have seen a significant decline. The number of thefts reported has dropped from 76 in 2007, to 40 in 2008.

# Ontario college enrollment an all time high



AP File Photo

With Ontario's unemployment rate at 9.2 per cent people are enrolling in to community colleges to further their education. Enrolment has increased by 14 per cent this year across the province and is up by 20 per cent at St. Clair College.

**KEVIN McSHAN**

For the 24 community colleges across Ontario enrolment has reached an all-time high, leaving high school seniors and unemployed workers, scrambling to fill out their applications as fast as they can.

The number of people applying to college rose by an estimated 18 per cent in September, according to statistics released on Feb. 4 by Colleges Ontario. The association, which represents Ontario's 24 community colleges, said overall the amount of applicants increased by 14 per cent this year for a total of more than 100,000.

Sally Ritchie, the senior communications officer at Colleges Ontario, said the troubled economy is the source of the increased enrolment.

"Historically, whenever there has been a downturn in the economy applications to colleges rise as unemployed individuals seek training or retraining in order to find meaningful employment. The recent recession was much worse than any other in recent memory so there have been more applicants than usual," said Ritchie.

John Strasser, president of St. Clair College said with the increased competition for

jobs, receiving a higher education is essential when searching for gainful employment.

"A debate can occur between the attainment of general versus practical knowledge as the goal of a post-secondary education. In the global economy of 2010 the goal of a 'good job' at the conclusion of that education is of increasing importance," Strasser said.

As of Feb. 2, St. Clair College had incurred a 14.44 per cent increase in applications. The college is forecasting an increased enrolment for the upcoming academic year. Overall enrolment is up by 20 per cent which is the largest enrolment increase between 2006 to 2009 of any college in Ontario.

Strasser says important steps have been taken to help persuade students of the benefits of a college versus university education

"I believe that there is a growing realization by students that if you are happy in your job and making \$30 an hour, as an example, it doesn't matter whether you are an electrician, trained in a college environment or a Wal-Mart trainee with a psychology degree from a university," said Strasser.

The increase in applications has far exceeded the expectations of both the government

and the colleges. They were predicting a 3.2 per cent increase, according to Colleges Ontario. However, Ritchie said that estimation is subject to change.

"The 3.2 per cent increase was predicted last March before the full effects of the recession were known. It is being revisited later this month," said Ritchie

She said colleges are being forced to do more with less.

"Colleges are being very creative in their use of space to accommodate our increasingly large student bodies. They are making use of basement and office space and movie theatres to name a few examples," she said.

Riche says funding from the provincial government will allow college programs to expand and prosper.

"Last year's governmental injections of infrastructure dollars will mean many campuses are getting new or expanded facilities," said Ritchie.

She said the organization is committed to working with government officials to strengthen the quality of all college programs.

"The popularity of our colleges speaks to their success, but also emphasizes the need to fund our colleges sufficiently to deliver the education our

communities need. For this, we must partner with the government to fund enrolment growth so that all qualified applicants can get the education they need to find good jobs," said Ritchie.

According to Statistics Canada, employment in Ontario rose in January, growing for the sixth consecutive month. The province reported an increase of 30,000 more people employed in January compared to the previous month and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 9.2 per cent, according to the latest Labour Force survey.

Ritchie said her association is pleased so many people have chosen to further their education by enrolling in a post-secondary program.

"We are extremely pleased that increasing numbers of people are seeing the strong, direct link between a college education and a meaningful career. People understand the importance of exploring their options in higher education and choosing the programs that best prepare them for their career goals. In many cases, those programs are offered at Ontario's colleges," she said.

According to Michael Silvaggi, associate registrar at

**SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 5**

## Ontario instructors to remain in class

School strike cancelled after final tally

**KAR-LEIGH KESLO**

Ontario's 24 colleges will not be striking this year after professors voted Feb. 10 by a 51.45 per cent margin in favour of a new contract.

Over 8,500 college teachers participated in the vote, but Ontario college officials had to wait two weeks for the remaining 350 voting ballots to arrive by mail before the final tally could be confirmed.

The new negotiations offer a pay increase for faculty of 5.9 per cent over three years with a maximum attainable salary of \$102,186. This contract will be up for reconsideration by mid 2012. According to St. Clair College President, John Strasser an average St. Clair instructor's salary is about \$80,000.

Steve McEachern, an advertising professor at St. Clair Centre for the Arts, said he was pleased with the results of the vote.

"I'm very happy with how the vote turned out," said McEachern. "In fact, I wish more faculty supported it."

"This is a good offer and a good deal and this certainly isn't the time in our economic condition to start asking for more, to start demanding more," he said. "For public sector units to demand more when private sector unions and employees aren't getting anything is just not right."

Along with Strasser and McEachern, Student Representative Council President Justin Fox said he is also pleased with the results and about 11,000 college students are now breathing a sigh of relief, no longer having to worry about their midterms and assignments, Fox said.

# Street Health offers hope and health care for homeless

**DARREN BRECKLES**

Hundreds of homeless people in Windsor are getting help to improve the quality of their lives from the Street Healthy Homeless Initiative.

Street Healthy is a Non-profit organizations that provide health care and social services to individuals and families.

The program is aimed at people who are homeless or in

danger of becoming homeless.

"We have always helped the homeless, who typically have more health problems but we are seeing more normal families struggling these days - people who just find that there is more month at the end of the money," said Candice Podvin, a medical secretary at the Street Health Centre.

For many patients poverty

isolates them. Lack of housing, documentation and telephone keeps them from accessing the traditional medical system. Lack of a family doctor and routine health care means preventable illnesses become chronic. Often they end up in the emergency room which is more costly and results in a worse prognosis.

Their lives are characterized

by high stress and loneliness, chronic unemployment, insecurity in housing and extreme poverty, according to Filomena Rowley, a nurse practitioner at the centre.

Street Health provides primary health care and many services, from an identification clinic, to laundry facilities as well as supportive and case management services.

"This holistic philosophy addresses the total health and wellness of each patient," said Rowley.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, the salaried employees of CHC can deliver equal or better outcomes at a lower cost than the fee-for-service model employed in the rest of the health care system.

## Distracted driving law met with minimal friction



Photo by Kar-Leigh Kelso

A Windsor man uses a cell phone Wednesday while stopped at a red light on Drouillard Road and Tecumseh Road. Ontario law now enforces the distracted driving law including using a cell phone on the road, a punishable offense which can lead to fines, demerit points and jail time.

### KAR-LEIGH KELSO

If drivers aren't calling 911 their cell phones better be stowed away, according to a new law being enforced in Ontario.

The Countering Distracted Driving and Promoting Green Transportation Act 2009 was passed in the fall, but had to sustain a three-month waiting period before it could be

enforced by police. As of Feb. 1, those who offend could face up to \$500 in fines simply for being caught.

Dangerous Driving, a criminal offence, resulting from dis-

tricted driving could result in up to \$2,000 in fines and five years in jail.

Sgt. Brett Corey, media relations officer for Windsor Police, said he welcomes the

change in legislation.

"Any legislation that prevents drivers from being distracted is beneficial to public safety and driving safety," said Corey.

Permitted devices include transportation tracking systems, collision avoidance systems and vehicle status systems. GPS devices are also allowed under legislation, as long as the driver is only viewing the screen and not making adjustments. Bluetooth technology is also permitted.

Cell phones and iPods are both banned while a vehicle is on the road regardless if the driver is stopped at a red light.

Ashley Malowaniuk, a second-year interior design student at St. Clair College said despite the frustration of having to pull over to make a call or text, the law makes sense.

"I've actually personally been in the situation where I had to make a call while driving," said Malowaniuk, 20. "Most people usually only drive with one hand on the phone doesn't seem like a big deal to me. ...

The need to talk in the car isn't really a need at all and so I am actually glad it's now against the law, although it can seem like an unneeded annoyance every so often."

## Daycares to close: emotions run high at city council

### MATT WEINGARDEN

Windsor city council has voted to close municipally-operated daycares after a long and exhaustive meeting Monday.

The emotionally charged session went on for over four hours with council voting 5-3 in favour of closing nine municipally operated daycares and the elimination of 118 city worker positions starting Sept. 1.

Ronna Warsh, the City of Windsor's community development and health commissioner, called the situation "the perfect storm" during her presentation to council.

Warsh cited declining enrolment, city budget constraints and the implementation of full-day junior and senior kindergarten as reasons for the closures. Warsh said integrating children into the new system and providing the same services wouldn't be a problem.

According to the report, the city stands to save over \$1 million per year with the closures.

"As stewards of the taxpayers' money you cannot in good conscience continue to fund municipal daycare centres," said Wendy Hopkins, owner-operator of a Montessori school in Amherstburg. "I believe that I would be able to run the same service with a greater benefit to the taxpayers."

While about 100 people packed city hall chambers, others listened intently outside in the hallway and downstairs in the entrance way to city hall. Many early childhood educators wore T-shirts that read "Some cuts don't heal."

"We are absolutely qualified to teach and educate these children... we are not babysitters and I want to make that perfectly clear," said Teresa Fracas, an early childhood educator for 30 years and former president of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 543. "What happens to families whose special needs children are told they do not fit into a program at a for-profit



City child care cut comes under fire.

it daycare centre. We are the catch basin for special needs children in the city."

Wherever possible most early childhood education workers will be re-educated and relocated to alternate positions within the Corporation of the city of Windsor. The city will also provide counseling services and tools to help employees deal with the anxiety and stress of job loss.

At times the discussion was heated as council heard from more than 30 delegates representing various social service agencies, city workers, labour leaders and concerned parents.

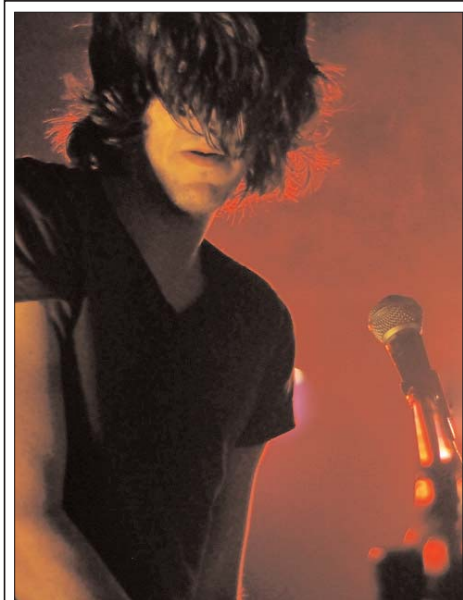


Photo by Laura Berry

## Arkells will return to Windsor as opening act

Dan Griffin of Arkells celebrates their one year anniversary of Jackson Square at the Chubby Pickle Oct. 28, 2009. The band will be opening for Canadian indie rockstars Metric on April 4 at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre.

# Harrow wind farm attracts attention



Photo by Susan Sellick

Dean Martin, one of the six landowners contracted with International Power Canada for the Harrow Wind Farm project. Martin stands near the assembled rotor blades in the field behind his home on Smith Road, west of Harrow.

## SUSAN SELICK

A line of spectators in their cars parked along Gore Road, west of Harrow, has become a familiar sight the past few weeks and so have Ontario Provincial Police cruisers ushering them on their way.

The Harrow Wind Farm has been attracting attention since the completion of the first tower in January.

Locals are parking on the shoulders of the road to watch or take pictures of the huge crane slowly lifting the generator and then the rotor blades to the top of each tower.

But with trucks delivering tower sections and the

cement, gravel and construction vehicles coming and going, the OPP have been enlisted to monitor the area for everyone's safety.

There are six landowners who are contracted individually with AIM PowerGen, who were recently acquired by International Power Canada. The total lease payments they will receive from the project are about \$300,000 annually.

The wind farm has 24 Vestas V82 1.65 MW turbines. Rotor blades are being hoisted to the top of a new tower every other day.

The \$110 million project is

expected to be completed and the wind turbines operating in June.

A turbine on Dean Martin's property is 300 metres from

**The noise I've never found to be ... bothersome.**  
- DEAN MARTIN

his home and he is not concerned about its proximity.

"We went to several wind-mill sites before we signed on and I've been to them on windy days and on quiet days," said Martin. "The noise, I've never found to be any-

thing that would be bothersome."

There have been studies done showing no adverse health effects are caused by the vibration and noise, he said.

Martin and his wife, Rose, said they took about a year and a half researching and visiting wind turbine sites before joining the project.

Another landowner, Joe Gorski, said there are 250 workers employed on the project and he thinks it's a good news story for this area.

"Ford will have electric vehicles and GM and Chrysler will have electric vehicles," said Gorski. "We need to increase

the power in the power grid to charge those vehicles overnight. It isn't enough to just use smart hydro where we charge them during down times because that's not practical."

Martina Holmsen, at the media desk at Independent Electricity System Operator, which is the wholesale marketer for power, said prices change from hour to hour.

"There is a lot of unused capacity overnight so there will be a natural incentive to use electricity when it's least expensive," said Holmsen, regarding the practicality of the project.

## In Brief

### A time to learn

JOCELYN HERBST

The Grade 6/7 class at St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School came to the River Town Times Feb. 8 as part of the new Time to Learn program.

Time to Learn is a program dedicated to making students aware of their communities. The program focuses on studying current events, learning about local citizens, studying the difference between advertising and editorials as well as developing, thinking and writing skills. The class initially learned the basics of making an advertisement. With help from Peggy Thompson, advertiser for the

Times, students examined the difference between popular products like Coke and Great Value Cola. Ultimately, colour, price information and the amount of advertising were listed as components of advertisements.

With all the news on TV, it is important to get kids involved in their communities, said Thompson.

Michelle Write, graphic designer, also showed the class how she transformed a sketch to a publishable advertisement.

Editor Joel Charron showed the class the programs he uses for design and layout such as Quark XPress.

Despite the long hours on publication day at the begin-

ning of the week, he explained he doesn't always sit at his computer.

Charron wanted students to realize journalism was hard work and requires persistence.

Although, Nicole Walsh, a Grade 7 student and Jacob Bahry, a Grade 6 student, don't want to become reporters, they agreed advertising was the most interesting job.

### Settlement finally reached

JOSH HINES

On March 9, 2009 at 8p.m. the workers were officially out of a job because Chrysler had decided to exit any further work with Catalina which

owns Aradco and Aramco. CAW Local 195 President Gerry Farham said it was time for them to do something different.

"When you go into these things you don't know how it is going to work out, but I know one thing we wanted to get attention and there is legislation pay and that's a law and the government ignored it so we decided to take things in our own hands," said Farham.

Due to all the attention from the press the CAW managed to get the workers eight weeks of pay which equals \$400,000, double of what was offered previously. They still continue to stay committed and to keep on fighting.

Former chairman of Aramco Mike Melo said everything will work out.

"It looks good it may take some time a couple of years but in the end there's a very good chance were going to get everything. Its our money were legally entitled to it. You have to fight for what you believe in you have to fight for what is yours. Some guys worked here for 20 to 30 years and have seniority. The legislation law needs to change," said Melo.

The workers are supposed to receive roughly around \$2.4 million. There is an auction being held that will sell parts from the plant and workers will receive around \$2,500 once it is over.



Photo By Gord Bacon

A thick blanket of snow covers this LaSalle neighbourhood early Monday morning. Windsor and its surrounding area were hit with 14 centimetres of snow overnight.

## Snow fall catches Windsorites off-guard

**GORD BACON**

After a moderate Sunday, some Windsorites were surprised to awake to a winter wonderland earlier this week.

The winter storm dropped 14 centimetres of snow Monday Feb. 26 pushing the Windsor area to first place in terms of precipitation in Southern Ontario, with a grand total of 93 centimetres this winter, according to reports issued by Environment Canada.

Twenty-one-year-old St.

Clair College student and South-Windsor resident Sean Halliday said after a mild Sunday, he was shocked when he woke up at 8:30 am for school.

"Before I had gone to sleep there was hardly any snow. I woke up and got ready to go to school before I looked outside and saw a half a foot of snow," said Halliday. "I decided to stay in for the day because the road conditions were bad."

St. Clair College faculty member Ed Everaert said he managed to find his way in to work Monday morning despite the weather.

"I knew it was coming so I anticipated the sloppy and slushy conditions. I drive in from the county, so I'm used to toughing it out," said Everaert. "Most of the roads in the county were relatively clear so the snow crews must have been on top of things."

According to Environment

Canada, Ottawa is second in the province with 91 centimetres of snowfall this winter but with snow forecasted over the next five-days Windsor's lead should be safe.

Both the American Weather Service and Environment Canada issued winter storm warnings for the East Coast early this morning and are expecting up to 50 centimetres of snow in some areas by Saturday evening.

**COLLEGE FROM PAGE 2**

St. Clair College, funds from the provincial government have assisted in expanding the services the college can offer.

"The college has been able to acquire government grants to build additional facilities at both the south and Thames Campus, as well as acquire property in downtown Windsor for the Newsplex that will accommodate the journalism program," said Silvaggi.

He says with the increased number of people applying to further their education it's important to be thoughtful when making all final admissions decisions.

"An increased application pool provincially will require a more aggressive approach as it relates to admissions. However, we also need to be cautious and ensure equity among all applicants when we are making our acceptance decisions," Silvaggi said.

The report also indicated the amount of high school seniors

applying to college this year increased by 8.6 per cent. Applications to Ontario's universities are also up. Statistics released late January showed 86,500 students have sent in applications to the Ontario universities' application centre, up approximately three per cent compared to last year.

The head of guidance at Vincent Massey Secondary School, Noella Smyth said while colleges across the province have made some significant strides to improve and expand the programs they offer more work must be done.

"The colleges have added more programs to meet the employer needs. For example: electrical techniques, plumbing techniques, border control guards etc. More programs should start in February not January to coincide with semesters in high schools," said Smyth.

Despite the increased number of adult applicants, Silvaggi insisted St. Clair

College provides the same opportunities to all potential students who want to receive a higher education including high school graduates.

"Contrary to some provincial reports, we can assure you that equal consideration is being provided to both the direct high school applicant and to the mature student," he said.

Ritchie said her organization remains committed to working with secondary schools throughout the province to eliminate the bias which often exists when comparing the quality of a college versus university education.

"Our long-term marketing strategy is aimed at eliminating the traditional bias in our society which favours university over college and we believe we are making inroads," said Ritchie.

She attributes an aggressive marketing campaign from the association for the increased number of interested applicants applying for college.

After last year's campaign, It's All About M.E., the number of parents who were open to their kids going to college instead of university rose 13 per cent," said Ritchie.

Melissa Nantais, principal of Massey, said in order to provide seniors with a competitive advantage over the competition secondary schools must work collectively with their students to develop a strategy which maximizes their potential and gives them the best opportunity to be accepted to the college of their choice.

"It really comes down to early planning and ensuring students have the required pre-requisites courses with the recommended grades in order to be accepted. We are working with our students from the time they enter Grade 9 to make thoughtful decisions regarding their course selections and plan ahead," Nantais said.

She says students are afforded the opportunity to be



**CANWEST FROM PAGE 1**

still to be done, Shaw's commitment represents an important step towards a successful financial restructuring of Canwest."

Pending Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission approval, the deal gives Shaw control of one of the largest newspaper chains in the country including the National Post, Ottawa Citizen, Windsor Star and several community papers across Canada. Canwest's television assets include Global TV and specialty cable channels Showcase and History Television.

"We are excited about the investment and gaining effective control of one of the premier broadcasters and owners of content in the Canadian broadcasting industry at a reasonable valuation," said Jim Shaw, chief executive officer and vice chair of Shaw Communications.

Shaw said the investment in Canwest results in a number of benefits to the broadcasting system including strengthening the local programming.

"This significant investment in conventional television should be seen as a big vote of confidence in the industry and its future," said Burney.

Under Shaw's control, Canwest will be operated as a separate company with a board of directors.

exposed to several different career paths by the courses they are required to take

"There is also the Grade 10 career studies course, which all students have to take, that helps them explore various careers, cooperative education, apprenticeships, etc. to learn about the courses and skills required for various fields," she said.

Ritchie said colleges have to continue to offer job-specific training to their students because it's what will get them employed the fastest.

"We know that career-focused higher education is particularly important in this economy when people are looking for education, training and re-training opportunities. They are coming to colleges because they know that about 90 per cent of college graduates find work within six months of graduation. When you are unemployed and worried about your future this is particularly attractive," Ritchie said.



Photo By Rich Boersma

Windsor Spitfire goalie Troy Passingham covers the puck as Spitfire defensemen Ryan Ellis, No. 6, and Harry Young, No. 55, battle to clear Plymouth Whaler forward Garret Meurs, No. 16, out of the crease in Thursday night's game at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre. The Spits won the game 6-3.

# Spits harpoon Whalers

## RICH BOERSMA

It was a fight-filled affair last night as the Windsor Spitfires defeated the Plymouth Whalers 6-3 at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre. In what was supposed to be a battle between Taylor Hall and Tyler Seguin, the two top-ranked prospects for the upcoming National Hockey League entry draft, the six fights took centre stage.

From the outset of the game it was clear what the Spitfires' game plan was. They crashed the net hard and often as Whaler goalie Matt Hackett was bumped and targeted nearly every time the puck went down his end of the ice.

Adam Henrique opened the scoring for the Canadian Hockey League's number

three ranked team as he banged home a loose puck past Hackett after a rebound from a Ryan Ellis point shot. Kenny Ryan also assisted on the goal.

Marc Cundari then fought Austin Levi after the Plymouth forward hit Hall from behind.

Despite the Spits strong start the Whalers were able to prevent falling behind any further.

The Spits tied it up later in the period when Ryan Hayes knocked in a puck as it lay in the crease after squeezing through Spit goalie Troy Passingham's legs. The period ended in a goal apiece.

The Spits were able to maintain their strong play in the second period, scoring three

unanswered goals as Hall, Justin Shugg and Greg Nemisz all lit the lamp.

The rough play also continued as big hits and pushing and shoving occurred following nearly every whistle. The period finished with Ellis taking a shot to the head from Whaler forward Levi.

Despite the fact the Spits began the third on a power play it was the Whalers who came out strong killing off the penalty before Meurs and Seguin scored two quick goals to cut the Spitfire lead to just one.

The Spits hung on to their one-goal lead until late in the period when they got another power play. Shugg appeared to score his second of the game, but it was waved off.

However, this did not faze the team as Ellis scored on a booming point shot to extend the lead.

Passingham made some big saves late before Shugg scored into an empty net.

Spitfire coach Bob Boughner was proud of the way his team handled the chippy game.

"We talked about composure this week and we had to have composure in the third period as they came out and tried to make it a different game with the fighting and everything else," said Boughner. "We still were able to find a way to keep our composure and get the job done."

Shugg said he felt the game was an important one as they will likely face the Whalers again in the playoffs.

"I would probably say they are the next best team in the conference and I'm sure we'll face them again in the playoffs," said Shugg.

The two teams were given out a total of 92 penalty minutes after five fights took place in third.

"There were a lot of strange things that happened in this game. There were a lot of strange calls tonight," said Boughner.

Windsor forward Greg Nemisz left the game early in the third period after being cut with a skate. He was taken to the hospital, but the team is unsure whether he will travel with them to Sault Ste. Marie for their game against the Greyhounds Friday night.

## NCAA exploring the possibility of expanding

### KEVIN McSHAN

A possible expansion of the field of 65 may be on the horizon for the NCAA tournament.

The Sports Business Journal is reporting the organization will investigate the potential financial benefits it could receive in a new television deal if it expanded from 65 teams to 96.

Greg Shaheen, the NCAA senior vice president of basketball and business strategies, is responsible for leading the exploration committee to

see if an expansion is feasible. Other members of the committee include two renowned college media consultants, former Turner and CBS executive Kevin O'Malley and former ESPN executive Chuck Gerber.

The NCAA is also surveying the feasibility of moving the tournament from broadcast to cable. The discussions to this point have been described as preliminary. The association is permitted to exercise an escape clause in their 11-year, \$6 billion contract with CBS,

the NCAA's long-time partner.

The network has an extended working relationship with the NCAA as they've been broadcasting tournament games since 1982. CBS is expected to be proactive in their efforts to retain the broadcast rights for the tournament.

The NCAA can opt out of its CBS deal at the end of this year at the conclusion of the 2010 Final Four. It has also explored the idea of awarding the tournament broadcast

rights to ESPN in an effort to televise more games at one time.

Tim Gardner, the online editor of college basketball for USA Today says he's pleased with the slate of games he can watch on CBS and believes moving the tournament to ESPN would have minimal gains.

"ESPN might tell you that the relatively new ESPN 360 could house the rest of the games, but you can already watch any of the games on CBS' website, so there's no

major difference there for me," said Gardner.

The proposal which has been discussed with TV networks would probably add an additional week to the competition, with the top 32 teams receiving byes.

Michigan State Athletic Director Mark Hollis says before any possible expansion can be contemplated there are several factors which must be considered.

"There is much evaluation that would have to take place

SEE NCAA, PAGE 7

## In Brief

## Deal reached

HANI YASSINE

Despite Canada's golden victory over the United States last night, the International Olympic Committee is considering the removal of women's hockey from the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Jacques Rogge, the president of the IOC, told the CBC the

council may cancel women's hockey due to the lack of competition. Aside from Sweden's upset of the U.S. in the 2006 semi-finals in the Turin games, the Olympic finals always consist of Canada and the U.S. in every world championship final.

Rogge said the event can't continue without some improvement, and is suggesting parity so nations where

the sport is emerging can have more time for preparation. Others suggest giving it time.

Monique Lamoureux, a forward for the U.S. team, told the CBC the men's hockey league was in a similar situation several years ago when Canada and Russia were eliminating the competition. She wants people to be patient with the event's competition.

## Women's hockey may face snub

KEVIN MCSHAN

For the Detroit Tigers the courtship of free agent outfielder Johnny Damon has reached a successful conclusion.

Johnny Damon has agreed on a one-year, \$8 million deal with the Tigers. His arrival gives the Tigers a legitimate force atop their batting order.

He is also expected to serve as Detroit's everyday left fielder. His signing gives Tigers manager Jim Leyland the option of inserting Carlos Guillen as his everyday designated hitter.

The deal also includes a no-trade clause. The Tigers, if

they fall out of this year's play-off race, can't send Damon to a club he doesn't wish to go to.

Detroit had originally offered Damon a two year contract worth an estimated \$14 million. He also received offers from both the Chicago White Sox and the Atlanta Braves. Both of those deals were reportedly for one year and \$4.5 million.

Damon 36, has 2,425 career hits, and batted .282 with 24 home runs and 82 RBIs last season. He hit .364 in New York's World Series win over the Philadelphia Phillies in 2009.

As it stands, Damon would be the only natural left handed batter in Detroit's starting lineup.

## Vuong, Lamoure win gold



Photo By Gord Bacon

Cambrian Golden Shield badminton players pose with the Ontario College Athletic Association overall team championship banner on Saturday.

MARC GIRARD

The Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association held its badminton championships at St. Clair College over the weekend.

In the men's singles division it was the George Brown College show with Timothy Chiu and Dayvon Reid making the final. In a match that displayed great athleticism, Chiu came out on top, winning the match 21-15 and 21-10.

In the bronze medal game, Randall Brus of Redeemer University College defeated Gurkirandeep Singh of Georgian College 13-21, 21-13 and 21-13.

In the mixed doubles division, the Humber College team of Raymond Wong and Renee Yip won the championship by defeating Sanjay Ashakkumar and Jessica Dacquel of Seneca College 21-18 and 21-11. In the bronze medal game George Brown won another medal. The team of Kumar Sudharshinie and Usama Muhammed beat Georgian's Jamie Paterson and Bradley Mcneice 21-13 and 21-15.

In women's doubles, the Cambrian College team of

Jody Carruthers and Kayla Odorizzi dominated the weekend, going undefeated on their way to a gold medal. In the final they defeated Seneca's Candy Fung and Megan Hopkins 21-13 and 21-10.

In the bronze medal game Jenna Dupuis and Laura Dube of Collège Boréal defeated Ashley Payne and Kathleen Manson of Mohawk College 22-20, 22-24 and 21-10.

In the women's single division St. Clair's Julie Schell went 5-0 in and didn't lose a game. In her first playoff match she was upset by Boréal's Valerie Breen 22-21 and 21-18.

While Breen went on to defeat Humber College's Jordanna Lanquill to win the gold, Schell recovered to defeat Seneca's Yuti Hu 21-18 and 21-17 to claim the bronze medal.

In men's doubles, St. Clair won its first men's doubles gold medal in 12 years. Sam Lamoure and Tran "Johnny" Vuong defeated Chris Haines and Mike Del Fante of Cambrian 21-7 and 21-14.

In a highly contested bronze medal game, Charlie Lay and Mark Wong of Humber defeated Simon Yip and Justin

Lue of Centennial College 22-24, 21-17 and 23-21.

"I feel so awesome because we went all season defeated," said St. Clair badminton coach Clovis McLaughlin. "But I told my guys just keep working hard and it'll pay off. Just stay focused and keep going, stay positive and you'll overcome the obstacle and that obstacle was when (Lamoure and Vuong) overcame Humber and staying focused. The boys worked very hard to get this."

Vuong and Lamoure and the other gold medalists from the event, now head to the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association badminton championships at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton.

"We are enjoying this feeling right," said Vuong. "Now we've got to refocus and prepare for an even bigger stage than this."

The CCAA badminton championships take place March 3-6.

"This feels awesome," said a tearful McLaughlin. "It's a definite proud moment. We have worked all year and it's these moments that make me happy I coach. I couldn't be prouder."

## NCAA FROM PAGE 6

regarding the conditions to consider expanding the NCAA tournament. Missed class time for student-athletes, financial, fan interest are among the key thoughts. I am in favour of reviewing the situation, but would not be in a position to determine the appropriateness until a complete review is completed," said Hollis.

Gardner says he wouldn't be in favour of an expanded tournament.

"When you look at the product the NCAA tournament has become since the current 65-team field was created in 1985, it has become its own brand. For die-hard hoops fans, myself included, it's three weeks of heaven. I fear that adding to that - and adding to the number of days we ask fans to set aside for viewing purposes - will stretch things out much too long and you'll lose the casual fans' attention if you push this thing out any further," Gardner said.

He says there could be some logistical concerns if the tournament is expanded.

"There are many factors, but I think the biggest one is scheduling. When do you play these new 'first-round games'? Are they the weekend before? If so, then conference tournaments would have to be pushed back as well. If they are during the week after Selection Sunday then travel becomes an issue as you'd have 64 teams traveling on a day's notice (assuming they used neutral sites)," he said.

Some individuals, particularly coaches, would endorse an expanded tournament field. Syracuse head coach Jim Boeheim says giving more teams the opportunity in the tournament will be good for college basketball.

"Absolutely they should. We don't have the 65 best teams in the tournament right now. We have automatic qualifiers, so there are teams in there that aren't the best teams in the country. If we expand it to 96, one weekend give 32 teams off, let 32 teams play the next 32 - the last 32 - you'll come out after one weekend with the 64 best teams in the country and play the rest of the tournament," said Boeheim.

Boeheim says expanding the tournament to 96 teams is the best solution because it will provide all teams in college basketball a fair opportunity to participate in the tournament.

"I think it makes sense from a total package point of view, but I'd be happy with an eight or 10 team expansion. I just don't see how that equates. I don't know how that tournament sets up. But we need an expansion this is nothing new - and now more so than ever because we're getting complete and total parity in college basketball," Boeheim said.

As college basketball fans prepare to fillout their March Madness brackets, the NCAA continues to explore the best possible way to grow. No final decision is expected until the summer of 2010 at the earliest.



## Mystery of Valentine's Day

**KIM DUNWOODY**

A mystery surrounds the history of Saint Valentine's Day.

According to a popular story, while St. Valentine was imprisoned he fell in love with the jailor's young daughter who visited frequently. Before he died he was believed to have written his love a letter which he signed, "From Your Valentine." Therefore, he may have written the first Valentine and as a result began an annual tradition, that still goes on today.

In ancient Rome, February was the beginning of spring and the time of the Lupercalia festival. This festival was dedicated to Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture and was a celebration of fertility.

Late in the day after the festival had begun, all young women from the city would supposedly place their names in a large urn. Bachelors from the same city would each choose a name and become paired with that woman. These pairings would often end in marriage.

On Feb. 14, Pope Gelasius declared Saint Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. However, he ended the pairing activity because it didn't reflect the Christian religion.

In France and England during the Middle Ages it was believed that birds began their mating season on Feb. 14, adding to the significance of Saint Valentine's Day.

### Mother of Valentine

The oldest known valentine still in existence is believed to be a poem written by a former Duke of Orleans named Charles. He wrote this poem to his wife while imprisoned in the Tower of London having been previously captured at the Battle of Agincourt. Written in 1415, this valentine is a part of the manuscript collection in the British Library in London, England.

In the 1840s Esther A. Howard became the first person to mass-produce valentines in the United States. She created cards with lace, ribbons and colourful pictures. Howard is known as the Mother of Valentine.

## A chocolate covered Valentine's Day

**VERONICA SAMEK**

As Valentine's Day approaches the smell of chocolate fills the air.

The reason why we give chocolate on Valentine's Day may not be clear in our history but often it is the first thing on our minds. Heart-shaped boxes of chocolate can be found everywhere from the grocery aisle to corner stores, but those looking for more variety should head to their local chocolate shop. There they will find mounds of chocolate moulds, rich truffles and unique chocolate treats

sure to please every valentine.

Colleen Vezmar, 56, is a confessed "chocoholic." As a young girl she was taught to associate chocolate with Valentine's Day.

"That velvet red box, the truffles ... it doesn't matter what form it's in, it's an old fashion way of showing love," said Vezmar, recalling the memory of an old boyfriend giving her her first box of chocolates.

For the week leading up to Valentine's Day, Walker's Candies manager, Rob Obeid expects to be busy. He

expects to sell up to five times more product than an average sales day. Obeid thinks quality chocolate is the best Valentine's Day gift because of the fine ingredients and skillful presentation.

"The secret to good chocolate is finding pure chocolate, anything that's handmade you can't beat that," said Obeid, who follows the same Walker's Belgian chocolate recipe created 90 years ago.

"All that other chocolate is processed and has preservatives, you can tell the difference."

Obeid encourages people to buy chocolates over flowers because of its economical cost.

"We don't hike our prices up like all the flower companies, our prices are the same all year round," said Obeid.

Walker's charges approximately \$1 a piece for a strawberry dipped in and drizzled with chocolate. For something more unique, they offer a bouquet of chocolate three-dimensional roses or a chocolate heart-shaped box with chocolate truffles inside.

Joseph Pender made the mis-

**BUDGET FROM PAGE 9**

## Valentine's Day hard work for florists



Brandi Sullivan of Janette Florists works diligently to fulfill orders in time for Valentine's Day. The flower shop is located on Janette Avenue in Windsor.



Photo by Kristie Pearce

**BUDGET FROM PAGE 1**

for a rewards card until the end of February.

Grab your skates and head downtown to Charles Clark Square where they offer free skating.

Send a Valentine e-card to that special someone.

Head to Malden Hill and go tobogganing. Bring a thermos of hot cocoa to share on top of the hill.

Find a recipe from a cookbook you both have never tried. Shop for the ingredients together and listen to romantic music as you cook dinner together. Light candles for ambience.

Create handmade coupons with gifts your partner can redeem for a massage or a homemade dinner.

Trade iPods and mp3 players and load music that reminds you of your significant other or your favorite songs. Every time they listen they'll think of you.

Check local restaurants for offers and promotions. Caesar's Windsor is offering a free buffet when you sign up

**BUDGET FROM PAGE 8**

take one year of not getting his girlfriend chocolates for Valentine's Day.

"I still haven't been forgiven, but hopefully this year I'll get it right," said Pender, who plans to buy chocolate-covered strawberries for his sig-

nificant other.

Recently opened Forrat's Chocolates at Devonshire Mall hopes to have at least 200 orders in for their chocolate-covered strawberries bouquet. For \$14.99 the strawberries are dipped in

milk or dark chocolate and dressed to look like a bouquet of roses, tied with a bow. An anti-Valentine's Day feature is also available at Forrat's, it includes a gourmet smore, chocolate-dipped rice square, chocolate bark and a piece of

caramel for \$19.99.

At 19, Corina Spada says she isn't looking for a valentine and plans to spend Valentine's Day with her best friends eating lots of chocolate.

"Chocolate and Valentine's

Day just goes together, like peanut butter and jelly," said Spada.

On the day that celebrates love, perhaps it's our love for chocolate that makes us want to share a piece or two with that special someone.



## Column

### Single, ladies?

Laura Lemmon

Every year around the beginning of February florists advertise special sales on bouquets of roses, store fronts display teddy bears and candy hearts and chocolatiers work overtime. Every woman knows these signs point to one day, Feb. 14. Valentine's Day.

It's the one day of the year where relationships are flaunted for all to see. What's a single girl to do? With so much pressure placed on women to be married, Valentine's Day seems like a reason for them to feel depressed and lonely even though it's essentially just another day on the calendar. And for that matter, Valentine's Day gives the unhealthy impression that women in relationships are supposed to love their partner a little bit more that day than any other day of the year.

With so much sensitivity surrounding the subject of love (or lack thereof) on Valentine's Day, it may be time to revert back to the simpler times of childhood. Remember when you bought

boxes of valentines cards and wrote one out for each person on your class list. Or how you actually made your own valentines for your best friends. Or even how you wondered what kind of candy and chocolate your teachers would give pass out that day in class.

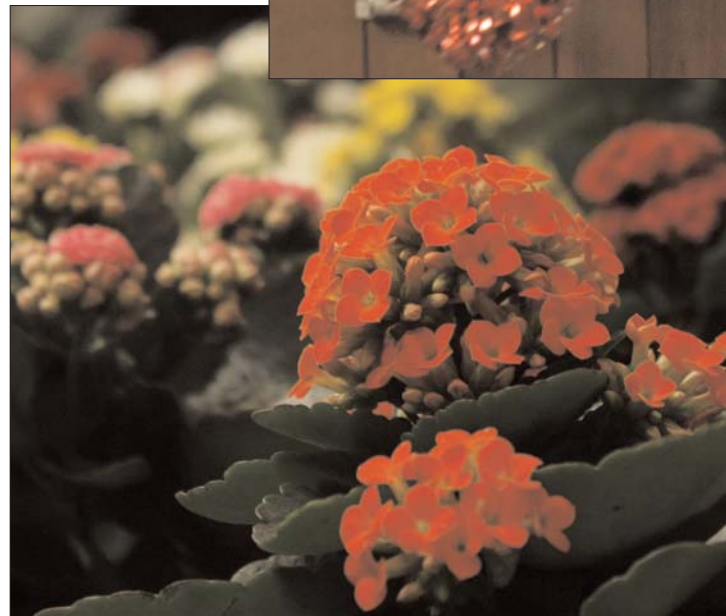
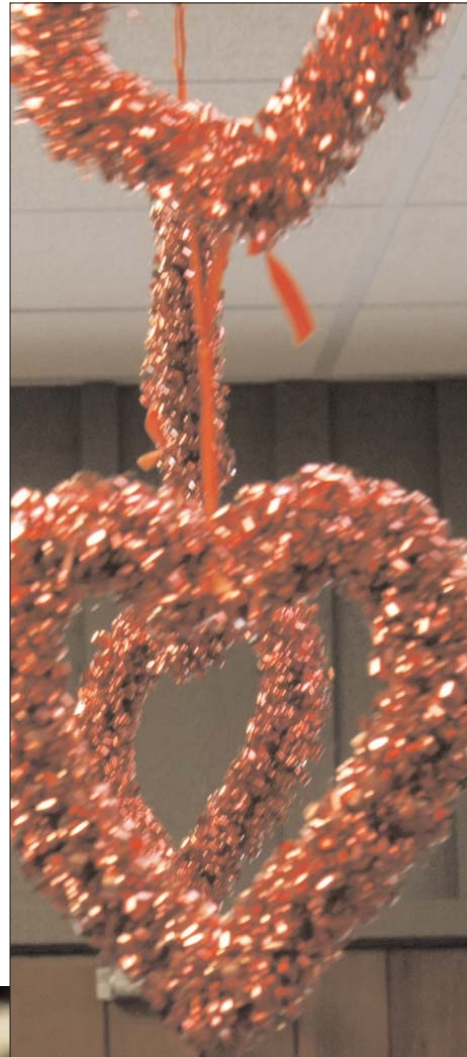
Even though Valentine's Day is meant to celebrate love, the sentiment of that love has been twisted up in commercialization and romance. This year, remember the Valentine's Days of your grade school years, when it was about friendships, caring and innocent love.

If single girls continue to associate Valentine's Day with a lack of romance it will forever remain a depressing day. But, this year, try to take charge of the day for yourself and revert back to your childhood mentality. Make the day about showing friends and family that you truly care about them.

Maybe even enough to dig out the glitter and construction paper and make those special people your Valentines for the day.

Photos By John McCann

*As Valentine's Day nears florists busy themselves with preparations. Janette Florists in Windsor is one flower shop that finds business to perk up in mid February. They are busy as they try to fill all orders on time for the day of love.*



# Experience Banff on a budget

**LAURA LEMMON**

Banff is home of the Canadian Rockies, world-class ski and snowboard facilities, fine shopping, gourmet dining—and high prices.

To student, young adult or budget travelers, Banff may seem like a destination to avoid when experiencing the popular region of western Canada, thanks to its reputation as an expensive tourist town.

Banff can be reasonable for the budget-conscious traveler without sacrificing part of the world-class natural and man-made attractions that captivate any visitor.

Banff is like a mythical place for those who have never been, a pristine ecosystem that includes crystal blue lakes, jagged mountain peaks and blankets of sparkling white snow. These natural attractions are an ever-present backdrop for the town, but there is also a unique and adventurous community to discover that doesn't cost a small fortune to experience.

One of the most astounding costs for travelers in Banff is accommodations. Due to strict building laws in national parks, there are next to no chalets or cottages to rent, leaving resorts, hotels, inns and hostels as lodging options.

Most come at a high cost for the scenic views and the luxury they provide, as is evident with the famous Fairmont Banff Springs where a room with one bed and 250 square feet of space starts at \$279 a night.

I was lucky enough to enjoy five-star lodging at the mountainside Rimrock Resort for a fraction of the normally \$186 per night room fee, thanks to a family and friend's discount. My lower rate of \$68 per night saved me a considerable amount of money, but these types of deals aren't the norm.

While it is worth inquiring to see if resorts such as the Rimrock offer mid-week or weekend room specials, such promotions are limited to the off-season. If you choose the peak tourist season to visit Banff—December to April—more sensible prices for lodging can be found scattered along Banff Avenue—the town's main road for local business and pleasure.

The many outdoorsy inns and internationally renowned hostels in town don't have the scenery and amenities of the



Photo by **Laura Lemmon**

A popular tourist attraction, the Banff Gondola and the boardwalk on Sulphur Mountain, built in 1959, allow visitors an unobstructed, 360 degree view of the region and a glimpse at mountain ranges across the provincial border into British Columbia. Many tourists use the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the historic Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, known as the castle in the mountains.

resort hotels, but they do offer warm beds and a place to take shelter from the biting cold mountain winds at an economical price.

The average price for a one-night stay at any of Banff's six hostels is \$26.50, while the inns average \$54 per night.

The next expensive costs are meals and transportation. Some accommodations will offer shuttle services around town and to the attractions nestled in the mountainsides, but I found it best to ask for advice from the people who know best—the locals.

Being a town no larger than five square kilometres, it's not hard to get around Banff on foot. Everything is conveniently located in the small downtown area and despite the crowds of tourists, the locals are more than happy to recommend a restaurant or give directions.

Banffites never steered me wrong. One lady informed me that the bus system was the cheapest and greenest way to get around, leading me to town hall where I could buy bus tokens. For \$15, I bought 10 tokens, which lasted me the week and I traveled on hybrid-electric buses that ran on-time and were equipped to handle ski and snowboard gear.

Since buses are only for local travel, if you have the urge to explore the immediate neighbouring areas of Canmore, Lake Louise and Kananaskis,

rental cars are the best choice. For a 24-hour rental, a car from Avis is \$43 plus a full tank of gas when returned.

The food in Banff is enough to make any carnivore smile in delight. Steak is served on every menu, but for the best value look for the lunch and dinner specials. The Elk & Oarsman Bar and Grill offers a weekly dinner special for \$8 which includes a seven ounce steak, salad, onion rings, vegetable side and a baked potato. The rustic dining area is adorned with a variety of animal head, with both dining levels filled up to enjoy the self-proclaimed "best deal in town."

Lunch specials aren't advertised as frequently as dinner, but it's worth inquiring about daily house specials. By simply asking the hostess, I enjoyed an affordable and filling fish and chips lunch at St. James's Gate Olde Irish Pub after a morning of hiking along the Bow River and the next day decided to be adventurous and indulge in an elk burger at a local favourite, the Banff Grizzly House.

While hotels and dining establish the quieter side of vacationing in Banff, a trip here is not complete without outdoor activities. Downhill skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and nordic skiing are popular outdoor sports in Banff, and for those who want to enjoy nature on a less extreme level, there are the

Banff Upper Hot Springs, the Banff Gondola and Johnston Falls. If there is one area to spend a little extra money this would be it. The atmosphere in the mountains is unparalleled and will be worth every dollar spent.

Some of the world's premiere ski facilities are located in and around Banff. Locals enjoy Mount Norquay and if you're looking for a less crowded, slightly less challenging hill, this is your spot. It is the cheapest of the three ski resorts at about \$50 for an all-day lift ticket and isn't as congested as the more popular Sunshine Village and Lake Louise.

One benefit to Sunshine Village and Lake Louise are the exceptional trails and some of Canada's best snow, which has kept skiers coming back for over 80 years. Day passes cost upwards of \$75, but the extra cost gives you access to over 3,300 acres of runs at each mountain and includes gondola rides to the top of the villages.

While bus companies offer drop-off and pick-up services for around \$50, many locals

**SEE BANFF, PAGE 12**

*More Information...*

Contact the Town of Banff at 403-762-1200 or [banfftourism.ca](http://banfftourism.ca), and Banff-Lake Louise Visitor's Guide at [visitors-info.com](http://visitors-info.com).

## If you go to Banff, Alta.

The town

The town of Banff, located in Banff National Park, covers an area of about five square kilometres and is home to just over 8,700 permanent residents. It is surrounded by the Alberta Rockies mountain range is the town with the highest elevation in Canada 4,800 feet. Every year about four million people visit Banff and the surrounding area within the national park. The winter months are particularly busy, with students coming to live and work on student visas, but some tourists prefer the milder summers.

Accommodations

Hotels and resorts are quite expensive, but there are exceptions. The numerous inns and hostels in Banff have very reasonable prices that cater to students and young travelers. The food is generally good and there are many types of fare to choose from. Banff is one of the best places in western Canada to taste angus beef and game meats, such as venison, elk and bison. If you decide to splurge on a meal there are many gourmet and fine dining options as well.



Photo by Rebecca Tremblay

Clockwise top left - Eric Downie, Jesse Woodrich, Corey Woodrich, Jesse Couvillon and Jamie Couvillon Windsor band Anonymous Bosch sit atop of their car, Nancy, hours before they headed into the studio to record.

## Cowell turns down \$100 million

KEVIN McSHAN

They say money can't buy happiness and apparently for American Idol's pungent, and often opinionated judge Simon Cowell, that statement rings true.

According to the New York Post, the 50-year-old music industry icon was reportedly offered \$100 million to remain behind the judge's table on one of the most-watched reality TV shows. However, the brutally honest Brit, whose sharp-tongued nature helped make him one of the most popular figures in American music, will be leaving the hit TV singing competition after this season.

The X Factor, a talent show he created which is popular in his native Britain, will join Fox's fall schedule next year. Cowell will be a judge and assume the role of executive producer on the show.

Lise Colarossi, a fan of the show, believes it won't be the same without the sarcastically crude and insensitive remarks of Cowell.

"I think the show would not be the same without Simon because it would be very boring without him," Colarossi said. "It's more entertaining with him being a judge because he's so brutally honest and critical of people. I feel the show will lose a lot of viewers without him."

Lee Thomas, senior entertainment reporter for Fox 2

SEE IDOL, PAGE 12

## Local band not so anonymous

REBECCA TREMBLAY

With a unique sound and lyrics a local band is rising in popularity.

Jesse and Jamie Couvillon, Jesse and Corey Woodrich and Eric Downie formed their band, Anonymous Bosch, just under a year ago. Their name was inspired by Hieronymus Bosch, a painter from the Renaissance period known for his sketch-style paintings of heaven and hell.

The band has played at local venues such as the Coach and Horse, the Chubby Pickle, Phog Lounge, St. Clair

College, the Sunnyside Tavern, Spicoli's Barley Bun and the Blind Dog, where they opened for Sabastian Bach Jan. 29.

Band members said opening for Bach was difficult.

"We opened up for Sabastian Bach and it was just a huge mess," said Woodrich. "Everything went completely wrong and we were told we weren't going to play. Then it was we were only going to have 20 minutes to play and we started to playing with absolutely no sound check. My microphone wasn't work-

ing, but we pulled through it."

The band thanks their friends and family for support, but mainly Downie's father, Rob, who took the role as their manager. They also said they thank the fans who show up to every show. The band - has advice for people wanting to start their own bands be prepared for the worst, make sure you can tolerate the people you're playing with, ask for feedback and be able to hold your own.

"I would say seek honest feedback," said Woodrich. "Don't just ask your friends

and family what they think. If people don't tell you anything then they probably didn't like it. If no one comes up to you after the show they just don't want to say anything."

The band said they hope to start making more money off their music as well as be able to play outside Windsor and LaSalle. They also said they want their music to inspire people mentally and physically.

"If my guitar playing inspires someone else to pick up a guitar, then I've done my job," said Couvillon.

## Cheap Trick plays at Casino Windsor

MATT WEINGARDEN

They may be getting older but Cheap Trick continues to rock and roll the way they did 35 years ago when the band was founded in Rockford, Ill. in 1974.

The band continues to tour with the original line-up: Robin Zander, vocals and guitars, Rick Nielsen, guitars and vocals, Tom Petterson, bass and drummer Bun. E Carlos.

Cheap Trick's American power-pop is a combination of Beatle-esque melodies with a punk-rock edge, all wrapped together in a whole lot of fun. Nielsen's stage antics are still fresh and what are fans have come to expect from a Cheap Trick show. He prances and jumps about while throwing guitar picks out to adoring fans. Nielsen still dresses in

the familiar argyle sweater, bowtie and baseball cap while sporting Chuck Taylors. Robin Zander's vocals were strong and mixed perfectly over Nielsen's razor sharp guitar licks, Tom Peterssons 12-string bass thunder and rock steady rhythm of Bun. E Carlos.

Neilsen is known for his massive collection of guitars and changed instruments on almost every song during the set. His arsenal includes several Gibson Explorers, Les Pauls, Hamers, a silver Gretsch and a 59' Telecaster Esquire given to him by British guitar virtuoso Jeff Beck. Neilson also tours with a number of custom-made guitars including his famous three and five-necked check-board models.



Photo courtesy of zimbo.com

From left Cheap Trick: Guitarist Rick Nielson, front man Robin Zander, bassist Tom Petersson and drummer Bun. E. Carlos attend a press conference in Las Vegas in June 2009 to announce their concert tour.

SEE TRICK, PAGE 12

**IDOL FROM PAGE 11**

News, says Cowell's decision to leave the hit talent show should come as no surprise.

"I interviewed Simon about three years ago and I got the feeling that he was done with the show. I said a year-and-a-half ago that he wasn't going to renew his contract. I just got that feeling from talking to him," Thomas said.

American Idol entered its ninth season Jan. 12 and has been the country's most popular television program for the past five years, launching the careers of Kelly Clarkson, Jordin Sparks, Carrie Underwood and Chris Daughtry.

According to Nelson Media, the company that tracks television ratings, the most recent premiere of American Idol posted an 11.7 rating among adults 18 to 49 and drew 29.8 million total viewers, which is right in line with last year's premiere performance.

This season's premiere increased by eight per cent for viewers between the ages 18 to 34. The Idol premiere was the highest rated night of entertainment programming this season, and the highest rated American Idol telecast since last year's Jan 14 premiere.

But despite its continued popularity, viewership for American Idol has been declining since the show reached its peak in 2005. During that season, the show averaged more than 30 million weekly viewers, according to Horizon Media.

Last year's weekly audience averaged just fewer than 25 million. The median age of viewers has increased from nearly 32-years-old in the first season to about 44-years-old



AP File photo

After nine seasons on American Idol, Simon Cowell is leaving the hit reality singing show in order to bring his hit British talent show *The X Factor*, to the States. Cowell will serve as both a judge and the executive producer on the show.

last year.

Thomas says the music industry is evolving every day and American Idol has helped to transform its perception.

The industry was already changing with the changing technology. I think now that people can buy singles via the Internet there is a whole new rating system and revenue stream. Idol selling singles during the show is a great way to generate money," said Thomas

He also said the show gives the viewing public a chance to become engaged in the industry on a more personal level.

"The audience follows the star in the making. And that

seems to give them a bigger investment in that person. I think those are the biggest changes, other than giving a complete unknown a chance at stardom and success," Thomas said.

He still thinks American Idol can have success on a weekly basis even with Cowell's departure.

"I believe American Idol can still have ratings success, it's all about the judges they get to replace the ones who have gone. We will see. Fox needs to also make sure that *The X Factor* is a show on its network. American Idol competing with *X Factor* is a huge mistake," said Thomas.

Linda Lee, 48, of 99.5 WYCD, says Cowell's tendency to dish out tenacious, cruel yet honest commentary towards all the inspiring singers has led to the overwhelming popularity of both the show and Cowell himself.

"He obviously is the most popular of the three judges and his brutal honesty is appreciated by viewers who would think but never say what he says," said Lee.

Lee says she wouldn't be surprised if former Idol judge Paula Abdul is sitting behind the judge's table on Cowell's new show.

"I believe that Paula will join him on *X Factor* when it

debuts here in the States," said Lee.

Ellen DeGeneres, 51, replaced Paula Abdul as the fourth judge on American Idol. After Abdul and Idol producers couldn't agree on a long-term extension of her contract which expired at the end of the 2009 season she ended her time as a judge.

DeGeneres will join the show once it reaches Los Angeles following the audition rounds. She was unable to begin her stint earlier due to her commitments on her daytime talk show.

American Idol airs every Tuesday and Wednesday night at 8 p.m.

**TRICK FROM PAGE 11**

Cheap Trick ripped through almost two dozen songs during the 90-minute set in front of a crowd of 5,000 at the Colosseum in Casino Windsor. The band played many of its old standby hits including anthems *I Want You to Want Me*, *Heaven Tonight*, *Dream Police*, *Elvis Presley's Don't be Cruel* and the ever enduring *Surrender*. They also played a number of new releases from last year's release *The Latest* including the single *Miracle*.

Cheap Trick recently finished a tour and CD/DVD release in tribute to the 40th anniversary of the Beatles Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The band continues to tour and keep a busy sched-

ule, proving you're never too old to rock and roll.



Photo by wzmh.com

Caesars Windsor, located on Riverside Drive, hosts many live entertainment shows.

**BANFF FROM PAGE 10**

who are heading to the mountains will take tourists for \$5 of gas money. While many tourists consider it hitchhiking, it is their way of life and locals are more than happy to have company for the ride.

Other activities include ice skating at the Vermillion Lakes, a short distance east of the Banff townsite and nordic skiing in Canmore. There is no charge to skate at the lakes and you can rent skates from one of Banff's sports shops for \$4. The Canmore Nordic Centre is popular for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing and costs about \$10 for an all-day excursion on the groomed trails.

For a more scenic and less extreme activity, the Banff

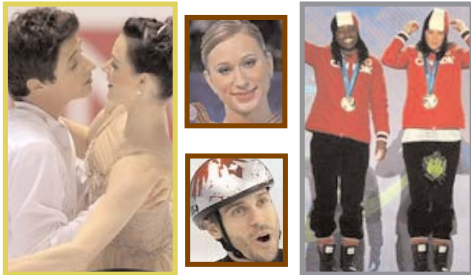
Gondola costs an adult under \$30 and brings you over 7,500 feet above sea level. It has no time restrictions, leaving you ample time to explore the Rockies and walk the boardwalk and viewing deck to the Cosmic Ray station at the summit of Sulphur Mountain.

A must-do when in Banff is to soak in the naturally Hot Springs. Also located on Sulphur Mountain, the hot springs are a great way to relax after a long day and allow you to keep warm in the 104 F water while being surrounded by snow covered Douglas Fir trees and snow-capped mountains peak. It is the quintessential wintertime activity in Banff, according to the locals.

While there is so much to

experience while exploring Banff, it can be hard to remember to stay on budget. While some expenses will inevitably cost more than others, the most important thing to remember is to do what interests you most and ask the locals for their opinions. If you take the time to seek it out, the true nature of Banff will be revealed and you will enjoy a truly wonderful and rarely explored side of the 129 year-old settlement.

Although it can be tempting to spend money on things that are advertised and marketed for tourists, the best memories I have are those that cost me nothing. The stunning natural beauty of Banff is worth more than anything I bought as a souvenir and it was free.



## Seen and heard in Vancouver

### Seen

These pants can be spotted from a mile away. The blue and red argyle pants worn by the Norwegian curlers goes against the grain of traditional curling garb – black pants and a shirt with your country's colours – but they have been the talk of many Olympic viewers. These pants have become so popular even Norway's King Harald V wants a pair.

Sure, Vancouver is the host city of the Winter Games, but fans across the country have embraced them as Canada's games. Fans have flooded the streets of downtown Vancouver and all the venues have been packed. Outside of Vancouver and the surrounding areas, people have been cheering and celebrating triumphs with house parties and social gatherings. It's been a party in Canada, that's for sure

### Seen

Love him or hate him, American figure skater Johnny Weir made his presence know in Vancouver. From his self-designed costumes and his consistent skating to his self-proclaimed love of Lady Gaga, Weir could be considered one of the most fascinating athletes of the Olympic Winter Games.

### Seen and Heard

After spending weeks calling Canadians "syrupsuckers" and "Saskatchewaners", among other things, on his show The Colbert Report Stephen Colbert arrived to a warm welcome in Vancouver. As the primary sponsor of the American long-track speedskating team, Colbert taped shows in front of massive crowds and supported his athletes to medal performances at the Richmond Speedskating Oval.

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### MAELLE RICKER



Age: 31  
Hometown: North Vancouver, British Columbia  
Sport: Snowboard Cross

Ricker broke through on the podium in her third Olympics Games, winning the gold medal in women's snowboard cross. A competitor in three different snowboarding disciplines early in her career, Ricker now only races snowboard cross and first began competing on the World Cup circuit during the 1996-97 season. She has won two gold medals and one bronze at the Winter-X Games and was the overall World Cup snowboard cross champion in 2007-08. She became the first Canadian woman to win a gold medal on Canadian soil with her victory.

### CLARA HUGHES



Age: 37  
Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Sport: Long-track Speedskating

With her bronze medal in the women's 5,000M long-track speedskating race, Hughes is now tied with fellow speedskater Cindy Klassen as Canada's most decorated Olympian with six medals. But Hughes is in a category all her own as the most successful multiple medal winner at both the Summer Olympics and Winter Games. The flag bearer for Canada at the opening ceremonies, Hughes has said this will be the last time she competes at the Olympics and hopes to remain in sport through coaching and charity work with children.

### JON MONTGOMERY



Age: 30  
Hometown: Russell, Manitoba  
Sport: Skeleton

He races in one of the fastest sports in the world and with his gold medal win in the men's skeleton may have inspired some to take an interest in the sport. Montgomery began competing in skeleton in 2003, finally breaking through on the World Cup during the 2008 season, winning his first race in Italy and finishing second in the overall standings. He was the first Canadian at these Olympics to win a gold medal at an event being held in Whistler.

### ALEXANDRE BILODEAU



Age: 22  
Hometown: Rosemere, Quebec  
Sport: Freestyle Skiing- Moguls

Bilodeau became the first Canadian to win a gold medal on home soil with his win in the men's moguls competition. He began competing in moguls after watching his idol, Jean-Luc Brassard win a moguls gold medal at the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Before his Olympic victory, Bilodeau was rookie of the year on the World Cup circuit for the 2005-06 season and won the 2009 World Cup overall moguls title. He considers his older brother, Frédéric, his inspiration.