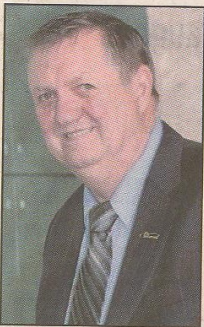


# French lessons planned



**BOB MONETTE**  
School for francophone students

## Post-secondary francophone school for Orleans

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Orleans needs a post-secondary school to meet the needs of francophone students, a city councillor says, and that's what they're going to get.

Officials with La Cite Collegiale, located on Airport Pkwy., plan to build a second campus on Trim Rd. in Orleans that will focus on offering students skilled trades programs taught in the French language.

"With the current demo-

graphics of Orleans being 30% francophone and over 50% bilingual, it gives Orleans students a chance to study in their own language in their own backyard," said Coun. Bob Monette, who represents the Orleans ward.

The goal is to tie up loose ends in the planning process sometime in the coming months, school officials said yesterday, with an eye towards opening the doors in the fall of 2010.

"There are still some things that have to be worked out with different levels of gov-

ernment," said Patrick Doyon, executive director of public affairs. "But we are hoping there will be some announcements coming at the end of August or early September."

### Trade programs

The programs likely to be offered at the college's new campus may help plug a gap between how many skilled trades professionals are available for work and the number of positions available in the industry.

"The numbers of tradesmen needed and the actual supply

are alarming," said Monette. "The sooner we can make students job-ready the better it is for the economy."

Officials at city hall, including staff from the economic development office, have been working with school representatives for some time to make this happen, Monette said.

"All of the details are not worked out yet, however the city is looking to provide the land," said Monette. "The east end is continually looking for proper development and this proposal suits our needs completely."

When the school opens, Monette said, it will fill a need

he believes has been obvious for years.

"All students should be able to study in the language of their choice and not have to travel to a different province or across the city to do so," he said.

"The school and Orleans are a perfect fit. Orleans has a population of 100,000 people and we do not have a post-secondary school. It is about time that we do."

Council has yet to approve the location for the school, which would be built on the northwest corner of Trim Rd. and Hwy. 174.

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