

THE EQUITY

Merry Christmas



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

On Dec. 12, the Centre Intégré de Santé et des Services Sociaux de l’Outaouais (CISSSO), held a press conference to address the 10th temporary closure of Pontiac Community Hospital’s (PCH) obstetrics unit since September – a breach in services that will take place from Dec. 13 to Jan. 3 at 8 a.m. Pictured, CISSSO’s Director of Nursing Care Marie-Eve Cloutier speaks to the media during the event.

Obstetrics closed for the holidays

J.D. POTIÉ
GATINEAU Dec. 12, 2019

Due to severe staffing shortages, the Centre Intégré de Santé et des Services Sociaux de l’Outaouais (CISSSO) announced that obstetric services at the Pontiac Community Hospital (PCH) will be closed for 21 days - Dec. 13 to Jan. 3, at 8 a.m.

With the last closure of the service taking place the previous weekend, the announcement marked the 10th time PCH was forced to shut down its obstetrics department since the beginning of September.

According to a press release issued on Dec. 12, the CISSSO is determined to maintain the service. However, to ensure that hospital personnel don’t get overworked, the CISSSO determined that there was no other choice but to take time off and give staff

members a chance to catch their breath.

It added that, since last July, the organization has taken a number of steps in an effort to deal with the serious labour shortage in the region.

Among other things, the actions taken have included soliciting nurses in the Outaouais to offer their services to PCH, the hiring of three new nurses – two of which have started training in obstetrics – and a promotional campaign and intense social media presence geared towards attracting nurses and doctors to the Pontiac.

Actions currently being carried out by CISSSO to address the situation at PCH include an open house event in the Pontiac, the evaluation of the quality and security of the hospital’s obstetrics department as well as work aiming to evaluate the implementa-

tion of a system managed by a team of midwives.

The press release added that all pregnant women who have been evaluated at PCH have been contacted and will be transferred to the Gatineau Hospital. In the case of a pregnant woman showing up to PCH in a state of emergency, a qualified staff member will be on location to assist them.

Shortly after the press release was issued, around a dozen members of local media gathered for a press conference at the CISSSO office in Gatineau to get some insight on the matter.

CISSSO’s Director of Nursing Care, Marie-Eve Cloutier, said it was a difficult decision to make and that she recognizes the significant impact the shutdown has on expecting mothers and their loved ones.

“We are working on stabilizing the situation as

quickly as possible,” she said. “We didn’t want to have this breach for so long.”

Despite a number of Montreal-based nurses and others from Gatineau making a trips to PCH to fill in gaps over the last few months, Cloutier said that only eight out of 42 nursing shifts in the 21-day window are covered.

“Nurses in the Pontiac take the hospital to heart and they work very hard to maintain the service,” she said. “However, taking into account the amount of resources we have for the period, we took measures with the Ministry [of health and social services of Quebec] (MSSQ) to extend it to Jan. 3.”

She noted that one out of every three nursing shifts at PCH is being carried out on overtime hours.

Please see CLOSED page two

Sorting Centre announces layoffs

CALEB NICKERSON
LITCHFIELD Dec. 13, 2019

On Friday morning, a press conference was called at the offices of the Pontiac Sorting Centre to announce that they would be laying off 32 workers and closing their facility to the public. The conference was attended by Mayors John Armstrong (Clarendon), Lynne Cameron (Portage du Fort) and Colleen Larivière (Litchfield) as well as Warden Jane Toller.

The site’s director of operations Gerry Philippe explained that the layoffs were due to the company’s difficulties in dealing with the provincial Ministry of Environment.

In February of this year, the Sorting Centre, located on a portion of the Litchfield Industrial Park property, was slapped with more than \$40,000 in fines from the Ministry for several infractions, including the improper storage of waste, dating back several years.

Philippe explained that they had been trying to get approval for a technical landfill on a separate section of the property, which already houses a former dump site that was used during the decommissioning of the former paper mill, which would allow them to dispose of residual materials like asbestos. He had received a verbal assurance from an official at the ministry when the site was purchased that the authorization would only take a few months, but those months stretched into several years.

“Our reality is such that until a time where we can get the certificate of authorization for the landfill ... then it’s very difficult for us to do something, because all the debris that we have, all incoming matter, have to be shipped to Lachute,” he said. “Now we all know that going to Lachute and back is about a five hour trip all together. So you make two trips a day, it can add up to be very, very costly.”

“We’ve undergone an ordinance from the Ministry of Environment, which has been very costly, which has drawn the majority of our funds actually,” he continued. “So we’ve come to a point where our sister company [Amor Construction] will be taking over the cleaning operations for the rest of the ordinance regulations or requests and then. They will decide what happens afterwards.”

Amor Construction will now use the site as a private sorting centre for their waste, meaning that demolition debris that they had been accepting from areas affected by the spring flooding would also have to be shipped to Lachute, at great cost.

“We’re trying to supply a service, not only to the municipalities and the MRC, but to all those companies that come here, we’ve got probably about 150 companies that come here with asphalt shingles for example, or construction debris, or things like this,” he said.

Please see LAYOFFS page two



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

Gerry Philippe, the director of operations at the Pontiac Sorting Centre, announced on Friday that the company would be laying off 32 employees, due to difficulties they’ve had dealing with the Ministry of Environment. The company was fined more than \$40,000 earlier this year for a slew of non-compliance issues dating back several years.

Campbell’s Bay fire leaves half-dozen homeless



Photo submitted

Fire tore through a triplex on rue Patterson in Campbell’s Bay early Wednesday morning, leaving six tenants, including a family of four, homeless. The blaze was apparently caused by an accident with a deep fryer.

CALEB NICKERSON
CAMPBELL’S BAY Dec. 11, 2019

Early Wednesday morning, a fire tore through a triplex in Campbell’s Bay, leaving a family and two other tenants homeless.

Fire crews were called to a structural fire, located at 5 rue Patterson at 12:28 a.m. Dec. 11. Five trucks and 17 firefighters responded from the Campbell’s Bay-Litchfield Department, with an additional truck and six firefighters dispatched from the Shawville-Clarendon Department.

CB-LFD Fire Chief Kevin Kluge said that the building was fully involved by the time they arrived, and residents had already evacuated the premises. Crews worked quickly to prevent the fire from doing damage to a neighbouring house, which was located just six feet from the burning building. Kluge said that they defended the home with ample amounts of water.

“We fought it quite aggressively to keep it at bay,” he said, adding that the cause of the blaze was deemed accidental.

The crew from Shawville left around four in the morning, Kluge said, and the Campbell’s Bay-Litchfield personnel were on scene until about 10:30 a.m., extinguishing hot spots.

Please see FIRE page two

& Happy New Year

CLOSED: 3 week break in OBS

Continued from front page
According to a story published by Radio-Canada at noon that day, a Mansfield et Pontefract woman, Anik Lavigne, is questioning the impact of the staff shortages after her newborn son, Oly, passed away from post-birth complications at three-days old. Lavigne said she started experiencing serious abdominal pain and internal bleeding, 36 weeks into her pregnancy. Over a stretch of nine days, she consulted professionals at the CLSC in Fort Coulonge, at PCH and even took an ultrasound at the

Gatineau hospital. But every time, staff told her everything was normal. The story explained that Lavigne wasn't aware, at the time, that PCH had been experiencing a severe labour shortage and that obstetrics services would be repetitively shut down days after the birth of her child. Once the baby was born by caesarean on the afternoon of Sept. 22, it was discovered that the baby was severely lacking oxygen, which affected his kidneys and liver. Later that evening, the baby was transferred to the Children's Hospital of

Eastern Ontario (CHEO), where doctors determined that the child had no cerebral activity. Three days later, Oly was declared deceased with the official cause of death being "hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy". In the article, Lavigne said that if an obstetrics specialist was on hand at the time of her arrival at PCH, the death of her child could have potentially been prevented. During Thursday's press conference, Cloutier noted that the death had nothing to do with problems with PCH's obstetrics

unit since the hospital had a full staff of qualified, experienced obstetrics nurses on hand. She added that the Ontario Coroner's Office is conducting an investigation on the matter and that CISSSO is equally looking into finding ways to improve its services and prevent such an incident from happening again. "We are putting together measures to make sure we have complete diffusion of the situation ... and that we can put together necessary measures to ensure improvement," Cloutier said.

LAYOFFS: 32 let go from centre



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY
The Sorting Centre owns the property that contains a large land fill formerly used by the paper mill that used to occupy the site. They have been treating leachate from the site in the hopes that they will be able to use a nearby plot for their own landfill.

Continued from front page
Philippe said that they had been working extensively with the Ministry of Environment, participating in numerous site visits and emailing dozens of reports to their office. He said that the landfill site is already conforms to provincial regulations and the problem lies with the bureaucracy. He said the

Sorting Centre has had to file the same documents or answer the same questions multiple times, and ministry officials often take days or weeks to respond. "The worst part of it all, is we got a phone call about three and a half weeks ago from one of the civil servants over at the ministry and he said, 'That's it, no more

questions, everything is ok, we have all the legal documents, the plans, everything. Right now what I'm doing is writing the actual certificate of authorization," Philippe explained. "So we thought, 'Ok good. A week, maybe two, we'll get it.' We inquired after and they said, 'Yeah we wrote it, however, it's under consideration within the office, and you'll get an answer in due course.' Well in due course could be next week, next month, next year, 10 years. We just don't know. How can you operate a business like that?" Site manager Raymond Durocher explained that they already pump out the leachate from the dump site and pay to have it treated at UTEAU, which is located on the other side of the Industrial Park. He said that the Ministry's rules aren't being applied evenhandedly, compared to the procedures they see at the landfill in Lachute. "I'm not against the procedure, because it's a health issue," he said, referring to the

extensive precautions they take to transport asbestos. "But when it gets to Lachute my friend, there's no procedure. The guy dumps the load and there's a bulldozer right behind him to bury it. That's it, that's all." Durocher was visibly upset by the prospect of laying off employees so close to Christmas, and also the ripple effect that it would bring to contractors that use the site. He said that two local companies had purchased equipment to haul demolition waste from the floods to the site, and would now have to reassess their business models. Philippe also thanked the local officials for their motions in support of the facility at MRC and municipal councils. He added that he hoped the measures were only temporary. Warden Toller reiterated her support for the site and said she would bring the subject up in her meetings with both the Ministry of Environment and Minister Responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe.

Agriculture students honoured

J.D. POTIÉ
CAMPBELL'S BAY
Dec. 13, 2019

Heritage College's Pontiac Campus in Campbell's Bay was packed on Friday, as around 30 local residents gathered for a holiday luncheon and to recognize two students for their outstanding commitment and perseverance in the school's agriculture education programs. Presented by the campus' manager Greg Graham and its Director General Gordon McIvor, the event celebrated the achievements of Shawville-native Jennifer McCagg and Ellen Rice-Hogan from Venosta, who have both completed two out of three attestations from the campus' agriculture studies program and are in the midst of completing the third and final one.

After a brief period of socializing, McIvor opened the event with a word of welcome where he thanked everyone for attending the ceremony. He spoke about his origin in the field of education and brought up the significance of the countless sacrifices that students make to be able to attend college, before wishing everyone a happy new year. Graham followed up with a speech of his own where he read brief stories about each of the laureates before announcing their names and presenting them with certificates. After earning full marks in Cattle Production Management, as well as Agritourism and



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY
On Dec. 13, Heritage College Campus in Campbell's Bay held an awards ceremony to recognize two students – Jennifer McCagg and Ellen Rice-Hogan – for their relentless dedication to the school's agriculture education programs. Pictured, McCagg (far left) and Rice-Hogan (centre) accept their awards from the school's Chairman Chris Gelin, campus manager Greg Graham and Director General Gordon McIvor.

Diversified Productions, McCagg and Rice-Hogan are currently undertaking Management of the Farm Enterprise. After receiving her award, McCagg said she was very surprised to have received the honour and that she was very pleased to have been recognized by the school. "It feels like I've accomplished a lot," she said. With plans of starting her own sheep and beef cattle farm by the beginning of next year, McCagg said her experience at Heritage will be very beneficial for her career, noting that it really opened her eyes to the world of finance and how important managing it is to operating a business.

"It helps because now I'll have resources in order to build my business," she said. "This year really focused on finances and stuff like that and I'm not very good with numbers. But they're making me good with numbers." "I think one of the most important parts of coming here to receive this education is to learn something that you're not comfortable with that will help you with your business," she added. "For me it's finances for sure." According to Graham, who said he loves to celebrate his students every chance he gets, the event was an opportunity for the school to shine light on McCagg and Rice-Hogan's

momentous accomplishment and to recognize the hard work they had been doing while no one was watching. "It's not easy doing these Agriculture Education Classes," he said. "To do the three of them, it's a big deal. We've got many people in the region who have graduated and done it. But it's a lot of effort, a lot of time and a lot of money that they have to sacrifice to do it. Because they're not kids, they're adults. So, they're on their own, they've got bills to pay. A lot of them have families to take care of. It's a lot of work." For Graham, seeing the two students be recognized was a very proud moment as an educator. Having seen the put forth so many positive strides in their careers over the last couple of years, Graham noted just how much they had grown in their time at the school and how excited he is to see them move on with their lives. "I got to meet them when they first showed up ... you really get to see change, as they learn these skills and then they start working in the industry and making contacts," he said. "They're the future of agriculture out here," he added. "It's amazing to see, especially these two young women who are getting ready to take that next huge step in their careers." Following the ceremony, attendees stuck around to socialize and indulge in a tasty holiday meal.



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New DG at Le Patro



Photo submitted

On Dec. 11, Le Patro in Mansfield et Pontefract announced the nomination of Suzanne Dazé as its newest Director General. With 15 years of experience with the organization, Dazé's job will focus on ensuring the quality coordination of employees, submitting grant applications and raising funds for the organization.

J.D. POTIE
**MANSFIELD ET
PONTEFRAC**
Dec. 18, 2019

Last week, Le Patro in Mansfield et Pontefract announced, via its Facebook page, the nomination of its newest Director General, Suzanne Dazé.

According to the press release, Dazé boasts 15 years of experience with the organization and her knowledge of the area along with her numerous accomplishments over her tenure made her the best candidate for the position.

Dazé will be replacing Father Marc Frappier who had served with Le Patro for over three decades and the organization wishes him all the best.

Dazé said she applied for the job earlier this fall, when Le Patro announced that the position was going to be open.

"They did interviews," she said. "They had a number of candidates and I think I was chosen, largely based on the experience I had accumulated over the course of the last 15 years."

Coming off a one-year sabbatical, Dazé noted that she hadn't been envisioning the position for very long before submitting her application.

"I wasn't sure if I'd ever come back to work," she said. "But then, I was proposed to come around and help out a bit with the organization's current board of directors."

Around the premises on a gradually more regular basis, Dazé realized that she simply couldn't stay away from Le Patro and that perhaps applying for the Director General job wasn't a bad idea.

Knowing it was a big task to handle, Dazé said she pondered her options for as long as she could, making sure she considered every consequence, before making her decision.

"I applied on the last day before the deadline," she said. It was a delicate decision to make when you have a family, a spouse and an organization that demands a lot of your time, you have to commit yourself to staying involved and working while not damaging your family life at the same time."

Previously, Dazé had worked with Le Patro as an administrative secretary, specializing in all sorts of paperwork-related duties, including accounting. After a few years, she got involved in event coordinating where she ran community activities, submitted grant applications and made a lot of relationships with local residents, organizations and educational institutions.

"Schools knew me because I regularly went to schools in Fort Coulonge," she said. "Le Patro was offering activities, so I went to do them."

"I did grant applications and also participated in all of the municipality's programs," she added. "I also involved myself with partners, meetings and all that. So, I kind of got used to everything that happened and that's how I got the experience to be able to apply for the job."

Along with the overall functioning of the organization, Dazé said her responsibilities as Le Patro's DG will be to ensure quality coordination of employees and to raise funds to subsidize the organization's numerous community initiatives and events.

Having been chosen by members of the organization's administrative council, Dazé said she felt very touched because it proves that her relentless dedication and countless efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

"It shows that the people with the organization know what I have to offer," she said. "For the community, it's touching to see them tell me 'Suzanne, you're going to do a great job.'"

While the opportunity does provide a sense of uneasiness and unpredictability, Dazé said she feels comforted knowing that she has a great supporting cast of family, friends and co-workers to help her out when she needs it.

"It's a little bit scary and very demanding," she said. "But I have a lot of help around me."

Along with plenty of experience in the field like in the office, Dazé said her likeable personality, open-mindedness and willingness to seek out assistance in times of need will greatly benefit her en route to plenty of success in her new position.

"I'm very sociable and people aren't afraid to approach me and discuss things," she said. "I'm very open to discussions about new projects and things like that and I'm very fast when it comes to answering e-mails, submitting grant applications."

"I'm not afraid of seeking help and asking for it when there's a conflict somewhere," she added. "I try to do everything but with help. I don't take all the responsibilities because at some point it's too much. So, it's important to have good support."

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William Amos
Member of Parliament — Pontiac

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From my family to yours, happy holidays!

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Community organizations donate big to Bouffe



Photo submitted

On Monday, Bouffe Pontiac received two generous donations from local community groups. In the morning, the Mansfield Fire Department dropped off a staggering pile of gifts from this year's Angel Tree, meaning that nearly 90 underprivileged children will have gifts this Christmas. Above, from left: Sylvain Bégin, Kim Laroche and Guy Rivet.

Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

In the afternoon, the Bryson Lions Club stopped by to donate \$450 and 65.1 kg. of food items that the club had raised through the proceeds of their senior's supper. Below, from left: Laroche, Betty Leach and Paul Lacroix.



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Comets profiles: Maxime Belley

by J.D. Potié



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

The Pontiac Senior Comets are currently in the midst of their most successful run in franchise history and Gatineau-native defenseman Maxime Belley has played a significant factor on both ends of the ice. Pictured, Belley glides through the handshake line after assisting a first-period goal against Mont-Tremblant on Nov. 30.

he 2019-20 Pontiac Senior Comets are in the midst of their hottest stretch in franchise history, rallying off eight straight wins.

With six (three goals, three assists) points in 11 games Comets' defenseman Maxime Belley has been a steady presence on the back-end and a key cog in what's been a well-oiled machine as of late.

Belley is thrilled to have seen the team catch fire like it has. With a lot of hockey still left to played, however, he's hopeful that the group can remain cohesive and play to the best of its abilities for the remainder of the season.

"It's always great to win," he said. "The atmosphere is great with the guys in the dressing room. We're having fun. For sure, the start of the season was difficult. But we felt like we never gave up and that we have a lot of character on this team. I hope it continues like this."

Growing up in Gatineau, Belley has played almost his entire career representing his hometown. Obsessed with hockey from a young age, he played mostly at the BB level for Gatineau before playing in Midget AA for the Outaouais Intrepide in his final year.

He attended l'École Secondaire Nicolas Gatineau where he developed in their Sport Études hockey program. Playing on a regular basis alongside other people who were equally passionate about the game, he believes his time at the school played a significant role in his development as a player and as a person.

"We practiced almost every day," he said. "So, for sure you improve and I think it's a great school of life. The coaches know what to do to make us players and people as well. As an individual, you develop a lot more than in regular school."

Always striving to reach his highest potential, Belley remembers spending a large portion of his childhood attached to the game he loved.

"When I was a baby, I would wander around carrying a mini-stick and played everywhere in the house," he said. "My dad made me skate when I was three years-old. I was always playing hockey or watching hockey and could never get enough of it."

Growing up with two older siblings 10 and 14 years older than he was Belley believes his daily surroundings were very beneficial to his maturity and character on and off the ice.

"When I was young, I was more of a sore loser," he said. "At some point, I realized that, in hockey, you can't have an attitude like that if you want to go far. It really helped me change my attitude."

As a dominant young player, Belley said that – despite his natural offensive instincts and dynamic skillset – he was interested in becoming a defenseman because it would put him in a position to see the ice even more. Looking up to NHL superstars like Ray Bourque and Paul Coffey, Belley modeled his style of play after some of his favorite pro defensemen.

"I'm a player with a pretty good IQ," he said. "So, I like being behind the play, to start nice plays and I enjoy carrying the puck."

After his final year of Midget, Belley attended the Gatineau Mustangs Junior B tryouts in Buckingham, Que. While he didn't expect much initially, the Mustangs head coach at the time, Pierre Grandmaison, noticed Belley's abilities and selected him on the team.

"It's a little bit of an open try out. The coach spotted me, he was making cuts, but he kept me and kept me and I eventually made the team."

"The first year I wasn't expecting to make it," he added. "I was surprised and I was really happy."

In his first year with the Mustangs (2013-14), Belley put up 10 points (two goals, eight assists) in 35 games, helping the team finish fourth place in the Metro division in the Eastern Ontario Junior Hockey League (EOJHL).

Struggling to find his groove for the better part of his first Junior season, Belley admitted that the league's rugged style of play made the transition from minor hockey to the Junior level less seamless than he would've liked.

"The style of play is very different," he said. "In my first year of Junior, it was a little bit intimidating. You arrive and you're a 17-18 year-old kid going up against 20-21 year-olds and there are fights. You had to keep it in account, so it plays on the mind."

Along with completely changing positions, being slotted as

a forward after playing his entire career on defense, Belley noted that Junior hockey forced him out of his comfort zone in a number of ways.

"I went from a player who was 100 per cent offensive, to a two-way player – someone who's good defensively who can also produce offensively," he said.

During the following season, one that Belley recalls being the most memorable of his career, he put up 23 points (12 goals, 11 assists) in 39 games, helping his team clinch second place in the Metro division along with a berth in the conference finals. Putting a cherry on the cake, his Mustangs also qualified for the Dodge Cup where they won their way to the knockout stage before being eliminated in the semi-finals.

"All the guys were one big family," he said. "Everyone loved one another, we had each other's backs. It was really great. We were very well treated by the organization. There were a lot of great moments. The team had a lot of success that year."

For his third and final year of Junior, Belley had to find another place to play since the Gatineau Flames had been removed from the EOJHL. During the offseason, he spoke with Grandmaison, who had been named as the first head coach of the newly established Quebec Junior AAA Hockey League (QJAAAHL) team, the Gatineau Flames.

Knowing he could rely on his abilities with a young expansion club, Grandmaison was interested in acquiring Belley's services and invited him to try out for the team.

"I had to decide 'Should I play hockey just for fun in Junior C or should I step up and play my final year in Junior AAA?'" he said. "So, I showed up to try outs and I made the Junior AAA team."

In his lone season as a Flame, Belley scored 24 points (nine goals, 15 assists) in 54 games, while playing alongside Comets teammate Hugo Petit. While his team didn't experience much success – winning seven games all season – Belley felt like his time in Junior AAA was extremely positive for his growth as a player.

Transitioning from a more systemic and defensive game in the EOJHL to the high-flying open style of play in the QJAAAHL, Belley said he had to sharpen up his skating and stickhandling skills in order to keep up with the phenoms of the league.

"In Junior AAA there were guys that – most of them were drafted in the QMJHL – were all amazing hockey players," he said. "It really benefitted me, playing with really good players against other good players ... I think I really progressed even if we didn't have a good year as a team."

"Playing against talented players, with talented players, you don't have a choice but to improve if you want to keep up with the game," he added.

Once his Junior career was over, Belley was still hungry to play hockey.

While he didn't receive calls to go pro like he dreamed of as a kid, he did get in touch with University of Ottawa Gee-Gees head coach Patrick Grandmaire who proposed him the idea of trying out for the team.

In the process of bringing back its hockey team, after a two-year hiatus, Belley said he was interested in joining the Gee-Gees.

But already studying administrative finance at l'Université du Québec en Outaouais in Hull, at the time, he wasn't ready to throw away the progress he had made for something that wasn't guaranteed.

"I was already at UQO, I was in University in Hull already," he said. "To do the try out, I had to be a student at the University of Ottawa and I didn't want to take any chances of changing universities and not making the team."

Plus, with tuition fees significantly lower and the commute less of a pain at UQO, he decided it was best to stick with what he had going on and essentially call it a career.

However, during the offseason, Belley spoke with one of his old Mustang teammates David Ouellette who said he was returning home to Beloeil, Que. to play senior hockey since his Junior years had come to a close.

"We stayed in touch and I asked him how he liked things over there," Belley said. "He said things were great. So, he talked to his coach about me joining the team"

At the start of the 2017-18 season, Belley travelled to Beloeil to join the Riverains of the Richelieu Senior Hockey League (RSHL) for a one-game trial to see if he wanted to stick around

and if the team was interested in what he had to offer.

After officially joining the team, Belley played nine games with the Riverains, putting up three points. While he was happy to still be playing hockey in a competitive setting, he admitted that he didn't exactly enjoy his time in the league mainly because of what kind of hockey it offered.

"It wasn't really my style of play," he said. "It's a league that's really physical. There are a lot of big guys, a lot of toughness and it wasn't my style of play. So, I didn't come back to play there after that. I have more fun playing here."

The following summer, Belley received a Facebook message from Comets' director of hockey operations, Sébastien Bonnerot, regarding an opportunity to join the newly established Pontiac Senior Comets.

After trying out his first game in the OSAHL, Belley realized that the league offered exactly what he had been missing – fast, offensive-based competitive hockey.

"Pretty much, it was the thrill of competitive hockey that I was missing," he said. "So, that's why I wanted to go back to playing hockey."

In his first season in Comets colours (2018-19), Belley played forward where he ended up fourth on the team in scoring, with 20 points (eight goals, 12 assists) in 18 games.

After enjoying himself so much during the team's inaugural season, Belley said he was thrilled about returning for another kick at the can when tryouts began back in July.

"It's a great group of guys and it's fun to have that feeling of seeing the guys every week," he said.

Playing a two-way forward role throughout his Junior career and during his first season with the Comets, Belley said that he spoke with head coach Jean-François Lavergne who previously knew him as an offensive defenseman and wanted to use him in such a role to help balance the Comets' dynamic lineup.

"Last year I played on offense and this year I went on defense," he said. "I spoke with J-F Lavergne ... since we already had a lot of forwards and we were lacking defensemen, he asked me to try things out on defense and he was happy with the job I did. So, we kept things going like that."

Away from the rink, the 24-year-old Gatineau native still resides in his hometown and is just about set to earn his Bachelor's degree in administrative finance from UQO.

Currently working for the federal government in Ottawa, Belley said he plans on continuing his career in the same field while playing the game he loves for as long as life allows him to.

"I'm still young and I have time," he said. "I live with my girlfriend and in a few years, I'll have a kid, a house, obligations and all that. So, I don't know if I'll be able to play for long. But for now, that's what I want to do."

The Parents' Voice

Christmas baking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

3. Have the proper ingredients and tools ready. Go through your recipe before hand (alone) to see what steps you will need to take and get everything you will need to use. Some little bakers aren't that patient when it comes to waiting.

4. Leave the neat freak out of the kitchen. Don't be afraid to get messy or for your workspace to get messy. Kids love being a part of the action but they are not at all careful. This past weekend we had the biggest flour explosion yet – my daughter looked at me and said, "I'm so sorry" – to which I replied, "It isn't a baking day without flour everywhere." Which was totally true. We cleaned up at the end. They love measuring, dumping, pouring and mixing. Let them enjoy being a part of the process and leave yourself a little extra time at the end to sweep or vacuum up the little spills. Don't forget to include little bakers in this process as well, they are great sweepers and vacuumers and dish dryers.

5. Have simple but important rules for working in the kitchen together. Always wash hands before helping with food prep (in our house they have to wash their hands for the length of time it takes to sing Happy Birthday), pay attention when using sharp tools or hot surfaces and follow directions!

6. When I consulted my husband about the most important tip for baking with children, we both agreed it's hands down having lots of patience. Steps need to be repeated, rules need to be repeated and praise needs to be given. A lot. So take a few deep breaths and remember that years from now they'll be telling friends and loved ones how much they enjoyed baking Christmas cookies before Christmas with their parents.

7. One last thing, if you choose recipes that can be personalized like sugar cookies or cupcakes let them decorate the way they see fit. Put out the decorations and set a few ground rules (i.e a spoonful of each type of sprinkle) and watch them be artistic. The type A in you has to take a hike for this part of the process). I find it very interesting watching each of my children go about this task differently. It really can tell you a lot about their personality.

However you and your family choose to prepare for Christmas, we wish you the Happiest and Merriest Christmas ever.

Oops!

In the story "Trees and Champagne Yoga" of the December 11 issue, we named the artist as Karen Zarcos when her name was in fact Karen Xarchos. THE EQUITY apologizes for the error.

Letters to the Editor

Email them to news@theequity.ca. Mail them by Canada Post to 133 Centre Street, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 or fax them to us at 819-647-2206. Opinions in the letters published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of THE EQUITY.

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Dancin’ and prancin’ across the rink



From left: Eleanor Landry, Ryker Long, Khl e Drummond and Logan Long hold one another as they skate to “Underneath the Tree”.

J.D. POTI 

SHAWVILLE Dec. 14, 2019

The Shawville Arena was packed on Saturday morning, as hundreds of people from the region filled the stands to watch local figure skating prodigies show off their latest choreographies during the Shawville Figure Skating Club’s annual Christmas Show and Bake Sale. Throughout the event, attendees cheered from the stands, as scores of skaters hit the ice in nearly 20 different choreographies set to a number of Christmas tunes.

The show included several group performances, as well as a number of trios, to songs like “Frosty the Snowman”, “Holly Jolly Christmas” and “Run, Run Rudolph”.

To cap things off in style, all skaters hit the ice to the sounds of “Do They Know It’s Christmas” for an epic finale.

Inside the lobby, Heidi Ardern from Hardy Plants sold colourful flower bouquets for the young skaters to receive at the end of their performances like in the Olympic Games.

Plus, a couple of volunteers sold a wide assortment of home-made baked goods to raise funds for the figure skating club.

According to Serena Larivi re, who’s in charge of the figure skating club’s fundraising initiatives, the event is one of the club’s biggest annual fundraisers and an opportunity for the club’s skaters to show off the benefits of their hard work over the course of the first half

of the season.

She explained that many of the participants have practiced up to three times per week leading up to the event.

“They work really hard,” she said. “They’ve put in a lot of hours and it’s really fun to have families come out to watch and see how much they’ve changed from the previous year; how much they’ve improved on what they’re working on.”

With many of the skaters, depending on their level, creating their own choreographies that coaches helped polish up before the big holiday showcase, Larivi re believed the experience was very beneficial for the participants.

“It’s really great,” she said. “It’s a lot of teamwork, the kids choose their costumes. It’s a good chance for them to work together and it’s a lot of fun.”

For Larivi re, who’s attended the event for the last 13 years, the showcase is a great reminder of just how impactful the community is in supporting the figure skating club’s initiatives.

“They always come out and support by donating baked goods, buying baked goods, making baked goods,” she said. “Even just by being in the crowd, it’s great support for the kids.”

With people packing both sides of the bleachers and the lobby bustling with traffic as well, Larivi re was thrilled with the number of people who came out and how the event proceeded.

“Both sides are full, the lobby’s full,” she said. “People are happy, they’re smiling. Everybody’s very happy with the turnout.”

For Larivi re, the best part about attending the event every year, besides watching her daughter and her friends perform, is seeing how close the participants are with one another

and how supportive they are of their peers.

“We do two shows per year and they’re probably our favourite parts of the year,” she said. “It’s great to see them on the ice, but one of our favourite things is the camaraderie in dressing rooms, helping each other and cheering each other on. It’s such a little family.”



On Dec. 14, the Shawville Figure Skating Club hosted it’s annual Christmas show and bake sale, drawing hundreds to fill the stands for the event. Pictured, Julia Lemay glides on one leg to the sound of “Make it to Christmas”.

Comets defeat Diablos 8-4

J.D. POTI 

OTTER LAKE

Dec. 14, 2019

The Pontiac Senior Comets have won their eighth straight game and second on the road, after eviscerating the Mont-Tremblant Diablos (3-8-1) by a score of 8-4 in their own barn on Saturday night.

With the result, the Comets sit in first place in the Outaouais Senior AA Hockey League (OSAAHL) standings with a 9-4-0 record, six points ahead of the second-place Maniwaki Forestiers.

Coming into the game against the last-ranked team in the league, the Comets knew that they had to come out strong and avoid complacency in order to come back home with the two points and extend its successful streak.

In the first period, the boys from Coulonge fell behind early, allowing two goals in the first eight minutes of the game, including a shorthanded marker.

But, just under 12 minutes in, Comet’s forward Matthew Warren reduced the deficit to one with his 11th goal of the campaign assisted by David Fouch  on the powerplay.

A little more than a minute later, Olivier Donovan’s made it 2-2 with his second goal of the season, set up by Hugo Petit and Fouch .

The Comet potent attack struck again with under three minutes left in the frame, as Ryan Peck made it 3-2 Comets with his third goal of the season. Assists came from defenseman Jeremy Picard Fiset and Maxime Belley.

In the second period, the Comets kept pressing and around seven and a half min-

utes in, Alek Deblois made it 4-2 with his second of the year assisted by Peck.

Around two minutes later, Beblois followed up with his second of the game making it 5-2, with help from Justin Charbonneau and Justin Lafleur.

At around the mid-way point of the period, the Diablos clawed themselves back in the game with two goals of their own.

However, with just under three minutes remaining in the frame, Peck doubled the Comets’ lead before Warren made it 7-4 with his 12th snipe of the season.

Coming into the third period, the Comets wanted to play solid, shut-down hockey for the final 20 minutes and did just that - preventing the Diablos from producing much anything offensively.

Just over 13 minutes into the frame, Comets’ captain Darcy Findlay put the nail in the coffin with his sixth tally of the season, assisted by Charbonneau and Lafleur.

With three points on the night (two goals, one assist), Peck received first star honours and Deblois took home the second star with a two-goal performance of his own.

After the game, Comets’ head coach Jean-Francois Lavergne said he was glad with his team’s performance, praising his player’s resiliency after going down a couple of goals in the early part of the game.

“We didn’t start things off very well,” he said. “We were a little bit unlucky early. But things changed quickly. We showed character even if we were down 2-0, we came back.”

Playing against a very hard-working Mont-Tremblant

side in their own building, Lavergne was thrilled with his team’s willingness to focus on its game plan and eventually come out with the win.

“Road games are ever easy,” he said. “We don’t have the last change, so we can’t really adjust to our opponent. So, we decided to play our way and I’m very satisfied with the result. I think the final score doesn’t necessarily reflect the game. It was a lot tighter than some people might think.”

Having won eight straight games, Lavergne pointed to consistent performances from his core of veterans leaders as well as his supporting cast as key factors in the team’s unprecedented run of success.

“No one panics on this team,” he said. “The guys know how they need to play to win and they’re conscious that there are other good teams in the league. There are never easy games.”

“Guys like Darcy [Findlay], Matt Warren, Dave Fouch er who don’t hesitate to speak up when things aren’t going well who set the example for other guys,” he said. “Others who are more obscure like Olivier Donovan, Ryan Peck, Ben Harris who are furious grinders, it rubs off on the rest of the team.”

Going forward, Lavergne said his team knows they won’t be surprising anyone in the OSAAHL because they’re likely the team to beat. But with a locker room boasting loads of confidence and leadership, he expects not from his players besides sticking to what’s been working.

“We know our players and we know what they’re capable of,” he said. “We’re respecting our team identity. No matter

how our opponent plays us, we have our way of playing by using speed and fast transition play. They have to adjust to playing us.”

For Lavergne, it’s all about taking things one game at a time.

“We’re not looking at the standings or the streak,” he said.

For their next tilt, the Comets will host the second-place Maniwaki Forestiers (6-6-0) at the Fort Coulonge Arena on Dec. 21.

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Que l’ann e 2020 vous apporte le bonheur et le succ s dans vos projets et que vos r ves deviennent r alit .

As we all enjoy the Holiday season, as the new year dawns, our team thanks you for the confidence you have shown us throughout this year. Our collaboration and your loyalty are the keys to our success.

May 2020 bring you happiness and success in your projects as well as fulfillment of your dreams.

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A group of six children and one adult woman are gathered around a long table covered with a bright green tablecloth. The woman, with dark hair and a patterned scarf, sits at the head of the table, smiling. Five children are seated around the table: a boy in a red sweatshirt on the left, a boy in a blue shirt next to him, a girl in a striped shirt standing behind the boy in blue, a boy in a black and white shirt on the right waving, and a girl with red hair standing behind him. The table is laden with birthday treats, including two cakes on green plates, several yellow containers of cupcakes, and a gingerbread house. A white card with the number '1' is visible on the table. The background shows a doorway and a table covered with a patterned cloth.

A large group of students and teachers are gathered in a school cafeteria for a celebration. The room is decorated with snowflake cutouts on the walls. Students are seated at long wooden tables, many of which are decorated with cakes and other festive items. The students are wearing winter-themed clothing, including hats, scarves, and jackets. A large red and black plaid bag is visible in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

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SADC hosts holiday breakfast



Caleb Nickerson, THE EQUITY

On Thursday morning, SADC Pontiac held their annual Mingle and Jingle breakfast, inviting local business people and entrepreneurs to their office in Campbell’s Bay for some food, drink and networking. The speaker for the event was commercial real estate agent Sébastien Bonnerot, who discussed the ins and outs of purchasing or selling a commercial property. Pictured, SADC Director Rhonda Perry welcomes attendees to the meeting.

CNL submits revised statement to regulator

CALEB NICKERSON
CHALK RIVER
Dec. 18, 2019

Last week, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) announced that they had submitted the revised draft environmental impact statement for their proposed near surface disposal facility (NSDF) project to the federal regulator.

The facility, which is planned to be the repository for roughly a million cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste, sits on land owned by CNL, roughly one kilometre from the Ottawa River. Ninety per cent of the waste planned for the NSDF is from the Chalk River site, mainly decommissioned buildings and legacy wastes, though some will be shipped in from elsewhere.

CNL states that the reason they chose the site was due to the fact that they already have extensive monitoring protocols in place, both on

site and downriver. They also state that shipping the waste elsewhere would require nearly 45,000 transport truck trips.

Activist groups from the area have been vocal in their opposition to the plan, arguing that it is too close to the river and questioning the methods of protecting the surrounding environment.

CNL, a private consortium of companies overseen by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), have asserted that they are following all regulations and are consulting with neighbouring communities and local Indigenous groups.

The revised statement and supporting documents are all available here: <https://www.cnl.ca/en/home/environmental-stewardship/near-surface-disposal-facility/nsdf-documents.aspx>

Feedback on the revised draft can be made to communications@cnl.ca.

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Future of Eureka 93 looks bleak

CHRIS LOWREY
LITCHFIELD Dec. 4, 2019

After taking several financial hits over the last year, Eureka 93 – the company responsible for the proposed cannabis growing facility in Litchfield – has announced that it is undergoing a restructuring phase.

In a press release issued Dec. 4, the company announced that it is insolvent and that the future of the Litchfield operation appears bleak.

The company said that it plans record an impairment charge against the Litchfield property in the amount of \$5,000,000.

Impairment charges are essentially write-offs used when the value of an asset on a company’s books can’t be fully recovered.

“[T]he company is not in a position to continue investing in the development of the Litchfield Innovation Centre Project,” the press release said. “The secured debt and registered liens are nearing or exceed the fair value of the property.”

The company also noted the \$1.8 million legal claim filed against it by Deslan A.I.M. Environmental, for unpaid wages and bills, as a reason for the impairment charge.

The company also announced that it will be reversing share transfer agreements and entering into share cancellation agreements related to the company’s acquisition of Acentzia Inc. and Vitality Natural Health LLC.

The press release says these moves will help put the company on solid ground.

Although the company’s stock price dropped in July, the company as a whole has been reeling since September.

On Sept. 4, the company was hit with a cease trade order for not filing its second quarter financial disclosures.

Then, on Sept. 24 – the same day the company was granted a license from Health Canada to grow cannabis at its Ottawa facility – the entire executive management team, including the CEO, CFO, COO and the entire board of directors except one person, resigned without giving notice to shareholders.

The press release says that those who resigned “abandoned” the company.

In fact, the new board of directors voted to reverse the \$444,000 in bonuses paid to the former executive team.

The company is still without a CFO since the mass resignations in September.

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See dealer for details. ^aOffer available to qualified retail customers in Canada on select vehicles purchased and delivered from December 3, 2019 – January 2, 2020. 0%/0% purchase financing (0%/0% APR) offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank[®] or RBC Royal Bank for 60/72 months on eligible new 2019 Blazer RS/2019 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab RST models. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$48,195/\$49,485 financed at 0%/0% nominal rate (0%/0% APR) equals \$804/\$688 monthly for 60/72 months. The offer includes \$0/\$1,000 RST Bonus, \$0/\$2,650 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive), \$1,000/\$2,850 Finance Cash (Tax Exclusive) and \$0/\$500 option package discount. Cost of borrowing is \$0/\$0, for a total obligation of \$48,195/\$49,485. 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Bi-weekly payment is \$87 for 48 months at 1% lease rate (1% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$44 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 kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$2,150 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$11,191. 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 \$5,806. See dealer for details. Credits vary by model. Factory order may be required. Offers may not be redeemed for Cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. [~] 15” Kumho Wintercraft Ice WI31 (185/55R15) tires only. Installation, mounting and equipment extra. 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7th Génies en Herbe competition bigger than ever

CALEB NICKERSON
MANSFIELD ET PONTEFRAC Dec. 5, 2019
On Dec. 5, the auditorium at École secondaire Sieur de Coulonge was packed with excited children and their parents for the finals of the seventh annual Génies en Herbe competition. Teams of second and third cycle students from the region's French-language elementary

schools dressed in bright team uniforms, some augmented with over-the-top accessories. The competition is an activity to promote French language and culture among the younger generation explained one of the teacher organizers France Lavoie. "It's from a group of teachers, they were really concerned about the fact that even if [the

students] are French, they really don't know a lot about French culture," she explained. "They might not have a chance to be exposed to this kind of culture because it's really hard to introduce in the families." The evening consisted of four teams of six students from each age group facing off against each other in a series of trivia questions, which focused on

Francophone artists, historical figures and culture, as well as general subjects like geometry. The questions are based off of activities the students take part in during class time. Lavoie said that the idea has ballooned from an in-class activity to a multi-school extracurricular over the years, a testament to its popularity with students, parents and teachers.

"We're really using what we're teaching them in the classroom," she said. "Especially, we have a lot of students coming from an English background, so they don't know at all these things." She added that the teams that have done well typically have a teacher that integrated the questions into their curriculum during the year.

This year two teams from École Ste-Anne on Calumet Island walked away victorious: in the second cycle division, Les Porcs-épics électriques coached by Sonia Bélair won out over Les Diamants bleus from École Poupore. In the third cycle division, Les Génies en feu, coached by Rafik Ouali were victorious over Les Finissants from École Poupore.



Two teams of students from École Ste-Anne on Calumet Island were victorious at the Genies en Herbe finals at École secondaire Sieur de Coulonge on Dec. 5. Above, the second cycle team Les Porcs-épics électriques, coached by Sonia Bélair.



Pictured, the third cycle team Les Génies en feu, led by Rafik Ouali.

Harris hits Little Red Wagon

J.D. POTIÉ
CLARENDON Dec. 14, 2019
The Little Red Wagon Winery in Clarendon was vibrant with acoustic tunes on Saturday evening, as Ottawa-based storytelling songwriter Ray Harris entertained a small crowd, along with two local musical sensations. Joined by a dobro player along with a bass player equipped with a harmonica, Harris rocked the place with an acoustic set of what he described as Americanadiana – a mix of honky tonk country, rockabilly and folk. Telling stories about Harris' life and his Ottawa Valley ties, songs included some of his classics like "Shawville Girl", "Pontiac County Blues" and "Good Old American Cars". According to the winery's owner Scott Judd, the winery has been getting quite popular within the Ottawa Valley music scene, ever since they started hosting concerts on a weekly basis. "We've actually started to have people contact us to play here," he said. Currently living in Ottawa, Harris said he had been envisioning an opportunity to perform at the winery for quite some time. Having spent a significant portion of his childhood in Shawville, Harris felt delighted to rediscover his roots while performing with numerous family members and friends in attendance. Having played at Café 349 on a number of occasions over the last couple of years, he was intrigued by the possibility of



On Dec. 14, the Little Red Wagon Winery in Clarendon was host to Ottawa-native folk singer-songwriter Ray Harris who entertained a small crowd with a set of tunes about his. taking his talents to Clarendon as well but hadn't been able to do so because of his tight schedule. "It's hard to get up here on a Friday," he said. Harris said he mostly performs in various establishments throughout the Ottawa Valley, while making the occasional trips to musical hot spots like Toronto and Nashville TN. For Harris, the best part about performing in a cozy spot

Adult ed program gets revamped

CALEB NICKERSON
FORT COULONGE Dec. 13, 2019
On Wednesday morning, officials at the adult education centre in Fort Coulonge announced that they would be rejigging their programming, starting in the New Year. Teachers and helpers, as well as officials from the various partner agencies that help with the program like the Comptoir St-Pierre and CISSO, were on hand for the announcement. The program currently has 16 students, but there is plenty of room for more people to apply. "They don't all come on the same day, but we have a total of 16," said Manon Gervais, who heads up the classroom education portion of the program. "We're looking to have more." The program will be split into three blocks, the first being work and life skills. Students will have the chance to perform various tasks at the thrift store located on the ground floor of the building. The they will also be able to learn culinary skills in the school's kitchen. The second block is focused on socialization and activities, where students interact with the community learn about the region. The third block is more typical classroom instruction, where the students get a basis

in core subjects like math, English, or history. Gervais said that they are still working out an exact schedule, but noted that the revamped program would better suit the needs of the students. "I think what brought the changes and stuff, last year when we started it was a new program and we were doing either a lot of classroom or a lot of workshop and we noticed it's not really what the students were looking for," added CISSO integration agent Nathalie Mousseau. "We visited different centres in Maniwaki ... they've been established for 20 years so it inspired a lot of thoughts."



The adult education centre in Fort Coulonge announced that it would be altering the class structure for their programming, starting in the New Year. They stressed that the course is open to anyone with intellectual or physical disabilities. Pictured, student Michelle Leblanc shows her competence ripping up rags at the thrift shop.

New Year's Eve Party
Quyón Legion
Featuring "Third Base"
December 31, 2019
8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.
Light Snack, Party Favours, Champagne
\$25 at door

Bryson Lions Club
New Year's Eve Dance
December 31, 2019
9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
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THE EQUITY
The voice of the Pontiac since 1883
Published weekly by Pontiac Printshop
Shawville, Quebec

Chilly temps cancel outdoor show



The Chutes Coulonge Park held the second part of their annual Festival of Lights on Saturday and the premises were glowing with Christmas lights throughout the park. But, due to cold inclement weather, the planned live music concert was cancelled and the grounds remained largely unattended for a wide portion of the evening. Local musician Gaetan Forgues, from rock collective Blast from the Past, said on Facebook that his band decided to cancel their performance because of the weather and that they would be performing an acoustic set of Christmas songs at the Chutes, next Saturday at around 5:30 p.m.

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St. John’s hosts annual bake sale

J.D. POTIE
CAMPBELL’S BAY
Dec. 14, 2019

Hundreds of people from the region and beyond convened at St. John’s Elementary in Campbell’s Bay on Saturday, as the school held its fourth annual Christmas craft and bake sale.

According to one of the event’s organizers Wendy Moore, the event was an opportunity for locals to get together to spread joy over a holiday meal and support local artisans while getting their Christmas shopping done at the same time.

She explained that the event originally started out as an initiative to raise funds to purchase new play structures for the schoolyard.

Helped by fundraisers and government grants, the school was able to purchase a brand-new play structure after the first two years. For this year’s fundraiser, the school’s governing board is eyeing an outdoor classroom with a shelter.

Moore believes the shelter would be of great benefit to the school because it would give students an opportunity to study outside when the weather



J.D. Potie, THE EQUITY
On Dec. 14, St. John’s Elementary in Campbell’s Bay was packed with people from all parts of the region, as the school hosted its fourth annual Christmas craft and bake sale. Pictured, Shawville artisan Tabetha Rebertz shows off her collection of unique houseware products and jewellery during the event.

allows it and a place to hang out in the shade during recess.

Worth an estimated \$15,000, Moore said the structure would

have cement flooring with four large beams, topped with a tin roof.

“Tin’s very expensive and cement is very expensive,” she said. “We haven’t gotten to the point of finding out exactly what the price is yet.”

Moore said that the project is expected to take two years to complete.

In the school’s cafeteria, a number of volunteers worked hard in the kitchen, as attendees indulged in a large variety of greasy delights. The menu included bacon grilled-cheese sandwiches that sold out very quickly.

To help raise even more money for the school, one of the event’s organizers Rebecca Tracy held an online auction, which raised as much as \$3,400. The auction included a wide assortment of products donated by the event’s vendors and members of the community, including jewellery, Christmas decorations and baked goods.

A trio of Lions Club members sold 50/50 tickets for a draw, which asked participants to guess the number of lights on the community Christmas tree located in front of the Ringrose

house on Front Street.

In the gymnasium, around 40 vendors from the region held kiosks where they sold a wide variety of locally-produced commodities.

From hand-crafted toques to natural soaps and creams along with plenty of home decorations, plenty of attendees roamed every part of the room, seeking out the best deals on the market.

For Moore, the event is a great way of bringing joy to the community and promoting it as well since the event attracts people from all parts of the region.

“It’s an opportunity for Campbell’s Bay to have a Christmas market,” she said. “It gets everybody and we’re very fortunate because we draw from all over the Pontiac to come here.”

Delighted by the vast number of people who attended the event, Moore said that it was the school’s most successful holiday craft and bake sale so far.

“It seems to be really good,” she said. “The people seem happy; the vendors seem happy ... we were a little nervous with the weather.”

Shawville

LYSE LACOURSE 819-647-5932 lyse380@gmail.com

Our thoughts and prayers to the Brown and Telford families on the loss of Hilda at the Pontiac Community Hospital on Dec. 12, at the age of 89.

Little Women a Live Radio Play by Pontiac Community Players will be presented at

Quyon United Church on Dec. 20. On Dec. 21 it will be presented at Shawville United Church and on Dec. 22 at St. Andrew’s Knox Church in Bristol.

December 22 will be the 4th Sunday of Advent which means peace. The last purple candle

is called the “Angels Candle.” Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit. This “Christ Candle” represents the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world. It represents purity.

There will be a Seniors’ Drop-

In on Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. at the former Masonic Hall on Main Street in Shawville.

Save the dates – Garbage pickup dates for Shawville are: Dec. 17, Dec. 23 and Jan. 3, 2020. Recycle pickup dates are Dec. 18 and Jan. 2, 2020.

Sheenboro

DORIS RANGER
819-650-2413 dranger50@hotmail.com

Safety during the holidays is so important. While it is a normal expectation to celebrate at Christmas and New Years, its always a good idea to practice safety at home, while driving and when we are socializing.

In particular, fire safety should be considered. Many residents heat their homes with wood burning stoves and furnaces. Good chimney and smoke pipe maintenance is critical to fire safety at this time of the year.

Also partial or complete chimney blockage can cause carbon monoxide to fill the home. This deadly gas is invisible and cannot be smelled. For this reason, it is a very good idea to install at least one CO alarm in every home.

If you have a natural Christmas tree inside your home, place it away from any open flame, such as a fireplace, add water to the base each day and remove the tree as soon as possible after Christmas.

Fire departments recommend the artificial Christmas trees as a safer alternative to natural trees.

Birthday wishes are extended to our nephew David Perry, Ita Perry and Tina Jolicoeur Pilon who are celebrating their birthdays on Dec. 24. Enjoy your special day, and we hope that Santa is good to all of you.

Well, here we are another Christmas and a New Year are fast approaching. From our house to your house, we would

like to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed, Merry Christmas filled with love, peace and joy. May 2020 be a prosperous New Year filled with health, happiness and the warmth of family and friends. May your smile be your greeting and your words be true and fair. May wisdom, patience and kindness fill your every human experience. May all who come to know you, also come to know joy and hope. Happy holidays and please be safe.

Waltham

HELEN PERRY 819-689-2652 jacobg42@hotmail.com

Our condolences and deepest sympathies go to Art Belanger, formerly of Waltham, Que. and his family on the passing of his wife “Hun” Olive Belanger (Turner) on Dec. 12 at the Timmons and District Hospital. For most of their 65 years of marriage they worked and raised a family of seven in Listowel, Ont. In the early 1990s they decided to move to Northern Ontario so he could do some fishing and hunting. In Folyet she enjoyed decorating those little northern homes, doing crafts with friends, cooking and fishing. A special aunt

indeed.

Get well wishes go out to Mary Mcleese who has returned home after a short stay at the Queensway Carleton Hospital.

Birthday greetings and best wishes go out to Sandra Morris and her son Greg who celebrate on Dec. 18 and to Roy Gagnon on Dec. 19.

We would also like to welcome Michel Morency and Cathy Overton, new residents to Sheenboro. They purchased their home from Barb Myres back in the summer and are now living here full time. Great to have you in Sheenboro.

Hydro seems to be restored to everyone in the area but Sheenboro’s landline problem still continues. The residents had no landline when the hydro was off for 12 hours which means they are not able to contact family, the ambulance, police or the fire department. After getting through to Bell and support from Sureté, a Bell technician came and charged the batteries to restore the landline service later in the day. Bell needs to come up with a better system for our community. As I was reminded yesterday, technicians have a large territory to cover

and are not always available.

On another note, Pontiac Ouest Fire Services were very busy this weekend with two fires, one in Chichester and the other on Allumette Island. I believe the rescue equipment had to be brought to Rapide. Also Sasha and Dagmar’s home in Chichester is still without hydro. Hopefully it will be restored soon.

Vinton

DIANE BOISVERT 819-921-5296 news@theequity.ca

I’ve been busy the last couple of weeks crafting and baking and now I’m preparing the house for Christmas. I put up my tree last night but I still have the decorations to put up.

We are lucky to not have any bad weather so far this winter or should I say this fall because winter really doesn’t officially start until Dec. 21. The problem is the ground is still not frozen and that’s never good before the first snowfall.

I would like to wish the following people a very happy belated birthday: Claudette Stanton, Roger Pilon, Simon Baxter, and Corben Davidson all on Dec. 12, Ruth Hearty on Dec. 13, James Crawford and Randy Sloan on Dec. 14, Nancy Bertrand, Jennifer McGuire, Marie Josée Corriveau, Jamie Hearty all on Dec. 15, Norma Boisvert, Kate Ranger, and Patricia Kensley on Dec. 16.

Just a quick reminder, I’m making my meat pies and turkey pot pies now so please place your order to guarantee delivery before Christmas.

I see there’s a new road going into Campbell’s Bay from the Fort Coulonge side and the old road has been blocked off. There

are a ton of markers there to guide you so please be aware of the change. There is also a new reduced speed limit of 70 km/hour for that two mile stretch past Campbell’s Bay. It’s for everyone’s safety.

Just when we were beginning to think that it was going to be a green Christmas, then all hell breaks loose. It was pouring rain all day and then it turned into a very wet sticky snow. Great for making snowmen but that’s all. It snowed like that all night but the real problem came with the dropping temperature. That turned the snow into giant ice cones which hung to every tiny little branch and the poor branches started sagging finally snapping under all that weight.

My power went out on Saturday and on Monday I still did not have power. Thankfully I have a wood stove but some of my neighbours don’t. Bobby Ostrum came up from Shawville to bring Dennis Hearty and I water and anything else we needed. Hydro was supposed to be back on during the night but that didn’t happen. So Bobby said he’d bring a generator Monday to keep my freezers cold. I’m so thankful for his

help.

On the brighter side to this story, it was such a beautiful sight with the trees covered in snow. Then the moon came out and really showed the majestic scenery with the snow glistening in the moonlight. It was actually breathtaking to see. A real Hallmark picture. Too bad I don’t have a good camera to capture these moments. It’s almost bittersweet, hardship and devastation on one hand but total awesomeness on the other.

Just up on the highway my neighbours have power. They have it on the Ridge Rd. and all around. Just seems to be all of Church Road and some of the Bank Road here in Vinton. Otter Lake, Thorne, Kazabazua and so many other areas are affected too.

My Aunt Betty Mayhew and Gilbert Sparling had to go to Quyon to Gilbert’s daughter Susan because they do not have heat. This should be a state of emergency. People’s water pipes are going to freeze and ruin their homes. Most of them are elderly and unable to start the generators even if they have one.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

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Thursday, December 26 - Boxing Day
OPEN
Friday, December 27 - 9 am - 4 pm
CLOSED
Saturday, December 28
OPEN
Monday, December 30 - 9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday, December 31 - 9 am - noon

(There will be no EQUITY on December 25, 2019)

Baby issue will be January 1, 2020 submit your announcements on or before December 13, at 4:00 p.m.

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Holiday Greetings

Nous désirons vous aviser que durant le temps des fêtes, le bureau municipal sera fermé à compter du **23 décembre 2019 à 16h00.**

Nous ouvrirons le **2 janvier 2020 à 8h30.**

Site de transfert OUVERT : 20-21-22-23-27-28-29-30 décembre – 9h00 à 17h00

Joyeux Noël et bonne année à tous!

For the Christmas Holidays, we wish to advise you that the Municipal Office will be closing **December 23rd, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

We will be reopening on **January 2nd, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.**

Transfer Station OPEN: December 20-21-22-23-27-28-29-30 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

J.D. POTIÉ
FORT COULONGE
Dec. 14, 2019

Lyda Lapratte, the event was an occasion for the Golden Age club to give back to the community by bringing people together for a traditional holiday meal.

J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

Inside the hall, scores of attendees sat at their tables and socialized while Christmas music blared from the loud speakers on hand. In the kitchen, several hard-working volunteers prepared an old-fashioned Christmas dinner, featuring freshly carved turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy and sweet cranberry sauce.

a word of welcome where she thanked everyone for attending the event and supporting the Golden Age Club's initiatives.

For Lapratte, the most important part about the event is that it gives local seniors a chance to socialize and hopefully make some new friends.

to take a break from thinking about being old and stuff like that."

While the overall turnout was less than in previous years, with so much going on in other parts of the region, Lapratte was still happy with the number of people who showed up and supported.

J.D. POTIÉ
QUYON Dec. 13, 2019

The cold streets of Quyon
were vibrant with Christmas

cheer on Friday evening, as the around 20 carollers rolled through the town singing all sorts of holiday jingles.



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

On Dec. 14, over a dozen carollers took to the streets of Quyon on the back of a flat-bed truck provided by Mountainview Turf, to bring holiday joy to the town by singing a number of Christmas classics. Pictured, carollers read their song scripts as they sing from the back of the large truck decorated with Christmas lights.

According to the event's organizer Mitchell Trudeau, the event was about bringing the community together by uniting families and spreading the holiday spirit.

"It's the same goal with everything else," he said. "It's to improve life in this town because it lacks for sure. That's the goal, just getting people out and spending time with each other. It's a distraction away from buying gifts."

Scheduled, for around 6 p.m., attendees gathered in front of Onslow Elementary where a large semi-truck hauling a flat-bed, decked out with Christmas lights awaited carollers to get things started.

Provided by Mountainview
Turf, the flat bed held around
20 cushiony chairs where

attendees sat while singing songs in unison. The float slowly rolled down rue Clarendon where residents came out of their houses to listen to the songs and soak in the Christmas essence.

"It's kind of the same concept as walking. We're just going to be going around. Nobody will be getting off if we go door to door. If people come out, we'll stop and chant. It's more or less just circulating singers."

Trudeau explained that the event used to take place on an annual basis before the community stopped organizing it in the late 1990s. Having originally planned on bringing it back last year, Trudeau said plans got squashed due to unforeseen rain.

But this year, the skies were

clear and, while the weather was a little bit chilly, carollers arrived dressed in layers for the occasion, ready to sing songs all night long.

At the mid-way point of the event, participants gathered at the Pontiac Community Gym to warm themselves up with hot chocolate and tea while snacking on pastries and socializing.

For Trudeau, the event was about bringing people together and letting them know what the holidays are all about – family and fun.

"It's about bringing back the spirit of Christmas," he said. "It's not about shopping and buying gifts. This brings it back to the old-fashioned way."

J.D. POTIÉ
DANFORD LAKE
Dec. 14, 2019

Bethany Hall in Danford Lake was packed to the rafters on Saturday morning as around 100 people from the region gathered for the town's 10th annual Breakfast with Santa event.

give back to the community by giving families a place to get together to enjoy a wholesome Christmas activity.

"We put it on for the kids every year," he said. "Our big fundraiser is the Mud Run. So, then we do a breakfast with Santa for the kids. It's a free breakfast for everybody. Donation only. If we make money, we make it."

Throughout the event, attendees indulged in a wide

assortment of greasy breakfast goodies, including pancakes, bacon and eggs while listening to jolly Christmas tunes.

Plus, with the big man in red making an appearance, kids formed a lineup for a meet and greet with Santa at the back of the hall where they posed for pictures and told him what they wanted under this year's tree.

All the food was provided, prepared and served by members of the RA, Mayer said.

Seeing so many people coming from different parts of the region to enjoy the event, Mayer was delighted with the overall turnout, noting that it's been growing every year since being established a decade ago.

"There's 80 kids registered today," he said. "There's not 80 kids in Danford. There's some from Kaz, I see some from Gracefield over here and Low. We give to all the kids. It's not just for our own municipality."



J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

On Dec. 14, the Danford Lake RA hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa event, drawing plenty of people to pack Bethany Hall. Pictured, from left: seven year-old Zachary, Marcel, H  l  ne and four year-old R  my Vautour enjoy their breakfast during the event.

J.D. Potié, THE EQUITY

On Dec. 14, the Bantam B Pontiacions lost a tight 2-0 games against the second-place Gatineau Patriotes at the Shawville Arena. Pictured on the left, Lions centremen Anthony Lefebvre closes in all alone on the Patriotes goaltender after stealing the puck in the neutral zone. On the right, Kolten Mohr skates through a maze of Gatineau players in the neutral zone in the second period.



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DECEMBER 18
 ST. PAUL'S, SHAWVILLE
 7:00 pm Blue Christmas, for those
 who might be finding the
 season difficult

ST. PAUL'S, RENFREW
 4:00 pm Candlelight Service
 with choir

ST. JAMES, WRIGHT/
 GRAFFIELD
 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE
 ST. PAUL'S, SHAWVILLE
 4:30 pm Family Candlelight
 Service with choir

ST. JAMES, OTTER LAKE
 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 29
 ST. PAUL'S, SHAWVILLE AND
 HOLY TRINITY, RADFORD
 One service at St. Paul's
 11:00 am Carols and Lessons

HOLY TRINITY, DANFORD LAKE
 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

ST. STEPHEN'S, KAZABAZUA
 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

OTHER CHURCHES
 Regular Times

HOLY TRINITY, RADFORD
 7:30 pm Candlelight Service

ST. GEORGE'S, THORNE CENTRE
 9:30 pm Holy Eucharist

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Hooley in the Hall. Join us in the Shawville Anglican Church Hall for an evening of music (Hooley in the Hall) from 7-9:30 p.m. Admission is free. 50/50 held. Everyone welcome. (Next Hooley Jan. 3, 2020). xtc

Thurs., Dec. 19 – At 7:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service at Grace Community Bible Church, C272 Highway 148, Clarendon. As we approach the celebration of Christmas, you are invited to an evening service at Grace. During this busy season you may want an hour to quietly reflect on the coming of Christ to our world. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of remembrance. bd18

Fri., Dec. 20 – Shawville Shenanigans Christmas Edition at 586 Main Street. Join Jenn for a potluck snack time, socializing, crafts and activities, 9:30-11:30! fd18

Tues., Dec. 24 – 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at New Hope, 586 Main Street, Shawville. A family friendly service of readings and carols. All welcome! 2bd18

Tues., Dec. 24 – At 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. James, Otter Lake. Everyone welcome. 2bd18

Dec. 31 – Bryson Lions Club New Year's Eve Dance 2019, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Dennis Harrington and Heritage Country. Hot and cold buffet. Tickets \$20 each. Contact Betty or Paul 819-648-5424. bd18

Sat., June 27 – JOANNE DUBEAU and MICK ARMITAGE return to CORONATION HALL in downtown Bristol, Quebec. Doors open at 5:00 and dinner is served at 5:45. Live musical show from 7:00 to 8:15. Please get \$25.00 tickets now as last two shows sold out. For tickets please call Norma at 819-647-2547 or call Mick at 613-859-7740 or mickarmitage@sympatico.ca Tickets will make an excellent Christmas present ! bd18

MISCELLANEOUS

Pontiac Lions patches that can be sewn over the existing Lions hockey logo on jackets, etc. \$19.00 plus taxes. Available at the Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville. 819-647-2204. xtc

PIES PIES PIES crust that melts in your mouth, order now for the holidays, turkey pot, meat or apple. Call Diane at 819-921-5296. 3fj1

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

Books make great Christmas gifts. 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

Keep things moving smoothly with an economical, natural treatment for your septic tanks and chemical toilets that you need to use only every (3) three months. BLOWAY available at Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre, Shawville. 647-2204. xtc

FOR RENT

Shawville – 2 - 1 bedroom apartments for rent, 329 James St. 1 available now for \$850 per month; 1 available Dec. 1st at \$750. Call 819-213-1545. otc

FARM PRODUCE

Santa isn't the only guy with a bag of goodies over his shoulder. We've got it in the bag for the country home....sun-flower seed, wild bird seed, deer chow, water softener salt, wood pellets, big bag cat food, de-icing products and lots more. We got it in the bag for the farm....beef pellets to stretch your hay supplies, milk replacers, calf & heifer rations, minerals, salts, additives and more. We offer balanced feeds manufactured with local grains as well as Purina high quality feeds. Early order and early pay discounts on seed and crop inputs available now. Gates, feeders, handling equipment. Prices are low and value's high at M&R Feeds & Farm Supply! Micksburg 613-735-3689, Pembroke 613-732-2843, Shawville 819-647-2814. 4bj15

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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

SERVICES

Passport photos done at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec. 819-647-2204. xtc

Labombard Electric Motors sales and service of electric motors, starters, alternators, power tools, welders, generators, pumps, etc., C54 Stoney Batter Rd., Shawville, QC. 819-647-2591. bd18

DEATH



Farrell. Neil "Tubby" – October 14, 1954-December 2, 2019

Peacefully in hospital, Shawville, Quebec surrounded by his family, at the age of 65 years. Loving father of Dawn and Bert. Cherished Poppa of Jacob, Xander and Bentley. Predeceased by his parents, Red and Beth Farrell. Survived by his siblings, Ken "Sam" (Judy), Darlene (Jack Murdock) and Barb (Dwight Tanguay). Neil will be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and friends. Neil was a very active community member who served as union president at Haley Industries. He was also involved in council, the RA, the cemetery, and Fire Department. He was also active in his local church, where he served as church warden. A celebration of his life will take place in summer, 2020. Donations to the Portage du Fort Cemetery are gratefully accepted.

Missing you at Christmas
Every day without you,
Since you had to go,
Is like summer without sunshine
And winter without snow.
We wish that we could talk to you,
There's so much we would say,
Life has changed so very much
Since you went away.
We miss the bond between us
And we miss your kind support,
You're in our minds and in our hearts
And every Christmas thought.
We will always feel you close to us
And though you're far from sight,
We'll search for you among the stars,
That shine on Christmas night.
Forever in our hearts
Rolly, Doug and Janey, Terry and Janey, Jill and Charlie, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

IN MEMORY



Angus, Ken – In loving memory of a dear dad and grandfather who passed away Dec. 12, 2000.

Gone, dear father, gone forever,
How we miss your smiling face.
But you left us to remember
No one on earth can take your place.
A happy home we once enjoyed
How sweet the memory still
But death has left a loneliness
The world can never fill.
Love Lee, Janet, Megan and Dylan

Evans, Raymond – Jan. 1954 - Dec. 2018.

We miss you so terrible it is heart wrenching.
I have hope that all your pain and suffering is gone
And you are free with your family, Brianna and friends.
I can't believe with the sorrow on most days,
We were robbed of our happily ever after,
I hurt for you, I love you and want you back.
Think of you every day.
Love always,
Joanne and our children



Howard – In loving memory of Faye Howard. I am sending a dove to Heaven,
With a parcel on its wings.
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs.
To say how much I miss you,
And to send you all my love.
I hold you close within my heart,
And there you will remain
To walk with me throughout my life
Until we meet again.
From the family

IN MEMORY



MacDougall, Beulah – In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away Dec. 21, 2010.

Missing you at Christmas
Every day without you,
Since you had to go,
Is like summer without sunshine
And winter without snow.
We wish that we could talk to you,
There's so much we would say,
Life has changed so very much
Since you went away.
We miss the bond between us
And we miss your kind support,
You're in our minds and in our hearts
And every Christmas thought.
We will always feel you close to us
And though you're far from sight,
We'll search for you among the stars,
That shine on Christmas night.
Forever in our hearts
Rolly, Doug and Janey, Terry and Janey, Jill and Charlie, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren



Lang – In loving memory of Lynn Lang (nee Elliott) Dec. 23, 2012.
In our home she is fondly remembered
Sweet memories cling to her name;
Those who loved her in life sincerely,
Still love her in death just the same.
Elwyn, Robert, Ralph, Andrew and their families



Pasch – In loving memory of Raymond Pasch who passed away Dec. 21, 2013. His weary hours and days of pain,
His troubled nights are passed,
And in our aching hearts we know,
He has found sweet rest at last.
Always remembered
Yvette



Sparling, Jean – Dec. 25 2012.
No one knows how much we miss you,
No one knows the bitter pain.
We have suffered since we lost you,
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true.
There is not a day dear mother,
That we do not think of you.
Love your family

IN MEMORY



Ostrom – My Christmas Message to my Mom, Dad, (brother) Kenny, Cassandra and Granny Ostrom sent to you all from Heaven by Sheldon Ostrom

"To My Family"
As I look down from Heaven,
On this special Christmas day.
I'll try to send you little signs,
That I never went away.
I see you when you're crying,
I feel your loss and pain.
So hold on to the knowledge,
We will be reunited once again.
Even though you miss me,
At this special time of year.
The greatest gift that you can give to me,
Is your smile instead of tears.
So when Christmas starts without me,
Just know we're not apart.
For every time you think of me,
I'm with you in your heart.
I will always love you, watch over you, guide you and I will never forget the wonderful 27 years of life, love, happiness and joy that you so willingly gave to me and for fulfilling my passion for country music.
Til we meet again.
Love Sheldon
2019 XOXOX



Paquette, Donell – Sixth Christmas in Heaven
I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular-please wipe away the tear,
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus this year.
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me,
I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas, with Jesus this year.
I sent you a special gift, from my Heavenly home above.
I sent you a memory of my undying love.
After all love is a gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other,
As my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessing Of love He has for each of you.
So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I'm spending Christmas, with Jesus this year.
Love always Glenda

NOTICES

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Plus de 5 M\$ pour soutenir le secteur de la construction bois

GOVT DU QUÉBEC

Communiqué

QUÉBEC Le 25 nov. 2019
Le Gouvernement du Québec annonce le lancement de deux nouveaux programmes visant à soutenir le secteur de la construction bois. L'investissement total est de plus de 5 M\$.

Optimisation et automatisatisation

Face à la concurrence, à la mutation des marchés et à la rareté de la main-d'œuvre, il est impératif que les entreprises québécoises de la construction repensent leur modèle d'affaires en se tournant davantage vers la préfabrication et l'offre de solutions intégrées.

Une somme de 3,2 M\$ est donc consacrée au Programme préfabrication en bois : optimisation et automatisatisation (PPBOA) afin d'accroître la compétitivité des producteurs de produits préfabriqués en bois. Ce programme permettra aux entreprises d'automatiser et d'optimiser leurs processus de fabrication et d'affaires, afin d'offrir des produits à plus grande valeur ajoutée, et ce, à moindre coût. Ces entreprises pourront ainsi répondre à l'augmentation de la demande mondiale pour les produits structuraux préfabriqués en bois utilisés dans la construction de bâtiments non résidentiels et multifamiliaux.

Formation continue

Doté d'une enveloppe de 2 M\$, le Programme de formation continue sur l'utilisation du bois dans la construction (PFCBC), financé par le Fonds vert, a pour objectif de bonifier l'offre de formation continue sur le bois et son utilisation dans la construction.

Ces formations répondront à des besoins ciblés par les professionnels et les gens de métier dans le domaine de la construction des bâtiments non résidentiels et multifamiliaux pour actualiser leurs connaissances. La formation devra impérativement comprendre un élément de sensibilisation à la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES) lié à la construction en bois.

« Ces programmes accroîtront la compétitivité des entreprises dans le secteur de la construction bois. Nul doute que l'annonce d'aujourd'hui se traduira, d'ici trois ans, en une amélioration des processus de fabrication et d'affaires des entreprises soutenues afin d'augmenter leur productivité. À terme, c'est l'ensemble de l'économie québécoise qui en sortira gagnante. » M. Pierre Dufour, ministre des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs.

« Le bois est un choix intéressant pour réduire l'empreinte carbone des bâtiments, puisqu'il génère peu d'émissions de GES pendant

son cycle de vie si on le compare à d'autres matériaux couramment utilisés dans la construction. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement du Québec a choisi d'utiliser des sommes du Fonds vert, afin de mieux faire connaître les avantages relatifs au matériau bois et de faire évoluer les pratiques. Le Programme de formation continue sur l'utilisation du bois dans la construction constitue un bon investissement pour le climat! » M. Benoît Charette, ministre de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques.

Pour connaître les détails concernant le Programme préfabrication en bois : optimisation et automatisatisation (PPBOA), visitez le <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/transformation-du-bois/ppboa/>.

Pour tout savoir sur le Programme de formation continue sur l'utilisation du bois dans la construction (PFCBC) : <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/transformation-du-bois/formation-continue/>

Pour obtenir des renseignements sur le Ministère et en savoir plus sur ses activités et ses réalisations, consultez le mffp.gouv.qc.ca et les réseaux sociaux :

<https://www.facebook.com/ForetsFauneParcs>
https://twitter.com/MFFP_Quebec

En cette saison des Fêtes, répandez la joie...

pas la grippe!

SANTÉ CANADA

QUÉBEC Le 5 dec. 2019
Saviez-vous que ça peut prendre jusqu'à deux semaines après la vaccination pour que votre corps acquière une immunité contre la grippe? Faites-vous vacciner dès que possible en prévision des Fêtes!

L'image contient peut-être : une personne ou plus et texte

Le risque d'attraper la grippe est plus élevé à la fin de l'automne et en hiver et tout le monde peut l'attraper. C'est l'une des dix causes principales de décès au Canada. Chaque année, la grippe cause environ 12 200 séjours à l'hôpital et 3 500 décès au pays.

Certaines personnes courent un risque plus élevé de complications liées à la grippe, notamment :
Les personnes qui ont des problèmes de santé;
Les personnes âgées de 65 ans et plus;

Les résidents de maisons de soins et d'autres établissements de soins de longue durée;

Les enfants de moins de cinq ans;

Les femmes enceintes ou celles prévoyant le devenir.

Le vaccin contre la grippe est sûr et reste le meilleur moyen de prévenir la grippe. Toutes les personnes âgées de six mois et plus devraient se faire vacciner contre la grippe. Vous ne pouvez pas attraper la grippe à cause du vaccin. La plupart des gens ne ressentent aucun effet secondaire. Les réactions graves sont très rares. Quand vous vous faites vacciner contre la grippe, vous protégez et vous protégez les gens qui vous entourent.

En plus de vous faire vacciner, vous pouvez aussi vous protéger de la grippe, ainsi que votre entourage, en :

Évitant de toucher votre visage;
Vous lavant souvent les

maines;

Toussant ou éternuant dans le creux de votre coude, et non pas dans votre main;

Nettoyant et désinfectant les surfaces touchées par de nombreuses personnes, comme les téléphones, les poignées de porte et les télécommandes;

Si vous êtes malade, restez à la maison. Évitez tout contact étroit avec d'autres personnes jusqu'à ce que vous vous sentiez assez bien pour reprendre vos activités quotidiennes. Ainsi, vous aiderez à prévenir la propagation de la grippe.

Pour plus d'information sur la grippe, notamment comment différencier la grippe du rhume, et pour accéder à des ressources sur le sujet, visitez la page Web Canada.ca/Grippe.

Aussi, visionnez et partagez l'histoire de Shannon, qui a failli perdre son fils à cause de la grippe, sur la page Facebook Canadiens en santé.

Chirurgie générale et en obstétrique

GOVT. DU QUÉBEC

Communiqué

QUÉBEC Le 28 nov. 2019

La ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Danielle McCann, est fière d'annoncer qu'une entente a été conclue avec la Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec (FMSQ) pour le déploiement d'une couverture régionale dans tous les hôpitaux du Québec en chirurgie générale et en obstétrique. Cette entente concerne notamment des régions plus à risques comme Amqui au Bas-Saint-Laurent et Shawville en Outaouais.

Par l'entremise de la création de groupes concertés de médecins spécialistes remplaçants, les plans provinciaux permettront d'assurer une prestation continue des soins et de limiter les ruptures de services dans ces deux spécialités, à l'instar du plan en anesthésie déjà en vigueur depuis plus d'un an, qui donne de bons résultats.

Les chirurgiens offriront des soins de chirurgie générale dans leur communauté et pourront, s'ils ont la formation nécessaire, procéder à des césariennes dans les établissements en région éloignée. Des mécanismes de soutien d'urgence seront aussi déployés, par l'entremise d'équipes volantes en chirurgie et en obstétrique.

« Les patients des régions ont le droit de recevoir des services spécialisés de base près de chez eux. Nous avons travaillé très fort afin de trouver des solutions durables qui permettront d'éviter ces situations préoccupantes et de s'assurer que les usagers reçoivent les soins appropriés, dans l'ensemble des régions du Québec. Je remercie la Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec pour son étroite collaboration. » Danielle McCann, ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

« Les médecins spécialistes veulent soigner les Québécois et offrir la meilleure couverture

possible sur le territoire. Les deux nouvelles ententes constituent un nouveau modèle de couverture en région qui permet de pallier la pénurie d'effectifs médicaux spécialisés. L'offre à la ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux mon entière collaboration pour aller plus loin et rapprocher l'offre de service spécialisée des patients en utilisant des outils modernes comme la télé médecine, la consultation électronique ou le soutien aux équipes à distance. » Diane Francoeur, présidente de la Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec

Les plans en obstétrique et en chirurgie générale seront en vigueur à compter du 1er décembre 2019. Comme cela a été le cas pour l'anesthésiologie, ces mesures seront déployées de manière progressive et elles seront financées à même l'enveloppe globale dédiée à la rémunération des médecins spécialistes.

Collation des grades à l'école Sieur-de-Coulange

CSHBO

Communiqué

MANIWAKI Le 5 dec. 2019

Le samedi 30 novembre dernier s'est déroulée la cérémonie annuelle de la collation des grades de l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulange, de Mansfield-et-Pontefract.

L'activité a eu lieu à l'auditorium devant une salle remplie de parents et d'amis, ainsi que de membres du personnel. Les diplômés ont alors reçu leur diplôme d'études secondaires, ainsi que de nombreuses bourses.

Plusieurs dignitaires ont pris la parole au cours de la cérémonie dont la directrice de l'école Mme Julie Martin, le directeur général

de la Commission scolaire, M. Denis Rossignol, le président du conseil d'établissement M. Jean-Pierre Landry et plusieurs autres.

Cette année encore, c'est plus de 22 000 \$ en bourse que les entreprises et les organismes de la communauté remettent à nos diplômés. Cette marque de générosité démontre bien l'importance accordée à la jeunesse et à l'éducation dans le Pontiac.

Voici la liste des élèves diplômés pour 2018-2019 :

Jacynthe Beaudoin, Zakary Béchamp, Janik Bélaïr, Maxime Bertrand, Samuel Brown, Paul Chevalier, Bailey Danis, Danik Denault, Chloé Desjardins, Émilie Dionne,

Haley Draper, Lisa Dubeau, Isabelle Fortin- Chaput, Pascal Fortin-Duval, Gabriel Gagnon, Yanick Gameau, Anaïs Gionet-Lafleche, Claudie Graveline, Kayla Héralut, Jakob Jolicoeur, Brandon Ladouceur, Joël Ladouceur, Zacharie Ladouceur, Victoria Larivière, Christian Laroche, Élizabeth Laroche, Chloé LaSalle, Noémy Massy Tellier, Vanessa Morin, Danika Newberry, Cynthia Paquette, Jessica Paquette, Martin Pilon, Jacques Raymond, Marc Robert, Alexie Romain, David Soucy et Gabrielle Thibeault.

La médaille du Gouverneur général a été remise à Océanie Héralut.

Bravo à tous les diplômés!



THE EQUITY

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Just Saying,

“HI & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!”

We'd like to take this opportunity to tell you how much we appreciate your business all year. Thanks for your loyal support and friendship. Being a part of this wonderful community brings us a great deal of joy.

We hope the holiday delivers everything on your wish list and more.

Merry Christmas, Friends!



AHMAD HASSAN
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819-647-6565

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