

THE EQUITY

CISSSO officials hold public forum

CALEB NICKERSON
SHAWVILLE Oct. 7, 2019

Last Monday evening, a cohort of representatives from the the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais (CISSSO), held a public forum at the CAP in Shawville. Attendees from the public were significantly outnumbered by staff and officials from the health care authority, who counted more than a dozen.

The public meeting took place almost entirely in French, and was led by CISSSO's new Director General Josée Filion. The meeting in Shawville was just one of several that the group would be conducting throughout the enormous territory, which stretches from Maniwaki to Gatineau.

Sylvie Marchand, the deputy commissioner of complaints and quality of service, gave a detailed breakdown of the complaints for 2018/19. Back in September, *La Presse*, published a story revealing that the Gatineau Hospital is the worst in the province for deaths due to medical error, with 34 over the last ten years. The story also showed that the Hull Hospital had 15 preventable deaths over the last 20 years.

Marchand pointed out that malpractice makes up a very small portion of their overall complaints (0.3 per cent) and went over how complaints are assessed by staff. The number of complaints was up from the previous period, (478 compared to 390 in 2017/18 and 425 in 2015/16).

Filion gave an overview of the services offered by CISSSO and their 85 institutions throughout the region, employing 9,795 people. She mentioned some of the accomplishments they had made over the past year, including the opening of the new cafeteria at Pontiac Community Hospital.

The financial report showed that CISSSO had a deficit of \$381,695, which is relatively small when compared to the overall annual budget of nearly a billion dollars (revenues were \$931,469,919 compared to expenses of \$931,851,614).

She also spoke about the organization's priorities, which include a balanced budget, increased hiring efforts and the establish-



Representatives from the Outaouais health authority, CISSSO, were in Shawville on Oct. 7 for their annual public forum on healthcare issues. Pictured, Pontiac resident and administration committee member Pierre Fréchette greets attendees at the start of the meeting.

ment of a satellite campus for McGill University at the Gatineau Hospital by 2020, among others.

During the public question period, Rosalie Boucher, the director of the Centre Intervalle, a mental health residence in Fort Coulonge, detailed her issues with the

paperwork her organization has to file every year. She explained that one misplaced document out of the stack can jeopardize their funding application.

"For 25, 26 years, we've been fighting to get new money and we never do," she said, noting that her staff takes care of 17 patients

from all across the region.

She said that she wasn't very satisfied with the response she got from the officials at the meeting, but was glad to have voiced her grievances.

"I'm not quite satisfied, but what can you do?" she said. "At least we were heard and

Please see FORUM page 10

Pontiac hosts annual Country Fair



"Eccentric Adam" Zimmerman, along with Ricky the Super Rat, entertained the many youngsters at the Pontiac Country Fair.

Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

CALEB NICKERSON
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

Oct. 12-14, 2019

Over the long weekend, Luskville Falls Park was packed with visitors and locals alike, as the annual Pontiac Country Fair got underway.

Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Joanne Labadie was stationed at the municipal booth and greeted visitors with fresh apples to snack on. She said that the event is a collaboration with the municipality and the National Capital Commission, who manage Gatineau Park, and by extension, the Luskville Falls Park.

Every year they celebrate the fall rhapsody, the fall colours, and they do that in many areas throughout the national capital region, for the past, I believe it's five years," she said. "They've been using Luskville Falls as a portal to the park to celebrate the fall colours."

She said that while the NCC handles the tents and site, the municipality manages the fair, including all the vendors and entertainment. She said the event always draws a large crowd and is an excellent way to showcase the region to those from the city.

"Every year, weather depending, it brings upwards of 7,000 people to the municipality of Pontiac, so it's a really good draw and our businesses really get to showcase what they're doing," she said.

Over by the old farm property, the Pontiac Equestrian Association was holding a skills competition. Riders of all ages had to traverse an obstacle course, demonstrating their horsemanship and bond with the animal.

The group's secretary, Carole Savard, was timekeeper and said that their turnout of 12 riders was less than they usually had. The cold, damp weather likely didn't have a positive impact on attendance, but those that participated were enthusiastic nonetheless.

She explained that the riders need to guide their mounts with as subtle instructions as possible, which becomes easier the longer horse and rider have been together.

The group's next event will be a Halloween poker run on Oct. 26.

See page ten for more photos

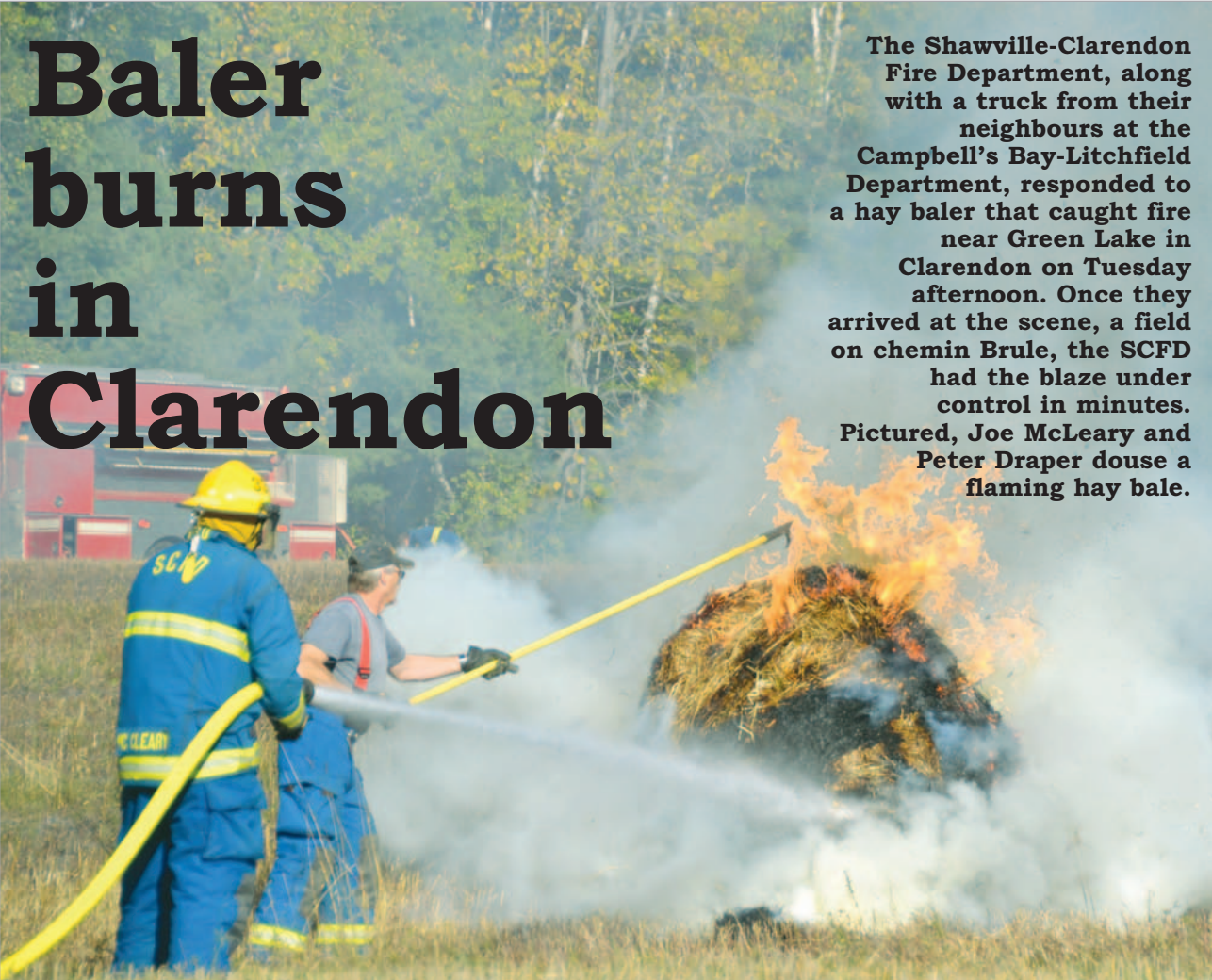
Students shine in senior all-stars vs staff softball showcase



On Oct. 9, Pontiac High School (PHS) held its annual senior students versus staff all-star game, bringing hundreds of students to fill the bleachers and cheer on the players. Pictured, PHS math teacher Phil Sweezy does his best Brooks Robinson impression with a dart from third base. See page seven for the full story and more photos.

J.D.Potié, THE EQUITY

Baler burns in Clarendon



The Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department, along with a truck from their neighbours at the Campbell's Bay-Litchfield Department, responded to a hay baler that caught fire near Green Lake in Clarendon on Tuesday afternoon. Once they arrived at the scene, a field on chemin Brule, the SCFD had the blaze under control in minutes. Pictured, Joe McLeary and Peter Draper douse a flaming hay bale.

Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Political candidates stances on low-income plans



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

In the runup to the federal election on Oct. 21, The Equity has been putting questions to the candidates vying for a seat in Pontiac.

The final question: *How do you define "middle class", and how does your party's platform address the people in Pontiac whose income falls below that threshold?*

Jonathan Carreiro-Benoit
– Bloc Quebecois

The big point of our platform proposes to take less bureaucracy in the administration of some files. Per example wants just one taxes report for Quebec. In this way, the federal level can secure some major issues, like the Phoenix pay system. Less bureaucracy means less cost and more investment in other problems. We also want to decentralize administrative decisions in regions to lower the costs and create more jobs for people, so the money is invested in good places.

We ask Ottawa to give the money to Quebec because the federal government is doing nothing to resolve issues. Quebec knows best where to prioritize investments. We can name for example the case of the social lodgements. We know where is the requirement and Quebec still the best to built efficiently and effectively these kind of structures.

After that, the Bloc wants to make the services of telecommunication, like decent quality of internet and cellular network coverage. We also want to make the prices more affordable for everyone. We want to create a Quebec version of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Claude Bertrand
– Green Party

There are many definitions for "Middle Class". For the purpose of answering the above question, the following definition was used: Middle Class (from The Economist in 2009); those who have a reasonable amount of discretionary income, so that they do not live from hand-to-mouth (as the poor do), and defines it as beginning at the point where people have roughly a third of their income left for discretionary spending after paying for basic food and shelter.

Although it is not the least fortunate riding in Canada, the Pontiac has more than its share of people who are



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

struggling to live. The Green Party will, as part of a minority government, advocate in favour of those who need help by negotiating with the minority governing party for:

A living wage: the Green Party will vote in favour of a minimum living wage for all (to be determined for each riding/region)

An minimum wage of \$15/hr: the Green Party will vote in favour of an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

Making a safe and affordable housing a human right: The Green Party will push for the establishment of a Minister of Housing. The Green Party will make safe and affordable housing a basic human right in Canada and will put in place several initiatives in order to foster the building of new affordable housing units and the renovation of affordable housing units.

The Green Party will also help the less fortunate by advocating for free post-secondary education, a comprehensive pharmacare program, a dental care program to be included as part of the existing healthcare system.

Finally, as the MP for the Pontiac, I will convene a task force composed of Federal, Provincial and Municipal leaders, as well as Indigenous and business leaders in order to determine how best to kick start the Pontiac's economy using seed funding from the Federal and Provincial governments.

Mario Belec
– People's Party

The middle class is defined as follows: The middle class is a concept of social classes based mainly on the standard of living. This group is "above" the poor (or working class) and "below" the well-to-do classes (we also speak of the upper or elite class, mainly consisting of the patnat). The question of its exact definition remains delicate and explains that we also speak of the "middle classes" in the plural with a lower middle class and a higher middle class. The usual criteria of definition being the standard of living, in other words, revenues and wealth.

Debts and deficits are nothing more than deferred taxes on our children and grandchildren. Instead of buying votes with borrowed money, a responsible government should cut spend-



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

ing, balance the budget as quickly as possible, and then lower taxes in a prudent manner to put money back into Canadians' pockets.

A People's Party government will:

- Get rid of the deficit in two years through spending cuts and fiscal prudence. Spending cuts will include: corporate welfare (\$5B-\$10B), foreign development aid (\$5B), CBC (\$1B), equalization payments, and funding for programs which are provincial or municipal responsibilities.

- Stop using our tax system for political ends and make it simpler and fairer. In particular, it will eliminate targeted tax measures that are inefficient and serve no compelling public policy purpose.

- Cut personal income taxes after the deficit has been eliminated, over the course of several budgets, as the fiscal room is found to allow it. The objective will be to lower taxes for all Canadians by raising the basic personal exemption to \$15,000 (from \$12,069 in 2019) and reducing the number of tax brackets from five to two, with incomes from \$15,001 to \$100,000 taxed at 15%, and income over \$100,000 taxed at 25%.

- Over the course of one mandate, gradually abolish the personal capital gains tax by decreasing the inclusion rate from the current 50% down to 0%.

Denise Giroux
– New Democratic Party

Liberals and Conservatives are making many promises to help middle-class Canadians while ignoring the needs of the working poor, the disabled, and those who care for them. Is what's best for the middle class necessarily best for Canada as a whole?

"Middle class" is an exceptionally vague term; some simply define it as all Canadians minus the top or bottom 20 per cent. The OECD suggests it includes those with incomes between 75 and 200 per cent of the median income, which in Canada is \$27,600 for an individual and \$76,000 for a family. This then includes individuals with incomes between \$21,000 and \$55,000, and families with incomes from \$57,000 to \$152,000—a huge range which still fails to take into account family size, housing costs, and other variables



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

affecting actual buying power. Policies based on helping the middle class may end up helping many people who really don't need much help. This effect is accentuated by the big parties' fondness for tax credits as a policy instrument; by definition tax credits pay greater benefits to those in higher tax brackets.

The NDP's focus is on helping the less well-off. We would increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour - a first step toward establishing a living wage in Canada - and establish a universal pharmacare program that would save families over \$500 a year. No Canadian should have to make heart-breaking choices between buying needed drugs and putting food on the table.

We would establish dental care for Canadians with household income below \$70,000, increase Employment Insurance benefits, and create 500,000 affordable non-profit housing units for lower-income families and our elderly in every region.

The NDP approach to economic policy—helping those most in need—is not only the right thing to do, but the best thing for the economy as a whole. When lower-income people receive more money, they immediately spend more on food and other basic goods. This in turn increases demand for those basic goods, leading to increased employment in the businesses providing them, and this in turn increases tax revenues and reduces demand for social programs like EI. It also reduces health care costs, as working people are generally healthier than the unemployed.

In contrast, when those already near the top of the "middle class" get additional money, they are less apt to spend it. Salted away, it has nowhere near the same job-creation effects of a minimum-wage increase. While this may be good for families receiving the benefits, it is debatable whether it helps the country as a whole.

Will Amos
– Liberal Party

From day one, our Liberal government has been there to support the middle class and those working hard to join it. Liberals define the middle class using a broad set of characteristics including values, lifestyle, and income. Middle-class fami-



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

lies typically aspire to a lifestyle that includes adequate housing and health care, educational opportunities for their children, a secure retirement, job security, and adequate income for modest spending on leisure pursuits. The income required to attain such a lifestyle varies based on Canadians' specific situations, such as whether they face child care expenses or whether they live in large cities where housing is more expensive.

The first thing we did when we were elected was cut taxes for 9 million middle class Canadians and raise taxes on the wealthiest one-percent. We also introduced the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), a tax-free monthly payment for low- and middle-income families to help with the cost of raising kids. This measure benefits 9/10 families and has helped lift 300,000 children out of poverty. In Pontiac, 25,320 kids benefit every month. We also restored the age of eligibility for the Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement back to 65 from 67, which was increased by the Conservatives, and increased the GIS top-up by up to \$947 for 900,000 single seniors. These investments, which the



CALEB NICKERSON
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

Conservatives voted against, have already helped lift more than 825,000 Canadians out of poverty.

Moving forward, we will ensure that people don't pay federal taxes on the first \$15,000 they earn. This tax cut will save Pontiac families nearly \$600 a year and help lift twice as many people out of poverty as the Conservative plan. To make life more affordable for seniors, we will move forward with increasing the OAS benefit by 10% once they turn 75, and raise it with inflation. For most seniors, this will mean up to \$729 in additional help every year once they turn 75. We will also increase the Quebec Pension Plan's survivors' benefit by 25%. This increase, worth up to \$2,080 in additional benefits every year, will give Pontiac seniors more money when they need it most. Finally, we all know that seniors' housing is an important issue in our riding. If re-elected, I will continue to work directly with Villa James Shaw to ensure this project receives the federal funding required to move forward.

Dave Blackburn of the Conservative Party and Louis Lang of the Marxist-Leninist Party did not respond in time for print.

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Eighth candidate enters the race

CHRIS LOWREY
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019

Pontiac residents will be looking at a crowded ballot when they enter the voting booth on Oct. 21 as the total number of candidates running for the Pontiac seat now sits at eight with the entry of Shawn Stewart of the Veteran's Coalition Party of Canada (VCP).

The VCP is relatively new when it comes to the Canadian political landscape. The party was formed on Feb. 1, 2018 by retired warrant officer in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Randy Joy.

Joy is running in the

Sydney-Victoria riding in Nova Scotia.

While it's unclear how many riding feature VCP candidates in this year's election, the Pontiac is one of them.

The VCP platform has ideas that have been floated by other parties, with some fairly radical ones of its own.

One major plank that the party focusses on is taxation.

"We have crippled new investments into Canada through our taxation policies," Stewart said in an email.

The VCP intends to cut

the GST by 1.25 per cent per year until it is eliminated.

Additionally, the VCP says it will not only cut government spending by 10 per cent, but it will also balance the government's budget by cutting "overspending, extravagant purchases and unnecessary expenditures.

The VCP also plans to implement a hiring freeze for all civil servants and reduce the pay of Parliamentarians by 20 per cent.

When it comes to the environment, the VCP acknowledges that man made climate change is a problem, but would elimi-

nate all carbon taxes. But it would still push for emissions reductions of 40 per cent below 2015 levels by 2030 and an 80 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050 by mandating fossil fuel producers invest in green energy options.

When it comes to immigration, the VCP takes a hard line. The party wants to implement a two-year moratorium on immigration to "revamp the immigration process." The party wants to review Canadian refugee policies and says it will "enforce Canada's existing laws for illegal immigration and deportation."

Another obstetrics interruption at Pontiac Community Hospital

CALEB NICKERSON
SHAWVILLE Oct. 11-14, 2019

In what is becoming a common occurrence, the obstetrics unit at Pontiac Community Hospital (PCH)

experienced another service interruption over the long weekend.

The break in service, like the ones that preceded it, was due to a staff shortage

and extended from noon on Friday, Oct. 11 to Monday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m.

According to a press release issued by Centre intégré de santé et des ser-

vices sociaux de l'Outaouais on Oct. 11, PCH would deliver babies in the case of emergency, but mother and child would then be transferred to Gatineau Hospital.

www.sadc pontiac.ca

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10th annual Bristol Dryland race to host more than 300 teams



Two-time Canadian dryland racing champion Jean Bouvier rolls down the track on a four-wheeler pulled by his team of eight dogs at around 15 miles per hour as a demonstration. In the Bristol Dryland dog races, dogs will pull a cart instead of an ATV.

J.D. POTIÉ
BRISTOL Oct. 10, 2019
Around 30 members of the local press, community leaders and representatives of various organizations gathered at Timberland Tours, in Bristol, for a press conference and a tour of the facility.
Ahead of the 10th annual Bristol Dryland Dog Race taking place on Oct. 25-27, the event was an opportunity for folks to get a first-hand look at the track along with some information about the race from the organizer himself, Denis Rozon.
Among the community leaders present were Jane Toller (MRC Pontiac

Warden), Brent Orr (Bristol Mayor) and Maurice Beauregard (Campbell's Bay Mayor).
With the sound of Eurohounds barking in the distance, Rozon opened the event with a brief word of welcome, followed by a run-down of the event and an introduction of a few important attendees, including two-time Canadian dryland racing champion Jean Bouvier from Wakefield.
Afterwards, folks socialized and snacked on platters of food and ice-cold beverages catered by the Little Red Wagon Winery and Brauwerk Hoffman.
Attendees then migrated

towards the starting point of the track, where Bouvier demonstrated the track using a four-wheeler pulled by eight dogs.
Rozon explained that, in actual dryland races, dogs pull carts and not four-wheelers. He added that the dogs were running a little slower than they would if they were pulling a cart instead.
"He's going about 15 miles

per hour," he said. "But when he's racing, it's at least 21-22 miles per hour."
As Bouvier and his dogs lined up for takeoff, attendees gathered on both sides of the track to catch brief sightings of them zipping by a couple of times, on route to the finish line.
The demonstration was intended to showcase the dogs' running ability and with Bouvier running with

some of the best dogs in the country, attendees were in for an impressive display, Rozon said.
"The speed of the dogs, you're going to see that," he said. "It's spectacular."
After the demonstration, the event ended with a tour of the track on the back of a trailer.
According to Rozon, the tenth Bristol Dryland will be very special because it will

be a testament to the event's constant growth from one year to the next.
Compared to 55 teams back in 2010, this year's race will feature over 300 teams, including three elite teams from each province and territory for each class, Rozon said.
From hosting the world championships, to the nationals this year, it seems like the event's participation

rate never ceases to rise.
"We've never had Newfoundland," he said. "Now they're coming. We've never had Nova Scotia, they're coming. We've never had the Northwest Territories, and Yukon. They're coming."

Featuring the same nine classes as in previous editions, folks can expect to see the nation's best canicrossers, bikejorers and teams of four, six and eight dogs, go at it on the dirt track at impressive speeds once again.
The event will also feature an all-new veterans' class for runners aged 50 and up, Rozon said.
Rozon admitted that when he first organized the race ten years ago, he never

thought it would have evolved as significantly and as rapidly as it has. When it comes to the event's sustained success, he owes it all to the people who have pitched in to help him achieve it.
"It's thanks to all the support I have here in the community in the Pontiac, the businesses, the farmers, everybody," he said. "Other places don't have that and people tell me. All the runners that come from other places say 'We don't have this where we're from.'"
"That's why we're up to the 10th year," he added. "It's not me, it's all of them. I just tell them about it, I sell it, and they jump on board. It's very special, you know."



On Oct. 10, Denis Rozon, owner and operator of Timberland Tours in Bristol, welcomed a group of around 30 members of local media, community leaders and representatives of various organizations for a press conference and a tour of the facility before the 10th annual Bristol Dryland race. Pictured, Rozon addresses the crowd during his word of welcome.



Owner and operator of Brauwerk Hoffman Todd Hoffman hands out samples of his brews during the press conference.



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Editorial Legitimate debate

Last week, an audience of millions took in what passes for political discourse in our country, in two televised debates between the leaders of the major federal parties.

While there is much to say about the poor choice of format or the quality of moderation, let alone the behaviour of candidates, the role of televised “debate” is something that should be at the forefront of the discussion.

These spectacles are organized by people whose bread gets buttered by connecting eyeballs with advertising. Even with this year's choice of creating a debate commission to manage the logistics, the two events were theatrical productions: each segment a tight 22 minutes, which resulted in two hours of cheap talking points and phony banter before cutting back to whatever content actually pays the broadcasters’ bills.

Despite the best efforts of those in media to convince viewers otherwise, politics is not like horse racing. In fact, legislation and policy are incredibly boring most of the time, but that doesn’t sell enough pickup trucks and hemorrhoid cream for the network execs, so things have to be spiced up a little bit.

In an effort to keep the audience from falling asleep, candidates are limited to timeframes that hinder thoughtful discussion and encourage sloganeering. At the end of an evening of name-calling, disingenuous statements and talking over one another, the spin-doctors in each campaign war-room can churn out a series of disjointed clips that shows their candidate “winning” the debate. Each network can then have a series of talking heads come on to give their hot takes on who had the best zinger, or who appeared more “genuine,” filling even more air time with drivel.

In visual mediums like television, the action occurs in short bursts of wit or bluster that producers can clip and replay over and over. Someone waving their finger and attacking their adversaries will get more attention than someone calmly laying out a complex policy over the course of several minutes.

This ensures a grotesque spectacle that many Canadians are rightly horrified by but can’t avert their eyes from, like a train derailling in slow motion.

It’s important to acknowledge that how we consume our news is as important as the actual news itself, which Marshall McLuhan so concisely pointed out with his famous adage, “The medium is the message.” TV debate is designed with advertisers in mind; it’s meant to entertain as much as it’s meant to inform. That’s not to say radio and print don’t have their downsides, they do, but there’s no form of communication that appeals to the lowest common denominator like the old boob tube.

When choosing a financial institution, for example, a savvy consumer would go to a selection of banks in the area and ask for a detailed summary of their rates and restrictions. They wouldn’t ask the bankers to compete in a live roast battle/trivia contest and then pick the best performer.

Consuming news in this current age has often been compared to drinking from a fire hose, there’s just too much competing information vying for our attention that the truth inevitably gets drowned out by a torrent of propaganda. Separating facts from opinions or even outright falsehoods is both difficult and time-consuming, so many people choose to double down on their pre-conceived stances or tune out entirely.

If you’re of age to vote, you have a civic duty to stay informed about the people vying for power. It’s worth your time to peruse the party platforms, or an in-depth interview with the local candidates. The future of the country depends on it.

Caleb Nickerson

The Parents’ Voice

By Shelley Heapby

Doctor visits

It seems the first few years of a child’s life are full of visits to the doctor, whether it be a check up, vaccinations or an emergency situation. Every time that date comes around on my calendar, circled in red so I don’t forget, I stress a little. I stress because there are a million questions I have to ask and I always forget almost all of them. The other thought that runs through my mind is, “please, please, let my children behave this time.” I am sure I’m not alone in worrying about this.

What I have learned about going to the doctor is that it’s imperative to be prepared. I usually keep a list on the side of my fridge and any time I think of a question, even if the appointment is months or weeks away, I write it down. That way my thoughts are organized when I get there and I am less likely to forget a question or concern.

Sometimes you can strike gold and get in and out of the office fairly quickly but you can’t always depend on that. Bringing a snack, a favourite toy, some stories or colouring books help pass the time, if you are in for a long wait. I try to make sure my kids are well fed before heading out the door and hopefully they have had a good night’s sleep or a nap.

Some kids love visiting the doctor while others absolutely hate or fear it. You know your child best. Sometimes it’s best to prepare your child with what the doctor is going to do and why. Some kids thrive on knowing what to expect while it may make others anxious. There are lots of story books out there that depict what happens at a doctor visit. This could help explain their visit in advance.

I find the four and a half year old vaccinations to be the toughest appointment. They are old enough to know that needles are scary and tend to work themselves up. We’ve tried not telling them beforehand and we’ve tried telling them and explaining it, it really depends on the child. I’ve seen kids come out of the vaccination room happy with a sucker, but I’ve also seen kids come out screaming and crying (like my son last month). It can’t be helped, they need the vaccines to stay healthy (in my opinion). Sometimes bribery helps, other times you just have to hold them down for the nurse. It’s not fun but it’s a pretty quick process at least.

Continued on page five



Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Busted open

Thankful by Chris Judd



Outstanding in his field

Every year we get several long weekends to break up the year and give you that extra day or two to take a little holiday away, open or close up the cottage, or just get together with family. Youth away at college are usually home and everyone can enjoy seeing each other.

There were a couple long weekends that left me as a farmer very nervous. The May 24 long weekend came at planting time when farmers were trying to finish up cropping before haying and before planting deadlines when crop insurance expected you to have the planting finished. Then in the fall, there were two Thanksgiving weekends, one for Canada and one for the US. These were right in the middle of fall harvest. If a necessary machine like a corn planter, combine, corn harvester, tractor, truck or other necessary machine broke down the farmer might wait a week or more for critical parts. The machine company’s parts depots could be in the US or Canada and their employ-

ees, truckers and all other people between the parts depot and the farmer take long weekends off too. When the weather is nice and sunny, farmers get very frustrated not able to work those long hours spring and fall while watching the weather network to see another wet spell approaching. That’s why some farmers keep thousands of dollars worth of parts in the shop. In 2019, our Pontiac farmers endured a very wet and slow spring that slowed or even prevented planting of crops. That was followed by an extended dry summer when the crops that did get planted had a hard time growing or even getting that nice green growth colour.

Farmers had accepted that 2019 would just be a survival year and with global trade wars and the uncertainty of crop or animal prices a profitable year slowly became only a dream. Then came some nice rains in September and the lawns greened up. Farmers knew that the rains came too late to save the grain crops. Pasturing cattle had started to need supplemental feed that had been

stored away for winter. The late rains helped green up the pastures and not as much dry hay had to be supplemented.

When farmers started cutting corn silage they were pleasantly surprised with total silage yield. Although corn height varied from three feet to 14 feet in the same field and corn kernel moisture and yield also varied greatly that corn silage that never got to have that nice dark green color yielded better than expected. Because distressed corn can also bring surprises it must be feed tested before feeding to animals so that the correct feed supplement can be mixed with it.

We have just enjoyed our Canadian Thanksgiving and have so much to be thankful for. Farmers are thankful for what feed they have to cut. We are all thankful for our families and friends who are our real treasures. We are thankful to live in the most beautiful and colourful part of the world, in a country where we have a right to vote and don’t have to carry a gun! We live in a country where we can enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner in peace that many people in the world can only dream about. Take time to enjoy the beauty of the place we live and take a little time to give thanks.

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

Judge Orville Frenette who was presiding the sessions of the Peace Court here at Campbell’s Bay on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Martineau is replacing Mr. Edgar Allard who was transferred to Montreal in August.

Concert band new executive: At a meeting of the executive of the Shawville Concert Band last week, a new slate of officers for the 1969-70 season was presented and accepted.

Doug Brown was named president, Bud Rowat secretary-treasurer, Edgar Schwartz in charge of engagements, Mrs. Joyce Price music librarian, E.J. Lydall conductor and Mrs. David Dickson in charge of publicity.

A joint concert with the High School instrumental and choral groups will be performed on Wednesday evening in the auditorium of the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary school.

Oct. 26, 1944 75 Years Ago

Local news: The Ayrshire group from Shawville Calf Club made a very good showing again this year at the Kemptville Fair. It will be recalled that the Pontiac entries were the champions in 1942 and 43.

In the individual calf competition the boys stood as follows: Andrew Hanna, first; Bill Horner, second; Douglas MacKechnie, third; Neil Hanna, fourth.

Mrs. Wm. Kinmond of Toronto who is visiting t the home of her mother, Mrs. Elwood Mackay at Caldwell received a cable on Monday stating that her husband reported missing on Sept. 8 is now a prisoner of war.

Mr. Kinmond, war correspondent of the *Toronto Star* was reported uninjured and in good health. He went overseas last year.

Mr. Kinmond was taken prisoner when scouting a battle area in Belgium, driving a jeep.

The annual Farm Forum Rally of Pontiac County was held on Friday night in the Agricultural Hall with a large attendance of men and women from the forums of Clarendon, Bristol and Onslow.

The president, Wyman MacKechnie was in the chair and Mrs. Hillis Graham of Bristol acted as secretary.

Resolutions were passed to ask the Quebec government to accept the \$65,000 being offered by the Dominion government for the development of rural recreation this

amount to be supplemented by a similar grant from the provincial government.

Under the relentless Jap drive to cut China in half, American air bases, most of them built by the blood and sweat of hundreds of thousands of Chinese men, women and children have been abandoned and destroyed by the U.S. air forces.

In a Canadian cemetery at Dieppe, members of the Canadian Division Provost Corps held a memorial service shortly after the occupation of Dieppe by Canadians two years later. Capt. Chris Forbes, Weaskiwin, Alta. placed a plaque on the grave of their second-in-command killed during the raid in ‘42.

Oct. 23, 1919 100 Years Ago

Partridge are reported to be more plentiful this season than for years past.

THE EQUITY has learned through Dr. Powles who for some considerable time past has been interesting himself and others toward the accomplishment of that object - that a “Nursing Service” under the direction of the Victorian Order of Nurses is to be established in Shawville at once. To that end the services of Miss McLaren of Renfrew a professional nurse, have been secured and that lady arrives this week. She has procured lodgings at the home of Mrs. Knight.

The new Bretzlaff House at Ladysmith which has arisen from the ashes of the structure destroyed by fire some time ago is now in a habitable condition and good accommodation is again procurable by the traveller who has occasion to visit Ladysmith and its environment.

The Ontario elections on Monday resulted in producing a rather complicated state of affairs.

The most significant feature of the vote is the triumph of the farmers of U.F.O. and the decided death of the government, the heads of Premier Hearst and four of his ministers coming under the electoral axe.

The deer hunting season is now on and the members of the several clubs in this section are laying plans for the approaching campaign and counting the days till the time arrives to don their hunting toggery and betake themselves away to No Man’s Land where the crystal waters of the inland lake lap the feet of the rugged wood-clad hills, the habitat of the owner of that set of antlers the hunter has been dreaming about for the past six months.

Continued on page five

Time to rebuild

Dear Editor,

The time to revitalize the Pontiac is now.

I have been your warden for two years. I can see that we do not need to wait with our hand out to the government or wait for a big investor who comes with big promises. Too often we are disappointed. The hard working people of this region built the Pontiac and in the 1800s Pontiac was the largest and richest county in Canada. When the mills closed we lost our way.

It is time to rebuild and move forward. We need to work together and not compete between municipalities. We need to stop the negativity and gossip. We will only defeat ourselves.

We need to be in the driver’s seat. We need to decide what we want in the Pontiac and then go after it. We need to be a player in forestry again and we will be. There are at least two opportunities for reopening of former sites. More about that when there is something to announce.

We have two projects that we can make or break ... I need your full support! André Fortin, our champion, has called this his number one priority. The aqua/wellness centre for the Pontiac will bring health and wellness to us. We are applying for the funding and fundraising this month. It will be a \$12 million construction project which will require many jobs for local contractors. This does not come from your taxes. Once completed it will provide 24 jobs. It will be a magnificent facility that will make us proud. It will attract many people from Quebec and Ontario. We deserve this facility and should not have to learn to swim in Ontario! This centre will be a meeting place and a symbol of hope for a bright future. It will improve the health and quality of life for Pontiacers. It is for all generations.

The second project is a state-of-the-art facility which converts garbage to electricity and steam heat. The Pontiac currently pays \$1 million to cart our waste to the Lachute landfill. We believe that continuing to landfill is unacceptable. We are a willing host to build this energy from waste facility in the Pontiac. It will provide 50 jobs and will reduce our budget by \$1 million. The Pontiac hopes to process waste from the Outaouais and Ottawa Valley in Ontario. The facility would be owned by the municipal regions and we would sell the hydro to Hydro Quebec. It will create enough electricity for 10,000 homes. For more information look at the York Durham Energy Centre near Toronto operated by Covanta. It is clean, green technology approved by Quebec and we will be the first facility in Quebec.

We will enable everyone else to stop burying garbage in the ground. The Pontiac will take responsibility and be the solution.

I ask for your support and let’s move forward together. Let’s put our hope and energy into real projects that we can see built.

For more information contact me at prefete@mrcpontiac.qc.ca

Jane Toller
Warden MRC Pontiac

Letters to the Editor

Email them to news@theequity.ca. Mail to 133 Centre Street, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 or fax them to 819-647-2206.

Opinions in the letters published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of THE EQUITY.

Senior Comets announce new captain

by J.D. Potić



J.D. Potić, THE EQUITY
Earlier this month, the Pontiac Senior Comets announced Bristol native Darcy Findlay as the team’s captain for the 2019-20 season. Pictured, Findlay skates in warmups before his first game in Comets colours.

Having just kicked off their second regular season in franchise history, the Pontiac Senior AA Comets have officially unveiled their leadership core.

On Sept. 30, the team announced on its Facebook page that one of its new additions, Darcy Findlay, would be its captain for the 2019-20 campaign. The team’s top scorer from last year Stéphane Paré will serve as one of the assistants, while journeymen newcomers David Croteau and David Foucher will also wear the “A” on their jerseys.

According to the team’s head coach Jean-Francois Lavergne, the decision layed on the notion that he wanted to pick a local player, with loads of hockey experience who carried himself with confidence and leadership.

A decision made collectively by members of the coaching staff, the selection was unanimous and done without much hesitation, Lavergne said.

“We saw in Darcy a leader who wanted to help the team get to another level,” he said.

Born and raised in the Pontiac and having played at high levels his entire career, including four years at Bemidji State university in Minnesota where he helped the program achieve its first ever Frozen Four berth, selecting him was a no-brainer, Lavergne said.

Plus, coming off a few years of coaching at the junior level in the CCHL and in the OHL with the Flint Firebirds, his experience added exponentially to the team’s leadership values, he added.

“He’s an intense player, a player who leads by example on the ice and for us the fact that he brought leadership a little bit everywhere he’s been was very important to us,” he said.

For Lavergne, picking the team’s leadership core was about emphasizing character over skill. Unlike many other teams in the league looking to fill their rosters with fresh, young talent, Lavergne scoured Ontario and Quebec looking for grizzled veterans who wouldn’t get fazed by the challenges that the league offered.

From what he’s seen from his squad during their first two weeks of practices before the regular season, he expects to deploy an offensively dynamic team that is also responsible defensively and tenacious in all facets of the game.

“Contrarily to a lot of other teams, we went out and got a lot of veterans on our team, guys over 30 years old who have played at a high level, who have experience,” he said.

“Players we’ve brought on our team aren’t just offensive guys who only play on one side of the puck,” he added. “They can play in all situations.”

While he expects the league to be stronger in its second season, he’s still confident about his team’s chances of finding some success on the ice.

“We expect to go as far as possible,” he said. “We aim to be near the top of the league and to be playing up until the very last games of the season.”

For Findlay, the opportunity to wear the “C” for his home region’s team, while play-

ing in front of tons of friends and family every other week is going to be a very meaningful and exciting experience.

For Findlay, playing for the Comets presented a great opportunity to continue playing the game he loved at a high level while continuing his career as a school teacher.

While he’s very excited for the season ahead, he admits that making the commitment to the league and everything that comes with it wasn’t easy and took quite some time to make.

Last year, Findlay lived in Michigan, working as an associate coach for the Flint Firebirds in the OHL where he got the chance to see some of the continent’s best young players on a night to night basis.

When the season ended, he returned home to Shawville not knowing what he wanted to do right away. While exploring a variety of coaching opportunities in both the OHL and the QMJHL, he landed an opportunity to teach at Pontiac High School (PHS) in Shawville – an opportunity way too good to pass up.

Having started his teaching career before getting into coaching, Findlay explained that when he was in teacher’s college at Bemidji State, he often envisioned himself teaching at PHS.

Shortly after landing the job, Comets owner and starting goaltender Danick Boisvert approached him about joining the Comets.

After seeing the organization take off in popularity during its inaugural season, Findlay was intrigued with the idea of

playing full-contact, competitive hockey again.

But considering how long he had been out of it, and some of the aches and pains he had been dealing with over the years it wasn’t an easy decision by any means. But, when his competitive juices got flowing again, there wasn’t much that could stop him from getting back in the game.

“My back and some other things, I wasn’t really sure if I wanted to get into the whole contact and stuff like that,” he said. “But I guess when you have a competitive side you like to compete and you like playing hockey and being around the guys and stuff like that.”

Findlay noted that the Comet’s strong organizational structure and the support of his wife made his decision to join the team a lot more comforting.

As the captain, Findlay looks forward to being a leader on and off the ice, using his experiences, his knowledge of the game and competitiveness to do everything he can to help them win.

“It really takes a person that’s going to step up when something needs to be said, or they’re going to go out and step up on the ice when something needs to happen to change momentum and whatnot,” he said.

Above all else, he can’t wait to finally get on the ice in front of his hometown fans and hopefully give them something to cheer about.

“Although we’re playing in Coulonge, we’re representing the Pontiac really,” he said. “We’re the only team in the area and I’m definitely looking forward to it.”

Parents’ Voice

Continued from page four

It’s always a little easier to have a second set of hands at doctor appointments, especially if you have more than one child. This way someone can stay in the waiting room while you take one child in for their exam at a time. Having an extra set of hands can certainly be very helpful, that way I can concentrate on my child who is being examined and give them and the doctor my full attention.

It’s also beneficial if you want to speak to the doctor without your child hearing your conversation. The kids can wait with your helper while you speak in private – this can definitely come in handy as kiddos get older.

When that time rolls around for your kids’ next doctor’s appointment just remember that you are there for your child’s well being and their development and also you’re not the first parent that has stressed about a doctor’s visit.

THE WAY WE WERE

Continued from page four

Oct. 18, 1894, 125 Years Ago

Local News: The first snow of the season fell on Sunday last.

Mr. Luke Heeney of Danford Lake has lost this season through the ravages of bears: 30 lambs and 13 old sheep.

G. Fred Hodgins has just received a car of choice flour (Imperial Bakers) direct from one of the largest mills in Manitoba. The quality is Al.

On Tuesday morning of last week, Mr. G.B. Cardiff who resides a short distance from Renfrew, suffered the loss of his barns, sheds, etc. by fire. A

steam threshing mill was engaged and a strong wind blowing carried a spark from the engine, a distance of 40 feet into a straw stack and soon ignited. The separators which were in the barn were destroyed.

On Wednesday morning last, consumption claimed another victim at the home of Mr. Robert Hamilton in the person of his daughter Agnes, who contracted the disease some time previous to her sister, whom she survived only five days. Mr. Hamilton himself and another remaining daughter are said to be in a very serious condition of health. This household, indeed has been inordinately weighted by affliction’s cruel hand and it’s case is one which receives the unreserved sympathy of the entire community.

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PHS all-star game: staff squad stifles students



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Senior all-stars' third basewoman Maggey Lemay relays a rocket across the diamond to first base.

J.D. POTIÉ
SHAWVILLE Oct. 9, 2019

Hundreds of Pontiac High School (PHS) students and members of faculty gathered at Elwood Dale Park in Shawville on Wednesday for the school's fourth annual student all-stars versus staff softball game.

Taking place during the school's fourth period, students were released early and headed to the park in droves, filling every seat in the bleachers to support the all-stars.

The event was originally scheduled to take place the previous week, but organizers postponed it because of inclement weather.

Under sunny blue skies, students socialized on the hill beside the ball park, while others got a view of the action from the left field fence near the all-stars' dugout.

Many spectators showed their allegiance to the all-stars by wearing red, while the teacher's pets sported black clothing.

Led by drama teacher Phil Holmes as their head coach, the student all-stars were made up of Aiden Dubeau, Avery Mohr, Bryan Tubman, C.J. Piché, Connor Gilpin, Dakota Hudson, Ethan Larivière, Harry Lukacs-

Hitz, Hunter Lukacs-Hitz, Leah Beaduoine, Maggey Lemay, Monica Tanguay, Tyler Stanton and William Desabrais.

The staff team included Pascal Asselin, Brenda Davis, Chad Davis, Sheri Deline, Darcy Findlay, Tara Fitzpatrick, Matt Greer, Jordan Kent, Matt Lottes, Phil Sweezy, Steve Wynne and Rick Valin.

Luke Murphy, who may or may not have accepted bribes, was the umpire.

With so many people watching the game, it was clear that the players and teachers alike wanted to show the crowd what they were made of.

Along with a series of dazzling plays in the field, players impressed with their power at the plate. More than a few managed to knock the ball out of the park, to the crowd's delight.

After seven innings of hard-fought ball, the staff prevailed by a score of 14-9.

Made of grade nine, ten and eleven students, the school's senior all-star team consisted of students rewarded for their overall talent, sportsmanship qualities and attitude exhibited throughout the school's ball

tournament and practice sessions held in September.

Since the rosters were announced over a week before the matchup, there was plenty of anticipation in the days leading up to the big game among students and staff, according to one of the event's main organizers Brenda Davis.

Davis explained that in previous years, the game also featured a junior all-star team made up of grade seven and eight students who

played three innings. But, to prevent any students from getting injured, organizers decided to limit the game to a senior team.

In the last four years, the all-star game has been a great way of allowing students to showcase their skills on the diamond while bonding with their teachers and getting to know a different side of them, Davis said.

"It's kind of exciting for the students to showcase their skills and also a chance for the students to just kind of see a different side of their teachers whom they don't know play sports," she said.

Whether it was betting on how many homeruns they were going to hit or predicting which teacher would strike out swinging, the students and staff exchanged a good dose of trash talk throughout the week before the game, Davis said.

"They love the banter between the students and the teachers in the days leading up," she said.

From the eleventh graders ready to show their skills to the school for one last time, to the eighth graders dreaming about participating in it one day, the event has become a tradition that the school's aspiring ball players look forward to every year, Davis said.

"The grade elevens, they know it's their last year on the all-star team," she said. "Also, it was neat hearing how many grade eights are saying like, I'm going to be on that team next year. Even

some of the grade tens that were there were saying 'next year, I'm going to be on it.'"

For Davis, the all-star game is beneficial for the morale of the students and staff, as it brings the entire school together for a wholesome activity.

Since incorporating the tournament and the all-star game at PHS in the last few years, Davis has noticed a significant uptick in the sport's popularity at the school.

Whether it's the desire to swing a bat, make plays in the field, or volunteer as a score keeper, it seems like

there's no shortage of kids at PHS willing to participate in the school's softball related activities, Davis said.

"I think it's just a sport that's easily accessible to kids," she said. "You need a ball glove and a pair of running shoes and you can play. It doesn't have the intimidating cost associated with it like other sports."

"I think kids get surprised with who's good at softball," she added. "It opens up the doors for a lot of kids to play. I think it helps that we don't do any cuts. I think it definitely does bring a lot of popularity to the sport here."

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J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Senior all-stars outfielder Connor Gilpin gazes in the horizon after smacking one over the fence in straight away centre field.

Thanksgiving tea at St. Joseph's Manor



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY
On Saturday residents of St. Joseph's Manor in Campbell's Bay invited friends and family to join them for their annual Thanksgiving tea. The event featured festive decorations, a fine spread of food and music by Gary Cummings and friends. From left: Cecile Soulière, Shirley Cummings, Louise Allen and Patsy Devlin enjoy the show.

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Spooktacular weekend of racing at Luskville Dragway



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Nine junior dragsters Audrey Alarie, Julien Laporte, Logan Gagné, Lea Monaghan, Ryan Clarmo, Cole Krottner, Trevor Monaghan, Shelby Seguin and Parker Seguin line up in front of the track before their test trials on Sunday morning.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Junior dragster Logan Gagné takes off during test trials on Sunday morning.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Terry Shakespeare from Huntsville, Ont. gets ready for takeoff on his Suzuki GSX-R speedbike.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Rob Howell smokes up the place before ripping down the quarter-mile track.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Aiden Clarmo lines up at the starting line before test trials on Sunday morning.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
Last weekend, the Luskville Dragway held its annual Spooktacular weekend, drawing in over 100 people to enjoy the races and festivities. Pictured, Hub Frappier from Chelmsford, Ont. picks up some hang time on his take off in his old school Plymouth during test trials on Sunday.

J.D. POTIÉ
LUSKVILLE Oct. 12-13, 2019
Over the weekend, over 100 drag racers convened in Luskville to wrap up the season in festive fashion with a turkey supper, a costume party and some good old head to head competition on the quarter mile track.
Coinciding with the Dragway's annual Spooktacular Weekend, the track held its fifth annual "Octoberfast" celebration - it's last event before closing shop for the winter.
On Saturday, a steady dose of rain kept the speed demons off the track for the entire day. However, that

didn't stop a lot of the attendees from enjoying themselves. Inside the restaurant on location, folks feasted on a Thanksgiving potluck, along with a pre-Halloween celebration. Outside many kept warm beside a bonfire under the stars.
On Sunday morning, without a cloud in sight, it was evident that the racers were eager to get back into the action.
Since the previous day's races were all postponed because of inclement weather, organizers were tasked with fitting two days of racing into one, according to the facility's owner and operator Arnie Malcolm.
Malcolm noted that the Spooktacular Weekend is an important one for the people involved at the track, from the racers to the workers because for a lot of them it's the last time that they get to gather together with their racing buddies before spring.
"A lot of people won't see each other until May of next year," he said. "It's a big deal. We had a big party last night and turkey dinner, tons of people dressed up. It was just a cool deal, you know."
Throughout the weekend, Malcolm said the track hosted around 150 participants and spectators. The event

featured a wide variety of vehicles from all sorts of makes and models in five separate classes, including Semi-Pro, Super-Pro, Outlaw, Street Eliminator and Junior.
At the end of the day, Quebec City's Trevor Monaghan emerged victorious in the Junior Category. Aiden Clarmo from Metcalfe, Ont. came out on top in the Semi-Pro Category. Renfrew's own Kyle Jessup won the Super-Pro division. Mike Maxsom from Aylmer took home the Outlaw division crown. No winners were announced in the Speed Eliminator Category.
Wrapping up the National Hot Rods Association's (NHRA) season, the Dragway also announced the champions from each division on its Facebook page. For the Semi-Pros, Wes Clarmo was crowned as champ. Ashley Ogilvie became the first female Super-Pro champion and Ryan Clarmo took home the Junior division title.
Now all done with racing season, Malcolm said he and his crew of helpers are looking forward to next year and will begin working on the facility's upkeep this week.
The Dragway's next big event will be its awards banquet held on Nov. 16 where the theme will be Caribbean cruise.

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J.D. POTIÉ
PONTIAC Oct. 16, 2019
Fall is in full swing. The leaves are changing colours, the weather has cooled

down and while you're tidying up your property before winter hits, it's also time to tune up your vehicle.
With help from a local expert in the auto repair industry, here are a few tips on vehicle maintenance that you might want to look into before the weather turns.
According to Gerry Monette of Shawville Auto, one of the most important things to investigate before hitting the road this winter is the state of the battery and its charging system.
After a long, hot summer of driving, batteries tend to get a lot weaker, which can be detrimental to the vehicle's starter and its alternator, Monette said.
"The battery is the heart of the whole system," he said. "If the battery doesn't produce enough [cold] cranking amps, it's going to eventually ruin your starter. It also makes the alternator work that much harder."
Monette noted that it's important to change one's battery before the winter because hot temperatures are hard on car batteries and that vehicles generally require more cranking amps to start in cold weather.
Another crucial aspect of vehicle maintenance is the state of your winter tires.
While installing them, it's also a good time to look at the condition of your brakes, suspension and steering, Monette said.
When it comes to suspen-

sion, it is important that the vehicle's shocks and struts are evenly strong and stable.
"It's always important to have no loose parts to avoid any problems," he said.
Driving while one side is weaker than the other, can cause for a bouncy ride, especially on sharp corners. If both sides are in rough shape it can have an even more negative impact on the vehicle's stability, Monette said.
"Your tire is going to kind of lock when you hit a curve and kind of rock side to side," he said.
Preventative maintenance on the brakes should also be addressed at this time of year, according to Monette.
Another often overlooked maintenance project that shouldn't be ignored is undercoating.
As a longtime garage owner, Monette has noticed the longstanding benefits that come with undercoating vehicles on a yearly basis.
Very effective at preventing long term rust, an annual undercoat is also useful at preventing brake line corrosion and ultimately prolonging a vehicle's life, Monette said.
"A lot of car's frames rust and the car is done after say 10 years," he said. "Whereas if you have it undercoated, it can go easily 15 years or more."
Lastly, remember to washer fluid and replace it with antifreeze for the winter.
"People tend to forget about that," Monette said.



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Comets crush Forestiers

J.D. POTIÉ
MANIWAKI Oct. 12, 2019
The Pontiac Senior Comets eviscerated the Maniwaki Forestiers 7-2 in their own barn on Saturday night, bringing their record to 1-1-0 to start the season. Coming off a tough loss in their home opener the week prior, the Comets were hungry for their first victory of the new season. Facing off with an undefeated Maniwaki squad, they knew they had to come out strong and make a statement.

From the drop of the puck, the Comets made their presence known, scoring five unanswered goals in the first period giving them a comfortable 5-0 advantage going into the break. In the second period, Matthew Warren's goalscoring barrage continued, as he found the back of the net for a fourth time this season. But, the Forestiers answered with a couple snipes of their own on the powerplay, making it 6-2 by

the second intermission. In the third period, the Comets shut things down defensively before forward Yann Neveu put up an insurance marker, bringing the score to 7-2. After a less than stellar performance in his first start of the season, allowing six goals on 32 shots, Comets goaltender Danick Boisvert put up a spectacular performance against a Forestiers offense that peppered him with a whopping 61 shots. Amassing 59 saves (29 in the second period), a .967 save percentage and the win, Boisvert redeemed himself, earning first star honours and was also recognized as the league's first star of the week. "It was probably one of my best games in this league," he said. "In the first game, for sure they got opportunistic on a few goals. I remember one where they were alone in the slot, they were able to score a couple of goals where I didn't really have chance. Some I should've

had but others let's say I wasn't as lucky as I needed to be." Led by committee, the Comets' potent attack was finally brought to life as five of its forwards notched a couple of points, including Hugo Petit and Neveu who scored two goals each. Comets' captain Darcy Findlay added a goal and an assist to the scoresheet. David Croteau also shined with two assists of his own, bringing his total to five on the season. After the game, Boisvert spoke very highly about the defensive system implemented by his new coaching staff and pointed to it as a major factor for their success on both ends of the ice. "We started the game with a defensive system of covering the middle of the ice," he said. "When we had our chances, we went for them and it worked. We scored five goals in the first. I think we kind of caught them off guard a little bit at the start." With their first win of the season, Boisvert believes

his squad has finally established an identity of solid defensive structure and relentless work ethic. Going into their next game, he's quite confident about their chances of building its momentum and stacking up the win column this season. "I think we're a good team," he said. "We also have great chemistry in the dressing room. It feels good to get our first win with this new team and I think the guys are motivated for more." The Comets currently sit in third place in the Outaouais Senior AA Hockey League (OSAAHL) with two points in as many games, just a game back of first place. For their next game, the Comets will visit the OSAAHL's newest expansion team, the Mont-Tremblant Diables at l'Arena Gilles Cadieux on Oct. 19. Their next home game is on Oct. 26 where they host the Maniwaki Forestiers at the Fort Coulonge arena.



Shawville

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Our deepest condolences to the Brisebois and Richard families on the loss of Edith on Oct. 4. Our thoughts and prayers for the Thompson and Wilson families on the loss of Elizabeth Ida on Oct. 5. Happy birthday to the following people celebrating this upcoming week: Fran Finan, Laurie Beer, Helen Dube, Andrew McCredie, Doug MacDougall, Michael McGuire Jr., Renee Lavallee-Townsend, Elaine Palmer, Jennifer Beattie,

Kegan Keon, Boyd Brownlee, John Moore, Jennifer Dale, Heather Cartman, Pam Whelen, September Hamilton, Gordie Mohr, Beth Young, Claire Devine, Paul Finnigan, Leona Eades, Karen Fahey, Colleen Megrath-Denault, Brad Campeau, Courtney Harris, Jennifer Hodgins-Orr, Scott McCagg, Troy Carson, Ricky Davis and Nancy Angus. Couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries this week are: Ron and Beth Campbell, Michael and

Julie Tubman, Rickey and Bonnie Richardson, Santiago Rios and Janice Hodgins, Travis and Michaela Corrigan, James and Anne Lepack and Steve and Gillian Gray. Our sympathies to the McDermott family on the loss of Francis on Oct. 7. The Seniors Drop In will be on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. at the former Masonic Hall on Main Street in Shawville. Want to learn bridge? Every Tuesday, St. Paul's Anglican Church hosts bridge and learning at 10 a.m. in the church hall.

He shoots he scores

Pontiac Lions Pee Wee A
The Pontiac Lions Pee Wee A team opened their season in Aylmer, Que. on Sunday afternoon defeating the Aylmer Extremes 4-1. Fast skating, good two-way play and excellent penalty killing attributed to their win. Scorers were Liam Queale with a goal and two assists, Paige Dubeau and Vincent Gilbert with a goal and an assist each, Lana Gibbons with one goal, Hannah Twolan with two assists and Noah Oliveira with one assist. The next game is next Sunday in Aylmer against the Vikings.
Submitted by Garry Queale

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A rider wearing a grey cap, dark long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans is riding a white paint horse with large brown patches. The horse is in the middle of a sliding stop, with its front legs extended forward and its hindquarters settling back. The horse is wearing black protective boots on all four lower legs. The rider is holding the reins and a lead rope. The background shows a grassy field with trees and a cloudy sky.

A rider wearing a black helmet and jacket is on a brown horse, navigating a colorful obstacle course made of large, flexible, curved tubes in pink, orange, and blue. The horse is standing still, facing forward, with its head slightly lowered. The background shows a grassy field with trees and a fence.

FORUM: CISSSO

He said that they were working hard to address the short-staffing issue that has caused several interruptions to the obstetrics department at Pontiac Community Hospital. He said that they were fast-tracking staff from the area with an interest in obstetrics and had reached out to recently retired personnel to see if they were interested in part-time work.

"We've got to get away from the one size fits all, that's decided in the city, and might not apply here," he said, noting that the change would take place within a few months. "We're going to have managers that are going to have their offices here instead of in the

When asked about the deficit, he said that the amount is tiny for an organization that spends between \$2-3 million a day in opera-

In response to the article in *La Presse* and the negative light it cast on the organization, he said that they have to strive for a culture of excellence within the organization.

"It's good that we have all those different pairs of glasses that look at what we do and tell us what we're doing wrong and what we need to do better," he said. "We have to welcome those things. We have to act on them."

Waltham

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Aunt Mary (nee Hynes), Spence. She was the beloved wife of Leo Spence. Aunt Mary was a very kind, loving and faith filled woman. She was a wonderful cook and her butter tarts and pies were amazing. Her family was the love of her life. Our heartfelt sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with Uncle Leo, family and friends. May you rest in peace dear Aunt Mary.

My sister Joyce, husband Jim and brother Brian came from Cornwall, Ont. for Aunt Mary Spence's wake and

I hope that everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving. On Sunday evening, our family gathered at Rhonda and Mark's for a real Thanksgiving feast.

Belated anniversary wishes and love are extended to my brother Brian and his wife Lisa who celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary on Oct. 14. May you

Birthday wishes and love are wished to Mary-Beth Goyette who is celebrating her birthday on Oct. 18. Enjoy your day Min.

Birthday wishes and love are extended to my sister-in-law Lisa, who is celebrating her birthday on Oct. 20. Enjoy your special day Lisa.

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Oct. 24 – Harvest Supper at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shawville from 4:30 - 7:00. Adults \$15, children \$6. Everyone welcome. 3xo23

Fri., Oct. 25 – Spooky Halloween Story Time, hot dog dinner and face painting, 5:30 p.m. at the Jack Graham Community Centre, Bristol. No Charge. 2bo23

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DEATH

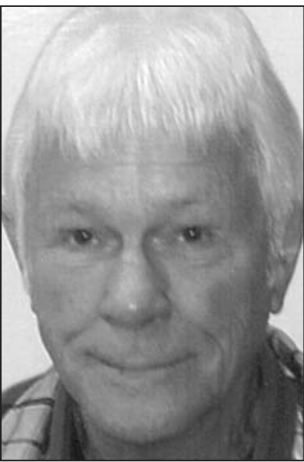


Finlan, George Patrick Kelly – Passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2019. Kelly was the beloved son of the late Ivan and Jean, cherished brother of Carol-Ann and partner of Marianna DiRienzo. He is also survived by Rev. Ross Finlan, Anne (Tom) Gleason, Mary-Lou Finlan, Ellen Finlan and Rosemary (Hugh) Issacs and their families. Kelly is also survived by many other cousins, friends (especially Ian and Brett MacKechnie) and the DiRienzo family. Kelly will always be remembered for his kind nature, his incredible sense of humour and his friendly manner.

IN MEMORY



Chartrand, André – 1st anniversary. It has already been a year since God has relieved you of your illness and keeps you close to Him, But your memory can never fade away. Accepting to lose someone as dear as you, Was the hardest test of our lives. You had a lot of strength and courage and even your immense desire to live and your determination could not hold you back. Your memory is always alive and accompanies us wherever we go. From up there, continue to protect us as you did so well in your lifetime. Rest in peace, you deserve it. Your wife Annette and your children Sylvie, Sylvette and André Junior and those who love you



Maxwell, Joseph – December 3, 1937 – October 7, 2019

It is with heavy hearts, that we announce the passing of Joseph, October 7, 2019 in the Pontiac Community Hospital, Shawville, Quebec, at the age of 81. Loving and devoted husband to Pauline. Our journey together began 45 years ago. Joe and I enjoyed working side by side over the years. It was a merciful passing as the ALS diagnosis would have been terrible moving forward. He fought hard but the disease overtook him. Joseph ran a central microfilm unit at the Public Archives for many years. Predeceased by his parents Mary and Bob Maxwell, and sister Maureen. Devoted father to Pamela, grandfather to Blaze, brother to Nancy (late Jerry), and Sharon (Mike). Very special brother-in-law to Denise (Ernie), Louise (Wesley), Helene (Tony), John (Susie), Nicole (Jean) and Mike Mecca. Special son-in-law to Claire Ducharme and the late John Ducharme. He leaves behind many precious nieces and nephews. A special thank you to Ingrid Wittig for the compassion and support during this difficult time. A private Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. In memory of Joe, "Kind Gestures" would be most appreciated. www.hayesfuneralhome.ca

H
hayesfuneralhome.ca
1-844-647-2221

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Business for sale – Goulds Pump Franchise. For more information call Barry at 819-647-3247. xtc

IN MEMORY

Bretzlaff, Alfred – In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away October 19, 1989. The years are quickly passing Though still we can't forget For in the hearts that love him His memory lingers yet. In our hearts, Gwen and Serge, Denver and Nelda, Darrell and Debbie, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

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GOUV. DU QUÉBEC

Communiqué

THURSO Le 8 oct. 2019

Le gouvernement du Québec a décidé d'agir afin de réunir les conditions favorables pour permettre la relance de l'usine de Fortress, à Thurso, en Outaouais, dont les dirigeants ont confirmé la fermeture temporaire.

En vue de mettre en place un processus pour trouver un investisseur stratégique, Québec accorde, en plus du montant de cinq millions de dollars attribué l'été dernier, un prêt maximal de huit millions de dollars à Fortress Global Entreprises (Fortress). Cette contribution financière permettra à Fortress d'instaurer des mesures de conservation des actifs pendant la fermeture temporaire de l'usine et de compléter le processus de sollicitation visant sa vente.

Le ministre de l'Économie et de l'Innovation et ministre responsable de la région de Lanaudière, M. Pierre Fitzgibbon, en a fait l'annonce accompagné par le député de Papineau, ministre de la Famille et ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais, M. Mathieu Lacombe.

« Compte tenu des condi-

tions de marché défavorables actuellement, les dirigeants de Fortress ont été dans l'obligation de fermer temporairement l'usine de Thurso. Il est important pour le gouvernement d'intervenir maintenant afin de maximiser les chances de relance de l'usine, de maintenir des emplois et de rassurer les fournisseurs. Le gouvernement ne ménagera aucun effort afin de trouver un partenaire pour assurer la viabilité de l'usine. Fortress joue un rôle déterminant dans la structure industrielle forestière en Outaouais et dans les Laurentides. L'usine est notamment approvisionnée à partir de bois de feuillus durs, qui sont surabondants dans ces régions. Cela représente un important débouché pour les entreprises de récolte et pour les usines de transformation locales, dont les scieries. Nous pensons qu'il est possible de rentabiliser l'usine en l'aidant à améliorer rapidement sa productivité. » Pierre Fitzgibbon, ministre de l'Économie et de l'Innovation et ministre responsable de la région de Lanaudière.

« Comme député de Papineau et ministre responsable de l'Outaouais, je suis

heureux de voir notre gouvernement agir en vue d'aider cette entreprise importante pour l'économie de Papineau et de la région. Une fermeture définitive entraînerait des répercussions importantes sur l'économie de la région. Il est donc essentiel de soutenir les travailleurs et leurs familles. Ce sont des gens que l'on côtoie tous les jours. Il importe maintenant de prendre les moyens requis pour redresser la situation, et nous sommes là pour donner un coup de main en ce sens. » Mathieu Lacombe, député de Papineau, ministre de la Famille et ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais.

« L'aide financière annoncée est non seulement nécessaire pour Fortress, mais aussi pour bien des entreprises qui ont tissé des liens d'affaires avec elle. C'est donc tout un réseau, mais également un levier économique majeur, que nous souhaitons préserver en lui prêtant main-forte. L'un des buts de notre gouvernement est de maximiser le plein potentiel du secteur forestier afin de contribuer à créer de la richesse dans toutes les régions du Québec. C'est ce qui nous anime, et c'est pourquoi nous tenons à

appuyer de la meilleure façon possible les entreprises de ce secteur. » Pierre Dufour, ministre des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs et ministre responsable de la région de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et de la région du Nord-du-Québec.

En 2010, la société Fortress Cellulose Spécialisée a acquis l'usine de pâte kraft située à Thurso, en Outaouais. L'usine était alors fermée et Fortress projetait de la convertir à la production de pâte dissolvante. L'établissement d'une usine de cogénération de 24 mégawatts était aussi prévu.

Le gouvernement du Québec a participé au financement de ce projet en consentant un prêt de 102 millions de dollars sur un coût total projeté de 175 millions de dollars. Le coût final du projet a toutefois atteint 300 millions de dollars, soit un dépassement de 125 millions de dollars, ce qui a nui à la performance de Fortress. Le gouvernement du Québec a accepté, en mai 2019, de modifier le décret existant afin de prolonger le moratoire sur le remboursement du prêt de 102 millions de dollars jusqu'au 31 mars 2022.

Une édition spéciale pour la Semaine québécoise du traumatisme craniocérébral

GOUV. DU QUÉBEC

Communiqué

TCC Le 8 oct. 2019

Saviez-vous que près de 5,5 millions de personnes dans le monde subissent chaque année un traumatisme craniocérébral (TCC) sévère? Pour informer davantage la population sur cet enjeu de société, les 13 associations membres de Connexion TCC.QC (Regroupement des associations de personnes traumatisées craniocérébrales du Québec) s'unissent pour la tenue de la 16e Semaine provinciale dédiée au TCC qui tournera autour de la thématique du handicap invisible. Du 15 au 22 octobre prochains, de nombreuses activités seront proposées partout au Québec. L'animateur Maxime Charbonneau agira comme ambassadeur de l'événement.

Trois lettres qui changent des vies pour toute la vie

Cette semaine spéciale est l'unique fois dans l'année où le traumatisme craniocérébral est abordé publiquement sur un territoire aussi étendu, de concert avec les organismes du milieu dans le but de mettre en lumière le TCC et les personnes qui le subissent à travers la province. Le slogan de la semaine, « TCC, trois lettres qui changent des vies », est le reflet du sort réservé aux victimes, mais également à leurs proches. Cette condition cause une véritable rupture : la personne touchée doit tout réapprendre dans le cas d'un TCC sévère, mais la famille et les amis doivent aussi faire connaissance avec une nouvelle personne et apprendre à vivre avec elle, voire l'accompagner au quotidien.

dien.

Un fléau méconnu qui touche plusieurs millions de personnes

Chaque TCC est unique. Il atteint un organe extrêmement complexe et, selon l'endroit touché, la réadaptation et l'aide de l'entourage, il inflige des séquelles variables. Il importe donc que le grand public comprenne ce que vivent quotidiennement les personnes TCC qui doivent souvent expliquer des comportements causés par leur traumatisme (perte de mémoire, d'équilibre, anxiété, irritabilité, désinhibition, fatigabilité, etc.) afin d'éviter de passer pour des personnes séniles, alcoolisées, hystériques, perverses ou paresseuses. Les associations membres de Connexion TCC.QC offrent annuellement des services à plus de 2 000 victimes, et contribuent à faciliter la vie de ces personnes, qui sont de plus en plus nombreuses, car on ne guérit pas d'un TCC (modéré et sévère).

Rappelons que chaque année, dans le monde, 5,48 millions de personnes subissent un TCC sévère[1]. Au Québec, la majorité des TCC modérés ou graves sont causés par des chutes (dans 66 per centage et 74 per centage des cas) et par des accidents de véhicule à moteur (dans 15 per centage et 21 per centagedes cas)[2]. Au Canada, en 2000-2001, les coûts directs associés au TCC s'élevaient à 151,7 millions de dollars[3]. Chez nos voisins du sud, on estime à 1 % le nombre de personnes qui vivent avec un TCC[4].

La 16e édition de la Semaine du traumatisme craniocérébral sera également l'occasion de célébrer

les 20 ans de Connexion >TCC.QC, l'organisme qui coordonne l'événement depuis ses débuts. Une trentaine d'activités, une soirée spéciale Coup d'Chapeau ouverte à tous et une campagne de sensibilisation en ligne sont entre autres au programme. Deux colloques aborderont le sujet avec des intervenants reconnus dans le milieu de la traumatologie et de l'intervention : un à Val-d'Or (18 octobre) et un à Montréal, Le Jour d'Après (21 et 22 octobre). Dans la région de Québec, Le Défi des marches (20 octobre) offrira la possibilité d'allier sport et solidarité, tandis que le Bal capeauté de Montérégie (16 octobre) permettra de partager un moment convivial et festif. Par ailleurs, des actions de sensibilisation seront déployées sur tout le territoire, entre autres dans les milieux scolaires, les centres commerciaux, et le métro.

Connexion TCC.QC organise aussi des actions d'ampleur provinciale. Du 15 au 22 octobre, le Regroupement stimulera la participation du public avec le Défi Coup d'Chapeau sur les médias sociaux, permettant de gagner un chapeau Fumile. Il fera également appel à l'émotion et à la curiosité avec la diffusion d'une capsule vidéo humoristique sur le handicap invisible accompagnée d'une entrevue de trois personnes ayant subi un TCC (aussi acteurs de la capsule de sensibilisation) revenant sur leur expérience.

Pour finir la semaine en beauté, La Soirée Coup d'Chapeau, célébrant les 20 ans de Connexion TCC.QC, se tiendra le 22 octobre des 19 h à Montréal au Café du

Monument-National. Elle sera animée par Maxime Charbonneau, l'ambassadeur de l'événement, qui est la personne tout indiquée pour représenter le public. L'activité favorisera le partage de connaissances concernant ce phénomène d'ampleur et invitiera la population à faire preuve de solidarité à l'égard des personnes touchées par le TCC.

Pour tout savoir sur la programmation de la Semaine du traumatisme craniocérébral, rendez-vous au connexionccqc.ca/evenements/sqtc et au facebook.com/sqtc, et suivez le mot-clic #tcc3lettres sur les médias sociaux. Le Regroupement des personnes traumatisées craniocérébrales du Québec est un interlocuteur privilégié en matière de besoins et de services offerts aux associations qui accompagnent les personnes ayant subi un traumatisme craniocérébral et leurs proches. Plus précisément, il a pour mission de regrouper, de soutenir, de représenter et de favoriser la concertation de ses 13 associations membres situées partout au Québec.

À propos de la Semaine québécoise du traumatisme craniocérébral

Elle a été créée en 2004 dans le but d'informer et de sensibiliser le public. Des thématiques permettent de faire varier l'angle avec lequel le sujet est abordé, mettant en lumière les réalités multiples du quotidien d'une personne traumatisée craniocérébrale. Ainsi, pendant une semaine, le Québec vit au rythme des nombreuses actions organisées par les associations membres pour lever le voile sur le TCC et ses conséquences.

Ces sommes pour la rénovation de nos écoles viennent s'ajouter à un investissement sans précédent de 1,7 milliard de dollars annoncé plus tôt cet été pour la construction et l'agrandissement d'écoles.

Les montants pour chacune des régions du Québec seront dévoilés dans les prochaines semaines par les ministres titulaires.

La liste complète des projets de rénovation, par écoles, sera connue pour sa part au cours de l'automne.

Voici la répartition des montants par commissions scolaires :

Commission scolaire des Draveurs, 28 796 663 \$; Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais, 28 200 243 \$; Commission scolaire au Coeur-des-Vallées 13 903 897 \$; Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais, 8 116 517 \$; Western Québec, 18 691 628 \$; Total : 97 708 948 \$.

Work on Portage water lines almost done



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

Work on Portage du Fort’s water lines began on Sept. 15 and is expected to be completed this week. The project involves innovative technology called Aqua-Pipe, which is guaranteed to prolong the town’s aqueduct system by another 50 years.

J.D. POTIÉ
PORTAGE DU FORT
Oct 16, 2019

Residents of Portage du Fort should expect less problems with their town’s water system going forward, as a modernized overhaul of the municipality’s water pipes nears completion.

According to the municipality’s Director General Lisa Dagenais, the project, which has closed a portion of rue l’Eglise for the past month, involves the structural rehabilitation of clean drinking water distribution by jacketing the interior of the town’s pipes.

She explained that the town hired a company to add a durable liner inside the drinking water pipes on rue l’Eglise, which will most likely prevent any busted pipes and releases anytime soon.

Undertaken by Quebec based environmental services company Sanexen, the project’s manager Samuel Trudeau said that the new system is guaranteed to prolong the water system’s lifespan by another 50 years.

Funded through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s gas tax from 2014-2018, Dagenais noted that the project received a \$440,000 subsidy from the federal and Quebec governments.

She added that Portage du Fort is one of the first municipalities in the region to implement the modernized aqueduct system known as Aqua-Pipe.

Dagenais explained that an upgrade to its water distribution system was imminent because the town’s pipes were getting

too old, which lead to a lot of broken, frozen pipes and shortages of clean drinking water in the winter.

“We shouldn’t have any problems this winter or any breaks on the aqueduct system on rue l’Eglise because of this,” she said.

Along with a free-flow of clean drinking water at all times of the year, Dagenais also said the Aqua-Pipe system will help the municipality minimize its costs on repairs and replacements.

“When you have to dig in the winter and there’s a foot of ice on the ground, it costs a lot to the municipality,” she said.

Trudeau said that using Aqua-Pipe prevented them from demolishing a large portion of rue l’Eglise, which ended up saving overall cost as well.

“We’re really minimizing the impact on citizens and the users of the road,” he said.

By digging six access wells, workers used a small robot to enter the town’s aqueduct system and operate from inside the water pipes.

“We’re doing a pipe within a pipe,” he said. “We install a sheath inside the aqueduct’s pipes.”

The project is completed in two stages: blocking off the system’s service entrances and installing a sheath inside the pipes; piercing open the entry points. The final product will be 405 metres of rigid sheath protecting the interior of the town’s water pipes on rue l’Eglise.

The six-week project began on Sept. 15 and is expected to be completed by the end of this week, according to Dagenais.



Quyon
JILL YOUNG

819-918-0623 jillianyoung6@gmail.com

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. We had a delicious family turkey dinner at my sister and brother-in-law’s in Chelsea, Que. at the foot of the Gatineau Hills. We not only celebrated all we have to be grateful for, but we also celebrated my nephew Caden’s 14th birthday.

On Sunday, after a Thanksgiving church service which saw the sanctuary bursting with bountiful harvest decor, we went to Caden’s hockey game in Hull. We then spent the late afternoon touring the back roads of the Pontiac, enjoying the gorgeous fall colours. It has been absolutely stunning this year. What a fabulous Thanksgiving it was. Happy first birthday to

Luna Watson as she celebrates today. I’d also like to send birthday wishes to my aunt Brenda Young, celebrating on Oct. 22. Blessings to everyone celebrating this week.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Lois (Martineau) Young as she passed away on October 8. Her loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers.

One of my favourite days of the year is coming up this Saturday. The Quyon Lionettes Car Rally is happening and it is always such a fun event. I am looking forward to hitting the road with my teammates. I can’t wait to see what the organizers have in store for us this year. Wishing everyone the best of luck on this year’s rally.

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Δ Visit onstar.ca for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle’s built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.