



► The Chinese tourism pavilion from last year's Ottawa Travel and Vacation Show.

We've got a travel bug

► Ottawa's stable economy, high-paying jobs, high education mean we like to travel, says tourist show organizer ► Show features exotic locales

There may be unrest in the Middle East, climbing fuel prices and fear of terrorism, but that won't keep people from packing their bags and getting on a plane, says the organizer of the Ottawa

Travel and Vacation Show. "Once people start traveling, nothing stops them," said Halina Player, who says her show, which runs Saturday and Sunday at Lansdowne Park, is bigger than

last year with 170 exhibitors and features representatives from some of the very countries that have been struggling with political turmoil.

Player says in the short term, people simply change their travel patterns and head to other countries.

To deal with increased costs, avid tourists will for-

go other expenses and save up more.

But eventually things will return to normal and people acclimatize themselves to risk, she added.

"After 9-11 we are used to the idea that things are sometimes more complicated, but you forget about it and march ahead."

● SEAN MCKIBBON



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Police were at the scene at time of crash: SIU

Ottawa police were reportedly conducting traffic control at the intersection of Highway 174 and Trim Road at the time of a two-vehicle collision there Wednesday morning, the Ontario Special Investigations Unit said Thursday.

Paramedics treated a 28-year-old man for a

head injury and fractured collarbone.

The Ottawa police called in the SIU, which investigates incidents involving police that result in a civilian death, serious injury or sexual assault allegations.

"(Police) were in control of the intersection there, there was a collision, so that extends over to us if there's serious injury," said SIU communications officer Frank Phillips.

Three investigators, including an accident reconstructionist, are assigned to the case, Phillips said.

● STEVE COLLINS

Write. On



► Victoria Klassen won first prize in the 15-17 age category for her short story, Freedom.

CONTRIBUTED

Young writers take to the page

Up-and-coming young writers aged nine to 17 took a bow for their poetry and short stories Tuesday as the Ottawa Public Library announced winners of this year's Awesome Authors Contest. A panel of local authors composed of Brenda Chapman, Michel Lavoie and JC Sulzenko judged the entries. The winners' works will be included this fall in Pot-Pourri, an anthology of poetry and short fiction published by Friends of the Ottawa Public Library.