

dianedeans.ca



**DIANE DEANS**  
Councillor/Conseillère,  
quartier Gloucester-Southgate Ward

dianedeans.ca  
613-580-2480

R0012762665



**ESCAPE EXPLORE 2016**  
Your Go-To Travel Guide

Featuring local destinations for  
all your travel needs.

**JUNE 30, 2016**

Call Carly McGhie  
613-221-6154

metrolandmedia  
Connected to your community

Member of Parliament | Député

**David McGuinty**

Ottawa South | Ottawa-Sud

(613) 990-8640  
david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca  
www.davidmcguinty.ca




# Ottawa South News

June 2, 2016 | 56 pages

OttawaCommunityNews.com

## Public support sought as festival deals with change

Erin McCracken  
erin.mccracken@metroland.com

Ottawa's dragon boat festival needs you now, more than ever before.

Plans to build a giant playground at the north end of Mooney's Bay Park, where the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival has been held for more than 20 years, have organizers appealing for the public's backing.

See DRAGON, page 6



ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND

## Pitch perfect

Vidun Jayakody, 12, left, and Josh Wolf, 13, were on hand to celebrate the May 27 grand opening of Lafrange Field at Featherston Drive Public School, which now boasts a new cricket pitch. See story, page 33.

**LOOK INSIDE FOR YOUR CANADIAN TIRE FLYER**



**FROM 7.99 ea**

Miracle-Gro Premium Potting Soils. Selected types. 28.3L. 59-3835X.



## My office is here to help!

My staff and I are here for you. Please contact us if you require assistance with the following:

- Birth, death and marriage certificates
- OHIP cards
- Driver's licences
- Congratulatory messages
- Landlord or Tenant concerns
- Family Responsibility Office
- The Legislative Page Program
- General inquiries regarding provincial programs



## Cricket players pitch in at Featherston school

### New cricket pitch generates interest from across Ottawa

Erin McCracken  
erin.mccracken@metroland.com

Vidun Jayakody and Josh Wolf are barely into their teens, but they already foresee big things for cricket at their school for generations to come.

They hope to return one day as adults to see the next crop of young players using the cricket pitch behind Featherston Drive Public School, competing against other students from across the city in an established league.

Their school's pitch, which officially opened on May 27, is the first of its kind at a school in Ottawa's English public school board, and just one of a handful of pitches in Ottawa.

"It means a lot," said Vidun, 12, an eight-year veteran of the sport who has been teaching other kids at his Alta Vista-area school to play, along with classmate and friend, Aathavan Uruthirapathy.

A dedication ceremony marking the grand opening of Lafrange Field – the name of the new pitch – drew school and board officials as well as Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier.

The main attraction of the celebration was a cricket tournament starring kids from Featherston, nearby Vincent Massey Public School and D.A. Moodie Intermediate School. That west-end school sends students once a year to Featherston to play cricket.

Vidun's classmate, Josh, has quickly grown to love the sport in recent years – even when he and his peers could only play on an old baseball diamond.

The 13-year-old said it's nice to know the pitch will be there for future generations, and that he and his friends will one day be able to look back and say they were a part of helping the sport grow locally.

"We want to come back and see it one day," Josh said with a grin, drawing agreement from Vidun.

"It's nice to say we made a mark," Vidun said.

#### STUDENTS DRIVING FORCE

Nick Janna, the Featherston teacher who first came up with the idea to build a cricket pitch, said the project's driving force was his students. About two years ago, he brought out his own cricket bats and balls during recess and the kids quickly gathered around.

"I'm just like stunned," Janna said of their response.

Construction of the sports field was only completed a few days before it officially opened, but already word had spread. Janna said he couldn't believe his eyes when he saw adults playing together on the new turf.

"They were giddy like kids. They're like, 'This is beautiful,'" he said.

"It was wild."

See SCHOOL, page 34



PHOTOS BY ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND



Above: The new cricket pitch at Featherston Drive Public School in Alta Vista, now known as Lafrange Field, was made possible thanks to funding provided by the school's parent council and Ryan Lafrange, at left. The pitch was spearheaded by Nick Janna, a Featherston teacher, at right. They helped celebrate the opening of the field during a dedication ceremony on May 27.



At left: Wicket keeper Josh Wolf, 13, looks on as Kalpa Jayanetti, an educational assistant at Featherston Drive Public School, takes his turn at bat on the new cricket pitch at the school, which opened to much fanfare on May 27.



Premium Sponsor  
Commanditaire en titre



International Air Show  Spectacle aérien international

 <b>FAMILY PASS</b>	<b>8 Wing/CFB Trenton</b>	
	25-26 June/juin 2016 <a href="http://www.QIAS2016.com">www.QIAS2016.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:airshow@cfbtrenton.com">airshow@cfbtrenton.com</a>	



COMMEMORATING THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AIR TRAINING PLAN  
COMMÉMORATION DU PROGRAMME D'ENTRAÎNEMENT AÉRIEN DU COMMONWEALTH BRITANNIQUE



ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND

Bowler Mazhar Choudhry, with Cricket Ottawa, winds up to deliver a ball to a waiting batter on the new cricket pitch that opened at Featherston Drive Public School on May 27.

## School celebrates new cricket pitch

*Continued from page 33*

Ottawa's newest cricket pitch has also caused a stir beyond Alta Vista.

Janna said other clubs and associations have been calling, including Cricket Ottawa, the Cumberland Cricket Club and the Ottawa Valley Cricket Council Junior Cricket, which has already offered to provide free coaching clinics to Featherston students.

When Peter Gamwell, a superintendent with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, heard about the new sports field, he had to see it for himself.

"It's so interesting with all these different cultures here," he said. "Cricket is such a natural point of connection for people."

He got a kick out of listening to the students speak excitedly about the sport he grew up playing back in England.

"It's so curious to see it at the very beginning stages," he said. "It's just magic."

That's precisely why Ryan Lafrange matched the \$5,000 that the Featherston parent council contributed to the construction of the pitch.

Having grown up in nearby Elmvalle Acres, Lafrange said he had a lot of friends who went to Featherston and nearby St. Gemma Catholic Elementary School.

"I just wanted to help (Janna) give back a little something to his school and to the community," said Lafrange, who threw the first bowl during the dedication ceremony.

The field is named in memory of Lafrange's father, Pat, a lawyer and active community member and volunteer who donated his time to local associations and coached sports in the Alta Vista area.

Pat, who passed away almost five years ago, had his two sons playing sports from an early age – hockey, baseball, soccer and lacrosse.

"Sports were a big part of our upbringing," recalled Lafrange, a realtor who now makes his home in Old Ottawa South. "Great memories."

Lafrange said his father would have loved to see the cricket pitch open amid such a large community celebration.

"I guarantee he wouldn't know what cricket is, but (he valued) giving back to the community and having kids play sports," he said.