

# EDITORIAL

## Crozier family deserves applause

Dylan, Jordan and Eric Crozier, along with their parents Kim and Perry, are to be commended for sticking to their convictions, seeing a process through to the end, and – hopefully – effecting change for the benefit of all.

We list Dylan first in this commentary for a very important reason. Dylan is the youngest in the Crozier clan. Like all kids he struggles a little to etch out his individuality.

Having his older brother, Jordan, join him on his hockey team hasn't been the easiest thing in the world. But he understands that sometimes you make sacrifices for family. Sometimes you repeat the song: He ain't heavy. He's my brother.

This year Jordan was granted the right to play in a hockey tournament for a team with kids younger than himself. It doesn't sound like a big deal. But anyone remotely aware of the passion hockey generates in most Canadians understands that making an exception to a crucial rule is big. It's very big.

However, the decision is the right one. Hockey is a game. The relationships it forms? That's life.

Jordan deserves to have as normal a life as possible. It's good for him, good for his family, good for our community.

"It's like a big family," Kim said, regarding the West Carleton Minor Hockey Association. True. And family sticks together. Good job, WCMHA.

## SWEET SPRING IS HERE



A hungry customer awaits his order at Andrea and Joe's french fry truck in Carp the day after opening last week. The Sweet Potato punches far above its weight by offering a Canada Day concert and donating funds to various charities.

Photo by Derek Dunn

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# No benevolent poop-fairies in Carp

To the editor:

While taking my dog for a walk around the Carp fairgrounds, I was dismayed to see two plastic bags of dog poop left on the ground by the side of a path.

I wonder who these dog owners think is going to come by and pick up what they have left – a benevolent poop-fairy who will whisk it away by magic?

I have seen the same thing left on the streets, next to people's front yards, and am amazed that anyone would

think this is acceptable.

It is no one's responsibility but the dog owner's to deal with this appropriately, preferably by taking the bag home and disposing of its contents in the toilet.

We are lucky to have the fairgrounds in Carp, where we can exercise our dogs and let them run free.

Let's not regard the area as a dumping ground, but instead respect it as the privilege it is, or we may lose it.

Marion Pogson, Carp

# Water issues complex, but need discussing

To the editor:

Water is once again in the news. Last week, two interesting stories made it into the local media. The first one was where city council voted for the expenditure of \$1.1 million on a program to promote 'world class drinking water' in and to the citizens of Ottawa. This, at its fundamental level, is aimed to promote the usage of "City provided" water. The second issue relates to the fact that water rates are going up because of lower consumption rates.

Both issues are more complex than they seem on the surface. Those of us who live in rural areas, not serviced by city sewer and water services are responsible for the installation and maintenance of our own 'infrastructure'. We pay to get our septic

tanks installed and pumped as well as getting our own wells drilled and if required, the water filtered, treated or conditioned.

Some of us even pay for the operation of sump pumps to keep the water out of our basements! Should we have to pay an equal amount to that of an urban water user on an annual basis? I would say definitely not. Should homeowners have a flat annual water tax of say \$50 per household to support infrastructure renewal applied across the board regardless of usage – absolutely.

I would expect the urban councillors to support my proposal for similar flat fee increase in Para Transpo tax rates to make its user cost equal throughout the city (\$3.25/\$4.25 per one way trip) and not disproportionate in rural areas (up to \$18.50 per one

way trip.) Lets try to keep the playing field level for all.

The water and sewer rate changes are due, at least in part to the reduced water consumption by the city. Any number of contributing factors may have caused this, be it the rainy cool summer, the success of the water conservation program being just two factors.

The net result was that in February of this year, council was advised that water consumption was down by over 6 per cent and the associated revenue was down by \$16 million. Certainly the consumption rate of water is variable, but the city also has a lot of historical data to identify those trends. The city also had implemented the water conservation program.

See WHO page 7

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# Who at city hall dropped the bucket of water?

Continued from page 4

Who was monitoring the change, even on a monthly trend level of the actual received revenue over projected? Let's not assume that the change happened right at the end of the reporting period either as it would have necessitated the city to have not used any water for about three weeks. Somebody, somewhere dropped the ball, or perhaps water bucket is a more suitable term.

Now in 2010, the city wants us to drink water from the tap. Those of us who live with well water deal with it as we chose to. The City's study points out that 25 per cent of a surveys respondents had cleanliness concerns about public fountains. Does this mean the quality of the water or the fact that the last person who used it stuck their chewing gum into the spout??

Having Ottawatermobiles won't solve the later concern. Should the City give away "City of Ottawa" refillable bottles - no. Should they sell them on a full cost recovery or a cost recovery plus a couple dollars basis - again, absolutely, sign me up for two of them.

This survey states that about 70 percent of the 701 who responded were happy with the quality of their water. One answer I have not found out as of writing this is how many of the respondents were in Rural Ottawa, ie not on City sewer and water?

The City has a well defined requirement for the quality of water that must be provided to residents. City staff do an admirable job in meeting or exceeding those requirements. The City's "Water" webpage states that:

• During 2007, the Britannia and Lemieux Island Water Purifications plants treated an average of 301 million litres of drinking water each day. During the year 100,000 water quality tests were performed on drinking water samples, covering 300 categories.



ALEXANDER ARONEC

ries. The results consistently demonstrate that Ottawa residents receive high quality drinking water that meets, or is better than all federal and provincial standards."

Another City webpage is titled: "Ottawa's Drinking Water Quality Rated as Exceptional". We are not the Walkerton of Eastern Ontario.

What is needed at City Hall is a Project Control Office which will provide council with advance warning of over runs, under runs, unexpected activities on projects and programs both accurately and more importantly in a timely manner. Further, in an effort to save some of the \$366,000 that is going to be spent on advertising how good the water is, City Councillors could use their advertisements, columns, websites paid for with our tax dollars as part of each Councillors over \$200k annual budget to point these facts out and identify where to go to get informed.

How many have or had identified the Brita Filter-ForGood event in the Market on April 17 where Brita is giving away free filters and bottles to help reduce the use of bottled water?

I, at least until December 1, 2010 will have to utilize other methods, such as this, to tell people that a good start on things you need to know about water quality is available by dial-

ing 3-1-1 or going to [www.ottawa.ca/water](http://www.ottawa.ca/water).

**Alexander Aronec**  
Ward 5 candidate

Editor's note: Alexander Aronec lives in Old South March. Incorrect information appeared in the Feb. 18, 2010 story 'Election Ready'. The West Carleton Review regrets any confusion that may have followed.



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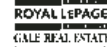
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## A DANGEROUS MIX

It's a fact that many fire deaths are caused by people attempting to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol.

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### SPRINGTIME COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, April 20 • 7am - 10am

We cordially invite our business associates and neighbours, our health care professionals and care takers to join us for a Breakfast Buffet.

## Kanata Sailing Club

# \*\* Open House \*\*

## April 24th,

## 12:00pm

www.kanatasailingclub.com