

er placing fourth and third in the Toronto Waterfront Marathon on train at a high-altitude centre.
(FRANK GUNN / CP)

e Kenyan way

THERE IS MAGIC for distance runners in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Antigonish's Eric Gillis hopes to find some.

Gillis leaves Tuesday for the hills of western Kenya. His destination is Iten, a town of 4,000, where he and fellow Olympian and training partner Reid Coolsaet of Ontario will train for two months.

It is much more than an African adventure.

Both runners are after the tantalizing Canadian marathon record of 2:10:08 that Jerome Drayton set in Japan in 1975. It is one of the oldest running records in Canada.

Iten sits on a plateau at 2,400 metres. Great names from running's past and present — Ibrahim Hussein,

Peter Rono, David Rudisha — are from the Iten area and many more have trained on its hundreds of winding dirt trails on the way to world and Olympic championships.

Gillis and Coolsaet, two of the three Canadian male marathoners to compete in the London Olympics in August, will train at a high-altitude centre founded in 1999 by runner Lornah Kiplagat and husband Pieter Langerhorst.

The centre operates year-round and can house dozens of athletes at a time. They

See **RUNNER** / A2

house University president Tom Traves requesting that the suspended players be reinstated.

But a university spokesman said it's unlikely the athletes will be strapping on their skates for a game any time soon.

The university suspended all the non-rookie Tigers on Jan. 3 as punishment for hazing rookies at a house party in mid-September.

See **DAL** / A2

Fr. January 11 2013

Yarmouth teachers call in sick en masse Bad air at new school blamed

By **BRIAN MEDEL**
Yarmouth Bureau

YARMOUTH — Fourteen teachers were out sick Wednesday at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School.

It was even worse the day before, with 22 teachers missing, said a school source.

Air issues involving ventilation and humidity are driving some staff and students away.

At least three teachers have exercised their rights under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act by refusing to work in the new

See **SCHOOL** / A2

• REACHING 290,800 NOVA SCOTIANS DAILY •

WEATHER

E7

A3

B6, B7

A7

E7

D1

B1, B3-B5

HALIFAX: Sunny. High -2.

TRURO: Variably cloudy in the morning becoming mainly sunny in the afternoon. High -3.

Details / B8



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players' version of eve full picture of what he the house party. "They're continuing selective about what I sharing from the even said. "We're not heart whole story." But he refused to fill details he said are mis concern for the priva

tives," she said. "I was never embarrassed or humiliated. I was never forced to do anything that I didn't want to do." Brooks said the worst part was getting sick from drinking too much, but she said it was her choice to consume as much as she did. In its statement, the team apologized for "any mistakes we

Since only five players remained on the roster, the team was unable to continue and forfeited its 12 remaining games. In the statement, the team says

Dal women

continued from / A1

On this date:
• In 1693, an earthquake at Catania, Italy, killed 60,000.
• In 1908, the Grand Canyon National Monument was created with a

TODAY IN HISTORY

DATA FILE

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 2013

A2

School

continued from / A1

building. They've been assigned duties in other locations, school board administrators confirmed Wednesday.

A report was being finished Thursday outlining air quality test results and possible reasons why people are reporting irritated eyes, headaches and upper respiratory problems.

One reason may be that someone forgot to flip the switch on the school's humidifying equipment.

There's nothing wrong with the units. They would typically be turned on in October, but no one thought to do it until recently, Tri-County regional school board members learned at a meeting Wednesday evening.

The \$20-million school is a LEED-certified building. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and such buildings are designed to more efficiently use water and electricity, among other things.

On Thursday, the school board said the latest report will be made available soon on its website.

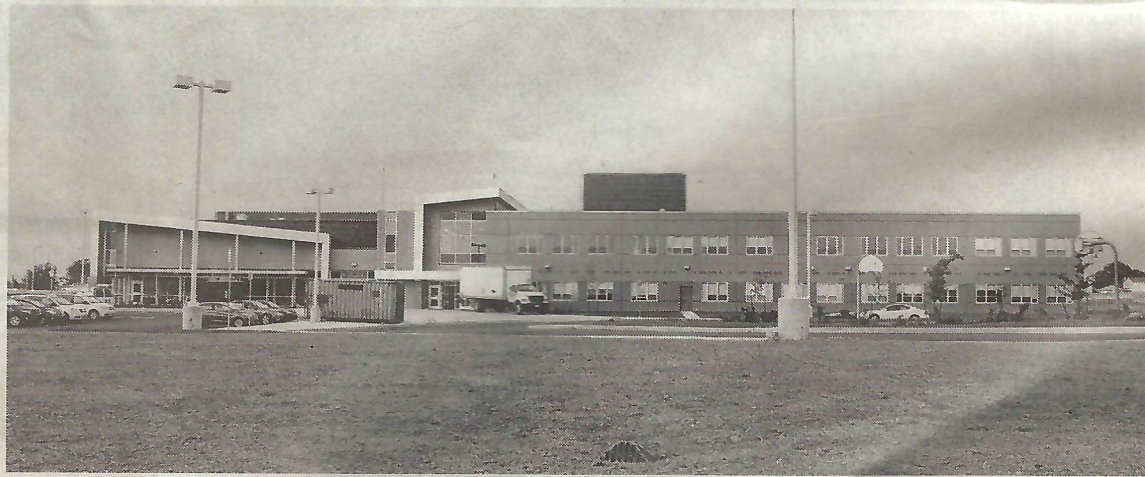
Test results indicate air quality falls within established standards as determined by the design program, according to a school board news release.

"Students are attending a school with air quality that meets international guidelines," said the news release.

The safety of students and staff at the school is a top priority, it said.

But the new airtight school was not given enough time to air out and allow construction-related vapours to disperse, or off-gas, before welcoming students Sept. 10, say some people.

As a result, levels of formaldehyde and other volatile organic compounds were dis-



Poor ventilation is being blamed for a large number of staff and students feeling ill at the new Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School.

(BRIAN MEDEL / Yarmouth Bureau)

'If there hasn't been proper ventilation and proper off-gassing, a number of people can get sick. . . . The government seems to be opening these schools without the proper off-gassing . . . and it's not the first time it's happened in the province.'

SHELLEY MORSE
President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union



reassigned to either other areas of the building or a different building altogether.

"The government seems to be opening these schools without the proper off-gassing . . . and it's not the first time it's happened in the province."

She mentioned Citadel High School in Halifax where similar illnesses were reported among staff.

The union has been keeping an eye on the Yarmouth situation since November, she said.

"There are a few teachers off currently so I can't speak to what that's going to look like in the long term," Morse said about what has been reported to be a growing number of substitute teachers being called in.

Education Minister Ramona Jennex said Wednesday that several substitutes were being seen at the Yarmouth school.

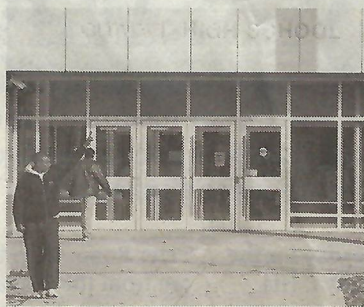
"I don't want members to be sick," Morse said. "We need to be at work. We need to have a safe environment to work in."

"I can't imagine there aren't students that would be sick if teachers were sick. Some students would be affected."

She said she has not heard how staff morale may have been affected.

"But people want to be at work. They were looking forward to the new building."

(bmedel@herald.ca)



Similar respiratory-related illnesses were reported among staff after Citadel High School opened in Halifax in 2009.

(TED PRITCHARD / Staff)

covered in the building, albeit at levels considered to be safe.

What seems to be happening is pretty typical for a new LEED-certified building, said Stephen Boudreau, president of Teritt Indoor Environmental in

Porters Lake. He updated school board members and teachers Wednesday on test results.

It appears the school had not yet reached a proper balance of air entering and leaving, Boudreau said.

The president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union said Thursday that one would think the province would have learned to allow such buildings enough time to off-gas.

"If there hasn't been proper ventilation and proper off-gassing, a number of people can get sick," Shelley Morse said.

Staff were told they could refuse to be in the building for reasons stipulated by a doctor, she said.

"They were allowed to be

Runner

continued from / A1

could be runners, cyclists or triathletes, and could be professionals or just amateurs looking to get into better shape.

Gillis and Coolsaet live and train in Guelph, Ont. Coolsaet has been to Iten for the past two winters, but Gillis, with only four career marathons on his resume

Coolsaet ran 2:10:55 at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon in October 2011 to qualify for the Olympics. Gillis, a St. Francis Xavier grad who switched to running marathons two years after competing in the 2008 Olympics in the 10,000 metres, ran 2:11:28 in the same race to achieve the Olympic qualifying standard by one second.

Both had Drayton's record in mind when they hit the starting line in London. But the race was

when you're slugging out a lot of mileage and trying to run fast workouts at a good pace."

Both runners are fit, as one would expect from Olympic marathoners. But the eight weeks in Africa is at the peak time for their winter training and should leave them in career-best fitness coming out of the experience.

"We will be getting the most fit in the two months we're there," Gillis said.

"These are our two biggest

feel good."

Gillis and Coolsaet plan to exit Africa in early March and run a half-marathon in Amsterdam on March 10. Coolsaet is expected to make a run at Drayton's record in Rotterdam in mid-April while Gillis has something in mind but isn't ready to announce his intentions.

He said Drayton's record may not fall this spring, but the two will chase it through 2013 and beyond.