



Crowds took in the 23rd annual Snowmobile Drag Racing event in Fort Coulonge this past weekend, with some travelling all the way from the United States to participate. See page three for the full story and more photos.

J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

Amos talks Federal budget

CHRIS LOWREY
PONTIAC March 27, 2019
Pontiac Liberal MP Will Amos touted several items from the government's recently released budget that he thinks will have a significant impact on Pontiac residents.
One of the budget items that was top of mind for Amos was the \$134 million over five years for local agriculture.
Of the \$134 million, \$50 million will be spent on infrastructure projects that are focused on things like farmers markets and food banks that support locally grown food.
"If you've got a farmers market and you're looking to invest in infrastructure to make it even better, this budget is great," Amos said. "There has never before been support from the federal government for farmers' markets."
Also, Amos pointed to the \$2.15 billion in compensation for Canadian dairy farmers.
"The dairy producers of Quebec and the dairy producers of Canada have all come out very positively in favour of the bud-

get," Amos said.
The compensation for dairy farmers will be distributed through committees that include dairy producers.
"The dairy producers of our region made their point of view very clear and I brought those back repeatedly to the finance minister, and so did other MPs," he said.
He added that the response from the industry has been positive.
"The dairy producers of Canada and the dairy producers of Quebec are legendary with being outspoken in their criticism," Amos said. "When they come forward with positive commentary on a budget, you know you've done something right."
He also pointed to the \$2.2 billion from the federal gas tax that municipalities can access.
"That's amazing news," Amos said. "That's giving local decision makers more leeway to make important infrastructure decisions about our small towns."
Amos said another budget item that can have a major impact

locally is the New Horizons for Seniors program, which will dole out \$100 million over the next five years. He pointed to the many projects being spearheaded by local seniors groups like the Villa James Shaw.
"These are important community infrastructure initiatives led not by our municipalities, but by our seniors themselves," Amos said.
One of Amos' proudest accomplishments is the \$20 million for the riding of Pontiac to increase high-speed internet connectivity in the region. It's part of a plan that the Liberals hope will see every Canadian have access to high speed internet by 2030.
Please see BUDGET page two

We needed to go way bigger, on behalf of all of rural Canada, not just Pontiac.
Will Amos, Pontiac Liberal MP on high speed internet

SKATERS BRING DOWN THE HOUSE

Members of the Shawville Figure Skating Club put on their year-end show to a packed arena on Friday night, showcasing the skills they've been honing all winter. Pictured, Patricia Egan and Payton St-Pierre performed a routine to "Pink Guitar", along with Skye Kenny and Sawyer St-Aubin (not pictured).
See page seven for the story and more photos!

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Packed house at monthly Municipal Regional Council meeting

CALEB NICKERSON
CAMPBELL'S BAY
March 20, 2019

MRC Pontiac's council of mayors monthly meeting on March 20 was a packed house, as the public seating area was filled with ATV enthusiasts as well as snowmobilers and a cyclist or two.

They were all there to express their views on the usage of the PPJ trail. The ATV crowd asserted that the trail is underused by cyclists and foot traffic during the summer months, and they expressed their interest in creating a multi-use trail. They also said that off-road vehicles bring in more tourism dollars than bicycles.

The issue was studied at length back in 2016 under the previous council, who created an ATV committee to explore the possibility of using the over-width on certain parts of the PPJ, as well as opening up more back roads to off-road vehicles. When the committee expressed their interest in

creating a multi-use trail, they butted heads with local cycling advocates and the snowmobilers who use the trail in the winter.

Remo Pasteris, head of the Green PPJ Verte committee, was present at the meeting and explained that half of PPJ's \$250,000 annual budget comes from Route Verte, a fund only available for cycling trails. He submitted analysis by Vélo Quebec on the economic benefits of cycling in the province.

Pontiac Snowmobile Driver's Association President Alain Goulet explained that he is unconvinced the PPJ could be made a multi-use trail. He cited provincial off-road vehicle trail regulations, which prohibit new trails in close proximity to residences, as well as the high maintenance costs involved.

Pontiac Warden Jane Toller thanked the visitors for attending and explained that the council is working to expand existing ATV networks in the region.

Speaking with the press after the meeting, she added that Campbell's Bay Mayor Maurice Beauregard's recently proposed study on the use of the PPJ has been shelved, but council is still looking at different options.

"We decided a study wasn't necessary," she said. "A study takes a lot of time, energy, money, staff time and it's been studied a lot. It's been talked about but never resolved, but we will resolve this in this term."

She added that expanding the ATV trail network is one of the council's 11 priorities, and said that there's still more work to be done on the PPJ file.

"In the end, we want to build tourism, we need to provide for as many different ways of travel as possible," she said. "There's no preference [for] one or the other. I think that the unfortunate thing is, for such a long period of time here there's been a bit of a war going on between the two users. Other regions have found a way to make it

work, that everyone can share the use. I think we need to maximize the use. I think it is underused right now."

Following the public question period, the meeting got underway with a presentation from newly-elected Pontiac Youth Council President Jordan Larivière.

There was a shuffle on the Public Safety Committee, as Calumet Island Mayor Serge Newberry joined while Sheenboro Mayor Doris Ranger stepped down.

"At the moment there can only be seven members [on the committee] and we had one mayor that was very interested and he's been given the opportunity to join," Toller explained after the meeting. "I would like to investigate whether we cannot have eight."

MRC Economic Development Director Danielle Newman went over her department's recommendations for donations and sponsorships, all of which were approved by

council. The Groupe L'Île du Grand Calumet, the Pontiac bursaries, the Fred Meilleur Memorial Golf Tournament and the Danford Lake Mud Run were all cleared for \$500 donations and the CSHBO's Adult education bursaries received \$250.

In the larger donation category, the Shawville Lion's Country Jamboree was approved for a grant of \$5,000.

Newman then broke down the Territory Development Fund budget for 2019/2020, which totals \$1,143,857, as well as the policies and priorities for the fund.

She also encouraged the council to spread the word about an upcoming information session on April 4 in Campbell's Bay about work opportunities at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories facility in Chalk River Ont. The meeting will provide local businesses and trades people with details on the upcoming construction contracts at the facility and how to apply for them.

"As Danielle said, they're going to be spending about a billion dollars with construction, building new buildings, repairing things ...," Toller said after the meeting. "We're being given an opportunity to bid on some of the work, which I think is going to be great."

Following an in-camera session, council approved a six month extension of a \$100,000 grant offer to LiveWell, a CBD extraction company looking to build a facility in Litchfield, provided the company complies with new conditions to be laid out by Newman.

"It was brought to our attention that the deadline was later than originally thought," Toller said, noting it is March 31. "Because we are very supportive of LiveWell and very hopeful that the research and development facility and whatever other plans they have come to fruition, we felt it was important to reinstate the opportunity."

In the post-meeting media scrum, Toller went over sev-

eral ongoing files.

She said that the Economic SWAT team would be gathering in the next month, following a request from the MRC for more regular meetings.

"I do understand that it might not be the most efficient way to have a huge meeting too often, people are busy, but I just thought it would be beneficial to some members who haven't been kept up to date to have a chance to meet together and have an update," Toller said.

The Piscine Pontiac Pool committee, of which Toller is a member, is continuing work on their project.

"We're getting ready to make our submissions to the provincial and federal government and we've also applied for some smaller grants," she said, adding that an engineer's report on the land will be required once the snow melts.

She added that she is no longer seeking a president for the committee, something she said she would

look into back in October 2018.

"We have a committee and at this point we haven't really needed a president," she said. "We just have active members."

She noted that the MRC is submitting a letter to the provincial government giving support to a proposed landfill site near the Pontiac Sorting Centre.

"They have a need for a technical landfill," she said. "The MRC is supporting giving them the opportunity to expand, but there will still be public consultation needed. It's a first step because they have some challenges. They have excess construction debris and if they can't find markets for it they need a place to deposit it."

The Sorting Centre recently made headlines after receiving more than \$40,000 in fines from the Quebec Ministry of the Environment for numerous infractions relating to the improper storage of asbestos and other construction materials.

Municipality of Pontiac composting plan put on hold

CHRIS LOWREY
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC
March 27, 2018

The Municipality of Pontiac will postpone the implementation of its composting plan and could renew its current waste collection contract.

According to Mayor Joanne Labadie, the change comes after the departures of key employees who were working on the file as well as the need to finish certain infrastructure projects – some of which need to be completed this year in order

to qualify for provincial grants.

The provincial grants were contingent on the municipality completing certain projects – like the upgrades to the water system in Quyon – in 2018. But with the flooding and the tornado, the municipality was granted a one-year extension.

"If we don't get all that work done in 2019, we'll lose that grant money and the village of Quyon desperately needs it."

To compound matters, both former Assistant

Director General, Dominic Labrie, and former Director General, Benedikt Kuhn, were working on the file until their subsequent departures. The composting plan was then taken on by Alain Bourgeois, the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works.

Labadie also said that with so many priorities that are time sensitive, and an already short-staffed municipal administration, the composting plan has been put on the back burner.

"We just don't have the

time nor the expertise in house to really review this file in it's entirety," Labadie said.

As a result, Labadie said the municipality will explore renewing the existing contract with its waste removal contractor.

"We have a two-year renewable option with our garbage contractor and we're exploring the options of exercising that because, there's just no time," Labadie said.

The province wants to eliminate all organic waste

from landfills by 2020. In order for municipalities to qualify for provincial grants, they must take steps to cut back on the amount of organic waste residents send to landfills.

Last September, the municipality announced that it was going to partner with the municipalities of Chelsea and Cantley in a door-to-door composting plan that was due to be rolled out in June of this year.

Some residents have been vocal in their opposition to

the plan and taken to social media to vent their frustrations.

Many of those who oppose the plan say that since they already compost at home, there is no need for the municipality to implement a

plan with door-to-door pickup.

Labadie said that residents have expressed interest in several different options including at-home composting, door-to-door pickup as well as a hybrid

option.

"What we need to do is explore all three options, do a benefit and cost analysis on all three options and see what is in the best interests of the entire municipality," Labadie said.



Photo submitted

Emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision just outside Shawville around 6:45 p.m. on March 22, at the intersection of Rte. 303 and Seventh Line. A car was struck by a southbound truck while attempting to turn onto the highway. One person was sent to hospital with minor injuries.

Two-vehicle collision results in minor injuries

CALEB NICKERSON
SHAWVILLE March 22, 2019

A two-vehicle collision just outside Shawville on Friday evening resulted in one person sent to hospital with minor injuries.

The accident occurred around 6:45 in the evening of March 22, at the intersection of Rte. 303 and Seventh Line.

"There was a couple of vehicles coming ... into town, and the car was waiting to pull out on the Seventh Line," explained Shawville Clarendon Fire Chief Lee Laframboise. "They never [saw] the second vehicle."

The car attempted to pull onto the highway and was struck by a truck, severely damaging the front ends of both vehicles.

According to Sûreté du Québec Sgt. Marc Tessier, there were three people in the car and two in the truck. One occupant of the car was sent to hospital with minor injuries.

MRC Youth Council president announces upcoming plans

J.D. POTIÉ
CAMPBELL'S BAY
March 16, 2019

The MRC Youth Council's president, Jordan Larivière, spoke at the MRC council meeting on Wednesday about the committee's plans for the near future.

First, he established their five priorities for the upcoming months, which are higher quality internet and cellular connections to aid access to counseling and tutoring services, more access to public transportation and recreational facilities, better road safety and stronger emphasis on mental health awareness.

"I know all these sound like a very tall order," said Larivière. "But, when we break it down one by one, I think they're very attainable objectives."

He followed up by announcing that the Youth Council will be upping their meeting frequency from once per month to biweekly in order to maximize its productivity.

"We are very motivated to reach all these goals," said Larivière. "That's why we've bumped our meeting frequencies from once per month to every two weeks."

Larivière noted that the committee will be hosting various events in the Pontiac within the coming months, including social gatherings and assemblies, in order to promote their ideas to the community.

The committees' first event will focus on mental health awareness, according to Larivière.

The group is planning on hosting around 700 students from Pontiac High School in Shawville, L'École secondaire Sieur de Coulonge in Fort Coulonge and Dr. Wilbert Keon School in Chapeau collectively, where certified speakers will address the students about their life experiences and the importance of mental health awareness.

While nothing is set in stone, the event is projected to take place by the end of May, Larivière said.

"We're still in early planning," said Larivière. "But we're convinced that this will be a great way to show the public that we are serious about our mission."

He also announced that the council is creating a Facebook page, in hopes to reach as many Pontiac residents as possible.

BUDGET: Amos talks investment

Continued from front

In 2016, the government announced an investment of \$500 million over five years.

"Now we're talking about investing \$5 billion over 10 years," Amos said. "We needed to go way bigger, on behalf of all of rural Canada, not just Pontiac."

It's an issue that Amos takes a lot of pride in, especially on the heels of his introduction of a private

members motion broaching the topic of rural internet accessibility.

"I have been like a dog on a bone on this issue," he said.

With the increased budget for improvements to high speed internet access, Amos was unequivocal when asked if Pontiac can expect to get more from this fund than the \$20 million it got from the \$500 million fund

announced in 2016.

"Yes, absolutely," Amos said. "Absolutely it means we're going to have more investments."

Amos also spoke about his recent meeting with Canada's Ambassador to the United States, David McNaughton where they discussed the tariffs imposed on Canadian softwood lumber by the U.S. government.

He said that Canada is waiting for independent arbitrators to rule on the legality of the tariffs and that the Canadian government is optimistic the ruling will be in its favour.

Amos said the tariffs result in an average cost increase of 20 per cent for Canadian producers, but specific companies pay less in some cases.

"For example, Resolute

Forest Products in Maniwaki, they're closer to eight per cent," Amos said. "It depends on the company."

Despite the tariffs, Amos said that the industry is relatively healthy in the grand scheme of things.

"Any of our softwood lumber producers – in Low and Maniwaki – they're all hiring," he added. "The labour shortage is the issue."

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23rd annual snowmobile races in Coulonge



Racers and spectators take in the action, as they stand beside the track.

J.D. POTIÉ
FORT COULONGE
March 23, 2019

On Saturday, around 500 people dressed in their best racing gear gathered outside the Centre de Loisirs des Draveurs, in Fort-Coulonge, for the 23rd annual Snowmobile Drag Racing event.

As loud motors roared, and colourful snowmobiles rolled at a frenetic pace, the races were certainly popular among snowmobile enthusiasts present, as crowds of people gathered around the track not wanting to miss a moment of the action.

With over 100 racers com-

peting in 31 different classes, some coming all the way from New York and northern Ontario to participate in, the event provided all kinds of racers with opportunities to compete for the grand prize.

For the event's main organizer Pierre Laporte, the races are always a great time to connect with the racers.

"I love meeting the people," said Laporte. "I love seeing the kids, the families. I love seeing the movement. It's all so precious to me."

Having been a popular activity in the region for over 40 years, Laporte said it's a no-brainer to host the event annually, as it gives people

an opportunity to race and also a reason to congregate outside during the cold season.

"It's an outdoor event, and we have a great place to do this," said Laporte. "It's not everywhere you get to race on a track."

As much as the event has grown in the last 20 years, so have the motors and the competition, with many of the riders now being professional racers who compete at the highest level of the sport, according to Laporte.

"It's much bigger," said Laporte. "The machines are much more powerful. It's totally evolved nowadays."



Around 500 people attended the event, with some travelling all the way from the United States to participate. Pictured, Haley Reed, a snowmobile racer from New York, takes off from the starting line, during one of her races.

People are rolling at 100-125 kilometres per hour... and these guys are professionals, they race all around the world. The competition is very high, it's very competitive, because they all know each other. We have great prizes, people want to win."

For Haley Reed, one of the riders who travelled all the way from New York to participate, the event was enjoyable as it gave her a chance, to race against quality competitors in a foreign country.

"I like the hard surface on the ground," said Reed. "And

the competition with the other teammates. I know quite a few of them. I think they all travel together."

In the adult divisions, the winner was awarded 80 per cent of the money from registration fees, while the runner-up got 20 per cent. For the kids, the champion and runners-up were both awarded with trophies.

All the remaining funds raised from the event go back to the arena for renovations and general upkeep, according to Laporte.



Over 100 racers competed in the event, in 31 separate classes. Pictured, racer Eric Gauthier gives a thumbs up to his team as he prepares for take-off.



Pictured, the event's main organizer and designer of the race track, Pierre Laporte stands beside the track.



Eric Gauthier rides alongside the track, following one of his races.

Pontiac Midget A Lions win regional championship



Pictured are the Pontiac Midget A Lions who won the 2019 Regional Championship.

The Midget A Lions are on the top of their game. Over the weekend they faced off as West Division winners against the East Division winners, the Hull Cityoyens. This final round of playoffs took place in Gatineau, Que. and consisted of a best of three series with the winner moving on to represent the Outaouais at the provincial interregional tournament at the beginning of April.

Game one was played March 21 at the Campeau arena. The team knew this would be a tough series

and they came out strong, scoring three quick goals during the first period putting them ahead 3-0.

It was a tight game after that with both teams evenly matched. Hull scored on a power play in the third and then the Lions hit the empty net at the end of the game for a 4-1 win. Goals went to Nick Curley, Harry Lukacs-Hitz and Evan Atkinson (two). Assists on the goals came from Jaden Stewart (two), Carson Rusenstrom (two) and Tyler Stanton.

Game two was played on

March 23 at the Branchaud Briere complex. Hull was prepared for this game and determined not to make it easy for the Lions who struggled. Although the team scored first and were ahead at the beginning of the third, we couldn't keep our lead. Final score was 3-2 for Hull forcing a game three. Lions goals went to Tyler Stanton with help from Hunter Lukacs-Hitz, Evan Atkinson, and Thomas Beck unassisted.

Game three was played March 24 once again at the

Branchaud complex. Eager to pick up the pieces from their defeat the Lions played a much better game which led to their victory. Both teams were evenly matched and it made for some pretty good hockey.

The last couple of minutes were tense as Hull pulled their goalie and with the extra player kept the Lions on the defensive but they were able to get the job done. Goals for the Lions were scored by Carson Rusenstrom assisted by Jaden Stewart and Tyler Stanton (two) assist-

ed by Thomas Beck and Harry Lukacs-Hitz.

Kaelen Ireland was solid in nets over the weekend proving to be a big factor in moving the Lions on to the inter-regional. St. Gabriel de Brandon here we come.

The Lions certainly appreciated their fans travelling to Gatineau to show their support. The extra cheers made the difference. We thank you for being part of the journey.

Tournament play will begin on April 4.

Submitted by Diana Desabrais

Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department

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Pictured back row from left: Jennifer Gratto, Shawville Pet Grooming; Katharine Hayes Summerfield, Boutique Gwendoline; Susan Holmes representing 99 Reasons; Ruth Hahn, Café 349 and Jill McBane, Shawville Shooz. Front from left: Ann Taylor, general manager of Pontiac Printshop; Marc Aufranc, Familiprix; Melanie Pieschke, Jolie Folie and Bonnie Chevrier, sales associate for THE EQUITY.

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Published weekly by Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
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Subscription rates
Pontiac-\$34.49 (\$1.50 gst, \$2.99 gst included)
Quebec-\$45.99 (\$2.00 gst, \$3.99 gst included)
Canada-\$42.00 (\$2.00 gst included)
U.S-\$117.81 (\$5.61 gst included)
On-line-\$20.00

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Editorial

Here comes the sun

While spring is usually a time of relative upheaval and disarray, from melting snowdrifts and rainstorms to the first flower shoots poking their heads out of the ground, this year's transition has been especially tumultuous at THE EQUITY.

The newsroom has been shuffled. This is the first edition of the paper in nearly two years without a greasy-haired Maltese fellow minding the spelling and grammar. It might not sound like a big deal, but the man earned the nickname Hawkeye in college for his relentless attention to detail, and if anything, acted as a counterbalance to his colleagues' reckless abuse of the English language.

In the Pontiac at large, there seems to be a restless hankering for warm weather that is palpable when walking down Main Street or standing in line at the dep. It's like everybody's just waiting for Old Man Winter to pack it in, and give way to the rollicking weather patterns of spring.

Over the weekend, the wretched bugger had his last kick at the can and wouldn't you know it, he wasted his shot. It was an utterly pathetic excuse for a squall that, with any luck, will be the last bit of snow that this slice of God's country sees until 2019 is in its death throes.

Daylight savings has arrived, not a moment too soon, and workdays are no longer a slog from one dark commute to another. Birds are returning home to nest, grass is visible and everything seems to be coming up Milhouse.

But with the arrival of decent weather comes expectations, commitments and more endless toil. As much as the change in seasons is a welcome transition, it comes with its own baggage and downsides to overcome.

Like the overrated hack Robert Dylan said, "if your time to you is worth saving, then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone, for the times they are a-changing."

Spring has sprung everybody; let's make the most of it.

Caleb Nickerson

The Parents' Voice

By Shelley Heaphy

The 411 on services

When you enter the world of parenthood you could almost say you enter a new dimension. There is so much to learn and adjust to, interacting with a new being, existing in a world of sleep deprivation, developing a relationship with your partner that no longer centers around the two of you, figuring out what each cry means and so much more.

You essentially acquire a whole new set of information that goes along with your little one. You learn how often they need vaccinations, what a fever is, what thermometer gets the best readings, which medications are recommended for little ones, which sippy cups are truly spill free and what services are available for your little one.

I had a conversation with some moms recently that made me realize that the information I've acquired over the past eight years isn't as public as I may have thought. Here's some things I've learned about services that are available (free of charge) in our province.

Before you leave the hospital after you've delivered your baby they provide you with a large duotang full of important information about caring for your child. This is a great tool to go to in those first months when you're feeling unsure about each burp, noise and cry your baby makes.

They also inform you that a CLSC nurse will visit you a couple of times in the coming weeks while you are recovering and the baby is growing. These visits were always so comforting for me. I wrote down questions and concerns I had about myself and baby and knew that I wouldn't have to bundle us up to get to a doctor, help would be on the way!

Another great service I used a ton when my kiddos were younger was the 811 service. When you have a medical question you can dial 811 on your phone and get in touch with a nurse. They ask a lot of questions and try to help you pin point what is concerning you. It just helps you talk out what your child may be experiencing to possibly avoid the trip to the CLSC or emergency department.

The service has since changed to include social services as well. This helps you navigate getting help if your child is experiencing needs in areas such as speech, fine motor, delays in development, attention or other concerns you may have. Our CLSC's also send out notices for our children's vaccinations. It's such a comfort to know we will be reminded of these important shots as our children get older. We have so much to remember we don't want to forget such critical milestones.

At around age three we began visiting the dentist. Did you know that children under age 10 are covered for yearly visits with the dentist? They are covered for emergency examinations, x-rays, local or general anesthesia, gray fillings as well as tooth and root extractions. There are a few other services as well, read more here ramq.gouv.qc.ca. This plan applies to families covered under the Quebec Medical Plan (RAMQ) which just requires you to show your red card at the dentists office.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Still a few days ahead for a shoe

A sad drive home

by Chris Judd

March 24 started like any other Sunday morning. Even though I'd received a text the night before that one of my closest farming friends had been taken by ambulance to the Hull Hospital because of a heart problem, we got ready for church.

When I sat down for breakfast, in the heap of mail on the table was a notice of an auction sale that really bothered me. One of Pontiac's best farming families was announcing an auction sale. The leader of the farm team had died young from the world's most dreaded disease and because of health problems for another member and a lack of other members to take the reins, the land had been sold to someone from afar. The equipment listed on the auction bill was not little hobby farmer equipment but big, good equipment that any full-time farmer would be proud of.

Outstanding in his field

It's a sad sign when the land is worth more as an investment than the profit it would return if used for almost any kind of farm.

Then we went to church where the sermon was aimed at the strife in the world because of different languages spoken, different skin colours, customs and different religions. Even before Hitler decided to exterminate the Jews and had plans to propagate only blond haired, blue-eyed geniuses, countries were invading other countries for those reasons mentioned above.

After dinner, I received another text that my farming friend and neighbour was "not good." Without any thought, we went to the Hull hospital to support our friend and his family. After spending the afternoon at the hospital I joked with him that only his wife was allowed to stay for the night and shook hands goodbye and promised to return.

On our trip back to Shawville, for the first time in my life, I noticed that most farms along Hwy. 148 where there once were dairy farms, pig farms, beef farms, and farm houses full of families, were mostly only empty crop fields, abandoned land and the occasional beautiful, big farm house where a family lived, but worked in the city.

Even though the quality and safety of food produced by our Canadian farmers is second-to-none the long work hours and lack of return on a farmer's investment has chased most of our next generation of farmers off the land and has been doing so for the last 50 years.

When we were about halfway home from Hull we received a phone call that our wonderful friend and neighbour, and partner on numerous successful projects that only fools would tackle had passed on to the next life. Rest in peace Leo.

Chris Judd is a farmer in Clarendon on land that has been in his family for generations. gladcrest@gmail.com

Mar. 30, 1994 25 Years Ago

Shawville Junior B's are champs!

With only 11 seconds left on the clock, Chris MacIntyre scored the goal that tied up the division final between Shawville and the Arnprior Packers.

Twenty minutes later in overtime, Lewes McGuire scored the night's best, putting the Juniors over the top in the seventh and deciding game of the Eastern Ontario Junior B Valley Division Championships.

McGuire drove in the first marker in the second period to get the home town Pontiacs on the scoreboard and then he nailed the game winner in the fifth period of overtime for Shawville's first ever division title and trophy's first trip over to this side of the Ottawa River.

French Week celebrated at Dr. S.E. McDowell school: Students at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville have learned that French is a lot more than words.

The staff and students at the school were celebrating Le Semaine de la Francophonie (French Week), which is celebrated across the province.

Charlene Graham, one of the teachers involved with the organization of the week's activities, said the idea behind the event was to encourage students to speak French and to improve their knowledge of the language.

Continued on page 5

Gerard Peruine of Hull, the youngest in the junior race with a time of 18 minutes 10 seconds.

Hon. Robert Lussier announces new development group: Mayor F.X. Bertrand of Fort Coulonge and Mayor William Burke of Quyon were elected members of the Outaouais Economic Council Board of Administration at its annual meeting last Thursday in Hull. The meeting was held in the town hall with a large attendance. The entire proceedings were conducted in French and transistor translators were provided for those who wished to use them and hear everything instantaneously translated into English by two very clever operators seated behind a partition at the back of the room.

The big attraction of the day was the speech by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. Robert Lussier. He announced that a body is to be formed which will group representatives of the rural and urban areas on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River along with the various departments of government for the purpose of economic development within this area.

Mar. 30, 1944 75 Years Ago

Local news: Bristol Farmers grow good hogs: On March 11, the Bristol Farmers Club made a shipment of hogs that should be of interest to all hog men in the district. The carload contained 95 hogs, 44 of these were in the grade-A category, 49 in the B-1 category. This left only two hogs that were not eligible for premium.

The farmers in that district deserve to be highly congratulated on the quality of the hogs they are producing of which this shipment is a representative sample.

Britain's ban on Irish travel necessary for safety of troops: There was no blood and thunder in the remarks Mr. Churchill made last week about the little neutral nation on the other side of the St. George's Channel, says the *New York Times*.

The problem, as Mr. Churchill briefly explained it, is a purely practical one. As long as Axis spies with the status of diplomats, remain in Eire, close to the scene of preparation for the invasion of the continent, the military plans of the United Nations are in danger of being betrayed.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill said in part: "We have for some time past taken a number of measures to

minimize the dangers arising from a substantial disservice to the Allied cause involved in the retention by Mr. de Valera's government of the German Minister and Japanese Consul with their staffs in Dublin. The time has now come when these measures must be strengthened and the restrictions on travel to Ireland announced in the press are the first step in a policy designed to isolate Great Britain from Southern Ireland and also to isolate Southern Ireland from the outer world during the critical period which now is approaching.

Ad: In these decisive months, all Canada's effort is concentrated on one great objective, the attack that is to destroy the Nazi menace and all that it represents. The best of our young men are staking their lives on its success.

Our young men are fighting for a Canada and a world in which all men can have faith, hope and security. Each of them wants to come back to a job - or a farm - with a future. We at home, must keep secure for them a strong and stable foundation on which alone a post-war period of promise and achievement can be built. Issued by the government of Canada.

Continued on page 5

country are cordially invited to attend our Millinery opening on Saturday when a choice range of trimmed hats and shapes will be shown. Mrs. D.S. Kelley, Centre Street.

Apr. 5, 1894 125 Years Ago

Local News: A carnival was held in the skating rink on Thursday evening of last week. The attendance was fairly good considering all things. Miss Martha McGuire succeeded in taking the prize for the best lady's costume while Mr. S. Caldwell took the prize for the best gentleman's costume. The ice was in excellent condition.

Times are rather dull around Bristol at present but a few more warm days will change the order of the day as the farmers seem anxious to get started to plough, one has already started. The early bird for the early worm.

The Free Press says that arrangements for the coming seasons' work on the construction of the O.A. and P.S. are being pushed ahead. The steam shovels commenced work last week, one at Carp and the other near Eganville. Until the snow all disappears, trestles will be filled up and the roadbed strengthened.

Two hundred flat cars will be used with the shovels. It is said the company has ordered three new freight locomotives from Philadelphia. One hundred cars will be built at the Ottawa works this spring. A new and larger mechanical shop is to be erected in the Ottawa yard, the present shops being used for painting shops.

At Bryson on Thursday last, a deaf mute named Piché was shot by his brother through the careless handling of a revolver, the ball entering his cheek and lodging somewhere in the region of the ear. The bullet remains in Piché's face, efforts to remove the same having been unsuccessful. He suffers little pain, however.

We have been informed by a party who was an eye witness, that on Monday of last week at Des Erabelle, a few miles above the Mattawa, five horses belonging to a Mr. Allen which had been in the employ of the Moore Lumber Co., were drowned, despite the efforts of a good rescuing party.

As we understand the matter, they were loaded on to the scow, which is used for transporting across the Ottawa River from the Ontario to the Quebec shores. Being very old and leaky, the scow sank with the result above mentioned.

A reporter's farewell

by Donald Teuma-Castelletti

After nearly two years of covering everything from dog races through the fair, sporting fun, government announcements, fundraisers, and countless community meals, my time at THE EQUITY has come to an end.

It's been a blast, to say the least, and it was not an easy decision to make, but come to think of it, it was also a tough choice to move out to Shawville in the first place.

I started at the paper in May 2017 when my career had seemed stalled. I was working at EB Games in Newmarket, Ont., and hating it. After having worked my butt off in school, taking on extracurricular roles in college, and having regular, accessible social circles, I found myself at my parents' house and miserable.

So it seemed like a godsend when Chris Lowrey and Caleb Nickerson wanted me to join them in the Pontiac.

We had been buddies from our time at the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College where we studied journalism together. So not only did I have my start in reporting to look forward to, but the familiarity of the guys helped sell the transition.

What I was not familiar with was the Pontiac. Through Chris, I had heard enough about the Shawville Fair and that was about it.

I had never lived rurally before, the closest experience was visiting the barnyard animals at my aunt's home in Peterborough, Ont.

Very much, I am an urbanite.

So arriving in Shawville with that mindset was the biggest thing to overcome.

The only solution was to approach everything with a sunny disposition. From my very first story through to my last, it was the approach I tried to maintain. I think it worked, but others may have had a different opinion.

Anyways, after a short time shaking off the rust, the guys had me back at it. Soon, I'd spend most weekends a month traversing the region, covering event after event to the best of my ability.

In the time since, I've made a lot of connections in the Pontiac. I've built trust with many people, and shared many more laughs, smiles and bouts of frustrations with folks. I've heard many tales – some no doubt tall – from people and had the pleasure to share some of them in stories.

I've met so many incredible people doing amazing things, whether they realize it or not. Sure, there are the stand-outs with a talent that is recognized for being unique and amazing. Yet there's so many who put their talents for organization, administration and more to work for their community everyday.



The three amigos, Chris Lowrey, Donald Tuema-Castelletti and Caleb Nickerson, celebrate the Best Community Newspaper Promotion at the 2018 QCNA Awards Gala on June 8. Teuma-Castelletti has left the paper to return home to Newmarket, Ont.

Liz Draper, THE EQUITY

It was a whole world that I had never been exposed to and was always something I'd step back from at the end of a busy weekend and realize, none of that would have happened if not for the labour of so many.

It's so easy to overlook the cogs that keep the whole machine running, but I've always felt fortunate to have a job that let me put the spotlight on them.

Organizers have, understandably, grown sick of being interviewed by THE EQUITY every year, trying to find a new way to share what it's all about, but even just their patience in doing so has been instrumental in the success that I've felt working there.

Honestly, I've loved my job. For me, journalism has never been about digging for information on wrongdo-

ings, keeping political figures in line and accountable, or exposing a seedy operation.

It's always been about capturing a moment or feeling – say, at a sports game – and sharing that with the rest of the community. It's been about telling the story factually, in a way that entertains.

But to say that everything has been all sunshine and lollipops would be a gross understatement. I've made mistakes on the job, published an incorrect detail or two, and messed up many names.

All I could do was be upfront about it and apologize.

I'll freely admit, I had to apologize all too often for forgetting names. Faces are always familiar, but unless it's a character out of a Marvel comic book, I will have a hard time putting a name to it.

Though the names will inevitably fade from my memory, the experiences and feelings will be with me forever.

From speaking to those who've just lost a loved one or had their home torn away from them in tragedy, to snapping an awesome picture of a minor hockey moment, riding on the back of a jet ski or side-by-side, running all over the Shawville Fair, attending my first wrestling match, and especially the fun I had making sauerkraut for Oktoberfest, plus so much more, I've had the pleasure of reporting on a wide range of topics, beats, and stories.

Why then, if I was having such a great time, did I decide to leave? It just comes down to the simple fact that I'm not from here. While my career may have been in the Pontiac, my family, my long-term girlfriend, and many close friends still reside in the GTA.

As I've said to whoever has asked, it's felt like I've been living two lives this whole time, and I could only maintain that balance for so long. While I've been out reporting on this community, there has been a lot going on in my own circles and I'm eager to stop hearing everything second-hand.

I have no new job lined up and no real plan as of yet. I will see what the coming weeks bring to bear in that regard.

After having all the positive experiences that I have had in the Pontiac, I can't really see myself reporting for one of the big news corporations producing "content" over a full-bodied story.

Maybe more education is the answer and then again, maybe it isn't.

Regardless of my next step, none of it would have been possible if not for my time learning, living and growing in the Pontiac, and for everyone that I've encountered along the way it's been a pleasure to have had all these opportunities alongside you.

Equity nabs seven nominations at QCNA

PONTIAC March 27, 2019

THE EQUITY has garnered seven nominations at this year's Quebec Community Newspaper Awards – which honours the year's best in English-language journalism in the province.

As a paper, THE EQUITY is nominated for the Best Editorial Page, thanks in large part to the stellar contributions of regular columnists like Chris Judd and the Parent's Voice, along with THE EQUITY's original content.

Newly minted editor, Caleb Nickerson, was nominated along with former reporter, Donald Teuma-Casteletti, for their coverage of last year's tornado that tore through Breckenridge.

Teuma-Castelletti, along with former editor, Chris Lowrey, are hoping to bring home THE EQUITY's second

straight Best Headline Writing award, which was won by Nickerson last year.

Teuma-Castelletti rounds out his nominations with a nod for the Best Feature Photo for his shot of Pontiac Senior Comets goaltender Justin Bois.

Lowrey received a nomination for the second straight year for Best Sports Story for his feature on Chris Hayes finally receiving his long-awaited Stanley Cup ring. He also received a nomination for Best Agricultural Story with his coverage of the USMCA and it's potential impacts on dairy farmers. On top of that, he also got a nod for Best News Photo for his image of a barn fire in Lusville.

The awards ceremony takes place on June 8 in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge.

Fire departments collaborate for off-road rescue in Bristol



Submitted by the Mansfield Fire Dept.

On March 16, firefighters from local departments rescued a man stuck in an excavator on a farming field in Bristol. Pictured, firefighters drag the the sleigh carrying the victim using a snowmobile.

J.D. POTIÉ

BRISTOL March. 16, 2019

On March 16, at around 4 p.m., the Shawville-Clarendon and Bristol Fire Departments responded to a call regarding a man stuck in an excavator in a Bristol farm field.

According to SCFD Chief Lee Laframboise, the victim was clearing farm land in an excavator when a stump on top of a pile of brush rolled off, crushed his cab and jammed his legs. After the accident occurred, the victim managed to text one of his friends who eventually contacted the SCFD.

The accident occurred over a kilometre from the road, and SCFD firefighters used the Jaws of Life to rescue the victim and eventually pulled him out of the excavator.

Meanwhile, the chief of the Bristol Fire Department called Incendie Mansfield asking them to bring their new

off-road rescue equipment.

"We got a call to dispatch from Bristol [Fire Department] to bring up the Ski-Doo and the sleigh," said Darcy Belair, the director of Incendie Mansfield.

Upon arriving on the scene, firefighters put the victim in the sleigh attached to the snow-mobile and dragged him to safety.

"They came with the snowmobile and another sleigh that they have for going in the bush," said Laframboise. "They drove it in to the excavator and once we had him freed, the [paramedics] got him on a backboard and we put him into the sleigh and the ski-doo pulled him out to the road and we put him in the ambulance."

Laframboise said the victim suffered lower body injuries.

The Parents' Voice

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

Usually young babies don't need medications. Once that baby starts interacting with other children in daycare or at playgroups the illnesses start. Earaches, colds, flu, bronchitis and many other common illnesses are very common in children. Often the medications prescribed to cure these sicknesses are covered under the RAMQ (our little red medical card) with the Quebec government. It's such a nice surprise to pick up medication and be told "no charge." This doesn't however, just happen. You do have to register your family with the RAMQ. You can head into your local pharmacy for the phone number or look it up online. If you do not have private insurance you will most likely be able to join this plan, you may even be paying for it on your income tax without realizing it.

Don't forget to take care of your child's beautiful eyes. Each August, right before the school year starts we head to Aylmer and have our children's eyes checked. I was delighted to learn that children under the age of 18 were able to receive one free examination per year at the optometrist. There are a few other services provided free of charge; you can see the full list here, <http://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca>

I hope this list of some of the free services I'm aware of helps you in some way. Maybe you know someone who has just moved to our province or some new parents. Either way, spread the word. Save your money and don't pay unnecessarily for a service that might be otherwise covered.

Spiritual Growth

By Esther Colpitts

Trying to follow

My son had a problem with his car and needed to take it to a mechanic who lives out in the country. I headed out behind him down the highway and kept up fine until we turned off onto a country road.

Suddenly everything looked unfamiliar and I thought of the story of Hansel and Gretel who were led out into the woods until they were lost. It wouldn't have taken much to lose me. I have a poor sense of direction but I kept my eyes on my son's car the whole time.

It makes me think of this journey called life. Each day brings choices. We come to forks in the road. It can feel overwhelming when we have no idea what to do next.

Thankfully the Lord has not left us without a guide – the Bible. When we keep our eye on Him and His word we have a sure help. His way is the best way.

esthercolpitts.com

Fourteenth annual family hockey tournament in Chapeau



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
A team Tierney forward battles for puck possession with a team Chartrand defender.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
A forward for team Chartrand glides in the offensive zone looking to pass the puck.

J.D. POTIÉ
CHAPEAU March. 22-23, 2019
Over 100 Pontiac residents packed the lobby and the cold stands at the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex in Chapeau last weekend for the 14th annual Family Hockey Tournament.
With eight teams competing in two different divisions (A and B), all assembled with members of different families, the round-robin tournament provided locals in attendance with a non-stop display of fast-paced five-on-five action and socializing.
Friday night kicked off with five games and live-music from a DJ, while volunteers sold drinks from the bar and members of the Chapeau Minor Hockey Association held multiple draws with various prizes to win, including a pair of Sens tickets.
On Saturday, the final eight games took place in a more relaxed family-friendly type of atmosphere and the winners of both divisions were announced.

According to David Vaillancourt, one of the organizers and participants in the event, this year's tournament had one less team than it did last year, however that didn't keep it from being a popular one among locals and even outsiders.
Having grown significantly in its 14 years of existence, Vaillancourt said this year's tournament was a huge financial success and he was happy to see so many people gathered in one place for such a special event.
"There's never crowds here for any other men's league hockey, but there's always a crowd for this," he said "It's definitely nice to see everybody at the rink."
With so many families gathered together, in a small town, Vaillancourt says the tournament has become an ideal occasion for locals to get together with their loved ones and soak in some family bonding.
"Everybody gets together," said Vaillancourt. "It's a small community, everybody

knows each other. It's been 14 years now, so everybody looks forward to it. Everybody gets to come up here and see people that they don't get to see that

often ... there's a lot of family bonding over the weekend."
At the end of the three-game round-robin, the Tierney's were crowned as

champions of the A division while the Godin's took the B division title.
According to Vaillancourt, the event raised over \$5,000 for the arena.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Over 100 people filled the stands and the lobby at the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex in Chapeau. Pictured, the goalie from team Chartrand dives to sweep the puck away from an opposing forward.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Team Tierney's goaltender rests on his net during a stoppage of play.

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Second annual Big WoW Poker run takes over Pontiac ATV trails

J.D. POTIÉ
LADYSMITH March 23, 2019
On Saturday, nearly 200 quad riders from across the region rolled through ATV trails from Ladysmith to Wolf Lake, as the Pontiac Quad Club hosted its second annual Big WoW Poker Run.

With the help of over 10 volunteers and various sponsors including the Quebec Quad Club Federation (FQCQ), the event consisted of participants driving to five specific locations to pick up sealed envelopes with playing cards in them, in the hopes of coming up with the best hand possible.
The first envelopes were given at the Ladysmith Hotel, while two more were handed out once riders got to Gavan's Hotel in Quyon. The fourth round of envelopes was given out at Restaurant Malysia in Wolf Lake and the last card was to be picked up back at the Ladysmith Hotel.
Upon the riders' return to Ladysmith, volunteers unsealed participants' envelopes to verify the value of each hand to see whether or not one is worthy of a prize.
With 173 riders participating in the Poker Run, the event had 71 more riders than the first edition, which gave the region's ATV trails plenty of use and exposure,



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
The second annual Big WoW Poker Run raised over \$2,500 for Bouffe Pontiac. Pictured, participants lining up to unseal their respective envelopes at the Ladysmith Hotel.

while also helping out the local economy, according to Jean-François Gauvreau, one of the event's main organizers.
"We wanted to have the most people possible participating in the event," said Gauvreau. "We wanted a lot of quadists. We also wanted to promote Quad Trails throughout the Pontiac. And it permitted us to solicit local commerce, like service stations in Ladysmith, the hotel, restaurants in Quyon, dépanneur's in Wolf Lake. The goal in the end was to promote our region."
Serving as a fundraiser for Bouffe Pontiac, the event was also as a way to make people aware of what quad culture in the Pontiac is all

about and to hopefully become more understanding of why it's such an important part of the region.
"As a club, quad riders experience a lot of difficulty," said Gauvreau. "We're trying to promote quadists, in order to develop more trails and to show that we are still civilized people. That's the kind of image we're trying to project."
The winner of the first prize of \$500 was awarded to Emmanuel Gauvreau, second place went to Michel Larocque for \$300, third place with a prize of \$200 was taken by Hélène Benoit, while all registered participants were also given a small prize.
"We really wanted to have


prizes for our participants because we wanted to give back to them," said Gauvreau. "It was a way of thanking registered Quad Club members who participated to the event. It's really a winning club. Everybody participates, everyone wins."
When it was all over, MRC Warden Jane Toller presented a \$2,877 cheque to Bouffe Pontiac.
Gauvreau said he owes the event's success to local establishments, his volunteers and all the riders who participated. He added that preparations for next year's Poker Run have already begun.
"Without them, none of this would work," said Gauvreau.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Pictured, Robert Céré sits on his ATV in the Ladysmith Hotel parking lot.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Pictured from left, participants Peter Bourgeau and Brent Smith sit down for a meal and refreshments at the Ladysmith Hotel, following the event.

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Local figure skaters bring down the house

CALEB NICKERSON
SHAWVILLE March 22, 2019

There was hardly any space left in the parking lot of the Shawville Arena Friday night as family and friends gathered to take in the Shawville Figure Skating Club's production, "The Colourful World of Skating."

More than 70 skaters ranging from three to 23 years-old showcased their talents for the packed house, changing costumes and routines faster than a stop light changing colours. The evening featured a variety of numbers, from solo and duo performances to the madhouse known as the collaborative, where skaters of all ages and skill levels gather on the ice for a group finale.

Club President Ronda Richardson said that they have seen a bump in numbers this year, due largely to the popularity of their fundamental skills program.

"We've seen an increase, especially in our CanSkate program," she said. "I've had to shut registration for CanSkate for both sessions this year, and that's a first."

CanSkate, as Richardson explained, is a program designed by Skate Canada that teaches the fundamental skills of skating. As Richardson explained in an email, the program teaches youngsters the basics for all types of on-ice activities – including hockey, figure skating and speed skating.

The club has two full-time coaches, Dana and Kayla Savard, who are assisted in their supervising duties by older skaters known as program assistants. Richardson said that they are invaluable to the club, both for teaching as well as coordinating the routines for the performance.

"They come up with all the music, they cut the music, they do the choreog-

raphy," she explained, adding that some of the older program assistants also add their input to the choreography. "They're very dedicated."

Following the show, attendees were gathered for refreshments above the rink at the Lion's Hall.

The 2018-19 Shawville Figure Skating Club awards were:

- Most Improved Senior - Marissa Lang
- Most Improved Junior - Brayleigh Barr
- Program Assistant of the Year - Sydney Coté
- Volunteer of the Year - Haillee Hamelin-Dorzek
- Sportsmanship Award - Payton St-Pierre
- CanSkate Champion - Shealie Griffin
- CanSkate Champion - Isobel Clarke
- Most Improved CanSkate - Chloe Trudeau
- Most Improved PreStar - Lea Asselin



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

The Shawville Figure Skating Club held its year-end show on Friday night, packing the arena with friends and family. Pictured, Kiersten Sharpe performed to "Black Cadillac" as part of a trio with Bree Barr and Olivia Rowat.



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

The Senior Star Skaters had a high-flying finish to their routine. The group performed to "Red Lights."



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Sydney Coté and Émile Proulx delivered a stunning duo performance to "Colours."



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

The Intermediate Star skaters slip past each other during their number early on in the show. They performed to "Red."



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

The CanSkate Beginners had one of the cutest performances of the evening, to "Feeling Green."

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Fryin’ fish for charity in Fort Coulonge



Hungry patrons socialize as they wait to be served dinner.

J.D. POTIÉ
FORT COULONGE
March 5, 2019

On Saturday, more than 300 people congregated at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fort Coulonge for the 13th annual Charity Fish Fry.

The hall was nearly filled to capacity, as people lined up for servings of fried fish, seasoned chicken breasts,

assortments of salads and vegetables among many more delicious treats.

Hosted by the fourth-degree branch of the Knights of Columbus of Fort Coulonge, the event has served as a fundraiser for local charities and community projects like the Dialysis Unit at the Pontiac Community Hospital, while bringing residents together,

showing them the true meaning of giving back to the community.

“As a community, people need to get together and help themselves,” said Hebert Soucie, a member of the fourth branch of the Knights of Columbus and former Mayor of Fort Coulonge. “This brings people together to be able to contribute, to help out the needy and also

the organization. That’s why we promote this thing, once per year.”

Now 13 years in the making, the event has become substantially more popular as attendance numbers have soared from the low-200’s to now over 300.

“When we started 13 years ago, we served about 200,” said Soucie. “Then it came up to 225 and it’s going up every year since then.”

When asked about what the event means for the community, Soucie said it makes him proud to be living in a small community like Fort Coulonge, as its residents are always ready to support a positive cause like this one.

“I’m very proud to say that all these people supported us,” said Soucie. “Every year, they come and we really appreciate it.”

With 310 people attending, the event raised \$6,500 from ticket sales, all of which will go back to community projects and charities such as the Pierre Lavoie March for Cancer, according to Soucie.



Over 300 people attended the 13th annual Charity Fish Fry at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fort Coulonge. Pictured, volunteer Nicole Ladouceur serves a plate of fried fish to one of the attendees.



Pictured from left, Jerry and Lucie Lavigne stand in the kitchen at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Premiere of Mad Dog Labine at ESSC



250 people showed up for the premiere of *Mad Dog Labine* at ESSC. Pictured, the team behind the creation of the film from left: Ariane Falardeau St-Amour, Fanny Forest and directors and writers Jonathan Beaulieu-Cyr and Renaud Lessard.

J.D. POTIÉ
FORT COULONGE
March 23, 2019

It was a special time in Fort Coulonge, last weekend, as l’École secondaire Sieur de Coulonge (ESSC) played host to the premiere of *Mad Dog Labine*, an hour and a half feature film about a young teenager’s life in the Pontiac.

Hundreds of Pontiac residents, including many ESSC students and staff, filled the school’s auditorium, on Saturday and Sunday, anxious to see the long-awaited project finally come to fruition.

As directors and writers Jonathan Beaulieu-Cyr and Renaud Lessard prepared for the screening of their new movie, they looked back on all the work that went into putting the project together.

“It makes me quite emotional to know that it’s screening there [at the school],” said Lessard. “There will be a lot of kids who acted or participated in the film that will be attending.”

The movie was initially created, because of Beaulieu-Cyr and Lessard’s their fascination with the Pontiac from an outside perspective.

With Beaulieu-Cyr coming from Temiscaming and Lessard from Aylmer, the Pontiac was something the two had often heard about from a young age, but never truly got a chance to experience.

“We always had a certain fascination [with the Pontiac],” said Lessard. “It was like some kind of secret we shared together and that few people knew about. We shared that interest and that hunger to go and really discover the territory and the people.”

A fictional drama, with certain documentary-style elements to it, the goal of the production crew was to give the actors a sense of creative freedom, thus giving the picture’s look and feel the utmost level of authenticity.

According to Beaulieu-Cyr, the purpose behind the movie was to shed light on some of the hidden gems of

the Pontiac and to give its people a voice, which they often don’t have. Another main point of emphasis was to be as accurate as possible, in the depiction of the characters, the towns and their way of life.

“We wanted to explore what the kids thought of their life,” said Beaulieu-Cyr. “What their ambitions are, where they wanted to go, how they feel about the Pontiac, the landscape, the economy and the community. We explored aspects that we were curious about, while also giving a voice to the kids to express themselves about it.”

The production of the movie started in the fall of 2016, when Beaulieu-Cyr and Lessard visited the Pontiac for the first time. Their first stop was Portage du Fort, which they found to be quite inspiring.

“We were really inspired by the town, the places, the houses ... so we started writing the film there,” said Lessard. “Then, we went back in 2017, without a script, just with what we had worked on since then. The film sort of took shape while we were in the Pontiac.”

As filming began in Portage du Fort in the summer of 2017, Lessard said the experience really opened his eyes as to what the Pontiac is really about and that it gave him a chance to build positive relationships with the residents.

“We had the chance to encounter so many people,” said Lessard. “And we really felt that the film kind of grew from these encounters. People were so generous and it was amazing to be making a film there like that.”

The story depicts the life of Mad Dog Labine, a young teenager, from Portage du

Fort, a fictional town made up of different streets in various municipalities in the Pontiac. She spends her time stealing empty cans with her friend in order to make money to exchange for lottery tickets. Until one day she wins \$10,000, for which they need an adult to claim the prize. Lessard calls the movie a comedy with drama, in which the kids are the main characters.

“We created this image that we called Portage du Fort in the film,” said Beaulieu-Cyr. “But it’s also made up with a street from Chapeau and another from Shawville.”

For Ariane Falardeau St-Amour, who helped with production, costumes and photography in the movie, the first screening was a true opportunity for excitement, as it finally gave the team the chance to showcase their finished product, which had been in the works for over a year.

“This is clearly the screening for which we are feeling the most excited,” said Falardeau St-Amour. “We’re back where everything first started – it means a lot to be here tonight.”

Julie Martin, ESSC’s principal, said it was an easy decision to host the premiere in the school’s auditorium, considering the school’s role in the movie, since that’s where the project started in June 2017.

“It’s a little bit like cutting off the bow, because this is where it all started,” said Martin. “We invited students to do auditions and we spent a good two days having auditions at the school and some of them were picked. We even used our ESSC school uniforms in the film and some of our classrooms.”

Martin said she hoped

viewers would leave the theatre with a sense of pride in their region and that anything is possible no matter how small you are or where you’re from.

“People are going to see the beauty of the Pontiac,” said Martin. “They’ll see how well we live, how we are in good health – I think that’s important. We want to show how even in a small school, we have a lot of talent. We want to prove that even though we’re in the Pontiac, everything is possible.”

In the end, 250 people showed up for both screenings, which grossed around \$1,200 in total.

A portion of the revenue will be used to pay for the event’s operational expenses, while the rest will subsidize a dramatic arts training program at ESSC spearheaded by the artists who created the movie, according to Martin.

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Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 A.M.

See jamesauction.com for detailed listing and pictures.

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Local youngsters raise funds for spay and neuter program



Fern Connolly and Katherine Morris from Animal Aide Pontiac made a presentation to Mme. Kari’s grade 3 and 4 classes at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School on Friday, as well as accepting a check from the youngsters for \$150. The class held a cupcake sale (baked at the school) on Feb. 25 that raised enough money for them to donate \$250 to the local SPCA as well as the donation to Animal Aide. Connolly and Morris raffled off two t-shirts and a gift card to Rumours Café in Otter Lake.

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CISSSO hosts job fair in Shawville



Last Tuesday, staff from the Centre intégré de santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO) held a career fair at the Lions Club hall in Shawville. From left: Melanie Breton, Nadine Courchesne and Alexandra Soucie spoke with locals about employment possibilities in the healthcare sector.

CALEB NICKERSON
SHAWVILLE
March 19, 2019

On March 19, representatives from the Centre intégré de santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO)

held a career fair at the Shawville Lion's Club. As Human Resources coordinator Nadine Courchesne explained, CISSSO is the largest employer in the Outaouais with over 10,000

employees and is constantly hiring for a wide variety of jobs.

We had a lot of people looking for cleaning, laundry, kitchen, PSW ...” she said. “We have lot of retire-

ments [coming] in the next few years, we're going to need more staff.”

She added that all kinds of spaces need to be filled, from administrative assistants to support staff in

addition to front-line medical professions.

Though they typically hold a job fair in the spring, Couchesne said that those interested can apply online any time of the year.

Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Susan Ouimet and Jeannine Giguère serve up some spaghetti at the Thorne Community Recreation Association's dinner on Friday night. Dozens of locals gathered to grab some noodles and fresh baked bread made by Giguère and her mother-in-law Lucienne.

Spaghetti and fresh baked bread at the TCRA

CALEB NICKERSON

LADYSMITH

March 22, 2019

On March 22, around 100 people gathered at the Thorne Community Recreation Association (TCRA) Hall in Ladysmith for some homemade food and good company, put on by the local recreation association.

Around six volunteers

were hard at work in the kitchen that evening, keeping an eye on the large pots of noodles and doling out bowls of salad.

“I was here eight hours two days ago preparing sauce,” said volunteer Jeannine Giguère. “We did nine crock pots and put them in the fridge to cool down.”

In addition, Giguère and

her mother-in-law Lucienne baked up 27 loaves of fresh bread for the occasion the day before, and attendees were draining the basket as fast as volunteers could slice more up.

The TCRA hosts dinners roughly once a month to raise money for their organization, as well as getting the community together on a regular basis.

Live music takes over Little Red Wagon Winery in Clarendon

J.D. POTIÉ

CLARENDON March 23, 2019

On Saturday night, around 90 people from Ontario to the Pontiac gathered at the Little Red Wagon Winery in Clarendon for a live acoustic performance courtesy of local singing talents.

With everyone seated in the packed house, eating dinner and various other pleasantries, it was the local acoustic duo Michaela & René, who took to the stage and performed a variety of classic and modern tunes, to the delight of those in attendance.

Audience members cheered loudly as Michaela's voice hit the high notes, while René jammed on the guitar and provided back-up vocals.

A sold-out event - the

show provided people anxious to see talented local artists with an opportunity to finally fill that void, while also lending their support, according to winery owner, Jennifer Dale Judd.

“Michaela just kind of made her public debut recently,” said Dale. “So, everybody wants to come out and see what they're all about.”

With so much local talent spread throughout the community, Dale feels it's necessary to host shows like these in order to give home-grown talent exposure and to grow the culture of arts and music in the Pontiac.

“There's a lot of talent in the area that people don't know about,” said Dale. “We have outside artists coming in too who wouldn't usually

come to this small community, but it gives them an opportunity for people to experience them too.”

When the winery was being built, Dale said the space was created so artists could come out and use it.

Living in a small area like Clarendon, Dale said she wasn't surprised with the outpouring of support for the event, noting that it's much easier to advertise when you know who you're trying to reach.

“If you build it, people will come,” said Dale. “They support it. That's the nice thing about small towns - everybody kind of knows everybody. They want to find out what's going on and they support you the best that they can.”

Delighted with the turnout, Dale said it was

good reminder that winter is coming to it's end, which means the introduction of spring, thus the opening of wine season - always a good thing.

“It's good because it means the snow is going to melt,” said Dale. “We're about to finally get back into the groove and get outside, open all the patio doors and enjoy it with all kinds of people.”

The food served at the event, consisted of a preview of what will be on the winery's new menu for the upcoming season, according to Chris Judd.

“It was the start of our summer menu,” said Judd. “We're going to be running suppers in the summer time.”

Dale said she hopes the winery can become a regu-

lar spot for live musicians and artists to come perform.

“We'd like to get to the point where we'd have at

least one act per month,” said Dale. “So, we're working towards that. But it might work out to more

than that, as time passes. We've got a lot to look forward to in the next few months.”

All the money raised from the event is going back to the artists, according to Judd.



J-D Potié, THE EQUITY

Over 90 people attended the sold out event, on Saturday. Acoustic duo Michaela and René play a song in front of the audience.

Jack Pine spotted in downtown Shawville



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

On March 21, diners at Café 349 in Shawville were treated to critically-acclaimed singer/songwriter Jack Pine and his folksy strumming and singing over the lunch hour. Shawville was the second stop on Pine's “Lone Wolf” solo tour, which will take him all over Ontario and western Quebec.



Waltham

HELEN PERRY 819-689-2652

Rhonda, Mark, Bella and their friends Jackie, Chris Drew and their daughters Emma and Ella have just returned from a week in Orlando, Florida. They took in many activities and had a wonderful time.

On Thursday, the birthday club met at the Waltham Station. The birthday girls this month were Cynthia Allard and Diane McKnight. Everyone enjoyed a tasty

lunch, birthday cake and socializing.

Happy 40th anniversary is wished to Donna and Leonard Godin who celebrated their 40th anniversary on March 23. May you share many more.

Warm birthday wishes are extended to Monique Fleury, who celebrated her birthday on March 26. We hope that you had a lovely birthday Monique.



Sheenboro

DORIS RANGER

819-689-2132 dranger50@hotmail.com

Birthday greetings and best wishes go out to Erroll Downey, Glenn Magill and Andy McDonald on March 26, Janet Retty on March 27, Lynne Anne Storms and my son Scott on March 28, my nephew Shane VanderEyck on March 29 and to Henry Sallafranque and Robin Sullivan on March 31. Wishes to you all for a wonderful day.

Congratulations to Teagan Retty who was among the 25 academic recipients to receive the Dave Marshal leadership award at Nipissing University. Proud grandparents are Frank and Janet Retty of Sheenboro.

Congratulations go out to the Tierneys who won the annual Family Hockey Tournament held at the UPSC at Chapeau on the weekend. These tournaments are great fundraisers for the arena.


Just a reminder that the Lions Club of Chapeau will be having a pancake, beans

and sausage breakfast on March 31 at Harrington Community Centre.

The Residence Meilleur for Seniors located at Chapeau, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Quebec, is nearing completion. Five of the 12 apartments are now reserved for May 1. All new appliances were purchased for the apartments. We are now working on furnishing the common room. A sub committee headed by myself along with Joan Brennan McGuire, Judy Keon and my sister Donna, are working with a very slim budget to make this happen. Donations can be made on line through Canada Helps or contact any of the members to make a contribution to this worthy cause. Tax receipts are available. Also coming soon a giant 50/50 to help support this large project will be held at George's Bar in Chichester at the end of April. For more info, check with George Picard.

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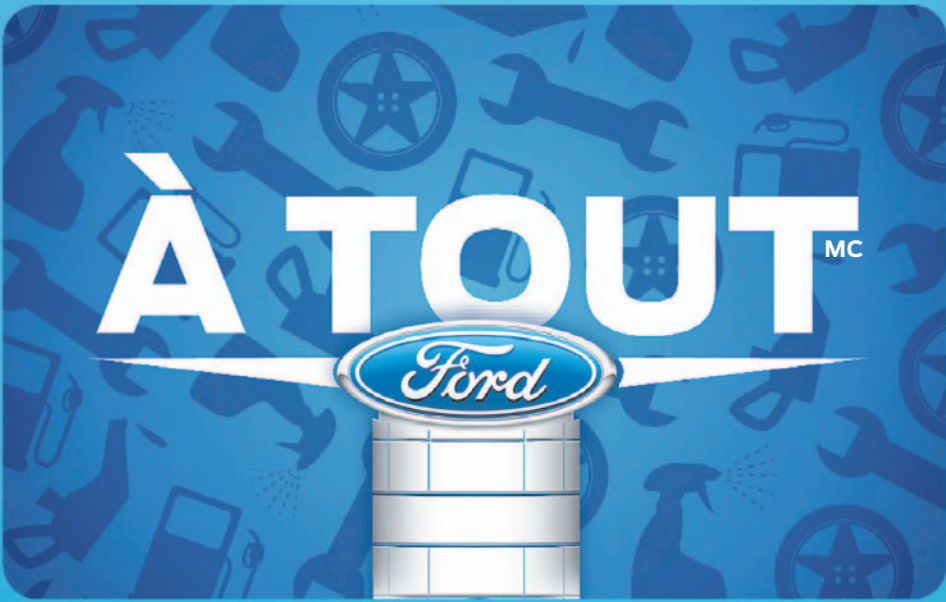


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Classifieds

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Friday Join us in the Shawville Anglican Church Hall for an evening of music (Hooley in the Hall) from 7-9:30 p.m. Admission is free. 50/50 held. Everyone welcome. xtc

March 30 Bryson Lions Club Easter Dance 8 p.m.- 12 a.m., light lunch served at 11 p.m., Entertainment by Country Reflection and fiddling with Louis Schryer. Cost \$10.00/person. For more information contact Betty Leach at 819-648-5424. bmt27

Fri., March 29 – Shawville Shenanigans at 586 Main Street. Join us from 9:30-11:30 for fun, socializing, activities and snacks. fm27

Sat., March 30 – Parents' Voice Shawville Story Time at The Shawville-Clarendon Library. Join Erin from 10:30-11:15, Free! fm27

March 30 – Spring Craft & Vendor Show hosted by the Quyon UCW - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Quyon United Church. Ten local vendors and artisans will be there with a variety of goods and products. Refreshment counter will also be available. bmt27

Mon., April 1 – Creative Movement for Caregivers and Children at The Shawville Lions Hall. Join us from 10:30-11:15, 5\$/child, children under 1 are free. fm27

April 5 & 6 – Pontiac Players present "Man of the House" (hilarious comedy) at Pontiac High School. Ticket includes complete lasagna dinner. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. \$25/person. Proceeds to Auditorium Restoration Project. Please come enjoy the Auditorium you helped to create. bmt27

Thurs., April 11 – Pancake Supper with extras: including sausages, beans, salads, cakes, etc. Orange Lodge Hall, 114 Centre St., Shawville, Que. 4:30 to 7 p.m. Admission: Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5. Everyone welcome. 4xa10

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Shawville – Appartement de luxe à louer. 1 chambre 750\$; 2 chambre 850\$; 6 appareils électroménagers inclus. Plancher chauffant et comptoir de granite. Prêt pour le 1 avril ou 1 mai 819-593-6411. Luxury apartment for rent 1 bedroom \$750; 2 bedroom \$850. 6 appliances included. Heated floor and granite countertop. Ready for April 1 or May 1, 819-593-6411. bmt27

SERVICES

Snowmobile storage. Secure indoor storage. May to October \$99. Room for 100+ sleds. Pontiac Powersports and Marine. 613-298-1767, 819-647-2899. 8bmay8

Labombard Electric Motors sales and service of electric motors, starters, alternators, power tools, welders, generators, pumps, etc., C54 Stoney Batter Rd., Shawville, QC. 819-647-2591. bmt27

Passport photos done at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec. 819-647-2204. No appointment necessary. xtc

HELP WANTED

Labourer required for work in Ottawa for contractor. Weekly pay cheque. Transportation provided from Quyon 613-875-1234. xtc

THANK YOU

Hannaberry – Special thanks for the flowers, cards, calls, emails and visits. You made my 83rd birthday a very happy and memorable occasion. Bev and Jim thank you for the delicious meal. God love you all. Joan

Jean-Marie – Philias Jean-Marie, loving husband, father and grandfather dearly missed. We wish to thank you for the many cards, visits, phone calls, food and donations received in memory of Philias. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful family and friends at this time of sorrow. Your kindness, love and support has been deeply appreciated. Doreen Jean-Marie and Family

THANK YOU

McCallum – The family of Jean Dean McCallum would like to thank everyone for their kindness, messages of support, food, prayers, flowers, cards and phone calls. The shared memories of our mother and grandmother were a great comfort to the family. Thank you to the nurses and staff at the Shawville Hospital for the care and compassion to not only our mother but the family as well. Thank you to the staff at the Hayes Funeral Home for their assistance and compassion during this difficult time. Thank you to Rev. Patricia Van Gelder for a wonderful service. Thank you to the ladies of the Bristol Memorial Presbyterian Church for a delicious lunch following the service. Debbi, Daryl and family Jeff, Pam and family

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Inventory Notice is Hereby Given that an Inventory of Personal Moveable Property and Immoveable Property has been filed with the RDPRM, Quebec of the Estate of the Deceased, Ronald Emmerson Roy, formerly of 29 Bristol Mine Road, Bristol, Quebec, c/o Cherylene Roy Weatherdon, Liquidator, Box 670, Barry's Bay, Ontario, K0J 1B0 phone 613-756-5507.

DEATH

Boone, Connie Donna Mary (June 17, 1964 - March 9, 2019) Connie Donna Mary Boone of Camrose, Alberta, formerly of Quebec, passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the age of 54 years. Left to cherish her memory are her husband Lucien Francoeur; children Joshua (Vickie) Boone of Camrose, Luke (Samantha) Boone of Belleville, Ontario, and Justin Boone (Malcolm McCarty) of Oromocto, New Brunswick; father Maxwell Boone of Newfoundland; mother Janet Boone of Pembroke, Ontario; six grandchildren; and siblings Wanita Seguin of Kingston, Ontario, Lorraine Boone of Ft. Coulonge, Quebec, Diane Boone of Pembroke, Ontario, Tracy Boone of Ottawa, Keith (Lori) Boone of Pembroke, Ontario, and Maxwell Jr. Boone of Pembroke, Ontario. Connie was predeceased by her brother Wayne Boone. A Funeral Service was held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2019 from the Burgar Memorial Chapel, Camrose with Rev. Brian Hunter officiating. Inurnment will take place in the Camrose Valleyview Cemetery. If family and friends so desire, memorial contributions are gratefully accepted to the Autism Canada Foundation. To send condolences, please visit www.burgarfuneral-home.com. Burgar Funeral Home Camrose & Daysland (4817 - 51 Ave, Camrose, Alberta T4V 0V4) in care of arrangements. 780-672-2121. "Dedicated service since 1906"

Rebertz, Hilliard (Retired - Smiths Construction, Arnprior) It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our family's patriarch, Hilliard William Rebertz of Arnprior, Ont. Dad passed away at the Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital while surrounded by the love of his family on Thursday afternoon, March 21, 2019. He was in his 98th year. Beloved husband for almost 71 years of Myrle (nee Sparring). Dearly loved father and respected mentor of Helen Desjardins (Neil), Barry (Lise), Sheila Gauthier (Barrie), Brian (Karen), Dale (Nancy), Royce, Ronnie (Jeanne), Floyd (Kerry), Ward (Lucy), Kerry and Kevin (Tammy). Cherished and proud "Grandpa" of Jennifer, Thomas, Shawn, Shane, Lynn, Robbie, Lorrie, late Jason, Katie, Chad, Crystal, Karine, Austin, Tyler, Taylor and "Great-Grandpa" of Bryce, Clarke, Chloe, Hailey, Kersten, Brooke, Gavan, Evan, Selena and Cody. Hilliard was the last surviving child of the late Willy and Anna (nee Schwartz) Riebertz. He was raised by John L. and Minnie Stephens. Predeceased by his sister, Alice Marshall (late Archie) and his brother, Wilfred Riebertz (Iрма). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A loyal and devoted husband and Dad. Hilliard was always smiling. His family was everything to him. He leaves a legacy of humour, love and kindness. Hilliard's final care has been entrusted to the Pilon Family Funeral Home and Chapel Ltd., 50 John Street North, Arnprior where visitation was held on Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. and again on Monday morning from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. A Funeral Service was conducted in Grace St. Andrew's United Church, 269 John Street North, Arnprior on Monday morning, March 25th at 11 o'clock. Cremation followed. In memory of Hilliard, please consider a donation to the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation. Condolences/Memories/Donations www.pilonfamily.ca

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DEATH



Deering, Frederic – At home, Shawville, Quebec on March 20, 2019 at the age of 68 years. Dear son of the late Myrtle and Clarence Deering. Dear brother of Della (late Wilson Hodgins), William (Dianne Salick), Freda (Vince Charity), Wayne (Brenda), Arno and predeceased by infant brother, John. He will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Fred was formerly an employee of Don New as well as John L. Hodgins Garage where he repaired and maintained engines and machinery. A graveside committal service will be held in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Ladysmith, Quebec at a later date. Donations to the St. John's Lutheran Church would be appreciated. www.hayesfuneralhome.ca



DEATH



Rebertz, Hilliard (Retired - Smiths Construction, Arnprior) It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our family's patriarch, Hilliard William Rebertz of Arnprior, Ont. Dad passed away at the Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital while surrounded by the love of his family on Thursday afternoon, March 21, 2019. He was in his 98th year. Beloved husband for almost 71 years of Myrle (nee Sparring). Dearly loved father and respected mentor of Helen Desjardins (Neil), Barry (Lise), Sheila Gauthier (Barrie), Brian (Karen), Dale (Nancy), Royce, Ronnie (Jeanne), Floyd (Kerry), Ward (Lucy), Kerry and Kevin (Tammy). Cherished and proud "Grandpa" of Jennifer, Thomas, Shawn, Shane, Lynn, Robbie, Lorrie, late Jason, Katie, Chad, Crystal, Karine, Austin, Tyler, Taylor and "Great-Grandpa" of Bryce, Clarke, Chloe, Hailey, Kersten, Brooke, Gavan, Evan, Selena and Cody. Hilliard was the last surviving child of the late Willy and Anna (nee Schwartz) Riebertz. He was raised by John L. and Minnie Stephens. Predeceased by his sister, Alice Marshall (late Archie) and his brother, Wilfred Riebertz (Iрма). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A loyal and devoted husband and Dad. Hilliard was always smiling. His family was everything to him. He leaves a legacy of humour, love and kindness. Hilliard's final care has been entrusted to the Pilon Family Funeral Home and Chapel Ltd., 50 John Street North, Arnprior where visitation was held on Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. and again on Monday morning from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. A Funeral Service was conducted in Grace St. Andrew's United Church, 269 John Street North, Arnprior on Monday morning, March 25th at 11 o'clock. Cremation followed. In memory of Hilliard, please consider a donation to the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation. Condolences/Memories/Donations www.pilonfamily.ca

DEATH



Orr, Ronald – Jan. 21st, 1950 - March 19th, 2019 In hospital, Shawville Quebec, on March 19, 2019 surrounded by family, Ronald Orr passed away at the age of 69 years. He was the beloved husband of June Orr (McCoshen). Son of the late Howard Orr and Bertha Doherty. Loving father of Lisa, Sheri (Paul Larue) and Neil (Cathy Meilleur) and predeceased by infant son, Brian. Adored grandfather of Cole, Carter, Ashley, Curtis, Breanna, step-grandson Jordan, Nathan, Hunter and Bella. Cherished brother of Lorna (late Eric Ranger), Gail (Tom Howard and the late Carl Tubman) and predeceased by sister Beverly (Rob Campbell). Ronnie always took pride in his work at Bristol Council for 19 years, his family and his many friends. He always loved having a chat and playing tunes on the guitar. He will be missed by his many nieces and nephews that he held dearly. He will also be missed by cousins, many in-laws and special friends who were there for him when needed (you know who you are). A service will be held in Bristol Ridge Pentecostal Church at a date and time to be announced. www.hayesfuneralhome.ca



IN MEMORY

Lucas, Hennie (née MacDonald) – In loving memory of our dear wife, mother, sister, grandmother and mother-in-law who passed away one year ago today, March 27, 2018. You are near, even if we don't see you. You are with us, even if you are far away. You are in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our lives, always. Lyons, Margaret, David, Keith, Joanne and Breanna

Miller – In fond and loving memory of a dear Mom, Granny and Great-granny, Elsie who left us March 30, 2007. Two extra stars are in the skies I know they are my Mother's eyes Partings come and hearts are broken Loved ones go with words unspoken Deep in my heart there is a memory kept For a Mom I will never forget God's greatest gift Mom is remembrance. Always remembered always loved Gloria, Murray and family

Palmer, Della – In loving memory of a dear mom and grandma, Della Palmer who passed away April 1, 2010. God called your name So gently, that only you could hear. No one heard the footsteps Of angels drawing near. Softly from the shadows There came a gentle call. You closed your eyes and went to sleep And quietly left us all. Missing you until we meet again. Sandy, Angela, Mike, Steven and great-grandchildren

NOTICES

If you saw the picture in THE EQUITY we can make you a full colour 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 prints for \$10 plus tax, at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0 819-647-2204. xtc

Budget 2019 - 2020 - Les priorités des Québécois au coeur du premier budget du nouveau gouvernement du Québec

GOUV. DU QUÉBEC Communiqué **QUEBEC** Le 21 mars 2019

Déposé par le ministre des Finances, M. Eric Girard, remplit plusieurs engagements du nouveau gouvernement du Québec à l'égard des préoccupations des Québécois. Ainsi, ce sont 5,2 milliards de dollars qui seront retournés d'ici cinq ans dans les poches des Québécois, et des investissements majeurs dans les grands réseaux de l'éducation et de la santé sont annoncés.

Les nouveaux investissements totalisent 16,2 milliards de dollars sur six ans et visent à :

Remettre de l'argent dans le portefeuille des Québécois;

Offrir des services de qualité en éducation et en santé;

Augmenter le potentiel de l'économie;

Agir pour l'environnement;

Soutenir les collectivités;

Mettre en chantier des projets attendus par les Québécois.

Par les gestes posés lors de la mise à jour budgétaire automnale et du budget 2019 - 2020, le gouvernement redonnera 1,1 milliard de dollars dès cette année aux Québécois, notamment en amorçant dès 2019 l'abolition de la contribution additionnelle pour la garde d'enfants et l'uniformisation de la taxe scolaire 1.

Ces nouvelles mesures portent à 5,2 milliards de dollars le montant qui sera remis dans le portefeuille des citoyens d'ici cinq ans.

Dans le respect des engagements pris envers les Québécois, pour la prochaine année, les dépenses en éducation et en enseignement supérieur seront haussées de 5, 1 pourcent, alors que celles en santé et en services sociaux augmenteront de 5,4 pourcent. Ces nou-

veaux investissements visent à offrir des services de meilleure qualité et à mieux répondre aux besoins de la population. Ils totaliseront 7,3 milliards de dollars d'ici cinq ans.

Le gouvernement se donne également comme objectif d'accroître le potentiel économique du Québec, notamment en incitant les travailleurs d'expérience à demeurer au travail, en favorisant l'intégration des immigrants sur le marché du travail et en augmentant la productivité des entreprises.

À cette fin, le budget 2019 -2020 prévoit des initiatives totalisant près de 3,7 milliards de dollars d'ici cinq ans.

D'importantes mesures sont également déployées pour la lutte contre les changements climatiques, un dossier au centre de l'attention du nouveau gouvernement. Des investissements de près de 1,3 milliards de dollars sur six ans sont ainsi prévus pour, notamment, bonifier des initiatives prévues dans le Plan d'action 2013 - 2020 sur les changements climatiques, protéger l'environnement et améliorer la gestion des matières résiduelles.

Investir davantage dans les infrastructures publiques En raison de l'imposant déficit de maintien d'actifs accumulé au cours des 15 dernières années, situation qui afflige particulièrement le réseau scolaire et les élèves du Québec, le gouvernement annonce une hausse de 15 milliards de dollars des investissements en infrastructures publiques au cours de la prochaine décennie. Cela porte le Plan québécois des infrastructures (PQI) 2019 - 2029 à un total de 115,4 milliards de dollars au bénéfice, notamment, des secteurs de l'éducation, de

la santé et des transports.

1. Sous réserve de l'adoption du projet de loi no3.

2. Équilibre budgétaire et maintien des objectifs de réduction de la dette.

Le cadre financier du Québec prévoit le maintien de l'équilibre budgétaire pour les cinq prochaines années, et ce, sans avoir recours à la réserve de stabilisation. Les versements au Fonds des générations s'établiront à 2,5 milliards de dollars en 2019 - 2020 et atteindront 2,7 milliards de dollars l'année suivante.

De plus, le gouvernement confirme que l'objectif de réduction de la dette, qui est de ramener le poids de la dette brute à 45 pourcentage du PIB d'ici 2025 - 2026, sera atteint cinq ans plus tôt que prévu.

La réduction du poids de la dette permettra au Québec d'assurer un financement accru des infrastructures et des services publics, de préserver une marge de manoeuvre pour faire face à un éventuel ralentissement de l'économie et d'augmenter l'autonomie financière du Québec dans la fédération.

Avec notre premier budget, nous remplissons nos engagements envers les Québécois. Nous remettons de l'argent dans leur portefeuille et nous investissons pour offrir de meilleurs services en santé et en éducation. Nous soutenons aussi le développement économique pour nous permettre d'offrir à long terme des services publics de qualité. Tous nos choix sont guidés par le désir de répondre aux préoccupations de la population, tout en respectant la capacité de payer des Québécois et en ne compromettant pas l'équilibre budgétaire. » Eric Girard, ministre des Finances du Québec.

Coûts liés aux tornades du 21 septembre 2018 en Outaouais

GOUV. DU QUÉBEC Communiqué **QUEBEC** Le 22 mars 2019

La ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Danielle McCann, et le ministre de la Famille et ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe, annoncent qu'un financement supplémentaire total de 605 503 \$ est octroyé au Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSS) afin de couvrir les coûts liés aux conséquences engendrées par les tornades qui ont sévi dans la région en septembre 2018.

Les tornades qui ont touché l'Outaouais à ce moment ont eu des répercussions notables sur la vie de nombreux citoyens, affectant 2 146 sinistrés, dont 948 ménages. Dès la première phase d'intervention, des équipes de professionnels ont offert des services d'intervention psychosociale immédiate, dont une équipe disponible 24 heures par jour, sept jours par semaine. Une seconde phase a permis d'offrir des services psychosociaux transitoires et de rétablissement.

Depuis le 30 octobre 2018, de nombreux enjeux demeurent, à la suite de l'événement, notamment plusieurs ménages à rel-

oger, un manque de places en refuge pour les personnes en situation d'itinérance et une certaine précarité en matière de logements abordables et disponibles en raison d'une hausse des prix des logements. La somme octroyée permettra de remédier aux besoins immédiats engendrés par cette situation exceptionnelle, et sera réinvestie dans les programmes sociaux de l'établissement afin de rétablir l'accessibilité des services pour les clientèles vulnérables habituelles.

« Ce financement vise à appuyer le CISSS dans ses efforts pour répondre rapidement, et de manière hautement prioritaire, aux besoins des personnes sinistrées, tout en assurant aux clientèles régulières la meilleure accessibilité possible de services. Dans le contexte de rareté du logement que génère cette situation, il demeure également crucial de soutenir les personnes les plus vulnérables, tout particulièrement en période hivernale auprès des personnes en situation d'itinérance. »

Danielle McCann, ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

« Je suis très heureux de ce soutien financier qui permettra au CISSSO

d'apporter une aide aux sinistrés des tornades du 21 septembre dernier. En tant que ministre de la Famille, il est important pour moi d'offrir un accompagnement à ces familles qui ont tout perdu et d'agir rapidement afin qu'elles puissent retrouver leur vie normale. Par ce financement supplémentaire aujourd'hui, le gouvernement du Québec réitère son appui aux sinistrés et envoie une fois de plus le signal que le gouvernement du Québec est à l'écoute des besoins des gens de l'Outaouais. » Mathieu Lacombe, ministre de la Famille et ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais

Faits saillants

Le montant global de 605 503 \$ se décline comme suit :

Un montant de 362 527 \$ pour couvrir les frais encourus par les interventions réalisées à la suite des tornades;

Un montant de 92 976 \$ pour répondre à l'augmentation des besoins des usagers;

Un montant de 150 000 \$ pour combler le manque de places en refuge pour les personnes en situation d'itinérance, notamment par la mise en place de la Halte chaleur.

Remis de prix de la relève Gaston-Lallement

CSHBO Communiqué

MANIWAKI Le 24 mars 2019

Deux élèves de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais sont lauréats du Prix de la relève Gaston-Lallement. Il s'agit de Camille Perrin de la Cité étudiante de la Haute-Gatineau et de Yanick Garneau de l'École secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge.

Le Prix de la relève Gaston-Lallement est décerné, en hommage à l'un

des membres fondateurs et ancien président d'Impératif français, à des élèves du secondaire de l'Outaouais. Ils sont choisis par leurs enseignants ou enseignantes en raison de leur amour pour la langue française, la culture et les artistes du Québec et de la francophonie. Afin de les récompenser de leur implication dans la francophonie, chaque lauréat et lauréate recevra une bourse de 100 \$.

La cérémonie de remise de

ce prestigieux prix a eu lieu lors du grand déjeuner-causerie organisé par Impératif français, le dimanche 24 mars à 11 h, au Club de Golf de Gatineau, en présence de Steve Veilleux, du groupe de musique folk rock Kaïn qui s'est exprimé sur le thème : « Une histoire de passion et d'avenir ». En plus, il a offert une chanson en guise de remerciement !

Encore une fois, félicitations à Camille Perrin et Yanick Garneau



THE EQUITY

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883
Published weekly by Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
133 Centre St, Shawville, Que. J0X 2Y0

Deadline Monday 12 noon: 819-647-2204

Fax 819- 647-2206

Invoiced: \$15,00 first 15 words,

www.theequity.ca

e-mail: news@theequity.ca

15¢ each additional word, plus tax.

