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Soggy grounds cancels JamFest



J-D Potié, THE EQUITY

The Quyon Jamfest will not be taking place this year, due to soggy conditions caused by severe flooding at the Quyon Fairgrounds.

J.D. POTIÉ
QUYON May 22, 2019
The Quyon Jamfest will not be taking place this year, due to soggy conditions caused by severe flooding, at the Quyon Fairgrounds.

At a meeting held at Gavan's Hotel on May 15, the event's committee decided to cancel this year's Jamfest as the grounds won't be in suitable conditions to host a festival of its size, according to one of the event's main organizers Garry Cummings

"There's just too much water," said Cummings. "There's about four or five feet of water. There's no way that we can have it. It's flooded right out. The grounds wouldn't be ready. There's too much to clean up and everything."

Even if waters do recede by the time the event was scheduled to take place at the end of June, the grounds will still be too wet to hold the event.

Following 2017's record breaking floods, there were numerous issues relating the ground conditions with several trucks being stuck in the muddy terrain causing numerous safety hazards to people attending and plenty of difficulty taking them out of the ground when the event was over.

"It would be a lot worse this year for sure," he said. "It's like a lake down there for God's sake."

For Cummings the absence of this year's Jamfest is a disappointment for the community as it serves as a fundraiser for various local service providers including the Shawville Hospital as well as local churches in need of financial aid for repairs.

"It takes away from the community that's for sure," he said. "We had always around 200 to 210 trailers there and it helps out quite a bit for local businesses too."

While there isn't a specific number detailing how severe the impact will be, Cummings knows the cancellation of the event will be felt, especially in the group's pocket book.

"We're losing money that's for sure," he said. "We're a non-profit organization. We help people out."

For Cummings, one of the most difficult parts of cancelling the event was calling musicians to notify them that they wouldn't be performing at this year's JamFest. However, he knows that he has their support no matter what, especially in times like these.

Please see SOGGY page two

Dance it up!

The Corriveau School of Dance put on one of their three year-end performances at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School on Thursday evening for an audience of adoring friends and family. From left: Léande Bonnerot, Melissa Pilon, Geni Corriveau, Billie Désmoreaux and Kalie Laurent perform a routine set to music from the movie Frozen to kick off the night. See more photos page six.

J-D Potié, THE EQUITY



Floods cause severe damage to local infrastructure

J.D. POTIÉ
PONTIAC May 20, 2019
Over the last month, record floods have devastated various parts of the region causing significant damage to local infrastructure and leaving hundreds of people stranded forced to be evacuated from their homes.
On May 14, Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs André Laforest and Family minister for the Outaouais region Mathieu Lacombe visited the Municipality of Pontiac (MoP) to consult its leaders and assess the situation in the area.
Having experienced the 2017 floods and the tornados in 2018, the MoP was well prepared for this year's natural disaster, according to Mayor Joanne Labadie.
Starting out in early March by clearing ice from sewer

drains, culverts and ditches to induce water flow and ordering hundreds of thousands of sandbags, municipal staff did everything they could to minimize the impact of the floods.
"[It allowed us to] be proactive instead of reactive," said Labadie. "Had there not been a major flood we would've been over prepared. But, I'd rather be over prepared than under prepared. I think in general it has served us well."
According to Labadie, Lacombe was very impressed by the initiatives taken by municipal staff in efforts of preventing the natural disaster from getting out of hand, including updating its security measures plan.
"They were surprised that we had already been proactive," she said.
In 2017, the MoP distributed around 45,000 sandbags

throughout the municipality.
This year, the same amount of sandbags had already been ordered in early March allowing them to stockpile enough for such a major disaster. In the end, they distributed just over 170,000 sandbags in different sectors of the Pontiac.
"We were also able to help other municipalities like Rapides-des-Joachims and Mansfield," she said. "They didn't have any sandbags so we were able to ship some of our surplus empty bags to them until they got their order in."
In the MoP, rising waters have damaged a variety of roads, ditches and culverts, causing several to remain closed as a result of getting completely washed out.

Please see DAMAGE page two



Over the last month, record floods have devastated various parts of the region causing significant damage to local infrastructure and leaving hundreds of people stranded forced to be evacuated from their homes. Pictured left, water levels almost reach the base The Felix-Gabriel-Marchand Bridge in Fort-Coulonge. To the right, a view of a home on rue Thomas-Lefebvre in Davidson completely surrounded by water on May 17.

J-D Potié THE EQUITY



J-D Potié, THE EQUITY

On May 15 at around 4:15 a.m. local firefighters received a call about a fire taking place at Le Smok'N Bull restaurant in Luskville. Pictured, two firefighters clear a piece of debris from the ground on the property.

J.D. POTIÉ
SHAWVILLE May 15, 2019
A local barbecue joint was gutted by a fire early in the morning last Wednesday.

On May 15 at around 4:15 a.m. local firefighters received a call about a fire taking place at Le Smok'N Bull restaurant on Hwy. 148 in Luskville.

According to Municipality of Pontiac Fire Chief Richard Groulx, responding firefighters noticed smoke and flames emanating from the interior of the small building.

With seven trucks, around 25 firefighters and police officers on the scene, firefighters managed to extinguish the blaze in about two hours, Groulx said.

No individuals were in the building at the time of the incident.

The fire caused significant damage to the building leaving it completely demolished. Costs will be expensive, Groulx said.

The cause of the blaze has not been identified and police are still investigating, Groulx said.

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Sorting Centre requests delay from Min. of Environment

CALEB NICKERSON
LITCHFIELD May 17, 2019

The Pontiac Sorting Centre was forced to scale back its workforce last week as management works to reach an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment over the cleanup of its site in Litchfield.

The Sorting Centre has received 10 notices of non-compliance from the Ministry for the improper storage of construction wastes, dating back to 2013. In February 2019, the Sorting Centre was fined more than \$40,000 for their litany of infractions, and on May 3, they received an order from Environment Minister Benoit Charette to cease the deposit of materials, and set deadlines for compliance.

The Sorting Centre was required to submit a plan for the restoration of their site

by May 18 and ordered that the asphalt shingles on the premises be disposed of properly within 120 days. They are also required to submit a report no more than 30 days after the completion of the site cleanup.

The Sorting Centre responded on May 6 with a press release that blamed the ministry for delaying certificates of authorization for the site. Reached by THE EQUITY on May 17, Sorting Centre Director of Operations Gerry Philippe said that they have asked the provincial government for an extension to the deadline.

“We have our lawyers working on that and consultants as well,” he said. “We’ve asked for a delay, a 15 day delay just so we can prepare accordingly and then present something that makes sense.”

He said that they are working to comply with the ministry’s demands, but the case would likely be disputed in a courtroom. He was optimistic about their chances.

“We’re doing what it is that they want,” he said. “We’ve already sent a whole lot of tonnage down to Lachute and cleaning up the land ... We continue to do that.”

He said that cutting back staff was a tough decision but with all the uncertainty around future operations, it was a necessary decision.

“We were hiring around 30 people and we do have to make some cuts simply because we don’t know what’s going to happen,” he said. “In the mean time we’re just being careful. We’re being good administrators actually ... It will be around about ten people.

It’s a very tough position for us obviously but our hands are tied at this time. If we cannot operate properly, then we cannot hire the people.”

Philippe worked for the defunct Green Investment Group Inc. (GIGI) before coming to the Sorting Centre. He said that when GIGI purchased the property back in 2010, there was a verbal agreement with the Ministry of the Environment that certifications would be approved in short order.

“At the time, they said, ‘You buy it and we will give you a certificate of qualification within the first six months or so,’” he said, adding that he didn’t actually witness the discussions. “Of course, that wasn’t written, so that’s the problem.”

He said that the proposed “technical landfill” for construction waste, across the

road from the Sorting Centre’s current location, would sit adjacent to a disused landfill or “bio-park” from the former Smurfit-Stone Mill. He said that the bio-park was improperly capped, but the Sorting Centre needed government certification to manage the site, which they had requested back in 2014.

“The bio-park area originally belonged to the paper mill,” he said. “This is all part of our property now. The reason we took it was simply to have the landfill area right beside it so we can treat the leachate, for example, from both. The former biopark and our operation are able to use the same system.”

Despite the setbacks, Philippe said that he would like to continue operations in the Pontiac.

“The thing is, we don’t

want to close,” he said. We want to continue ... We know there’s a lot of people who appreciate the fact that we’re there. Not just the workers but the people that do renovations on their houses, contractors, a few municipalities are dealing with us already. That means they won’t have any access after we close up shop and it will all have to go down to Lachute because there’s no other alternative.”

Speaking at after the council of mayors meeting on May 15, Pontiac Warden Jane Toller said she had requested a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the matter.

“We were trying to be supportive of the business, because they’re a business in the Pontiac, but we also want to encourage them to do the right thing,” she said.



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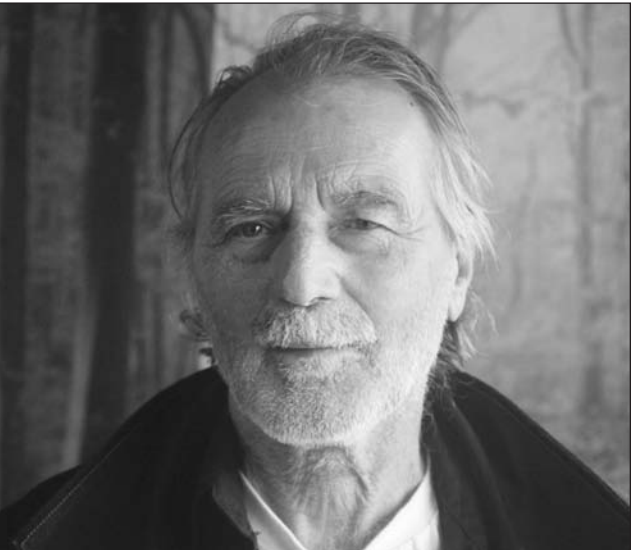


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J-D Potié, THE EQUITY

With record-breaking floods hitting various parts of the region in the last month, a number of local businesses were significantly impacted after being forced to shut down operations to deal with the issue. Pictured, Jim Bowers owner of J.A. Bowers Restaurant in Mansfield et Pontefract poses for a photo.

J.D. POTIÉ
PONTIAC May 20, 2019

With record-breaking floods hitting various parts of the region in the last month, a number of local businesses were significantly impacted after being forced to shut down operations to deal with the issue.

Among those businesses was J.A. Bowers restaurant in Mansfield et Pontefract which was forced to close for an entire week after water

levels reached the perimeter of the building, eventually leaking through the foundation and flooding its basement.

According to the restaurant’s owner Jim Bowers, this year’s floods have been especially devastating to his business as he’s dedicated a large portion of his time towards keeping the waters at bay with 11 pumps running in the restaurant’s basement at all times.

Having owned the restaurant for 30 years, Bowers recalls the river rising fairly high in the 1970s, with water reaching the base of the building back then. However, he said that this year’s damages have been much more devastating, especially considering that the lodge is located on higher ground than it was back then.

“I’ve been here since ‘89 and never had it like this,” he said.

Shut down for an entire week, employees were forced to throw out large amounts of food they had prepared before the floods hit the property, which had a big impact on Bowers’ bottom line.

But, since he owns the building outright, he believes that it’s the employees who took the brunt of the blow as it prevented them from their main source of income.

“It’s the employees that lost really,” he said. “There’s fifteen of them.”

While the restaurant’s insurance plan covers floods, Bowers isn’t certain that it will cover the entirety of the damage. Last week an engineer visited the restaurant to examine the building and provide an assessment on the situation, but no specific amount has been set in

stone. For Bowers the most difficult part of the ordeal has been putting in the effort to combat the floods, which tends to take up the majority of his time usually dedicated to the restaurant.

“It’s a job that you don’t need, you know,” he said. “This is a job for us. So, it’s a second job. You have to look after the business and then you have to do repairs to keep it going.”

Up the road at BMR, floods took a significant toll on business activity, as the store’s owners were forced to shut down from April 27 to May 1 in order to prevent the damage from this year’s floods.

According to store co-owner Connie Gutoskie, employees noticed that water levels were rising rapidly on April 27, which prompted them to empty the store’s surrounding warehouses of any material.

By the end of the day, the water had risen so high that employees and residents teamed up to put up a four and a half foot dike against the water around the perimeter of the property.

As a tool and home supply retailer, BMR had been serving a large portion of the population affected, by selling everything from pumps,

to tie wraps and boots among other things.

The only problem was that, by the time the water had made it’s way into their buildings, they ended up selling most of the necessary equipment on site.

But, thanks to reliable suppliers like Battlefield Toromont and Rentquip, everything worked out fine at the end of the day.

“They literally made sure that we were taken care of,” she said. “They brought equipment in to us.”

With a large amount of water still on the property, Gutoskie isn’t certain about the cost of damage, as certain portions of it remain inaccessible. However, she said that the rising waters have caused significant damage to soil along the property’s grounds.

“We did have some material damage, but not a great amount of it,” said Gutoskie. “Most of the cost for us was in saving the business and being able to maintain that.”

While in favour of receiving some form of financial relief for the cost of damage, Gutoskie said that BMR is out of luck since it does not meet the criteria because it’s too large a business.

For Gutoskie the most difficult part about shutting down her store was not

being able to help the people who needed it the most.

For now her biggest concern is what to do with all the sand surrounding the property.

“You don’t want to do anything that would adversely affect the issue with the environment,” said Gutoskie.

The Quyon Ferry was closed for five and a half days, as hundreds of local residents were forced out of their homes, which has taken a severe toll on business traffic for the ferry.

According to ferry owner Ralph McColgan, business has gone down significantly with the presence of floodwaters in the municipality, as cottagers, truck drivers and local businesses have either been evacuated or are avoiding the area.

Despite this, McColgan said the floods didn’t cause significant damage to the ferry’s infrastructure. With the biggest toll being on the financial side, McColgan is conscious that many residents remain in much more precarious positions than his enterprise.

“We’ve been hurt pretty significantly, that’s for sure,” said McColgan. “But compared to people losing their houses and cottages, it’s minor.”

Citizens oppose motorized vehicles on PPJ

CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC May 15, 2019

Local interest groups have been active in the past week in their efforts to keep the PPJ trail open to only non-motorized traffic.

At the last MRC meeting, a committee of mayors was formed to look at converting the cycling path into a “multi-use” trail for ATVs, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles in the summer. The committee is made up of Mayors Gaston Allard (Fort Coulonge), Gilles Dionne (Mansfield), David Rochon (Waltham), Maurice Beauregard (Campbell’s Bay) and Sandra Murray (Shawville).

At the Shawville council meeting on Tuesday night, several residents representing the Green PPJ Verte Committee and Les Amies du Cycloparc PPJ were present to voice their opposition to the plan. Carole Valin read a list of reasons why motorized vehicles are unsuitable for the trail, with an emphasis on the safety of pedestrians and children who use it in the summer months.

Council also heard testimony from resident Mike Hodgins, who lives next to the trail and uses it daily. Hodgins is blind and navigates with the help of his service dog, Nellie. He said that many who currently use the trail are seniors or people with mobility problems who don’t have an alternative place to walk or exercise.

“That’s my biggest problem, I don’t want to be in anyone else’s way walking down the street without a sidewalk,” he said. “When I go on the trail, my mind is free from that fear of falling

into something or getting [a branch] in the face.”

He said that motorized vehicles would jeopardize the safety and peacefulness of the town and called for the council to oppose a change to the route.

“I’ve never encountered any kinds of dangers on the trail except for the odd skunk,” he said. “By letting on these recreational four wheelers or side by sides, I think we’re going to have a big problem.”

Mayor Sandra Murray told the visitors that she has a seat on the “multi-use” committee –which has yet to meet - and is staunchly opposed to motorized vehicles on the trail. Following the presentation, council unanimously passed a motion in opposition to motorized vehicles on the PPJ, joining the municipalities of Thorne and Bristol.

At the MRC meeting the following night, Green PPJ Verte representatives Lynne Lavery and Jim Coffey presented similar arguments to the council of mayors. They were accompanied by a contingent of supporters that filled the public seating area of the Elsie Gibbons Room and spilled out into the hall.

Lavery started by acknowledging the stress the council was under due to the floods in the region.

“I appreciate your attention while I speak about something less critical but still important to many people in the Pontiac,” she said. “We, the regular users of the PPJ, are deeply concerned by a new attempt to allow ATVs access to the trail. For us, this is a bad dream déjà vu, because we

had the same discussion with the mayors three years ago.”

Back in the summer of 2016, a previous committee set out with a similar mandate and clashed with groups like Green PPJ Verte and Les Amies du Cycloparc PPJ over letting ATVs on the trail. She refuted the claim that the PPJ is underused and pointed out that half of the current maintenance funding for the PPJ (\$125,000) comes from being a part of the Route Verte cycling trail system.

“The new talk is for a multi-use trail, as Renfrew County did with their old rail bed,” she said. “However, in Quebec, there is no such thing as a multi-use trail. Trails in Quebec are for either motorized or non-motorized vehicles. This is really important for you to understand as you discuss this topic.”

She also took issue with a common comparison that is made between the PPJ and the trail system in nearby Renfrew County, which also uses repurposed rail corridors.

“[Renfrew’s trails are] clearly not the same as the PPJ because what they have done is double the width, instead of six to eight feet, they are 16 to 18 feet wide,” Lavery explained, noting that the over width on the PPJ is narrow to non-existent in some places. “But now they are faced with the Ford government, they lost their funding and they are stuck with a shortfall of an estimated \$2 million to complete their project, they only have 65 km open of an estimated 218. The cost to

do this on the PPJ is clearly more than any combined budget that the MRC and the Club Quad could come up with.”

She spoke of many homeowners and businesses such as Base Macrocarpa campground in Mansfield, who are situated near the trail and have concerns about the speed of ATVs around children and pedestrians, as well as the noise and dust motorized vehicles bring.

Coffey spoke briefly about how the trail might be ahead of its time, in terms of being a tourist attraction for the region.

Lavery concluded by requesting that the MRC reverse its course on the issue.

“Ideally, all the people who came with us ... we would like the discussion about allowing ATVs on the trail to end tonight and to have the MRC focus on promoting and maintaining the trail,” she said. “But if the MRC is determined to form another committee to study the trail, which did come out of the last MRC meeting, then it has to be a balanced committee.”

She pointed out that the majority of the mayors on the committee are in favour of ATVs on the trail, and requested that some members of the Green PPJ Verte group be added to the committee. Pontiac Warden Jane Toller declined the request, and said the mayors had plenty of information from MRC staff.

“We have listened to everything you have said, we have access to the newspaper articles,” she said. “It’s important that you come and express your

point of view, representing many people. But this particular committee is not a mayor-citizen committee, it is just a committee of mayors, and we are placing our

trust in them.”

Toller assured the group that the committee’s recommendations would be presented at a public meeting when they were ready.



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2019 floods severely damage local infrastructure



Over the last month, record floods have devastated various parts of the region causing significant damage to local infrastructure and leaving hundreds of people stranded, forced to be evacuated their from homes. Pictured above, a view of the dike located along on rue Baume in downtown Fort-Coulange on May 15.



Pictured above, a view of a property in Norway Bay submerged in water on May 17.

Continued from front

According to Labadie, some of those roads have been re-opened, including the Fifth concession, chemin Gold Mine and chemin Farrell.

However, some of them will take some time to be repaired having been severely flooded and in some cases washed out, including chemin Bronson-Bryant in Quyon which claimed the life of local resident Lousie Lortie Séguin that took place last April.

While many properties in the municipality are still flooded and evacuated, making it impossible to determine the total cost of the damages, Labadie said that the floods have cost the town around \$300,000 in municipal expenses so far.

“Until the water recedes, we won’t be able to assess the damages,” said Labadie.

When it comes to financial relief, Labadie said she expects at least the majority of the costs to be covered. However, the official plan from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has not

been publicized.

The Ministry of Public Security is planning on holding a public consultation, on a date to be determined, which will consist of a Q&A for flood victims to give them a better idea of

the process behind the plan they’re putting together.

With thousands of sandbags and countless tons of sand and gravel scattered across the municipality, Labadie said her staff has notified the Ministry of

Public Security that they would welcome assistance from the military to clean up the mess.

While contractors and public workers will have a sufficient amount of hands on deck to remove the colossal dike in Quyon, the municipality does need a tremendous amount of support when it comes to removing all the contaminated sandbags from the area, Labadie said.

“What we would like it for them to manage the entire project,” she said.

In Fort Coulonge, part of the town’s sewer system was forcibly shut down, with a large number of streets, including rue Baume, rue Francoeur and rue Bord de L’eau submerged underwater.

Approximately 100 homes in the town have been evacuated, according to Director General Ellen Boucher.

According to Boucher, water levels in the village have slightly receded.

For total costs in damage, nothing concrete has been determined as water levels are still too high to fully assess the matter.

According to Boucher, the Ministry of Public Security has been meeting with residence over the last week to provide information on how they can seek some form of relief following the evacuations.

“So far it’s gone very well,” she said. “Their system is well established to provide answers to our questions relatively quickly. Inside of the same day we’re able to get answers.”

In Mansfield et Pontefract, numerous roads remain submerged in water with many severely damaged by the floods.

According to Mayor Gilles Dionne, the municipality has assessed some of the

damage, however with many roads still underwater a more complete assessment has yet to be determined.

With severe flooding in the municipality, 20 of the town’s roads were closed. Among those are chemin de la Passe, chemin des Rapides and chemin Pearson.

Despite spending around \$120,000 to raise and renovate chemin Pearson last year, it has unfortunately faced a significant amount of damage, according to Dionne.

As for cheming de la Passe, which was also raised up and renovated to be more durable during floods, the road is currently underwater and damages won’t be fully assessed until the water goes down.

For residents seeking financial relief or assistance, councilors have advised them to contact the Ministère de la Sécurité Publique with information on how to register available on municipalities’ websites.

Despite completing a resolution on the floods around a week ago, municipality still has to wait for a post-mortem in order to decide what their next move will be.

With no specific amount of money detailing the severity of the damages, the only Dionne is certain about is that it’s going to cost the municipality more than a hefty buck.

“There’s lots of millions,” said Dionne. “That’s for sure.”

More pictures on page five.



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Pictured above, a view of a home on rue Thomas-Lefebvre in Davidson completely surrounded by water.



A shelter at the Quyon fairgrounds sits partly inundated on May 17.

Quyon JamFest cancelled

Continued from front.

“They’re behind us, you know,” he said. “They understand what it’s like because there’s people worse off than us who lost their homes.”

Cummings also had to give the event’s sponsors their donations back.

“We just go by our sponsorships to put this on,” he said. “We’re going to give [their money] back to them because we can’t keep that money that’s for sure.”

For Mayor Joanne Labadie, the cancellation of this year’s Jam Fest is disappointing but at the end of the day it’s intention is meant for the better of the region.

While it has long been an

important cultural event for the Pontiac and a significant contributor to the local economy bolstering activity for local businesses, most notably the Quyon Ferry, she understands that cancelling the event in advance was an important step to keeping the event’s participants and organizers safe while preventing further financial losses.

“It’s an important even for the municipality of Pontiac and for Quyon,” she said. “It’s a great boost to the region, even the ferry gets a lot more traffic, so it’s going to have an impact on the ferry and local businesses in the area. And the residents

who enjoy the festival, myself included.”

“It’s unfortunate,” she added. “But, I think the grounds being in the state that they are, I think it was the best decision they could make, cancelling it in advance.”

Cummings intends on bringing the event back next year just like it’s always been with the same amount of excitement and fun as previous editions.

“We’re just going to do the same thing as all the other years we were looking after it,” he said. “Hopefully all our people come back, our trailers. I’m certain they will.”

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Editorial

Dam conspiracies

The MRC Pontiac council of mayors recently passed a motion asking for an independent inquiry into Ottawa River dam management and its impact on the flooding in the region.

The MRC council is responding to the requests of residents who have seen pictures on social media of low water levels at reservoirs upstream on the Ottawa River.

One picture shows an expanse of dry riverbed near the reservoir at Deux Rivières, about 250 km upstream from Ottawa.

This has prompted many to speculate on why water levels are so low in Deux Rivières while residents in the Outaouais are still struggling against high water levels.

But the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB) insists that the dam operators are doing what they can.

The Deux Rivières reservoir sits about 100 km downstream from the last major reservoir on the Ottawa River at Temiscamingue.

The ORRPB says that dam operators at reservoirs with limited capacity – like the one at Deux Rivières – must open the gates and let water through otherwise the river will back up and cause extensive flooding upstream.

For example, Mattawa is currently experiencing river levels that are nearly half a metre higher than normal. If the Deux Rivières reservoir were to be filled to capacity, residents upstream would bear the brunt of the damage while those downstream would see an average decrease of about 10 cm and only for around three days – until the reservoir fills up again.

And since the last reservoir with major holding capacity is in Temiscamingue, that means the dams the rest of the way down the Ottawa River simply pass what comes their way to prevent backing up the river.

Not only that, but with more than 250 km of river between the last major reservoir and the Outaouais region, there is a lot of land that drains into the Ottawa in that area.

It's understandable that residents have been questioning the Ottawa River management plan – it's a difficult subject to wrap your head around. On top of that, the ORRPB has done a less than stellar job when it comes to communications.

But it seems a little bit alarmist to ask for an independent inquiry as though there is some nefarious conspiracy behind the floods.

Do people really think that the ORRPB and Ottawa River dam managers are causing floods down river due to either malice or incompetence?

Our elected officials should be careful in making such assertions, otherwise they risk making bogeymen out of bureaucrats.

Chris Lowrey

The Parents' Voice

By Shelley Heaphy

Homecoming

In the eight years since we've had children, my husband and I have never left them for more than a night. We've been gone at separate times, gone for one night and have had date nights, but never more than that.

We've always been a bit apprehensive about leaving them with anyone for an extended period of time for various reasons. For one, it is so much work to manage three kids, when you're not used to it – it's exhausting. Second, we've always been met with resistance any time we've brought it up with the kids. With them so adamant about us staying home, we've worried we wouldn't enjoy ourselves if we knew they were upset or giving grandparents a hard time.

We rely heavily on our parents for any overnight babysitting and are very conscious of how tiring our crew can be. This year with a four, six and eight-year-old we were finally comfortable leaving them for five nights. The kids were very excited at the prospect of time with their grandparents. We also thought it was a good time now that we have only one kiddo at home during the day and two in school. So we did it. We are so lucky that our parents were willing and able to stay with them for us.

Leaving was hard. We negotiated, reassured, made promises, hugged, kissed, put them to bed and we left. We left lists, we did groceries, prepped snacks, wrote out schedules and hoped for the best. We knew they were in capable hands but no matter, it's still hard to let go of the control of knowing where everyone is and what everyone is doing at all times.

After the first day, we began to enjoy ourselves and started relaxing. They were happy back home and we realized that this may only happen in another eight years and had to make the absolute most of this trip! So we did! We did the sights, enjoyed live music, slept in and didn't make meals. It was perfect and was so good for us.

A friend recently said to me that a vacation without the kids added 10 years to her life. I chuckled at that but actually really felt the truth in it when we were away. Having time to focus on me was really good for the soul. With young children and busy families, spouses often end up coming second. Your marriage often takes a backseat to regular day stuff. Not necessarily meant to be this way but with so much happening and required of each of you all the time, it happens. This opportunity for us to focus on and pay attention to each other was something we needed more than we realized. It really did rejuvenate us as parents and as a couple.

After a few days, we started to look forward to our homecoming. We had planned a date night with the kids when we returned and everyone was allowed to sleep in our bed the first night home.

The excitement seeing them again was so overwhelming. When we walked in the door they had a surprise waiting for us: all of our favourite treats, our pjs ready and snuggle time watching our favourite HGTV and catching up about our week.

The whole night our youngest kept saying "I really very missed you" with smiles and hugs galore. The girls were also so huggy and snuggly and happy to be reunited with us. It certainly warmed the heart.

If being gone was good for the soul, reuniting was absolutely heavenly. We all had tears in our eyes and were so happy to be back together again.

All this to say, I had resisted being away from the kids for so long that having finally done it I have to say it was beneficial to all involved. If everything lines up for you to leave the kids behind for a few days, even when feeling apprehensive about it, I urge you to give it a try. It will be good for your soul, for your couple's soul and for your kids' souls.



Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Fungus face

Humans are animals too

by Chris Judd

We don't like to class ourselves as animals but when we pass the bar on Saturday night and occasionally see the boys in a brawl in the parking lot it reminds me of young bulls fighting in a pasture.

Humans are accepted as being the most intelligent animals at the top of the food chain. When I see little birds returning from the south each spring to the same barn loft or the same branch in the same tree they were hatched in, I think of some people getting lost visiting an old friend only a few miles from home and I wonder if we really are that smart.

For the last few years, I have had the opportunity to sit on an interim board for the proposed Villa James Shaw retirement home project, working with the other board members. We are trying to determine the size, configuration, needs and a hundred other necessary criteria for a new place to retire to.

Because I'm an old retired farmer I tend to simplify things as much as possible. The longer I work with the other directors trying to work out the needs of my neighbours who might want to live in this proposed home, the more I see the similarities between building a new dairy barn and a new retirement home.

The first thing that any successful businessman will look at before even thinking of building is location, location, location. Gas stations and Tim Horton's are most successful if they are built on a busy cor-



Outstanding in his field

ner with lots of car flow close by. Because, even in Canada, we have more trouble with keeping cows cool on hot days than we have keeping them warm on cold days. Remember that ideal cow temperature is 42 degrees Fahrenheit or 5.5 degrees centigrade, so most new barns are built where there is plenty of cross ventilation.

A retirement home should be close to medical aid, (like a hospital, medical centre, doctors and a dentist). It should be close to churches, (and even a chapel in the building). It should be in a quiet residential area.

Building orientation is important for a dairy barn to make best use of the winter sunlight, cross ventilation to help keep the cows cool in summer and to provide a pleasant view of the countryside for the employees that milk the cows, (milking the cows is the only time that a dairy farmer collects money every day). Eve height must be high enough to allow adequate air flow to cool the cattle. Eve overhang must be calculated to allow maximum winter sunlight to enter the barn (when the sun is low in the sky) but also restrict the hot sunlight from shining into the barn in the summer, (when the sun is higher in the sky). The air that an animal breathes must be fresh and free from airborne bacteria that might affect their health.

When our old friend, Dr. Rogers, entered a barn the first thing he did was smell the

air. That told him that the ventilation and air change was adequate to get rid of damp, foul smelling, bacteria carrying air.

If the air is not changed enough, damp moist air can harbor molds and bacteria that will increase sickness and eventually result in increased death rates in animals. Baby calves are very susceptible to respiratory disease. Air movement in barns is best conducted on hot muggy days using an air velocity meter, a smoke machine, or a bubble machine.

Time management of a milk cow's life is very important. There are only 1,440 minutes in a day and the milk cows most productive time is spent being milked, (about 10 minutes every time she is milked); drinking water, (a cow drinks about half her daily water intake just after being milked); eating, (she likes to eat just after drinking water); lying down resting, (a cow produces up to three times as much milk per minute lying down because of increased blood flow through her udder, than when she is standing or walking); socializing and grooming is as important to a cow as it is to a human.

Cows that stand around not eating, drinking, being milked, socializing, or resting are wasting time. Most people in their mid 80s don't like standing around, waiting for elevators, or walking long distances to have their meals. (They don't move as fast as teenagers either).

Most retirement homes that I have visited provided six meals and snacks each day, (breakfast, morning coffee snack, dinner, afternoon tea or juice and snack, supper and bedtime snack). All residents were

also reminded and invited to the various activity rooms for games, music shows, church, exercise and other activities on a daily basis. (People, like cows, like to socialize and activities are good for their health as well).

To maximize the production of a dairy cow, the farmer has to remove all stress. The air, water and food must be the very best for the cow. The bed and the floor must be comfortable.

Most cow beds now are either water beds or rubber filled mattresses. Barn floors used to be cement but now most are covered with three quarter inch rubber mats to reduce sore feet and joint problems. Mechanical cow brushes turn on, brush and groom cows that stand under them.

Most new dairy barns that are built today are planned for expansion by forward planning of all aspects of the dairy. Many new dairy barns are in the planning stages for five to ten years.

Farmers visit and analyze other modern, efficient barns before final plans are made and construction begins. An agricultural engineer once told me, "It's a lot easier and less expensive making changes to paper plans than making changes after the cement is poured."

Let's hope that more time and effort is spent researching, designing and planning a retirement home that some of our community builders will spend the rest of their days in than we spend building a cow barn.

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

May 25, 1994

25 Years Ago

Young Entrepreneurs joins CDE: If Pontiac is ever to get ahead, it will be by developing the talents of its young people, says Campbell's Bay Mayor Denis Larivière.

As president of the local Corporation de développement économique (CDE), Mayor Larivière was explaining why his board was being combined with last of Pontiac Young Entrepreneurs.

The fusion of the two agencies was announced at the Forest Inn in Bryson on May 19.

Young Entrepreneurs was created in 1985 to help assist people between the ages of 18 and 35 to start up businesses in the Pontiac.

Local piano students excel at the 1994 Renfrew Music Festival: Students of Shawville piano teacher Cheryl Campbell made an outstanding showing at the 1994 Renfrew Music Festival.

The competitive festival which is affiliated with the Toronto Conservatory of Music, took place at Kirk Hall the last two weeks of April.

Phillip Holmes won the Renfrew Rotary Scholarship for being chosen the Most Promising Student in Grades 3 and 4.

One of his first-place prizes was for a piano duet. His partner, Erica Vezeau won two more first prizes to go with her duet win with Phillip.

May 28, 1969

50 Years Ago

Two Pontiac High girls win Bishops Scholarships: Principal Dave Mackenzie of Pontiac High School has announced this week that grade eleven students Carol Elliott and Helen Hayes have been awarded large entrance scholarships to Bishops University 1n Lennoxville, Que.

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by
Bonnie Chevrier

Carol, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Elliott of Starks Corners has won the Women's Alumni Association Scholarship to the amount of \$4,000 and plans to enroll in a course towards a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Helen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Hayes of Shawville will receive the Nancy Dawes Scholarship of \$1,600 and will follow a Science program.

What women want in cars: Woman have been asked by an automobile manufacturer for sugges-

tions to improve cars in the future. They did not ask for more chrome or exterior changes but did request swivel seats for more dignified entry and exit, push button air fresheners to get rid of yucky cigar smells, automatic rear window wipers and self-locking doors.

Now that the manufacturers know what women want, it should be interesting to see how long they take to do something about it.

May 25, 1944

75 Years Ago

Local news: Wool will be shipped on behalf of the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers at Shawville Station on Tuesday.

The thirty-second annual Convention of Women's Institutes of Pontiac County was held in the Sunday School rooms of Shawville United Church with members of the Shawville branch under the presidency of Mrs. T. Shore as hostess.

Evidence of good work done was shown in the branch and convener reports from Fort Coulonge, Beechgrove, Clarendon, Elmside, Onslow Corners, Shawville, Stark's Corners and Wyman. Contributions were made to the Red Cross, the Navy League, Queen's Canadian Fund, Self Denial Fund, Seeds for Britain and Australia, British

Children's War Services, National Emergency Fund as well as regular assistance with all war work.

The Farm and Home Beautification endeavour will be continued this year as well as the Tea Room and the special exhibits at Shawville Fair.

A telegram sent to 94,000 railway workers has been sent from the office of the Canadian National Telegraphs in Vaughan, Chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways and was addressed to all employees of the National System in Canada, asking their complete cooperation in putting victory first so that the Sixth Victory Loan will be successful.

This message was carried through a special set-up by which the company's teleprinters were linked by relay from coast to coast to receive the president's telegram dispatched from Montreal.

By the latest estimates, the Germans are supposed to have sixty-nine divisions, 760,000 men, stationed or in reserve in Western Europe. Some of these are air force.

Fifty-two divisions 372,000 men are believed to be in France and the low countries under Field Marshall General Karlvon Rundstedt. Within this command is a separate field army of nine to twelve divisions to be moved wherever is needed, probably under Field Marshall General Erwin Rommel. In Norway, there are perhaps twelve divisions and in Denmark five. Against this, the Allied have in Britain forces numbered in the millions, representing British, Canadian, American and other allied armies and with countless weapons of all kinds.

May 22, 1919

100 Years Ago

Local news: Mr. John Moodie who recently purchased the Murphy House at Otter Lake has opened up a general store on the premises and intends handling all kinds of farm produce.

Sir Robert Borden and other Canadian representatives who have been attending

the Peace Conference are on the way home.

In regard to placing their signatures to the Peace Treaty, the German delegation are verily "between the devil and the deep sea." Whilst one current of opinion in Germany strongly runs counter to accepting the treaty, the other is pursuing the opposite course as according to the statement of one prominent member, if the delegates return to Berlin without signing "they will be hacked to pieces". Is Canada going to support her own air force? This is the question which concerns Col. Ray Collishaw in some respects, Canada's leading flyer and whose record rivals that of Col. Bishop in the matter of Huns downed and surpasses it in length of service and battles fought.

May 31, 1894

125 Years Ago

Local News: Her Majesty's birthday was celebrated very quietly in this village. In fact, the observance of this time-honoured holiday partook more of the nature of an exodus than anything else.

The Methodist Sabbath school children, with teachers and friends of that organization went to Norway Bay where they joined in picnicking with some of the Bristol Sunday School children. A number of the young folk on pleasure bent, drove over to Arnprior to witness the mammoth celebration held there. Other citizens captivated by the prospect of a "weighty catch" betook themselves to some of our inland lakes and streams where speckled beauties abound.

Some of the farmers in the neighbourhood of the 8th line railway crossing had provisions stolen from their milk houses on successive nights last week. The theft was charged to several men who had been working on the railroad above Coulonge. These men were in Shawville on Saturday and learning that they were suspected, made a hasty skip for other parts.

It is said that there are over 300 men at present engaged re-ballasting the unused

Local volunteer recognized at National Assembly

J.D. POTIÉ
PONTIAC May 15, 2019

On May 15, a Pontiac resident was celebrated for her contributions to youth in her community over the last couple of years at a ceremony held at the National Assembly in Québec City.

Fort-Coulonge resident Suzanne Vallières-Nollet, received the Youth Recognition Award presented by Québec Premier François Legault on behalf of the Secrétariat de la Jeunesse du Québec for her efforts coordinating activities for local youth with the Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi du Pontiac.

The award consisted of \$1,500 and a bronze trophy designed in the shape of relay baton made to symbolize one generation of volunteers passing the torch to another.

For Vallières-Nollet, the prize was very meaningful as it recognized all her initiatives at Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Pontiac. To receive it on behalf of the province provided the icing on the cake.

While she's received significant awards in her life, including a lucrative scholarship that subsidized her research project when she was completing her Masters degree in literature at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Vallières-Nollet felt like this one was more significant than a sum of money.

"I think this prize holds something bigger symbolically because I think that what I did at the Carrefour of the last couple years was able to affect people in my community in a larger way," she said.

"And I'm happy that this prize was given to someone in the Pontiac," she added. "I'm sharing this with all the people in the Pontiac. I'm not the locomotive in all this. I'm just a passenger in the train that is the Pontiac."

With everything it entailed, the most rewarding part of the prize was sharing it with everyone who helped her along the way, Vallières-Nollet said.

"I'm not hiding this in a box to look at it every night," she said. "The goal is to share it with others."

Her candidacy was submitted by some of her co-workers, which Vallières-Nollet was aware of.

Considering the amount of benevolent people doing wonderful initiatives throughout the province, she didn't have high hopes for winning.

When she received the call from the Secrétariat à la Jeunesse at the end of April, notifying her that she was selected for the award, she was quite surprised to say the least.

As one of 11 laureates in the youth and intervener categories, Vallières-Nollet was honoured to be selected for the award, the invitation to the National Assembly and the opportunity to meet Premier Legault in person.

"In those kinds of things, you always have a sense of imposter," she said. "When you work in community service you're always out on the field, so you're certainly not used to



On May 15, a Pontiac resident was celebrated for her contribution to youth in her community over the last couple years at a ceremony held at the National Assembly in Québec City. Vallières-Nollet receives her award from Youth Government Deputy Samuel Poulin and Prime Minister François Legault.

these kinds of things."

A native of Montreal, Vallières-Nollet moved to the region four years ago, with hopes of saving an old abandoned home in Fort Coulonge that was to be demolished.

Coming from a family where finances were never an issue, and having fortunately faced very few dramatic hardships in

her life, Vallières-Nollet's was driven to provide the same privileges she had to those who don't have the opportunities she was blessed with.

"I'm a young, privileged white woman," she said. "I think that's important to point out because I've been very fortunate. My goal is to give back to the most people possible. I

know I didn't choose to be lucky. But how do I make it so that's it's not only me who benefits from it?"

Now fully immersed into numerous aspects of her community including founding the international Female Film Festival in Fort Coulonge last year, involvement in Groupe PhareOuest and time on the administrative council for various organizations like Le Patro, the Jardin Educatif and the PPJ Committee, Vallières-Nollet is dedicated on doing everything she can to benefit residents in the area.

With a lack of services provided in the region, she believes that volunteer work is the backbone of thriving rural communities and the best way of benefiting it's residents.

"The Pontiac is a region held up by its residents," she said. "If we want to put less weight on the shoulders of each resident, each one has to find his or her place. That's why we need involvement and diversity so everyone feels like they have their place and their say in our community."

In her two years at Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Pontiac, Vallières-Nollet has spearheaded a variety of initiatives dedicated to providing a diversity of opportunities for local youth to be active contributors in their communities.

Among those included la Grande Tournée, where she accompanied four local high school students to visit other rural regions in the province for a week.

The goal of the initiative was to see what people in regions similar to the Pontiac involved themselves in municipal entrepreneurship and how they make the world a better place.

On her free time, Vallières-Nollet enjoys gardening and is also passionate about arts and culture, having founded the International Female Film Festival in Fort Coulonge last year.

"I love cinema, theatre," she said. "I really love dance. I read like a library rat. Anything that is cultural I'm crazy about. And anything that is nature, like birds, bugs, plants, flowers and all that. And I'm also interested in everything politics and human rights."

Now with plans of leaving Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Pontiac behind for good after landing a job at l'École secondaire Sieur de Coulonge as a substitute teacher, she intends to keep in touch with her former coworkers.

"I'm sad to leave this team, but I'll come back and see them," she said.

As for the future, Vallières-Nollet plans on continuing to give back to the community.

With the second edition of the International Female Film Festival in Fort-Coulonge coming this summer and her involvement in various community organizations in the region such as the protection of the PPJ she isn't planning on stopping her benevolence any time soon.

"I'm doing all sorts of things," said Vallières-Nollet. "I'm like a project bug. I keep coming up with ideas. I never really have the money to do them but I try to do my best with all of them."



More flood photos



Top left, the dike along Ferry Rd. in Quyon. Above, a home in Davidson sits in a pool of river water and left, truck-loads of sandbags remain piled up at the communal parking lot in Norway Bay.

J-D Potié photo

DANCE: Corriveau students strut their stuff at Dr. S.E. McDowell



The stage was invaded by Storm Troopers during a *Star Wars* themed number at the Corriveau School of Dance's year end performance.



Teegan Tubman, Jessica Hamilton, Mackenzie Smith, Briana Charette and Kaylee Hamilton performed jazz routine "Clap Snap."



Emily Dubeau and Melissa Pilon performed a swing routine "Momma Don't Dance."



From left: Sasha Laporte, Logan Long, Lily Nolan, and Ryker Long had a hip-hop routine.



From left: Olivia Draper, Kalie Laurent, Annabelle St-Cyr, Amy Sheppard and Hope Morrisette performed a tap routine "Brand New Key."

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CALEB NICKERSON SHAWVILLE May 16, 2019

Dozens of excited parents and family members crowded into the gymnasium at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary school on May 16 to take in the annual year-end performance put on by the crew from the Corriveau School of Dance. Roses and various concessions were available at the door and audience members were encouraged to cheer on their loved ones as much as possible during the show, and they obliged with gusto.

The numbers incorporated a wide variety of dance styles and abilities of the different age groups. The routines were set to music from popular films like *Frozen* and *Star Wars*, as well as hip-hop and more traditional melodies.

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Friends of Chats Falls hold annual general meeting

J.D. POTIÉ

QUYON May 16, 2019

On May 16, around 15 members of the Friends of Chats Falls committee convened at the Bert Kennedy Centre in Quyon for their annual general meeting.

To start the session, president Maude-Emmanuelle Lambert called for nominations of president and secretary of the meeting, which

went to Robert Baser and Joanne Kellerman respectively.

Baser continued the meeting with a reading of the minutes from their previous annual general meeting, which was followed by a summary of the 2018 activities report and a presentation of the organizations' upcoming activities and events.

Among those activities will

be an information session this June presented by Carapace of Nature Conservancy Canada with the purpose of educating locals on the importance of preserving the region's declining turtle population, Lambert said.

The organization is also planning on coordinating, with help from Gatineau Plein Air, a canoeing expedition in

the Black Bay this July, as well as a cycling trip in Quyon this fall, according to Lambert.

"We would love to do this in early July before people go on vacation," she said.

According to Lambert, the organization's activities are a great way of educating locals on the region's history, culture and landscape in person rather than interpreting it

from a book or a screen.

"The objective is to promote the sector to residents," she said. "To discover their history. It's always interesting and some people who attend them often teach us certain things that we don't know. So, it's more of an exchange of knowledge than a history lesson."

After presenting the upcoming activities, board

member Peter Haughton outlined the organization's financial statements, which showed a slight uptick in memberships and a total balance of nearly \$2,000 more than last year.

"We're doing pretty well for a small budget," said Haughton.

The session followed with the election of two seats on the board of directors initially

held by Lambert and Deborah Powell who were both re-elected.

During the question period, members discussed the causes of why 2019 floods reached record levels and continue to take a toll on the region, while some debated whether mismanagement of the dams or climate change was the culprit.

With many members con-

cerned about whether or not the dam operators are doing their due diligence, Kellerman stated that it was crucial for locals to be briefed on what they do and how they affect water levels in the region.

"I think it's important that people publically understand what hydro workers do," she said. "I don't think communities up and down the rivers generally understand it."

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Grass is good



J.D. POTIÉ

PONTIAC May 22, 2019

Hey people, its spring and the weather's finally starting to show it.

With the sun out and shining brighter than it ever has in the last few months, it's the perfect time to start taking care of your lawn for the summer.

To help you get the best outcome possible for your property, here is a list of important steps to make sure your lawn is beautiful and healthy for the hottest time of year, with insight from a local expert.

According to MountainView Turf Vice-President Lindsay Hamilton, the first thing to do when preparing your lawn for the summer is giving it a light raking to remove any brown or dormant grass from the surface.

Beneficial for air circulation in the ground, it allows water and nutrients to seep into the soil and give the grass the colour everyone loves to see, Hamilton said. "Everybody's anxious to see a little bit of green after a very long winter this year," she said. "And this is the best way to promote the most growth and best colour."

For step number two, once the soil reaches an adequate temperature of above 10 degrees Celsius, add a light spring formula fertilizer with high nitrogen to feed the roots of the grass and the soil.

"It kind of gives it a little

jumpstart," she said. "It kind of gets it out of dormancy."

According to Hamilton, fertilizers are important to the health of your turf and essential for preventing weeds such as dandelions from growing in your yard.

Another important step is looking for bare areas on your lawn and verifying which parts of the soil need extra application of seeding or topsoil.

"The faster you put seeds in those areas, the less you start to get weeds," she said.

When it comes to choosing the right seed, you can't go wrong with Kentucky Bluegrass due to its high level of durability making it resistant to weeds, bugs and outdoor activity, according to Hamilton.


"It's good against high traffic," she said. "So, if you've got kids, animals or areas where there's a path where people are walking often, it's very strong for those as well as it doesn't die in the winter."

Another important thing to look out for is compaction of your soil, which can be dealt with by aerating your lawn by punching little holes in the ground. If your soil feels like a sponge when you're walking on it that means you've got compaction, which prevents water and nutrients from getting to the roots, Hamilton said.

"You can rent small aerator machines from most hardware stores," she said.

Lastly, when you start mowing this summer remember to only cut off a third of the leaf blades, as cutting off more tends to stress out the grass which causes it to produce more carbohydrates instead of root growth, Hamilton said.

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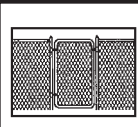
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Past PAS President George Coles to be honoured at Musical Ride



Above, from the March 1, 1972 edition of THE EQUITY.



A black and white photograph of a group of seven people, four men and three women, standing in a line and holding a thick rope. They are dressed in formal attire, including suits and dresses. The setting appears to be an indoor space with wooden beams visible in the background.

Above left, photo from THE EQUITY's Aug. 26, 1998 edition, showing the Fair board executive. Coles is front row, second from left. Above, the opening of the 1983 Shawville Fair.

Monthly MRC Pontiac update

CALEB NICKERSON
CAMPBELL'S BAY
May 15, 2019

The mayors of Pontiac met on May 15 at the MRC office in Campbell's Bay for their annual monthly meeting. There was plenty on the table for discussion, from cycling trials to cannabis bylaws and flood inquiries.

The meeting began with the announcement of Assistant Director General Gabriel Lance's retirement after nearly a decade with the MRC.

"He's accomplished many things in the nine and a half years he's been here," said Warden Jane Toller. "We'll miss him very much."

A large contingent of cycling activists attended the public question period and presented their case for keeping motorized vehicles off of the PPJ trail (see related story).

They were followed up by a presentation from Frances Shea about the Artistes de la Rivière festivities taking place in Portage du Fort on June 1 and 2.

The council voted unanimously to withdraw from the Comité d'Égalité, a regional committee that was supposed to provide training on equal representation of women in the workforce.

"We have so many other important priorities, it is an important issue but the council of mayors decided that this wasn't a priority at this time," Toller said fol-

lowing the meeting. She added that the MRC already has plenty of women in leadership positions, both elected and unelected.

MRC engineer Kim Lesage introduced a resolution on changes to the way municipal contracts are awarded.

"Now municipalities are allowed to adopt a bylaw that would allow them to decide how they would tender a contract between \$25,000 and \$101,000," Lesage explained in an interview following the meeting. She added that there are provisions to ensure that municipalities who adopt new bylaws are transparent in how they choose to award contracts.

Previously, all municipal contracts over \$25,000 automatically went to public tender. Under the new laws, municipalities could pass bylaws increasing the threshold or having procedure vary depending on the type of contract (administration, public works, etc.)

The mayors voted unanimously to support the Bristol Dryland Dog Races with a grant for \$3,750 for their 2019 race.

They also unanimously passed several resolutions in regards to the flooding the region, following up on the special meeting they held on May 9. The council requested that the Ministry of Public Security set up a local office in the Pontiac and also provide services and documentation in

English.

“Because we’re a bilingual region, it is very important that information be available in English and especially when people are upset and don’t know what to do, to go to a meeting that’s only conducted in French, that’s upsetting,” Toller said after the meeting.

The council also invited Pontiac MNA André Fortin and MP Will Amos to attend the next council meeting on June 18 to discuss the region's strategy to prevent significant flood damage in the future.

The council supported a motion that was already passed by the Municipality of Mansfield et Pontefract, which requested an independent inquiry into the management of the Ottawa River and the structural integrity of the dams in the Outaouais. They also reached out to officials from neighbouring regions such as Gatineau, Renfrew and Ottawa to better coordinate any future flood mitigation efforts.

"People have a right to live on the river," Toller said following the meeting. "There have been so many excuses and so much blame of so many different groups. We just want to know why this happened and make sure that it doesn't happen again. We have to stand up and fight for the people who live here."

The mayors also agreed to begin the process of purchasing and installing a

generator at the MRC office, an upgrade that would have been useful at the special meeting on May 9, where the power cut out midway through.

Shawville Pro-Mayor Patti Moffatt brought forward a resolution requesting guidance from the provincial government in regards to bylaws for public cannabis consumption.

“[Moffatt’s] concern was that as we’re approaching the summer, there will be more people outside possibly smoking cannabis,” Toller said. “She brought up a great point, since ... the federal government legalized it, we have been cautioned to not come out immediately with a regulation until we know what the provincial government is doing and the SQ is advising us to wait.”

Currently the law treats the public consumption of cannabis relatively the same as tobacco. Smoking is prohibited near the entrances to public buildings and schools, and landlords have the right to prohibit their tenants from smoking. Recently, the province has softened its stance on public consumption in parks, but allows municipalities to set their own rules, which several already have.

Toller said that many of the mayors are in favour of passing a bylaw that would treat cannabis consumption like alcohol consumption and ban it from public spaces.



The Little Red Wagon Winery in Clarendon was filled with many different crafts people and their creations on May 18 as it was the location of a pop-up artisan market throughout the day. Local vendors sold their wares inside and out on the patio while guests sampled the food and drink. Left, Carl and Donna Bruce pose with a collection of finely crafted items for sale. Above, Andy Nicoll of Bryson shows off some of his metallic creations.

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Giddyup! RS Ranch hosts fifth annual rodeo

CALEB NICKERSON
MANSFIELD ET
PONTEFRAC
May 18, 19, 2019

The air was thick with dust and the pounding of horse's hooves at RS Ranch in Mansfield over the weekend for the fifth annual rodeo.

On Saturday morning, a dozen riders turned out for the Performance class and Halter class, with a few more turning up for Gymkhana in the afternoon. RS Ranch owner Suzie Carrier said that there were 22 classes of competition over the course of the day, with riders of all ages participating.

She estimated that the split between adults and kids was roughly 50/50.

On Sunday, there were three classes of obstacle courses competitions planned for the day.

Carrier said that she began hosting the rodeo as a good practice for competitions later in the summer, which is why she always hosts in May.



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

The RS Ranch Rodeo took place over the weekend, with more than a dozen riders of all ages participating in a wide variety of events. Pictured, a rider rounds the final barrel during action on Saturday afternoon.



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

A rider gets her horse into high gear during gymkhana competition.



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

By all appearances, the participants in the RS Ranch Rodeo were having a ball, like this one pictured during the keyhole competition on Saturday.



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

A rider participates in the barrel race at the RS Ranch in Mansfield on Saturday afternoon.

Armitage and Dubeau pack Coronation Hall



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Local musicians Mick Armitage and Joanne Dubeau played for a packed house at Coronation Hall in Bristol on Saturday night. With plenty of food and drink provided prior to the intimate acoustic set, the crowd was enthralled with the pair's stellar performance throughout the evening.

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Custom scissor lift 6' x 11" trailer w/HYD., 2012 Load Max 7.5 x 26' 5th wheel flat deck trailer w/beaver tail ramps, tandem, 14,000lb. cap., electric brakes, excellent condition; TRITON 2013 Tandem snowmobile trailer, 18', 14' full floor, 4' in the V, 6'h, w/front & back loading doors, top condition; Tandem car hauler 80' x 16', w/40" beaver tail & ramps, Yr. 2007; TOW MASTER T10, 10,000lb. cap., Yr.2010, tandem axle trailer, surge hyd., brakes, w/ramps, 6'6" x 16', pinto hitch, BOBCAT 1600 articulating loader, hydro., w/new Kubota engine, die., 300hrs., w/bucket & pallet forks; BOMBARDIER BM-50, articulating sidewalk machine, w/4 cyl. Perkins engine, complete w/6' plow, sander, 4' snowblower, 6' mower, w/winter & summer tires, 4x4, 90HP, Hydro.; 2001 EX MARK 24" out front walk behind finishing mower, commercial type, 17HP; CAN-AM Outlander 800 V twin ATV, w/electronic fuel injection; Yr. 2008; 2013 SUBARU Bull Dog BD700, 4x4, utility side by side w/manual dump, 2 seater, roof & fold down windshield, w/locking differential, excellent condition; 1946 narrow front FARMALL C tractor, restored; 1942 FORD 2N on steel, totally restored; 1948 EMPIRE tractor (yellow which is rare), restored; 1946 BF AVERY tractor, restored; CASE VA tractor, restored; 1974 AC 440, 4x4, articulating tractor, 165HP w/555 Cummings engine; JD D 1938 tractor, restored; AC D17 Row crop tractor; Farmall A tractor; Plant JR walk behind plow; BOLENS walk behind cultivator; YALE fork lift, gas; 3PTH backhoe attachment; AGRO-TREND ATO-80 8' x 10', steel, HYD., tandem dump trailer; TMG 80" brand new 3PTH roto tiller; RHINO DB150 boom arm mower, 5'; 80" FARM KING 3PTH roto tiller; 5' 3PTH rotary mower; 5' 3PTH brush cutter; VIPER 7HP 16" rear tine roto tiller, new; FARM KING 720 3PTH Brush cutter, 6'; WALCO 6' 3PTH box grader w/teeth; WALLENSTEIN 3PTH hyd. log grapple (clam); Landscape leveler; PRONOVOST h-cap., 90", 3PTH snowblower; METEOR 7', 3PTH snowblower; 15' cult-packer w/transport wheels; FORD 980 flat bed mower, 5' 3PTH NH 150 manure spreader; NH 195 double beater manure spreader whyd; tailgate; 3PTH wood splitter; 2-MF 83 18 run seed drills w/grass boxes; BAYLOR 3PTH fertilizer spreader; 16' HARDI 50 gal. sprayer on 14" wheels, PTO drive; 2- NH 479 haybines; MF 124 square baler, MF 14' discs; GLENCOE 17' cultivator; JD 10' discs; KONGSLIDE 5 row, 3PTH corn scufflers; NH 782 Harvester w/electric controls, hay head & 2 row corn head; HUSTLER 60 corn blower; 16' DION 10T forage wagon, w/roof; 16' GEHL 920 forage wagon, 10T; FORD 8000 diesel tandem truck w/ 15 ton gravity box for soybeans or corn, runs well-sells as is; 15 ton gravity box - no undercarriage; 15 ton HORST wagon w/ 24' flat deck and tie straps-excellent for hauling round or square bales; BUHLER FARM KING 1331 grain auger; Sprocket packer, 10'; 10' Wheel packer; IH 55 4' row corn planter w/seed plates; BUSH HOG 1560 chisel plow, 9 shank, 14"; NH 630 round baler, makes 4' x 4' bales; IH Rake, PEQUEA H.R. 1140 rotary 12' rake; 2-WESTFIELD grain augers, 8' by 41"; 2 sets of finger harrows, 18' & 23'; 4 wagon undercarriages; 5T; 46" pipe elevator w/electric motor; Brillion 15'- 6 row crop chopper; 24' zero graze feeder wagon; NH 255 tedder/rake, 3PTH; JD Rake, 3PTH, PTO driven; TUFLINE JB 72", 3PTH blade, 2- NH forage harvesters; ROSE 5000lb., electric livestock scales, 3PTH; 50-12L cedar rails, 4" at the small end; 40-8' cedar posts, 6" mi. at top; 10- cedar saw logs vary from 8'-12', 8" at small end; assorted steel gates; 2- 38" tractor tires for duals; 16' Gooseneck horse trailer, 2 axle, Yr. 1995; 6' x 14' homemade stock trailer; 5'6" x 8' enclosed steel stock trailer; brand new vertical chicken plucker; VALMET roller mill; 450 Gal., poly water tank designed for pickup truck; 150 gal poly tank; Fuel tank for pick up w/electric pump; YAMAHA, 660 Grizzly ATV; Land & water ARGO ATV, 8 wheels, 144hrs., Yr. 1993; 4- 26" ATV tires & rims; 4- MICHELIN LT275/65-R20 tires; 4- 20" by 8 lug alum. truck ramps; 2- 48" x 6' alum. Snowmobile ramps; 5th wheel hitch for pickup; 2- WACKERHONDA generators, 5600, 11HP; 2 seated Park Phaeton carriage w/ shafts & pole; Side spring buggy; Horse cutter; 13.5w x 12'h wooden garage overhead door; 2- 4' x 8' All wheel steering luggage carts; CANBUILT 20T air or pump hyd. press; AC power unit CE 20HP, gas; approx. 50- 8' x 8' TAMRACK pallets; Quantity of new Verdun 2", 3100lb cap., 35' ratchet tie down straps; LOOK OUT 135'h steel hunting stand; SUN DOLPHIN resin 4' x 12' duck boat; 1964 FORD Galaxie 500, 2 door convertible, 32,251 miles, top condition, originally from, California; FORD 550 XL super duty die., 2002 cube van w/powder tail gate; 2001 GMC 6500 3T tool/dump truck, 10' box; 1999 GMC T7500 w/ poly water tank (diesel); 2006 Chevrolet C7500 w/ steel flat deck (gas); 1998 GMC - CSR 5 Ton w/ steel flat deck (diesel); Snow master SICARD w/471 Detroit engine & V8 Cummings engine to drive 7' 6" snowblower; HLA snow wing 3200 series; 9 plow that extends to 13', for large skid steer or compact loader, good condition; 5' 3PTH snowblower, like new; GMC 7000 truck chaise, w/8.2L Detroit engine (parts only); 2 gas powered table saws (one Target and one Husky); 5 Sthl gas Quick Cuts; 4 walk behind plate tampers; 10 gas lawnmowers (5 Honda, 5 Toro); 2009 Chevrolet Silverado; 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe; 2013 GMC Sierra 2500 HD; 1997 F350 Die. Service truck; JD Gator TX.; 1990 FORD Escaper Magnum 27" motor home, 75,000 miles, good condition; Tri-axle car hauler, steel trailer w/HYD winch & brakes; HI Jacker 300lb. cap., 15' rolling scaffold, on wheels; Approx. 400 sq. of inter-locking bricks; FINDLAY cook stove; Wood burning fireplace; Vacuum system for maple syrup pipeline, w/390cc-11HP HONDA engine, w/6-3/4" vacuum line outlets.

Terms: Cash, Debit or Cheque with Proper ID

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Classifieds

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Wed., May 22 – Park Day at Mill Dam Park from 9:30-11:30. Join us to play and enjoy our beautiful park. We are accepting donations for toys and books for our toy box and Croques-Livres. Don't forget sunscreen and hats! See you there! fm22

Fri., May 24 – Shawville Shenanigans at 586 Main Street, 9:30-11:30. Join us for socializing, play and snacks! fm22

Fri., May 24 – At 7 p.m. Ski Pontiac - Annual General Meeting, Coronation Hall, Tea Room, 206 chemin River, Bristol, Que. Everyone welcome to attend. bm22

Sun., May 26 – Anishinabe (Algonquin) History and Current Issues with Anita Tenasco, Director of Kitigan Zibi Ed. Services. 1:30 pm, Bert Kennedy Centre, 885 Clarendon, Quyon. Presented by the Friends of Chats Falls (info@saultdeschats.ca). 2xm22

May 31 – Shawville Lionettes' Bake Sale in conjunction with Lions CHEO Barbecue. Valu-mart parking Lot. Raising funds to help others. 2bm29

Sun., June 2 – (first Sunday in June) Cemetery Mass. St. John's, Campbell's Bay, 1:30 pm, weather permitting, otherwise in the church. 2bm29

Sat., June 8 – Parents' Voice Baby and Kid Sale Fundraiser! Buy a yard sale table or vendor table to sell children's items, or come to shop! Almost 20 tables sold, sure to have a variety of things up for grab. We are also going to have a bake sale! Meet us at the Shawville RA from 9-1. More information at our Facebook page or email us at parentsvoiceshawville@hotmail.com fm22

YARD SALE

Sat. & Sun. May 25 & 26 – 9-4 both days. Antique and Collectible Yard Sale. We have been buying all winter and we are jammed with lots of great treasures. André Chretien, 1144 Route 148, Campbell's Bay, Que. 819-648-2512. Always buying. Call us. bm22

Sat., May 25 – Multi-family Garage Sale. 9 a.m. til 2 p.m. at Douglas St., Shawville, Que. Household items. fm22

May 25 – 8:30 to 11:30, Yard Sale, 383 Queen St., Shawville. xm22

Sat., May 25 – Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date June 1. Handyman tools. Something for everyone. 65 Frontenac Street, Shawville. xm22

Sat., May 25 – Basement and Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. 29 Terry Fox, Portage du Fort, Que. Something for everyone. xm22

Ron's Antique Shop will be open for the summer, Saturday and Sundays 10 to 3 p.m. 56 Hayes Rd., Campbell's Bay. 2xm22

MISCELLANEOUS

Four (4) Kinerdy GT Hankook 215/55R16 tires, low miles used two summers, just \$200; four (4) General Tire Evetrek 205/55R16, could get a summer out of them, FREE; two (2) 205/55R16 winter tires, could have some life, you judge, they're FREE too! 613-799-3601 Shawville area. xtc

Western saddle, new halter, bridle and bits. New riding cap, size 7 1/2, never out of box. Rope lunge line, horse blanket and stand for saddle. 1940s antique bedroom set. Includes a man's and woman's dresser. Vanity with mirror, (2 small drawers each side) plus matching stool. Includes the matching head and foot boards for bed with rails. Additional night stand in maple that matches plus large lamp. 819-647-6228. xm22

Promotional items are available for your business such as caps, pens, cups, jackets, T-shirts, etc. For more information call Kathy at the Pontiac Printshop, 133, Centre St., Shawville, Quebec, J0X 1G0, 819-647-2204. xtc

Manufacturer's offer – Unique and exclusive opportunity, automatic vending machine routes, extremely profitable. Customers provided by company. Investment required, funding available. 100% turnkey business project. Toll-Free 1-877-358-3023. qm22

Above ground pool 25 feet, 4 feet deep. Call 819-648-2362. etc.

Books – Stop in and browse some of the titles include several titles from Lowell Green; *Canadian Battles, Dreaming of Horses, I Once Was a Cowboy, Identity Theft Canada, The Last of the Wild Rivers; What Men They Were* and more at the Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville Quebec. xtc

Advertise your items in the Classifieds
Deadline noon Monday
819 647 2204, email at news@theequity.ca

HELP WANTED

Trudeau's Collision needs an experienced body repair man. Competitive wages 819-458-2942. 2bm29

Looking for an experienced cook and waitress to join our team. Evenings and weekend work involved. Please send resume to P.O. Box X, c/o The Equity, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Que. J0X 2Y0. Serious inquiries only. bm22

Wanted – Truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, mechanics and labourers. Must have Class 1 or 3 truck license. CCO cards not necessary. Please sent resume to: info@nugentconstruction.ca or fax to 819-455-9778. 4bm29

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Davies, Rhys – Died February 13, 2019.

Ceremony of Life to be held May 25, 2019 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Karen and Amable St-Aubin, 303 ch Allard, Otter Lake. Quebec. Casual. 2xm22

DEATH



Belsher, Ruby (Sparling) – Ruby Leona Elizabeth Belsher (née Sparling), passed away peacefully with family by her side at the age of 91 on May 16, 2019 in the CHSLD Pontiac Community Hospital. She is predeceased by her beloved husband, Osborne Belsher and her parents, Lulu McCord and Robert Sparling. Ruby was the loving mother of Darlene (Willie Dods), Brent (Audrey Cuthbertson), Shirley (Keith Nuttall) and Karen (David Meredith). Caring grandmother to Mark Dods (Lucie), Troy Dods, Adam Belsher (Candace), Stephanie Belsher (Edward Anassah), Angela Greig (Jay), Brett Meredith (Sarah), and Morgan Meredith (Joel Turcotte). Proud great-grandma of Zachary and Matthew Dods; Payton Dods; Ava, Gavin and Reid Belsher; Addison Belsher-Anassah; and Cadence Greig. Ruby is survived by her sister Gladys (Allan Johnston), sisters-in-law, Mabel Sparling (the late Myrland) and Marie Sparling (the late Clarence). She is predeceased by her five brothers, Clinton (the late Viola), Marshall (the late Lois), Wilbourn (the late Betty), Clarence (the late Faye) and Myrland. The family is forever grateful to the nursing staff of the CHSLD Pontiac Community Hospital for the care and compassion they have shown our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother not only over the past few weeks but over the last 10 years. Friends called at the Hayes Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. Funeral service will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in the Shawville United Church, Shawville, Quebec at 11 a.m. Donations to the CHSLD Pontiac Community Hospital, Shawville United Church or the charity of your choice would be appreciated. www.hayesfuneralhome.ca



DEATH



Kluke, Monica M. (nee Lepack) – 1931-2019
Of Otter Lake, Quebec passed away peacefully in Manoir Sacré-Coeur, Mansfield, Quebec on Wednesday, January 30th, 2019 at the age of 87 years. Loving wife of the late Leonard Kluke of Otter Lake, Quebec. Survived by her sons Kevin (Brenda), Charles (Laurie), Vincent (Maureen), Anthony (Penny) and Edward. Cherished sister of Frances (Vistor), Kenneth (Patsy). Predeceased by her brothers August (Kaye), Alec and Frank (Mary). She will be sadly missed by her 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews down to the 4th generation. Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Charles Borromeo Church, Otter Lake, Quebec on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 11 a.m. Interment Parish Cemetery. FOREVER REMEMBERED... FOREVER LOVED...



IN MEMORY

Graham, Keith - Aug. 15, 1943 - May 29, 2015 and **Kimber, Maisie** – Nov. 17, 1923 - May 22, 2014. Memories are like threads of gold. They never tarnish or grow old. Remembrance keeps you ever near. As time unfolds another year. Thinking of you today and always. Love Cheslyn, Kim and Derek



Towell – In loving memory of Helen Towell who passed away May 18, 2017. To Mother in Heaven, Two years have passed And we miss you dearly, Thank you for loving us And helping us You are always in our hearts. Til we meet again. Love you always, Sam (Pat), Sandra, Angie and grandchildren

Young, Randy – In loving memory of a son, brother and uncle who was taken from us May 24, 2016. We will always remember The way you smiled, The things you used to say And All the things you did for us In your kind and loving way. We hold you close within our hearts And there you will remain To walk with us throughout our lives Until we meet again. Missed and loved, Mum Doris, Ralph and Riley

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

Canadian flags and Quebec flags 54" x 27" and 72" x 36" at The Equity, 133 Centre Street, Shawville, Que. 819-647-2204. xtc

Garden for Sainte-Marie's school

CALEB NICKERSON
QUYON

May 19, 2019

Students as Sainte-Marie's School in Quyon will get some hands on gardening experience in the coming months, as three new planters were recently installed on the front lawn.

This project is the brainchild of second grade teacher Oulaylack Vongsavath, who has been teaching at the school for 10 years. She got the idea from another school that had lots of gardens for students to grow their own vegetables.

Vongsavath began working to implement the project at Sainte-Marie's several years ago and approached the Parents Association for help.

"This has been a long-time dream of hers," said Parents Association member Meagan McCann, who helped organize support for the project. She said that students wrote letters to members of the community requesting their support so the materials and soil for the planter didn't cost the school a thing. Local volunteers Shawn and Doug Schwartz installed the



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Students at Sainte-Marie's School in Quyon will be able to grow some of their own produce over the summer in three brand new planters that were donated by members of the community. From left: Oulaylack Vongsavath, Fletcher Schwartz, Oliver Schwartz, Shawn Schwartz, Meagan McCann and Annabelle Schwartz.

planters and Thomas Armstrong donated the topsoil.

McCann explained that a group of students would be in charge of each planter and would be learning about both the plants they're growing as well as healthy

eating habits. She expects seeds to be in the soil by early June.

Arrangements have already been made with neighbours to provide water in the summer, as the school doesn't have an exterior tap. McCann said that a

schedule is being set up for weeding and watering duty on weekends and over the holidays.

Vongsavath said that this is just a starting point, and hopes that the program will be popular enough to add more growing space.

Craft and bake sale in Campbell's Bay



J-D Potié, THE EQUITY

On May 11, around 50 Pontiac residents visited the Campbell's Bau Lions Hall for a craft and bake sale put together by a local resident. Pictured, event organizer Diane Boisvert.

J.D. POTIÉ
CAMPBELL'S BAY
May 11, 2019

On May 11, around 50 Pontiac residents visited the Campbell's Bay Lions Hall

for a craft and bake sale put together by a local resident.

Hosted by Diane Boisvert, the event served as an opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day by giving local



Quyon
JILL YOUNG

819-918-0623 jillianyoung6@gmail.com

I hope everyone enjoyed the Victoria Day weekend. We didn't have any big plans, so I enjoyed the rest and relaxation of an extra day off and spending time with family.

On Saturday, my mom and I headed up to the Little Red Wagon Winery in Shawville for the Pop Up Artisan Market that was taking place there. I am a big fan of local girl Emily McCann's art and as she was one of the featured artisans. I was excited to see her display. Kudos to all the local artists and creators who took part. Everything was beautiful and unique.

On Sunday, we joined

several other members of the Quyon Pastoral Charge, along with family and friends of our student minister Éric Hébert-Daly, in surprising him with a graduation party at Cucina Barone in Westboro. Éric graduated from the Montreal School of Theology in recent weeks, however he was on a trip to Egypt at the time, so he was unable to be present at his graduation ceremony. Thus the reason for a celebration upon his return to Canada.

We have been very blessed to have Éric as our minister at Quyon/Wesley United Churches for the past two years and are thrilled for him as he has

completed one more step along his way to becoming an ordained minister. It is a position we feel he is very much destined to fulfill. Congratulations Éric.

Our community received disappointing news last week, as the Quyon Jamfest Committee announced that this year's music festival has been cancelled. The grounds are still very much under water due to the flooding this spring and while it is finally receding it still has a long way to go. It is devastating to know this big event in our community won't be going ahead this year, yet very understandable. It was scheduled to be held at the

end of June which leaves very little time for them to prepare once the water has gone down. All we can do is hope for a return that is even bigger and better for next year.

This week we have birthday wishes going out to Sheena Hudson on May 23, to Beth Lang on May 25 and to Meghan Foran also on May 25. Best wishes to everyone celebrating this week.

I am looking forward to this coming weekend as the RCMP Musical Ride will be in Shawville on Saturday afternoon. The Pontiac Agriculture Society is hosting this free event and all are welcome.

Local dancers compete in Ottawa



Photo submitted

The Ivy League group from Corriveau School of Dance performed at the Thunderstruck Canada dance competition at the Nepean Sportsplex on May 11. They performed 4 routines, a musical theatre, Mary Poppins themed called "Supercali" for which they received high gold, a tap routine "The Night Chicago Died" where they received gold, an Irish tap routine "Blarney Rose" where they got high gold and an African dance for which they received high gold as well as a special quartz award for rocking the house. Back row, from left: Kalie Laurent, Leande Bonnerot, Alexie Savoie Morin, Annabelle St-Cyr, Laurence Papineau, Melissa Pilon, Olivia Draper and Breana Dumouchel. Front row, from left: Emily Dubeau, Hope Morrisette, Geni Corriveau, Billie Desmoreaux and Logan Long.



THE EQUITY

Deadline Monday 12 noon: 819-647-2204

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Vinton

DIANE BOISVERT 819-921-5206

I had a wonderful weekend with my daughter Shelly, her husband Carl and my two grandsons Corben and Tao. They got here Saturday night at 8 p.m. and the boys were typical starving teenagers. We fired up the barbecue right away and Tao barbecued the steaks while I prepared the roasted potatoes, sautéed mushrooms and onions and corn on the cob.

My brother-in-law, David Leach from Chilliwack, B.C. also came for a visit. He is spending time with his mom, Betty, and trying to visit all of his relatives. That's hard to do in a short time.

My grandsons helped me around the yard doing trim work and filling holes in the yard. They also tilled the garden.

Sunday morning, Theresa and Paul came for breakfast and then the boys went to BMR in Fort Coulonge to get lumber to build Theresa a little shed in her back yard.

They had a busy weekend. I wanted to take them to the Leonardo de Vinci exhibit at the Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa but there wasn't enough time. Now that the boys are 15 and 16 they both have weekend jobs for the summer so we don't get to see them unless we go there. It seems like they were just babies yesterday and now they are young men. Where does the time fly?

I'm lonesome already and they haven't even left yet. They gave me a beautiful gold necklace for my birthday and Mother's Day. It's a box link chain with a letter D pendant. What a great present.

Animal Aide Pontiac held their annual Mother's Day Tea and Luncheon at the Masonic Lodge in Shawville on May 10. A variety of home-made soups, fancy sandwiches, pickles, cheese and desserts were available. They also offered bake sale items, jewellery and a dress sale, as

well as Watkins products. Glad to see a great turnout for this event.

Animal Aide Pontiac held the draw at last week's meeting for the Garden Cart Spring Fundraiser. Congratulations to Tao Davidson, Port Carling, Ont. who was the winner. He took home a garden cart filled with approximately \$300 worth of outdoor gardening supplies. Animal Aide Pontiac appreciates all the support received for these two events.

The Belanger family, Barry and Min, Perry and Connie, Lee and Liz recently returned from a trip to Europe. While there, they attended a remembrance service in Holland to pay tribute to their uncle Lawrence Perry from Davidson, Que. Lawrence was killed in action on April 7, 1945 along the Holland/Germany border and is buried in the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Holland. These brave Canadian soldiers advanced against the Nazi occupied Holland and ultimately gave the Dutch people their freedom on May 4, 1945.

Their tour included a visit to the June 6, 1944 D-Day Canadian landing site at Juno Beach where the Canadian soldiers along with allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy against the heavily occupied German forces. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the landing. They also visited historic battlefields and Canadian War Cemeteries throughout France. The group visited a concentration camp in Dachau, Germany, the Anne Frank museum in Amsterdam as well as the Imperial War Museum in London, England.

The Belanger family felt very honoured to commemorate the memory of those whose combined courage, service and sacrifice to secure the freedom and way of life that we enjoy today.



Sheenboro

DORIS RANGER 819-689-2132 dranger50@hotmail.com

Our condolences and deepest sympathies go out to the Lavallee family of Chichester, Que. on the passing of their brother, Victor Lavallee. He was the son of the late Laurier Lavallee and Kluana Brunette.

Belated birthday greetings go out to Rosemary Ryan, Vincent King, Merle Smith, Paddy Tallon and Fr. Tim Moyle who celebrated last week. Rosemary celebrated the big one on Thursday with family and friends at the Ancienne Banque Restaurant and then to George's Bar to listen to the Thursday night jamming. Birthday greetings and best wishes go out to Hannah Dubeau on May 21, to Laetitia Peacock and Larry Carroll on May 23 and to Paulette Demmons on May 26.

Happy birthday to Joe Smith on May 27. Family and friends gathered at his home on Sunday to celebrate his 80th birthday.

Sam Duff, grandson of Terry and Glenda Duff, was scaling rocks during an off snow training day at Mammoth Mountain,

California. They received 12 inches of snow during a blizzard. Wow.

Mark and Jennifer Jennings along with their team of volunteers organized a spaghetti dinner after Saturday evening mass. This fundraiser drew a large crowd. It was a sellout with approximately a \$3,000 profit for the Sheen Hall. Ice cream was served to all, compliments of Luke and Dallas Vermette of Sheenboro. Dinner music was provided by Trevor Miller of Hotel Pontiac. Well done.

With a ban on the river traffic and the Fort William wharf completely under water, it sure was strange not seeing boats on this May long weekend. Hopefully the river will return to normal soon and homeowners can relax a bit but there are those who have suffered great losses.

Just a reminder the second of 10 fifty-fifty draws in aid of Residence Meilleur will be held at George's Bar at 8 p.m. on May 31. The lucky winner will take home half of the proceeds. Last month the winner received \$3,700.



Waltham

HELEN PERRY 819-689-2652

On Thursday, the Birthday Club met this month at the Waltham Station. Yours truly was this month's birthday girl. We enjoyed socializing, a delicious lunch and lovely birthday cake. I am truly blessed to have so many caring and loving family and friends in my life.

Waltham was saddened to hear of the passing of former resident Cecile Durocher (nee Belanger) of Alberta. She was the beloved wife of the late Arnold Durocher. Our heartfelt sympathy, thoughts and prayers are

with her family and friends at this sad time.

Every day the flood waters are slowly receding. The flood victims have a long road ahead of them cleaning up and restoring their properties. They are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Warm birthday wishes are extended to Danny Bechamp of Barrhaven, Ont. who is celebrating his birthday today and to Lyne Bechamp, who is celebrating her birthday on May 23. We hope that you enjoyed your special day.



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AVAILABLE BUILT-IN 4G LTE WI-FI[®] HOTSPOT [DATA PLAN REQUIRED]⁴

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¹Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between May 1 and May 31, 2019. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$57,575 including \$2,650 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive) and \$1,700 Dealer to Consumer Credit (tax exclusive) towards the lease of an eligible 2019 Next-Generation Sierra 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 Elevation model. Bi-weekly payment is \$249 for 24 months at 3.9% lease rate (3.9% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$124 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km. \$0.16 per excess kilometre. \$3,999 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$38,050/\$44,195 including \$450/\$450 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive), and \$1,500/\$1,500 Lease Cash (tax exclusive) towards the lease of an eligible 2019 Terrain SLE All-Wheel Drive Black Edition/2019 Terrain Denali All-Wheel Drive model. Bi-weekly payment is \$197/\$229 for 48/48 months at 1.5%/1.5% lease rate (1.5%/1.5% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$98/\$114 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km./20,000 km. \$0.16/\$0.16 per excess kilometre. \$0.50 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$20,453/\$23,793. Freight (\$1,355) and air conditioning charge (\$100, if applicable) included. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$15,158/\$20,330. See dealer for details. Credits vary by model. Dealer may sell for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. General Motors of Canada Company may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. Void where prohibited. See your GM Canada dealer for details. GM Canada reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between May 1 and May 31, 2019. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$38,050/\$44,195 including \$450/\$450 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive), and \$1,500/\$1,500 Lease Cash (tax exclusive) towards the lease of an eligible new 2019 model year Chevrolet Light Duty Pickup purchased during the program period. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives or dealer lease alternatives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GM Canada dealer for details. GM Canada reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between May 1 and May 31, 2019. 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